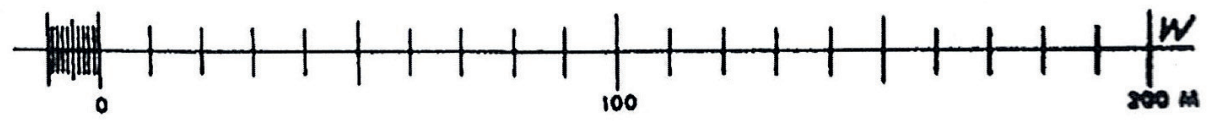


Settlement plan



LFG Lycian rock tomb
RS Roman sarcophagus



Visiting Hours

April 1 - October 1 Opening Time: 10:00 Closing Time: 16:00 Ticket Office Closing Time: 15:30	October 1 - April 1 Opening Time: 08:30 Closing Time: 17:30 Ticket Office Closing Time: 17:00	Open everyday.
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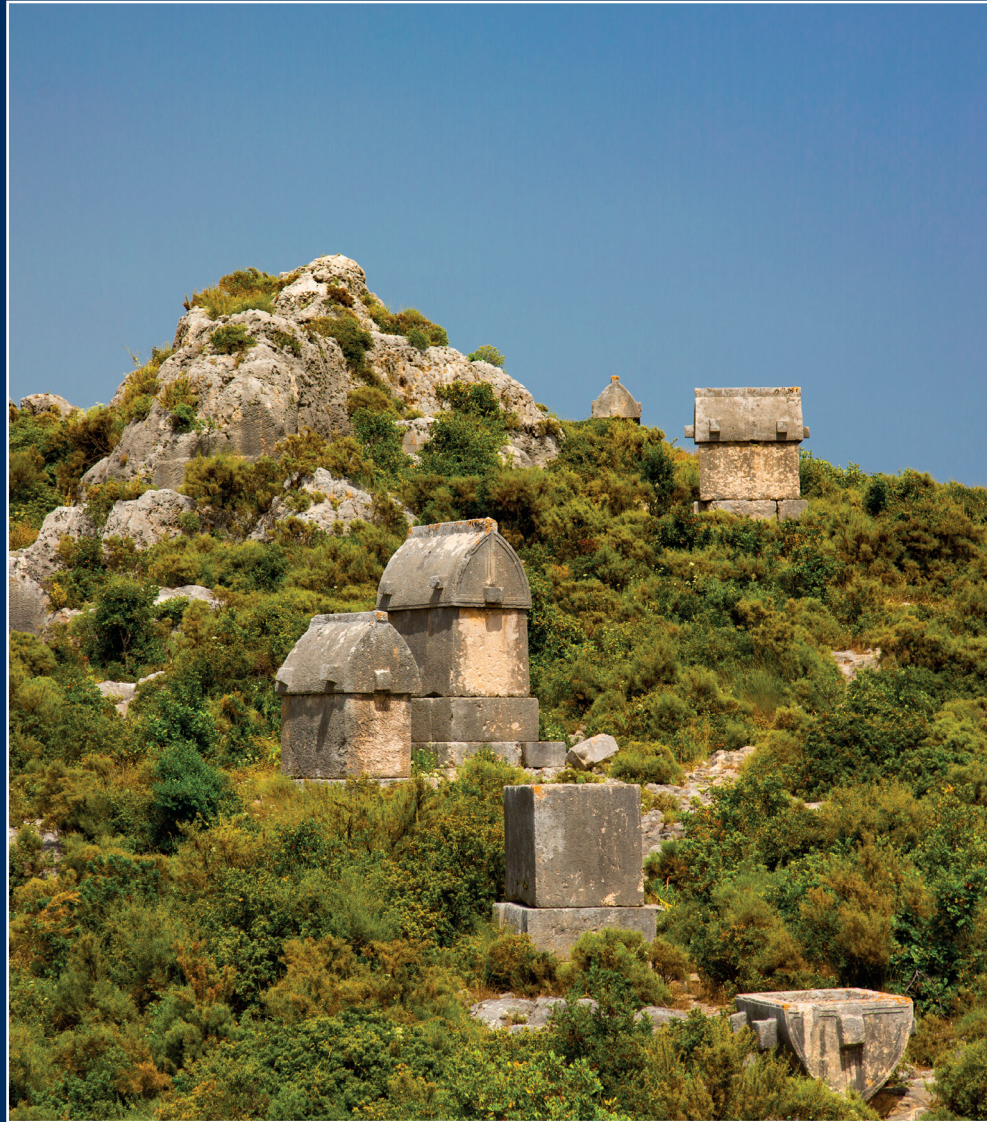
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GENERAL DIRECTORATE FOR
CULTURAL ASSETS AND MUSEUMS



SIMENA
A HEAVEN ON EARTH



The earliest mention of Simena is a written source by Pliny. It is referred to as Somena in the Monument of Roads at Patara. Today it is known as Simena (Citadel). It is thought that the name of the city derives from the Luwian words meaning "holy motherland". Three small islets, Saçma Island, Kurşun Island, Papaz Island line up before the coast of Simena. It is remarkable that each house in Simena had a pier. The stairs once descending to the sea had been continuing inside the sea. There are many ceramic pieces in the sea around here. At the place called Captain's Cape, Simena's breakwater is located.



The ruins of the Principality Period settlement in the Simena Ancient City Acropolis show that the earliest settlement in the region started from the Classical Period. The port was first used from this period and was used for 2000 years until 1500 CE. A medieval citadel and a new acropolis were built in the 1500s CE, and everything that belonged to the old ones was used as spoils in this new arrangement. The medieval city wall was mostly built on the surface and/or foundation of the early city walls. Some of the polygonal walled structures found in various parts of the settlement are still a part of the houses today. However, no traces of late period structures were found in the port area. There is one at the skirt of acropolis: In its inscription, it is understood that it was a small bath "dedicated to Emperor Titus by the consul and the citizens of Aperlai and other members of the League".



In particular, the presence of the bath indicates that the settlement began to urbanize for the first time in the second half of the 1st century CE. The settlement of the Classical Period began to turn into a city with a theater and bath at the end of the Hellenistic Period. The slope rising from the seashore to the Acropolis has been an area where the public has lived, and public buildings give service since the early period. Many remains from buildings can be seen today between and within the houses. There are sarcophagi between them along the way up to the hill. From the tomb inscription it can be read that one of the sarcophagi belongs to Mentor, the son of Idakros.

Before you reach the walls, one of the largest structures on the hillside is a church whose apse remains intact and from which the walls of the nave are clearly visible. This structure must have been the early temple of Simena. The last phase of the building is an Ottoman Mosque, and it was opened for worship after the restoration work was completed. One of the earliest theaters of Lycia, built in the upper city. The, the 7-step tiny theater coincides in size with the size of the city and has a capacity of about 200 people. The theater was completely carved into the rock during the Hellenistic Period. Simena had no other meeting structure, and it is thought that all the meetings were held here. The densest group of remains is again in the tombs. The most famous tomb seen also in the pictures is the tomb with a saddle shaped top remaining 1.40 m in the water. Its reputation is not due to its quality, but because it is in the water.

