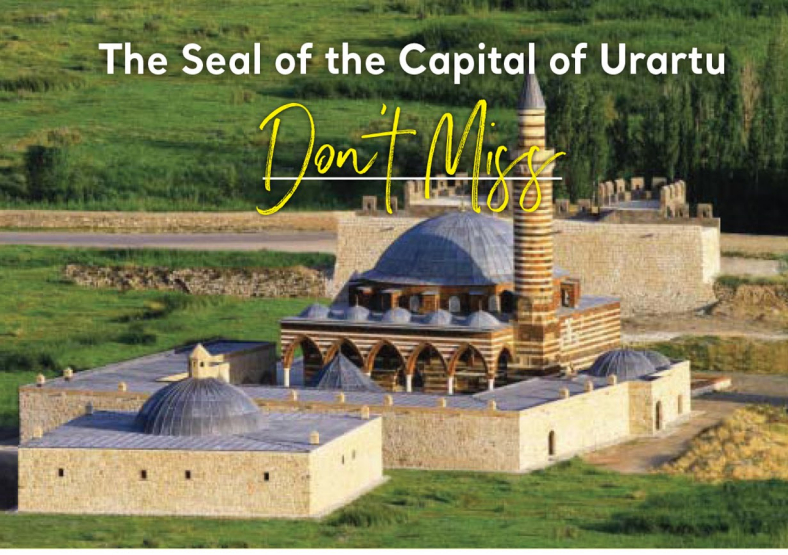


The Seal of the Capital of Urartu

Don't Miss



Van Castle



Çavuştepe Castle Visiting Hours

1 April-1 October

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: 18.30

1 October-1 April

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: 16.30

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Address Çavuştepe Köyü, Gürpınar, Van

Please visit the website for current information.



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The Castle of the King Sardure II





The fortress is situated in the Cavuştepe vicinity, 25 km southeast of Van on the Van-Hakkari-Iran highway in the Gürpınar District and was founded by Sarduri II in the middle of 8th century B.C. The first archaeological excavations at Cavuştepe Fortress was started by Prof. Dr. Afif Erzen and carried out continuously for 25 years between 1961-1986. The second campaign of excavations began in 2014 under the presidency of Rafet Çavuşoğlu and continues.

The fortress is situated on two hills at the western end of Bol Mountain, which rises in the middle of the plain, in a position dominating the fertile Gürpınar plain and the roads passing through the plain. The fortress, which is approximately 1 km long, protected with strong walls and two ditches carved into the rock from the east and west. The castle consists of two parts: "Upper Fortress" and "Lower Fortress". There is a square-shaped portico temple dedicated to Khaldi, the Urartian chief deity, and the associated religious places in the Upper Fortress on the east side. Upper Fortress has a rectangular plan in a smaller area compared to the Lower Fortress and is surrounded by strong walls. The Lower Fortress on the west side is 430 m long and 125 m wide. On the eastern side of the Lower Fortress, there is a rectangular building named as Uçkale. It has plan dimensions of 27.50 m x 17.30 m, which represents a unique example of Urartian architecture. Unlike any Urartian fortresses it was built with elaborate craftsmanship that hasn't been seen so far. Although the main function of Uçkale is not known, it is interpreted as a religious building.



Inside the Lower Fortress, there is also a palace section, associated storage rooms and workshops, and a second temple known to be dedicated to the god Irmuşini. Built on rock-carved foundations, the palace was divided into three sections with two rows of piers and has the plan dimensions of the 81 x 33 m. There are corridors on both sides of the fortress. The corridor in the south extends to Irmuşini Temple. The lower floor of the palace has a kitchen, pantry, warehouse and toilet units. In the middle (main) hall there are three cisterns carved into the rock. There are two separate kitchen spaces on the eastern and western ends, including stoves, fountains and wastewater flow channels. The Irmuşini Temple is built on the highest point of the Lower Castle and consists of a square structure and its annexes. The entrance of the temple faces the east, and there are two rows of carefully carved square basalt stones from below. There are remains of mudbrick walls which are thought to be about 10 meters height. There is also a cuneiform building inscription located on the left side of the entrance. The walls of the holy room which have dimensions of 4,50 x 4,50 meters in size are decorated with blue, red, black and white color and floral motifs. Warehouses, workshops and other spaces are located in other parts of the castle. In the large storage rooms of the castle, there are approximately 120 storage pithos buried halfway in the ground.



The Necropolis of the Fortress (Cemetery)

The Necropolis is situated about 1 km north of the fortress. During the archaeological excavations, very important archaeological data were derived from the remains especially

about the burial traditions of the Urartian community. According to this burial traditions, there are mainly two types of burial tradition in the Urartians. The first type is the urn-type burial, in which the dead people are cremated and their ashes are buried in the urns. In the second type of

burial tradition, the dead is placed in a tomb in hocker position, just like baby in a mother's womb. Four different types of graves were identified in the necropolis. These are chamber tombs, burial urns, cist graves and simple inhumations.