



**KALEBEY LOCAL ACTION GROUP
JULY 2022**

A NEW TOURISM MODEL: ASTRO-TOURISM

Curiosity for the sky

Kalebey Local Action Group (Denizli) implemented the "Sandras Sky Observation Events" project under the priority of "development of rural tourism products".

Human beings have always been curious about the sky since the first day. She tried to observe celestial bodies and their movements with various tools, sometimes just for curiosity and sometimes for the purpose of planning her activities. Today, these events have become a new rural tourism model, which is organized with a high number of participants and provides mobility and economic return to the region.

PROJECT INFO

PROJECT STAKEHOLDERS:

*Beyagac Municipality
South Aegean Development Agency
Beyağaç Women's Initiative Production and
Business Cooperative*

PROJECT SUBJECT:

Sky Observation Event

PROJECT BUDGET:

12.800 TRY



Uniqe location

When it comes to astro-tourism, travel to the moon or planets in the solar system comes to mind immediately. Today, however, astro-tourism is a tourism activity that involves watching the sky and visiting astronomy-related facilities such as observatories. The main purpose of astro-tourism is to observe the sky not only with professional equipment such as a telescope, but also by amateur observers with the naked eye or with tools such as a camera. This requires certain geographical conditions such as the absence of light pollution in that region and the favorable factors such as wind, dust and height.

Topuklu Plateau, located in the Beyağaç district of Denizli, where all these conditions come together perfectly, is one of the prominent regions in our country in this sense. According to scientific criteria, the brightness of the sky in a place can be a maximum of 22 magnitudes/angleseconds. This value was measured at a near-perfect level of 21.86 in the Topuklu Plateau. This attracted the attention of many sky observers, especially astronomers.

Kalebey Local Action Group took action to turn this interest into a tourism event and organized a joint event with the stakeholders in the region. For this event, which was held for the first time in Denizli, 22 telescopes were installed by Prof. Dr. Ethem Derman and his team. In addition, 21 astro photographers had the opportunity to photograph the clear sky until dawn. In addition, a total of 450 sky enthusiasts set up their tents and participated in the training activities held during the day and evening, and sky observations at night.



The aim is international recognition

Children were not forgotten at the event. Other activities such as games with the theme of recognizing the sky, an award-winning painting competition and exhibition on the theme "Space in My Dreams", and a water rocket show in the open area were also held for children.

LAG representatives, who are very pleased with the interest in the event, state that their next aim is to apply to the International Dark Sky Parks Association, which is headquartered in the United States, to obtain a Dark Sky Park certificate. It has already been applied for. The sky observation activities, which will be held in Topuklu Plateau on 13-16 July 2023, are planned to be held internationally this time.

In the light of the experiences gained from this event, the 'Tourism Workshop' was another activity planned by Kalebey LAG on 12 July 2023 in cooperation with the Turkish Travel Agencies Association and Pamukkale University Faculty of Tourism in order to develop 'Astro Tourism' activities in the Kalebey LAG area and to increase their recognition. The aim is to make the region a brand in the field of astro-tourism.



For more info:

www.kalebeyeg.com

