



Pessinus



Pessinus Ancient Settlement Visiting Hours

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

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Address Ballıhisar, 26600 Sivrihisar/Eskişehir

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A Warlike People in
The Steppes: Galatians;
in Pessinus





It is located in Ballıhisar Village 13 km southwest of Sivrihisar Town of Eskişehir. The excavation of the city was initiated by Prof. Dr. Pierre Lambrechts on behalf of Ghent University, Belgium between 1967 - 1973 and continued by Prof. Dr. J. Devreker between 1987 - 2008 and by Prof. Dr. Gocha R. Tsetsckhladze of Melbourne University, Australia between 2009-2013.

Pessinus Ancient City experienced its brightest period during the reign of Roman Emperor, Augustus (27 BC - 14 AD). In addition to illustrious temple which was started to be built after the death of Augustus but completed during the reign of Emperor Tiberius (14 - 37 AD), structures with various plans, workshops, houses and a church of Christian Era, were discovered in the city. In the square where the temple is located, there is a Theater with Steps, Bouleuterion, Agora (with porticoes) and cardo. Moreover, there is a 8000 people capacity theater, which was constructed at the side of the hill at the east of the city during the reign of Emperor Hadrianus (117 - 138 AD), of which only cavea recess and a few cavea are seen today.

Pessinus which is of Phrygian origin and was an important Galatian city during Roman Imperial Era, started losing its importance in the 9th Century AD and was totally abandoned a few centuries later. The artifacts which are recovered during excavations and gathered from around are exhibited in Outdoors Exhibition of Ballıhisar Village and Eskişehir Eti Archeology Museum.



Temple: The temple which was completed during the reign of Emperor Tiberius (14-37 AD) is in the Corinthian order. It is considered that in temple with peripteral plan, there are 6 pillars at the short side and 11 pillars at the long side and there are two pillars between antes. Ruins of the foundations measures 24.10 x 13.70 m. Of the innermost rectangular temple, the foundations of cella where the cult statue of the temple is present and pronaos are common and measure 17.15 x 9.15 m. It is considered that the temple sits on a crepidoma with five or six steps. In addition to the visible parts of the temple, steps of the crepidoma of the superstructure, wall blocks of cella, pillar drums, corinthian capitals of the pillars and antes, architrave, frieze, cornice and parts of the roof are scattered around the temple and within the village.

Theater with Steps: This structure which features an orchestra allocated for religious and other shows in front of the steps are called Theater with Steps, because its structure connecting theater with monumental steps. Only 26 steps of the theater which originally features 30 steps, could be preserved and have a dimension of 11.51 x 11.75 m. The theater connects the temple to the Agora below.



Bouleuterion (Meeting Place of City Council): The structure which was dated to Severus Era (193 - 235 AD) and also called Severus Theater because of this, was constructed above the orchestra of the Theater with Steps. This ellipsoid structure with 6 rows of marble seats and steps in the middle was probably used as a Bouleuterion (Meeting Place of City Council). On some of the stone blocks of the structure which was made with locally acquired marble, stonemason marks such as "K", "I", "A", "A", "M", etc. are observed.

Agora (with Porticoes): The agora which was constructed during Claudius Era (41 - 54 AD), consists of a square below the temple and theater with steps, which is surrounded by porticoes at three sides. The agora which was being excavated, is 32 m long and 26.38 m wide.

There are three steps at three sides being excavated and pillars of the portico are located on the top step. Some of the pillars and plinths are preserved in their places. Agora joins the cardo at the bank of Gallos River.

Gallos River and Canal System: The most impressive structure of the early imperial period is canal system with 7 steps, dated to Augustus Era. This canal with a breadth of 11 - 13 m, which was constructed for the purpose of collecting and carrying water of Gallos River passing through Pessinus in east - west direction, was continuously extended from 1st Century to 3rd Century BC and reached a length of 500 m.