

Perga

Perga or **Perge** (Greek: Πέργη *Perge*, Turkish: *Perge*) was an ancient Greek city in Anatolia,^[1] once the capital of Pamphylia Secunda, now in Antalya Province on the southwestern Mediterranean coast of Turkey. Today, it is a large site of ancient ruins 15 kilometres (9.3 mi) east of Antalya on the coastal plain. An acropolis located there dates back to the Bronze Age.^[2]

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History

Perga was an ancient and important city of Pamphylia, between the rivers Catarrhactes and Cestrus (Turkish Aksu Çayı).^{[3][4]}

A treaty between the Hittite Great King Tudhaliya IV and his vassal, the king of Tarhuntassa, defined the latter's western border at the city "Parha" and the "Kastaraya River".^[5] The river is assumed to be the classical Cestrus. West of Parha were the "Lukka Lands".^[6] Parha likely spoke a late Luwian dialect like Lycian and that of the neo-Hittite kingdoms.

Perge returns to history as a Pamphylian Greek city, and with Pamphylia came under successive rule by Persians, Athenians, and Persians again. Alexander the Great, after quitting Phaselis, occupied Perge with a part of his army. The road between these two towns is described as long and difficult.^{[7][4]} Alexander's rule was followed by the Diadochi empire of the Seleucids, then the Romans.

Perge gained renown for the worship of Artemis, whose temple stood on a hill outside the town, and in whose honour annual festivals were celebrated.^{[8][4]} The coins of Perge represent both the goddess and her temple.^[4]

In 46 A.D., according to the Acts of the Apostles, St. Paul journeyed to Perga, from there continued on to Antiocheia in Pisidia, then returned to Perga where he preached the word of God (Acts 14:25). Then he left the city and went to Attaleia.^[9]

Perga

Πέργη (in Ancient Greek)
Perge (in Turkish)



Overview of Perga



Shown within Turkey

Location	Aksu, Antalya Province, Turkey
Region	Pamphylia
Coordinates	36°57′41″N 30°51′14″E﻿ / ﻿
Type	Settlement
History	
Founded	By 1209 BC
Periods	Greek Dark Ages to Middle Ages
Cultures	Greek, Roman, Byzantine, Turkish
Associated with	Apollonius



The agora

As the Cestrus silted up over the late Roman era, Perga declined as a secular city.^[10] In the first half of the 4th century, during the reign of Constantine the Great (324-337), Perga became an important centre of Christianity, which soon became the official religion of the Roman Empire. The city retained its status as a Christian centre in the 5th and 6th centuries.

Ecclesiastical history

St. Paul the Apostle and his companion St. Barnabas, twice visited Perga as recorded in the biblical book, the Acts of the Apostles,^[11] during their first missionary journey, where they "preached the word"^[12] before heading for and sailing from Attalia (modern-day Antalya city), 15 kilometres (9.3 mi) to the southwest, to Antioch.

Paul and Barnabas came to Perge during their first missionary journey, but probably stayed there only a short time, and do not seem to have preached there;^{[13][14]} it was there that John Mark left Paul to return to Jerusalem. On his return from Pisidia, Paul preached at Perge.^{[15][14]}

St. Matrona of Perge of the 6th century was a female saint known for temporarily cross-dressing to avoid her abusive husband.^[16] She also is known for opposing the Monophysite policy of the emperor Anastasios I.^[17] Matrona hid in the monastery of St. Bassion as the eunuch Babylos. Once revealed, she was sent to a woman's monastery where she was head of the convent. She was famous for her miraculous gift of healing. She went on to found a nunnery in Constantinople. St Matrona died at the age of 100. Her life was told through a *vita prima* whose author and exact time period remains a mystery.^[18]

The Greek *Notitiae episcopatum* mentions the city as metropolis of Pamphylia Secunda until the 13th century. Le Quien^[19] gives the names of 11 of its bishops: Epidauros, present at the Council of Ancyra in 312; Callicles at the First Council of Nicaea in 325; Berenianus, at Constantinople (426); Epiphanius at the Second Council of Ephesus (449), at the First Council of Chalcedon (451),^[20] and a signatory of the letter from the bishops of the province to Emperor Leo (458); Hilarianus, at a council at Constantinople in 536; Eulogius, at the Second Council of Constantinople in 553; Apergius, condemned as a Monothelite at the Third Council of Constantinople in 680; John, at the Trullan council in 692; Sisinnius Pastillas about 754 (an iconoclast who was condemned at the Second Council of Nicaea in 787); Constans, at the same council of that condemned his predecessor; John, at the Council of Constantinople of 869–70.^[14]

No longer a residential, the bishopric is included in the Catholic Church's list of titular sees.^[21]

Perga remained inhabited until the foundation of the Seljuk Empire, roughly 1000 CE.^[10]

Notables

- Perga's most celebrated ancient inhabitant, the mathematician Apollonius (c.262 BC – c.190 BC), lived and worked there. He wrote a series of eight books describing a family of curves known as conic sections, comprising the circle, ellipse, parabola, and hyperbola.^[22]

Archaeology

Perga is today an archaeological site and a tourist attraction. There were numerous excavations and discoveries since 1946.^[23] Ancient Perge, one of the chief cities of Pamphylia, was situated between the Rivers Catarrhactes (Düden Nehri) and Cestrus (Aksu), 60 stadia (about 11.1 kilometres (6.9 mi)) from the mouth of the latter; the site is in the



The stadium

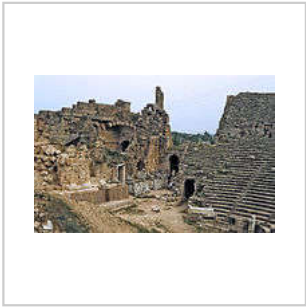
modern Turkish village of Murtana on the Suridjik sou, a tributary of the Cestrus, formerly in the Ottoman vilayet of Konya. Its ruins include a theatre, a palaestra, a temple of Artemis and two churches. The temple of Artemis was located outside the town.^[14] Many of the coins struck in the city portrayed both the goddess and her sanctuary.^[24]

Another big ancient city in the area is Selge, Pisidia, located about 20km to the northeast.

The Perga has been dubbed as “Turkey’s second Zeugma” for the alluring appearance of the mosaics that have been unearthed so far. In 2003, archaeologists discovered well-preserved Greek mosaics showcasing Oceanus and Medusa. In 2017, discovered a mosaic depicting the sacrifice of Iphigenia.^{[23][24]}



Pillars of the agora



Roman theatre



Perga theatre



Perga theatre skene



Perga theatre skene



Perga theatre skene



Palaestra in front of the Roman baths



Caldarium in the Roman baths



Hellenistic city gate



Nymphaeum



Perge Towards West Gate



Perge Necropolis beyond West Gate



Perge Necropolis beyond West Gate



Perge Necropolis beyond West Gate

Notes

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2. "Perge" (http://www.trekearth.com/gallery/Middle_East/Turkey/Mediterranean/Antalya/photo494664.htm). Retrieved 2006-10-30.
3. Strab. xiv. p. 667; Plin. v. 26; Pomp. Mel. i. 14; Ptol. v. 5. § 7.
4. One or more of the preceding sentences incorporates text from a publication now in the public domain: Smith, William, ed. (1854–1857). "Perge". *Dictionary of Greek and Roman Geography*. London: John Murray.
5. G. Beckman (1996). *Hittite diplomatic texts*. Atlanta., no. 18C
6. J. David Hawkins (2009). "The Arzawa letters in recent perspective". *British Museum Studies in Ancient Egypt and Sudan*. **14**: 73–83., 75
7. Arrian, *Anab.* i. 26; *comp.* Polyb. v. 72, xxii. 25; Liv. xxxviii. 37.
8. Strab. xiv. p. 667; Callim. Hymn. in Dian. 187; Scylax, p. 39; Dionys. Per. 854.
9. Acts 14:25 (<https://bible.oremus.org/?passage=Acts+14:25–14:25&version=nrsv>)
10. "Perge" (<http://www.anatolia.luwo.be/destinations/perge.html>).
11. Acts 13:13–14 and 14:25.
12. Acts 14:25
13. Acts 13:13.
14. One or more of the preceding sentences incorporates text from a publication now in the public domain: Herbermann, Charles, ed. (1913). "Perge" ([https://en.wikisource.org/wiki/Catholic_Encyclopedia_\(1913\)/Perge](https://en.wikisource.org/wiki/Catholic_Encyclopedia_(1913)/Perge)). *Catholic Encyclopedia*. New York: Robert Appleton.
15. Acts 14:24.

16. [1] (<http://www.thereligionportal.com/frame.asp?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.fordham.edu%2Fhalsall%2Fbasis%2Fmatrona.html&rl=subpage.asp%3Fnode%3D20051994%26CTitle%3DMore%2BSaints%2BM%26Loc%3D%255CChristianity%257C106646%255CNotable%2BFigures%257C532084%255CBy%2BType%257C20051344%255CSaints%257C1107080%255CSaints%2BM%257C20051992%255CMore%2BSaints%2BM%257C20051994&s=R eligion>)
17. Talbot, Alice-Mary. "Holy Women of Byzantium: Ten saints lives' in English translation" (<http://www.doaks.org/resources/publications/doaks-online-publications/holy-women-of-byzantium/talbch2.pdf>) (PDF). *doaks.org*. Dumbarton Oaks Research Library and Collection. Retrieved 19 November 2014.
18. *vita prima* (<http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/basis/matrona.asp>)
19. Le Quien. *Oriens christ.*, I, 1013.
20. Richard Price, Michael Gaddis, *The Acts of the Council of Chalcedon, Volume 1* (University of Liverpool Press, 2005)p94 (<https://books.google.com.au/books?id=6IUaOOT1G3UC&pg=RA2-PA157&lpg=RA2-PA157&dq=Richard+Price,+Michael+Gaddis,+The+Acts+of+the+Council+of+Chalcedon,+Volume+1&source=bl&ots=xsdX6sJqOR&sig=0y3dFazEyPhUhsMf-71F7IACMDc&hl=en&sa=X&ved=0ahUKEwiLr8OLofnMAhUJFpQKHxQnC0gQ6AEINTAF#v=snippet&q=Perge&f=false>).
21. *Annuario Pontificio 2013* (Libreria Editrice Vaticana, 2013, ISBN 978-88-209-9070-1), p. 952
22. Boyer, Carl B. (1991). "Apollonius of Perga". *A History of Mathematics* (<https://archive.org/details/historyofmathema00boye>) (Second ed.). John Wiley & Sons, Inc. pp. 156–157. ISBN 978-0-471-54397-8.
23. 1,800-year-old mosaic found in ancient city of Perge (<http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/1800-year-old-mosaic-found-in-ancient-city-of-perge-115733>)
24. A Bevy Of Greek Mythology-Depicting Mosaics Uncovered At The Ancient City Of Perga, Turkey (<https://www.real-mofhistory.com/2017/07/25/greek-mythology-mosaic-perga/>)

External links

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- Perge Guide and Photo Album (<http://www.turkeyphotoguide.com/perge>)
- Over 500 pictures including 2013 excavations (<http://www.pbase.com/dosseman/perge>)
- Perge photo (http://www.trekearth.com/gallery/Middle_East/Turkey/Mediterranean/Antalya/photo494664.htm)

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