

Visiting Hours

April 1-October 1

Opening Time: 08:00
Closing Time: 18:45
Ticket Office Closing Time: 16:45

October 1-April 1

Opening Time: 08:30
Closing Time: 17:30
Ticket Office Closing Time: 17:00

Open everyday.

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ASPENDOS ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE

THE MAGNIFICENT CITY OF THE ROMAN EMPIRE

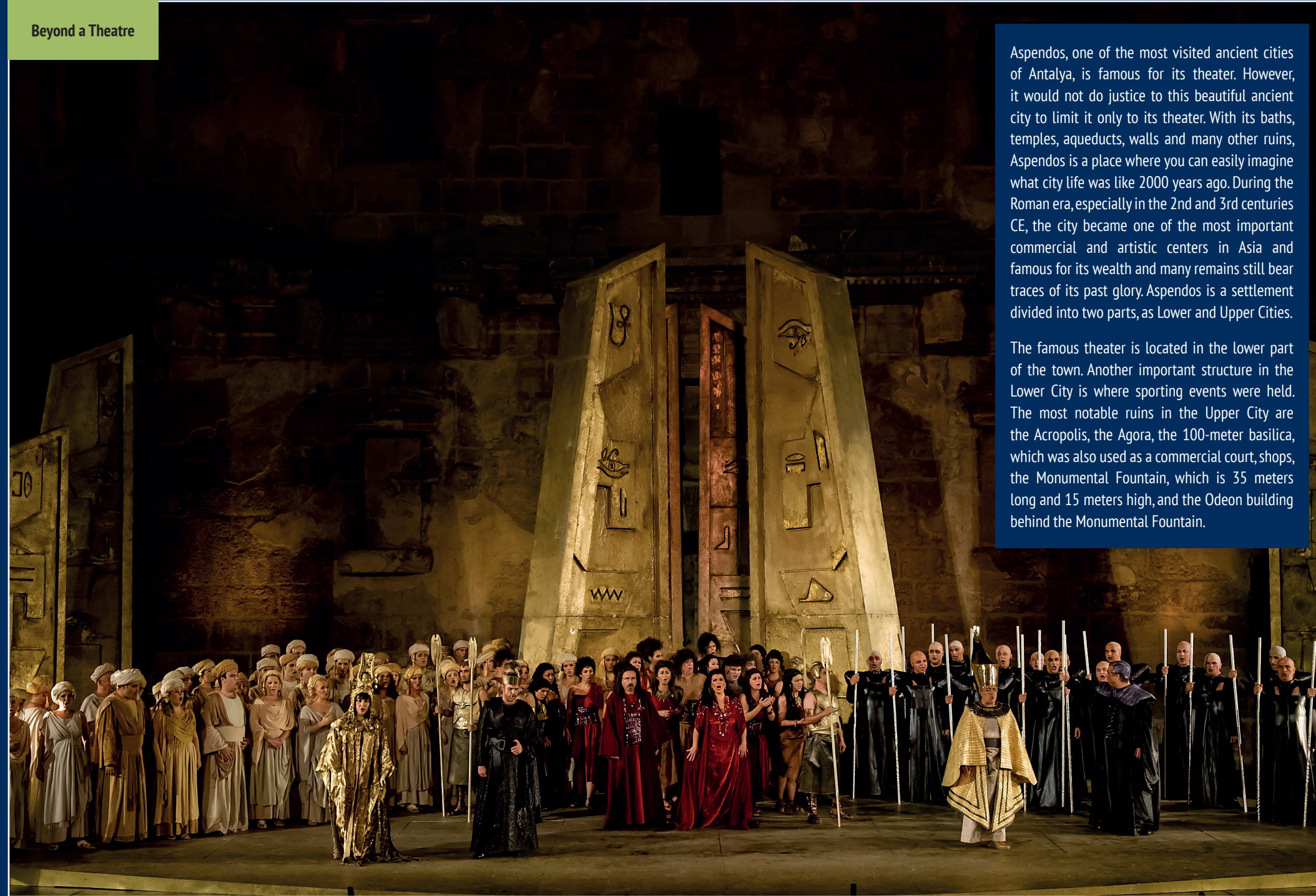
The Best Preserved Roman Theatre in Türkiye



Türkiye's tourism capital, Antalya, is known not only for its natural beauty and gorgeous beaches, but also for its ancient cities. The most famous of these ancient cities, which spread all over the Antalya, is Aspendos. The main reason for this popularity is its theatre, whose fame surpasses that of the city itself. When one speaks of Aspendos, the theatre is the first thing that comes to mind.

As one of the best preserved Roman theatres in Türkiye and in the world, Aspendos Theatre still hosts concerts and performances thanks to its perfect acoustics, which is one of the reasons for its popularity. Another important aspect of Aspendos, where the "Opera and Ballet Festival" is held every summer, is that Türkiye's first theatre festival was held here in 1959. One of the reasons why the 15,000-seat theatre, which according to inscriptions was built by an architect named Zenon between the years 138 and 164, is still in such good condition today is because it was used as a palace during the Seljuk Period. The tiles that decorated some parts of the building during the Seljuk Period can be seen at the Antalya Ethnography Museum.

Beyond a Theatre



Aspendos, one of the most visited ancient cities of Antalya, is famous for its theater. However, it would not do justice to this beautiful ancient city to limit it only to its theater. With its baths, temples, aqueducts, walls and many other ruins, Aspendos is a place where you can easily imagine what city life was like 2000 years ago. During the Roman era, especially in the 2nd and 3rd centuries CE, the city became one of the most important commercial and artistic centers in Asia and famous for its wealth and many remains still bear traces of its past glory. Aspendos is a settlement divided into two parts, as Lower and Upper Cities.

The famous theater is located in the lower part of the town. Another important structure in the Lower City is where sporting events were held. The most notable ruins in the Upper City are the Acropolis, the Agora, the 100-meter basilica, which was also used as a commercial court, shops, the Monumental Fountain, which is 35 meters long and 15 meters high, and the Odeon building behind the Monumental Fountain.

Engineering Wonder: Aqueducts



One of the most magnificent structures of the ancient city of Aspendos is the Aqueduct, which can undoubtedly be called a marvel of engineering. One kilometer of it has been preserved until today, which is a rare case. It is considered an engineering marvel because of its complex but skillful construction, which supplies the Acropolis with water from the mountains to the northwest of the city.

The competition between the Aqueduct, which brings water from 25 km away and distributes it throughout the city via a system that reduces water pressure, and the Theater, another magnificent structure, is reflected in the legends. According to legend, the king of Aspendos announces that his daughter will marry whoever does the most useful work for the city. One of the brothers, hearing this and setting to work, built the aqueduct and the other the theater. The king chooses the aqueduct because it brings water to the city from distant lands. However, he does not neglect to visit the theater. The theater has acoustics that transmit sound to the farthest corners. Even the sound of a coin being tossed on the floor can be heard in the upper rows. The king, standing in the far corner of the stage, hears "Thou shalt give me thy daughter" when the architect whispers it. Even today, visitors argue over which of these two works, which attract more attention than the other ruins of the city of Aspendos, is more beautiful.