

A Site for Christian Pilgrimage Memorial Museum of the Church of St. Nicholas

Don't Miss

Myra



Myra Visiting Hours

April 1-October 1

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
8.30	8.30	8.30	8.30	8.30	8.30	8.30
19.00	19.00	19.00	19.00	19.00	19.00	19.00

October 1- April 1

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
8.30	8.30	8.30	8.30	8.30	8.30	8.30
17.30	17.30	17.30	17.30	17.30	17.30	17.30

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www.muze.gov.tr



Hidden Necropolis Myra





Then 'Lycian Union' formed by 23 cities in the Mediterranean region in the 1st century BC is the first democratic formation in history.

Myra was one of the leading cities of this Union, which is considered to be the pioneer of today's democracy, where member cities had the right to vote in proportion to their size, population and economic power.

The ruins that survived in Myra, one of the most populous and richest cities in the region during these years and the capital of the Lycian State for a while, hide the clues to the old glory of the city.

Santa's Tomb is Here

Although it is a popular tourist destination with its history and nature, the main reason for the recognition of Myra all over the world is that it is the place where St. Nicholas, commonly known as Santa, died and the grave and church built in his name are here.

Today we know that there are more than 2,000 churches dedicated to St. Nicholas.

The pioneer and most important one of them is this church.

St. Nicholas, the protector of children and sailors, was a bishop in Myra, where he died on December 6, 365.

The monumental tomb and church built by the people of Myra to honor his name are one of the pilgrimage centers of Christianity, and it is known that those who set out to go to Jerusalem in the Middle Ages came here to become pilgrims.



Journey to the History of Myra

The ancient city of Myra, known to have existed in the 5th century BC in light of the present findings, had been enriched by its connection with the sea like all contemporary settlements. The Theater, one of the most remarkable ruins, dates back to the 2nd century AC and was built with a donation from one of the richest in the city. The decoration of the Theater, which was transformed into an arena where gladiatorial fights took place with some changes in the following years, is also a masterpiece. There are embroideries such as an eagle on friezes, Medusa who is believed to turn any person staring at her, and Sirens, legendary marine creatures. The most beautiful one of the rock tombs that you may encounter in almost every part of the Lycian region are here. Some of them were gathered on the cliff above the theatre and some were gathered in a place known as the river necropolis. Especially the rock tombs arranged side by side and on top of each other on the cliff, where the acropolis which is the first place of Myra exists, creates an intriguing sight. The reliefs and inscriptions on some of these rock tombs, which were built similar to the wooden houses or temples of the Lycians, provide information about the owners of the tomb.



The canals carved on the surface of the rocks next to the Demre stream and used to meet the water needs of the settlement for many years have survived. Most of the city walls remained from the Roman Period.

On the way from the theater to the city center, there are the remains of a building that is thought to be a bath or a basilica. In Myra, which is known



to be an important religious center during the Byzantine Period, one of the buildings belonging to this period is the Alakent Church. The church, which dates back to the 12th - 13th centuries and was recently unearthed, is well preserved because it remained under a thick alluvial layer. In the church, the fresco depicting Jesus, John the Baptist and the Virgin Mary together, has survived with all its

vividness. There are still some remains to be unearthed in Myra, which lived its most glorious time in the 2nd and 3rd centuries AC and has lost its importance due to earthquakes, Arab raids and alluvial deposits carried by Demre stream. The finds discovered in the settlement, where excavations continue, reveal every day the splendor of this once favorite city.