



Paşabağları Archaeological Site, the Miracle of Nature

Don't Miss

Göreme Archaeological Site



Göreme 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

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Please visit the website for current information.



www.muze.gov.tr



Dark Church Göreme Open Air Museum





In the 2nd century AD there were ascetic monks who had adopted seclusion alone in the Cappadocia region, especially around Göreme. Although they were independent of monasteries and churches, they were an important social community. What made Cappadocia the centre of religious thought and life in the 3rd century was the presence of clergy with powerful character. In the following century, the region was known as the hometown of the three great clergy. These were the Bishop of Kaisareia, Basileios, his brother Gregorios of Nyssagia and Gregorios of Nazianus. Basileios, known as the 'Great', returned to his hometown, Kaisareia, the headquarters of the Cappadocia region, to devote himself to the monastic life. He was also effective in spreading the monastery life collectively.



A monastic life was present intensively in Göreme from 4th century AD to 13th century. There are churches, chapels, cafeterias and seating areas in almost every rock block. Today's Göreme Open Air Museum is the place where this education system was launched. The churches were painted with two types of techniques. The first one is painting directly on the rock surface and the second one is fresco-secco (tempera) technique. Topics covered in the church are taken from the Bible and the life of Jesus Christ. The Göreme Open Air Museum houses the Girls and Boys Monastery, St. Basil's Church, Elmali Church, Saint Barbara Church, Serpent Church, Malta Crusader Church, Dark Church, Saint Catherine Church, Çarıklı Church and Tokalı Church. The archaeological site was opened to visitors in 1967.



Dark Church

An important reform that Basil has made in the churches of Cappadocia is the resumption of prayer with the community. Today's Göreme Open Air Museum is the place where this education system was launched and Soğanlı and Soğanlı, İhlara and Açıksaray are the places where the same education system is seen later.



Göreme Church Architecture

The single-nave barrel vaulted plan type, which is very common in Göreme churches, is the most suitable architectural method for religious communities and secluded people in the region. The transverse rectangular plan is of Mesopotamian origin. In Göreme, these structures were probably built for certain foreign groups settling in this region. Building type with two naves is very rare and prevalent in Soğanlı and İhlara churches. The three-nave basilica plan in Göreme is also rare. This building type was preferred in Episcopal churches.