

KIBYRA: The Homeland Of The Brave Warriors And Rapid Horses

Kibyra is settled on the low hills just in the south of Gölhisar County of Burdur Province. Kibyra is also situated on the centre of the trade roads which link the north to the south and the east to the west as well as on the meeting point of cultural areas belonging to Lykia (Likya), Karia (Karya), Pisidia and Phrygia (Frigya). Kibyra, with its commercial facilities offered by its advantageous geographic location has been dominant power of the region for almost all periods throughout history.



Medusa's Head

WHO LIVED IN KIBYRA AND WHAT LANGUAGES THEY SPOKE?

According to the notes of Strabon, a traveller from Amasya (64 BC -24 AC), Kibyrans are originally Lydians and move from here to Kabalis. Strabon also notes that these migrants dominate in the region as soon as they arrive and subdue Pisidians and other people residing in the area and soon change their residence and establish a city which extends to 100 Stadia. The same source underlines that four different languages, namely



Kibyra

Lydian, Solymce, Pisidian and Hellen were spoken by the people of the region.

WHAT IS THE POLITICAL HISTORY OF KIBYRA LIKE?

All the architectural ruins at the site belong to the period of the Roman Empire. Kibyra is observed to be under the rule of Pergamon (Bergama) Kingdom during the reign of II.Eumenes (197-159 BC). Soon after, a common parliament (Kabalis Region Association of Four Cities-1st and 2nd centuries BC) was established by Kibyra and Boubon, Balboura and Oinoanda.

The quadro-parliament presents a decision making mechanism organized on a vote-base which the cities participate in via their representatives. Within this political unity, only Kibyra has two voting rights while the other three have one. (64BC- 24 AC). Kibyra has two voting rights since it has an army of 30 thousand infantry and 2 thousand cavalry. This unity was abolished by Roman General Murena in 82 BC. From then on, Kibyra was included in the Asian State and other cities were included in Lykian Unity. During the period of Roman Empire it becomes the jurisdiction centre of Asian State Governorship. It is thought that Bouleuterion /Parliament Building was the meeting centre of Tetrapolis, the capital city of which is Kibyra, and perhaps it served as the city council and the court hall during the period of Roman Empire. When the town was destroyed by the earthquake that hit the site in 23 AC, the ruling Roman Empire Tiberius granted a tax amnesty for 5 years, additionally, he made some grants to provide the city to be rebuilt. Kibyra people showed their appreciation by changing the name of their city into "Caesare Kibyra=Kibyra of the Emperor". Kibyra lived its golden age especially between the 1st -3rd centuries AC.

WHAT DID KIBYRA PEOPLE DO TO MAKE A LIVING?

According to the ancient sources and tablets, Kibyra was famous for especially its iron craftsmanship, leather trade and horse breeding. Pottery should also be added; because the type, structure and intensity of the ceramic pieces catching the eye on the south slopes of Theatre Hill reveal that it is true.

Stadium



Parliament Building and Baths



WHO IS EXCAVATING HERE?

The excavations have been carried out by a team under the presidency of Assist. Prof. Şükrü Özüdoğru, lecturer at Mehmet Akif Ersoy University and under the supervision of Assist. Prof. Eray Dökü on behalf of the Republic of Turkey the Ministry of Culture and Tourism.

WHAT BUILDINGS ARE IN KIBYRA ?

Main Street And Arch With Round Towers (Monumental Town Structure): On both sides of the main street that is in the east entrance to the city are mausoleums and tombs. Gladiators in relief which are on display in Burdur Museum were also found in this area. Moving westward, from the Main Street, The Monumental Arch that is the main entrance to the city is reached. The Arch is formed by quadruped and three arched door in the middle and one high round tower on both sides. It was built in the 2nd century AC.

Stadion (Stadium): The excavations of Stadion that is the first monumental building were started in 2006. Stadion, which takes place on the east side of the city, after the monumental entry at the end of the main street, is accessed through a second monumental door. It is amongst the most gorgeous stadiums in Anatolia with its capacity of around 12-13 thousand spectators beside its pitch extending to 200 meters. Stadion is entered through a monumental door. Another door is the vaulted one just in the middle of the southern abscissa. The western structure leaning on the main high bedrock of the slope has 21 rows of seats built in. The code contrarily descending in the east, however, it was strengthened with a supporting wall, only 7 rows of seats were

built in. In this way, the magnificent scenery of the meadow and the lake was not blocked off. Just in the middle of the western seat rows, a space for protocol was allocated.

It is an important detail that enriches the architectural structure of Stadion that it has a wastewater evacuation system which is formed with great Pithoses fastened to pipe drains under the seat rows that leads the waste water coming from up to be evacuated without reaching the ground floor of Stadion. Portiko (covered passage), which takes place above the west seat rows and can be seen all along the west side brings in a monumental front to Stadion.(the ends of the 2nd century and the beginnings of the 3rd century AC).



Bronze Oil Lamp

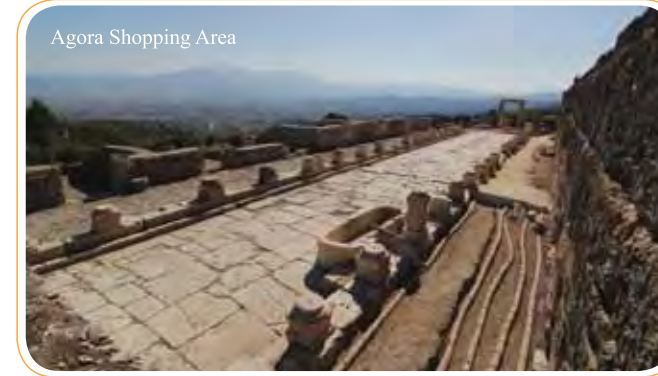


The Empress

Mauseum Planned Like A Temple (Martyrium) is a tomb structure bonded with rubble stone and lime that has one room. Two column bases at the entry are preserved. In the ground of the room there is a burial chamber. The vaults on four sides of the chamber are carrying the floor of the upstairs room. Under the east vault there is a rectangular symbolic coffin carved into the bedrock. The construction was proved to be a mausoleum in the form of a temple built during the early Eastern Roman Empire (6th century AC).

Agora (Shopping Area): The Main Street which connects the Theatre and Stadion from east to west reaches Agora which extends in the direction of north to south. This

Agora Shopping Area



road joins Agora Column Street in the North and the street going to the theatre in the west. Agora with its column galleries settled on three terraces in the east has social functions. Nearby the north-west corner of Agora is Roman Baths that is in good condition to a great extent even today and in front of the Bath is Gymnasion.

Theatre: Just on the north edge of the Parliament building is the Theatre standing steadily. It is situated on the east slope of the main hill overlooking to the whole scenery. With its semicircular sitting rows built on three floors, stage construction with five doors, and with a capacity of almost nine thousand audience, it is identical with many antique theatres in Anatolia. In the parapet blocks of the walkway that horizontally divides the sitting rows are inscribed the names of the notable persons and families, their good works for the city in Helen language.



Theatre

Odeon/Bouleuterion (Music Hall / Parliament Building): At the end of the excavations of the Music Hall and Parliament Building, one of the most gorgeous and the biggest constructions covered with a roof belonging to the Antique Age Anatolia was found out. In addition, 560 square meter granolithic floor in front of the construction was unearthed. With its present state, the mosaic floor has the spe-

ciality to be the largest mosaic floor in perfect condition unearthed in Anatolia ever since. This mosaic floor is decorated with geometrical patterns by using white, red veins in white and black tesseras (small cubic stones). The construction named Music Hall/Parliament Building, being also winter theatre and jurisdiction centre of Kibyra, presumably served as a court hall as well. The building as it looks now, predicted to have been built at the end of 2nd century and at the beginning of the 3rd century AC is almost completely protected except its roof fallen down possibly due to a fire. The Medusa Head, excavated in the very middle of the orchestra, made of red, white and green marble with snakes wrapped around its hair and neck, gorgonising looks with big eyes, teeth seen between its thick lips and tongue stretched out, its hood with wings, rays around resembling a leaf made of red and white marble is really captivating. The viewers get mesmerized by its attraction. Such a Medusa picture on the floor of an orchestra is the only example for Anatolian Archaeology.



Parliament Building

WHERE DO THE FINDINGS GO?

The archaeological findings unearthed during the excavations are all exhibited in Burdur Museum under the Provincial Directorate of Culture and Tourism. Burdur Museum, which is in the city centre, was granted “worth-seeing reward” in 2008.



Mosaic in front of the Parliament Building

WHAT DO WE RECOMMEND?

When you get to Kibyra in Gölhisar County, you should see Böğrüdelik Plateau, Gölhisar Lake, Koca Lake, Yusufça Erken Byzantine Church, you should taste Gölhisar Kavurması (delicious local meat dish), drink black cumin coffee and listen to the music of “Teke Region” played by sipsi masters. If you have time, you should also go fishing while watching the unique natural beauty at Yapraklı Dam Lake. We also highly recommend that you should buy İbecik weavings, pınaz rugs as souvenirs. The last but not the least, we believe that discovering the archaic cities, mansions, lakes and all natural beauty will give you a different pleasure.

We kindly invite you and your friends to Burdur to see the spectacular beauty of our city. Townspeople will be glad to welcome you.



Gladiator Friezes



Gölhisar City Centre



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