

Ephesus

The ancient city of Ephesus was one of the most important cities of the ancient Ionian World. The city, that was established as a port, in one of the most fertile areas of Asia Minor, was a major commercial and trade



centre during its era. This ancient city located in a very strategic point, at the east of the Aegean Sea and at the mouth of the river Cayster, was one of the great cities of the well known ancient Ionian world, the ancient Greek world and also was a major religious centre of early Christianity. Today it is considered to be the largest outdoor museum in present day Turkey and among the biggest in the world. In ancient times, Ephesus was the home of the Temple of Artemis, one of the Seven Wonders of the World. It was also visited by St Paul and St. John as well as Antonios and Cleopatra. Today, the ruins of Ephesus are a major tourist attraction, especially for travellers on Mediterranean cruises. Ephesus remains a sacred site for Christians due to its association with several biblical figures, including St. Paul, St.

John the Evangelist and the Virgin Mary.

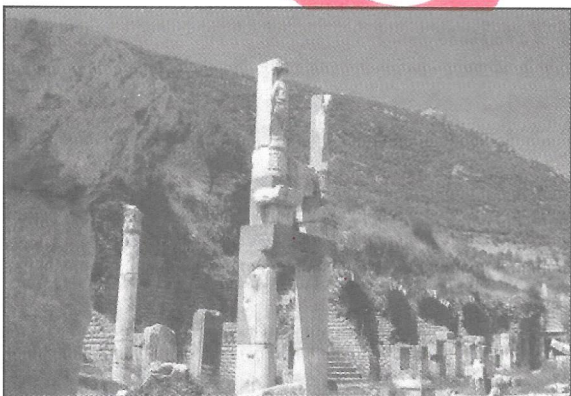
According to tradition, Ephesus, was founded first by the female warriors known as the Amazons and the second time by Androclos, although it has been established that the Lelegians and Carians inhabited the place earlier. Today the whole city is a Museum and some of the highlights that you will find there are the following:

Odeion



The Odeion - a small semi-circular theatre constructed by Vedius Antonius and his wife in around 150 A.D. It was originally built as a 'bouleutetion' (Greek for council chamber) and it was also used as a small salon for plays and concerts, seating about 1,450 people. There were 22 stairs in the theater and it used to be enclosed with a wooden roof. The upper part of the theatre was decorated with red granite pillars in the Corinthian style. The entrances were at both sides of the stage and reached by a few steps.

The Temple of Domitian



The temple dedicated to the Emperor Domitian was one of the largest temples of the city and the first structure in Ephesus known to be dedicated to an Emperor. It was built on a high and wide terrace measuring 50x100 meters in size, on vaulted foundations at the south end of the Domitian Street and Square. The northern side of the terrace seems to be two-stories high and it was reached by stairs, still visible today. The temple, built in pro-style plan, had eight columns on the short side and thirteen columns on the long side. At the northern side there was a u-shaped altar, which is now displayed in the Museum of Izmir. It was during the reign of Domitian(81-96), that an emperor ever gave permission for a Temple dedicated to an

Emperor to be built; which also granted the city to be the warden, 'neocoros', for the first time, something that was a great honour at the time, for a city. The temple and its statue are some of the few remains connected with Domitian, because when the unpopular emperor was killed by one of his servants, the people

quickly took vengeance and erased his name from many inscriptions. However in order for the city not to lose its 'neocoros' status; the Ephesians re-dedicated the temple to Vespasian, the father of Domitian.

The Prytaneion

Behind the basilica was a very important civic building where the sacred fire of Hestia (ancient Greek goddess protector of home) was tended; the Prytaneion, where religious ceremonies, official receptions and banquets were held. The sacred flame symbolizing the heart of Ephesus was kept constantly alight in the Prytaneion. The construction of the building dates to the 3rd century B.C. during the reign of Lysimachos, but the ruins of the complex dates to the Augustan age. The eternal flame was here in the centre of the ceremonial hall, and the four-cornered pit in which the sacred fire is burned is a relic from the reign of Lysimachos.

The Gate of Hercules



this gate.

The Hercules gate is located today towards the end of the Curettes Street (the street of the priests), and it is very characteristic because of the relieves of Hercules (the ancient Greek mythological hero) on it. It was brought from another place in the fourth century AD to its current place, but the relief on it dates back to the second century AD. Only the two sides of the columns remain today and the other parts of it have not been found. The relief of the flying Nike (ancient Greek goddess of victory) in the Domitian Square is thought to also be a part of

The Street of Curettes

This street is the small portion of the sacred way and it runs between the Celsius Library and the Hercules Gate. According to ancient Greek mythology, the Curettes were known as semi-deities, later referred to a class of priests in Ephesus. Many inscriptions about the Curettes were discovered in different locations in Ephesus, especially near the Prytaneion.

Colonnaded galleries with mosaics on the floor were located on both sides of the street with a roof to protect the pedestrians from sun or rain. There were also fountains, monuments, statues and shops on the sides of the street. The shops on the south side were two-storied.

Because of the many earthquakes that occurred in Ephesus, many structures including the Curettes Street were damaged. Some of the damage especially on the columns was restored and some new columns were added but after the major earthquake in the 4th century, the columns were replaced by the other ones brought from different buildings in the city. The differences between the designs of the columns can be seen today. The street has its final appearance from the 4th century.

The Fountain of Trajan



Along the Curettes Street is a wonderful succession of ancient ruins sculpted and pillars adorned with relief forms and figurations, we can see the reconstruction on a reduced scale of one of the most remarkable Ephesians' monument; the great fountain of the emperor Trajan. It was built around the year 104 AD to honour Emperor Trajan and it is one of the finest monuments in Ephesus. Trajan's statue stood in the central niche on the facade overlooking a pool. The pool of the fountain of Trajan was 20x10 meters,

surrounded by columns and statues. These were statues of Dionysus, Satyr, Aphrodite as well as members of the family of the Emperor. They are now presented in British and in the Ephesus Museums.

Latrines or Lavatories

The latrines were part of the Scholastica Baths and were built around the 1st century AD. It was a semi-covered rectangular area where the toilets for public use were located, there were a number of seats, one next to each other, over a canal or running water that was connected with the town's sewer system. In the middle there was a square pool and the floor was paved with mosaics.

Temple of Hadrian



Was built in 2nd century AD and was renovated in the 4th century AD in the name of the emperor Hadrian. It was originally in Corinthian style consisting of a cella and a porch. The facade of the porch had a pediment (not surviving today) supported by two piers and two columns including an arch in the middle. The keystone of the arch has a relief of Tyche the goddess of fortune. In the lunette over the cella, there is another relief of a semi-nude lady, who in most probabilities is Medusa, in acanthus leaves. Friezes were added from different places, during the restoration, and one can see scenes relating to the legendary foundation of the city such as; Androclos, the mythological founder of the city, killing a boar, Hercules rescuing Theseus, Dionysus in a ceremonial procession with the

Amazons, Emperor Theodosius I, and an assembly of gods including Athena and Artemis.

Library of Celsius



The library of Celsius was built for Tiberius Julius Celsus Polemaeanus the governor of the province of Asia; and was completed in AD 135.

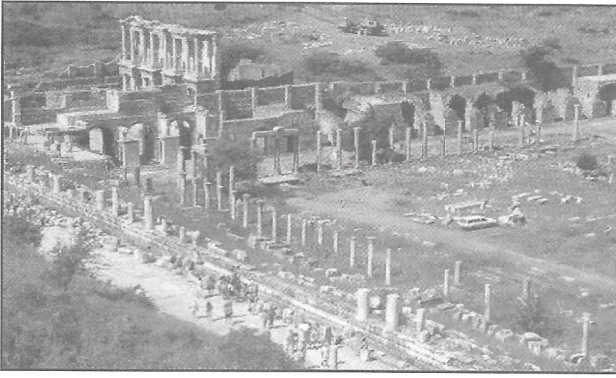
It was built to store 12,000 scrolls and to serve as a monumental tomb for Celsius. It was unusual to be buried within a library or even within city limits, so this was a special honor for Celsius. The grave of Celsius is beneath the ground floor, across the entrance and the statue of Celsius was found during the excavations and is on display in the Archaeological Museum of Istanbul.

The style of the library, with an ornate, balanced, and well-planned two-storied facade, reflects the Greek influence on Roman architecture. Along the entrances are four pairs of Ionic order columns raised by pedestals. Another set of Corinthian order columns stands directly above the first set, adding to the height of the building.

The pairs of columns on the second level frame the windows; as the columns on the first level frame the doors and they also create niches where statues would have been housed. The statues in the niches of the columns today are the copies of the originals, which were taken to Vienna on the excavations in 1910. The statues symbolize Wisdom (Sophia), Knowledge (Episteme), Meaning (Ennoia) and Virtue (Arete) of Celsius, carved underneath the statues in Greek. The building faces east so that the reading rooms could make best use of the morning light. The scrolls of the manuscripts were kept in cupboards in niches on the walls. There were double walls behind the bookcases, probably to prevent the manuscripts from humidity.

The materials used to create the building, brick, concrete, and mortared rubble; signify the new materials that came about in the Roman Empire around the 2nd century A.D. It was also decorated with figures of Eros, Nike, rosettes and garlands in relief, some still existing today in the museum of Vienna.

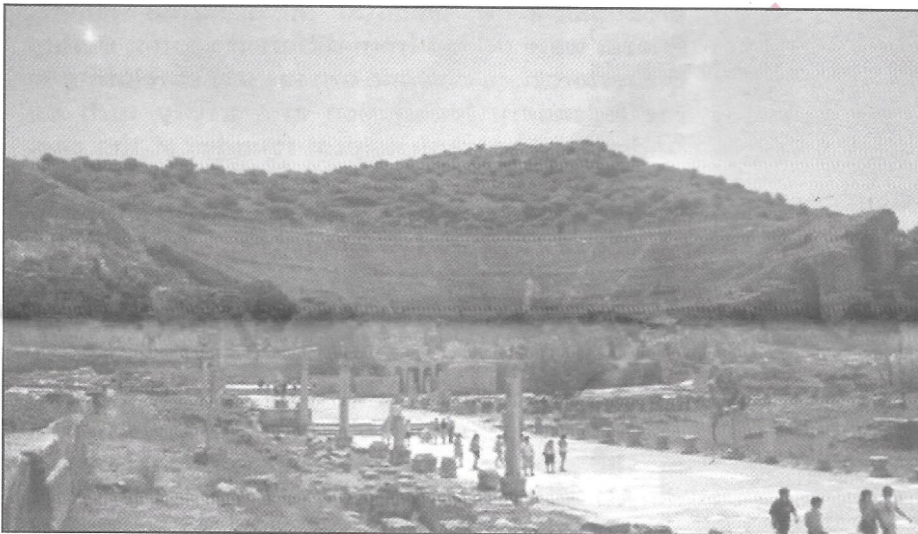
The Marble Street



first advertisements in the world.

The Marble Street is the main street that connects the library and the theatre although it was originally part of the Processional Road stretching to the great Temple of Artemis and it dates from the 1st century AD. The western side of the road is enclosed by the agora wall and on the wall is a higher platform which was constructed during the reign of Nero, for pedestrians. Busts and statues of important people were erected along the road and letters from the emperors were carved into marble blocks for people to read. On the west side somewhere in the middle of the road, on the pavement there is a piece of marble with graffiti showing a woman and a left foot. This is one of the

The Great Theatre of Ephesus



seats with marble backs (for important people) as well as the Emperor's Box were found.

The most magnificent structure in the ancient city of Ephesus is of course the great theatre which is located on the slope of Panayir Hill, opposite the Harbor Street. Originally built in the Hellenistic Period, the 3rd century BC since then it was restored many times and expanded in the 1st century AD by the Romans to reach the capacity of more than 24.000 people (one tenth of the city's population). It has 60 rows of seats, while two horizontal zones (walkways) divide the theatre into three sections of seats. In the lower section many marble pieces,

The stage construction is three storied and 18 meters high (almost 60 feet) and the facade which faced the audience was ornamented with beautiful relieves, columns with niches, windows and statues. There were five doors opening to the orchestra with the middle one being wider than the rest. This gave the stage a monumental appearance.

The theatre was used not only for concerts and plays, but also for religious, political and philosophical discussions and later for gladiator and animal fights. It was here where St. Paul came during his third mission and during his speech in this very theatre there was a huge riot outside and an attempt to be assassinated.

Harbour Street (Arcadian Way)

It is the street ran between the port and the theatre. It was constructed in the Hellenistic Period, but then was restored during the reign of the Emperor Arcadius (395-408 AD.), from whom it takes its present name. The street is 530 meters long and 11 meters wide paved with marble and on both sides of the street there were shops and galleries, and gates in the form of monumental arches. At the centre, there is a four columned structure, an element of decoration which was constructed in the 6th century AD. Because of its extension to the harbour, it is also called the Harbour Street.