

Alahan Monastery



Uzuncaburç Archaeological Site
well-preserved Historical Remains

Don't Miss

Alahan Monastery Visiting Hours

April 1-October 31		Friday		Saturday		Sunday	
Monday	8.00 19.00	8.00 19.00	8.00 19.00	8.00 19.00	8.00 19.00	8.00 19.00	8.00 19.00
October 31- April 1		Friday		Saturday		Sunday	
Monday	8.00 17.00	8.00 17.00	8.00 17.00	8.00 17.00	8.00 17.00	8.00 17.00	8.00 17.00

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Address Geçimli Mahallesi, Alahan, Mut/Mersin

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The Witness of History for
thousands of years:
Alahan Monastery





Alahan Monastery, which Evliya Çelebi described as "Seems to have just come out of the hands of its master" was founded on a steep hillside overlooking the Göksu Valley. Alahan Monastery complex, which is used extensively between the 5th and 6th centuries AD and considered to be the "Pilgrimage Center" for Christians, has an important place in Early Christian Art and Byzantine architecture with its unique topographic location on the slopes of the Taurus Mountains, two large churches with rich decoration, baptistery, Colonnaded walkway, rock tombs, water resources, baths and living quarters.

During the trips of Barnabas to spread Christianity, sanctuaries were built everywhere they stayed. Alahan Monastery is one of them. The Alahan Monastery, estimated to have been built in 440-442, consists of the Western Church, the Monastery, the Eastern Church, monk chambers carved into the rocks, and tombs in the vicinity. The church buildings share common architectural features with the Hagia Sophia Museum. A masterful stone carving is seen in his decoration. The first church is divided into three naves with two series of columns with Corinthian capitals. The lintels and side pillars of the door, which is a passage from the narthex to the main space, are decorated with reliefs.



The six-winged Gabriel, carrying another wreath from the figures of St. Paul, St. Pierre, Michael's crush of symbolic creatures, roaring lion, eagle and ox symbols, depictions of Bible writers, bunches of grapes, vine leaves and fish motifs are depicted richly. In the south of the large courtyard to the east of the churches, the hall where religious ceremonies took place is in the form of a 11 m.



long vaulted and colonnaded gallery. In the gallery there are the baptistery with apses and the tombs which are the most magnificent structure of Alahan Monastery. The northern wall of these graves is carved into the rock and has no upper cover. The centre of the main nave is a



square shaped tower covered with four arches resting on pillars and columns. The tower was transformed into an octagon above. In this sanctuary there is a large basilica with three naves and narthex. Places for priests to (sythronos) sit can be seen in the apse of the church, which was built using the apse of the basilica. At the far east the most important structure of the complex, the East Church or the Domed Church is present. It is built of cut stone and decorated with reliefs.