

Antiphellos was the port of Phellos and was linked to it by our steep track. The early date of the remains indicate that it lost its importance to the better-protected harbours at Andriake and Patara, both of which had much wider and more prosperous hinterlands to support them. Texier mentions finding underground granaries here; indeed, an underground pillared store or cistern was unearthed during restoration of a cafe on the sea front. Pliny names the city as Habesos in the original Lycian and says that it exported cork oaks. Coins were minted by Phellos for Antiphellos in the earlier periods of the League; no later ones have been found. However, Texier mentions a church, dedicated to St Etienne le Rond. It was possibly 4th C in date, and is now the mosque on the small hill on the peninsula side of town. This seems to indicate that the city was reoccupied later.

The Phellos road is listed as the only direct route out of Antiphellos so the land transport of goods cannot have been easy.

Today, the oldest remains (5th C BC) are of rock tombs with Lycian inscriptions in the rocky wall just N of the city, near your arrival point. One of the tombs has an inscription in Lycian, superseded by another below it in Latin - in defiance of the Lycian curses, the tomb was taken over by Claudia Regelia Herennio. In the centre of the town is the most photographed grave (4th C BC), sheltered by a large tree. It is a typical saddle-backed sarcophagus, with two lions heads on each side for lifting the lid. It rests on a hyposorion base which has an 8-line inscription and was carved out of solid rock. There are figure carvings on the ends of the lid.

Along the road to the peninsula, a tiny Hellenistic theatre is built into the hillside and has no arches or stage building. It is complete enough to still be used occasionally for performances. Inland is an impressive 4th C BC temple tomb carved out of solid rock, with relief Doric pillars on the outside walls. Inside is a frieze of 24 dancing figures - take a torch if you want to see them.

