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Travel Route
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Quicker Route



Visiting Hours

Opening Time: 08:00
Closing Time: 17:00

Address: Yazılıkaya Mahallesi, Han/ESKİŞEHİR • Phone: 0222 230 13 71

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MİDAS YAZILIKAYA

THE GATE TO HOUSE OF THE MOTHER
GODDESS

GENERAL DIRECTORATE FOR
CULTURAL ASSETS AND MUSEUMS

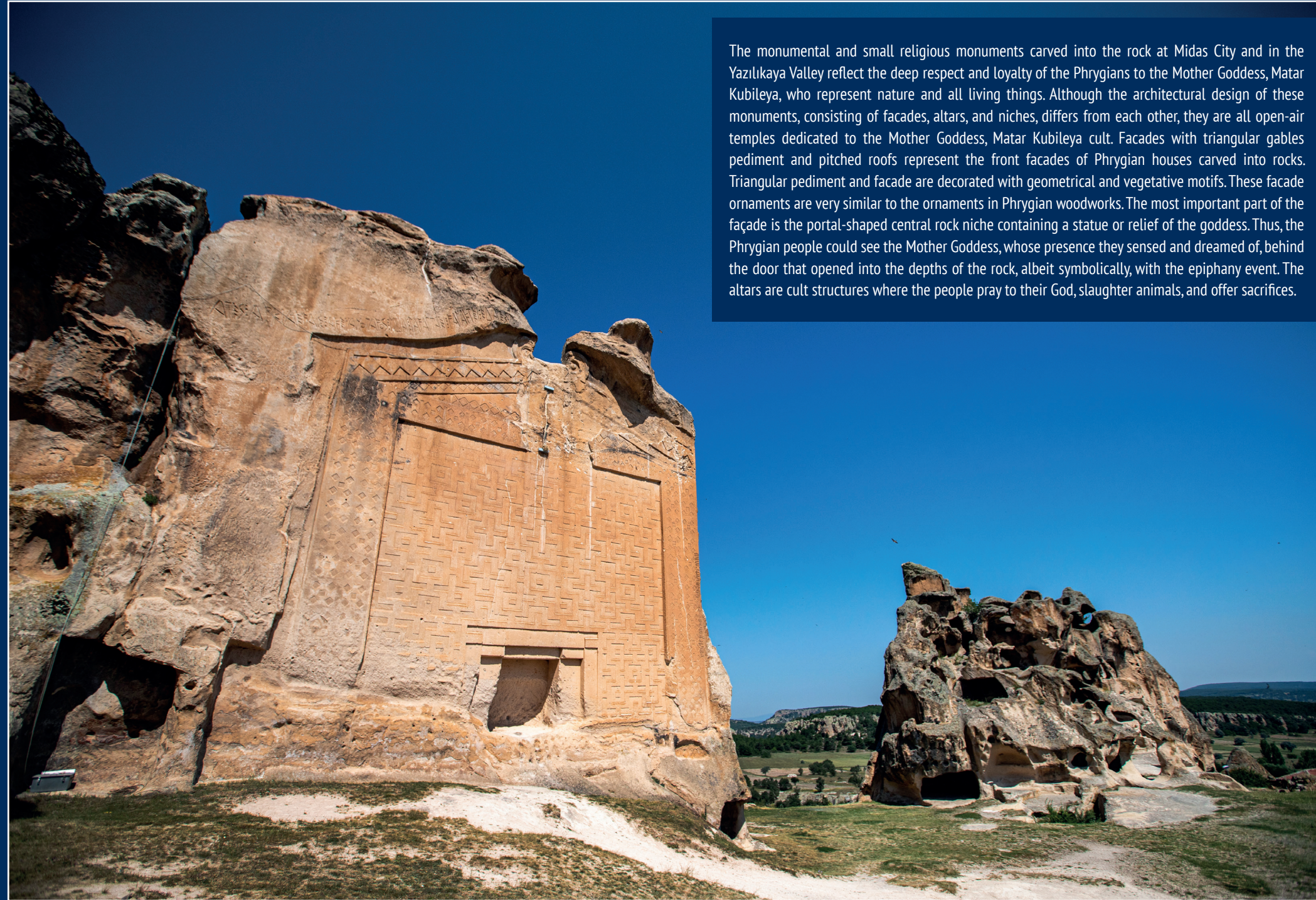




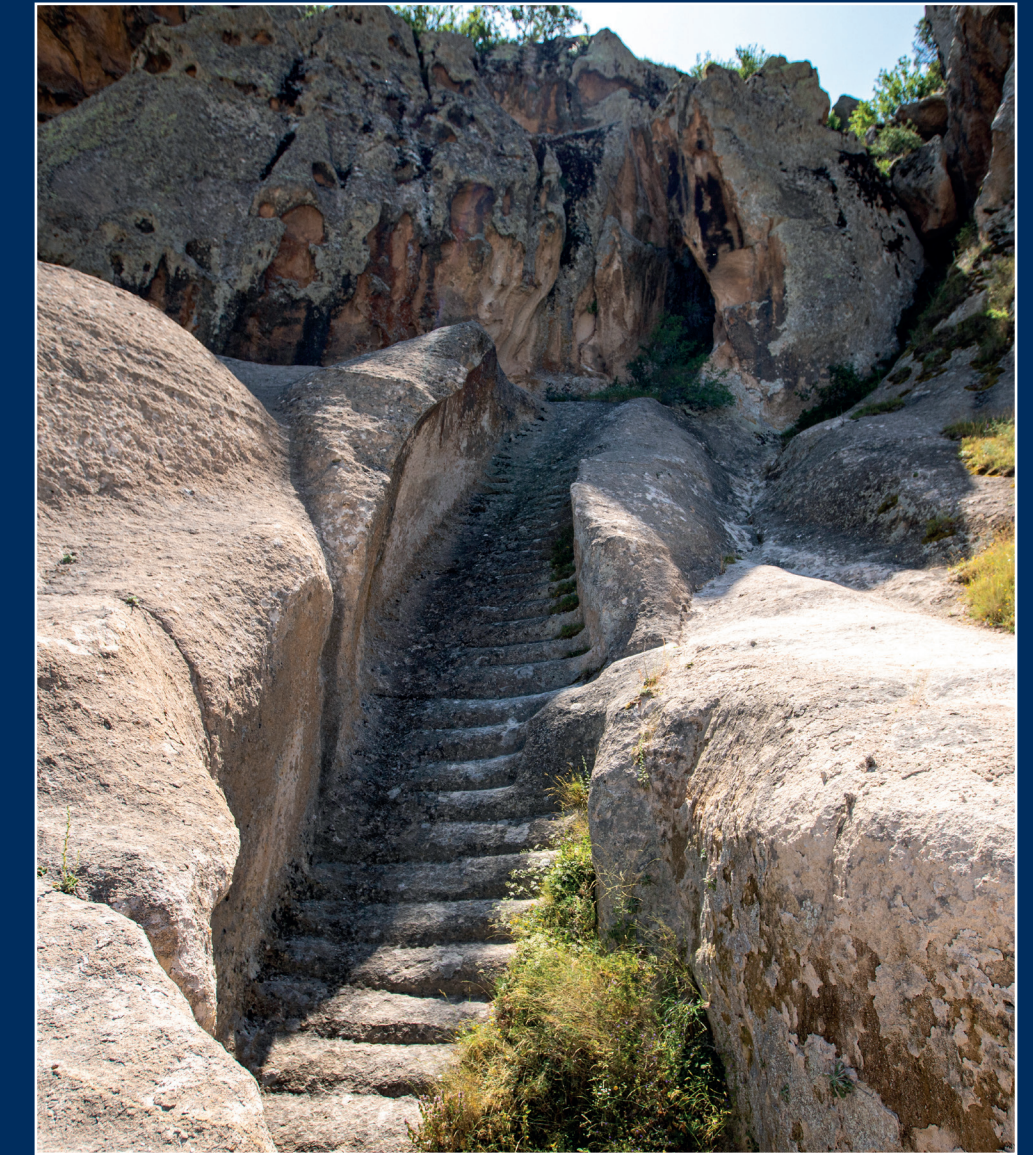
It is located at the southern end of the Yazılıkaya Valley, just west of the Yazılıkaya Village of the Han District of Eskişehir. It was founded on the Yazılıkaya Plateau, which consists of tufa rocks. It is 650 m long and 320 m wide and is about 60 to 70 m above the valley floor.

Research in the mountainous Phrygian Areas and Midas City began when William Martin LEAKE and his friends discovered the Midas Yazılıkaya Monument in 1800. The scholar who referred to Yazılıkaya as Midas City is W. Ramsay. Between 1937 and 1939, Albert Gabriel, Art Historian and the director of Istanbul French Archaeological Institute, C. H. Emilie Haspels, Dutch Archaeologist together began the first systematic excavations in Yazılıkaya.

The research and excavations indicate that Midas City was elevated to a privileged status by the Phrygians, who adorned it with many monumental and religious structures carved into the rock. While the capital Gordion was the strongest political centre of the state for the Phrygians, Midas City was the strongest religious centre of the kingdom from the beginning. According to the results of the excavations, the first settlement around the city dates back to the 3rd millennium BCE. The earliest Phrygian settlement was established in the last quarter of the 8th century BCE. After the political decline of Phrygian Kingdom, the city was not abandoned, but continued to be used with some additions and modifications to the Phrygian rock structures during the Persian, Hellenistic, Roman and Byzantine Eras. It is believed that the monuments and altars of the city were built between the 8th and 6th centuries.



The monumental and small religious monuments carved into the rock at Midas City and in the Yazılıkaya Valley reflect the deep respect and loyalty of the Phrygians to the Mother Goddess, Matar Kubileya, who represent nature and all living things. Although the architectural design of these monuments, consisting of facades, altars, and niches, differs from each other, they are all open-air temples dedicated to the Mother Goddess, Matar Kubileya cult. Facades with triangular gables pediment and pitched roofs represent the front facades of Phrygian houses carved into rocks. Triangular pediment and facade are decorated with geometrical and vegetative motifs. These facade ornaments are very similar to the ornaments in Phrygian woodworks. The most important part of the façade is the portal-shaped central rock niche containing a statue or relief of the goddess. Thus, the Phrygian people could see the Mother Goddess, whose presence they sensed and dreamed of, behind the door that opened into the depths of the rock, albeit symbolically, with the epiphany event. The altars are cult structures where the people pray to their God, slaughter animals, and offer sacrifices.



The statues of the gods, goddess idols with round head and square body, representing the goddess, may be reached by the steps. The best examples of these altars are in Midas City. Niches are oval or rectangular shallow recesses usually carved into the vertical faces of the rocks but located at an easily accessible height. On the back walls are slots in which the goddess figurine or idol is placed.

There are good examples of this type of niche in the Midas Yazılıkaya City. Midas Yazılıkaya City, which is found eligible for nomination for inclusion into World Cultural and Natural Heritage List is the most valuable cultural treasure of Mountainous Phrygia Region with its unique monumental structures.