

## OLTU TASI

**Registration N°:** 192

**Date of Registration:** 19/03/2010

**Category:** Protected Geographical Indication

**Product Type:** Stone

**Geographical Area:** Oltu province of Erzurum city – TURKEY

**Specificity of the Product:** Oltu Tasi is also named as “black amber” and it’s mined in Oltu province of Erzurum city.

The most important specific character of Oltu Tasi is that it is very soft when mined and only begins to harden when it is exposed to the air. Therefore, it is very easy to carve this stone. It generally comes in black, but can also be blackish brown, grey or greenish. It is a very dense mineral like substance of the nature of cola that does not demonstrate crystallinity. When put near gas, this mineral bursts into flames and leaves behind a certain amount of ash. When rubbed, Oltu Tasi attracts the light substances such as dust by way of static electricity.

Oltu Tasi is very durable and used to produce jewelry, rosary beads, key-chains, pipes, etc.

To distinguish true Oltu Tasi from the artificial ones, it is rubbed against unglazed porcelain. Real Oltu Tasi will leave a chocolate brown streak.



**Source:**

*“Turkey, Discover the potential: Turkish Culture and Geographical Indications”*. Catalog prepared by the Ministry of Culture and Tourism of the Republic of Turkey Ministry, the Turkish Patent Institute and the World Intellectual Property Office (WIPO), 2016.