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Late Roman Buildings
- Ⓖ Tiyatro ve Bouleuterion (Kent Meclisi)
Stepped Theatre and Bouleuterion
- Ⓗ İmparator Kültür Kompleksi (Sebasteion)
Complex of The Imperial Cult
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- Gallos Nehri
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- Ulaşım Güzergâhı
Modern Route
- Sur Kalıntıları
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Excavation Trenches



Visiting Hours

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

Address: Ballıhisar Mahallesi, 26600 Sivrihisar/Eskişehir • Phone: 0222 230 13 71

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PESSINUS

A WARLIKE PEOPLE IN THE STEPPES: GALATIANS IN PESSINUS

GENERAL DIRECTORATE FOR
CULTURAL ASSETS AND MUSEUMS





Temple

The temple, completed during the reign of Emperor Tiberius (14-37 CE), is in Corinthian order. It is considered that there are 6 pillars at the short side and 11 pillars at the long side, and that there are two columns between antes in the temple with a peripteral plan. The ruins of the foundations measure 24.10x13.70 m. Of the innermost rectangular temple, the foundations of the cella, which contains the cult statue of the temple, and the pronaos are common and measure 17.15x9.15 m. The temple is thought to stand on a crepidoma with five or six steps. In addition to the visible parts of the temple, steps of the crepidoma of the superstructure, wall blocks of the cella, pillar drums, Corinthian capitals of the pillars and antes, architrave, frieze, cornice and parts of the roof are scattered around the temple and within the village.

Gallos River and Canal System

The most impressive structure from the early imperial period is the canal system with 7 steps, dated to Augustus Era. This 11-13 m wide canal, built for the purpose of collecting and carrying water from Gallos River through the Pessinus in an east-west direction, was continuously enlarged from the 1st to the 3rd century CE and reached a length of 500 m.



It is located in the village of Ballıhisar 13 km southwest of Sivrihisar Town from Eskişehir. The excavation of the city was started by Prof. Dr. Pierre Lambrechts on behalf of Ghent University, Belgium between 1967-1973 and continued by Prof. Dr. J. Devreker between 1987-2008 and by Prof. Dr. Gocha R. Tsetskhladze of Melbourne University, Australia between 2009-2013. Pessinus Ancient City experienced its greatest heyday during the reign of Roman Emperor, Augustus (27 BCE-14 CE). In addition to the magnificent temple, construction of which began after Augustus' death and was completed during the reign of Emperor Tiberius (14-37 CE), several planned structures, workshops, houses, and a church belonging to Christian Period were unearthed in the city. In the area where the temple is located are the Stairs-Theatre, the Bouleuterion, the Agora (Portico Square) and a colonnaded street. There is also an 8,000-seat theater built on the slope of the hill to the east of the city during the reign of Emperor Hadrian (117-138 CE) and today only the pit of the cavea and a few rows of seats are now visible.

Pessinus, which is of Phrygian origin and was an important Galatian city at the time Roman Imperial Era, began to lose importance in the 9th century CE and was completely abandoned a few centuries later. The artefacts found during the excavations and collected in the surrounding area are exhibited in Outdoors Exhibition the village of Ballıhisar and in Eskişehir Eti Archaeology Museum.

Theater with Steps

This structure, which has an orchestra reserved for religious or other performances before the steps, is called the Theater with Steps because of its structure, which connects the monumental staircase and the theater. The 26 steps of the theater, which originally had 30 steps, have been preserved and measure 11.51x11.75 meters. The theater connects the temple with the Agora (Portico Square) below.



Agora (Portico Square)

The Agora, erected during Claudius Era (41-54 CE), consists of a square below the temple and theater with steps, surrounded on three sides by porticoes. The agora, which was excavated, is 32 m long and 26.38 m wide. There are three steps at three sides being excavated and pillars of the portico are located on the top step. Some of the pillars and plinths are preserved in their places. The Agora adjoins the cardo at the bank of Gallos River..

Bouleuterion (Meeting Place of the City Council)

The structure, dated to Severus Era (193-235 AD) and therefore called Severus Theater, was built over the orchestra of the Theater with Steps. This ellipsoid structure with 6 rows of marble seats and steps in the middle was probably used as a Bouleuterion (Meeting Place of City Council). On some stone blocks of the structure, which was made of locally acquired marble, stonemason marks such as "K", "Γ", "Λ", "Α", "M" etc. are observed.

