

## Turkey 2009 Visit – Aleš Hejna Map Commission IOF 22.11.-25.11.2009

Purpose of the visit:

- Evaluation of **Cappadocia** terrains and its suitability for orienteering.
- Finding the best ISOM symbols for interpretation of the special Cappadocia rocky features.
- Introducing orienteering to the regional officials and politicians and preparing ground for future orienteering events.



**Program:**

Sunday afternoon arrival to Ankara, car transport to Cappadocia region (4hours southwest from Ankara), the city of Nevsehir.

In the evening meeting with the police department chief of the region.

Monday morning meeting with the sport officials of the region. First short visit to the terrain.

Meeting with the mayor of Goreme the busiest tourism spot in this region (UNESCO site, 1million tourists a year). Goreme tour with mayor. Terrain evaluation.





Monday noon meeting with the mayor of Urgip. Urgip is the future venue of sprint orienteering. **Urgip** tour, terrain evaluation.



Monday afternoon longer visit in the core ISOM terrain. Discussions about the features and the application of ISOM (see Conclusion).

Monday late afternoon meeting with the regional „governor“.

Monday evening car transport back to Ankara.

Tuesday Ankara sightseeing. Wednesday early morning departure from Turkey.

**Cast:**

Mehmet GENÇ - president of the Turkish Orienteering Federation (4th from left)

Veysel Güler – chairman of Foreign Relations of TOF (5th from left)

Ferhan Karaca - (6<sup>th</sup> from left), Aydin Aygun - (2<sup>nd</sup> from left)



**Conclusion:**

Cappadocia region is very special and orienteering there will be very extraordinary. The terrain can be described as „stony forest“. Many sandstone formations create labyrinths, rock cities, passages... The terrain is suitable for orienteering. The most detailed areas (where the rock formations intervene with humane settlement) would be good to map in sprint standard ISSOM. It is possible also to create maps according to ISOM but then a certain level of generalization shall be applied as the number of details is large.

There was some discussion regarding the interpretation of the „formations“ . They are in fact not from solid stone but from pressurized earth, sandstone. This caused some confusion. The local mappers tried to map the formations with symbol 106 Earth bank. But this symbol suggests the formations are passable and that is not correct. Then we agreed the best way how to interpret the rocky formations is in ground shape with the symbol 202 Rock pillars/cliffs. This symbol clearly shows the shape of the formations and it clearly says these formations are impassable.





The meeting with the local officials went well. The potential of orienteering development in this region is big and the officials acknowledged that.  
(I assume that by happy faces I had seen. Most of the conversation was in Turkish. Hectolitres of tea were drunken.)

21.1.2010 Aleš Hejna