



Talas Municipality

**alı Dağı
(mount alı)
UNDERGROUND CITY
WITH CISTERN**



ALİ DAĞI (MONUT ALİ) UNDERGROUN CITY WITH CISTERN

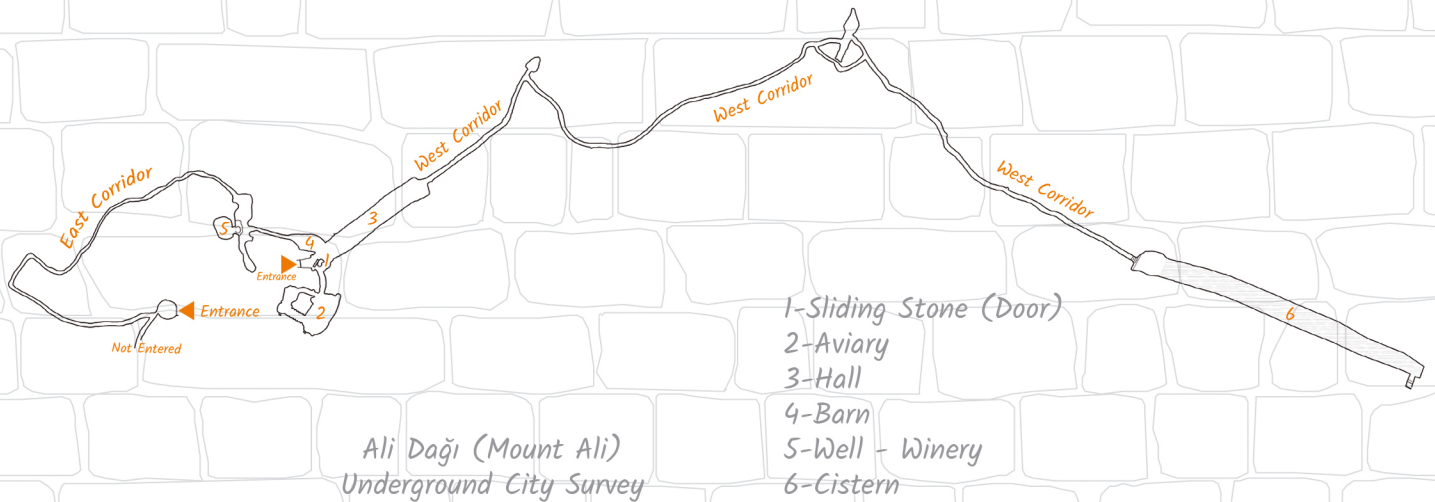
The settlement and life in the region known as Cappadocia in the Near Asian civilizations, which includes the volcanic region and its surroundings between Erciyes and Hasan Mountain, dates back to prehistoric times.

Talas, with its archaeological and historical urban values, is an old settlement and an important historical city where life continues on its premises. The settlement was established and developed in the arc surrounding the mountain, starting from the southeast of Mount Ali, towards the eastern and northern sides. The first settlement activities in the establishment process of the city can be observed in the first years of the milestone.



The underground cities, which are important examples of rock-carved spaces in Talas, were largely formed in the Early Byzantine Period. Early period communities in the process of spreading Christianity used these types of structures to protect against external threats and enemies, to continue their lives, to take shelter, to live and maintain their beliefs.

There are many rock-carved spaces in Talas that have been used for various functions in different eras and periods as a part of the culture of rock-carved spaces. The spaces in the Underground City with Cistern were also used for various functions in different periods. Its use as a barn, winery, aviary and cistern are just a few of these functions.



The spread of Christianity was tried to be prevented by the Romans who had pagan beliefs. But until this period, the clergy and Saints who had grown up and assimilated Christianity spread into Anatolia in various ways, and especially during these periods, Christianity spread significantly in Anatolia with the work of St. Basileus in the Cappadocia region.

Mount Ali Underground City with Cistern has been serving its visitors since 2010 with the cleaning works and landscaping carried out by Talas Municipality under the supervision of the museum.



Winery

It is one of the workshop sections of the underground city. There is a rock-carved vessel where the grapes are collected for crushing, and there is a well in this section where the must be obtained from the crushed grapes is collected.



Barn

Many of the rock-carved spaces were used for keeping and feeding animals. It is understood from the manger and animal tying elements that this area was used as a barn.



Sliding Stone (Door)

The stone door, which is shaped cylindrically and has a hole in the middle, was manufactured in the underground city. The sliding stone can be moved in its slot to open and close it with the help of support attached to the hole in the middle. It is not possible to open the sliding stone placed in the slot in any way from the outside. In addition, it is possible to respond to the dangers that may come from outside with various defense tools through the hole in the middle of the stone.



Aviary

Viticulture is one of the most important agricultural activities of Talas and its surroundings. Bird manure was used in vineyards and gardens to increase the yield and quality of the products produced in Talas. In the underground city, these spaces with rows of niches carved into the walls were used to collect bird manure.



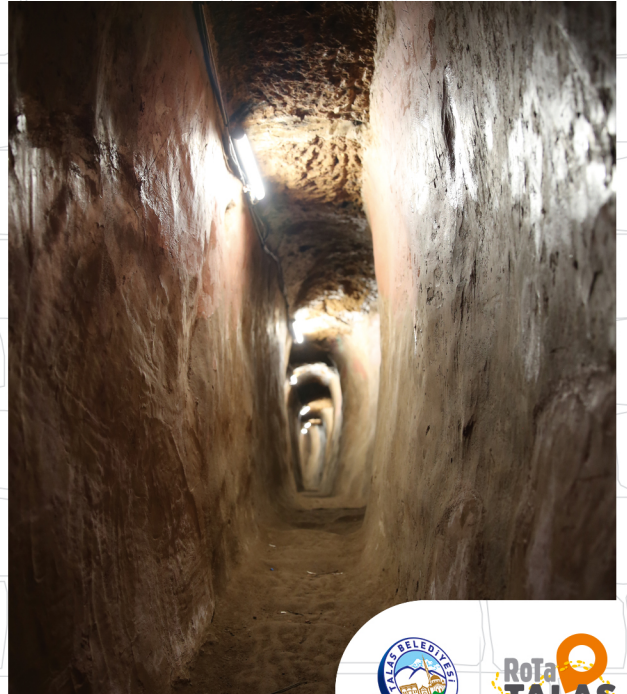
Cistern

It was used to collect, preserve and distribute the water carried to the underground city through channels. The cistern is approximately 45 meters long.



Tunnels

They are long connected roads built to connect places to each other. The walls expand upwards in a “V” shape. This makes it easier to walk in narrow corridors. There are many niches (cavities) in the walls of the tunnel. These niches were built to put lighting items and to help those walking in the tunnels find their way. The east gallery extending from the entrance door to the winery is 74 meters. The length of the western gallery extending to the cistern is 132 meters.





*Ali Dağı (Mount Ali) Underground City with Cistern
Harman Neighborhood Komando Avenue
Opposite Mount Ali Picnic Place Entrance*



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