



EXCAVATION OF KARAYAZI TUMULUS



“ THE AIM OF THE PROJECT

The primary purpose of the specialization project and excavation work named “Karayazi Tumulus Excavation” is to identify, document and evaluate the finds belonging to the grave architecture, burial traditions and rituals of the Hellenistic-Roman Periods of the region. Furthermore, determining the position and significance of this tumulus in Anatolian burial traditions is also among the objectives of this study. It is believed that this study will lay the foundation for other excavations and research to be conducted in the region in the following years, focusing on the same period and theme.



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“ THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE PROJECT

Despite the density of tumulus graves in Nevşehir and its surroundings, which are immediately recognizable, this density contrasts with the absence of even a single study that would help us understand the burial traditions, funerary rituals and belief systems of the region in antiquity.

As is known, tumuli are the tombs of the rulers or nobles of the period in which they were built, and they provide very important information in terms of reflecting the upper class life of the period to which they belong. From this perspective, it is highly likely that the tumuli, whose presence is clearly identifiable in the region, belong to some of the rulers who reigned in the region during the Late Hellenistic-Roman Period.

Since 2019, in the surface surveys we have conducted in the region, it has been determined that the number of tumuli, which are destroyed by looters every year and further plundered through illegal excavations, is considerable. From this standpoint, the excavation of the Karayazi Tumulus is the first excavation to be carried out with scientific methods in Nevşehir and its surroundings, and it is important with the research methods it will use.

An interdisciplinary and multifaceted study of the Karayazi Tumulus using modern technology will not only provide a new scientific perspective, but will also reveal some of the social, religious and everyday life traditions of the region during the late Hellenistic Roman period.

One of the important points of the project will be the findings of possible skeletons and grave gifts, which will be uncovered for the first time through controlled excavations. Depending on these finds, it will be possible to determine the health and welfare level of the aristocratic class living in the region during the Late Hellenistic-Roman period.

Considering the distribution and spread of tumulus graves, which we often encounter in Anatolia, this project has a special importance as it will fill the research gap in this field by revealing the place of the Karayazi Tumulus in Nevşehir in particular and in the Cappadocia region in general.

