

KARAIN CAVE



Visiting Hours

April 1-October 1 Opening Time: 10:00 Closing Time: 17:00 Ticket Office Closing Time: 16:00	October 1-April 1 Opening Time: 08:30 Closing Time: 17:30 Ticket Office Closing Time: 17:00	Closed on Mondays.
Address: Yağca Mah, Merkez, Antalya • Phone: 0242 423 13 34		
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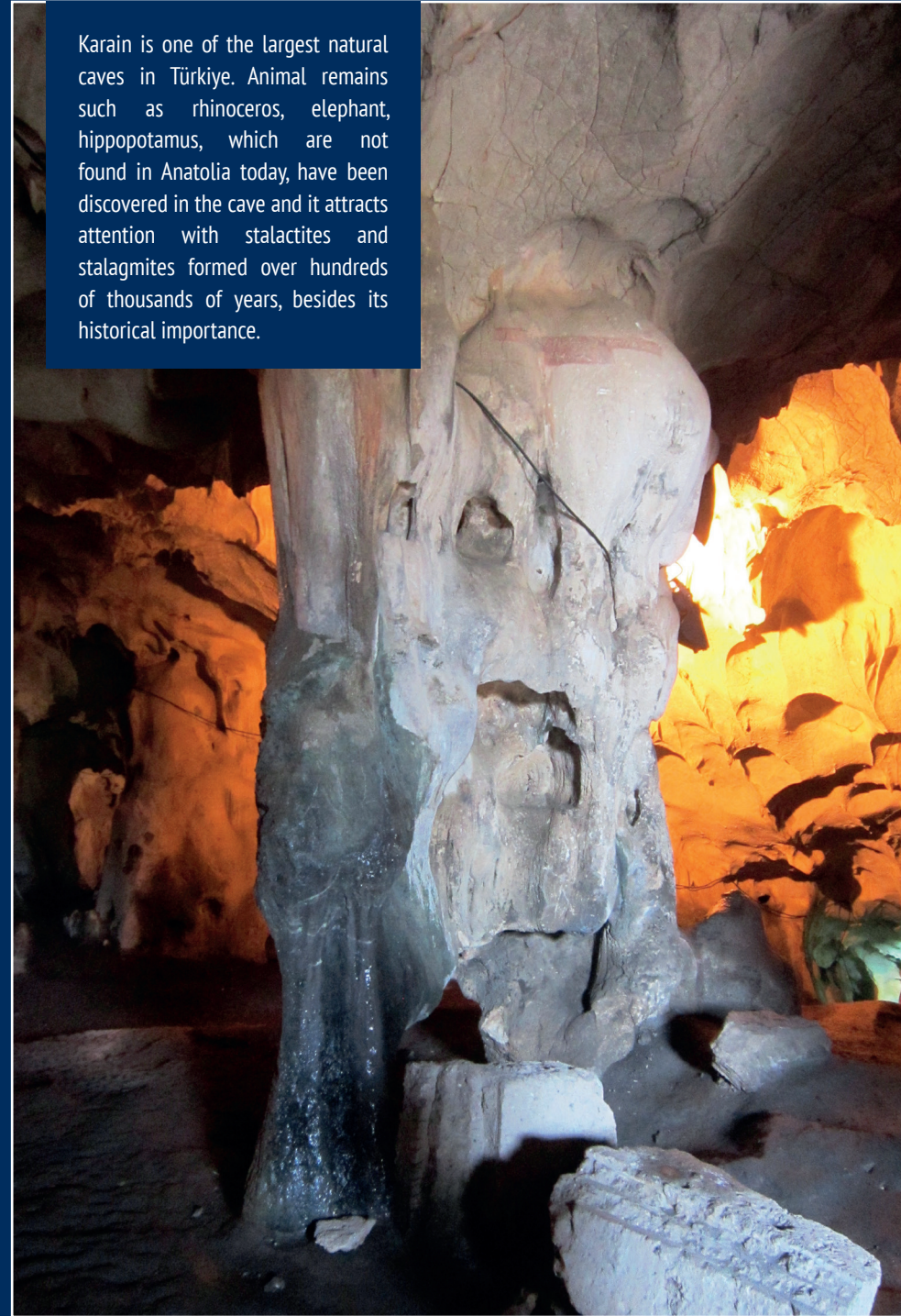
KARAIN CAVE

500 THOUSAND YEARS OF HISTORY REVEALED



Karain Cave, shedding light on a dark period of humanity, is an important archeological site not only for Anatolia but for the whole world. It is here that the traces of the first ancestors of man, who lived as hunter-gatherers and made simple hand tools 500 thousand years before today, have been discovered. Moreover, although the caves used during the Paleolithic Periods in the world indicate only a single part of this period, Lower, Middle, and Upper Paleolithic Periods can be traced uninterruptedly in Karain Cave.

Karain is one of the largest natural caves in Türkiye. Animal remains such as rhinoceros, elephant, hippopotamus, which are not found in Anatolia today, have been discovered in the cave and it attracts attention with stalactites and stalagmites formed over hundreds of thousands of years, besides its historical importance.



Since Karain, the only place that proves that Neanderthals lived in Türkiye, was inhabited from the Upper Paleolithic to Roman Period, a 11 meter-high cultural layer has formed in the cave. Among the finds unearthed during the excavations are the first examples of Anatolian art, tools made of stones and bones, and beads. Some of these can be seen in the Karain Museum, right next to the cave, and some in the Antalya Museum. During the Roman Period, it was determined from the votive inscriptions on the outer walls that the cave served as a place of worship for a mountain goddess.

Karain Cave, which has been enlisted on the UNESCO World Heritage Tentative List thanks to its importance in the history of mankind, is one of the most attractive places not only in Antalya but in the whole of Türkiye. Only those who visit the cave know how it feels to wander around a place where life existed 500 thousand years ago and to stand on the same ground as the first ancestors of man.

