



Aside from its natural beauty, the geological formation of the cave is also interesting owing to the fact that no other cave has developed in gypsum topography in either North Cyprus or Turkey. Consequently, the İncirli Cave holds something of a special place in the world of speleology (the study of caves).

The village of Çınarlı, formerly known as 'Platani' or 'Bladan', is pleasantly situated in the foothills of the Beşparmak (Five Finger) Mountains and is famous for its excellent honey and a monumental pine tree to which locals tie votive cloth in order to have their wishes granted. The hospitable people here are proud to follow their traditional culture and to share it with visitors making the village and the İncirli Cave a place well worth visiting.



## Wish Tree in Çınarlı Village



# North Cyprus

The İNCİRLİ  
CAVE



# The İNCİRLİ CAVE

The İncirli Cave is a natural wonder that takes its name from the impressive fig tree -'incir'- in Turkish, at the entrance to the cave. It is a naturally formed cave within a gypsum hill and is the largest cave on the island. The cave is approximately 2 km south-east of the village of Çınarlı, in the Gazimağusa District on the way to the Karpaz Peninsula. There has been an upsurge in interest in the cave in recent times as people seek alternative forms of tourism.

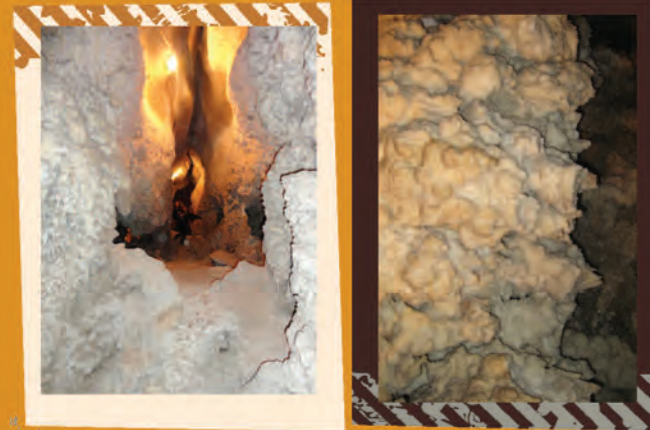
Caves were amongst the earliest forms of shelter for mankind and also one of the first places where humans began to pictorially depict their world around them, as ancient wall paintings in caves have shown. The İncirli Cave today is a fine example of the mysterious and astonishing world that caves represent for the curious and intrepid explorer.



The cave is believed to have been discovered by chance and, as might be expected, there are tales and legends associated with it.



Legend aside though, it is a fact that the İncirli Cave is the most important and impressive cave in North Cyprus and has extremely interesting stalagmites and stalactites. The cave extends to a depth of 250 metres in an east-west direction and is between five and ten metres wide at various points. The height of the cave varies between four and seven metres and it is said that these dimensions change according to the phases of the moon. Currently, the cave is accessible to a depth of 70 metres.



In addition to the stalagmites and stalactites, the walls of the cave are also interesting due to the cauliflower-like form that the soft white gypsum from which they are formed has assumed. Columns extending to the ceiling, and the sandstone rock formations add an additional beauty to the cave. The caves are illuminated and an asphalt road runs from the village of Çınarlı to the cave.



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