



# Antiocheia



## Antiocheia Archaeological Site 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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## A capital in Pisidia; Antiocheia





The Acropolis of the city (inner Citadel) is located on 46 hectares of land surrounded by fortifications. The West Gate is a triumphal arch with three entrances. The gate, built with an understanding of architecture and plastics similar to the Propylon (monumental entrance) that led to the passage to the Augustus Sanctuary, was discovered during the excavations carried out by the University of Michigan in the 1920s. Recent electromagnetic research on the city's plan has revealed the location of many structures under the ground and indications that, a regular, grid-shaped city plan, invented by Hippodamos, a Miletus architect, which was successfully applied in Hellenistic cities such as Priene, Miletus, was also successfully applied in Antiocheia. The two known streets are the 90 + 320-meter Decumanus Maximianus, which begins at the West Gate, and the 400-meter Cardo Maximianus, which begins at the Nymphaeum (monumental fountain). The two streets intersect with a right angle 70 m to the south of Tiberia platea (Tiberius area). It intersects at a right angle to the South. Temple of Augustus: the most monumental building complex in Antiocheia is accessible after the stairs of the Propylon are ascended. The temple, which is set on a plot, that was meticulously reclaimed by cutting the rocks at the highest point of the city, was built with a facade architecture that would have stunned the visitor at the first moment. The construction of the temple within the sanctuary was probably started when the emperor was still alive and was dedicated in his name after his death. The apparent structure belongs to the same period with the Propylon that provided the entrance to the Temple, but there are also indications, such as bull heads, suggesting that the Rock may have been made for



another cult in earlier periods. The Rock, which dates back much earlier and was carved for the beliefs of the Mother Goddess Kybele and the moon god Men, whose dominion is known in the region, must have been transformed into the Temple of The Emperor under the rule of Rome.

St. Basilica of Paul: the first excavations in the Basilica, one of the most important structures of Antiocheia, located in northwest of the city, were initiated by Robinson and his team in the early 1920s. The building was finally surveyed by the Yalvac Museum. The structure in its 70x27 m dimensions is situated in east to west direction, with the 27x13-metre narthex (entrance) section in the west leaning against the city walls. Reflecting all elements of the Basilica plan, the structure consists of three naves and a semicircular apse. The outer surface of the apse is surrounded by a hexagonal wall. The basilica was in a later phase, possibly at the end of 4th century, underwent changes, with its interior completely filled in at the first floor level, the middle nave covered with mosaics, and entrances from the marble-tiled courtyard built on the north side. The tucked-in base at the top dates to the same period as the north courtyard entrance. The difference in angle between the axle of the building and the axle of the mosaics also shows the continuous change that the structure underwent. The mosaic, which was discovered and reported in the publications after the first excavations, was later covered and today is about 30 cm deep in the ground. Excavation reports and photographs show that it was decorated with geometric and vegetal motifs in panels with quadrangular frames. Theatre: after crossing the West Gate, the beginning of Decumanus Maximianus Street is seen towards the Acropolis.



Rising with a slight slope, the street reaches to the theatre after about 50 m. In the present conditions of the cavea (sitting rows), diazoma (horizontal corridor dividing the cavea in the middle), radial stairs (kerkides), paradosia (side entrances), orchestra (semi-circle area with Chorus and musicians) and stage building, it is very difficult to get an idea of how they looked like at the time they were built.

When Arundell described the theatre during his trip in 1833 he noted that most of the steps were dismantled. During excavations in recent years, it was understood that the width of the facade of the theatre, which made the cavea a wider angle than the semicircle, reached about 100 meters. In this case, we can compare the Antiocheia theatre with the 15,000-seat Pamphylia Aspendos Theatre.

The theatre is also bigger than the theatres of the other important cities of Pisidia, Sagalassos (Aglasun), Selge (Zerk.) and Termessos (Güllük). It is possible to date the construction of the original structure of the theatre back to the colonial period, or even to the Hellenistic period, but it is imperative to wait for the excavations to continue for definitive answer.