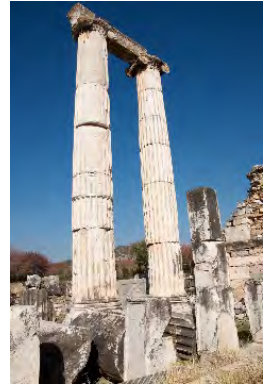


Saturday, Nov 7 part 2: Aphrodisias (con't)

### Hadrian's baths

Hadrian's baths buildings were wonders of both construction and water technology. They were used for bathing, exercising and relaxing. Inside they were lined with colored marble and covered with domes. The baths are heated by wood furnaces manned by slaves. The hot water was sent under the raised floor and through vertical wall pipes by convection. The baths were divided into hot rooms, warm rooms, and cold plunges.



### The Stadium

Let's talk about the stadium for a moment. It is huge at 885 feet (295 yards or 0.2 miles) long. As I mentioned, it had 30 tiers and could hold 30,000 people. It is considered one of the largest, and best preserved, in the world. It has not been restored yet, so the seats are all as they were first uncovered. It was built in the first



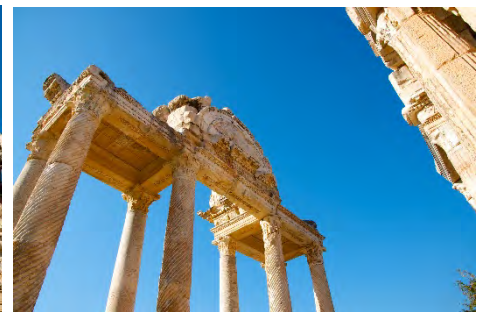
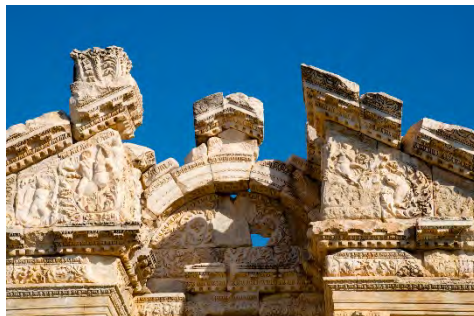
century. Inscriptions were found on the seats, of names of guilds (like goldsmiths) and of individual men and women from Aphrodisias and neighboring towns.

From every seat, EVERY SEAT, you can see the whole stadium. The Olympic Games of Anatolia were held here. Chariot races were held here. Boxing and wrestling matches were held here. Discus and javelin throwing. Long jumps. Foot races. Down the center of the field, there were rows of statues. A smaller area at one end was reserved for gladiator fights. This stadium was so large that it took 30-40 people one month to excavate (which to me did not sound very long, but our archeologist guide said that was a long time).

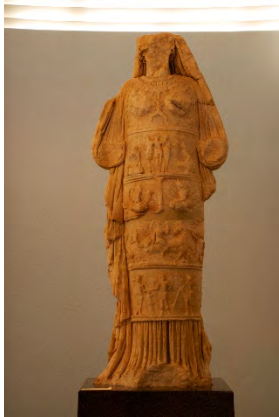
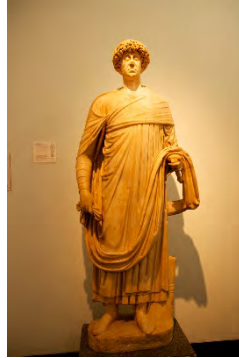


### Temple of Aphrodite

And last, but certainly not least, the Temple of Aphrodite, the remains of which are magnificent. At one point the temple was converted into a Christian Basilica.



The real fame of the city however came from the most prominent sculpture school that was founded here. The marble was extracted from the quarries in the area and the masters from this school created the greatest masterpieces in the ancient Greek and Roman world. Part of the specialty of the sculpting was in the marble that was used here. Often they used a single marble block that was two-tone with black and white. This was their distinctive specialty. Many statues and reliefs discovered in excavations in Rome and its environs bear the signatures of artists from Aphrodisias. The statues that have been uncovered here are all at the museum, which is on the same site.



And lots of statues and reliefs of Aphrodite, each showing her different. After all, she was a mythology creature.

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