



Visiting Hours		
April 1 - October 1 Opening Time: 08:30 Closing Time: 19:00	October 1 - April 1 Opening Time: 08:30 Closing Time: 17:30	Open everyday.
Address: Yukarı Mahallesi, Cumhuriyat Caddesi Çavdarhisar/Kütahya		
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AIZANOI

A MAGNIFICENT ANCIENT CITY IN THE MIDDLE OF ANATOLIA



While the known history of Aizonai Ancient City at Kütahya Çavdarhisar District enlisted on the Tentative List of World Heritage, UNESCO in 2012 dates back to 3 thousand years BCE, the earliest coin found in the city, where the influence of the Amazons and Phrygian culture is felt, belongs to the 3-4th century. The female figure on a horse and helmet on the coin (known as "epikteteis") of Hellenistic Period from 2nd Century BCE connotes the Amazons. The city has been put under the reign of Roman Empire in 133 BCE and experienced its most splendid period between 50-250 CE especially with its religious – economical characteristic. The city contains aesthetic samples of structures of a developed city with its unique combined theater – stadion complex of a capacity of about 15.000 persons, colonnaded streets and agoras, dam structures, water ways, heroon, odeon and gates. Aizonai Ancient City is a privileged (honor, investment priority, tax exemption, right of asylum, etc.) city which local principals take good advantage of the "Neokoros" (temple guarding city) city status before Rome. Aizonai Neokoros, which is contemporary of ancient cities like Ephesus, Pergamon, Side continued the same religious – economical influence in the early Byzantion Period with the title of episcopal center. After 7th Century, the magnificent city gradually lost its importance.



Since 1071, Çavdar Tartar cavalry troops accompanying Seljuk Turks who began to conquer Anatolia possessed the city and used the deserted plain of the temple as a defense base. These last settlers who were very good horsemen and who give the city their name also depicted their nomadic, equestrian, archer and instrument playing culture on the yet standing architectural blocks of the temple.

Ancient Temple: Aizonai Zeus (Jupiter) / Cybele Temple of double cella at Çavdarhisar Plateau which has a rare architectural form with its plan is one of the most paramount and extraordinary ancient temples of the world survived until today. The temple forms an integrity with its peristyles and agora structure older than these peristyles. The unique superstructure of the temple with a height of 9.30 m and a central point in the city plan, salutes the visitors even today with this superstructure rising over monolithic gigantic columns. There exists a Zeus relief on the front face and Cybele relief on the rear face of the gigantic acroter.

Despite the recent approach that a temple cannot have two cults, this extraordinary religious aspect is contemporary in terms of weight and validity. Meter Steunene-Mother Goddess sanctuary in the south-west of Aizonai also supports the religious and philosophical ground of the region dating back to the Phrygian Period, with its rock throne on a round-planned rock cave, sacrificial pits built for bulls dedicated to temenos, and a deep rock lair that collapsed by earthquakes.

Aizonai Macellum: With its agricultural potential, the productive and commercial structure of the city is remarkable. Dated to the second half of 2nd Century CE the round structure, along the coast of river, called Macellum was an organized marketplace open in any day of the week where meat products, especially fresh and processed carp, goose meat, poultry, bakery products, grains, olive oil, garum sauce, and expensive and luxury products such as rare vegetables and fruits were sold.

