

# The case study of Goreme in Cappadocia

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Göreme is situated in the heart of the Cappadocia region of Turkey. This small town which was founded in a moon-like landscape of giant rock cones that are locally named as 'fairy chimneys'. The volcanic rocks that have eroded to form natural cones and columns on the landscape over millions of years have been carved and hollowed by inhabitants for centuries to build cave-dwellings, storage, production and worship spaces. Göreme is one of these settlements in the region of Cappadocia, which constitutes historic cave dwellings and a significant concentration of Byzantine monastic settlements. This small town was settled as a Turkish farming village on the ruins of an earlier Byzantine settlement. In 1950, the Turkish government turned a part of the valley into an open-air museum and a national park. In 1985, Göreme Open-Air Museum became a UNESCO World Heritage Site and a national park. Since then, the governments in power have continued to restore the natural, archaeological and historic heritage. The open-air museum, the national park, and this small town have become one of the main tourism destinations in this region. This lecture first introduces Cappadocia with its location, etymology, geographic and geological features, heritage and historic significance, and history of civilisations. After highlighting the importance of the underground built heritage of the region, it explains Göreme with its geographic location and history, the Open-Air museum and the national park. It examines the importance of UBH not only as a heritage asset with multiple values but also an inevitable driving force for economic life.

More specifically, it underlines its multi-dimensional contributions to tourism and rural economic development and regeneration of the town and the region. Despite these contributions, the lecture underlines the needs of investigating the heritage-led



regeneration with regard to the goals of sustainable development, regeneration and conservation.

