

# Turkey

## Nemrut Dağ

### Brief description

The mausoleum of Antiochus I (69-34 B.C.), who reigned over Commagene, a kingdom founded north of Syria and the Euphrates after the breakup of Alexander's empire, is one of the most ambitious constructions of the Hellenistic period. The syncretism of its pantheon, and the lineage of its kings, which can be traced back through two sets of legends, Greek and Persian, is evidence of the dual origin of this kingdom's culture.

### 1. Introduction

**Year(s) of Inscription**

**1987**

**Agency responsible for site management**

- Ministry of Culture and Tourism  
General Directorate of Cultural Heritage and Museums  
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### 2. Statement of Significance

**Inscription Criteria**

**C (i) (iii) (iv)**

### Justification as provided by the State Party

The Hierotheseion on Nemrut Dağ conforms the following criteria as cultural property:

(i) The tumulus forms an important ensemble of architectural and sculptural monuments bearing witness to the fusion of Persian, Hellenistic and Anatolian traditions of styles. The colossi on the terraces surrounding the tumulus are taken as eminent samples of sculpture.

(ii) Its complex design and colossal scale combined to create a project unequalled in the ancient world. Still practically unknown to art historians, it has received the attention mainly of epigraphers, theologians, and astronomers. Filling a lacuna in the history of architecture, sculpture, and religion of the late Hellenistic era, the tomb deserves to make a prominent place among monuments of the Mediterranean world.

(iii) This site built in 50 B.C. by Antiochos I, for the worship of syncretized Graeco-Persian gods is unique in situation, scale, plan and cultural value.

(iv) The tumulus is outstanding with archaeological, historical and religious values it bears.

This cultural property is precious as the product of a kingdom which was influential over both east and west, as well as presenting a good example of the unity of various cultures such as Persian, Hellenistic and Anatolian. The cultural importance of the region was increased by the originating of the Mithras Cult and Christianity successively.

Another factor ascribing importance to the monuments is the development of religious syncretism in the period preceding our era.

(v) In building the colossal statues and orthostats, a high technology was used which was seen nowhere else in that age. Blocks weighing 2 to 9 tons were lifted by cranes denoting how developed the building technology was.

### As provided in ICOMOS evaluation

ICOMOS recommends the inclusion of the archaeological site of Nemrut Dağ on the World Heritage List on the basis of criteria i, iii and iv.

Criterion i. The tomb of Antiochos I of Commagene is a unique artistic achievement. The landscaping of the natural site of Nemrut Dağ is one of the most colossal undertakings of the Hellenistic epoch (some of the stone blocks used weigh up to nine tons).

Criterion iii. The tomb or the Hierotheseion of Nemrut Dağ bears unique testimony to the civilization of the kingdom of Commagene. Antiochos I is represented in this monument as a descendant of Darius by his father Mithridates, and a descendant of Alexander by his mother Laodice. This semi-legendary ancestry translates in genealogical terms the ambition of a dynasty that sought to remain independent of the powers of both the East and the West.

Criterion iv. More so than the tombs at Karakus and Eski Kâhta, the tumulus at Nemrut Dağ illustrates, through the liberal syncretism of a very original pantheon, a significant historical period. The assimilation of Zeus with Oromasdes (the Iranian god Ahuramazda), and Heracles with Artagnes (the Iranian god Verathragna) finds its artistic equivalent in an intimate mixture of Greek, Persian and Anatolian aesthetics in the statuary and the bas reliefs.

**Committee Decision**

Bureau (1987): The Bureau requested that all restoration work be preceded by specific studies, in order to avoid excessive anastylosis.

Session (1987): The Committee took note of the undertaking of the representative of Turkey that the archaeological state of the site would be respected during the works foreseen in the next few years.

- No information available on whether the statement of significance adequately defines the outstanding universal value of the site
- Need to seek a decision from the Committee on changes to the statement of significance
- Short new Statement of Significance is proposed: "The tomb of Antiochos I on top of Nemrut Dag is one of the unique artistic achievements of Hellenistic Period with its fascinating beauty of monumental sculptures, as well as the splendor of the scenery. Antiochos I presents his semi-legendary ancestry in this significant monument as a descendant of Darius and Alexander and the mixture of Greek, Persian and Anatolian architectural traditions are well represented in this outstanding mausoleum."

**Boundaries and Buffer Zone**

- Status of boundaries of the site: adequate
- No buffer zone has been defined, is not needed

**Status of Authenticity/Integrity**

- World Heritage site values have been maintained

**3. Protection****Legislative and Administrative Arrangements**

- Being declared a "First Degree Archaeological Site" it is subject to Conservation Legislation
- The 1/25.000 Scaled Long Term Development Plan of Nemrut Dağ National Park was approved in 2002
- The boundary of the National Park protects the site under the National Parks Rules
- Protection arrangements are considered sufficiently effective

**Actions taken/proposed**

- It is aimed to prepare a Landscape Design Project of Nemrut Dağ and Tumuli, and also a Nemrut Dağ Tumuli Conservation, Restoration, Training, Research and Implementation Project

**4. Management****Use of site/property**

- Visitor attraction, national park

**Management/Administrative Body**

- Steering group set up in 2005
- No site manager/coordinator, but needed
- Levels of public authority primarily involved with the management of the site: national and local
- The current management system is sufficiently effective

**Actions proposed**

- Within the framework of the revised Conservation Legislation put into force in 2004, the preparation of management plans for the World Heritage sites will be considered primarily

**5. Management Plan**

- No management plan, preparation will be completed in 01/2007
- Responsibility for over-seeing the implementation of the management plan and monitoring its effectiveness: a coordination and supervision council will be constituted

**6. Financial Resources****Financial situation**

- There is no core funding. Every year state funds are allocated for various purposes (infrastructure and conservation projects) to the related bodies within the site
- The International Nemrut Foundation supported a research project conducted by Amsterdam University for 3 years (2001-2003)
- Because the site was in the "100 Endangered Sites" of the World Monument Fund in 2000, Akbank and American Express funded two workshops
- In the framework of the GAP Tourism Development Master Plan the preparation of Adiyaman local guidebooks was financed in collaboration with the Ministry of Culture and Tourism, the South Eastern Anatolia Project Regional Development Administration and the Governorship of Adiyaman
- Funding for management is insufficient; funding for protection and conservation is adequate

**7. Staffing Levels**

- Number of staff: 2

Rate of access to adequate professional staff across the following disciplines:

- Bad: conservation, management, promotion, interpretation, education, visitor management

### 8. Sources of Expertise and Training in Conservation and Management Techniques

- A temporary laboratory for conservation facilities is established at the site

### 9. Visitor Management

- Visitor statistics: no figure provided
- Visitor facilities: Toilet, buffet and resting areas near the site
- Visitor needs: establishment of two gates at both sides of Adiyaman and Malatya, ticket office, security and control office, rest rooms, buffets, information boards, parking areas, walking routes, observation points, warning signs, illumination, transfer to tumuli

### 10. Scientific Studies

- Studies related to the value of the site; Monitoring exercises; Condition surveys; Impact of World Heritage designation; Archaeological surveys; Transportation studies
- Documentation studies with Site Information System; conference about restoration and conservation of the monuments on Nemrut Dağ
- These projects are expected to provide the basis for the studies of risk management, site management, staff management, project management projects and their implementation

### 11. Education, Information and Awareness Building

- No signs referring to World Heritage site
- World Heritage Convention emblem used on some publications
- Adequate awareness of World Heritage site among visitors and local authorities
- Need of awareness raising of World Heritage site among local communities and businesses;
- Festivals are organized
- Establishment of Nemrut National Park Interpretation and Information Centre is planned in Strategic Action Plan
- Reorganization of Adiyaman Museum as a multifunctional cultural complex is envisaged

- Nemrut Foundation, Ministry of Culture and Tourism, Adiyaman Governorship manage three different websites

### 12. Factors affecting the Property (State of Conservation)

#### Reactive monitoring reports

- N/A

#### Conservation interventions

- Transportation of four dexiosis reliefs and the Lion Horoscope relief to a restoration laboratory
- Stabilization of Antiochos, Lion and eagle statues
- Present state of conservation: patchy

#### Threats and Risks to site

- Environmental pressure, natural disasters, visitor/tourism pressure
- Some buildings in the site create an unpleasant view; the roads from Malatya and Adiyaman come very close to the site; service facilities, roads, car parks and electricity cables are contrary to the Long Term Development Plan decisions
- There are no direction or routing signboards at the site, the visitors walk around uncontrolled, they can touch or climb the monuments

#### Measures taken/proposed

- It is planned to prepare a Management Plan, an Environmental Design Project and a Preservation, Restoration, Research and Implementation Project

### 13. Monitoring

- No formal monitoring programme
- Key indicators: archaeological studies; geological studies; hydro-geological and structural analysis; 3D documentation; research and implementation of stone conservation; architectural restoration and maintenance; interpretation, promotion and management planning

### 14. Conclusions and Recommended Actions

- Main benefits of WH status: conservation, social, economic and management
- Strengths of management: A long-term development plan and a framework for the management plan is prepared; a scientific council is constituted to discuss the problems of

the site, and problems/threats to the site are determined

- Weaknesses of management: Lack of a management plan which handles the site as a whole, together with the National Park, according to the World Heritage status and including ecological, archaeological, economic, social and cultural aspects, and providing a balance between conservation and social benefits

**Future actions:**

- It is aimed to prepare a management plan considering all these matters as soon as possible