

Zelve-Paşabağları Archaeological Site

Kaymaklı Underground City

Don't Miss



Zelve-Paşabağları Archaeological Site Visiting Hours

April 1-October 31

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
8.00	8.00	8.00	8.00	8.00	8.00	8.00
19.00	19.00	19.00	19.00	19.00	19.00	19.00

Box Office Closing: 18.15

October 31-April 1

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
8.00	8.00	8.00	8.00	8.00	8.00	8.00
17.00	17.00	17.00	17.00	17.00	17.00	17.00

Box Office Closing: 16.15

[f](#) TurkishMuseums [@](#) officialturkishmuseums [t](#) TurkishMuseums [v](#) TurkishMuseums [s](#) TurkishMuseums

Address Paşabağları Ören Yeri Çavuşın Köyü, Avanos/Neveşehir, Zelve Ören Yeri, Aktepe Köyü, Avanos/Neveşehir

Please visit the website for current information.



www.muze.gov.tr



Zelve Archaeological Site





Zelve Archaeological Site

Zelve was founded on the steep and northern slopes of Aktepe. Zelve Archaeological Site, which consists of three valleys, is the location where fairy chimneys are most abundant. It is not known when the troglodytic life started in carved rock places such as Uçhisar, Göreme and Çavuşin but Zelve became one of the important settlements and religious centres of Christians especially in the 9th and 13th centuries, and the first religious seminars were given to the priests in this region. In the 1st valley of Zelve, there are mill (seten) used for making bulgur, Balıklı and Üzümlü Church, and winery in the east. In the 2nd valley there is the Church of the Holy Cross. In the third valley, there is a village square and a mosque. The most important feature of the 3rd valley is the monastery complex carved into a dome-like rock mass. Pigeonhouse decorations carved on high slopes in this valley add a unique value to the archaeological site. At the exit point of the valley is the Direkli Church.



Paşabağları Archaeological Site

'Paşabağlı', formerly known as 'Valley of the Priests', attracts attention with its unique fairy chimneys. Inside the fairy chimneys, which are multi-bodied and multi-headed, chapels and seating spaces are carved. One of the three-headed fairy chimneys has a chapel built in the name of St. Simeon and a retreat cell. St. Simeon, who lived a reclusive life near Aleppo in the 5th century, escaped from the extreme interest of the people and when he was rumoured to perform miracles, he took refuge first on a two-meter-high and later on a 15-meter-high column and lived there.



Mill (Seten)

The mill (seten) in the Zelve 1st valley is one of the places where the bran of wheats, which are first boiled and then dried to make bulgur wheat, are removed. This process is based on a 500 kg stone which moves with a rotating mechanism in the middle of the space. This place met the bulgur needs of the people living in Zelve Archaeological Site.



Pigeon Houses

Pigeon houses which does not take attention of most of us are examples of Islamic painting art of the region. They were built almost to all the slopes of the valleys either by engraving the facade of the rock or with local cut stone. Other type of pigeon houses was made by closing the entrances and windows of the monasteries and churches built before.