

Mausoleum at Halicarnassus

In this document we will explore first the basic facts about this marvelous wonder, known today as the Mausoleum at Halicarnassus or Tomb of Mausolus, the latter name giving us a glimpse at what this place is.

1 Mausoleum of Mausolus

It is likely that this tomb had begun being planned and built based on the time it'd take to build such a wonder by Mausolus before his death and that his wife which spent no expense in building it did it partially as it was her late husband's plan, though based on how she spared no expense in finding the best architects and all that was best to build the tomb, legends say that after her husband passed away she drunk his ashes mixed with water and set her sights on building this no matter the cost by herself.

The architects she brought over for the project included Scopas, the man who had supervised the rebuilding of the Temple of Artemis at Ephesus. The famous architects she brought included Leochares, Bryaxis, Scopas, and Timotheus, as well as hundreds of other craftsmen.

According to the Roman architect Vitruvius, it was built mainly by Satyros and Pytheus who wrote a treatise about it (though this treatise has been since lost to time).

2 How it likely looked

The tomb was erected on a hill overlooking the city. The whole structure sat in an enclosed courtyard. At the center of the courtyard was a stone platform on which the tomb was sat.

A stairway flanked by stone lions led to the top of the platform, which bore along its outer walls many statues of gods and goddesses. At each corner, stone warriors mounted on horseback guarded the tomb. At the center of the platform, the marble tomb rose as a square tapering block to one-third of the Mausoleum's 45 m (148 ft) height.

This section was covered with depictions containing action scenes, including the battle of the centaurs with the lapiths and Greeks in combat with the Amazons, a race of warrior women .

3 Later history

After several earthquakes only the base of the Mausoleum was still recognizable, and soon the Knights of St John of Rhodes would invade the area and build a castle using the mausoleum's rocks.

A British consul would later obtain several statues which now reside in the British Museum.