

Route from Bezirgan to Gökçeören via Ambararası Tepesi - 7hrs 45mins

This long, tough walk climbs out of Bezirgan yayla through the scrubby vegetation of the hillside, dips across a valley and climbs to Ambararası Tepesi. Passing wind-shaped rocks to a viewpoint, you can see three ranges of mountains, topped by the peak of Gömbe Akdağ, glowing white with snow until June. Walking along old migration paths, you pass scattered graves and mysterious ruins en route to the village of Gökçeören (once called Seyret). The whole area feels vaguely mysterious, an impression heightened by its isolation. In spring a riot of flowers and birds enliven the landscape, but for much of the year it's a bleak and isolated route which takes you back in time to when the first men carved out a living in these sun-scoured landscapes.

At the crossroads just E of the mosque at Bezirgan, turn R/SE and walk down the road for 300m to a L turn onto a G4 walled track which passes between some delightful village houses. It becomes G2 path and after another 300m turns L/E/up a steep slope, heading towards a water pump building. Shortly after passing the pumping station, the route, now G4, skirts the Bezirgan to Saribelen road then veers off R on a G2 track. After 500m, turn sharp L/down over a steep slope, and again skirt the Bezirgan to Saribelen road on a bend. Continue steeply down to meet the lower, level Saribelen to Kalkan road.

1hr 15mins

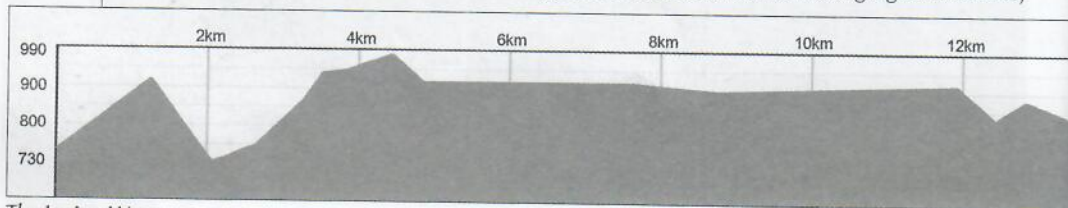
Turn R/SW along this road and after 300 m turn L/SE on G1 path along a row of grand old trees across attractive flat farmland. Cross a stream then after 300m zigzag up towards some buildings on the skyline. Pass a high chain-link fenced garden on the L to an asphalt road and turn L/NE/level towards Saribelen.

45mins

Keep L/down at a junction and turn R/up on a steep G3 track next to a graveyard. This soon becomes less steep and better defined and takes you up the L bank of a stream valley, on the edge of woodland and just above cultivated fields. Passing a cottage, you bear R across the stream on a G4 track, climb up the far bank and round a L bend to reach the Gökçeören road. Walk L/NE for 100m, then turn R under a huge pine, following a G2 path which rises across fields through a group of windblown pines near the hilltop. The path becomes more distinct as it runs between the sculpted shapes of the rocks on top of the hill. Some rocks have caves and hollows carved out, others provide comfortable platforms for admiring the view.

1hr 30mins

Our G2 path continues down SE to a charcoal burners' stone circle outlined on the valley bottom. Turn R/SW and walk down the G2 path on the R side of the valley, scrambling down the terraces and ignoring confusing goat trails which run in all directions. Turn L/S onto a wide G4 track and follow it upwards as it runs parallel with the coast, then down between stone walls towards a stone cottage and farmland. Turn L/E and follow a G2 path above the cottage, across farmland and through woodland to cross a rocky ridge. Running N from the ridge and passing other paths R and L, it climbs to a second low ridge and a mound of rocks containing a grave chamber,



perhaps once part of a tumulus. If you see a stone gurgus, probably of the mid-Roman Empire, twining up each corner and on each side, carved with curved mock tiles, marking a grave chamber, the path descends to the valley of the year in a cottage on the far side. Be prepared to throw stones at the sheep dogs; be prepared to throw stones at the sheep dogs.

The G2 path to Gökçeören crosses the valley corner through maquis to cross a ridge. The fields dotted with trees where an old herds' cottage. Pass R of the cottage and descend from the undergrowth.

Leave the ruins by a G2 path that weaves about before running straight towards the coast. For a short distance, it follows a track that past it straight through the fields to a gap to the R/S of the rocks and descends through maquis with occasional small buildings. Turn R/down, onto a wide path, passing two cisterns. At a junction, turn L/NE again. At the bottom of a diagonal track, turn R to the tarmac road at the graveyard. Turn

Like Bezirgan, **Gökçeören** is a small village, 900m and has pine forest in and around the valley at the southern edge, so good for old graves cut out of the rock near the road to Kaş; the İmam

