Temple of Artemis From Ephesus

Also known as the "Temple of Diana", it was an ancient Greek edifice built for the goddess Artemis. It was built in the year 550 BC in Ephesus, a city then located in the territory of the Babylonian empire. Inside was the 2-meter statue of the goddess Artemis, covered in gold and silver. It was built for 120 years by the emperor Adrian the Great. It has a dimension of 105 meters long and 51 meters wide. A number of 127 columns 18 meters high supported the roof.On the night of July 21/22, 356 BC, a citizen of Ephesus, Herostrates, set fire to the temple, in an attempt to immortalize his name.Legend has it that on the night the temple burned down, Alexander the Great was born. In the 4th century AD, most of the Ephesians converted to Christianity, and the temple of the goddess Artemis no longer had the same religious importance.

Later Ephesus was abandoned by its inhabitants and only in the 19th century it came back to the attention of historians.Until today, only a few statues remained from the temple, which were a source of inspiration for paintings in large cathedrals around the world, such as the Vatican Cathedral. In 356, the temple was rebuilt by the citizens of Ephesus, but it was demolished. again with the advent of Christianity.

