



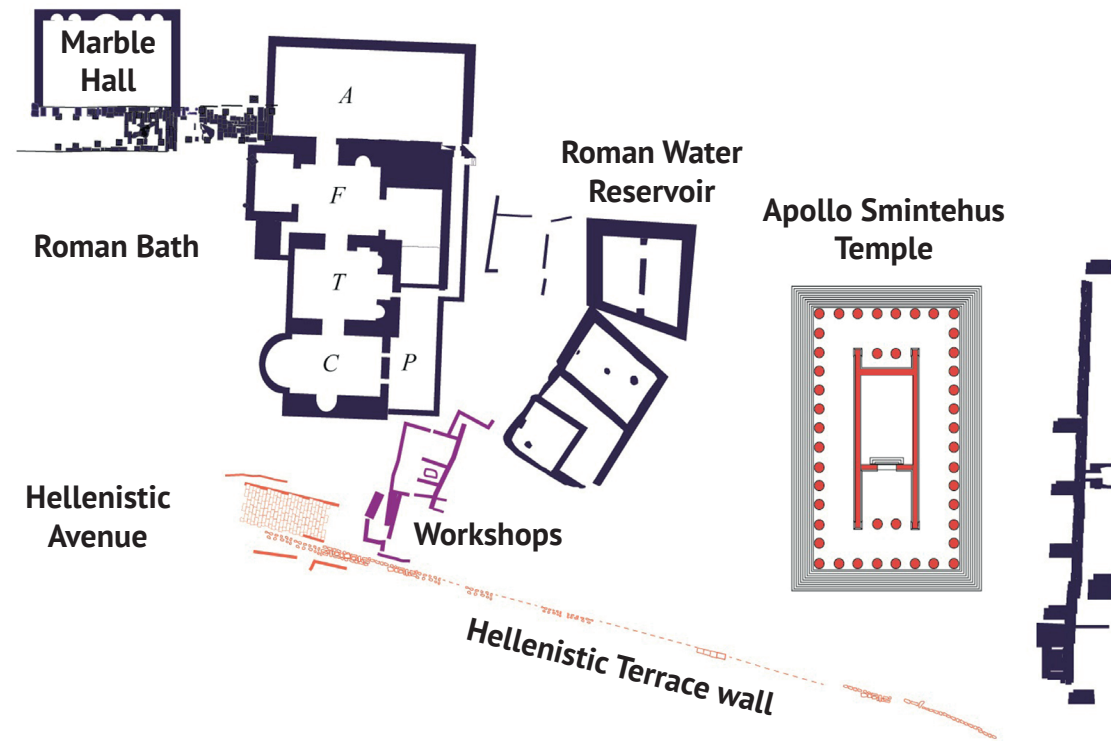
Prehistoric Settlement



Small Bath



Roman Street



**SMINTHEION**  
Apollo Smintheus Sanctuary



**Visiting Hours**

**April 1-October 1**

Opening Time: 08:30  
Closing Time: 20:00  
Gişe Closing Time: 19:30

**October 1-April 1**

Opening Time: 08:30  
Closing Time: 17:30  
Gişe Closing Time: 17:00

Open everyday.  
\* Hours and off days may vary due to pandemic.

Address: Gülpınar Bucağı • Phone: 0286 217 67 40

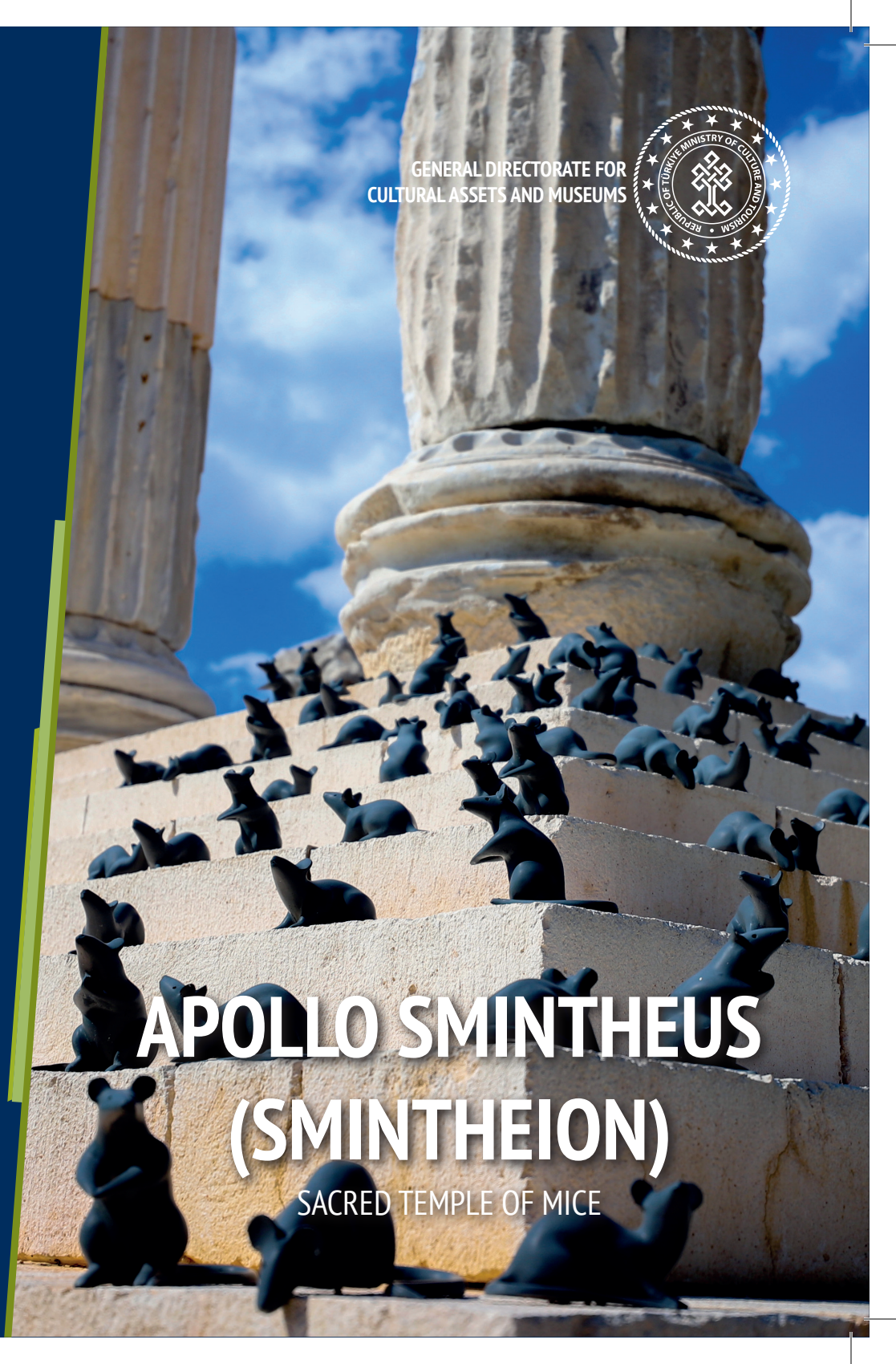
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GENERAL DIRECTORATE FOR  
CULTURAL ASSETS AND MUSEUMS



# APOLLO SMINTHEUS (SMINTHEION)

SACRED TEMPLE OF MICE





Apollo Smintheus is an area used as a cult center in ancient times. When you visit the temple, which is the center of the cult area, you will be greeted by the mouse models that stand on the steps. This should not surprise you, as "smintheus" means "mouse". Apollo was given this title because he was believed to punish the kings who committed injustice to their people and the people who were disrespectful to him with the plague epidemic, which was believed to be transmitted and spread by rats in those years and saved the farmers from the rats that caused great damage to the crops. The construction of the temple is also related to Apollo's relationship with mice and the fact that mice were once considered sacred in the area.

Temple of Apollo Smintheus



The temple, which is dated to the 2nd century BCE, has a lot of authenticity in terms of its architectural features, and its purpose of construction. It measures 22.39x40.27 meters and was built on 11 steps. There were 44 columns in all, 8 on the short sides and 14 on the long sides of the rectangular temple. Unfortunately, very few of these columns, the originals of which are more than 10 meters high, have been preserved. The uppermost parts of the columns, which are not monolithic but consist of seven parts arranged one above the other, were decorated with various figures or motifs. The fact that such use occurs only in a few temples in Anatolia gives the temple a special place in the history of architecture. Scenes from the Trojan War were depicted on the friezes on the pillars. The most striking parts of the temple are these relief blocks. For although the Trojan War is often depicted on pottery and sarcophagi, this is the only example in which a temple is decorated. These pieces, depicting the main events of the war, were found during excavations. Most notable among these scenes is the story of Apollo's spread of the plague epidemic to the Achaean army in connection with the temple.

Roman Bath



The temple and its surroundings are a sacred area and a center of worship. It was therefore not used as a residential area. For this reason, it is a place where the visitor does not find buildings that he is used to from ancient cities. However, the excavations that have been carried out have uncovered the remains of various structures other than the temple. These structures date back to a period of about 600 years between the 2nd and 4th centuries BCE also provide information about the duration which sanctuary remained active. Apart from the temple, the first building that attracts attention is the large Roman bath. The baths, which we find in almost all the Greek and Roman cities of Anatolia, are places that hide clues about the social life of the time. The baths, which were not only used for cleansing purposes, but where conversations, political speeches and entertainments also took place, were among the most important structures in the ancient cities. It is believed that the bath in Apollo Smintheus was used more for purification and that the visitors entered this bath and purified themselves before entering the sanctuary. Thanks to the excavations carried out, it has been possible to prove that the bathhouse, dated to the 1st century CE, was still in use for hundreds of years. In addition to the bath, the excavations also uncovered the channels for the water supply to the bath and the remains of 7 cisterns for water storage.

Pedestals with Inscription



In Roman times contests were organized, and wrestling competitions were held here on behalf of Apollo. The streets and baths were once decorated with statues of athletes who had won these contests. Although inscriptions have been discovered on these sculptures, there is no trace of the sculptures, which were thought to have been made of bronze. Inscribed marble pedestals discovered near the large bath provide information about the sports competitions and the participants of those years.

The Sacred Road



The cult site and temple of Apollo Smintheus probably hosted people from all the settlements of the region. The proof, however, that the principal visitors to the temple were the inhabitants of Alexandria Troas is the sacred road connecting that city with the cult area. A part of this road, whose total length is estimated at 30 km, can still be seen. The stone bridge, located on the site Tuzla Stream and dated to the 1st century CE, is probably also a part of this sacred road.