

Hierapolis Archaeological Museum To Take A Long Trip in the History and Witness the Past

Don't Miss

Laodikeia



Laodikeia Ancient Settlement Visiting Hours

April 1 - October 1

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

October 1 - 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

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Address Goncali Mahallesi Yani Pamukkale/Denizli

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Laodikeia, A Commercial and Religious Center of Ancient Era





The North (Holly) Agora

The North (Holly) Agora, which is located to the north of Syria Avenue between Western and Northern Theaters, has a rectangular plan of about 265 x 128 m, and is surrounded by porticoes. This area was used as temenos during Imperial Era and as agora in 4th Century AD. The Agora can be accessed through three monumental gates from the Syrian Avenue, namely, central, eastern and western propylons. Of these eastern and western propylons access to the porticoes and central propylon the agora itself. There are also side entrances on portico back walls defining east and west borders of the Agora, allowing access to Western Theater and Northern Theaters. Originally the top of the porticoes surrounded by peristyles of Ionian order in the front was covered with hip roofs.

Within the agora, there are two ponds in the fronts of north-south oriented portico and of east portico. Within the court delimited by the ponds, there used to be two temples and altars, one in Corinthian order, dedicated to Athena, weaving goddess of the city and the other in Ionian order, dedicated to Zeus, founding god of the city. With the onset of the Christianization of the city, these temples were torn down by the Emperor Constaninus the Great and during the building activities later, east portico peristyle was rearranged with spolia of architectural blocks of Athena Temple in Corinthian Order and west portico peristyle with spolia of architectural blocks of Zeus Temple in Ionian Order and of capitals in Corinthian Order. At the northern end of the western portico, a mosaic ground with geometric designs which is thought to be a church and built in 4th Century AD.



Syrian Avenue

The main street which runs from the centrum to the Syrian Gate in the east, is 900 m long in total. A 400 m part of the Avenue between Emperor Caracalla Fountain (211 - 217 AD) located at the western corner of the avenue and Eastern Byzantine Gates, was excavated and reinvigorated. During the excavation activities, the latest stages of utilization for the Avenue were discovered between 494 AD Earthquake and the abandonment of the city by early 7th Century AD. The sewerage system is located in the middle of the avenue and there are porticoes at both sides reached up through a few steps and a row of shops behind them. In this layout, there are House A, Temple A, Septimius Severus Nymphaeum, East, Central and Western Propylons of North (Holly) Agora and rows of shops to the north and rows of shops and Central Agora to the south.



Temple A

This structure is located at the northern end of the rectangular court located to the north of Syrian Avenue and surrounded by porticoes (measuring 58 x 42.33 m, with 54 pillars having Corinthian capitals). The temple with a prostyle plan (with 4 spiral fluted pillars), (measuring 27.75 x 13.60 m) are made of travertine blocks with high podium and covered with marble tiles. The temple was built on two islands transversely in hipodamic system. The temple was dedicated to deities Artemis, Apollon and Imperial Cult. The temple which was built during Anthonines Era (2nd Century AD),

underwent major repairs during the reign of Emperor Diocletianus (284 - 305 AD).

With adoption of Christianity as an official religion in 4th Century AD (during the reign of Constantinus the Great, 306 - 337 AD), the temple was started to be used as a religious archive of Laodikeia Church next to it and collapsed due to 494 AD Earthquake which struck the entire city. Due to an earthquake which happened by early 7th Century, during the reign of Emperor Focas (602 - 610 AD), the ancient city was totally destroyed and the new city center rebuilt in Denizli. From this date on, the architectural



material of the temple was used as a quarry or quicklime source and thus the temple was destroyed to a great extent.

In temple A, total 19 pillars could survive with prostyle pillars (4 on the front façade of the temple) and courtyard portico pillars, of which only a few could survive. The steps of the stairs and its balustrades were restored. Naos door, anastylosis (in original form) granting access to the temple was restored and the façade of the temple gained a third dimension by raising the side walls.