

14th Annual Advisory Forum on the Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe **Cultural Programme in Cappadocia**

Wednesday, 22 October / Group 1 (11:00 - 12:30) Group 2 (12:30 - 14:00) Group 3 (14:00 - 15:30)





† ΕΓΓΕΝΗΜΗΤΟ
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ΟΥΜΗ ΠΕΡΙ ΠΑΤΗΡΕ
ΝΤΗΣ ΚΟΤΗ Α

Η ΟΝΑΣ
ΩΚΕΟΥ
ΧΟΥΤΥ
ΥΛΟΥ
ΜΟΥΕΗ
ΩΝΤΟΣ
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ΕΓΓΕΝΗΜΗΤΟ
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ΟΥΜΗ ΠΕΡΙ ΠΑΤΗΡΕ
ΝΤΗΣ ΚΟΤΗ Α

ΒΑΣΙΛΗΟΥ

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Göreme Open-Air Museum: A Cultural Landscape of Faith and Nature

Located in the heart of the Cappadocia region, the Göreme Open-Air Museum offers an exceptional example of a cultural landscape shaped by the interaction of nature and human creativity. Carved into soft volcanic tuff, this site hosts a remarkable concentration of rock-cut churches, chapels, monasteries, and dwellings, most of which date from the 10th to 12th centuries. Since its inscription as a UNESCO World Heritage site in 1985, Göreme has been recognized not only for its religious significance but also for the way it embodies the long-term relationship between communities and the unique environment they inhabited.

The museum reflects the practical and spiritual needs of early monastic communities who chose to live in seclusion while remaining closely connected to their natural surroundings. The architecture is entirely adapted to the topography, and the functional distribution of spaces—such as dining halls, storage areas, and sanctuaries—offers valuable insight into communal life in the region.

Of particular importance are the interior frescoes that adorn many of the churches. These paintings present a rich visual narrative of Eastern Roman (Byzantine) Christian iconography after the end of the iconoclastic period. They also provide a chronological and stylistic spectrum that contributes significantly to the study of medieval art history in Anatolia.

Beyond its religious aspects, the Göreme Open-Air Museum stands as a model of sustainable settlement and landscape integration. It highlights how architectural solutions can emerge organically from a region's geological features, offering practical and aesthetic coherence.

Today, Göreme continues to serve as a powerful educational and cultural reference point. Its preserved structures and artistic elements provide a multidisciplinary resource for understanding not only religious practices but also broader themes of adaptation, resilience, and cultural continuity in the face of natural and historical change.

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Cultural Routes
of the Council of Europe
Itinéraires culturels
du Conseil de l'Europe



REPUBLIC OF TÜRKİYE
MINISTRY OF CULTURE AND TOURISM



TÜRKİYE TOURISM
PROMOTION AND
DEVELOPMENT AGENCY



EUROPEAN
INSTITUTE
OF
CULTURAL
ROUTES

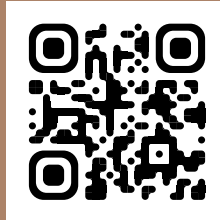
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