

#### Visiting Hours

**April 1 - October 1**  
 Opening Time: 08:30  
 Closing Time: 19:30

**October 1 - April 1**  
 Opening Time: 08:30  
 Closing Time: 17:30

Open everyday.

**Address:** Yalvaç/Isparta

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# ANTIOCHIA

A CAPITAL IN PISIDIA





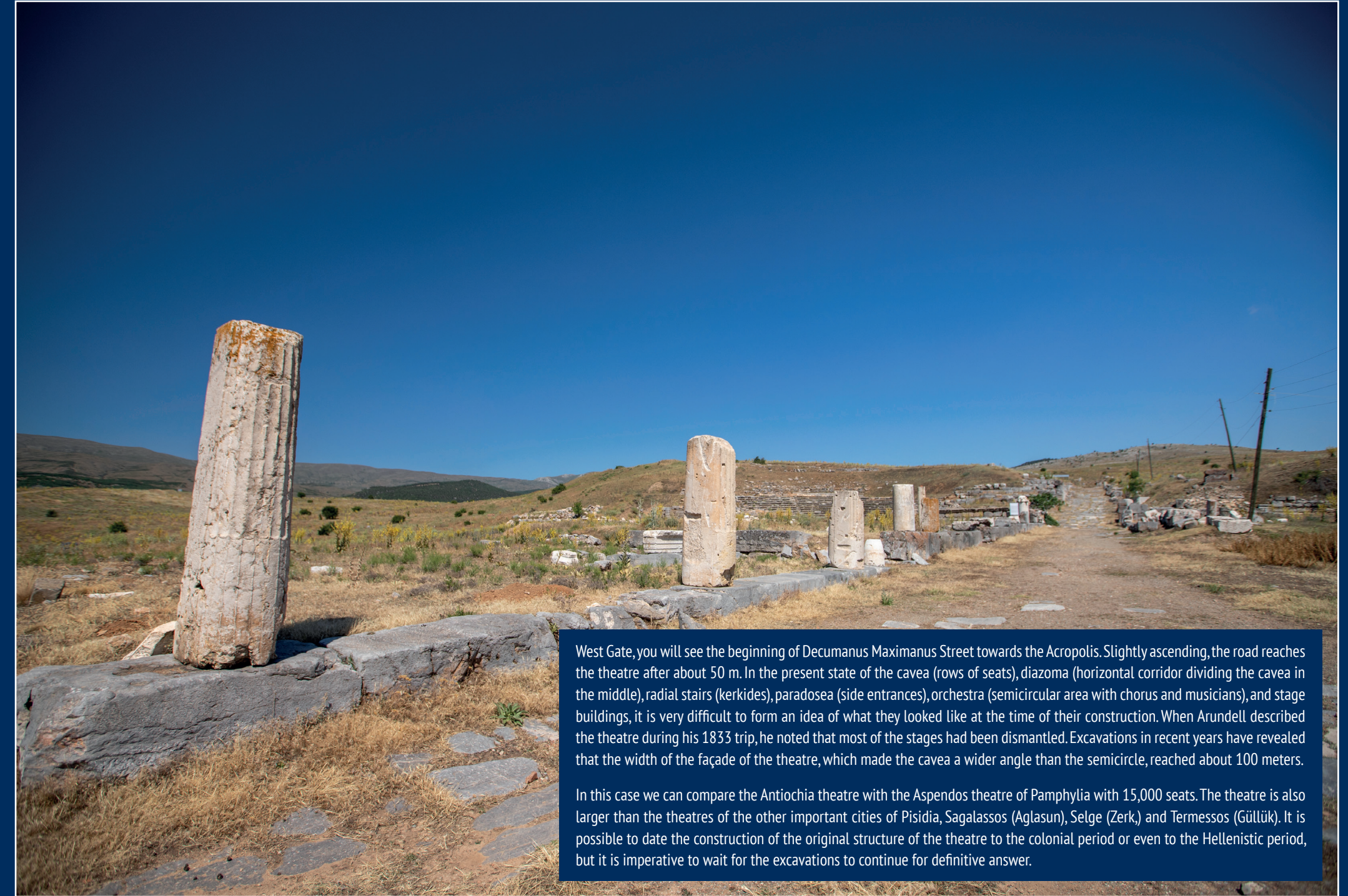
The Acropolis of the city (inner Citadel) is located on 46 hectares of land surrounded by fortifications. The West Gate is a triumphal arch with three entrances. The gate, built with a similar understanding of architecture and sculpture as the Propylon (monumental entrance) that led to the passage to the Augustus Sanctuary, was discovered during excavations by the University of Michigan in the 1920s. Recent electromagnetic surveys of the city's layout have revealed the location of many structures below ground and provided evidence that a regular grid-shaped city plan, invented by Hippodamus, an architect from Miletus, and successfully applied in Hellenistic cities such as Priene and Miletus, was also successfully applied in Antiochia. The two well-known streets are the 90 + 320 meter Decumanus Maximanus, which starts at the West Gate, and the 400 meter Cardo Maximanus, which starts at the Nymphaeum (monumental fountain). The two roads intersect at a right angle 70 meters south of the Tiberia Platea (Tiberius area).

Temple of Augustus: The most monumental complex of buildings in Antiochia is accessed by climbing the steps of the Propylon. The temple, which stands on a plot of land carefully obtained by removing the rocks at the highest point of the city, was built with a facade architecture that would have stunned the visitor at the first moment. The construction of the temple within the sanctuary was probably begun during the emperor's lifetime and was dedicated to him after his death. The apparent structure dates from the same period as the Propylon that formed the entrance to the Temple, but there are also



clues, such as bull heads, that suggest the Rock may have been built for another cult in earlier periods. The Rock, which was carved much earlier for the belief in the Mother Goddess Kybele and the moon god Men, whose dominion is known in the region, must have been transformed into the temple of the emperor under the rule of Rome.

Basilica of St. Paul: The first excavations in the Basilica, one of the most important structures of Antiochia, located in the northwest of the city, were initiated by Robinson and his team in the early 1920s. The building was eventually surveyed by the Yalvaç Museum. The 70 x 27 m structure is oriented east-west, with the 27 x 13 m narthex (entrance area) leaning against the city wall to the west. The building consists of three naves and a semicircular apse, which reflects all the elements of the basilica's floor plan. The outer surface of the apse is surrounded by a hexagonal wall. The basilica was rebuilt in a later phase, possibly at the end of the 4th century, with the interior completely filled in on the first floor, the central nave covered with mosaics, and entrances built from the marble-tiled courtyard on the north side. The tucked-in base at the top dates from the same period as the entrance to the north courtyard. The angular difference between the axis of the building and the axis of the mosaic also shows the continuous change that the structure has undergone. The mosaic, which was discovered in the first excavations and mentioned in publications, was later covered and today lies about 30 cm deep in the ground. Excavation reports and photographs show that it was decorated with geometric and vegetal motifs in panels with quadrangular frames. Theater: After passing through the



West Gate, you will see the beginning of Decumanus Maximanus Street towards the Acropolis. Slightly ascending, the road reaches the theatre after about 50 m. In the present state of the cavea (rows of seats), diazoma (horizontal corridor dividing the cavea in the middle), radial stairs (kerkides), paradosea (side entrances), orchestra (semicircular area with chorus and musicians), and stage buildings, it is very difficult to form an idea of what they looked like at the time of their construction. When Arundell described the theatre during his 1833 trip, he noted that most of the stages had been dismantled. Excavations in recent years have revealed that the width of the façade of the theatre, which made the cavea a wider angle than the semicircle, reached about 100 meters.

In this case we can compare the Antiochia theatre with the Aspendos theatre of Pamphylia with 15,000 seats. The theatre is also larger than the theatres of the other important cities of Pisidia, Sagalassos (Aglasun), Selge (Zerk.) and Termessos (Güllük). It is possible to date the construction of the original structure of the theatre to the colonial period or even to the Hellenistic period, but it is imperative to wait for the excavations to continue for definitive answer.