



Visiting Hours

Opening Time: 08:30
 Closing Time: 17:00
 Ticket Office Closing Time: 16:00

Closed on Monday.

Address: Çankırı Caddesi No. 43 Ulus Altındağ, Ankara • **Phone:** 0312 310 72 80

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ANKARA ROMAN BATH AND OPEN AIR MUSEUM

A BATH IN THE CITY OF ANCYRA

Ankara Roman Bath



The Roman Bath is located on Çankırı Avenue, which extends from Ulus Square to Yıldırım Beyazıt Square, west of the road on a plateau 2.5 m above the road.

It is known that this high area where the bath is located is a mound. Excavations were carried out here by Prof Dr Remzi Oğuz Arık in 1937, and the Phrygian and Roman Period layers of the mound were unearthed. The excavations on the mound were carried out between 1938 and 1939 under the direction of Museum Director Hamit Z. Kosay. The bath building, which was revealed during these excavations, was completely unearthed during the excavations carried out in 1939-1943. Archaeologist Necati Dolunay directed the excavations during this period with the support of Turkish Historical Society and under the scientific presidency of Hamit Z. Koşay. Archaeologist Mahmut Akok evaluated the architectural finds of the excavation and then began restoration work by drawing the plans for reconstruction.

It is understood that this ruin, now called Roman Bath, is a hill that was inhabited from bottom to top in Phrygian, Roman and partly Byzantine, Seljuk and Ottoman times.

In this ruin, which the elderly called Çankırıkapı, we find two separate facilities among the Roman Age buildings we can see today.

1-Part of the colonnaded street of the ancient city of Ankyra,

2-Buildings belonging to the Roman Bath and the Palaestra. Traces of foundations of other structures from the Roman Period have been found around them.

Colonnaded Street

It is known that the colonnaded street, which is partly east of the bath building and the palaestra, extends to the place where the temple of Augustus, the sacred site of antiquity Ancyra City, is situated. This colonnaded street was discovered in the early years of the Republican period, when the Çankırı Avenue was built, and left below the street. The street, estimated to have been built around the 3rd century CE, consisted of marble columns with Corinthian capitals.

Bath Building



Ankyra, the city of Tectosag Galatians, was very developed at this period, being the capital of Galatia in the time of the Romans and situated at a point where the roads leading from east to west met. The magnificent monument, uncovered during the excavations of 1937-1944, consists of two parts, one of which is the Palaestra and the other the closed spaces of the bath.

Based on the coins found here during the excavations, it is also confirmed in several inscriptions Tiberius Julius Justus Julianus that he was responsible for the construction of the baths and was one of the leading figures of the city. As can be seen from the other coins found during the excavations, the bath was in continuous use over a period of five hundred years and was repaired from time to time.



The entrance of the Caracalla Bath in Çankırı Street leads to a large area surrounded by the ruins of a columned portal, the Palaestra i.e., a sports ground. There are 128 marble columns in the whole area with 32 columns on one side of this portico. Today, a rich collection of inscriptions collected from Roman Era Ankara is displayed here. Just behind this part of the Palaestra are the bath buildings. These buildings are of rare size and consist, as always, of apoditerium (undressing room), frigidarium (cold room), tepidarium (warm room) and caldarium (hot room). The reason why the tepidarium and caldarium sections are wider is undoubtedly easy to understand, considering the cold winter season in Ankara. They were supported by an underground heating system consisting of masonry pillars around which the hot air from the hearth (kühan) circulated freely, warming the rooms above. This underground heating system was connected by a series of tunnels and passages through which the stokers passed to stoke the fire.



Open Air Museum



The ruins of Ankara Roman Bath, which cover an area of about 65 000 m², were converted into an open-air museum in 1997-2001. The approximately 1000 different artefacts found in the ruins are divided into three main groups: Tomb stelae, inscriptions, and architectural pieces. Funeral stelae on the south and west wings of the palaestra, inscribed blocks, postaments and water pipes on the north wing, altar etc. on the east wing. other architectural works, sarcophagus and lion sculptures are exhibited in the middle area. Funeral stelae are exhibited on the south and west wings of the palaestra, inscribed blocks, postaments and water pipes on the north wing, altar etc. on the east wing. other architectural works, sarcophagus and lion sculptures are exhibited in the middle area. Most of the funerary stelae on display date from the Roman and Byzantine periods. The inscribed blocks generally consist of inscriptions and milestones. These are works that also contain information about these periods of Ankara. Other works include column capitals, column bases and other small architectural pieces. In addition, sightseeing paths and landscaping have been laid out in these areas so that visitors can travel comfortably.

