

The World's Oldest Known Temple, which was Built 7,000 Years Before the Stonehenge Circle, Puts the People of That Time Into a Different Perspective

Göbekli Tepe, the world's earliest-known temple, was built around 11,500 years ago, when woolly mammoths still roamed the Earth, and Britain wasn't yet an island.



Excavations on Göbekli Tepe, one of the most puzzling archaeological finds of all time, have only been started recently. Image credit: The Travel

In 1963, scientists from Istanbul University and the University of Chicago found ancient stone tools while conducting a survey on the hill of Göbekli Tepe (which means 'potbelly hill' in Turkish) not far from the city of Şanlıurfa in Southeastern Anatolia, Turkey. While the site was considered a sacred place, and they identified large stone slabs as well – which they believed were grave markers –, no excavations were carried out.

However, 31 years later, German archaeologist Klaus Schmidt decided to re-examine the area that was described in 1963. After locals guided Schmidt to the site, he realized that the hill could,

