



## Architectural Structures

It is understood from the aqueducts and remains of the structures defined to be churches and findings in a large area within the settlement that the city, final borders of which cannot be determined, is not only a legion castle. A structure, considered to have been a castle, aqueduct or church; a cistern, a bath structure and several mosaics were discovered.

### Cistern-Church

The remains providing water to the Ancient City of Satala remains in the area to the northeast of Sadak Village. From the remains, which was in better condition until recently, only five feet and a semicircle cistern remained.

## The Castle

The castle covers an area of 15,7 hectares with a rectangular shape. It is understood that the castle, visible walls of which are mostly damaged, consisted of castle towers placed with some distance. Stipulated to have a frontal wall in front of the main walls, the castle also has a separate door in the east. It is understood that flat cut stones are used in the exterior walls of the castle with rubble stones used in the interior section.



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# SATALA

"Lost Treasure of Rome"



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Gümüşhane Valiliği  
İl Kültür ve Turizm Müdürlüğü  
Adres: Oltan Bey Mahallesi Müze Sokak No:39  
Merkez / GÜMÜŞHANE  
Tel: 0456 213 34 73 - Fax: 0456 213 59 80

Photos: İsmail Gürses - Mustafa Zengin  
Painting: Y. Metin Keskin

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## Satala, the Command Post of Emperors

The history records the fates of every person under the ground. While some of them are lost not to be remembered again, some of them wait for the removal of the ground over them. Ancient City of Satala also awaits the visits of history and archaeology devotees to remove the ground over it. You will contemplate on the tip of the iceberg while touring Satala and be astonished by the remaining section when you learn its story, roaming around the tombstones of legion soldiers polishing the tip of their spears with the sun once.

The works on the city, which will take you to the past, will put a depth in the past of the city all the way towards Bronze and Iron Ages. When you learn that Satala was inhabited from the pre-historical periods to Ancient Age, you will not be wrong to base this on the rich water fountains shining like silver and bountiful lands. If you watch the horizon lines in Satala, you will realize that you are standing on the road that connects the Eastern Anatolia to the Black Sea Region throughout history.

Gathering Antakya, Cappadocia and Trabzon at a junction, Satala became the vanguard and most important castle in Rome's defense especially against the Persian armies and the main military base for the eastern campaigns of emperors. When you visit Satala, you will reminiscence the visit of Emperor Trajan around two thousand years ago (117 AD, to be exact) and discover, through the silent witnesses of history, why Satala had been the command post of emperors on-site.



## Hidden Treasure of Roman Army

Having reigned over Europe, Africa and Asia continents, Rome deployed only four of its thirty legions (Zeugma, Samsat, Malatya, Satala) on Anatolia. Satala, with its cultural heritage, is the hidden treasure of Roman Army waiting to be discovered.

Declared as 3rd level archaeological site by the Ministry of Tourism and Culture, Satala was first inhabited by XVI Flavia Firma legion. The legion deployed to Satala in 75 AD by Emperor Vespasian was later moved to Samosat (Samsat) by Emperor Hadrian. The legion continued to exist until 4th century.

The legion of Apollinaris XV was defeated for the first time in history by the Sassanian army commanded by Sassanian King Shapur I in 256 AD and with this defeat, the Ancient City of Satala was ruled by the Sassanian for two years and the legion considered to have fought the Sassanian continued to exist until the 5th century.

After the division of Roman Empire, Satala preserved its militaristic importance during the Byzantine period and became the subject of several zoning activities. After the Persians crossed the eastern border in 529 AD, the Emperor had the castle in Satala City rebuilt. Many of the ruins today are structures that remain from this restoration. It is estimated that the city continued to function until the Arabic attacks in 7th century.



Introduced to Christianity during the Early Ancient Age, the city became a center of eparchy and continued this mission until 1526 AD.

