



mations. Today these objects give the impression that they were built by human hand, but in reality, these masterpieces were created by Nature.

Humans, however, have taken what evolved naturally to produce other wonders - the rock churches and underground cities of Cappadocia.

The exact borders of Cappadocia have long been a topic of dispute among historians. However, it is generally agreed that the area between Kayseri in the East, Aksaray in the West, Niğde in the South and Kırşehir in the North marked the four corners of the former province, its heartland being the triangle from Ürgüp to Avanos and Nevşehir.

The first signs of settlement in the region date from approximately 8000 BCE, while excavations tell us that an Assyrian trading center developed here during the Bronze Age, in an area ruled by the Kingdom of the Hatti. When the Hittites and their warlords captured and began inhabiting the region at the beginning of the 2nd millennium BCE, an even more advanced civilization, with its own writing and legal system, began to flourish.