

#### Visiting Hours

**April 1 - October 1**  
Opening Time: 08:30  
Closing Time: 19:00  
Ticket Office Closing Time: 18:30

**October 1 - April 1**  
Opening Time: 08:30  
Closing Time: 17:30  
Ticket Office Closing Time: 17:00

Closed on Monday.

**Address:** Süleymanlar Mahallesi, Cehennemağızı Mağaraları Sokak No: 59/A 67300 Kdz. Ereğli / Zonguldak

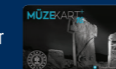
Please visit the web site for up-to-date information.

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GENERAL DIRECTORATE FOR  
CULTURAL ASSETS AND MUSEUMS



# CEHENNEM AĞZI CAVES

ARE YOU READY TO LIVE THE LEGEND OF HERCULES  
TOGETHER?



There are 3 caves used in the Roman and Byzantine Periods. As of today, it serves as a historical site affiliated to the Black Sea Ereğli Museum Directorate.

The Hell Mouth Caves (Prophecy caves) which is named as Acheron Caves in the archeological sources have a natural characteristic because of its developed structure in the tuffs of volcanic rocks, and artificial since it was carved by people for their uses.

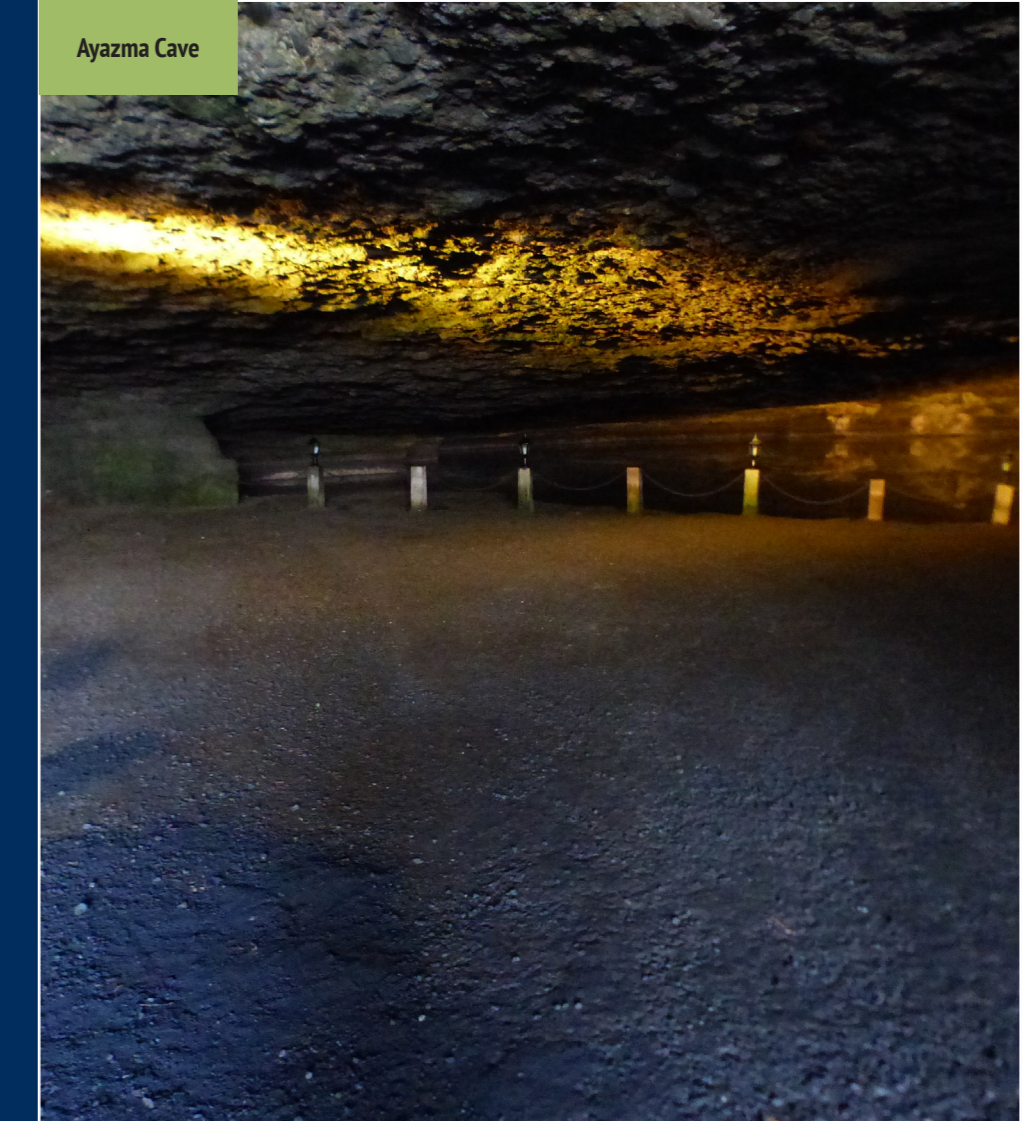


The cave is accessed after a narrow passage. Inside, there is a large and deep body of water with immature stalactites on the ceiling and a narrow passage on the right that connects you to other places after you move through the cave.

According to mythology Heracles, who came here during the legendary Argonaut Expedition in 1200 BCE, called for Kerberos, the three-headed dog of God Hades, to the earth at the request of King Eurystheus. According to mythology, the aconyl plant (poppy) found in the vicinity was formed by the foam that came out of its mouth as a result of Kerberos barking in front of the cave when he came to the surface. The Mariandyns, the local people of Karadeniz Ereğli at that time, named this place Heracles as an expression of gratitude to Heracles because Heracles performed this task given to him by King Eurystheus here and saved the Mariandyns from the Tyrants, who were tyrannical rulers. It was named Herakleia Pontika (Black Sea Ereğli) in order to distinguish it from other city names put in memory of Heracles in later periods.



It is a natural cave, partially flattened by chipping of rocks and it was used for worship during the Roman and Byzantine Periods. Since Christianity was not officially accepted by the Roman Empire when the cave was first used, the first Christians prayed in this cave secretly. There is a mosaic with geometric animal and vegetal patterns on the floor. The mosaics, which were destroyed over time, are partially preserved today. Inside the cave, there are stone artefacts from the Roman and Byzantine Periods and niches built for burning candles on the walls. Outside the cave, there are side walls at the entrance made of cut stones and bricks made during the Byzantine Period.



Ayazma (Holy Water) Cave, which has a wide entrance, consists of 2 halls. The lake, which covers one of the halls, was used as a cistern in the past as well as being sacred and met the water needs of the region. In the area on the left side of the entrance, classical music concerts are held at festivals today.