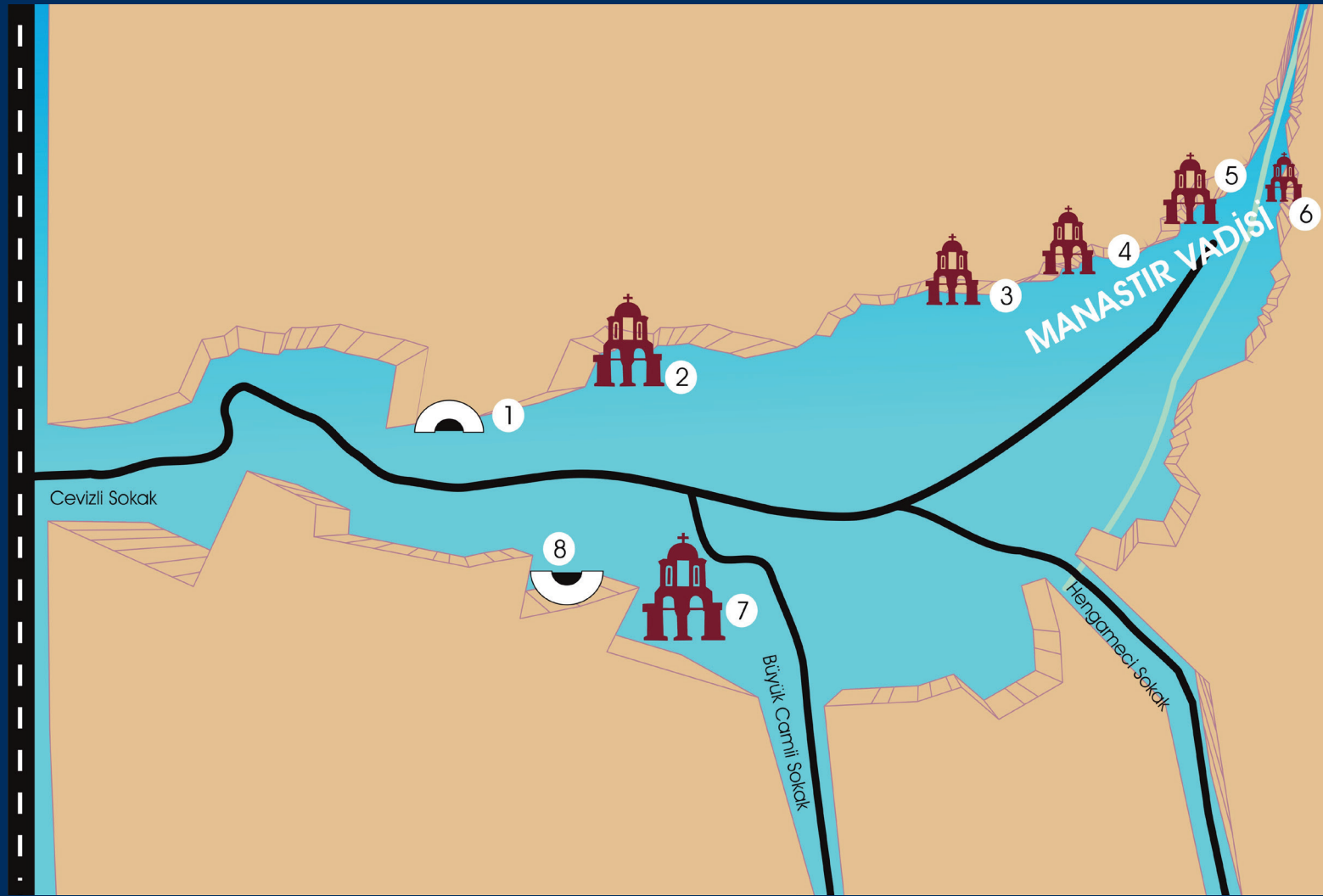


MONASTERY VALLEY WALKING TRAIL

- 1-Underground City
- 2-Sivişli Church
- 3-Koç Church
- 4-Çatarlar Church
- 5-Kalburlu Church
- 6-Kömürlü Church
- 7-Church Mosque
- 8-Underground city



Visiting Hours

April 1-October 1

Opening Time: 09:30
Closing Time: 18:00
Ticket Office Closing Time: 17:30

October 1-April 1

Opening Time: 09:00
Closing Time: 17:00
Ticket Office Closing Time: 16:30

Closed on Sundays.
*Visiting Hours may vary due to pandemic.

Address: Güzelyurt/Aksaray

Please visit the web site for up-to-date information.

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MONASTERY VALLEY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE

GENERAL DIRECTORATE FOR
CULTURAL ASSETS AND MUSEUMS



Monastery Valley
Archaeological
Site



Monastery Valley is in the east of Güzelyurt district of Aksaray, 50 km from the city center. It is a 4-5 km long valley located within the borders of Güzelyurt district. Güzelyurt, where Christianity spread in Anatolia, where the foundations of Orthodox sectarianism were laid and monastic life was established, has a very important place in history with these features.

Güzelyurt was the region where the Christian people lived the most. The biggest proof of this is the almost 50 churches and monasteries that are located along the 4.5 km long valley. The magnificent historical ruins and artefacts along the valley stretching from the lower part of Güzelyurt district to Sivrihisar Village are worth seeing. Many churches and underground cities such as Büyük Church Mosque, Sivişli Church, Priest House, Kalburlu Church, Kömürlü Church, Hacı Saadet Koç Church, Cafarlar Church, Çömlekçi Church, Meryem Church, located along the valley are among our important historical artifacts from the Byzantine period. The Valley, which has housed many people in its monasteries and churches, hides the traces of the first monastic life. The religious scholar Saint Gregorius Theologos of Nenezi (Bekarlar) made Güzelyurt the center in the 4th century and spread Christianity in Anatolia. Accordingly, the first monastic settlements best reflect the characteristics of their time.

Sivişli Church



Of the 28 churches in the valley, 17 are single-nave, seven are double-nave, one is triple-nave, one has a free cross floor plan, and two have a Closed Greek cross floor plan. 5 of the 7 main floor plan types identified in Cappadocia Region are found in churches in Güzelyurt.

The Arab raids that began in the 7th century caused the Iconoclasm Period (the Prohibition of Depiction). During this period, which began at the beginning of the 9th century, figurative representations were banned under the influence of Islam. This prohibition was not only followed on the Cappadocia Region. The enclosed structure of the region became a refuge for clergymen who defied the ban on depiction. Since the end of the 11th century, the region was under Turkish rule, and the Christians living here could continue to practice their religion freely. Until the population exchange in 1924, Güzelyurt preserved its status as a town where Turks and Greeks lived together.

Numerous rock-carved houses, underground cities and churches have been preserved in the Manastir Valley to this day. These significant historical artifacts are among the important places to put on your list of places to visit in Aksaray.

Underground City

It is located at the entrance of the Manastir Valley. It is a building from the Byzantine period. There is an animal shelter at the entrance. On the side walls there are tethering places and carved feeding places. A passage leads to a small cave where the tunnel begins. On the upper floor is a barn. Access to the upper floor is via a staircase. At the top of the stone stairs is a cover. This cover is the observation point. Since water is constantly flowing at the end of the tunnel leading up from the observation point, it is not possible to advance through the tunnel.



Yüksek (High) Church

