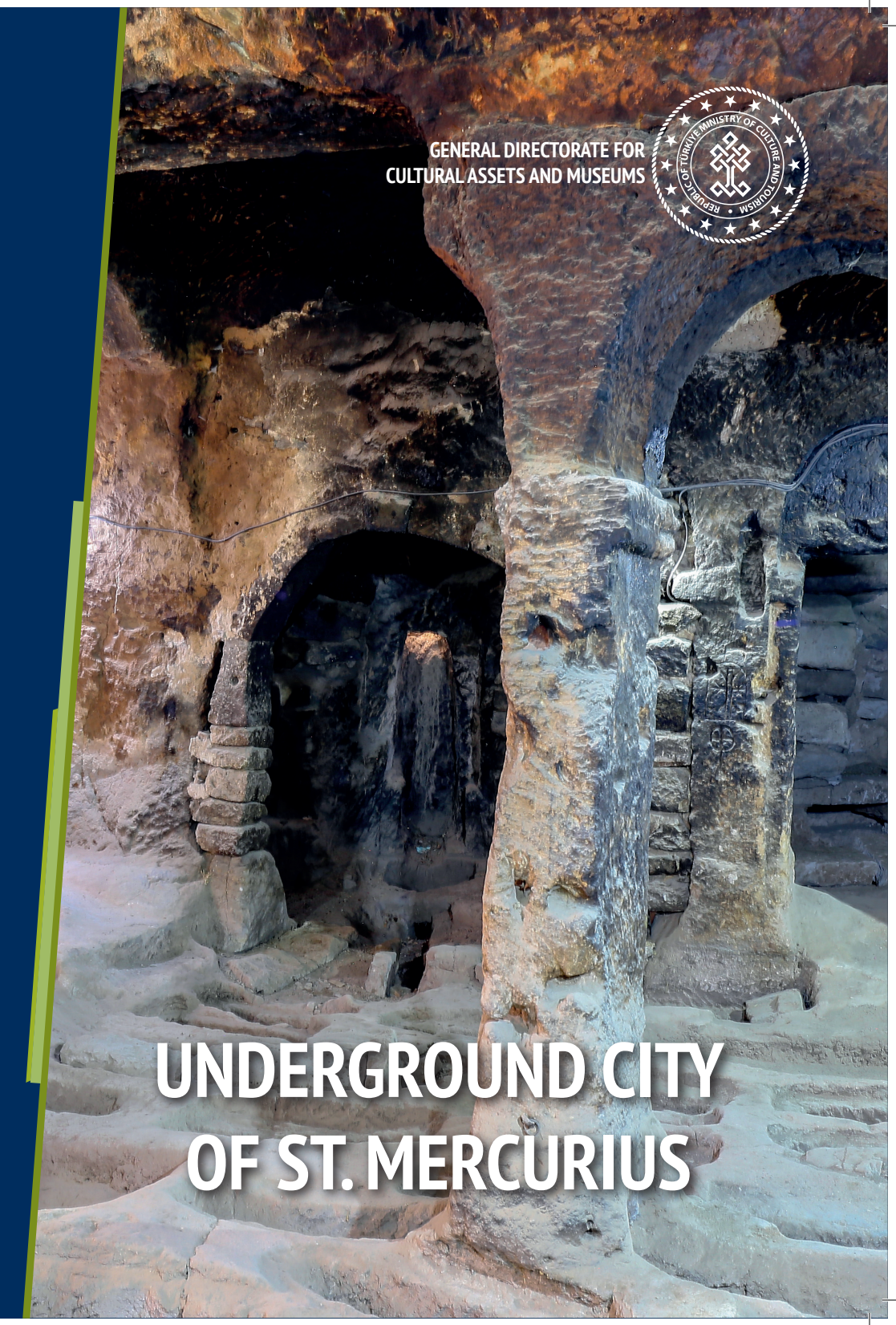


Visiting Hours		
April 1-October 1 Opening Time: 08:30 Closing Time: 19:00 Ticket Office Closing Time: 18:30	October 1-April 1 Opening Time: 08:30 Closing Time: 17:00 Ticket Office Closing Time: 16:30	Open everyday.
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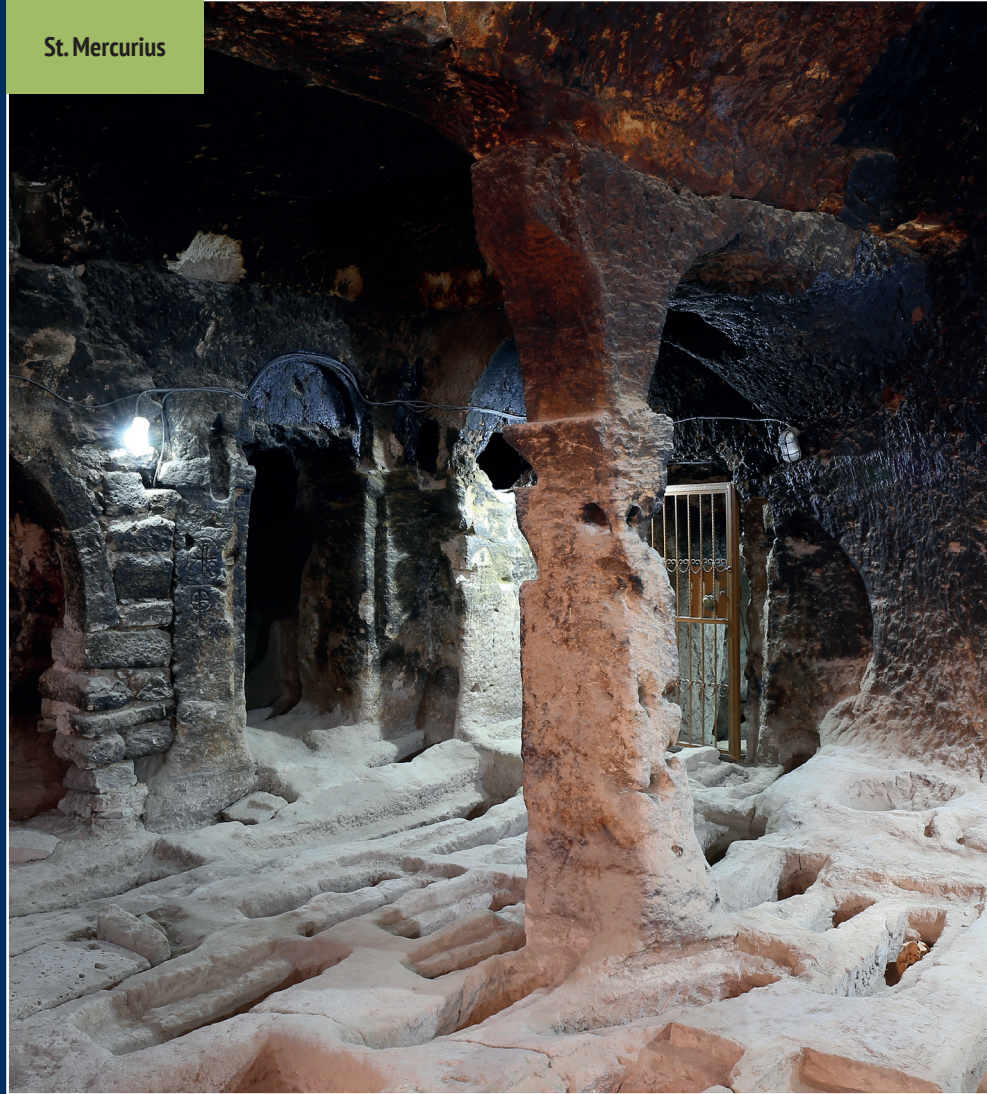
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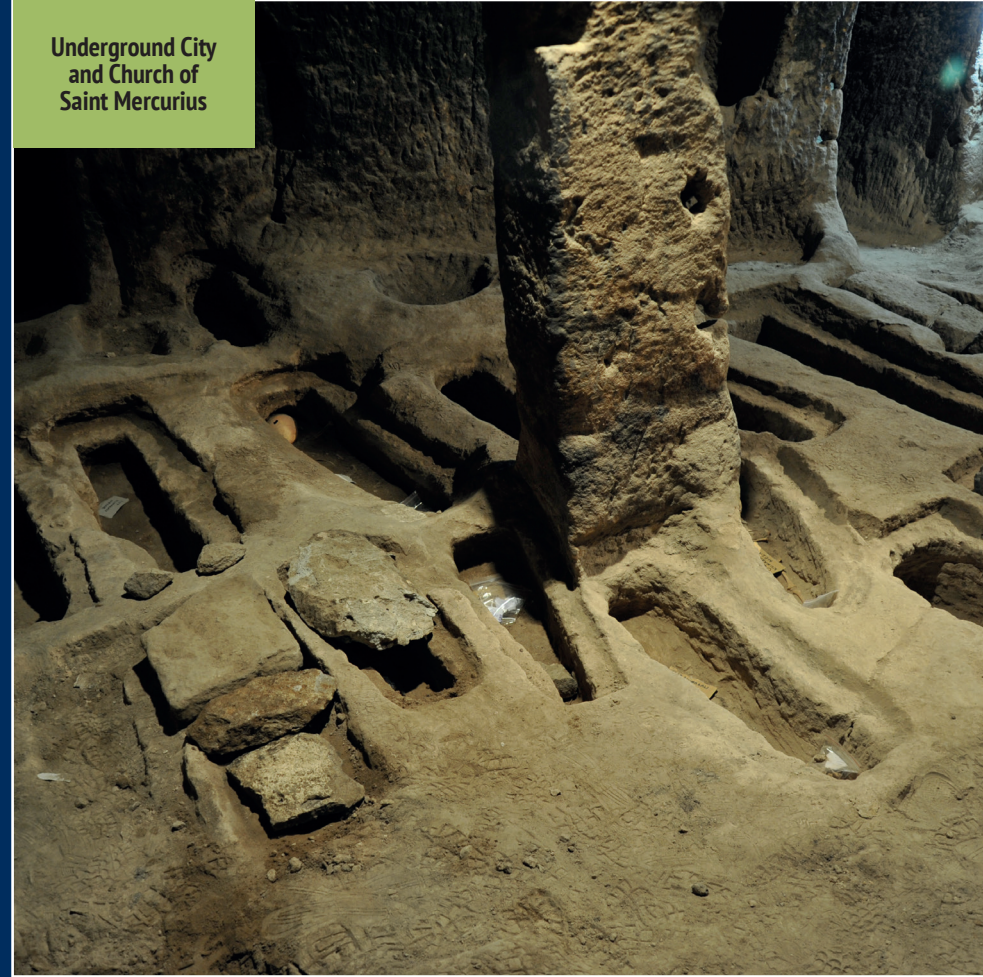
GENERAL DIRECTORATE FOR
CULTURAL ASSETS AND MUSEUMS
 

UNDERGROUND CITY OF ST. MERCURIUS

St. Mercurius



Underground City and Church of Saint Mercurius



St. Mercurius is a Roman soldier of Scythian origin who lived around CE 200-250 in Cappadocia (east Asia Minor), which is also known as Abu-Seifein. When St. Mercurius was about 17 years old, he joined the Roman army at the time of Emperor Decius. The saint, who invaded Rome with the sword he had received from Archangel Mikael, won a great victory over the barbarians. When the emperor wished to offer incense to the idols, St. Mercurius refused, saying, "I worship no one but Jesus Christ, who is my king and my god." Thereupon the Emperor Decius cut off St. Mercurius' head for his disobedience and sent him to Egypt.

The three floors of the Underground City of Saint Mercurius, which is considered to be four-storied, can be visited, and the entrance is through an inn with a middle sofa (karnıyarık) plan type. There are three rooms on the first floor. There is also a passageway connecting the rooms. There are two alternatives to access the underground city from the first floor to the second floor. The first access leads to the rooms next to the square carved into the rock, popularly known as "Dedeli Dam" (The Roof with Dede) and is a vertical passage. The second access is through a long corridor located in the continuation of the room to the left of the entrance to the underground city. Access to the third floor is also via a tunnel. On the third floor, the place known as "Arabın İni" (The Cave of the Arab) leads to the church of the underground city through a short and wide corridor. The church consists of three naves and there are two arched columns in the middle. There are 51 tombs in the church. To the south of the side aisle and to the northwest of the nave of the church is the burial chamber. On both sides of the entrance to the burial chamber are engraved different types of cross motifs. In the three-storey underground city there are three water fountains, one of which is outside.

First Floor

On the first floor there are three rooms. There is also a passageway connecting the rooms.

Second Floor

There are two ways to access the underground city from the first floor to the second floor: The first access leads to the rooms next to the place carved in the rock, known among the people as "Dedeli Dam", and is a vertical passage. Here it is accessed by pressing the hollows carved on either side. The second access is through a long corridor located in the continuation of the room to the left of the entrance to the underground city, forming a slight "S". This corridor is about 5.30 m long. At the end of the corridor there is a passage to the warehouse where the water well is located. There are four warehouses in this place. One of them was created by cutting the floor, the others by opening the side walls.

Third Floor

Access to the third floor is through the warehouse on the second floor and the tunnel in the northeast of the room. After this place, where there are eight warehouses, you can only get to the place with one warehouse and then to the place called Arab's Cave.

