

A scenic view of a mountain valley. In the foreground, a person's legs are visible, wearing red shoes and blue jeans, sitting on a field of yellow wildflowers. The background shows rolling green hills and mountains under a clear blue sky.

Trails of the Past

A RUSTIC TRAVEL GUIDE BY SELMA COBAN



Introduction

THE “TRAILS OF THE PAST” SERIES WILL BE ONE COMPONENT OF THE PROJECT ON CREATING AN ONLINE PRESENCE FOR THE MOUNTAIN VILLAGE OF MALEKSA AS A VIRTUAL SPACE THAT (1) MAPS HIDDEN TRAILS SURROUNDING THE VILLAGE; (2) DOCUMENTS THE FOLK LITERATURE (3) AND OFFERS A CULTURAL HOTSPOT FOR VISITORS.

in Perspective

Maleksa is a mountain village associated with the town of Maçka of the Trabzon province, in the Pontic Mountains and the **Black Sea region of Turkey**. The village and its surrounding region is associated with a rich history and ethnic diversity, and a local knowhow on farming, agriculture, and fauna and flora.

Trabzon was located on the historical Silk Road, with trades to Persia and the Caucasus . The trails around the village have historic value and some trails were used as main travel roads during the Ottoman Empire.

Each trail will include a map, sightseeing images, storytelling messages from the village, and details on local fauna and flora. Each trail will also have a distinct title that resonates with the trail and its story.



Why does it matter?

“Life is an objective quality of things in the world. As such we can say that a stone is alive and so is a blade of grass even though they may possess different degrees of life... Subjective beauty is time-bound and relative to socio-cultural and personal taste. Objective beauty – that of nature – heals and completes because it flows directly from the fount of life and course through all things. It is not a matter of culture, nation, or individual subjectivity to decide on it. It elicits the same deep movement of the soul that triggers the same train of meditation in every human being”.

ARCHITECTURE & THE LUMINOUS GROUND – SAMIR MAHMOUD
STREAMED LIVE ON APR 14, 2021, CAMBRIDGE MUSLIM COLLEGE



Moral of the Story

We can say that trails possess a degree of life, they can heal us, connect us with our past and present, and help us in understanding our fitrah. This is even more true for historic trails that have lived through in passage of time. These “manmade” objects are also interwoven with their surrounding nature. By preserving and walking these trails, we experience ourselves and nature in its full beauty.



What to expect

INTRODUCING A RUSTIC TRAVEL GUIDE

... with sightseeing images, maps, and details on local fauna and flora.

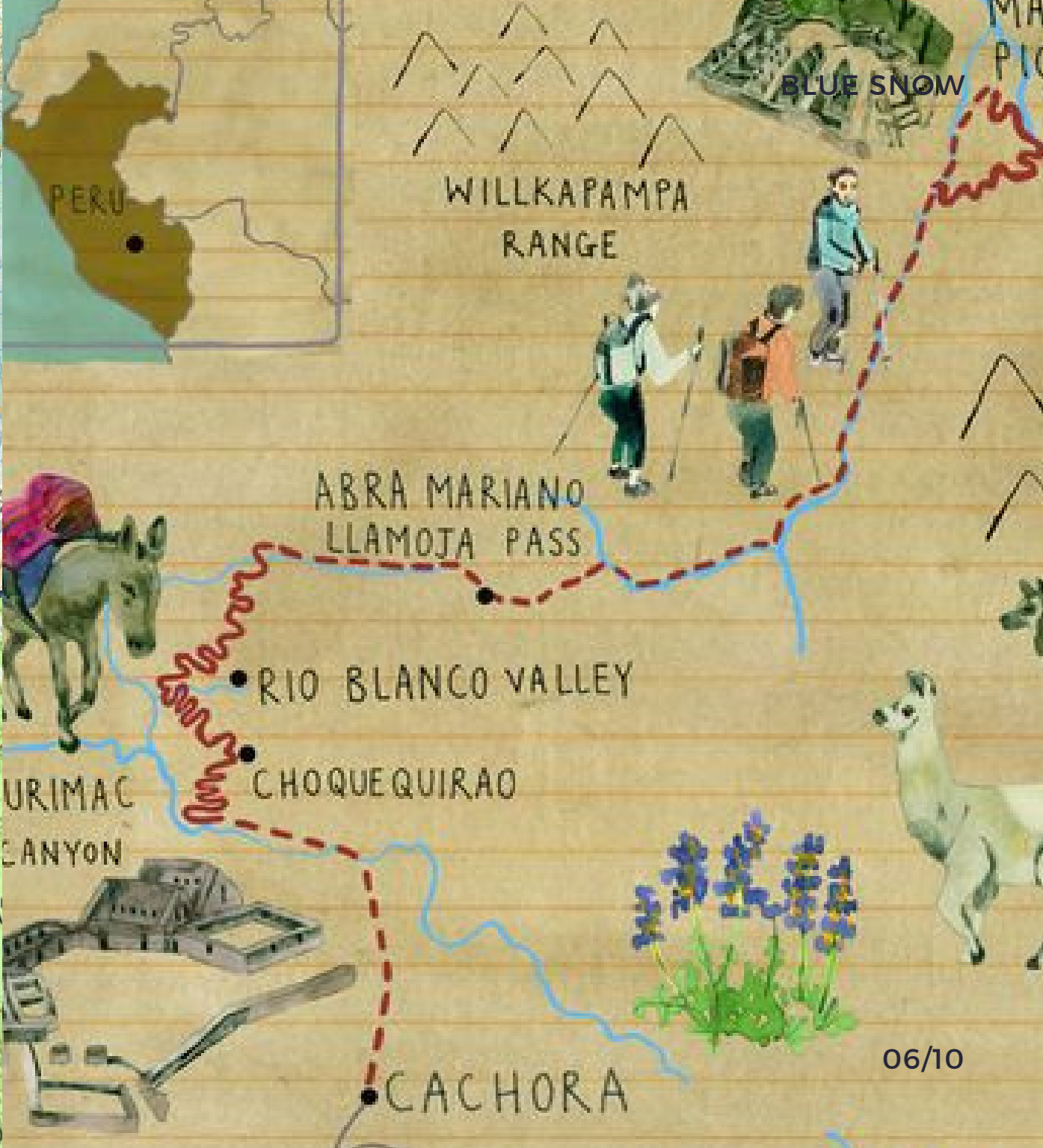
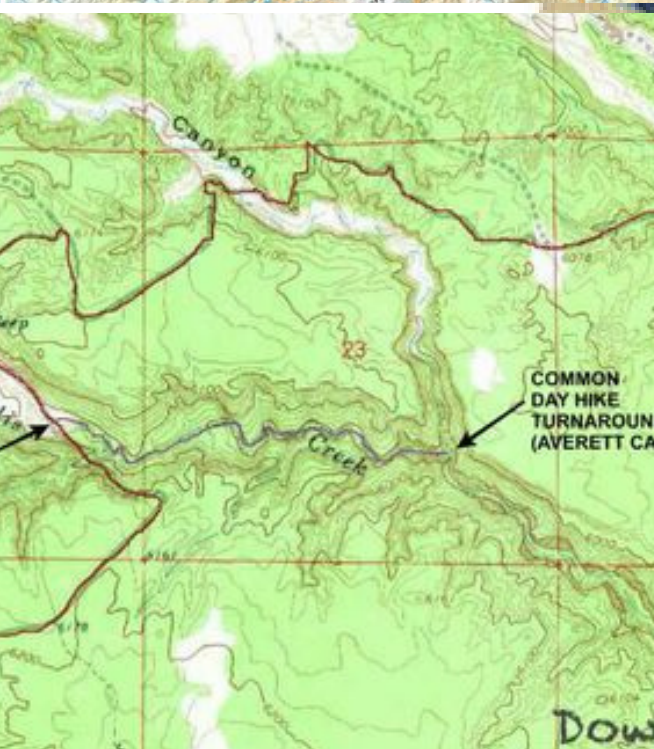
SITUATING A STORY ON A MAP

...with historical context and storytelling elements from the village residents.

UNDERSTANDING PERSONAL JOURNEYS THROUGH TRAILS

... with a focus on universal truths, mysticism, and transpersonal psychology.







Thank You!

WWW.MALEKSA.ORG

