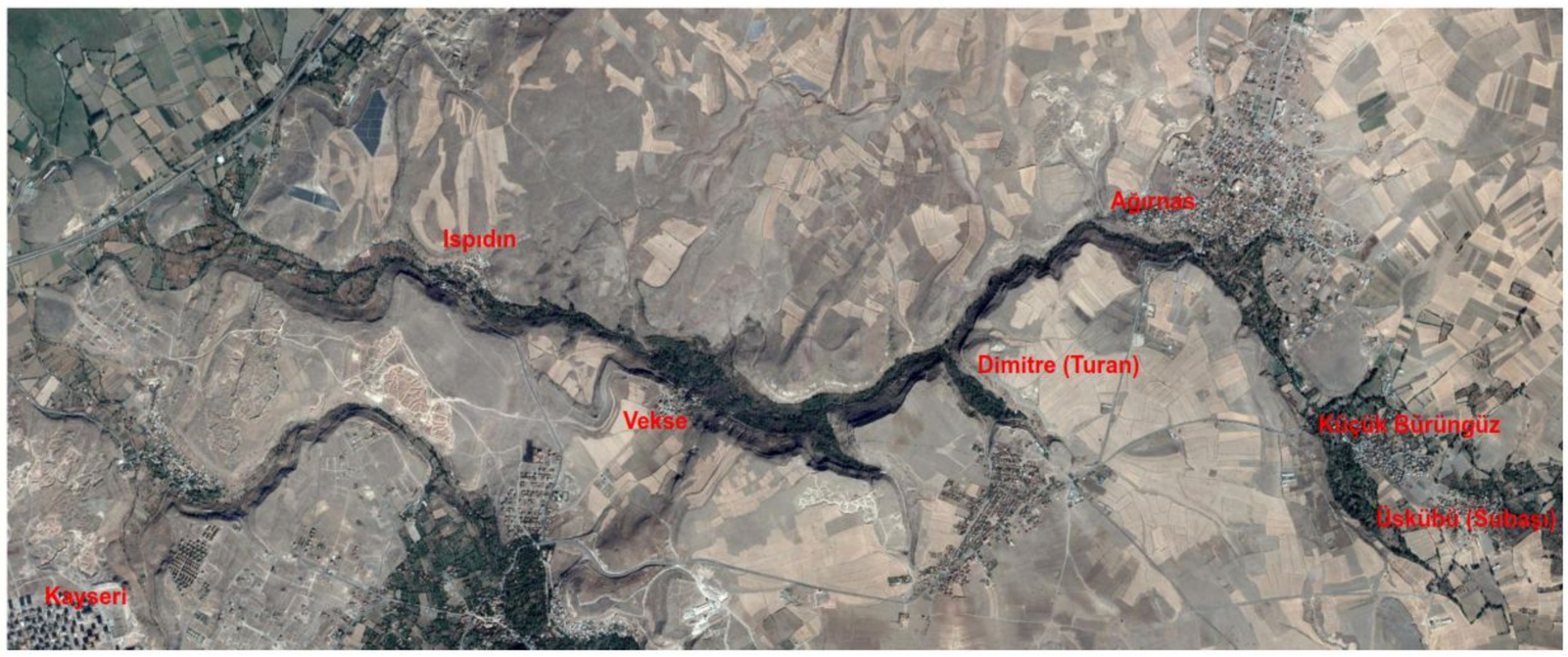
CLIFF DWELLINGS OF KORAMAZ VALLEY (KAYSERI)

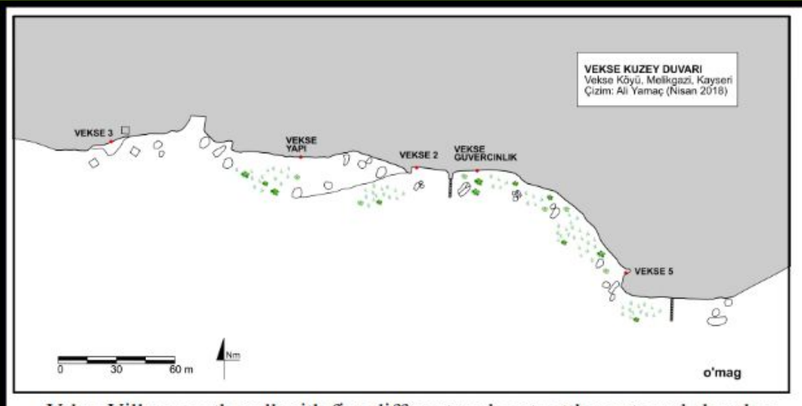
Ali Yamaç
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Abstract

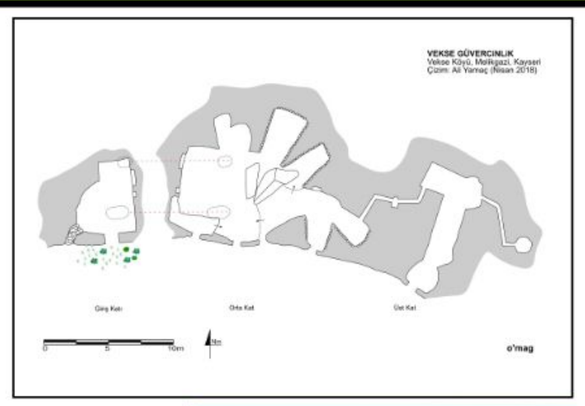
Kayseri (Caeserea), the capital of antique Cappadocia, and its vicinity have tuffaceous and ignimbrite rocks that can be as thick as hundreds of meters in some parts due to volcanic activities that took place millions of years ago. Those volcanic rocks, rising to the east of Kayseri city, are worn away by streams and form deep valleys parallel to each other on the northeast – southwest axis. As in other areas of Cappadocia, this soft and easy to dig volcanic rocks of those valleys were carved out by locals to be used for many different purposes such as houses, barns, dovecotes, churches and underground shelters for several centuries. From Kayseri to the east, the land swiftly gains altitude and seven kilometers to the east of Ağırnas reaches an altitude of 1907 meters at Mount Koramaz. Sides of all these peaks facing westward towards Kayseri were broken down with melted snow waters, and deep valleys were formed. While some of these surface waters continue to flow westward and erode their own valleys, others have submerged into the ground and have returned to the surface as springs in different spots. There are countless springs around the settlements in the valley. The waters of all these rivers and springs in the region gently join to each other and form the Koramaz Valley, which extends westward. Today, there are seven different settlements in this valley. These settlements, dating back hundreds or even thousands of years, include countless rock dwellings. Extending a total of 16 km, Koramaz Valley is among the longest valleys of not only Kayseri but also Cappadocia and with both its natural beauty, as well as its cultural and historical richness, it is one of Turkey's most special valleys. Within this poster presentation we are showing our research and findings in this valley.

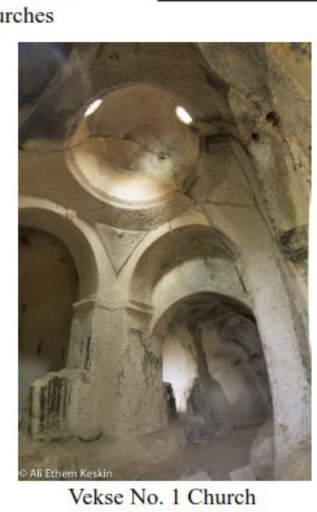


Koramaz Valley; from far east Üskübü (Subaşı) Village passing through K. Bürüngüz, Ağırnas, Dimitre (Turan), Vekse and reaching to Ispıdın Village. Rock-cut settlements mostly concentrated around Ağırnas, Turan and Vekse but can be found in and around other villages also.



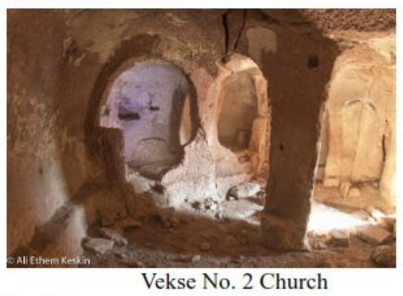
Vekse Village north wall with five different rock-cut settlements and churches





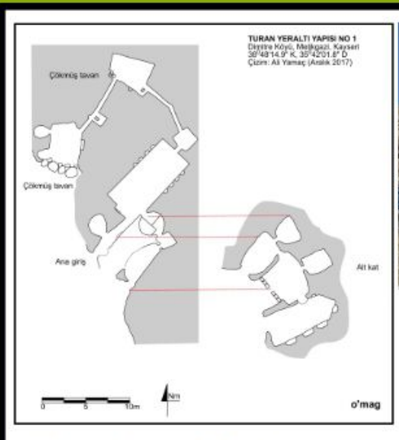
Vekse No. 1 Church



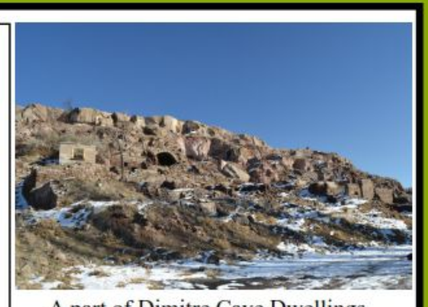


Vekse No. 2 Church

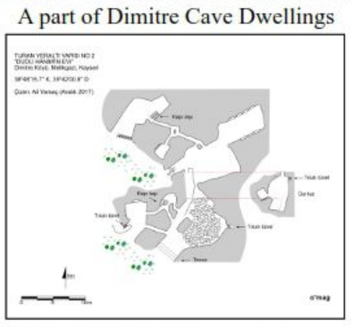
Vekse; We had surveyed a total of 26 different cliff dwellings, rock-cut churches in Koramaz Valley around this village



Dimitre Cave Dwelling No 1, plan above and photo bottom



A part of Dimitre Cave Dwellings

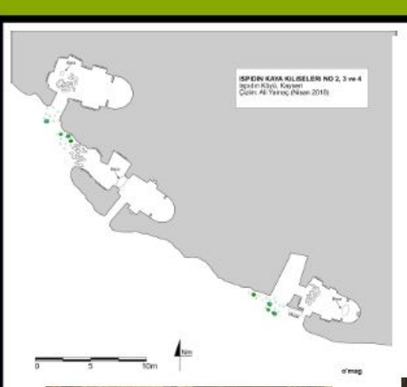


Dimitre Cave Dwelling No 2, plan above and photo bottom

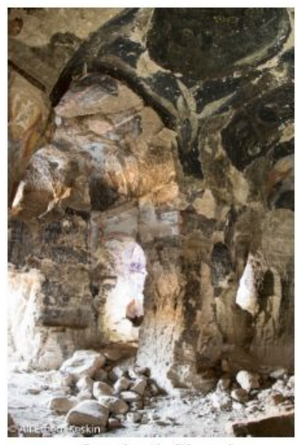




Dimitre (Turan); Koramaz Valley on the north of Dimitre Village has more than 200 cliff dwellings, mostly settlements, barns but also churches, dovecotes.



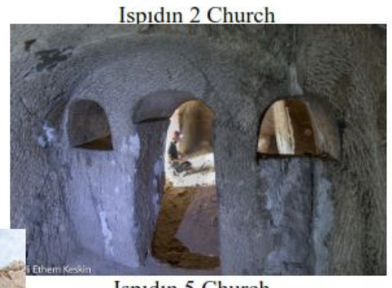




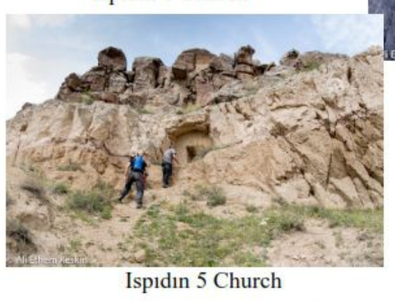


Ispıdın 2 Church

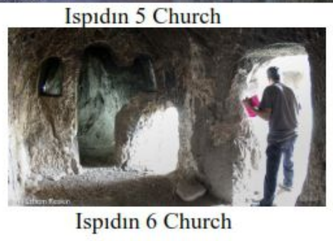
Ispıdın 1 Church



Ispıdın 5 Church

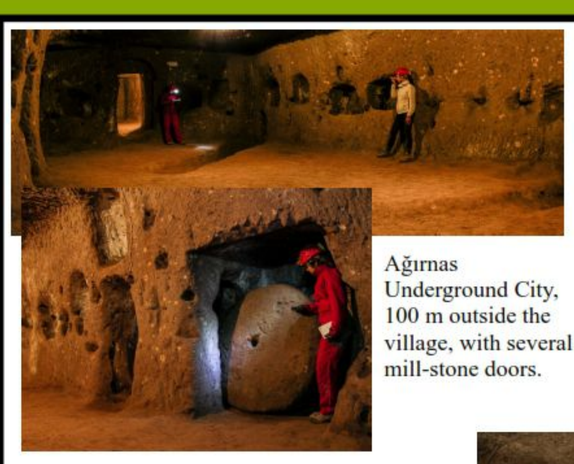


Ispıdın 5 Church

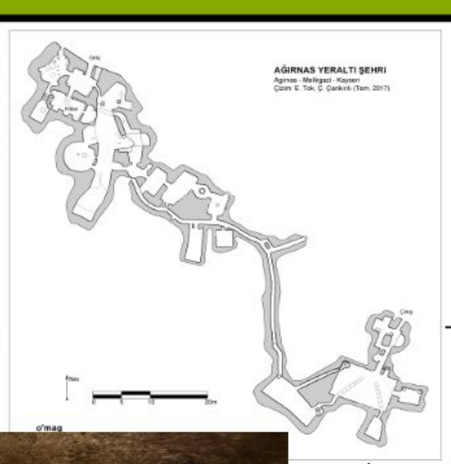


Ispıdın 6 Church

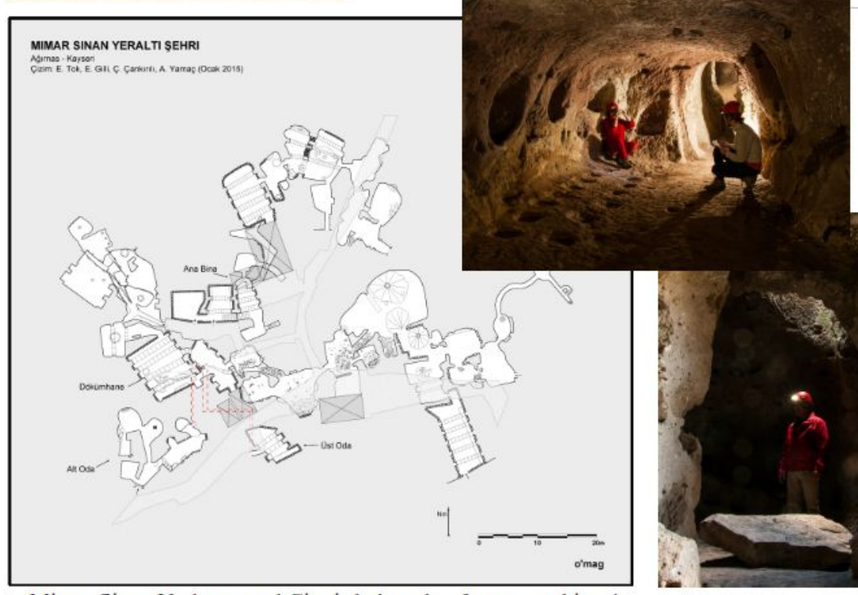
Ispıdın: 9 rock-cut churches had been surveyed in this village



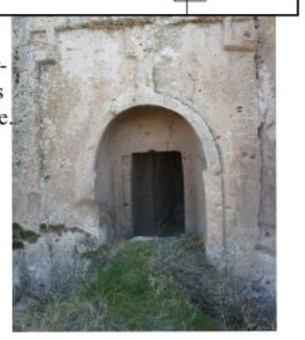
Ağırnas Underground City, 100 m outside the village, with several mill-stone doors.







Koramaz Valley near to Ağırnas has numerous cave dwellings as seen in the plan above. Some dwellings possibly digged as Roman and changed to another structure, as seen on the top and right side photos.



Mimar Sinan Underground City is below that famous architect's museum-house and has a total area of 1.850 m^2

Ağırnas: The whole village is a single underground city. Nowadays entrances to some of them are blocked so we surveyed three of them. Apart from those underground structures, rock-cut settlements mostly concantrated in the north walls of Koramaz Valley, which is 500 m far. A total of 154 cave dwellings had been surveyed there. Among them there were houses, barns, churches, dovecotes and Roman graves.