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# ALEXANDRIA TROAS

## ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE

THE CITY NAMED AFTER ALEXANDER THE GREAT





Alexandria Troas, the largest of the ancient cities lined by the Dardanelles Strait, takes its name from Alexander the Great. After the death of Alexander the Great, one of the greatest leaders and commanders in history, who was not defeated even once during the military campaign following ascending the throne at the age of 20, the lands he conquered were allocated among his commanders. This region was left to Antigonos and was known as Antigoneia for a while. However, the city, which was captured by Lysimakhos, another commander of Alexander, in 301 BCE, it took the name "Alexandria Troas" which means "Alexander's Country in Troas" and managed to maintain this name for many years.



Metropolis of the Ancient Period



The Port: Where the Heart of the City Beats

The main reason for the wealth of Alexandria Troas is its port, which makes it the most critical place for trade between East and West. This port was used extensively in the years when the city lived its most glorious years and served as a bridge between different civilizations. The old inner harbor became a lake due to its disconnection from the sea over time. Nowadays, its shape resembles a heart, and it takes pink color in certain months of the year which fascinates those who see it. In the outer harbor, the ruins that will immediately attract the attention of the visitors will be two huge-sized columns sunk into the water. These are proof that granite columns are among the important export products of the city. It is known that columns were sent to different parts of the world from Alexandria Troas, which is located in an area where granites called "Marmor Troadense" are extracted. In the research, a total of 11 columns, all similar to each other, 12 meters long and each weighing 55 tons were discovered. Two of these columns, dated to the 3rd or 4th century CE, are the ones that are seen submerged in the harbor. Nine of them are in the village of Koçali. Although the reason why they were not transported despite being completed is not yet known, it is possible that the orders were cancelled due to reasons such as the termination of the architectural project which they will be used; the death of the emperor or the leader who gave the order or his dethronement.

Alexandria Troas served as the main port of the region for many years. The population of the city, which lived its brightest years in the Roman Period, reached up to 100 thousand people. Considering that the world population was 40 million in these years, this number made Alexandria Troas one of the most populous settlements in the world. It was such a special place with its population and wealth, as well as its strategic location that Caesar first wanted to make this city, which formed the junction point between Europe and Asia, the capital, and then Constantine I, who made Istanbul the second capital of Rome, considered Alexandria Troas first and even started some construction activities in the city for this purpose. However, Constantine's preference for Istanbul as the new capital, movement of the elites of Alexandria Troas to Istanbul and at the same time the shift of East-West trade to the new capital led the city to fall from grace.



Herodes Atticus Bath: The Largest Roman Bath in Anatolia

Naturally, public buildings were also built for the needs of such a population in Alexandria Troas, which is called the metropolis of antiquity with a population of 100 thousand. First among them is the Herodes Atticus Bath, which has the title of the biggest bath ever discovered in Anatolia. Herodes Atticus, who built the bathhouse and gave it its name, wrote a letter to Hadrian, allowing him to donate the 3 million drachmas required for the construction of the bath to the city. However, when this amount was not enough, he completed the construction of the bath by meeting almost this amount from his own pocket. Although the value of drachma was difficult to determine during this period, economists' evaluations show that 1 drachma corresponds to around \$ 40. In other words, it is possible to see how much the bathhouse costs, albeit roughly. Today, it is known as Bal Saray, with the effect of being a gigantic building with dimensions of 123x84 meters. The bath, which is thought to have been built around AD 135, was largely destroyed by the earthquake in 1809. The parts that can be seen today are those which could withstand this earthquake. The gymnasium of the city was built adjacent to the west of the bath. You can also see the Nymphaeum, or monumental fountain, which is one of the most beautiful buildings in the city, near the bath.