



#### Visiting Hours

**April 1 - October 31**  
 Opening Time: 08:00  
 Closing Time: 19:00  
 Ticket Office Closing Time: 18:45

**October 31 - April 1**  
 Opening Time: 08:00  
 Closing Time: 17:00  
 Ticket Office Closing Time: 16:45

Open everyday.

**Address:** Narlıkuyu Mahallesi, Hasanaliler Mevkii, Silifke/Mersin

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# CENNET CEHENNEM

A VISUAL FEAST IN NATURAL AND HISTORICAL SENSE

GENERAL DIRECTORATE FOR  
CULTURAL ASSETS AND MUSEUMS





**Church of  
The Virgin  
Mary**

The church was built in the Cennet Sinkhole, right at the mouth of the cave. The four-line inscription on the entrance door indicates that this church was built in the name of Virgin Mary by a religious person named Paulus. The frescoes on the ceiling and interior walls of the apse show the Prophet Jesus and his apostles. The church is dated to around the 5th century CE.



**Temple  
of Zeus**

The Temple of Zeus is located at the southern end of the Cennet sinkhole. Its first phase was built in the Hellenistic Period. The names of 130 religious men who served in the Hellenistic and Roman Periods were engraved on the spolia material on the north wall of the temple. The temple was converted into a church during the Christian Period.

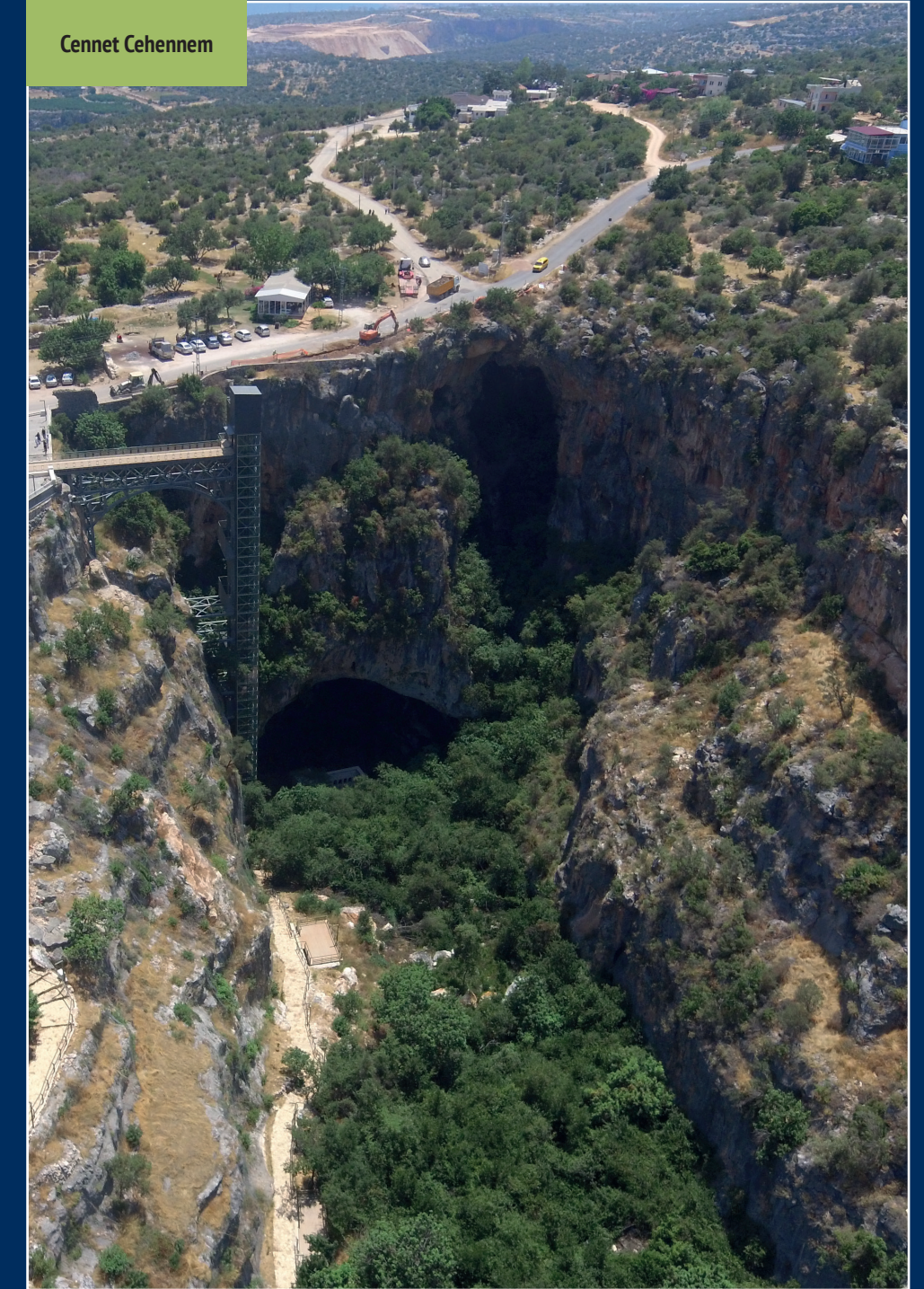


**Yazıt-Kitabe**

There is a relief inscription on a niche on the bedrock surface, approximately 20 m east of the Church of the Virgin Mary, in the Cennet Sinkhole. The inscription consists of 4 lines and is generally in good condition. It was dated to 1-2 centuries during the rescue excavation conducted by the Silifke Museum Directorate.

Eupaphios invokes Pan and Hermes before entering the  
cave ēgkesi kał drumo>w #dÉ ělseyi prĭn muxÚn eĔĔĔn  
dĔmenai řn gaġhw b°nyesiñ eřn  
Ĕarġmoiw HxÆeiw ˘y' ĔA«ow ěfeng°si  
=eĔmasi feĔgei. Pçna kał ŃErmeġhn  
EĔpāfiw eřlasāmhn

Before I entered this sinkhole and brushwood and forest, before the dark flow of the Aaos river roaring in the land of the Arimoi had completely blocked my view, I begged the forgiveness of Eupaphios Pan and Hermes.



**Cennet Cehennem**

It is 25 km east of Silifke town center, 2 km northwest of Narlıkuyu port, 5 km northwest of Corycus. There are two wonderful natural sinkholes in this area, each of which is a rocky, wide and deep pit. These sinkholes have occurred as a result of the underground waters melting and discharging the lime layer for millennia.

**Cennet (Heaven) Sinkhole:** It was called Corycus Cave in Antiquity. The diameter of the elliptical opening is 250 m and 110 m and its depth is 70 m. At the southern end of the sinkhole, there is a large cave entrance with a length of 200 m and the deepest point of 135 m, and a small church at the mouth of this cave.

**Cehennem (Hell) Sinkhole:** It is located in the Narlıkuyu Neighborhood, in Hasanaliler District, 100 meters east of the Cennet Sinkhole. The diameter of its opening is 50 m and its deepest point is 128 m. It is not possible to descend into this pit, which is extremely steep. According to Greek mythology, Typhon, a hundred-headed, fire-breathing giant dragon, occasionally fights with Zeus, the god of gods. In one of these battles, he defeated Zeus and locked the god in this cave in Corycus (Kizkalesi), which was later called Cehennem (Hell). Hermes, another important name among the world of gods, rescued Zeus from this cave with Pan and this time Zeus pursued Typhon. When he saw Typhon, he threw Mount Etna on the giant dragon and imprisoned him in the depths of the earth. The story of Etna volcano on the island of Sicily, which was the most feared volcano of the Ancient Period and is still an active volcano today, is similar to this Mythology. It is believed that the sinkhole is named after this mythology.