

FROM TOURISM GEOGRAPHY PERSPECTIVE SALDA LAKE (TURKEY) AND NEAR SURROUNDING

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Citation: Kapluhan, E., Krastev, V., Kassymova, A.M., Taskaliyeva, G.B., & Okudan, B. (2022). FROM TOURISM GEOGRAPHY PERSPECTIVE SALDA LAKE (TURKEY) AND NEAR SURROUNDING. *GeoJournal of Tourism and Geosites*, 44(4), 1233–1245. <https://doi.org/10.30892/gtg.44407-939>

Abstract: Salda Lake, located within the borders of Yeşilova district of Burdur province in the Antalya Section of the Mediterranean Region, is one of Turkey's most popular tourist attractions. Located in the southwest of Turkey and encompassing many lake basins, the “Lakes Region” has been designated as the “Lakes Region Ecotourism Development Region” in the Turkey 2023 tourism strategy and attention has been drawn to the tourism potential of the lakes in the region. Located in the Lakes Region, Lake Salda draws attention with its natural beaches and water sports opportunities, rich flora and fauna, recreation areas and camping areas by the lake, various accommodation opportunities and natural beauties, healing lake waters and rich tourism diversity. Rural tourism, lake tourism, ecological tourism, winter tourism, botanical tourism, health tourism and cultural tourism are the most developed types of tourism in and around Salda Lake. In this research, the geographical location, tourism potential and main tourism resources of both Yeşilova district and Salda Lake were examined. In addition, in this article focused on tourism geography, the negative ecological and socio-economic effects of increasing human pressure and tourism activities around Salda Lake were investigated. In this study, which deals with the examination of Salda Lake and its surroundings in terms of recreation and tourism activities, the natural and human environmental factors of the region are analyzed, and the main tourism advantages and disadvantages of the region are discussed. At the beginning of the most important results obtained from this research, it has been determined that factors such as climate change, uncontrolled and intense touristic flow, increasing environmental pollution and illegal construction threaten sustainable tourism in the Salda Lake basin.

Key words: tourism geography, Turkey, Yeşilova District, Salda Lake, tourism activities

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INTRODUCTION

Along with the economic, political, and technological developments in the world, the usual understanding of vacation is changing and there is a tendency to move away from tourism centers. People with this new tendency want to have a holiday in a clean environment and in businesses that are integrated with nature and respectful to the environment. As a result of the importance of tourism and environment relationship, ecotourism, which is an alternative tourism branch, emerges as one of the main tourism resources (Akpınar and Bulut, 2010). Tourism products consist of six components that include attractions (natural, man-made, artificial, purpose-built, heritage, special events), accessibility (entire transportation system comprising routes, terminals, and vehicles), amenities (accommodation and catering facilities, retailing, other tourists service), activities (all activities available at the destination and what consumers will do during their visits), ancillary services (services used by tourists such as banks, telecommunication, post, newsagent, hospital) and available packages (prearranged packages by intermediaries and principals) (Mohamad et al., 2012; Eichhorn and Buhalis, 2017; Biswas et al., 2020: 1202-1203). Ecotourism, which started with the local farmers opening a part of their houses for tourists going to the Alps for the first time, is defined as enjoying nature and appreciating nature (Bozok and Yılmaz, 2008). Ecotourism

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activities are generally organized to see and learn about the landscape, topography, water, plant and wildlife richness of nature protection areas, where the interesting features of nature are preserved or still slightly deteriorated. Tourism and recreation have a pronounced orientation to the use of natural resources, and recreational activities do not cover individual components of nature, but the entire natural complex (landscape) as a whole (Mukayev et al., 2020: 875).

Ecotourism aims to benefit not only from natural features but also from cultural features. Setting up tents in nature with the recognition of rural life, highland or village houses, local food in ecotourism areas are characteristic ecotourism activities. Ecotourism activities are trying to create awareness of the visitor who preserves, not consumes.

By carrying out these activities directly in the natural environment, it is aimed to create a love of nature in the participants and the awareness of using nature while protecting it (Polat and Önder, 2006). Tourism and recreation have a pronounced orientation to the use of natural resources, and recreational activities do not cover individual components of nature, but the entire natural complex (landscape) as a whole. Even the ancient Greeks and Romans used healing springs and places with a favorable climate in order to improve their health (Tokpanov et al., 2021: 888).

Salda Lake is a lake with an area of 44 km² and a depth of 184 meters, located 4 km from the Yeşilova district of Burdur province. Salda Lake and its surroundings have significant tourism potential with their natural and human environmental attractions. The aim of this research is to contribute to the increase of the recognition and development in tourism by introducing the tourism potential values of Salda Lake and its surroundings and by identifying the problems experienced by the area in the tourism sector and offering solutions. For this purpose, methods of applying field observation and documentary data of relevant institutions and organizations were used. Although Salda Lake and its surroundings have a rich tourism potential, reasons such as insufficient transportation and accommodation facilities, various environmental problems around the lake, public and private sector investments, and limited public and private sector investments have contributed to the slow progress of the area's recognition in the tourism sector and its development in tourism. Sustainable tourism planning is an approach that aims to meet the needs of the tourists, improve the living standards of locals, protect the environment, and preserve them for the future generations, and it is possible with the cooperation of stakeholders. Therefore, tourism destinations need both healthy and clean ecosystems, and sustainable tourism planning to a large extent (Çelik Uğuz et al., 2022: 303). Purpose of the study; to reveal from tourism geography perspective of Salda Lake and near surroundings which his natural tourist destination and protected area, and present solutions based on conservation and sustainability as forward-looking.

LOCATION, LIMITS AND MAIN FEATURES OF THE RESEARCH FIELD

The research area is Salda Lake and its surroundings in the southwest of Burdur province. Salda Lake is a lake located in the Antalya part of the Mediterranean Region, within the borders of the Yeşilova district of Burdur province. Salda Lake lies close to the small town of Yeşilova in south-western Turkey, approximately 150 km NW of the mediterranean port of Antalya (Braithwaite and Zedef, 1996: 991). The lake is surrounded by Yeşilova district of Burdur province in the east, Salda and Güney villages in the southwest, Kayadibi village in the southeast, Doğanbaba village in the north, 4 km from Yeşilova town center, 60 km from Burdur city center, 94 km from Denizli city center and 160 km from Antalya city center (Figure 1).



Figure 1. Salda Lake Location and Topographic View (Source: Temurçin et al., 2019)

1140 m above sea level. Located at an altitude of 44 km², the lake is one of the cleanest and deepest lakes in Turkey. Covered with pine and oak forests, which become sparse at certain points, lush at certain points, and surrounded by limestone

and serpentine slopes, the lake is of tectonic origin and is one of the deepest lakes in Turkey with a depth of 184 meters (Tozkoparan et al., 2021: 446-447). Salda Lake; clean and clear water, white natural beaches, physical environment that preserves its natural appearance, located on the southwest and southeast coasts, consisting of very special snow-white hydromagnesite deposits and crystal black serpentinite sands; It is a lake with a high tourism potential with its magnificent view and white islands where the contrast of black and white is integrated with turquoise, the water and sand that are said to be good for skin diseases, the magnificent view that emerges as a result of the integration of all shades of turquoise and blue surrounding the lake, and many other features (Tozkoparan et al., 2021: 447). Today, the preferences of tourists are directed towards ecotourism, which is intertwined with nature and includes alternative tourism activities. This situation has been taken into consideration Turkey 2023 tourism strategy and Lakes Region has been determined as “Lakes Region Ecotourism Development Area”. Lake Salda, which is in Lakes Region Ecotourism Development Area, has started to be visited by lots of tourists recently with the effect of its tourism potential appropriate for the tourists and its location (Temurçin and Tozkoparan, 2020: 97).

Salda Lake also creates a very important geographical environment with its lively life and geological and geomorphological features. Located within the borders of Yeşilova district, the lake is 60 km away from the city center of Burdur. Lake Salda, Marmaris ophiolite, which forms the uppermost unit of the Lycian nappes in the region. It is located in a developed tectonic bowl within the Marmaris peridotites of the nappe. Extremely karstic Triassic-Jurassic limestones (Dutdere limestone) crop out in a small area (Kale Tepe) that has been stripped of the cover just to the east of the lake (Senel et al., 1997). According to Altınlı (1955), it was stated that Lake Salda is located in an anticline area and that it was formed by the accumulation of surrounding waters in an area where the fold axes descend. Yalçınlar (1958) stated that Salda Lake (Photo 1) is located in the central part between the mountains forming a circular structure. Akkuş (1986) stated that Salda Lake is a lake of tectonic origin, it started to form at the end of the Neogene and took its present shape with the tectonic movements that occurred later. The Salda Lake basin is a depression with closed basin characteristics, formed by the effect of tectonism that emerged at the end of the Neogene (Pliocene) (Tuncer, 2021: 64). With the regional tectonic subsidences in the early Quaternary, it gradually caused the lowering of the lake basin. These lowerings have caused the formation of old lake terraces, which remained as steps, and steep shores on some coasts. Located at 1135 m elevation (2021), Salda has a maximum depth of 184 meters. and one of the deepest lakes of Turkey (Tuncer, 2021: 64).

Looking at the elevation graph of Salda Lake for the years 1970-2021 (no measurement was made between 1979 and 2012), it is understood that the lake level gradually decreased. The lake level elevation, which was 1143.5 m in 1970, decreased to 1136.5 m in 2013, but although it increased to 1137 m in 2016, it continued to decrease after this year and decreased to 1134.6 m in 2021. The temperature increases and decreasing trends in precipitation of the interglacial period we are in and the excessive use of people on water are very effective in these level reductions (Tuncer, 2021: 64).

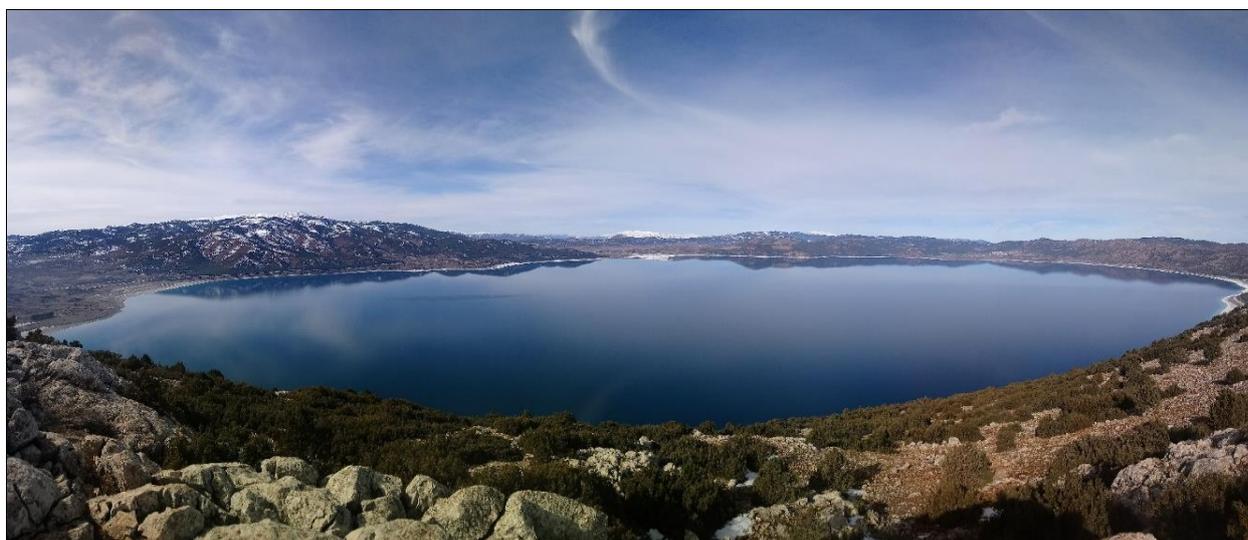


Figure 2. Salda Lake (West view from Kale Tepe) (Source: Authors, 2022)

While there are steep shores rising like walls on the south, east and north shores of this tectonic lake, the lake shores are lower in front of the villages of Doğanbaba in the north, Salda in the west, Gökçe in the southwest and Kayadibi in the southeast, and they are covered with magnesian coastal dunes or accumulation plains. The water of Salda Lake is in the category of waters that are not suitable for agricultural irrigation. In addition, Salda Lake, located in the basin, has an extremely high recreational feature due to its natural structure, landscape beauty, water quality and the suitability of the environmental structure (Lise et al., 2013). Salda Lake (Figure 2) basin has the characteristics of a closed basin or a closed hydrological system whose waters cannot reach the sea, due to its general structure. The lake is fed by precipitation waters falling into the basin, continuous and seasonal streams (Karakova, Kuruçay, Doğanbaba creeks) and many large and small springs that reach the lake from different locations of the lake basin. According to the measurements made in 2008-2009, the surface water temperature of Salda Lake varies between 8.5 and 25 °C throughout the year. The light transmittance and dissolved oxygen values of the lake water were quite high, while the phosphate and chlorophyll-a values were very low. With this value, it shows that the water quality is quite good. When the water quality of Salda Lake is evaluated in general, in terms of inorganic substances; high pH (9.3), high bicarbonate

(997.3 mg/l), high carbonate (450 mg/l), high alkalinity (1487 mg/l), high magnesium (328.2 mg/l) and hardness (It is a very high alkaline and hard water lake due to its 1358 CaCO₃ mg/l) values (Tuncer, 2021: 65).

Around Lake Salda, which is within the borders of the Lakes region, there are Eşeler Mountain, Eşeler Plateau, Akçaköy-Erle and Irla Plains of the Yeşilova district, and the Sıralı Lake nearby. There are also many streams feeding Salda Lake. In general, there are some differences in climatic characteristics due to reasons such as the high altitude of Salda Lake and its surroundings, which is within the influence of the Mediterranean climate, and the presence of mountains surrounding it. Depending on the average temperature values and climatic conditions of the field, lake tourism, which includes various water sports, especially swimming, can be done in summer. In addition, the annual average wind speed of the site is 1.5 m/s and the prevailing wind direction is N (north). Depending on the average wind speed of the field and the prevailing wind direction, paragliding can be done from Salda Ski Center to Salda Lake Municipality Public Beach. However, paragliding activities did not develop in the field due to the lack of a facility with the necessary equipment and insufficient advertising and promotion. Salda ski center was established in Tınaz Hill in 2012, as the elevation and terrain slope of Tınaz Hill in the field and the continental climate conditions of the field are suitable for the construction of ski slopes (Eryılmaz, 2019: 2). Although Salda Lake and its surroundings are in a convenient location in terms of transportation, transportation opportunities for the site have not been developed enough. There are highways that provide transportation to the city centers of Denizli, Antalya, Isparta and Burdur from the research area. Various tours and local minibuses provide transportation services to Salda Lake from the provincial centers of Antalya, Denizli and Burdur, and the hours of these tours are quite limited. Those who want to reach by air can reach Denizli Çardak, Isparta Süleyman Demirel or Antalya airports. In recent years, tourism and trade sectors have also started to revive due to the tourism attractiveness of Salda Lake and its surroundings (Eryılmaz, 2019: 5). Magnesium (Mg), sulfate (SO₄), calcium (Ca), chloride (Cl), sodium (Na), bicarbonate (HCO₃) in the composition of the gray colored gel water in the shallow water layer in the beach area of Salda Lake are medically human. It has been understood that it is beneficial for health (Gürdal, 2005: 553).

The discovery that the lake water and the coastal dunes around it have rich minerals has enabled the start of health tourism activities in the form of mud baths around the lake, albeit to a limited extent. Salda Lake is likened to the Maldives in that its water offers a clear, clean and turquoise color feature and is called “Turkey's Maldives” (Figure 3). This situation increases the tourism attractiveness and advertising-promotion potential of Salda Lake. Depending on the diversity of bird species around Salda Lake, bird watching (ornitho tourism) and the presence of endemic plants, monumental trees and botanical tourism potential due to rich vegetation. The Eşeler Plateau, near the Salda Lake, has a highland tourism potential, and this potential cannot be exploited because it is used as a ski resort today. In addition, the potential of bicycle tours, nature walks, mountaineering, air sports (paragliding), safari photography, agricultural tourism (agro tourism), camping caravan and youth tourism depending on lavender cultivation within the scope of sustainable tourism in order to benefit and protect nature around Salda Lake. available. However, due to reasons such as the promotion of these types of tourism and the inadequacy of the necessary organizational studies, their recognition in the field and tourist participation are quite limited.



Figure 3. East Shores of Salda Lake, known as Turkey's Maldives (Source: Authors, 2022)

Figure 3 on the shores of the lake. There are four beaches named Doğanbaba, Salda, Yeşilova Municipality Public Beach and Orman Beach (Nature Park Beach). This situation contributes to the development of summer tourism around the lake. In addition, depending on the lake water and environmental conditions, various water sports activities such as sailing, surfing and underwater diving can be done. Development of rural tourism based on the development of natural, agricultural, social, and local cultural potentials can be a potential development for tourism-based communities (Damayani et al., 2020: 1579). In order to protect the ecology and tourism potential of Salda Lake and its surroundings, the Ministry of Culture and Tourism defined the lake area as a First-Degree Natural Protection Area with the decision of the Izmir Cultural and Natural Heritage Preservation Board in 1989. This decision was amended by a new decision accepted by the Antalya Cultural and Natural Heritage Preservation Board in 1992 and declaring the lake surroundings as a Second-Degree Natural Protection Area. Salda Lake and its surroundings were declared “Tourism Center” in 2006 with the decision of the Council of Ministers numbered 11033 and published in the official newspaper. In addition, Salda Lake was determined and declared as a “Special Environmental Protection Area” with the President's Decision dated 14.03.2019 and numbered 824 and was

published in the Official Gazette dated 15.03.2019 and numbered 30715 (Eryılmaz, 2019: 6-7). The fact that many types of tourism can be done in the same area increases the touristic attractiveness of Salda Lake and its surroundings. However, the geographical features of the area and the recognition rate of the tourism potential in our country and in the world are limited. At the same time, problems such as the transportation and accommodation facilities of the Salda tourism center and the inadequacy of advertising-promotion activities negatively affect the tourism attractiveness of the lake surroundings. In addition, mining activities around the lake, environmental pollution, poaching, illegal construction are among the problems that affect the tourism potential and tourist attractiveness of the area. It is thought that Salda Lake and its surroundings will become one of the important tourism centers with the completion of the promotion, infrastructure and additional facilities.

TOURISM POTENTIAL OF YEŞİLOVA DISTRICT

The establishment of Yeşilova district dates back to the years before Christ. Chalcolithic Period (5000 BC) pottery was found during the surveys carried out in Dereköy and Gençali within the borders of the district. In different periods of history, it was dominated by the Lydians, Persians, Romans and Seljuks. The establishment of the district in its current location; It started after the 1190s and the district passed into the hands of the Turks in 1093 after the 1071 Battle of Manzikert. Although there were small-scale conflicts between the Byzantines and the Turkmen living in this region at that time, the German Emperor Frederik Barbaros came to this region at the head of the crusader army in 1190. Two serdars, named Osman Bey and Hüsamettin Bey, sent by the Sultan of Konya, pressed Aleksi from both directions. Osman Bey pressed the enemy soldiers in the Harmanlı strait near the present-day Harmanlı village, and Çeribaşs named Gençali, Karaatlı and Gökçe made a strong line to the enemy in this region with fierce attacks. The place where the battle was most difficult was around Köpekbeli. Osman Bey, who was seriously injured in the Battle of Köpekbeli, was treated in the infirmary in the place known today as Sultan Spring, on the northeastern ridges of Lake Salda and Mount Eşeler (Anonymous, 2015). For this reason, the spring and the district located here are called Sultan Spring, since the young commander was rewarded with the title of sultan by the Seljuk Sultan. Again, in the same war, the district was called "Satırlar" because of the use of lines while fighting the Byzantine soldiers and the loss of lines to the enemy by throwing lines there (Can, 2008: 231).

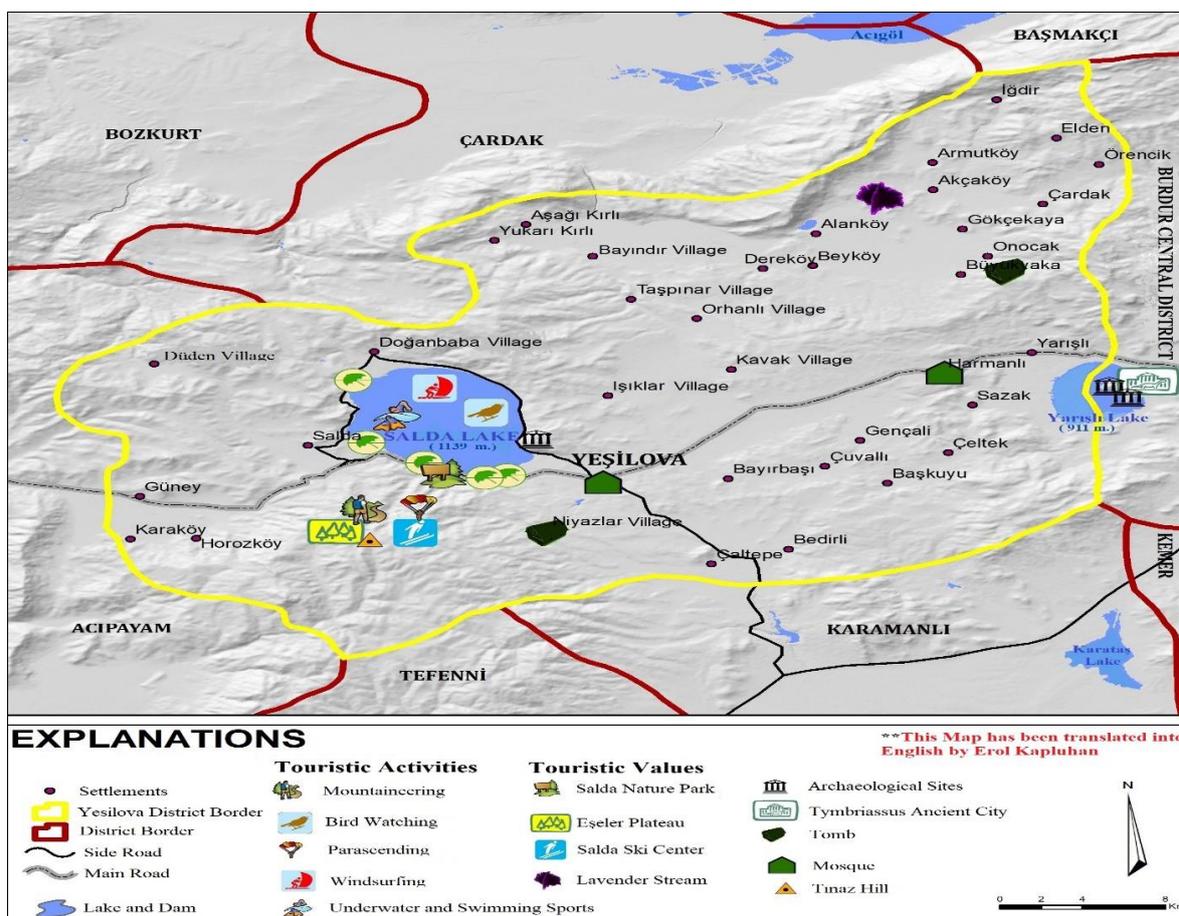


Figure 4. Touristic Values of Yeşilova District (Source: Temurçin et al, 2019)

According to the yearbook dated 1288, the village of Satırlar had 33 houses and a population of 120. In the yearbook dated 1305, 148 guesthouses in the town of Erle. It has been recorded that there are 18 flour mills, 6 shops, 1 inn, 1 restaurant, 26 mosques, 19 infant schools, 8 dervish lodges, 3 tombs, 38 fountains and 26 laundries. Although Erle was mentioned as a district in 1478 and 1522, it was registered as a township in 1568. Although it is the name of the accident, there was no certain settlement named Erle in the mentioned centuries. XV. and XVI. Erle sub-district of Hamit sanjak was formed from two different geographical regions in the 19th century. The first region was the part to the north of the line from Yeşilova to Burdur Lake. The plain between Lake Salda and Lake Race, which is known as Erle plain today, was not connected to Erle accident.

This place was left to Karaağaç, Gölhisar district as Yavice township. The second region consists of the mountainous land in the northwest direction of Salda lake and the Hambat plain, and the settlement in the Hambat plain dates back to ancient times. The mounds on the plain show that the settlement here dates back to ancient times. The Karaağaç Gölhisar district and Elmadağ formed the border of this mountainous land, which included the villages of Söğüt, Düden and Şaryeri, which were the habitats of many Turkmen tribes. Today, this region is included in the borders of Çardak and Bozkurt districts (Ertaş, 2012: 157). Yeşilova district and its surroundings have an important potential in terms of both historical and cultural values. There are mosques, castle walls and castle ruins, tombs, ruins and many mounds in towns and villages. Yeşilova District provides most of the natural, historical, and cultural conditions related to touristic resources, which is one of the basic conditions for the development of tourism in the rural areas discussed above and is located in an accessible location. Yeşilova District, located on the Antalya and Denizli-Pamukkale main tour route, has important natural and historical sites. There are mosques, castle walls, castle ruins, tombs, ruins, and many mounds dating to previous periods in Yeşilova District and its surrounding villages. All these touristic values increase the potential of the district in terms of rural tourism by contributing to the historical and cultural richness of the district, which is rich in natural landscape beauties (Figure 4).

Yeşilova District is one of the oldest residential areas of Burdur Province. During the surveys conducted in Dereköy and Gençali within the borders of the district, archaeological sites and mounds belonging to the Chalcolithic Period (5000 BC) were identified and pottery and pottery dated to this period were found (Burdur Provincial Directory, 2007; Atayeter et al., 2013; Ongun et al., 2016). In addition, in Kayadibi Neighborhood, which is a district of the district center, there are castle ruins on the hill called Asar in Yarışlı Village, which dates to the Late Roman and Early Byzantine periods (Burdur Provincial Directorate of Culture and Tourism Cultural Inventory, 2007a; Can, 2008; Ongun et al., 2016). In addition to these works, the Harmanlı Mosque, located in the village of Harmanlı belonging to the Turkish-Islamic period, whose inscription is determined to be built in 1207 and Niyazi Baba Tomb, where Niyazi Bey, one of the Seljuk Beys who came from Horasan and took part in the Turkification of Anatolia, is buried, adds value to the tourism potential of the district (Erkan, 2008; Can, 2008; Burdur Provincial Directorate of Culture and Tourism Cultural Inventory, 2007a; Burdur Provincial Directorate of Culture and Tourism Cultural Inventory, 2017). It is also 31 km from Yeşilova District, away from Onacak (Veli Dede) Tomb, Onacak Village is in the old settlement area. It is rumored that the tomb belonging to Veli Dede during the Ottoman Empire period in the 14th-15th centuries AD. Today, only the tomb remains, the tomb is in the form of 8 corners and there are 2 sarcophagi inside the tomb. Veli Dede's body lies on the left side of the tomb in a round-topped sarcophagus. Onacak Village Veli Dede Tomb was accepted as a Cultural Heritage with the decision of Antalya Cultural and Natural Heritage Preservation Board dated 21.01.1993 and numbered 1737 (Yılmaz, 2005: 582).

Yeşilova District, which hosts historical and cultural tourism artifacts and ruins from the oldest periods, also has many natural touristic resources that will make significant contributions to the country, region, province and district tourism, which brings the district to the forefront in rural tourism. One of these natural touristic values is the Salda Ski Center, which was established in 2012 in the Tınaz Hill location, which has an important potential in terms of winter tourism, located in a dominant position against Salda Lake (Ongun et al., 2016; Temurçin, 2014). Although Salda Ski Center has a significant potential for winter tourism, it has certain infrastructure deficiencies. The lack of accommodation facilities in the ski resort, especially the arrangement of the transportation route, is seen as the most important problem. Eşeler Plateau, which is located close to the Salda Ski Center, is the most important plateau of the district, and it is an important rural tourism resource that can be planned in terms of rural tourism potential with a project that will include Salda Lake and Salda Ski Center. However, the destruction caused by the many marble quarries operating in the district negatively affects the touristic activities organized in Yeşilova's highlands. Raceli Lake, which is formed in the basin between Salda Lake and Burdur Lake, is an important nature tourism resource owned by Yeşilova District. Covering an area of approximately 1200 ha, Yarışlı Lake offers a habitat for some bird species such as flamingos, squat, spoonbill, lapwing, gray duck and goosetail (Akova, 2013; Ongun et al., 2016). With a high bird diversity and richness, Yayla Lake and its surroundings are an important tourist attraction in terms of rural tourism activities, especially bird watching and photography, especially in autumn (NCNP Yarışlı Lake, 2013b; Atayeter et al., 2018). Salda Lake is the touristic value that attracts local and foreign tourists to Yeşilova District in recent years, especially during the tourism season, and constitutes the most important rural tourism potential of the district. Salda Lake, which has a surface area of 45 km², was formed in a closed basin with a width of approximately 6.8 km and a length of 9,186 km (NCNP 2013a; Kesici, 2018). It is 4 km from Yeşilova District Center. away, 1139 m above sea level. Salda Lake, which was formed at an altitude, is the deepest (184 meters) and cleanest lake in Turkey (Akkuş, 1986; Şenol, 2011; NCNP, 2013a; Ongun et al., 2015; Atayeter et al., 2018). The main streams feeding Salda Lake, which has a circular appearance, are Salda, Çitlikli, Değirmendere and Zaferpınar (Doğanay and Zaman, 2016).

Salda Lake, which was determined as a 1st Degree Protected Area in 1989; It is a tourist attraction with the most effective tourism potential of the region in terms of rural tourism with its clean water, natural beaches and beaches, physical environment opportunities that preserve its natural characteristics, various species living in the lake, its availability for water sports, recreation areas by the lake, camping areas, unique scenery and many more. value (Atayeter et al., 2018). In addition to the increase in the promotion of Salda Lake in social networks and social blogs of travelers in recent years, the number of visitors has increased a lot in the last two years due to the fact that it is located on the route of the Antalya-Denizli Pamukkale Main-Tour Road, which is heavily used by tour companies in summer and winter (Table 1).

Although the increase in the number of tourists coming to the district is good for the development of tourism, the existing facilities of Yeşilova District are insufficient to meet the needs of the tourists, especially in terms of accommodation, catering services and social environments (Figure 1). Existing businesses located in the District Center and in the villages around Salda Lake, especially the recreational facilities such as Sultan Spring, Sahil Mola, Municipality Public Beach and Forest Beach established around the lake (Figure 2). It is insufficient in terms of both capacity and

service quality in meeting its basic needs such as entertainment (Table 2). Although the official records of the chamber of tradesmen and commerce in the district and field research, it has been determined that 16 apartments and a hotel have been operating in the district as of July 2019, and 47 new businesses have been opened in various areas, but the inadequacy of meeting the needs of the tourists coming to the region continues (Table 3). Many villages in Yeşilova District, especially Salda Village, Doğan Baba Village and Kayadibi District located around Salda Lake, are rural tourism values.

Table 1. Number of Visitors to Salda Lake and Salda Nature Park (2018) (Source: Republic of Turkey Produced from the data of the 6th Regional Directorate of Nature and National Parks and Burdur Provincial Directorate of Tourism and Culture)

White Islands Vehicle Entry (5 Persons Per Vehicle)		Salda Nature Park Number of Visitors		Municipality and Doğanbaba Beaches (Estimated)		Total
292000		97,730		300,000		689,730
2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	Total
6596	34829	20995	36979	67115	95955	262,469

Table 2. Distribution of Businesses Operating in Yeşilova District (Source: It was obtained from the field studies carried out in the Yeşilova (Burdur) Chamber of Craftsmen and the research area)

Accommodation	Salda	Kayadibi	Doganbaba	District Center	Total
Apart-Hostel	9	4		3	16
Hotel	1	1		3	5
Trade					
Food & Beverage	2	1	1	27	31
Touristic Facility	2	2			4
Other	2	3		27	32
Total	16	11	1	60	88

These villages and neighborhoods draw attention both in terms of being located around Salda Lake and in terms of rural tourism with their cultural values, local weavings, local foods. In this respect, considering that these villages are located around Salda Lake in the tourism planning of the region, it is extremely important for the tourism of the region to consider them within the scope of rural tourism activities with their natural, historical and cultural values. Thanks to the accommodation places that will be built in accordance with the texture of the natural environment in these villages, the accommodation problem of the tourists will be solved, the tourists will communicate more with the local people, and the density on the lake will be drawn to the surrounding rural areas. In the field research, it has been determined that the local people, especially in Salda Village and Kayadibi Neighborhood, located around the lake, converted their houses into apart-hotels and opened businesses such as restaurants, cafes and grocery stores, as well as new buildings to be used as apartments (Table 3; Figure 2).

Table 3. Number of Rooms and Capacities of Hotel- Apartments in Yeşilova District (Source: Temurçin et al., 2019: 47; This table has been translated into English by Authors)

Hotel and Apartment Name	Foundation Year	Number of rooms	Bed Capacity	Location
Lagodi Salda Hotel	2015	25	50	Salda
Salda Lake Hotel		10	45	District Center (Kayadibi Neighborhood)
Hotel Berliner	1988	20	40	District Center
Gorsel Hotel	1986	20	1986-2017:30, 2018:45	District Center
Aromatic Hotel	2019	16	39	District Center
Turquoise Apartment	2019	8	20	District Center
Sadic Pension	2019	6	16	District Center
Sarmaşık Pension	2019	8	24	District Center
Ayaz Apart	2018	7	14	Salda Village
Şahan Apart	2018	4	12	Salda Village
Argun Apart	2018	5	15	Salda Village
Salda Lake Apart	2019	3	18	Salda Village
Yildirim Apart	2019	4	16	Salda Village
Erdogan Apart	2019	6	18	Salda Village
Canbazoglu Apart	2018	4	10	Salda Village
Maldives Apart	2019	6	18	Salda Village
Afacan Apart	2019	6	18	Salda Village
Tan Apart	2018	6	12	Kayadibi Neighborhood
Deveci Apart	2019	6	18	Kayadibi Neighborhood
Ece Apart	2019	6	18	Kayadibi Neighborhood
Venus Apart	2014	8	36	Kayadibi Neighborhood
Total		182		493

The perpetuation of the Yörük Culture by the local people also brings the plateau culture to the fore. Although the plateaus within the boundaries of the district do not have the characteristics of the plateaus in the Black Sea Region today, they are of great importance for excursionists (Yılmaz, 2005: 574). Eşeler Plateau is the most important plateau within the borders of Yeşilova district. In recent years, the number of activities in the plateaus has decreased due to the destruction caused by the marble quarries in the mountains, especially in the villages of Yeşilova district. On the other hand, lavender planting has been started in some villages of Yeşilova, due to the fact that lavender gardens are preferred by tourists and lavender comes to the forefront as an economic value in terms of agricultural production. Because lavender gardens have attracted the attention of tourists in recent years, the Lavender Stream Project has been implemented in Akçaköy Village of Yeşilova, and the local people have started to evaluate lavender not only as an agricultural product, but also as a touristic product that they gain economic gain from within the scope of rural tourism activities. This situation will increase the evaluation of the villages in the lavender-growing fields within the scope of rural tourism and will both protect the natural and cultural values of the villages and make them gain economic gain. Caltepe Rural Accommodation Houses” is a project for those who want to spend their holiday in a village house, explore the environment and get away from the noise of the city, in the village of Çaltepe, located within the borders of Yeşilova district. There are four types

of houses in the village, in the old country house style. It is possible to collect fruits and vegetables in the garden of the houses according to the season. In addition, tourists can make local dishes, jams, tomato paste and tarhana.

According to the season, it can make daily trips to provinces and districts within the scope of hunting, hiking, village and cultural tourism (Atar, 2005). Delivering the products produced in the garden directly to the consumer through pick-it-yourself activities significantly eliminates the marketing problems (Kiper and Yılmaz, 2008: 167). It is possible to implement these and similar projects in many villages of the Yeşilova district of Burdur province (Ongun et al., 2015: 106). Especially travel agencies organizing tours to Denizli on the road route, Çaltepe village tourism package programs and tours should be directed to this point, accommodation in the village and sales of products in the gardens should be ensured.

ECOTOURISM POTENTIAL OF SALDA LAKE NEAR SURROUNDINGS

Salda Lake is a lake of tectonic origin, it was formed at the end of the Neogene, then it was exposed to tectonic movements, and as a result of these tectonic movements, gradually descending shores and steep shores in the form of steps were formed around the lake (Figure 5). Low coasts also correspond to accumulation and swamp areas (Güney, 2004: 238; Republic of Turkey Ministry of Forestry and Water Affairs, 2013: 29). The stratigraphic units within the study area have different hydrogeological characteristics (Varol et al., 2020: 749). Salda Lake is an important example of the natural storage of CO₂ (Kazancı et al., 2004; Kaiser et al., 2016). The water budget of the lake is under the effect of

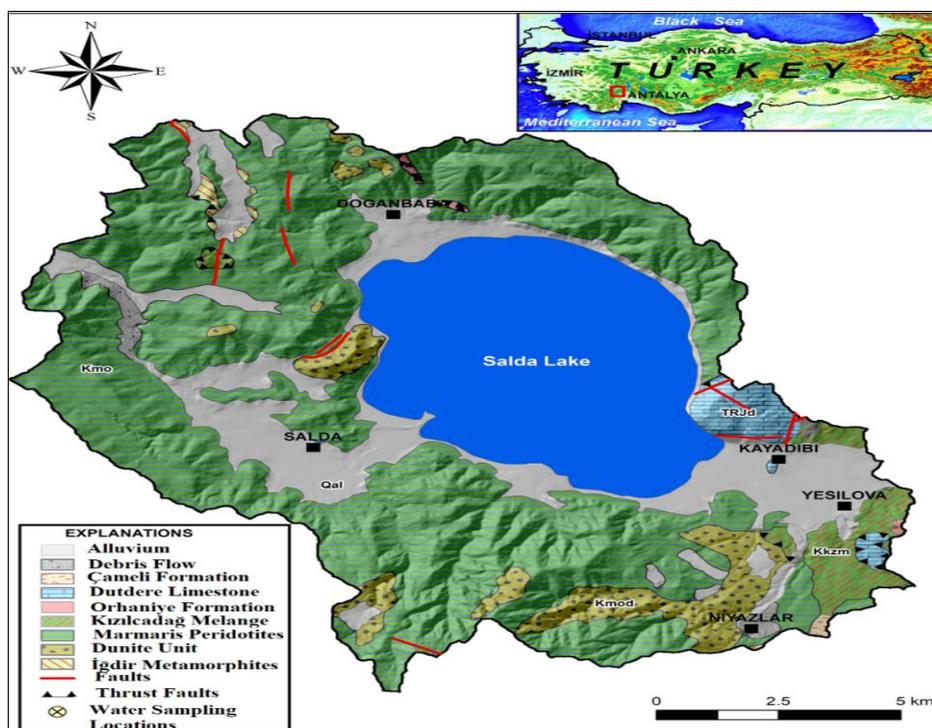


Figure 5. Location and geological map of the Salda Lake Basin (Source: Davraz et al., 2019)

evaporation to a significant extent. The main recharge of the lake with no runoff meteoric waters (Figure 5; Balcı et al., 2018: 21). Research around the lake (Braithwaite and Zedef, 1996; Russell et al., 1999; Kazancı et al., 2004) determined that the chemistry of the lake water is due to the meteoric waters and the geological structure of the land. Partly serpentinite, belonging to the Upper Cretaceous aged Yeşilova ophiolites, which covers most of the lithological structure of the lake. Harzburgite and dunite outcrops and the interaction of sediments derived from them are lithological factors affecting the lake water (Balcı et al., 2018: 21). The high alkalinity (pH>9) water of the lake water, the white beaches and turquoise color of the current magnesite formations increase the importance of the lake (Akgül et al., 2017).

Lake Salda has recently been revisited by Horgan et al. (2020) as an analog for the “marginal carbonates” in Jezero crater, Mars, which occupy a restricted elevation range that tracks the elevation of the delta top, suggesting a possible shoreline deposit for those carbonates (Horgan et al., 2020). At Lake Salda, hydromagnesite precipitates as coatings and cements in nearshore sediment associated with rocky shorelines and deltas (Braithwaite and Zedef, 1996). In addition, hydromagnesite comprises stromatolites in Lake Salda, which provides an analog for possible biosignature preservation on Mars (Braithwaite and Zedef, 1996; Russell et al., 1999). Laminated fabrics of primarily hydromagnesite makes up thrombolites and stromatolites in well studied modern alkaline lake environments within the Las Eras Lake, Spain (Sanz-Montero et al., 2019), Lake Salda, Turkey (Braithwaite and Zedef, 1994), and Lake Alchichica, Mexico (Kaźmierczak et al., 2011).

The water level of the lake increased continuously in the period of 1958-1969, but due to the drought in the period of 1970-1977, the water level of the lake decreased continuously. As a matter of fact, the water level decreased to 47 cm level in 1978. The water level drops between 1985-1999 developed depending on the dry period conditions and the groundwater withdrawals made in the areas around the lake (Kazancı et al., 1999: 36). Today, the use of groundwater for irrigation purposes, evaporation and karst aquifers around the lake have been shown as the reason for the lake water level to change approximately 50 cm per year (Balcı et al., 2018: 21). On the “Municipal Public Beach” operated by the Yeşilova Municipality of the lake, camping can be done with tents and caravans, and recreational activities such as picnics, excursions, swimming, clay mud baths can be carried out. However, since the area has been declared a Special Environmental Protection Area (SEPA), boat, boat and sailing canoe activities are not allowed on the lake. In addition, there are other recreational activities such as a 34 km bicycle tourism route in and around Salda Lake, highland tourism areas with lake views (Eşeler Mountain), winter tourism (Salda Ski Center, Photo 4), photo safari (bird watching), underwater diving and horse walking. There is also the potential to do activities; however, these activities cannot be carried out in the area yet. Entrance fees to the lake are paid by Yeşilova Municipality at the Municipality Public Beach

(Figure 6); It is taken by Yeşilova District Governorship at the entrance of Salda Village. However, with the declaration of the area as a SEPA, the municipality's beach operation permit was revoked after the 2019 October period. Salda Lake, from which the nature park takes its name, offers important economic values for the region, as well as opportunities for recreational activities and water sports, due to its unique natural structure, landscape beauty, water quality and suitability of the environmental structure. Salda Lake Nature Park hosts many visitors especially in summer months. In winter, Salda Ski Center (Figure 8) is the area that attracts the most visitors. Sultanpınarı around the lake is an important cultural value for the local people. The main ecotourism values of the sub-basin; natural areas, archaeological

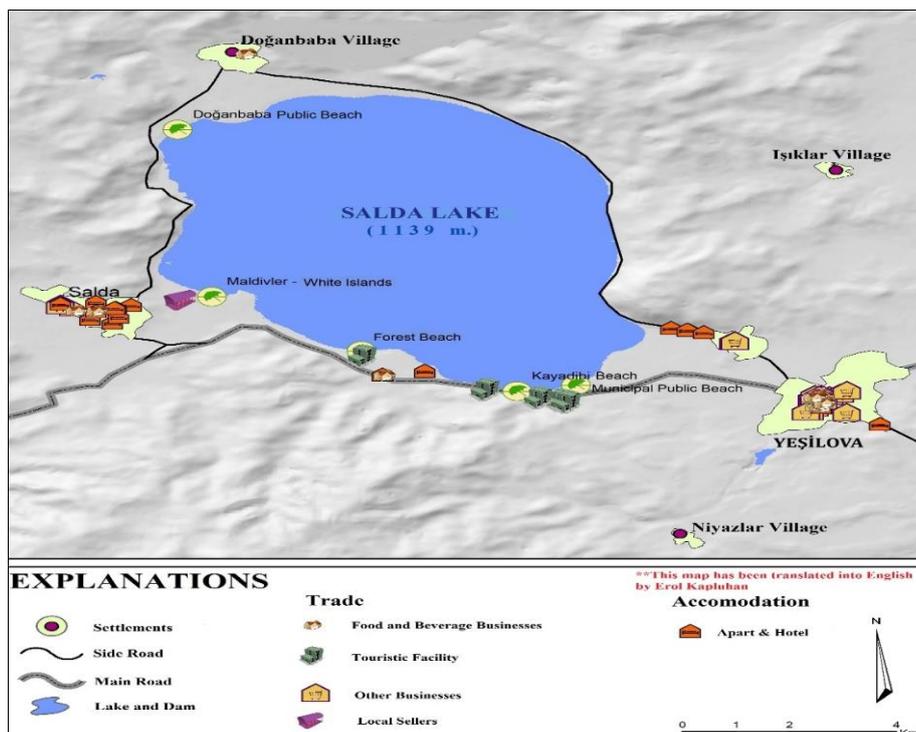


Figure 6. Distribution of Businesses Located in and Around Salda Lake (July 2019) (Source: Temurçin et al, 2019)

sites and villages (Anonymous, 2013; Kılınç and Kılınç, 2019). Salda Lake and its surroundings, botanical tourism, geomorphological formations, festival tourism, tradition tourism, road tourism, cultural walks, historical and archaeological tourism, faith tourism, balloon tourism, mountain/rock climbing, nature exploration (safari), extraordinary events. Examination, rafting, equestrian trekking, canoeing, surfing/sailing tourism and hot spring/spa (thermal) tourism are not carried out. On the other hand, nature photography, agriculture and farm tourism, bicycle tourism, trekking, climate comfort tourism including swimming and skiing, camping/caravan tourism and bird watching are carried out (Anonymous, 2013; Anonymous, 2018; Kılınç and Kılınç, 2019). Lake Salda visitors positively and negatively.

The positive experience dimension is natural structure, health, recreational activities, local people, geographical location and gastronomy; the negative experience dimension is the environment, infrastructure and superstructure, information and perceived service quality (Akay, 2020: 535). Lake Salda Nature Park offers a visual feast for photographers with its white sandy beach (Figure 7), forested land and sunset watching. At the same time, the summit of Kale Hill, which is located approximately 1.5 km northwest of Yeşilova district and east of Salda Lake and is very suitable for nature sports such as hiking and mountaineering, provides good opportunities for photography enthusiasts (Anonymous, 2018).

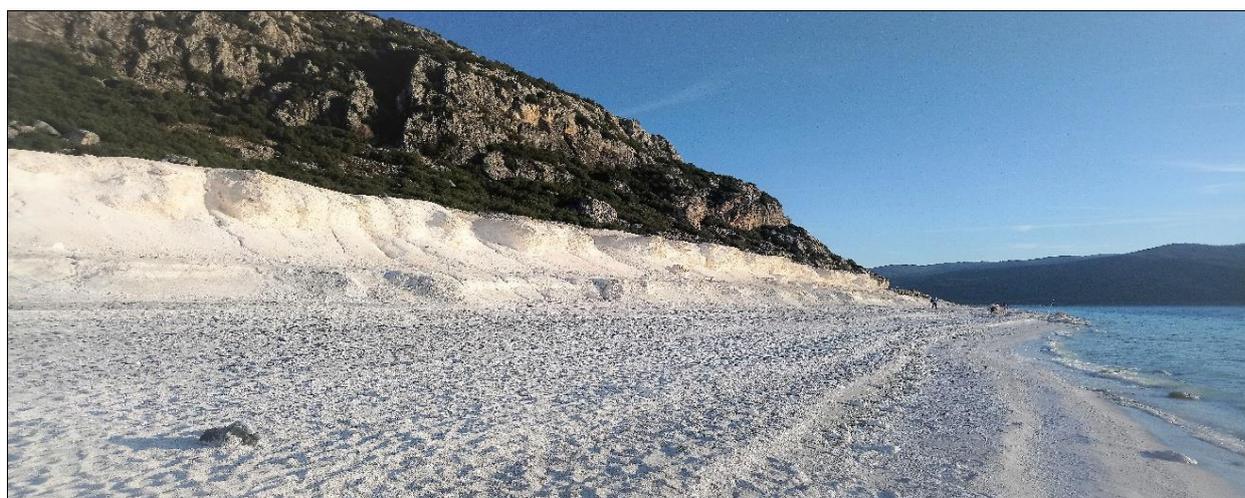


Figure 7. Salda Lake East Shore, Coastal Terraces and Beach (Source: Authors, 2022)

Salda Lake Nature Park, agriculture and animal husbandry opportunities in its nearby villages are other eco-tourism activities. Lake Salda Nature Park, Eşeler Mountain and Kale Hill, offer three different cycling routes for bicycle lovers. These; Yeşilova – Niyazlar – Eşeler Mountain Cycling Route, Yeşilova – Niyazlar Village – Eşeler Mountain – Dereköy Village Cycling Route and Salda Lake Cycling Route (Anonymous, 2013; Anonymous, 2018). Egeler Mountain, which has

a wide and high plateau in the west of the Yeşilova district of Burdur province and is covered with forests, is a popular hiking area due to its terrain and climatic features. It has two separate hiking routes (Niyazlar Village - Eşeler Mountain - Tınaztepe Hiking Route and Doğanbaba Beach - Salda Lake White Islands Hiking Route) (Anonymous, 2018).

Lake Salda Nature Park has the Salda Ski Center, which is an important winter tourism area of the region (Photo 4). There are 5 runways, the longest of which is 1,600 m and the shortest of 950 m, and a chairlift line of 860 m in the center. There are Yeşilova Municipality and Doğanbaba Public Beaches, Salda Lake Nature Park, and camping areas intertwined with nature around Salda Lake (Anonymous, 2018; Kılınç and Kılınç, 2019).



Figure 8. Ski Center in Salda (Source: Authors, 2022)



Figure 9. Salda Lake Public Garden (Source: Authors, 2022)

Nation's Garden Project (Figure 9); Among the structures to be built on the beach area, which is planned as a Recreative and Recreation Area in the Conservation Implementation Development Plan, at the first 50th and second 50th meters after the Coastal Edge Line, which is the most valuable part of the lake ; seven kiosks, six dressing cabins, four cafes, three mosques, two nation's coffee houses, two administrative units, eight toilets, two health units, a kitchen, a scullery, two sitting units, two sales units, three small sales unit and covered seating platforms. The tender for the Social Facilities Construction, Infrastructure and Landscaping Work of the Yeşilova District of Burdur Province, Salda Lake Nation's Garden and the Nation's Garden was held on 31.07.2019 with the "Open Tender Procedure" specified in Article 19 of the Public Procurement Law No. 4734. 7 bidders submitted bids for the tender, and after the evaluation process, a contract was signed with the winning firm and the construction of the nation's garden was started. It has been calculated that the cost of the project will amount to approximately 22 million TL. Salda Lake tourism center, can be considered as an alternative tourism activity for tourists who spend their holidays in Antalya during the peak season, extending the stay of tourists and making an economic contribution to Salda Lake. In this direction, Isparta Kovada Lake, Eğirdir Lake-Rose, Lavender and Lily Gardens-Salda Lake were selected by tour agencies and tour guides for the recognition of lavender, rose and lily gardens in Isparta, as well as their cultural and natural attractions in Burdur. The creation of two important tour packages, namely Burdur Sagalassos Ancient City -Rose, Lavender and Lily Gardens-Salda Lake is a good example (Şapcılar et al., 2018: 364).

CONCLUSION

Salda Lake and its surroundings, located within the borders of Yeşilova district, is one of our underdeveloped regions where agriculture and animal husbandry are the main sources of livelihood. However, the region has a rich potential to be the

subject of tourism in terms of its cultural and economic attractiveness, especially its natural environmental characteristics. Tourism activities for Salda Lake and its surroundings give clues that the tourism potential of this area can be better evaluated in the future and may be the key to development. Salda Lake and its surroundings offer a rich potential for the realization of various tourism activities. In order to protect the rich ecology and tourism potential of the research area, the Ministry of Culture and Tourism defined the lake as a “First Degree Natural Protection Area” in 1989 with the decision of the İzmir Cultural and Natural Heritage Preservation Board. This decision was amended by a new decision accepted by the Antalya Cultural and Natural Heritage Preservation Board in 1992 and declaring the lake surroundings as a 'Second Degree Natural Protection Area'. In addition, in 2006, Salda Lake and its surroundings were declared as “Tourism Center” and published in the official newspaper with the decision of the Council of Ministers numbered 11033. Finally, today, Salda Lake has been taken under protection as a “Natural Environmental Protection Area” with the President's decision dated 14.03.2019 and numbered 824. However, despite these legal arrangements to protect the site, various environmental problems can still be seen at a level that will harm the natural beauties of the site and its tourism potential. Illegal campfires and barbecues, especially around the lake, cause serious damage to the site. This situation also negatively affects the sustainable tourism activities of the area.

Salda Lake and its surroundings are a suitable area for the realization of various alternative tourism activities, especially lake tourism. Thanks to the natural beaches of Salda Lake consisting of white sand and the water quality suitable for swimming, swimming activities can be carried out. The most common type of tourism in the field is lake tourism. Recognition and tourist attraction of this type of tourism is relatively higher. Due to the swimming-based lake tourism attraction of Salda Lake, the increasing density causes various environmental pollutions on the lake shores and damages the white sandy beach of the lake. This situation creates threats in terms of the future of the touristic attractiveness of the area. In addition, Salda Lake offers a rich potential for water sports tourism such as sailing, surfing and underwater diving, depending on the characteristics of the lake water and the surrounding wind and temperature conditions.

However, activities for water sports tourism have not developed in the field. Among the most important reasons for this is the lack of a facility on the lake shore where various equipment suitable for sailing, surfing and underwater diving can be obtained, and the lack of qualified manpower to provide training for these types of sports. Depending on the natural attractions it has, Salda Lake and its surroundings offer the opportunity to carry out various activities for sustainable tourism. Due to the endemic plants and monumental trees around the lake, it offers a rich potential for botanical tourism. However, due to the fact that this type of tourism is an area that requires special attention and expertise, it could not develop in the field. There are various bird species around Salda Lake and Yarışlı Lake in the research area, and in this respect, they offer a rich potential for ornitho tourism (bird watching). However, there are not various facilities such as observation towers suitable for bird watching in the field, and due to the fact that it is a type of tourism that requires special attention, it could not develop in the field. The area offers health tourism potential as the water of Salda Lake and coastal dunes contain rich minerals. Health tourism can be realized with various activities in the form of mud baths. However, the recognition of this feature of the site by domestic and foreign tourists is limited. In addition, there is no area arranged suitable for health tourism activities on the lake shore or a facility that provides services in this area. This situation causes the recognition of the health tourism potential of the area and the tourist attraction in this area to be insufficient.

There are suitable areas on the shores of Salda Lake for camping and caravan tourism. Especially at Yeşilova Municipality Public Beach, which is close to the lake shore, there is a camping area consisting of tents and caravans. Participation in camping and caravan tourism increases due to lake tourism, especially in summer. However, this type of tourism cannot develop sufficiently around the lake and cannot provide sufficient economic contribution to the site.

Eseler Mountain, located southeast of Salda Lake, and other hilly areas in the area offer attractiveness for mountain tourism. In this context, it is possible to do mountaineering, nature walks, bicycle tours, paragliding, and photo safaris for the scenery. However, these types of tourism have not developed enough because they require special attention and the necessary infrastructure and promotional activities in the field are insufficient. Routes suitable for cycling and nature walks in the field were determined by Burdur Provincial Culture and Tourism Directorate officials in 2018. However, the fact that it could not be determined until 2018 caused the late start and recognition of tourism activities such as cycling, and nature walks in the field. Salda Lake and its surroundings, which have hosted many civilizations from the past to the present, have rich historical past and various historical remains. However, detailed studies have not been done enough to reveal the historical and cultural attractions of the site. For this reason, although the site offers a rich historical tourism potential, it has not developed enough in the historical tourism type. Lavender cultivation is carried out in Akçaköy, which is also located within this area, and the colorful landscapes of lavender in the summer and the lavender harvest works allow both photo safari and agro-tourism (agro tourism) types to be recognized and developed in the field. In recent years, tourism tours have been organized for the lavender fields in Akçaköy from the surrounding city centers such as Denizli and Antalya.

It is important for rural economic development to create a limited number of employment and to make a positive contribution to the unemployment problem with the tourism activities developed around Salda Lake. However, the fact that local governments create a monopoly in tourism businesses and do not allow local people to open business places causes people to criticize this situation and show a negative attitude. In reducing rural poverty, more importance should be given to the involvement of local people in tourism, and this issue should be dealt with in detail in the area management plan being prepared. Salda Lake and its surroundings are a very diverse and rich area with natural and human resources. However, it is seen that these resources are not used well enough in all economic and social fields, especially in field tourism. The stakeholders formed by the relevant institutions, organizations and individuals are of great importance in making the planning and investment decisions for the Yeşilova district and the surrounding of Salda Lake. In addition to the economic, social and cultural development of the Salda Lake environment in the future, especially in tourism, it is also

tourism to ensure its recognition in the national and international arena. If the Nation's Garden Operation Tender, which will be held on the edge of Salda Lake, is awarded to outsiders and the local people are kept behind tourism, except for the sale of local products, the view of the local people towards the development of tourism will be more negative. For rural economic development, it is necessary to include the local people in the area management plan of the lake, to encourage them to be in tourism and to eliminate their administrative problems. In other words, it will ensure the sustainability of tourism in the area by identifying the tourism-related problems of the local people and solving these problems. Therefore, for rural development, environmental, social and economic development of the lake area should be evaluated holistically.

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