

Visiting Hours		
April 1-October 1 Opening Time: 04.00 Closing Time: 20.00 Ticket Office Closing Time: 20.00	October 1-April 1 It is required to get information from the Museum Directorate in winter.	Open everyday.
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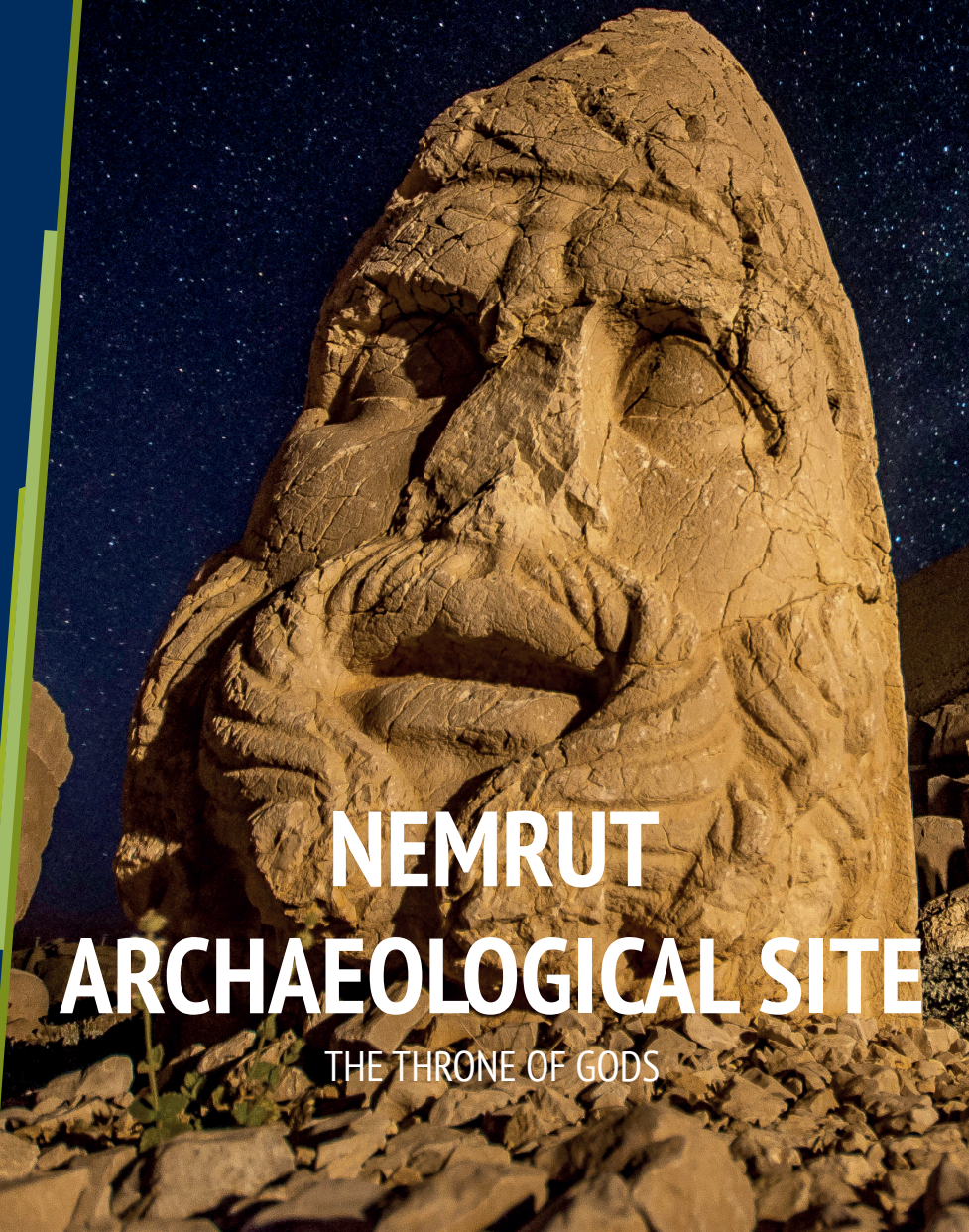
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GENERAL DIRECTORATE FOR
CULTURAL ASSETS AND MUSEUMS



NEMRUT
ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE
THE THRONE OF GODS



There is a spectacular tumulus that is believed to belong to Antiochos I, King of Commagene, at the 2,206 meter-high summit of Mount Nemrut, which is located in Kahta district in Adiyaman province. For this tumulus, which is required a ceaseless effort for its construction, a ridge reaching up 150 meters in diameter and 50 meter-high was created using crashed rocks. Moreover, limestone blocks, which constitute the main materials of 10-meter-high statues, were transferred from the valley miles away.

The tumulus, which captivates its visitors at first sight, hides clues about a civilization that has disappeared into the dusty pages of history. Despite the presumption that the tomb of Antiochos I is located in the tumulus, and many long-standing excavations and research, it is not possible to draw a conclusion or even to find out if at least a burial chamber existed. We will certainly learn more about

the Kingdom of Commagene and Antiochos I when such finds are discovered.

When ascended to the summit of Mount Nemrut, it can be understood well why Antiochos described this place as "The Closest Place to The Throne of Gods". The mount is the highest point in the Kingdom of Commagene. It also dominates the entire region with its magnificent view. For this reason, many visitors who want to see this fascinating place witness the most spectacular moments of both sunrise and sunset.

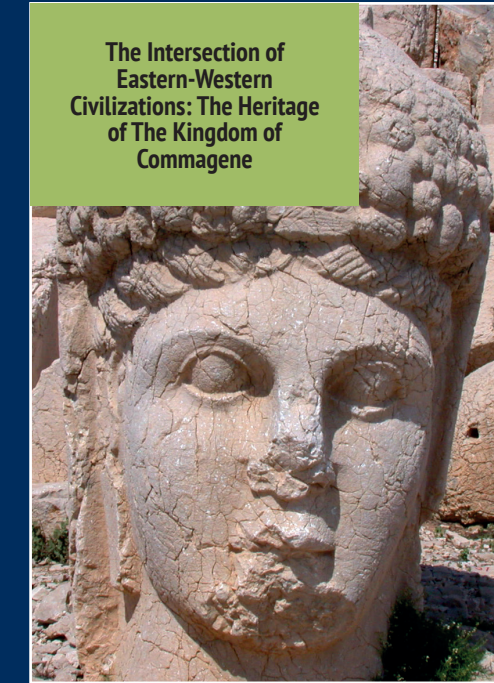
The tumulus is a very significant archaeological site owing to the fact that the most detailed information about the cultural structure, sense of art, and beliefs of the Kingdom of Commagene that existed as an independent state between 163 BC and 72 CE was obtained from this site.

The Most Beautiful Sunrise and Sunset Are Watched Here

Nemrut is a place that attracts history enthusiasts to visit. Moreover, watching sunrise and sunset at the summit is one of the most indispensable rituals of its visitors. You also witness this spectacular view, accompanying statues of Gods watching this fascinating sunrise and sunset for almost 2,000 years.



The Intersection of Eastern-Western Civilizations: The Heritage of The Kingdom of Commagene



The kings of Commagene believed that they had had a kinship with both Darius the Great, King of Persia, and Alexander the Great, King of Macedonia. King Antiochos, similarly, engraved the inscriptions that he originated from both Eastern and Western civilizations, and he placed these inscriptions on the summit of Mount Nemrut. He also achieved the dreams of Alexander the Great, the merging of Eastern and Western worlds, via the combination of their cultures and belief systems. The most beautiful reflection of this situation is that giant statues of Gods are a composition of Eastern and Western mythologies. For instance, Zeus in Greek mythology and Ahura Mazda in Persian mythology were combined as Zeus Oromasdes, and Heracles and Verathagna were combined as Heracles Artagnes, gaining a new identity. Aesthetic forms of statues are likewise a composition of Eastern and Western arts.

Gods on the Throne



Unlike its counterparts in other parts of Anatolia, there are terraces adorned with statues in the east, west, and north directions of the tumulus, which was constructed with stones instead of soil. Among these terraces that were considered having been built for the ceremonies held in the name of Antiochos I, statues of Gods on their thrones were placed side by side on the east and west terraces. The reason why the head of statues fell to the ground is due to earthquakes as well as the fragmentation of stones because of a high temperature difference between the night and day. Nevertheless, the alignment of the statues losing nothing of their impressiveness is the same on both terraces. Starting from left, King Antiochos I made his own statue placed on the first line, followed by the statue of Commagene Tyche, the Mother Goddess of the Kingdom. The statue of Zeus Oromasdes, which was situated in the middle, is followed by the statues of Apollon, Mithras, and Heracles Artagnes, respectively. The eagle and lion statues situated on the head and at the end of the other statues are a symbolic representation of the Kingdom of Commagene dominating not only the sky but also the earth.

Unfinished steals and pedestals on the north terrace served as a ceremonial route connecting the east and west terraces provide clues as to how the other statues were sculptured. Furthermore, this section is the reason why some researchers put forward an idea that this monument remained unfinished due to the demise of Antiochos I.