

Visiting Hours		
<b>April 1-October 1</b> Opening Time: 08:30 Closing Time: 19:00 Ticket Office Closing Time: 18:30	<b>October 1-April 1</b> Opening Time: 08:30 Closing Time: 17:00 Ticket Office Closing Time: 16:30	Open everyday.
<b>Address:</b> Kızılkaya köyü-Gülağaç/Aksaray		
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GENERAL DIRECTORATE FOR  
CULTURAL ASSETS AND MUSEUMS



**AŞIKLI MOUND**



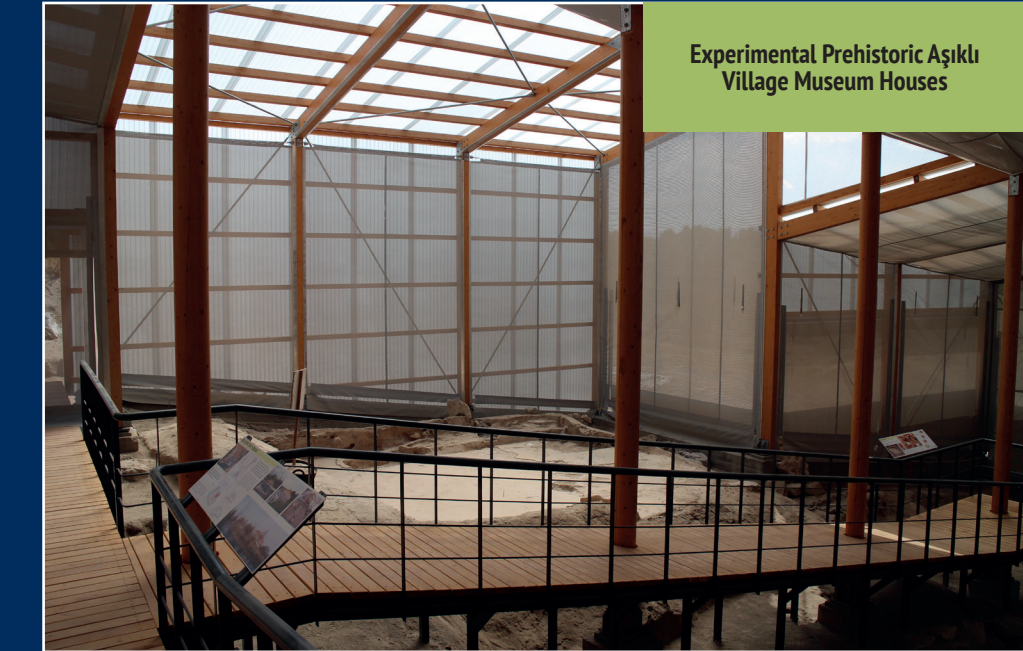
Aşıklı Mound is the oldest village settlement of the Cappadocia Region, which was established 10,000 years ago.

The Aşıklı community, which abandoned the hunter-gatherer and nomadic lifestyle and moved to a settled and productive lifestyle, lived in the same place for at least 30-35 generations from the middle of the 9th millennium BC to the last centuries of the eighth millennium BC.

The small group living in the first settlement established on the banks of the Melendiz river formed their first shelter by reinforcing the edges of the 4-metre-deep pits they dug into the soil with sun-dried mud brick blocks and covering their roofs with trees and reeds. In the open workshops located in the middle of these shelters, the group performed their daily activities collectively, such as food preparation, cooking, tool making, reed processing, and basket weaving. They grew wheat and barley, picked nuts, fruits, various herbs and plants, kept and fed sheep and goats, which they would domesticate in the next centuries, in settlements, in fenced areas. The community provided their nutrition requirements by hunting big animals such as wild cattle, horses, or deers, as well as rabbits, foxes, turtles, birds, or fish. They also extracted obsidian from Göllüdağ and Nenezi, which is within 1-day walking distance of Aşıklı, to make cutlery, scraper, and piercing tools and converted surrounding volcanic rocks into grinding and crushing tools.

Over time, with the increasing population, developing technology, and new architectural solutions, the settlement texture has changed and Aşıklı settlement has acquired a structure similar to today's villages. The houses are now rectangular in plan, with one or two rooms. The flat roofs of the houses in the cramped settlement arrangement resembling honeycomb are used as workshop areas. The entrances are located on the roof. In the south of the settlement, there are buildings and open areas religious ceremonies are held in the area of 'special purpose buildings'.

The Aşıklı community is one that has made groundbreaking developments in the history of architecture, medical history, animal domestication (sheep/goat) during their thousand years of life in the Cappadocia region. As a matter of fact, traces of the oldest prehistoric brain surgery were found on the skull of a woman aged 20-25. The skull is exhibited in the Aksaray Museum.



The Experimental Prehistoric Aşıklı Village is the recreation of the 10,000-year-old round-planned dwellings (9th millennium) buried in the ground at the entrance of the Aşıklı Mound, and the rectangular-planned dwellings (8th millennium) that started to be built on the ground over time, with the understanding of an open-air museum.

The buildings and street are exact copies of their originals in terms of layout, size, and direction. The entrances are from the roof with the help of wooden stairs. The doors that have been added to allow visitors to easily enter the building are not original.

Around the houses, there are examples of trees and plants grown in the ages of the Aşıklı community such as wild almonds, hackberries, and wild plums, and einkorn wheat to revitalize the prehistoric natural environment.