

GENERAL DIRECTORATE FOR  
CULTURAL ASSETS AND MUSEUMS



# YOZGAT SARIKAYA ROMAN BATH (BASILICA THERMA)

COEXISTENCE OF HISTORY, HOT  
WATER, HEALTH AND POWER

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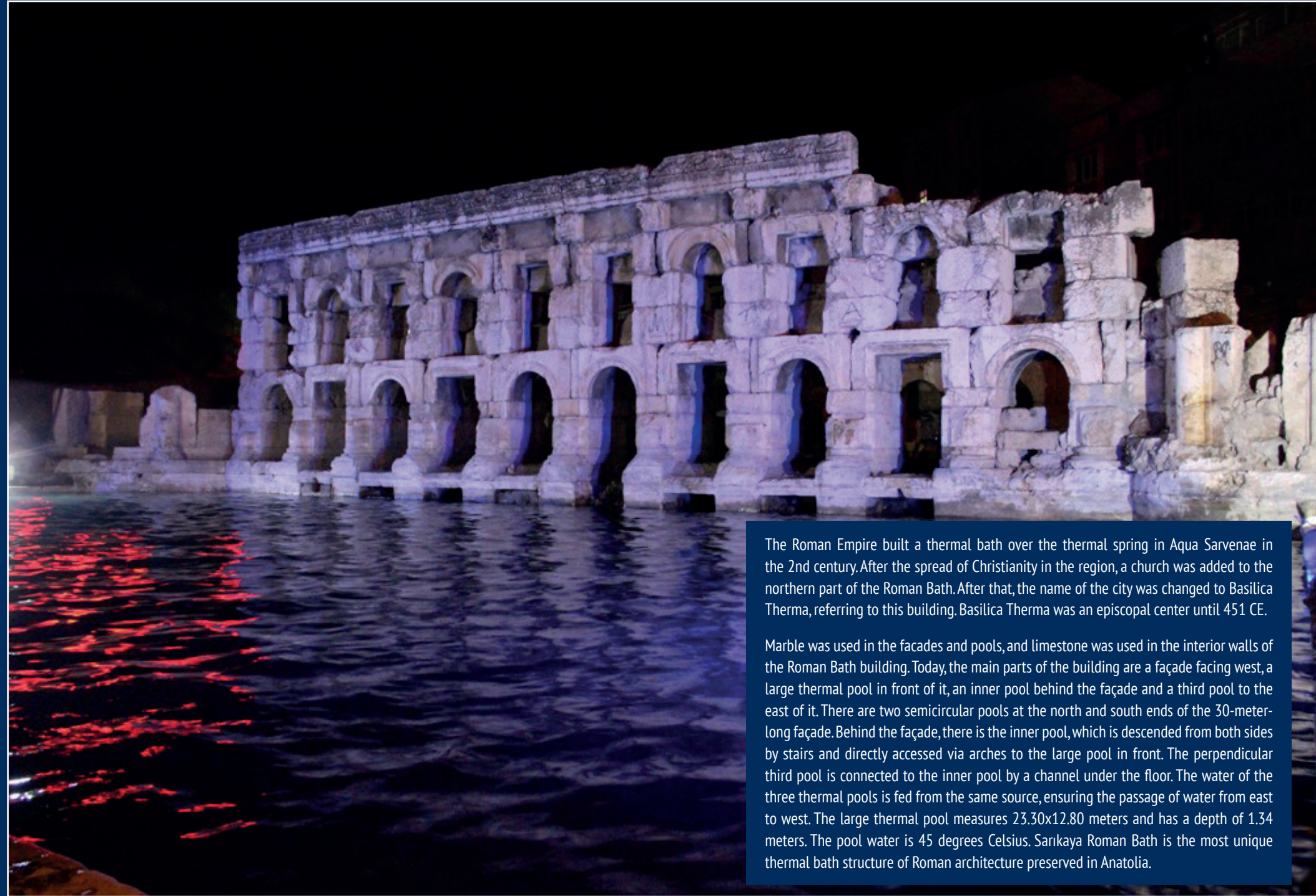
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Yozgat Sarıkaya Roman Bath, namely Basilica Therma, is located in Sarıkaya District center. Basilica Therma is a bathhouse built on top of this thermal spring in the deepest part of the valley. The Roman Bath, which was built in the 2nd century CE, has been used uninterruptedly for 19 centuries and still continues to be a source of healing with its thermal waters.



The Roman Empire built a thermal bath over the thermal spring in Aqua Sarvenae in the 2nd century. After the spread of Christianity in the region, a church was added to the northern part of the Roman Bath. After that, the name of the city was changed to Basilica Therma, referring to this building. Basilica Therma was an episcopal center until 451 CE.

Marble was used in the facades and pools, and limestone was used in the interior walls of the Roman Bath building. Today, the main parts of the building are a façade facing west, a large thermal pool in front of it, an inner pool behind the façade and a third pool to the east of it. There are two semicircular pools at the north and south ends of the 30-meter-long façade. Behind the façade, there is the inner pool, which is descended from both sides by stairs and directly accessed via arches to the large pool in front. The perpendicular third pool is connected to the inner pool by a channel under the floor. The water of the three thermal pools is fed from the same source, ensuring the passage of water from east to west. The large thermal pool measures 23.30x12.80 meters and has a depth of 1.34 meters. The pool water is 45 degrees Celsius. Sarıkaya Roman Bath is the most unique thermal bath structure of Roman architecture preserved in Anatolia.

