

Drawing 39: Tatlarin Underground City Plan (Adopted from F. Sağcan)



#### Visiting Hours

Opening Time: 08:00  
Closing Time: 17:00  
Ticket Office Closing Time: 16:30

Open everyday.

Address: Kale Mahallesi, Tatlarin Kasabası, Acıgöl/Nevşehir • Phone: 0384 324 65 24

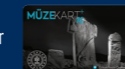
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# TATLARIN UNDERGROUND CITY

The Center of Firsts Tatlarin Underground City



There are 2 churches in Tatlarin. In the apse of the church No. 1 (one), the depiction of Anna is placed on the left of the Virgin Mary and Yohakim on the right of the Virgin Mary sitting on the throne. The Child Jesus "Emmanuel Jesus" is depicted in the small niche in the North.

The preserved scenes include the crucifixion of the Prophet Jesus, women at the head of the empty tomb, the Last Supper, the Descent of the Prophet Jesus into hell, the betrayal of Judas, the rescue of 3 Jewish youths from the furnace as narrated in the Torah. In addition, biblical scribes, doctor saint, soldier Saint, Angels and the church bench, and the depictions of Emperor Constantine and his mother Helena, who held the Holy Cross, were preserved in parts.

The church No. 2 (two) has two naves and covered with barrel vaults. It is separated from each other by two pillars, which are connected by joints. The scenes in the frescoes, which are quite well preserved, are separated from each other by strips. One of the 6 scenes in the church is apocryphal while the others are scenes from the Bible. There are also five symbolic scenes consisting of Deesis, Mary and Child Jesus, Emmanuel Jesus, and Mary of Blachernitissa (standing with two hands raised up, palms oriented to the audience, in orans).

69 single figures are depicted in the structure. Single figure paintings include depictions of the male and female saints, Bishop, martyr, Monk, emperor and Empress and church fathers. The scenes with a theme include the introduction to Jerusalem, the Transfiguration, the descent of the Prophet Jesus into hell and the crucifixion. The "Guiding-Hodegetria Mary" scene consisting of the figures of Mary and John the Baptist in the apse, the scene of Deesis consisting of Mary and Child Jesus in the niche are preserved wall paintings. The Church of Tatlarin was built in "secco" and "fresco" techniques. The images represent 13th century wall painting techniques. In the analysis, a pigment called "Egyptian blue azurid" was found in church No. 2 (two).



It is in the 10 km. north of Acıgöl District on the slope of the hill of Tatlarin town which is called the "Fort". Most of the underground city is not cleaned yet, only two floors of can be visited. The fact that it has large areas and toilets, rarely seen in underground cities, plenty of storages and churches indicate that it may be a monastery complex or military garrison instead of an underground settlement.

The main difference of Tatlarin underground city from the other underground cities is its toilets reached via L shaped corridor. The reason of the corridor's shape maybe to prevent bad smell reach to other areas. Another feature of the underground city are traps in 2-3 m depth in the middle of corridors to prevent attacks.