

ARTVIN · ALABALIK · KARÇAL DAĞI

DOCUMENTATION AND CONSERVATION PROJECT

PROJECT PRESENTATION · 2027

Kilayet Manastırı

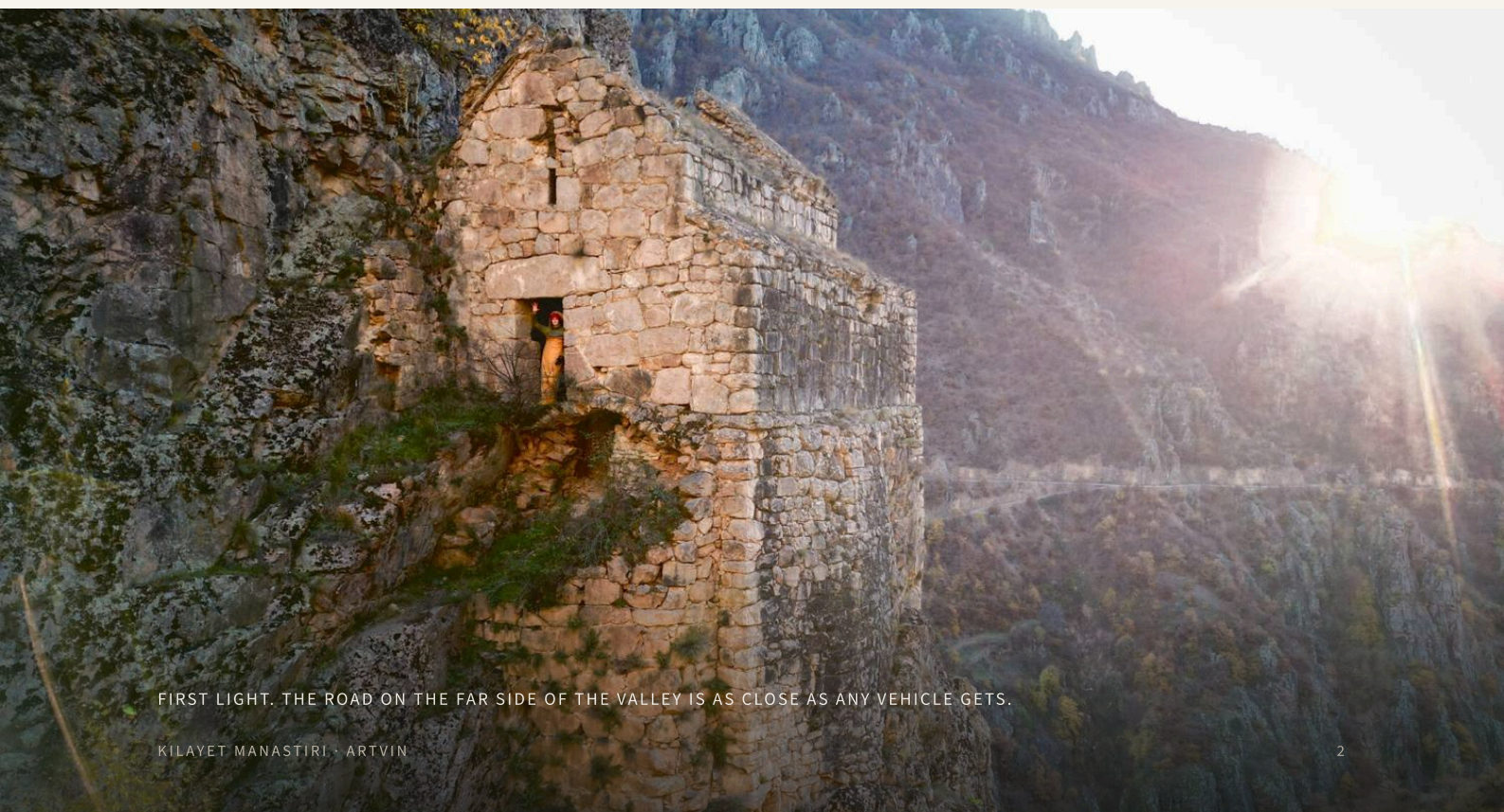
A stone building of about 1,100 years that seems carved into the cliffs of Artvin. To carry it into the future, we are working under the leadership of a Turkish institution, with support from Europe.

Eleven hundred years on the rock

Kilayet Manastırı rises on a steep rock ledge above the village of Alabalık in Artvin Merkez, at the foot of the 3,428 metre Karçhal Dağı. The building, considered to be about 1,100 years old, has been called "**the Sümela of Artvin**" in the Turkish press. It cannot be reached by vehicle, only on foot.

Building such a structure in this position shows that its builders had extraordinary engineering knowledge. Today part of its stone roof has collapsed and its walls show serious damage in places. The village of Alabalık has been calling for its restoration for years.

As far as we know, no complete measured survey of the building exists. Yet every restoration can only be built on accurate and complete documentation.



FIRST LIGHT. THE ROAD ON THE FAR SIDE OF THE VALLEY IS AS CLOSE AS ANY VEHICLE GETS.

OUR GOAL

The final goal: saving and restoring the building

Our aim is the lasting protection of Kilayet Manastırı. The measured survey is the first and essential step on that path. All work will be carried out fully in line with Turkish law, under the scientific direction of a Turkish institution, with a majority Turkish team and with the participation of the representative of the Ministry of Culture and Tourism.

1 · DOCUMENTATION

Measured survey, photogrammetry and damage assessment. Nothing is touched.

2 · PROJECT

A consolidation and restoration project by Turkish experts, submitted to the Regional Conservation Council.

3 · IMPLEMENTATION

Saving the building according to the approved project, under the supervision of the Turkish authorities.

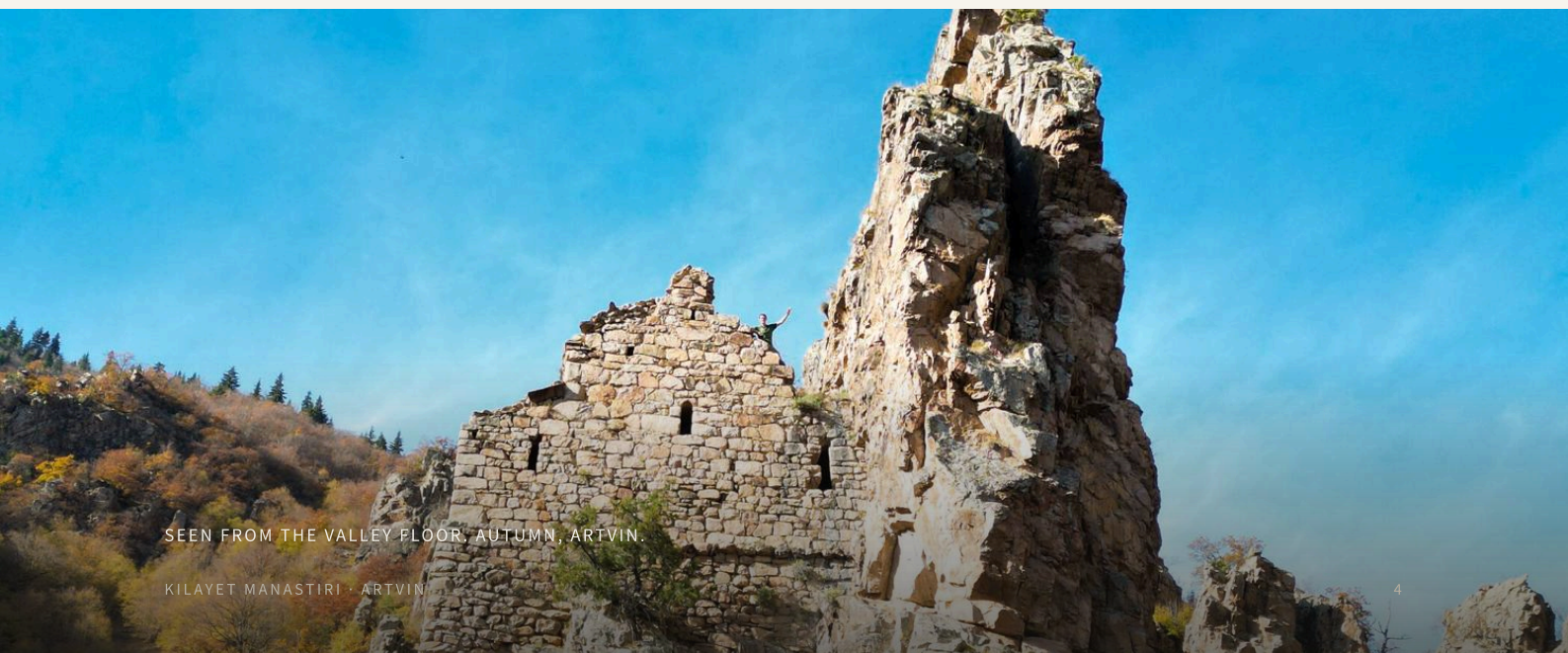
All data, drawings and models will be delivered to the Turkish authorities through the partner institution and the Artvin Provincial Directorate of Culture and Tourism.



FROM ABOVE: THE OPENING LEFT BY THE COLLAPSED ROOF.

What the project offers

Documentation method	Hand survey at 1:50, photogrammetry, GNSS positioning, drone imagery with the required permits, and damage mapping.
Equipment	Measuring and photogrammetry equipment can come from our supporting brands. If the partner institution prefers to work with its own instruments, that is very welcome.
Funding	The work will be funded from Europe.
Logistics	Logistical support such as transport, accommodation and catering on site can be provided from outside.
Students	Field experience with current methods on a unique building, for undergraduate and graduate students.
Documentary	The work will be recorded in a documentary film, with the Turkish scholars and team at its centre.
Publication and visibility	We have connections to leading European architecture, art and culture magazines. With the Ministry's permission, this work will be widely published internationally. Our Turkish partner will lead the scientific publications.



SEEN FROM THE VALLEY FLOOR, AUTUMN, ARTVIN.

KILAYET MANASTIRI · ARTVIN

OUR SUPPORTERS

European brands supporting the project

Leading European and international brands in surveying, photogrammetry, energy, optics, field equipment and film stand behind the project.

LAMY

EMLID

Agisoft

BimmTool

PowerFilm
MADE IN THE USA SOLAR

Schneider
KREUZNACH

Colourlab Ai

Ableton

VAUDE

ORTLIEB WATERPROOF

KATADYN

ruhle
1875

This network grows every week. Together with a Turkish partner institution we are preparing the project for fieldwork in spring 2027.

THE VALLEY AT THE FOOT OF KARÇHAL DAĞI.

KILAYET MANASTIRI - ARTVIN

We are looking for a partner institution in Türkiye

We are looking for partners to lead the project in Türkiye. This means the scientific leadership of a highly visible international project that contributes directly to Türkiye's cultural heritage.

Scientific project director

A scholar with a doctorate in art history, archaeology or a related field and field experience, working at a university or research institution. Scientific lead of the work and first author of the publications.

Partner faculty for the survey

An architecture faculty working in survey and restoration; its staff and students take part in the field measurements and drawings. Working under a protocol with the Provincial Directorate of Culture and Tourism is also possible.

Advisory board

Experts on the history and architecture of the region, supporting the project with their scientific views and their names.

CONTACT

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