

MILAS, Mugla, Turkey

Alternate names: Μύλασα, Mylasa. at 37.316983 N 27.770323 E.

Milas currently has no Jewish population. The name of the Cemetery is the Milas Yahudi Mezarligi. The landmarked, inactive, and isolated cemetery is on a hillside. It has an entry sign in Turkish. Access is open to all via a continuous masonry wall and gate that does not lock. There are no special sections for the approximately 170 gravestones. Almost all are worn down, and perhaps 30% are broken. Most gravestones are stone but some are replaced with concrete markers. Inscriptions are almost all in Hebrew with a few in English. There are no special memorials.

The present owner of the cemetery property is unknown. The cemetery property is now only used for a Jewish cemetery. The cemetery has previously been restored, primarily, it is believed, by repairing the cemetery wall. There appears to be no active care for it now. There is some evidence of children playing football in the cemetery, and there are some broken bottles there. The adjacent properties are residential. Visits can be made by private visitors, but are rare. There is no known vandalism. Uncontrolled access and weather erosion of the gravestones are threats. The vegetation overgrowth in the cemetery is a problem, disturbing graves and damaging stones. There are no buildings or structures in the cemetery. The authority looking after the cemetery is the Mugla Buyuksehir Municipality. Tel # Milas 4444801, 4444801/6, 444801/7, 4444801/8. www.mugla.bel.tr and info@mugla.bel.tr

Additional information is available at:

<https://www.dailysabah.com/turkey/2016/07/02/ancient-jewish-cemetery-in-western-turkey-to-be-restored-to-honor-community>

<http://www.milas.org.tr/milas-musevileri-eng.htm>

<http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/jewish-cemetery-to-be-restored-in-aegean-town--101211>

<https://www.haaretz.com/middle-east-news/turkey/turkey-to-restore-ancient-jewish-cemetery-1.5404483>

<https://www.algemeiner.com/2016/07/05/400-year-old-jewish-cemetery-in-turkey-to-be-restored-in-effort-to-commemorate-once-vibrant-jewish-community-in-milas/>

<https://jewish-heritage-europe.eu/2016/07/03/turkey-jewish-cemetery-in-milas-to-be-restored/>

http://www.salom.com.tr/arsiv/haber-93611-a_hall_of_shame_milas_jewish_cemetery.html

Source: Ruben Lee, London, United Kingdom who visited on 17/7/2019