



#### Visiting Hours

**April 1-October 1**

Opening Time: 10:00  
Closing Time: 19:00  
Ticket Office Closing Time: 18:00

**October 1-April 1**

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

Closed on Saturdays and Sundays.

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# ALINDA ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE

THE CITY OF ADA

GENERAL DIRECTORATE FOR  
CULTURAL ASSETS AND MUSEUMS





The first and almost the only mention of the city in history is associated with Queen Ada, the sister of Mausolos. In the years 340 BC, the Carian government in Halicarnassus fell into internal turmoil. After the death of the Carian satrap Mausolos, his wife Artemisia ascended the throne. After Artemisia's death, her sister Ada was supposed to ascend the throne, but Pixodarus took over the power. Pixodarus was not satisfied with this situation and brought his sister Ada, whom he believed to be in danger in the future, to the city of Alinda. In 334 BC, Alexander the Great entered Caria, and Ada received the Macedonians with an offer to surrender Alinda and support Alexander against her kinsman, who had usurped the throne by force. After Alexander conquered Western Anatolia, he gave the queen command of all Caria. This event led to important developments in Alinda and to the city's rapid adoption of Greek culture from the Ada period onwards.



#### Symbol of Glory and Power



The city, located on a hill with two inaccessible cliffs to the south and east at different elevations on the west of the Karpuzlu plain, is one of the best-preserved cities in the region, although the Roman-era buildings were massively destroyed since Karpuzlu was built over the ancient texture. Although the data on the early settlement of the city, which has a special significance with its history dating back to the 2nd millennium BC, are not available yet, the remains preserved until today mostly belong to the 4th century BC.

Although studies claim that the city of Alinda took its place on the history stage in the 4th century BC, what we know about the city dates back to the 14th century BC. Alinda was a city of the Sena River country during the period of Hittite Emperor Mursili II (1350-1320 BC). It is known that the city of Alinda was "Ijalanta" in the Mursilis II period. We learn this information from the annals of the Mursilis II and Egyptian inscriptions.

Today, visitors who climb to the ruins from the modern city first reach the Agora building, which is an important structure of the city. The entire length of 99 m and most of the height of 15.2 m of the building have been preserved. The top floor of the three-story building is on the same level as the Agora, which it adjoins to the north. The ground floor opens onto a narrow terrace to the south. This terrace is partially carved into the rock on the hillside and is supported by stone walls built between the rocks and buttresses. The lower floor is divided into two halves by a continuous wall from one long end to the other, and shops in the form of double rooms one behind the other, were created with walls that cut this wall transversely.

Other important structures in the city are the theater situated on the lower Acropolis and the Agora building. The theater, whose rows of seats and cavea have been preserved at approximately their original height, has Hellenistic Period features.



Besides the architectural units already mentioned, the well-preserved burials in the necropolis are among the important remains of the city. These burials with their original forms, designs, and fine craftsmanship have been preserved well and are among important documents reflecting Alinda's cultural history.

Arrianus, who wrote that the city was surrounded by strong walls at the arrival of Alexander, ranks Alinda among the "strongest fortresses". Alinda, like other cities of Carian origin at that time, belonged to the League of Khrysaor. The name of the city is not found in the Asia Province and during the Roman Empire period. Alinda continued to mint coins until the 3rd century CE. Later it became an episcopal city of the Metropolitan of Stauropolis.

The city, which consists of two acropolises due to its geographical structure, is surrounded by a fortification wall supported by two-story towers, and an aqueduct rising on four pillars at the western end of the Upper Acropolis is another important structure of the city. At the point where the connection is made with the aqueduct on the arch and the Upper Acropolis fortification wall is provided, the remains of a water-catchment basin of roughly square plan have been preserved.

It may be observed that the tower, which is situated immediately below the hill was built with a beautiful cut stone masonry. There are gates on two adjacent sides of the lower floor.

The surrounding area of the city is covered with burials spread to the slope of the hill beyond the aqueduct. Most of them are "Caria" type tombs, which the cavities opened in large boulders were covered with a separate capstone.

Sarcophagi, generally simple and plain, only have chipped marks on the short sides of the lid stones.