

Ali Yamaç

Personal Summary

Born at İstanbul / Turkey, Nov. 24, 1957.
Boğaziçi University / İstanbul (MA Bus Adm).
After working in few companies in İzmir as a marketing manager, established DAY&NIGHT furniture and interior design company (www.dayandnight.com.tr) in İstanbul at 1996.
Living in İstanbul, single.

Caving Experience

Begun caving in Boğaziçi University Caving Club, BUMAK (www.bumak.boun.edu.tr) during 1976. Found, explored and surveyed more than 400 caves during the past 48 years. Among them were 1., 4. and 7. deepest caves of Turkey, namely Peynirlikönü, Çukurpınar and Keş Mountain sinkholes. They are -1429 m, -1197 m and -728 m respectively. Surveyed and mapped Insuyu Cave during 2012-2015 which is the longest cave of Turkey for the time being (10.350 meters).

President during the foundations of BUMAD (www.bumad.org), ASPEG (www.aspeg-tr.org) and OBRUK (www.obruk.org) caving clubs.

President of Turkish Federation of Speleology during 2007-2009.

Leader of the team who had prepared the Cave Inventory of Turkey (www.tayproject.org)

Surveyed underground structures of Hagia Sophia Church and Topkapı Palace. Leader of the teams working for “Kayseri Underground Structures Inventory Project” continuing for ten years and “Gaziantep Underground Structures Inventory Project” continuing for eleven years. Both projects had been accepted to UNESCO World Heritage Site, Tentative List.

A total of 52 underground structures were explored and surveyed during the Gaziantep project. Among these structures is the 'Grave Cave Complex', the largest artificial subterranean structure in Turkey with a total area of 90.000 m².

Within the scope of the Kayseri project, 12 cliff settlements, 41 underground cities, 50 rock-cut churches, and 10 Assyrian tin mines have been explored, surveyed and mapped.

Upon the requests of directorates of Nevşehir and Aksaray archaeological museums, surveyed Derinkuyu, Mazıkoy, Mazıkoy 2, Tatlarin, Avanos, Gologli and St. Mercurius underground cities.

Surveyed and inventoried 44 rock settlements on the walls of Euphrates River. Explored and surveyed 63 rock settlements and two rock-cut churches during the first three years (2020 - 2022) of “Kura River – Ardahan Region Survey”.

In 2025, he had started “Ürgüp Underground Structures Inventory Project”.

Books

Underground Shelters of Cappadocia, Turkey (with E. Tok), Springer AG, Cham, Switzerland (forthcoming)

Caves and Karst of Küre Mountains National Park, Turkey (with E. Tok), Springer AG, Cham, Switzerland, 2025

Rock-cut Architecture and Underground Cities in Koramaz Valley of Kayseri, Turkey, Springer AG, Cham, Switzerland, 2023

Carved in Stone (eds. C. Sciuto, A. Lamesa, K. Whitaker, A. Yamaç), BAR Publishing, Oxford, 2021

Caves and Karst of Turkey Vol. 1 (with E. Gilli, E. Tok, K. Törk), Springer AG, Cham, Switzerland, 2021

Double Cave Maps of Turkey, İstanbul, 2024

Türkiye Mağaralarının Çift Haritaları, İstanbul, 2020

Book Chapters

Kayseri'nin Kaya Kiliseleri in *Kültepe, Koramaz, Kayseri* (eds. A. Kılıç, O. Özsoy), İstanbul, 2024

Koramaz Valley in *Carved in Stone* (eds. C. Sciuto, A. Lamesa, K. Whitaker, A. Yamaç), BAR Publishing, Oxford, 2021

Gaziantep Livasları, Kastelleri ve Yeraltı Su Yapıları, (ed. M. Uçar), Gaziantep, 2018

TAY - The Archaeological Settlements of Turkey-8: Byzantine Period / Central Anatolia Region, (ed. E. Akyurek), Ege Publishing Co., İstanbul, 2015.

TAY - The Cave Inventory of Turkey-Ma/Mb, (ed. G. Gürcan), Ege Publishing Co., İstanbul, 2006

Printed Reports

Ürgüp Yeraltı Yapıları Envanteri Birinci Ara Rapor, İstanbul, 2025

Kayseri Yeraltı Yapıları Envanteri Final Rapor Cilt 2, İstanbul, 2024

Kayseri Yeraltı Yapıları Envanteri Final Rapor Cilt 1, İstanbul, 2024

Kayseri Yeraltı Yapıları Envanteri Altıncı Ara Rapor, İstanbul, 2022

Gaziantep Yeraltı Yapıları Çalışma Raporu 2016 - 2020, İstanbul, 2020

Kayseri Yeraltı Yapıları Envanteri Beşinci Ara Rapor, İstanbul, 2019

Kayseri Yeraltı Yapıları Envanteri Dördüncü Ara Rapor, İstanbul, 2018

Fırat Nehri Kaya Yerleşimleri Envanteri, İstanbul, 2017

Kayseri Yeraltı Yapıları Envanteri Üçüncü Ara Rapor, İstanbul, 2017

Caves of Küre Mountains National Park, İstanbul, 2015

Kayseri Yeraltı Yapıları Envanteri İkinci Ara Rapor, İstanbul, 2015

Kayseri Yeraltı Yapıları Envanteri Birinci Ara Rapor, İstanbul, 2014

Gaziantep Yeraltı Yapıları Envanteri, İstanbul, 2012

Kahramanmaraş Bölgesi Çalışmaları Raporu, İstanbul, 2012

Insuyu Mağarası Raporu, İstanbul, 2011

Küre Dağları Milli Parkı Mağara Araştırmaları 2. Ön Rapor, İstanbul, 2009.

Küre Dağları Milli Parkı Mağara Araştırmaları 1. Ön Rapor, İstanbul, 2008.

Boğaziçi Üniversitesi Mağara Araştırma Kulübü'nün 30 Yılı (1973-2003), BUMAK no 13, İstanbul, 2003.

Çimiyayla Araştırma Raporu (with M. Aktar and E.O. Atalay) BUMAK no 2, İstanbul, 1980.

Articles

Three Peculiar Rock-cut Shelters of Ürgüp (Cappadocia – Turkey) (with R. Bixio), OPERA IPOGEO 2– 2025

Underground Shelters of Kayseri – Turkey, Underground Vision, SpeleoMedit Magazine, December 2025

Ağırnas: A Monastery, A Shelter or Both?, OPERA IPOGEO 2– 2024

Inventory of Artificial Cavities in the Nevşehir Province (Turkey) (with B. Yazlık, R. Bixio, C. Galeazzi, M. Parise), OPERA IPOGEO 1– 2024

Dimitre, a Long Linear Rock-cut Village (Kayseri -Turkey), OPERA IPOGEO 1-2 – 2023, pp. 71-82

Derevank rock-cut monastery of Kayseri (Turkey), OPERA IPOGEO 2 – 2022, pp. 71-82

Kayseri Province (Turkey): 2022 update of the inventory of artificial cavities (with R. Bixio), OPERA IPOGEO 2 – 2022, pp. 95-102

Some Interesting Underground Cities and Peculiar Underground Structures of Kayseri (Turkey). Jerusalem Journal of Archaeology 3: pp. 70–107. 2022

Artificial Cavities of Turkey; Updating the Map of Anthropogenic Cavities in the Mediterranean Basin (with R. Bixio, C. Galeazzi, M. Parise), OPERA IPOGEO 2 – 2021, pp. 23-42

Rock-cut Byzantine churches of Koramaz Valley (Kayseri - Turkey), OPERA IPOGEO 1 – 2021, pp. 51 – 68.

Büyük Bürüngüz Yeraltı Şehri'nin Keşfi, ATLAS Magazine, Jan. 2020

Büyük Bürüngüz Underground Shelter (Kayseri – Turkey), OPERA IPOGEO 2 – 2019, pp. 65 - 76.

Die Untergrund-Christen - Isbidin Kaya Kilisesi, eine stark gefährdete Höhlenkirche in Kappadokien (with R. Straub and B. Yazlık), Mitteilungen des Verbandes der Deutschen Höhlen- und Karstforscher e.V., 2019

Ağırnas, Yeraltında Gizem, MAGMA Magazine, Aug. 2018

Gaziantep'in Livas ve Kastelleri, MAGMA Magazine, July 2018

Underground Shelters of Tomarza (Kayseri – Turkey) OPERA IPOGEO 1 – 2018, pp. 37-50.

Koramaz Vadisi, ATLAS Magazine, February 2018

Doganli underground shelter (Capadocia – Turkey) (with E. Tok) OPERA IPOGEO 2 – 2016, pp. 57-62.

Underground shelters of Gologli (Cappadocia - Turkey) (with E. Gilli) OPERA IPOGEO 1 – 2016, pp. 33-40.

Cave dwellings and underground cities of Belagasi village and Otedere Valley (Kayseri - Turkey) (with E. Tok), OPERA IPOGEA 2 – 2015, pp. 41-50.

An Architect's underground city (with E. Tok), OPERA IPOGEA 1 – 2015, pp. 37-46.

St. Mercurius Underground City of Saratli (Aksaray-Turkey) (with E. Tok and B. Filikci), OPERA IPOGEA 2 – 2014, pp. 37-46.

Halys Deviation Tunnel and Cliff Dwellings of Sarıhıdır (Cappadocia - Turkey) (with E. Gilli and E. Tok), OPERA IPOGEA 2 – 2014, pp. 29-36.

Kayseri: Yeraltında Keşif, ATLAS Magazine, October 2014

Uyuyan Mağaralar, ATLAS Magazine, April 2014

Sualtında Halfeti, ATLAS Magazine, Sept. 2013

Birkleyn Mağaraları, Obruk No. 7, İstanbul, 2013, pp. 2-5.

Insuyu Mağarası Haritalama Çalışmaları (with M. Egrikavuk), Obruk No. 7, İstanbul, 2013, pp. 6-25.

Kocain Mağarası'nın Haritalanması, Obruk No. 7, İstanbul, 2013, pp. 44 – 49.

Gaziantep Yeraltı Yapıları Araştırma Projesi, Obruk No. 6, İstanbul, 2013, pp. 34 - 45.

Gaziantep'in Yeraltı Hazinesi, Pegasus Magazine pp. 80-96, İstanbul Sept. 2012

Yeraltındaki Şehir Gaziantep, ATLAS Magazine, June 2012

Gödet'ten Taşkale'ye, Obruk No 5, İstanbul, 2012, pp. 22-24.

Obruk Nedir?, Obruk No 5, İstanbul, 2012, pp. 35-37.

Köprülü Kanyon'un Mağaraları, Obruk No 5, İstanbul, 2012, pp. 44-48.

Keş Düdeni, ATLAS Magazine, Oct. 2011

Kahramanmaraş Bölgesi, Obruk No 4, İstanbul, 2011, pp. 4-12.

Türkiye’de Yer Adlarında Mağara, Obruk No 4, İstanbul, 2011, pp. 34-38.

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Safranbolu Mağaraları, Obruk No. 3, İstanbul, 2010, pp. 4-19.

Maraş Bölgesi, Obruk No. 3, İstanbul, 2010, pp. 24-32.

Üfleleyen 2 Mağarası, Obruk No. 3, İstanbul, 2010, pp. 41.

Strabon’un Geographica’sında Anadolu Mağaraları, Obruk No. 3, İstanbul, 2010, pp. 42-44.

Sarpunalınca Mağarası, Obruk No. 3, İstanbul, 2010, pp. 48-54.

Kireçtaşına Övgü, Obruk No. 2, İstanbul, 2010, pp. 2-4.

Maraş Bölgesi Çalışmaları, (with M. Egrikavuk) Obruk No. 2, İstanbul, 2010, pp. 8-15.

Çift Haritalar, Obruk No. 2, İstanbul, 2010, pp.16-20.

Volkanik Mağaralar ve Kaya Resimleri, Obruk No. 2, İstanbul, 2010, pp. 34-37.

Claude Chabert, Obruk No. 2, İstanbul, 2010, pp. 38-40.

Küre Milli Parkı Araştırmaları (with M. Egrikavuk) Obruk No. 2, İstanbul, 2010, pp. 52-58.

Keş Düdeni, National Geographic Turkey, Sept. 2010

Küre’nin Mağaraları, ATLAS Magazine, İstanbul June 2010 : 60-70.

Dağların İçinde, ATLAS Magazine, April 2010

Ayasofya ve Topkapı (with C. Aygun), National Geographic Turkey, March 2010

Yeşilgoz’un İçinde, ATLAS Magazine, Oct. 2009

Sırrın Kırkgözleri (with A.E. Keskin), ATLAS Magazine, Agu. 2009

Yazören Mağarası Araştırması, Obruk No 1, İstanbul, Apr. 2009, pp. 2-5.

Hasankeyf Mağaraları, Obruk No 1, İstanbul, Apr. 2009, pp. 22-25.

Bir Milli Parkta Kaybolmak, Obruk No 1, İstanbul, Apr. 2009, pp. 27-39.

Bir Gezgin ve Bir Harita, Obruk No 1, , İstanbul, Apr. 2009, p.52.

Mağaralarda Hasankeyf, ATLAS Magazine, May 2008

Congresses

Byzantine Rock-cut Churches of Kayseri (Turkey); New Discoveries in Cappadocia, 26. ICBS Congress, Wien, Austria, Aug. 2026

15 Years of Artificial Cavity Explorations of Obruk Cave Research Group, 5. MESS Symposium, Beirut, Lebanon, April 2026

Underground Shelters in Cappadocia (with R. Bixio) HYPOGEO 2023 Congress, Genova – Italy, Oct. 2023.

Rock-cut dovecotes in Cappadocia: Elements in comparison (with A. Bixio, R. Bixio, A. De Pascale) HYPOGEO 2023 Congress, Genova – Italy, Oct. 2023.

Intended use and dating of rock-cut dovecotes in Cappadocia (with A. Bixio, R. Bixio, A. De Pascale) HYPOGEO 2023 Congress, Genova – Italy, Oct. 2023.

Underground Structures Inventory Project of Kayseri (Turkey); A Short Summary, HYPOGEO 2023 Congress, Genova – Italy, Oct. 2023.

Castle of Gaziantep (Turkey); Tunnels, Dwellings, Excavations and Earthquakes, HYPOGEO 2023 Congress, Genova – Italy, Oct. 2023.

Ahmet Çelebi Qastel of Gaziantep (Turkey), HYPOGEO 2023 Congress, Genova – Italy, Oct. 2023.

Review of recent explorations in western Taurus Mountains, Turkey (with A. Malard, C. Loiseaux, B. Erdem, O. Gente), 18. International Congress of Speleology, Lyon-France, 2021

Valley of 1000 Caves, 25th Annual Meeting of the European Association of Archaeologists, Bern, Sept. 2019

Gedifi Ini, a Christian Settled Cave in Southern Turkey (with E. Tok and A. Malard), 4. MESS Symposium Antalya, Oct. 2018

Underground Shelters and Cliff Dwellings of Şahmelik Valley (Kayseri – Turkey), 4. MESS Symposium Antalya, Oct. 2018

Double Cave Maps of Turkey, 4. MESS Symposium Antalya, Oct. 2018

Cliff Dwellings of Koramaz Valley (Kayseri – Turkey), 4. MESS Symposium Antalya, Oct. 2018

Cave Dwellings and Underground Cities of Kayseri (Southeastern Turkey) (with E. Tok), 4. MESS Symposium Antalya, Oct. 2018

Underground Hydraulic Structures of Gaziantep: Livas' and Kastels (with E. Tok), 4. MESS Symposium Antalya, Oct. 2018

Rock Dwelled Churches of Sille, (with E. Gilli), 4. MESS Symposium Antalya, Oct. 2018

More than four thousands years of underground solutions in Cappadocia (Turkey) (with E. Gilli) AFTES 2017 Congress, Paris, November 2017

Cave Dwellings of Euphrates River (Southeast Turkey), HYPOGEA 2017 Congress, Cappadocia – Turkey, March 2017.

Underground Settlements and Cave Dwellings of Agirnas Village, Kayseri (Southeast Turkey), HYPOGEA 2017 Congress, Cappadocia – Turkey, March 2017.

Underground Hydraulic Structures of Gaziantep (Southeast Turkey): Livas and Qastels, (with Z. Okuducu) HYPOGEA 2017 Congress, Cappadocia – Turkey, March 2017.

Underground Quarries of Gaziantep (Southeast Turkey), HYPOGEA 2017 Congress, Cappadocia – Turkey, March 2017.

Kirkmerdiven Underground Site at Doganli Village, Kayseri (Southeast Turkey), HYPOGEA 2017 Congress, Cappadocia – Turkey, March 2017.

Idraulica rupestre in Turchia (with R. Bixio, M. Parise), SIGEA Congress, Rome, 18 Nov. 2016

Cave Dwellings of Halfeti – Urfa (Southeastern Turkey), HYPOGEA 2015 Congress, Rome – Italy, March 2015.

Dovecotes and Cave Dwellings of Gesi – Kayseri (Turkey) (with E. Tok), HYPOGEA 2015 Congress, Rome – Italy, March 2015.

Surveying Some of the Touristic Underground Cities of Cappadocia (Turkey) (with E. Tok), HYPOGEA 2015 Congress, Rome – Italy, March 2015.

Underground Cities of Kayseri (Turkey) (with E. Tok and B. Filikci), HYPOGEA 2015 Congress, Rome – Italy, March 2015.

Water Tunnels of Guvercinlik Valley (Cappadocia – Turkey) (with E. Gilli), HYPOGEA 2015 Congress, Rome – Italy, March 2015

Obruk Mağara Araştırma Grubu – Yeraltı Yapıları Çalışmaları 2010-2014, 7. National Congress of Speleology, Izmir, Nov. 2014

Keş Mountain Sinkhole, 16. International Congress of Speleology, v.1, pp. 153-155, Brno, 2013

Artificial Cavities of Gaziantep, 16. International Congress of Speleology, v.2, pp. 253-256, Brno, 2013

Volcanic Caves & Petroglyphs of Borluk Valley, Kars, 16. International Congress of Speleology, v.2, pp. 168-169, Brno, 2013

Anatolian Caves in Strabo's Geographica, 16. International Congress of Speleology, v.1, pp. 202-204, Brno, 2013

Re-mapping of Insuyu Cave, 16. International Congress of Speleology, v.2, pp. 335-337, Brno, 2013

Oldest Documented Caves of the World: Birkleyn Caves, 16. International Congress of Speleology, v.1, pp. 118-120 Brno. 2013

Claude Chabert and the Mapping of Ayvaini Cave, 16. International Congress of Speleology, v.2, pp. 332-334, Brno, 2013

Double Cave Maps of Turkey, 16. International Congress of Speleology, v.1, pp. 377-380, Brno, 2013

Extraordinary Threats Require Extraordinary Actions (with M. Eğrikavuk),

2. EuroSpeleo Protection Symposium, Muotathal, Switzerland, Sept. 2012

Exploration of Sarpunalınca Cave (with E.O. Yıldız), 3. Middle East Speleological Symposium, Beirut, Lebanon, 2011

Canyons and Caves of Safranbolu (with N. Ada), 3. Middle East Speleological Symposium, Beirut, Lebanon, 2011

Çift Haritalar ve TAY Projesi, 5. National Congress of Speleology, Istanbul, Mar 2011

Magara Arastirmalarında Standart Oluşturulması (with C. Cankirili), 5. National Congress of Speleology, Istanbul, Mar 2011

Kars Borluk Vadisi Mağaraları ve Kaya Resimleri, 5. National Congress of Speleology, Istanbul, Mar 2011

Claude Chabert ve Ayvaini'nin Haritalanması, 5. National Congress of Speleology, Istanbul, Mar 2011

Kahramanmaraş Kuzeyi Hidrojeolojisi ve Mağaraları, 5. National Congress of Speleology, Istanbul, Mar 2011

Safranbolu Kanyon ve Mağaraları (with N. Ada), 5. National Congress of Speleology, Istanbul, Mar 2011

Sarpunalunca Mağarasının Arastirilmesi ve Haritalanması (with E.O. Yıldız), 5. National Congress of Speleology, Istanbul, Mar 2011

Kocain Mağarasının Keşfi ve Araştırma Tarihi, 1. National Congress of Speleology, Istanbul, 1990, pp. 62-71.