

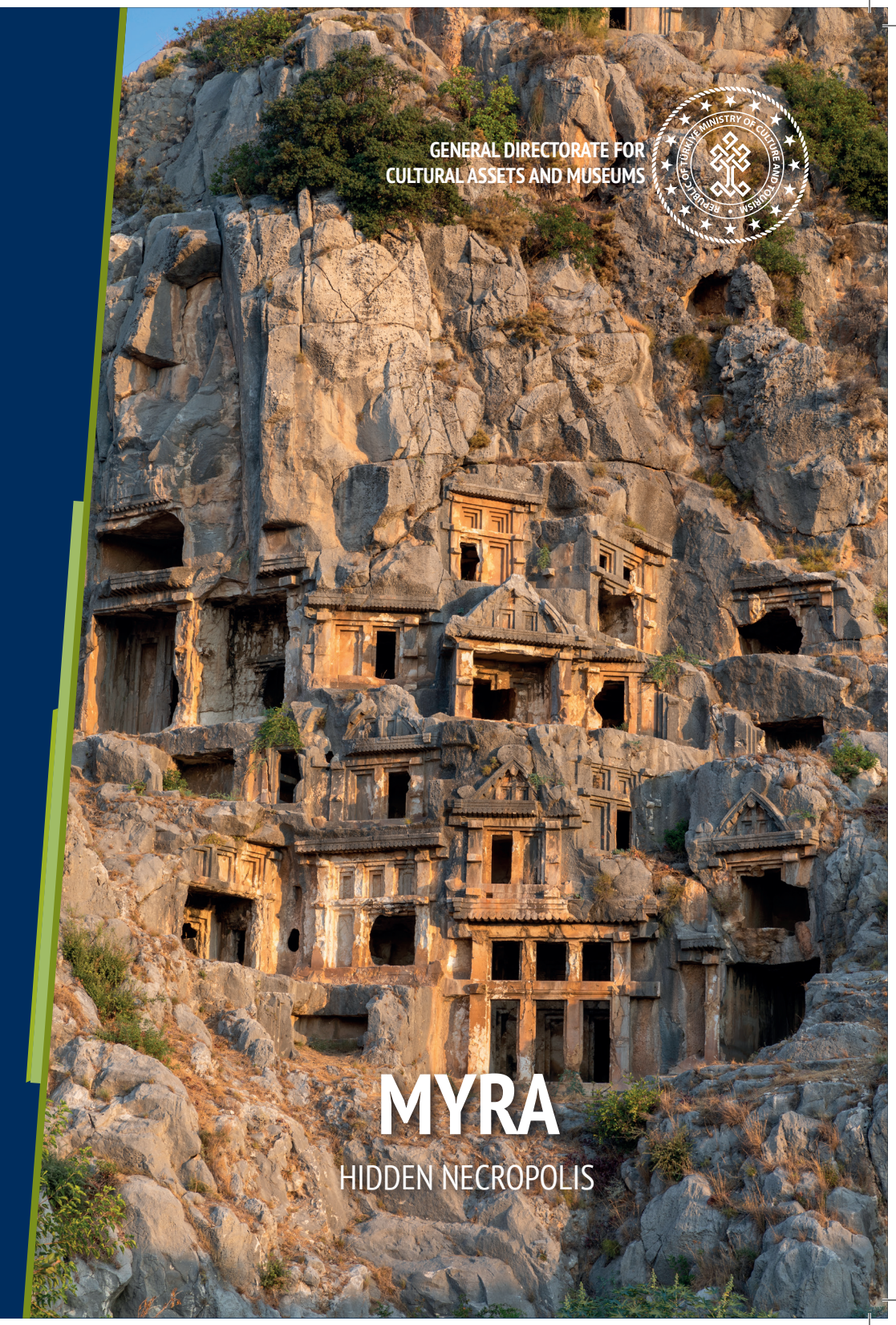
Visiting Hours		
April 1 - October 1 Opening Time: 08:30 Closing Time: 18:45 Ticket Office Closing Time: 18:30	October 1 - April 1 Opening Time: 08:30 Closing Time: 17:30 Ticket Office Closing Time: 17:00	Open everyday.
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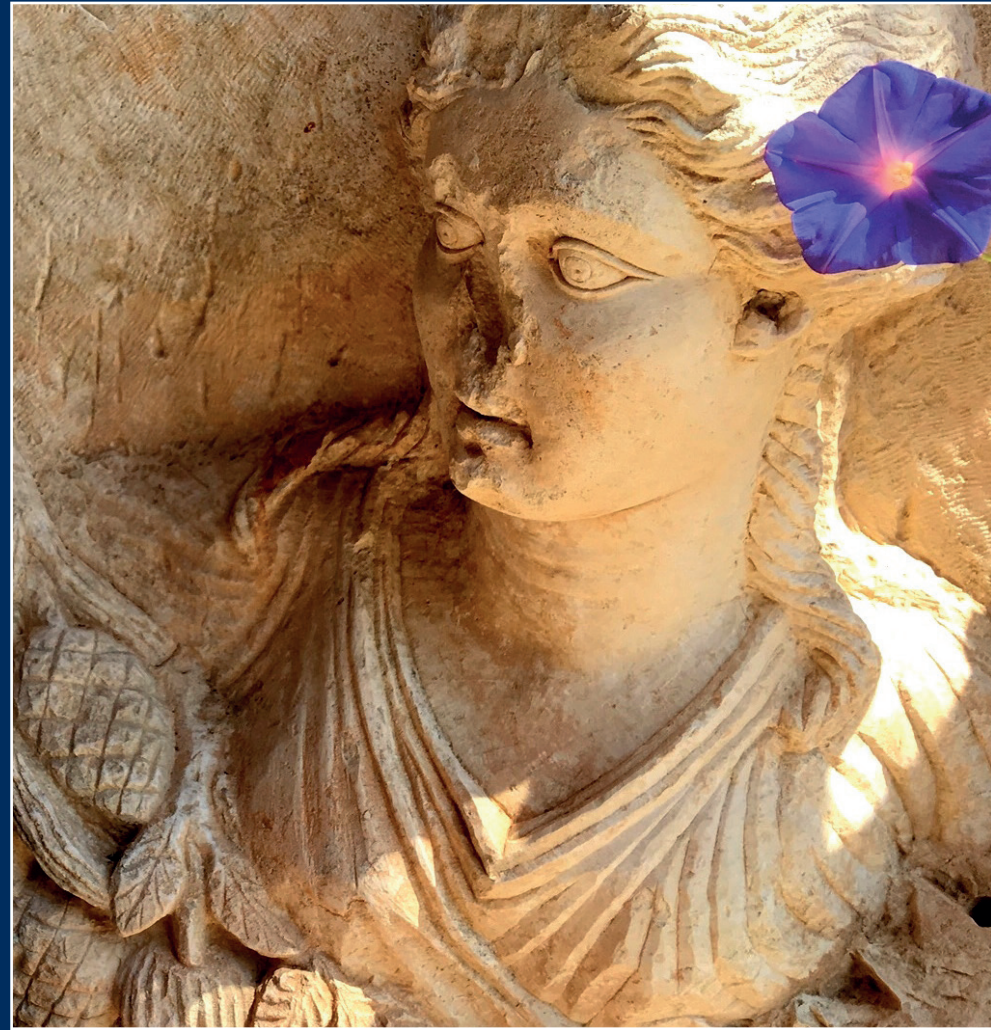




GENERAL DIRECTORATE FOR
 CULTURAL ASSETS AND MUSEUMS

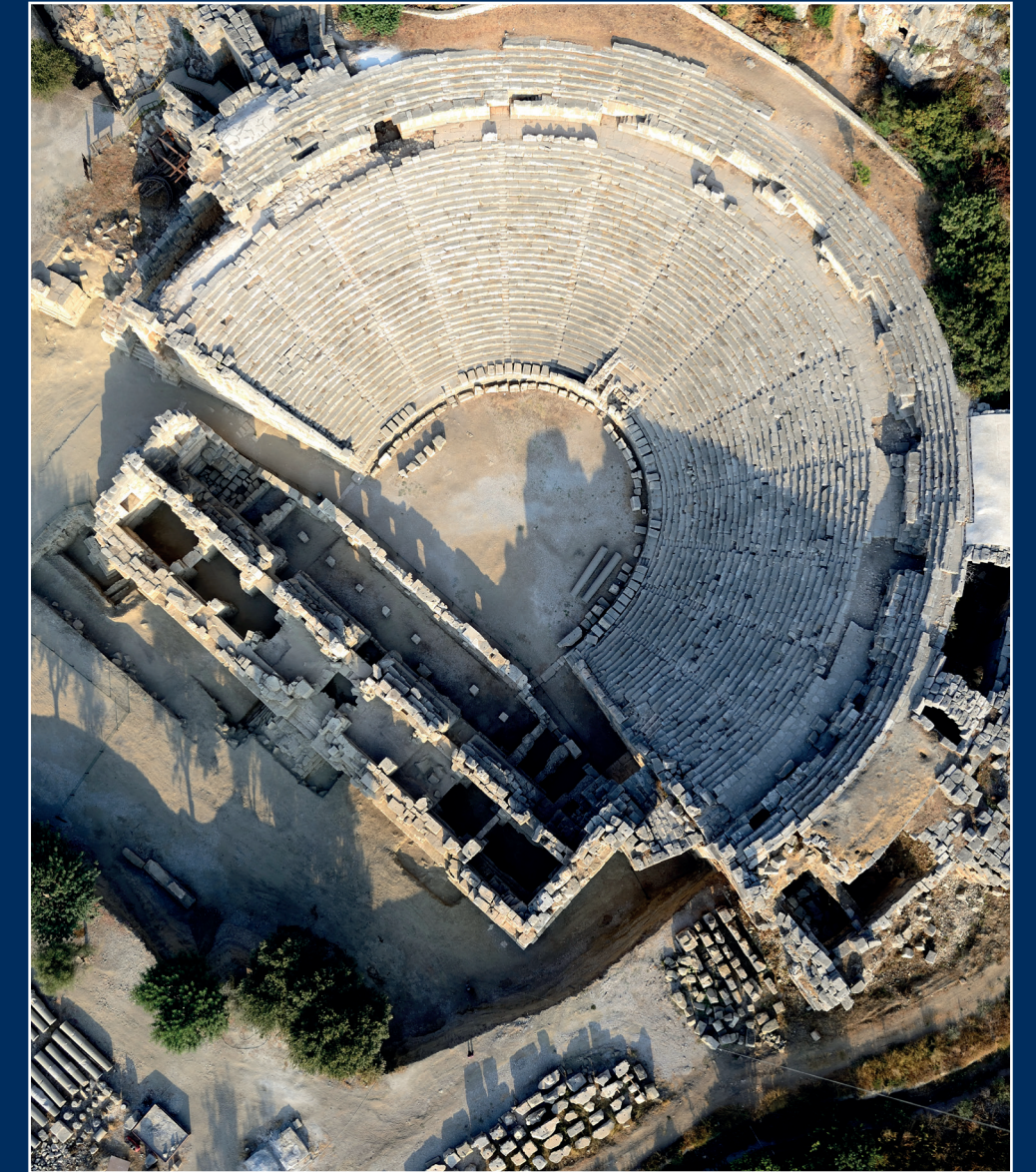


MYRA
HIDDEN NECROPOLIS



Journey to the History of Myra

In the light of current findings, the ancient city of Myra, known to have existed in the 5th century BCE, was enriched by its connection with the sea, like all its contemporary settlements. One of the most prominent ruins, the Theater is dated to the 2nd century CE and was built with the donation from one of the city's wealthy. The decoration of the Theater, which, with some alterations in subsequent years, was converted into an arena where gladiatorial combats were held, is a work of mastery, as is its architecture. On the friezes are engraved figures such as the eagle, Medusa, who is said to turn the person who looks at her into stone, and mythical sea creatures called sirens. The most beautiful rock tombs that you can come across in almost every part of the Lycian region are also here. Some of them were gathered on the rock above the Theater and some of them were gathered in the place known as the river necropolis. Especially the rock tombs, arranged side by side and one above the other on the rock on which the acropolis was first founded, offer an interesting sight. The reliefs and inscriptions in some of these rock tombs, which were built like the wooden houses or temples of the Lycians, inform us about the owner of the tomb.



The church, dated to the 12th-13th centuries and recently excavated, is very well preserved, being under a thick alluvial layer. The fresco showing Jesus Christ, John the Baptist, and the Virgin Mary together in the church has been preserved in all its vividness to this day. There are still ruins waiting to be uncovered in Myra, which had its most glorious period in the 2nd and 3rd centuries CE, lost its importance and was abandoned by earthquakes, Arab raids, and alluvion by the Demre Creek in the following years. The finds discovered in the settlement, where the excavations continue, reveal a little more every day the splendor of this once popular city.

Santa's Tomb is Here

Although it is a popular tourist destination with its history and nature, the main reason for the recognition of Myra all over the world is that it is the place where St. Nicholas, commonly known as Santa, died and the tomb and church built in his name are here.

Today we know that there are more than 2,000 churches dedicated to St. Nicholas. The pioneer and most important of them is this church. St. Nicholas, the protector of children and sailors, was a bishop in Myra, where he died on December 6, 365. The monumental tomb and church built by the people of Myra in honor of his name are one of the pilgrimage centers of Christianity, and it is known that those who set out for Jerusalem on Middle Ages came here to become pilgrims.



The Lycian League, formed by the union of 23 cities in the 1st century BCE in the Mediterranean region, is considered the first democratic formation in history.

Myra was one of the leading cities of this League, which is considered the forerunner of today's democracy, in which member cities had a right to vote in proportion to their size, population, and economic power.

The ruins which remain at Myra, one of the most populous and wealthy cities of the region in those years, and for a time the capital of the Lycian state, conceal the evidence of the ancient splendor of the city.