

Mysterious 5,000-Year-Old 'Fairy Houses' Discovered Among Ancient Ruins

Strange discoveries keep surfacing around the world that seem to hint at connections between archaeology and the supernatural. From tales of giants in ancient texts to mysterious ruins with unclear origins, each new find sparks wonder about what our ancestors believed and why so many of their stories involve beings beyond the natural world.

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Archaeologists in Italy have added to that intrigue with the unearthing of three ancient “fairy houses” on the island of Sardinia, Fox News reported. The discovery was announced July 29 by the Superintendency of Archaeology, Fine Arts and Landscape for the Provinces of Sassari and Nuoro.



Superintendency of Archaeology, Fine Arts and Landscape for the Provinces of Sassari and Nuoro

The “fairy houses” known as domus de janas date back more than 5,000 years to the late Neolithic and Copper Age. According to local folklore, the chambers were imagined as dwellings for magical beings. “This new discovery enriches knowledge of the domus de janas – tombs carved into rock that often reproduce, in relief, details of the houses of the living and symbolic decorations linked to magical-religious rituals,” officials said in their statement.

Before this excavation, researchers had uncovered 17 of the tombs. With the three new finds the total now stands at 20. Officials explained that “the characteristics of the ground between [two tombs] ... suggested the presence of a new, as yet unexplored tomb.”

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Among the discoveries were pickaxes, a spindle whorl, a small greenstone axe, obsidian fragments and pottery shards. The most complex tomb, called the Tomb of the Roman Vases, held a painted wall band and more than 30 Roman-era ceramic pieces including plates, oil lamps and jugs, all described as “in excellent condition.”

Together the tombs are part of the Sant’Andrea Priu archaeological complex, which was recently recognized as a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

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Finds like these show how folklore and archaeology often walk side by side. What earlier generations called fairy houses may have been tombs, yet the legends remind us that ancient people may have been preserving memories of things they truly encountered and not just stories they imagined.

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