

Phellos is perched precariously on the highest part of a steep ridge which forms the S rim of the Dereköy valley. Phellos was listed as 96 stada (approx. 35 km) from Patara. It was also connected to Cyanaea, to the E, via Candyba.

Charles Fellows saw the tombs but was unable to positively identify the city. He probably came along the old road, and must have seen the first large free-standing, triple-fronted tomb. A double-fronted tomb has a faint Lycian inscription just below the eaves. SE of this tomb is a partly-buried slab with a curved lip on the upper edge. Here is the most marvellous bas relief of a life-sized bull; because of the sheltered position, apart from the head, it has survived. It is accurately and smoothly portrayed; the feet, hardly reaching the ground, are reminiscent of French prehistoric cave paintings. The feel of the massively powerful hindquarters with the docilely hanging tail is Persian - this is not one of the leaping bulls of the Greek vases. From its position, it seems that there could there have been a courtyard or enclosure around the tomb. There seems to be no reference to this beautiful carving, so your conjecture is as good as anyone's!

Further along the N slope, huge house tombs are perched at crazy angles. On the SE side, most of the tombs were free-standing saddle-back types of the classic pattern, with a rounded lid and square lifting bosses. One, situated inside the walls, has a triangular lid with a separate chamber inside it; another sports a round shield. Another is carved with a reclining male figure with two members of his family; the lid has sphinxes on the ends and lions on the beam ends. Not much remains of the buildings, but sunken areas may have been baths or cisterns.

Phellos was never a large city - more likely a garrison city, maybe a religious sanctuary and burial site. There is no obvious site for a theatre and only a few columns which could belong to a temple. No carved or decorated buildings of the Roman period remain. This seems to suggest that it was abandoned early in favour of its sister city of Antiphellos and not reoccupied; excavations could reveal much more about the period of the Persian occupation. Looking SW from Phellos you can see the sea and the Greek island of Meis with its scattering of smaller islets, but Kaş is tucked under the cliffs out of sight.

The clear G2-3 path to Çukurbağ runs diagonally SE from the E end of the ruins, first in short hairpins then with a fence on the R/below. Turn R/SW/down onto G4 walled path running towards the square, white mosque below. Emerge onto a tarmac road at the spring behind the mosque and turn R/downhill through the village.

40mins



The large village of **Çukurbağ** is on the N side of a large ova surrounded by hills and on the route from Phellos to Antiphellos / Kaş. It's built around two roads - one which borders the ova and another which runs uphill to Pınarbaşı and onwards to Dereköy. There are three mosques, many old houses and some new ones; a few timber grain stores resemble the tombs above. On the steep slopes around, the fields are still ploughed with wooden ploughs drawn by horses or oxen like that in the carving above. There is a pension in the upper part of the village and another on the ova but no bus service to Kaş.

16km

