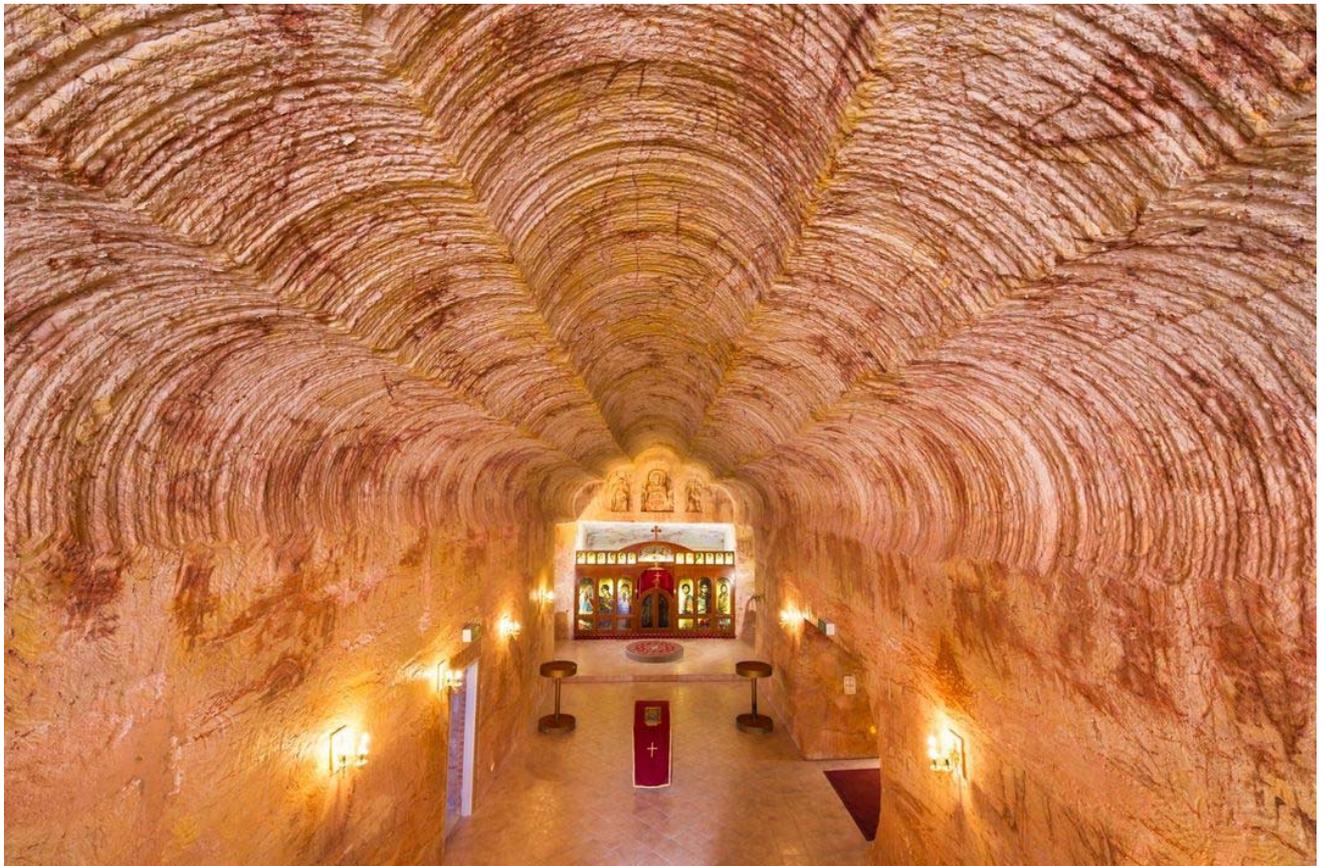


# PASCAS PARK

## Underground Village



PASCAS FOUNDATION (Aust) Ltd  
ABN 23 133 271 593

Queensland, Australia

Pascas Foundation is a not for profit organisation

[www.pascasworldcare.com](http://www.pascasworldcare.com) [www.pascashealth.com](http://www.pascashealth.com)

Em: [info@pascasworldcare.com](mailto:info@pascasworldcare.com)

Em: [info@pascashealth.com](mailto:info@pascashealth.com)

## **PASCAS PARK UNDERGROUND VILLAGE**

Pascas Park Underground Village is to be a unique opportunity for visitors, friends and residents of a Pascas Village Sanctuary to participate in many unique experiences.

The Underground Village is to be in close proximity of the community centre facilities for the whole of Pascas Village Sanctuary. The underground village is to provide:

1. Education facilities for maybe 300 or so students embracing all age group.
2. Temporary lodging within a subterranean environment.
3. Living in self-contained conditions that creates independence.
4. Living with others within confined circumstances.
5. Presenting unique environments that are not available elsewhere.

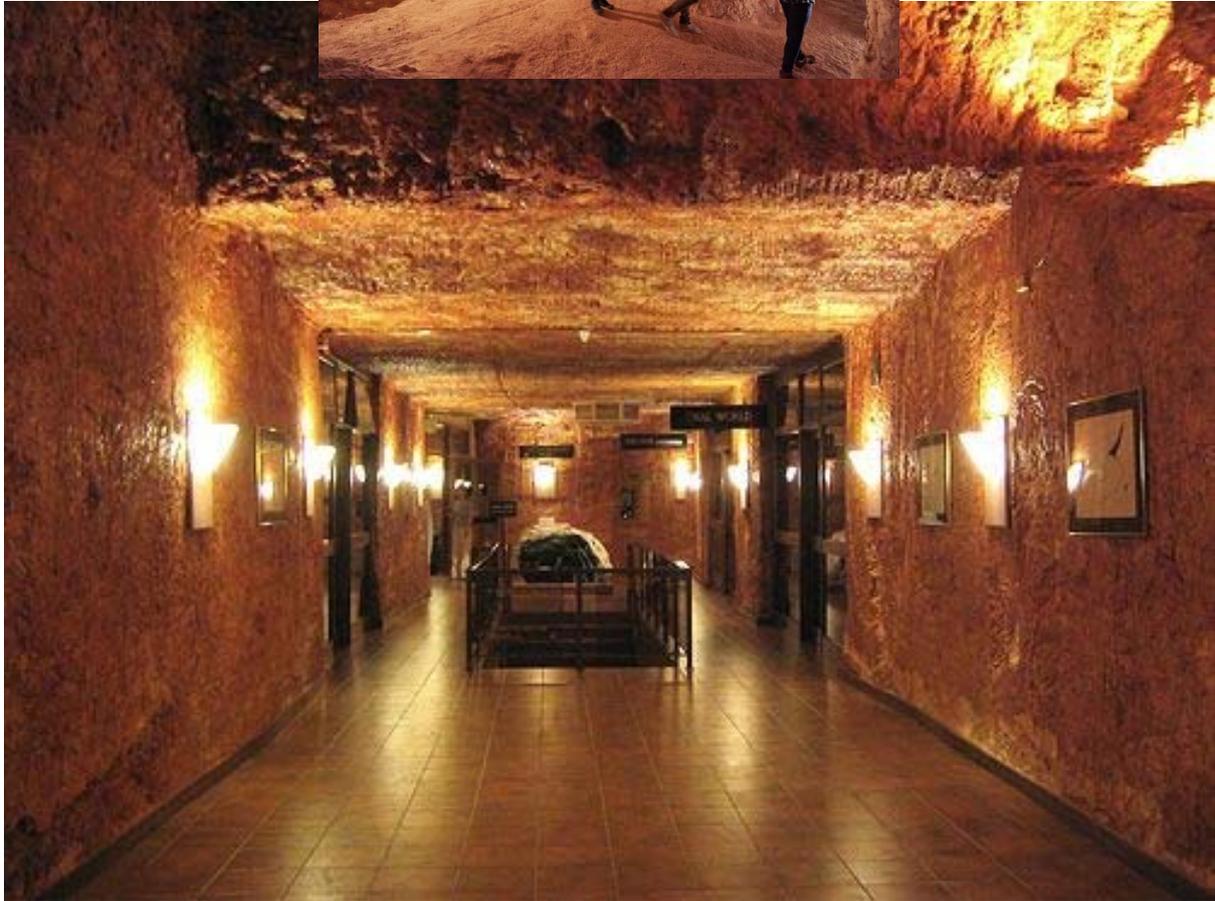
Regular accommodation may be available for maybe 300 guests. In crisis conditions the accommodation may be reconfigured for 1,000.

COOBER PEDY – South Australia

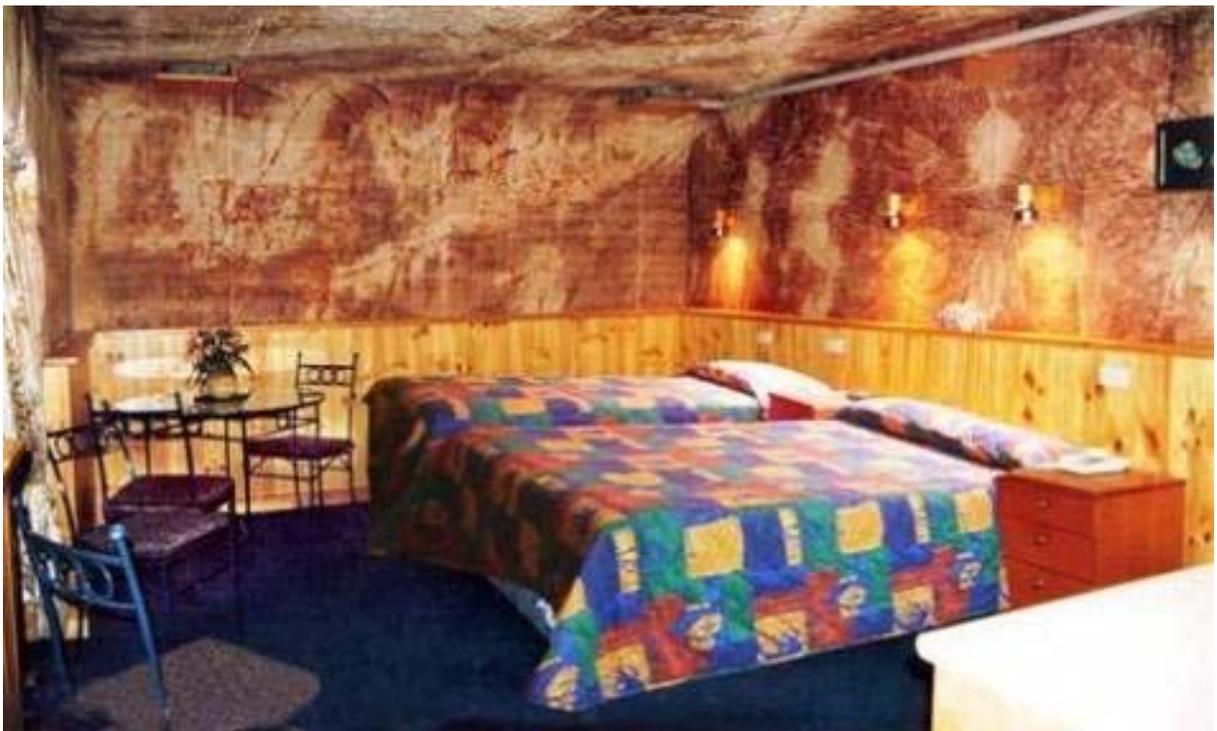


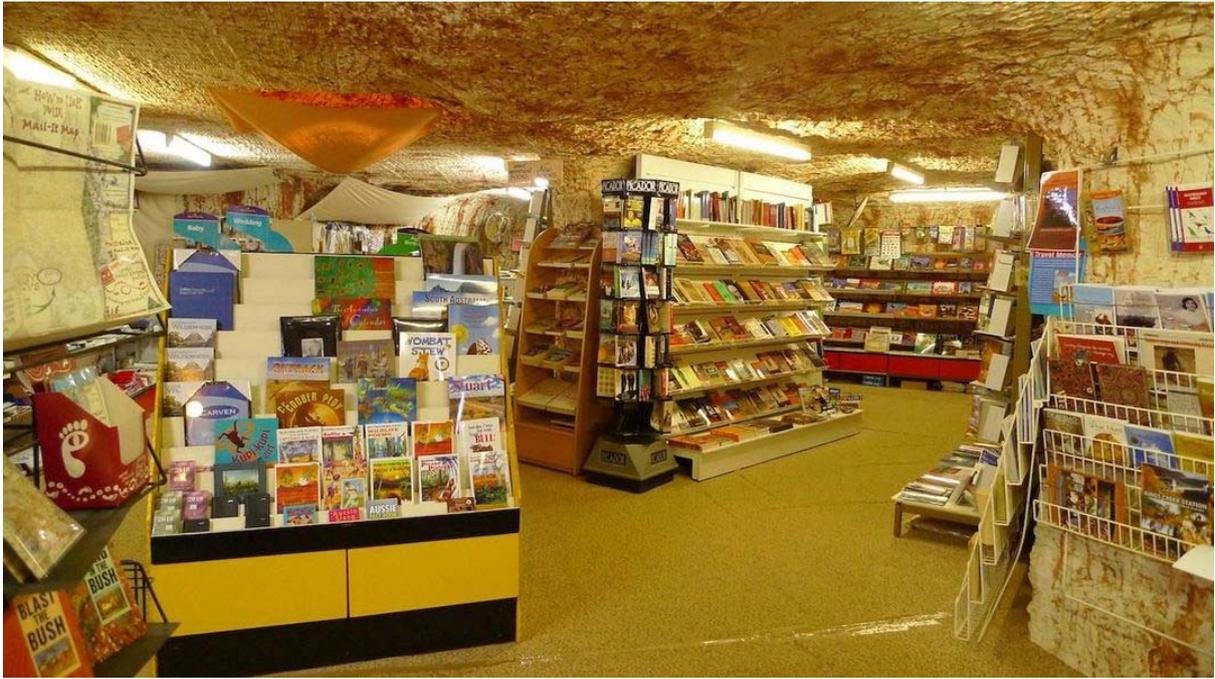


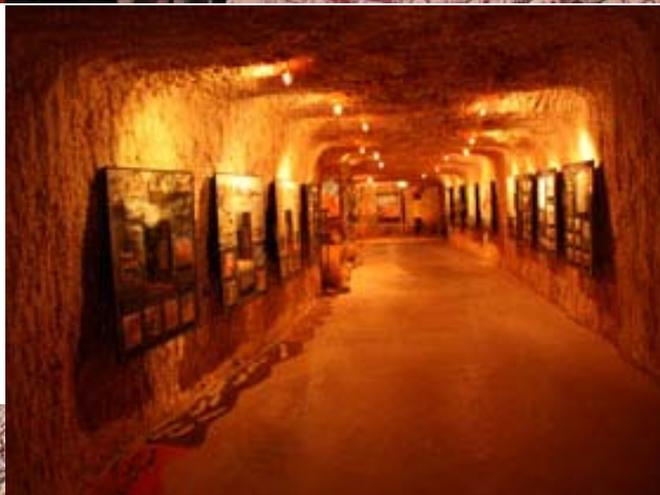


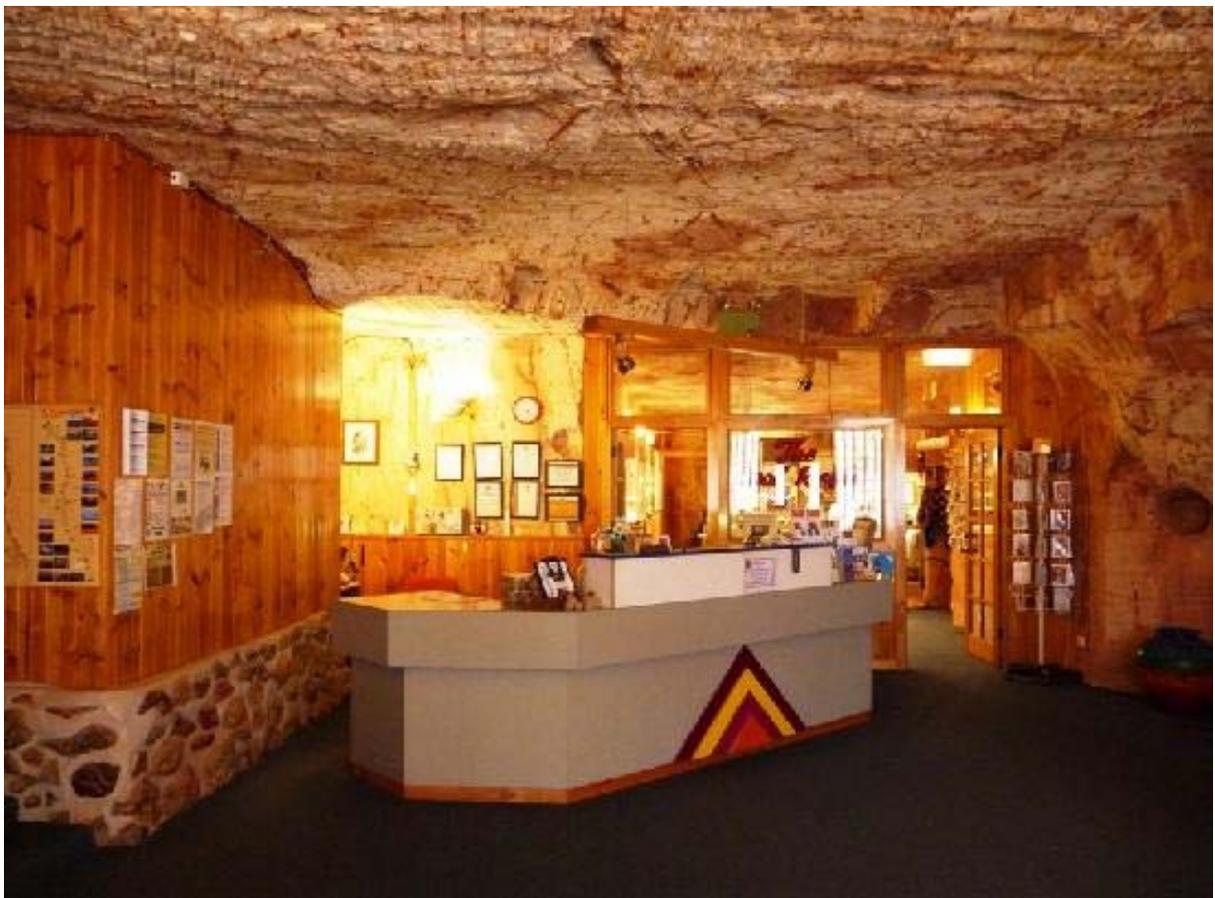












# Underground cities of ancient Turkey

Nexus magazine – page 58

Karen Mutton

## Derinkuyu Underground City

The famous Derinkuyu Underground City was first discovered in 1963, when a surface house was renovated and a wall caved in to reveal an underground room that led to a subterranean passage. The workers found that it led further into a deep labyrinth which was 18 storeys deep, carved from soft tufa stone to a depth of up to 260 feet (~80 metres). Researchers found kitchens, bedrooms, food storage rooms, oil and wine presses, wells, armouries, schools, tombs and domestic animal stables. More than fifty ventilation shafts brought in air from above, while thousands of smaller ducts distributed that air throughout the entire city.

Because it is stone and non-organic, it is difficult to accurately date the underground city but it possibly originated during the Hittite period from 1600 to 12000 BCE. Some experts theorise that the Phrygians built the city when they occupied Anatolia from 1200 to 800 BCE.

The earliest mention of underground cities in Cappadocia (Turkey) came from the Greek historian Xenophon in 370 BCE. In his work, *Anabasis*, he wrote:

“The houses here were underground, with a mouth like that of a well, but spacious below; and while entrances were tunnelled down for the beasts of burden, the human inhabitants descended by a ladder., In the houses were goats, sheep, cattle, fowls and their young; and all the animals were reared and took their fodder there in houses.”

Anatolia has long been a major trade hub between Asia and Europe, and has been invaded and conquered repeatedly by different groups for thousands of years. The Romans conquered the lands of Cappadocia in 17 BCE and made it into a Roman province under Tiberius. In the early days of Christianity. Christian colonies used the underground cities as refuge from Roman persecutions.

After the 7<sup>th</sup> century CE, Muslims forced Christians once again into hiding, including many Greek Christians who expanded Derinkuyu further during the invasions.

The city was designed with defensive features such as heavy disc-shaped stone doors with a small hole in the centre that rolled across entrances and passages during raids. Because these heavy doors only opened and closed from the inside, it was impossible for invaders to breach the city through them. Each level connect to the next level by a hallway with a similar stone door. Additionally, narrow passages forced people to travel in single file, a deterrent against incoming soldiers.

Derinkuyu had a smart water containment system with wells that did not go to the surface, nor did they link together, which protected inhabitants from invaders who planned to poison the water from outside. One of the main ventilation shafts also served as a large well.

Derinkuyu was once capable of housing as many as 20,000 residents for long periods of time, with 600 entrances and many miles of tunnels connecting it to other underground cities.

### **Kaymakli Underground City**

Located about eight miles away from Derinkuyu and connected by a tunnel is Kaymakli Underground City.

The ancient name of this city was Eneup and it likely that it was first built by the Phrygians in the 8<sup>th</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> centuries BCE. Like Derinkuyu, it was primarily used for defence against the same invaders and enemies over the millennia.

The houses in the village are constructed around nearly one hundred tunnels which are still used today as storage areas and cellars. A stable is located on the first floor as well as a church and living apartments. The second floor has church with a nave and two apses as well as a baptismal font and living spaces.

Storage, kitchens and wine/olive presses dominate the third floor. A large andesite rock with relief textures was used for col-forming copper. The 56 holes carved into the stone were created to put copper into each one in order to hammer the ore into place.

Like Derinkuyu, the city was greatly expanded and deepened in the Byzantine era by Greek-speaking Christians who were hiding from both Muslim and Mongol raids. As late as the early 20<sup>th</sup> century CE, Cappadocian Greeks were still using the cities to escape periodic waves of Ottoman persecution. The tunnels were finally abandoned after 1923 when the Christian inhabitants of Turkey were expelled in the population exchange between Greece and Turkey.

### **Ozkonak Underground City**

Ozkonak underground city was built into Mt Idis 14 kilometres (8.7 miles) from Avanos in Nevsehir Province, Central Anatolia.

The city was discovered in 1972 by a local farmer named Latif Acar who uncovered an underground room while trying to figure out where his water was going. Researchers who excavated it discovered a large subterranean city with ten floors at a depth of 40 metres (131 feet). Apparently, this city could house 60,000 people for up to three months.

Ozkonak has some unique features such as a pipe communication system reaching each of its levels and a piped ventilation system for every carved room. There were also defensive features such as holes above the tunnels used for dumping hot oil on any enemy who could breach the system.

The city had a water will, winery, ventilation system and moving stone doors.

### **Belegasi Underground City**

Belegasi underground city was only recently discovered in Kayseri region by local residents and shepherds. Researchers are examining the site in collaboration with the Kayseri Metropolitan Municipality, Obruk Cave Research Staff and the Foundation for the Protection and Promotion of the Environment and Cultural Heritage (CEKUL) groups which began a project in 2014 to search for and document forgotten underground settlements in Cappadocia.

Unlike other underground cities, Belagasi was built horizontally rather than vertically. It has more than 50 chambers and measures 80 metres (262 feet) long. On the surface around the subterranean city, ruins of a church and other structures first alerted researchers to the possibility of underground structures.

### **Melikgazi Underground City**

Melikgazi Underground City in Kayseri was discovered in 2014 when a resident of Melikgazi was cleaning out his basement for renovation.

According to Nuvit Bayar, the Project Director of Guntas, the company responsible for the renovation:

“We thought that there might be storage space for food or a stable beneath the house. But had no idea that it was part of an underground city. The underground city that we found by accident during restoration begins a few metres under the ground and has two levels. There are parts resembling underground remains of settlements in Cappadocia. Wonderful structures emerged everywhere, like an iron workshop and a loft.”

The Kayseri Governor’s Office and the Culture and Tourism Directorate were notified and gave permission for excavations to continue in order to completely excavate the underground city. They also contributed US\$420,000 towards the excavation.

More than a hundred truckloads of soil have been removed from the underground structure, revealing multiple rooms across several levels.

### **Nevsehir Underground City**

In December 2014, another subterranean city was discovered beneath Nevsehir Fortress and the surrounding area during an urban transformation project carried out by Turkey’s Housing Development Administration.

This city is unique in numerous ways. Consisting of seven kilometres (4.3 miles) of tunnels, hidden churches and escape galleries, it is the first known underground city in which people lived permanently.

According to the Hurriyet Daily News:

“Hasan Unver, the mayor of Nevsehir, where Cappadocia is located, said the new findings at the ancient underground city in the province would rewrite history.

“When the works are finalised the history of Cappadocia will be rewritten,’ said Unver, adding the findings found during the excavations dated back as far as the Hittite era.

“We have reached significant discoveries; new long tunnels and spaces where people lived all together. Places where linseed oil was produced, chapels and tunnels combining various living spaces in the underground city were found,’ said Unver.”

The excavations are under guidance of archaeologist Semih Istanbuluoglu who believes the city to be over 5,000 years old, making it pre-Hittite. It is also possibly the largest subterranean settlement in the world with 11 neighbourhoods clustered honeycomb style around the Nevsehir Fortress. High tech geo-radar equipment is now being used to map the exact locations of passageways and chambers, in order to accurately excavate the dwellings.

A church, possibly dating from the 5<sup>th</sup> century CE, was uncovered from the site in 2016 with unique frescoes of Jesus rising up into the sky and bad souls being killed. The church was in poor condition and filled with dirt, and some frescoes had detached from the walls, while others were intact.

Other underground cities are much smaller and more like large chambers with interconnected rooms. Compared to the more famous cities of Derinkuyu or Kaymakli, they are not so well known or documented. However, they have been studied by the OBRUK Cave Research Group, ITU (Istanbul Technical University) and EURASIA Earth Sciences Institute.

The following information is from a conference paper, “Underground Cities of Kayseri, Turkey”, by Ali Yamac of OBRUK and Ezgi Tok and Betul Filikci, both of Istanbul Technical University; written in March 2015.

“Catalin Underground City in Gesa province was built as three floors in a narrow area with 18 rooms built into the rock with dimensions of 621m<sup>2</sup> (6,684 feet<sup>2</sup>). A rolling millstone closes the tunnel on the west side of the second chamber at the entrance.

“Penzikli Underground City is located near Catalin and has as many as 22 rooms which were built facing tow separate, large chambers. It was built as a narrow entrance which opens up to a larger space. Total area of this maze-like structure is 725m<sup>2</sup> (7,803feet<sup>2</sup>).

“Ali Saip Pasha is small and features two ‘residential areas’ with a tunnel of 916 metres (.6 mile).

“Doanli Underground City is named after 40 steps that were carved into rocks at the main entrance of the city of Kayseri. It has a large chamber that is supported by 15 pillars and has a cistern. The total area of the chamber is 510m<sup>2</sup> (5,490 ft<sup>2</sup>) and is flanked by two tunnels, one which is 74 metres (243 feet) long and clogged. The southern chamber features a small church.

“Underground City of Guzeloğ has two tunnels leading into the city. One tunnel is protected by a large rolling stone, similar to the ones found in other underground cities. Seven rooms have been found in the upper storey of the city, five of which were probably used for storage.

“Swallow Valley Underground City is a five-storey settlement with a total length of 505m (1,657 ft) and 56 m (184 ft) deep. Its main features are five floors vertically carved on a rock wall, with its opening towards the valley. This structure has no defensive doors, with an entrance reached through a very steep slope. With a very large public chamber on first storey and six different rooms in the chamber of the second storey, it is different from many rock settlements in Kayseri.

“Otedere Valley Underground City 1 has many windowed chambers which look over the valley. Along with tunnels and millstone doors, high stone walls on the slope indicate that the structure was transformed into a cliff dwelling from an underground settlement. There are two tunnels from the entrance room and a large subterranean chamber supported by pillars.

“Otedere Valley Underground City 2 is reached by a tunnel located at the wall of a rock dwelling house. At the end of the tunnel is a chamber with a millstone door beyond which there are carved stairs. On the lower level 6m (20 ft) below the entrance are three tunnels leading to three chambers. Some of the tunnels and chambers are full of debris.”

The conference paper concluded:

“In addition to the 11 underground cities, we have been informed that there are at least 19 more in the province. We hope that within this project, at least some of those historical heritages will be cleaned, excavated and protected.”

Other cities the group has begun to explore are Kirkgoz Underground City and St Mercurius Underground City with a church in the Aksaray district.

St Mercurius is a large underground city which was designed for big groups to live together for extended periods. It has a church with a rock-carved mass graveyard, granaries, air-conditioning, toilet system and water well. A sliding millstone door system exists in each room in all corridors. St Mercurius, as well as Kikgoz have been opened to tourism.

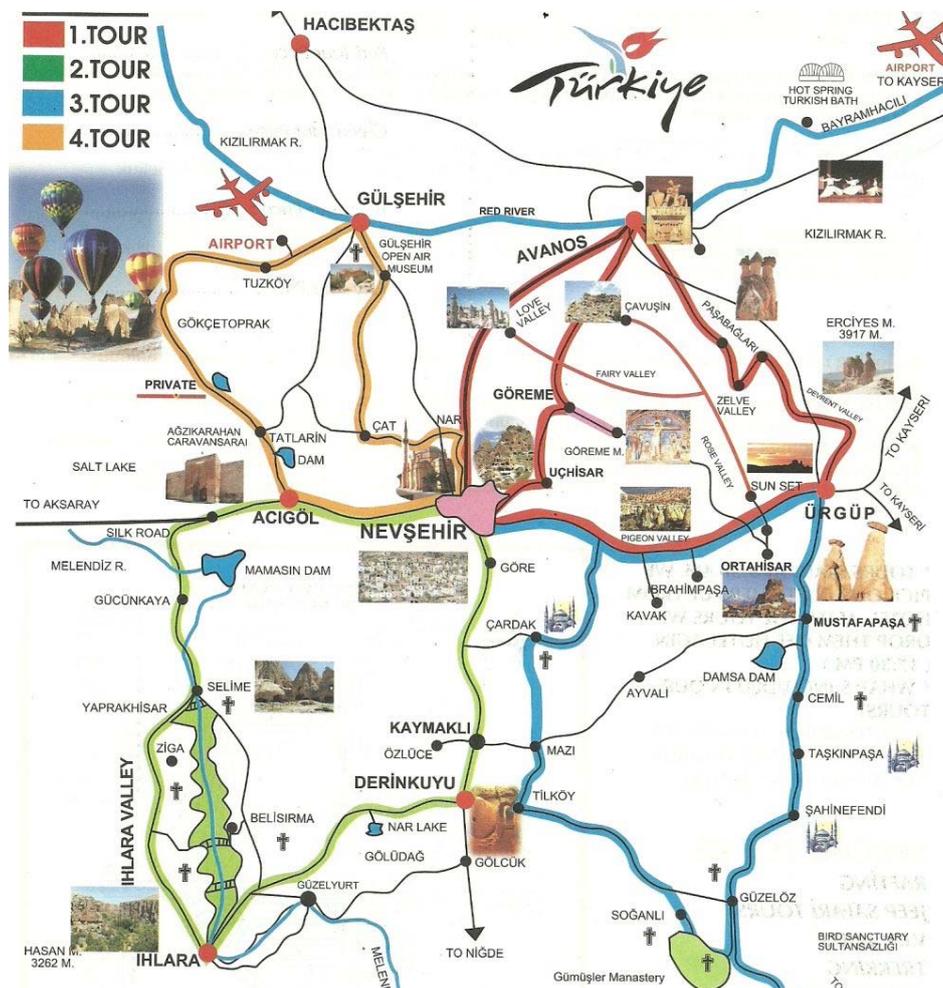
### **Trabzon Province Underground City**

In January 2018, archaeologists announced the discovery of a 4,000-year-old underground city with strong links to Byzantine dynasty. It was discovered during urban transformation works in Turkey’s norther Trabzon province.

The city was believed to belong to the Komnenian Dynasty, from 1081 to 1185 during the Byzantine Empire.

Furthermore, a newly discovered Greek chapel with beautiful religious paintings has been discovered in a tunnel leading from the historic Sumela monastery in Trabzon.

Gir-Gor is an underground city 80 kilometres (50 miles) from Derinkuyu which was recently rediscovered after village houses suffered flooding. Municipal crews reopened a tunnel which had been closed for safety reasons decades ago and long forgotten by the locals. Inside the tunnel, they found an underground city partially covered in clear water with three floors stretching for five kilometres (three miles). It was comprised of homes, tunnels and places of worship and covered some 1.2 square kilometres (.46 square miles). Apparently the city was rediscovered 25 years ago when a child fell inside the tunnel, but its entrances were covered with soil to prevent further accidents.



Karen Mutton is a retired ancient history teacher and author. Her latest book, “Subterranean Realms: A Survey of Underground and Rock-cut Structures in Ancient and Medieval Times” is available as an ebook via [kazganymede@yahoo.com.au](mailto:kazganymede@yahoo.com.au) for US\$13.95

# Ancient underground city in Cappadocia will 'rewrite history'

<http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/ancient-underground-city-in-cappadocia-will-rewrite-history-91554>

NEVŞEHİR - Anadolu Agency



AA Photos

An underground city found in Turkey's touristic Cappadocia will "rewrite the history of the city," according to the mayor in the Central Anatolian Nevşehir province, adding they had discovered people had permanently lived in the underground city, unlike other cities which were mostly carved into rocks for temporary protection.

Hasan Ünver, the mayor of Nevşehir, where Cappadocia is located, said the new findings at the ancient underground city in the province would rewrite history.

"When the works are finalized the history of Cappadocia will be rewritten," said Ünver, adding the findings found during the excavations dated back as the Hittite era.

"We have reached significant discoveries; new long tunnels and spaces where people lived all together. Places where linseed oil was produced, chapels and tunnels combining various living spaces in the underground city were found," said Ünver.



The underground city was discovered by a Turkish Housing Development Administration (TOKİ) urban transformation project. Some 1,500 buildings located in and around the Nevşehir fortress were demolished, and the underground city was discovered when the earthmoving to construct new buildings began.

Stating that the unearthed tunnels and spaces were different than other underground cities across the world, Ünver said ancient people had lived there permanently.

“This is a real underground city where they resided permanently and not like other underground cities where they had lived temporarily,” said Ünver. “We are definite that we will also reach very important information and discoveries regarding world history.”

The mayor said they planned for the opening of the first part of the underground city excavations in 2017, adding the digging was conducted under the guidance of archaeologist Semih İstanbulluoğlu and the control of the Culture and Tourism Ministry.

İstanbulluoğlu said they predicted the history of the underground city to date back to even before the Hittites, adding this information would be confirmed after the finalization of the excavation’s laboratory work.

He added they had found tobacco pipe-like objects made from meerschaum, adding they could not yet date them with certainty.

“These can give clear information about the history of mankind,” İstanbulluoğlu said.

Ünver said once the news hit that an underground city was discovered in Nevşehir, many researchers from various countries had come and visited the region.



UNESCO representative Ashish Kothari had examined the underground city in June and was informed about the current restoration work in the region, where he took photos of historical artifacts unearthed during the excavation.

The area around the underground city in Nevşehir is best known world-wide for its “Fairy Chimney” rock formations, which are already on the UNESCO world heritage list.

Özcan Çakır, an associate professor at the geophysics engineering department of the 18 March University and involved in the excavations of the underground city, had said during the initial finding of the city in late 2014 they believed the tunnels were used to carry agricultural products.

“We believe that people, who were engaged in agriculture, were using the tunnels to carry agricultural products to the city. We also estimate that one of the tunnels passes under Nevşehir and reaches a faraway water source,” said Çakır.

## Unique Underground City Adds New Direction to the Subterranean World of Ancient Turkey

<https://www.ancient-origins.net/news-history-archaeology/unique-underground-city-adds-new-direction-subterranean-world-ancient-021418>

A unique ancient underground city has been brought to light in the Kayseri province of Turkey. Thanks to local residents and shepherds, 52 chambers have been added to the inventory of the country's fascinating underground sites.

[Daily Sabah](#) reports that researchers are examining the recently discovered site in collaboration with the Kayseri Metropolitan Municipality, Obruk Cave Research Staff, and the Foundation for the Protection and Promotion of the Environment and Cultural Heritage (ÇEKÜL). This is one of the latest discoveries since they began a project in 2014 to search for and document forgotten underground settlements in the region.



*Openings to Belağası Underground City in Gesi district, Kayseri Province, Turkey. ([Daily Sabah](#))*

A church and some other structures were also found on the surface around the subterranean city. This is interesting because the Obruk Cave Research staff [has suggested](#) “that there are many underground cities that were built by Christian peoples especially between 6th and 11th centuries.”

- [First Known Ancient Underground City in Turkey used for Permanent Living Will Rewrite History](#)
- [Massive 5,000-year-old underground city uncovered in Cappadocia, Turkey](#)

## A Special Discovery

Called Belağası Underground City, the site measures 80 meters (262 ft) long. There are two elements that set this ancient city apart from other famous subterranean locations in Anatolia. First, Çekül Kayseri Representative Dr. Osman Özsoy [explained](#) that Belağası was built in a horizontal manner, unlike the vertical fashion that is found in Cappadocia. This way of building is more common to the underground cities in Kayseri province.

The second aspect that makes Belağası intriguing for researchers is that it may be the first of its kind in Turkey to have more than 50 chambers. Özsoy told Daily Sabah that the site probably expanded as demand increased amongst ancient inhabitants.



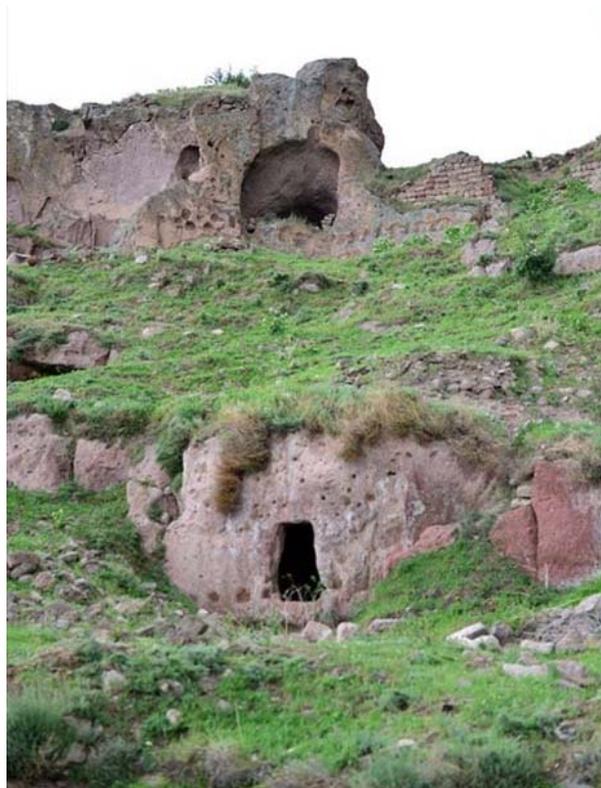
*One of the chambers in Belağası Underground City. ( [CNNTURK](#) )*

Why would there have been a desire to live in an underground settlement?

Although no specifics have been provided on exactly who built Belağası Underground City, or the event(s) which may have led to it, underground cities were usually built for protection from attacks, or the elements, or for sacred purposes. Many of the subterranean cities around the world were not just simple caves either; they had drainage systems, space for food storage, housing, and maybe even transportation and shops.

The Obruk Cave Research staff told [AGOS](#) about the general purpose for underground cities in Anatolia:

*“Underground cities that had been built during Byzantine period are rare. In the process of Sassanian invasions started in 6th century, Arab invasions in 7th and 8th centuries and Seljuks' arrival to Anatolia, many underground cities had been built. It means that people built underground cities in Anatolia between 6th and 11th centuries in order to protect themselves in the face of plunders and great wars. They are not suitable for spending months. People had been hiding in those underground cities when there was an invasion and then they got out. Those cities had problems in ventilation and supplying food. People were able to spend at most 2 weeks there. Local Christians in Anatolia used those underground cities as shelter for almost 500 years.”*



*Entrances to Belağası Underground City and structures aboveground nearby. ([NTV](#))*

The discovery of Belağası Underground City was not completely unexpected. As the Obruk Cave Research staff told AGOS in a 2016 interview

*“In Kayseri, there is abundance of underground cities. Each time we are in Kayseri, we explore at least 5 underground cities. We worked in 30 underground cities in Kayseri so far. There are more than 50 caves that we will work in.”*

Another expansive underground city was found in Kayseri in 2014. [April Holloway reported](#) that the subterranean city of at least 4,000 square meters (43055.64 sq. ft.) was found by a home owner performing restoration work on his house in the Melikgazi district of Kayseri. More than a hundred truck-loads of soil were removed from the underground structure, revealing multiple rooms, including an iron workshop and a loft, across several levels.

- [The Underground City of Naours: A Subterranean Settlement Complete with Bakeries and Chapels](#)
- [Underground cities and networks around the World – Myths and Reality \(Part 1\)](#)

But the most famous examples of underground cities in Turkey are undoubtedly the Cappadocian sites of Kaymaklı and Derinkuyu. [Caleb Strom has provided](#) a concise explanation of Derinkuyu:

*“The first levels of Derinkuyu were built possibly around 1200 BC during an uncertain time of conflict and invasion. The people delved into the volcanic rock to make a sanctuary to keep themselves safe. The earliest inhabitants may have been Hittites escaping invaders during the waning days of the declining Hittite Empire. Later it was occupied by Christians during the Byzantine Era, possibly to escape invading Muslim armies. By the time it was abandoned, it was an 18-story complex capable of holding 20,000 people. There were ventilation shafts, granaries, chapels, chimneys, winepresses, and many of the features of an ancient city. Despite its grandeur, after it was abandoned, it was forgotten and not rediscovered until the 1960s.”*



*An artistic reconstruction of the underground city of Derinkuyu. ( [CC BY SA 4.0](#) )*

Like it's more well-known counterparts, it is expected that Belağası Underground City will be open for tourism.

*Top Image: A chamber in Belağası Underground City in Gesi district, Kayseri Province, Turkey. Source: [NTV](#) By [Alicia McDermott](#)*

## The ancient underground city discovered beneath a house in Anatolia

<https://www.ancient-origins.net/news-history-archaeology/home-owner-discovers-ancient-underground-city-anatolia-102001>

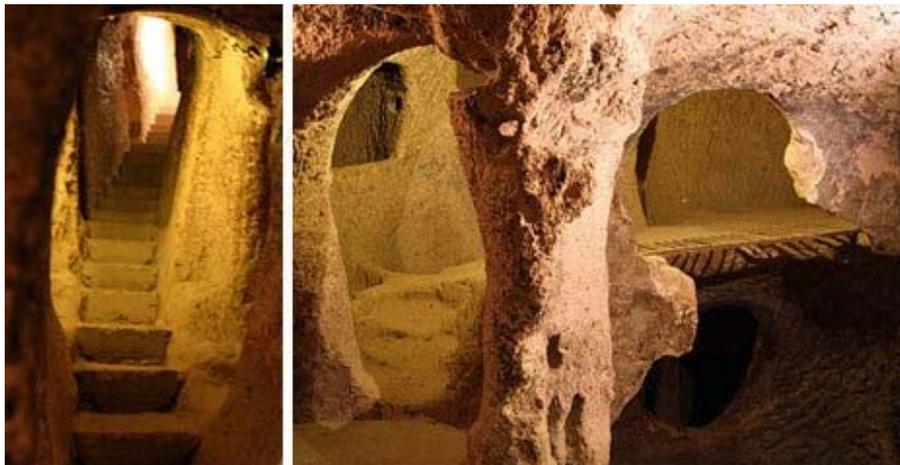
25 August, 2014 [aprilholloway](#)

In 2014, a home owner living in the Melikgazi district of Kayseri province in Anatolia made a surprising discovery while clearing out an area under his house – a subterranean city, of which 4,000 square metres have been excavated so far, according to a report in [Hurriyet Daily News](#). The region of Anatolia in Turkey is famous for its underground cities, particularly in the region of [Cappadocia](#) where more than 40 complete underground cities and 200 underground villages and tunnel towns complete with hidden passages, secret rooms, and ancient temples have been found. Anatolia, also known as Asia Minor, Asian Turkey, the Anatolian peninsula or the Anatolian plateau, is a large peninsula in West Asia and the westernmost protrusion of the Asian continent. It makes up the majority of modern-day Turkey.

Mustafa Bozdemir, 50, was bequeathed a house in Melikgazi five years ago and decided to carry out restoration work. He explained that what he thought was a single-storey house, turned out to have multiple levels of ancient rooms beneath it. “We also found some remains during the cleaning works such as human bones. They were examined by a team from Erciyes University,” said Bozdemir.

Nuvit Bayar, the Project Director of Guntas, the company responsible for the restoration, described the discovery to [Zaman Online](#) :

"We thought that there might be storage space for food or a stable beneath the house. But had no idea that it was part of an underground city. The underground city that we found by accident during restoration begins a few meters under the ground and has two levels. There are parts resembling underground remains of settlements in Cappadocia. Wonderful structures emerged everywhere, like an iron workshop and a loft.



The newly-discovered underground structure in Melikgazi has been compared to Cappadocia (pictured) where hundreds of subterranean structures have been found. Photo credit:

Wikimedia.

Bozdemir immediately notified the Kayseri Governor's Office and the Culture and Tourism Directorate, who examined the site and gave permission to continue excavations to completely unearth the underground city. They have also contributed the equivalent of \$420,000 towards the restoration.

"We think that the underground city was active in the Roman, Byzantine and Seljuk eras and other stone buildings there were built in the Ottoman and Republican periods," the local mayor Mehmet Osmanbasoglu told [Zaman Online](#).

More than a hundred truck-loads of soil were removed from the underground structure, revealing multiple rooms across several levels. It is believed that around eighty percent of the subterranean city has been uncovered so far. Osmanbasoglu said he hopes excavations will find the underground city is linked with the neighbouring towns of Turan, Gesi and Zincidere.

The region of Anatolia in Turkey is known to have the most spectacular underground networks in the world. One of the most magnificent subterranean cities is [Derinkuyu](#), which is eleven levels deep, has 600 entrances, consists of many miles of tunnels connecting it to other underground cities, and can accommodate thousands of people. It is truly an underground city, with areas for sleeping, stables for livestock, wells, water tanks, pits for cooking, ventilation shafts, communal rooms, bathrooms and tombs.



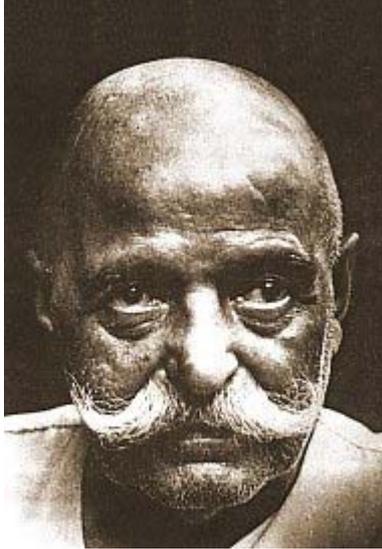
*A visual depiction of Derinkuyu in Anatolia, Turkey. Photo credit: Wikimedia*

While the latest discovery in Melikgazi is unlikely to be as spectacular as Derinkuyu, it is nevertheless an extremely significant finding, demonstrating that the underground world of Anatolia has not yet given up all its secrets.

*Featured image: A section of the underground city found under a home in Melikgazi district, Anatolia. Credit: DHA photo      By [April Holloway](#)*

## Ani's underground passages /The Aisors' esoteric school

<https://parisbo.livejournal.com/66937.html>



### **G.I. Gurdjieff :**

**Living among the ruins of this city and spending our days reading and studying, we sometimes, for a rest, made excavations in the hope of finding something, as there are many underground passages in the ruins of Ani.**

Once, Pogossian and I, while digging in one of these underground passages, noticed a place where the consistency of the ground had changed, and on digging further we discovered a new passage, which turned out to be a narrow one, blocked at the end with fallen stones. We cleared the stones away and before us appeared a small room with arches crumbling with age. Everything indicated that it had been a monastic cell. There was nothing left in this cell but broken pottery and pieces of rotten wood, doubtless the remains of

furniture; but in a kind of niche in the corner lay a pile of parchments.

Some of the parchments were turning to dust, others were more or less preserved. With the utmost care we took them to our hut, and tried to decipher them. They were written in a language which appeared to be Armenian but was unknown to us. I knew Armenian well, to say nothing of Pogossian; nevertheless we could not understand any of this writing, as it was a very ancient Armenian, very different from that of today.

This discovery interested us so much that we left everything else and returned that same day to Alexandropol, where we spent many days and nights trying to decipher at least a few words. Finally, after a great deal of difficulty and much questioning of experts, it became clear that these parchments were simply letters written by one monk to another monk - a certain Father Arem.

We were especially interested in one letter in which the writer referred to information he had received concerning certain mysteries. This parchment, however, was one of those which had been most damaged by time, and there were a number of words that we could only guess at but we nevertheless succeeded in reconstructing the letter.

What interested us most was not the beginning but the end of this letter. It began with a long greeting, and went on about the ordinary small happenings in the life of a certain monastery where, as could be inferred, this Father Arem had formerly lived. Towards the end one passage particularly attracted our attention. It said:

"Our worthy Father Telvant has at last succeeded in learning the truth about the Sarmoung Brotherhood. Their organisation actually did exist near the town of Siranoush, and fifty years ago, soon after the migration of peoples, they also migrated and settled in the valley of Izrumin, three days journey from Nivssi...." Then the letter went on about other matters.

What struck us most was the word "Sarmoung", which we had come across several times in the book called "Merkhavat". This word is the name of a famous esoteric school which, according to tradition, was founded in Babylon as far back as 2500 BC, and which was known to have existed somewhere in Mesopotamia up to the sixth or seventh century AD; but about its further existence one could not obtain anywhere the least information.

This school was said to have possessed great knowledge, containing the key to many secret mysteries

Many times had Pogossian and I talked of this school and dreamed of finding out something authentic about it, and now suddenly we found it mentioned in this parchment! We were greatly excited.

But apart from its name being mentioned, we discovered nothing else from this letter. We knew no more than before when and how this school arose, where it had existed or whether it might even still exist.

After several days of laborious research, we were able to establish only the following: About the sixth or seventh century the descendants of the Assyrians, the Aisors, were driven by the Byzantines out of Mesopotamia into Persia, and probably it was in this period that these letters were written.

And when we were able to verify that the present city of Mosul, the former capital of the country of Nievi, had once been called Nivssi, the city mentioned in the parchment, and that at the present time the population round about this city consisted chiefly of Aisors, we concluded that in all probability the letter referred precisely to these Aisors.

If such a school had really existed and had moved somewhere during that period, then it could only have been an Aisorian school, and if it should still exist, then it must be among the Aisors and, taking into consideration the indicated three days' journey from Mosul, it must now be situated somewhere between Urmia and Kurdistan, and it should not be too difficult to find out where it was. We therefore decided to go there and try at any cost to find out where the school was situated and then enter it.

or <http://www.virtualani.org/accounts/gurdjieff.htm>



<https://watchers.news/2019/02/07/earth-catastrophe-cycle-dig-in/>

