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The Harbor Between
East and West

Experience 8,500
Years in One Day

Highlights in Izmir



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Contributors

Ali Can Epözdemir, Ayça Kesici, Aykut Uslutekin, Aziz Bartın, Doğa Tuksal, Emiralı Kokal, Fatih Kurunaz, Ferdi Akarsu, Funda Öztürk, Gökçe Başkaya, Gökhan Yağmurlu, Gözde Çeviker, Kardelen Bayraktar, Kemal Okul, Macit Şaşzade, Mehmet Yasa, Miraç Güldoğan, Murat Biliç, Nicholas Van Ingen, Nihat Özdal, Ozan Çelik, Serdar Çelenk, Simona Sabatini, Tijen Burultay, Valter Bernardeschi, Yener Ceylan, Yiğit Can Bal, Zafer Derin, Zafer Kızılkaya

Contributing Institutions IZKA, TARKEM

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Editorial Coordinator

Yazgülü Yüksek

English Editor

Ari Akkermans

Translation

Irmak Öztaş

Photo Editor

Mahmut Kayaş

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Şair Eşref Avenue No. 50
Kültürpark-Izmir-Türkiye
+90 232 425 55 25
izmirvakfi.org



IZMIR THE HARBOR BETWEEN EAST AND WEST

Izmir, one of the most important port cities of the Mediterranean since antiquity, has been the transmitter of trade and culture between Europe and Asia for centuries. Products from all over the world met in Izmir Port and from there they traveled to different parts of the world.

Alsancak Port, the most important commercial port of the Aegean, is today able to serve all types of cargo and ships.



The crowd that came for the 25th anniversary of the Republic of Turkey in 1948 filled the dock in Izmir Harbor. Republican Holidays are celebrated effusively in Izmir every year.



The Passport Pier, located between Cumhuriyet Square and Konak Pier, is one of the oldest customs buildings in Izmir.

born- the hometown of Aelius Galenus, the first physician. The Olive harvest, the most ancient tradition of the Mediterranean, first yielded in these lands. The origins of literature are also rooted in the region: Izmir is the city that Homer, the bard of the Iliad and Odyssey epics, called home. The oldest historical and cultural sources of civilization. Homer, it is said, was born on the banks of Meles River and dwelled on its shores that he likened to a garden of the sun. He is the mastermind of Western literature and culture and it has spread all over the world from Izmir. Today it is still possible to see in Izmir the traces of this rich culture of the past.

Located on the shores of Aegean Sea, and west of the Anatolian Plateau, its quality of life, large industrial output, and employment opportunities, make Izmir, the third largest city in Turkey, one of the most livable cities. With a population over four million, Izmir is one of the most dynamic and lively cities in Turkey.

Due to its Mediterranean climate, Izmir is mostly sunny throughout the year; summers are hot and winters are mild. With 629 kilometers of coastline and dozens of blue flag beaches, Izmir is one of the first places that come to mind when the destination is the sea; plenty of sun and sand holiday in its pristine waters and popular holiday resorts where opportunities abound for water sports.

Its natural beauty notwithstanding, Izmir is one of the most exciting places worth exploring for enthusiasts of history and archaeology. As the place that different civilizations called home, from Hittites and Persians to Ancient Greeks, Romans and Ottomans, Izmir is in possession of the broadest possible cultural heritage, offering visitors 8,500 years of adventures in one day.



Cruise tourism in Izmir.

IZMIR, a port city of traders since antiquity, has never lost this character from the days of its early foundation. The city has always played the role of a hub connecting Europe with Asia, throughout its long history. Izmir has since times immemorial connected the two oldest trade routes in the world the Silk Road extending from East Asia to the European continent and the different sea trade routes extending eastwards from the Mediterranean. Hence it became one of the most important trade points among the port cities of the Mediterranean.

Particularly in the eighteenth century, it was positioned as the gateway from West to East, and also the first window from the East into the West, and therefore Izmir came to be called the capital of the Asia Minor. Thus Izmir is also the city that different cultures called home and where many crucial innovations were born.

The roots of democracy were planted in this region and thence spread to the rest of the world. The earliest known parliamentary assemblies, where the making of democratic took place, were established in this city. Izmir is the city where the idea of medicine was

The agora of ancient Smyrna ruins, which is one of the most visited places in the city with the nearby Kadifekale, carries the importance of being one of the biggest agoras in the city center in the world.

EXPERIENCE 8,500 YEARS IN A DAY

The Basilica of Smyrna's Agora has the world's richest collection of ancient graffiti including gladiators, trade and war ships, the competition between Ephesos and Smyrna, word games, riddles enlightening the daily life of Roman Smyrna.



Izmir is a modern city built on a settlement that witnessed an uninterrupted history of 8,500 years. In the streets of ancient Smyrna and modern Izmir, you can experience all the steps of human history from the neolithic era to the present day.

Bergama, founded on the Ancient City of Pergamon, is one of the most important settlements in the history of civilization.

Three different settlements are mentioned when we consider the formative period in Izmir: The dawn of human history in Izmir begins at Yeşilova Mound in Bornova 8,500 years ago. Yassitepe Mound, near Yeşilova, bears a history going back eight thousand years. The history of Smyrna-Tepekule Mound in Bayraklı, the second settlement, dates back to 3000 BCE and it is still possible to see traces from this

first Bronze Age settlement in Bayraklı and its surroundings. The Temple of Athena and multi-room house types found on this site are of great significance as the oldest architectural remains in the Greek world of the Near East. Around the fourth century BCE, in the Hellenistic Period, the city moves to the region known as Kadifekale (Pagos Mountain), today largely known as the third settlement area. The Hellenistic Period that began with Alexander the Great; extends into the Roman, Byzantine and Ottoman periods in Izmir.

Ancient cities spread all over the Izmir region. The ancient agora of Smyrna, located in the modern city center, dates back back to the Roman Period (second century CE). The most remarkable works in the agora, the only example in the world of a three-story structure from this period, are the wall graffiti in the section where the Roman Era market is located. In the graffiti, thus described as the richest Greek graffiti collection in the world, there are sections of daily life in Hellenistic and Roman periods.



Yeşilova Mound is the oldest settlement in Izmir. Today, the children experience the history of 8,500 years in Izmir in the workshops held at the visitor center right next to the ruins.

DISCOVER THE ROOTS OF TRADE



Emirali Kokal

Bergama carpets play an important role in Izmir trade. Bergama carpets, which we see in the paintings of European painters, show us that carpet trade has been done for many centuries.

Izmir, a trade center throughout history; is a city where people from all nations, all the goods of East and West can be seen on its streets and bazaars.

THE Neolithic Age is the historical period when early humans began manufacturing different tools and introducing technological innovation, especially in agriculture. Growing populations have always led societies in the search for raw materials, and therefore as a result of this quest, the idea of commercial exchange has developed between different regions. Agriculture, sedentary life and the birth of civilization began early in Anatolia and Izmir immediately became a springboard in bringing the Neolithic Revolution over to the West.

Izmir has always been known as a trade center throughout history. The new city, established with Alexander the Great, is built as a port city, extending from the slopes of Kadifekale towards the sea. During the Roman and subsequent Byzantine empires, Izmir survived as an important trade port. During the Ottoman Period, especially from the seventeenth century onwards, Izmir positions itself as the warehouse of goods from the East and the export port of goods produced in Anatolia.

As the local economy begins to emerge in this century, traders from Europe begin the journey to Izmir and the city is now a place where people from all nationalities can be seen on its streets and bazaars, alongside all the goods from East and West. As Izmir played the role of being a trade connection between Asia and Europe, it is no coincidence that the first use of money occurs in this geography. The Lydian civilization that invented the money was settled in the region, around the valleys and mountains between the Gediz and Menderes rivers.

Commercial passages in Izmir used to be widespread around Kemeraltı and Frenk Street. Kemeraltı was a commercial district revolving around traditional commerce, offering mostly local wares, and it developed along the old inner harbor. When we take a look at Kemeraltı Bazaar, we can see the traditional bazaar structure of the Ottoman Empire: Names of occupations such as stone and marble cutters, ironmongers, candy makers, and weighers still exist in the street names of the market today. At present, colorful shops and traditional restaurants serve Kemeraltı, one of the living witnesses of Izmir's history. In Kızlarağası, one of the most famous inns of the bazaar, there are also many shops, especially antiques, from textiles to local handicrafts, silversmiths to souvenirs, from coffee shops to restaurants.



Funda Öztürk

Klozamenai was one of 12 Ionian cities. In this ancient city still exists today the oldest fabric where olive oil was produced in Anatolia.



Ozan Celik



Simona Sabatini

The peninsula, home to the first known viticulture atelier in Anatolia, offers a perfect vineyard route. The atelier in the Bağlıca area of the ancient Çeşme harbor, where the Hittites and Cretans produced and exported grape product around 2000 BCE, was discovered in archaeological excavations.

Kemeraltı is famous for its colorful shops, and restaurants that appeal to different tastes.



VISIT THE ROOTS OF DEMOCRACY

The Ionian settlements around Izmir are home to some of the oldest democratic assemblies. Follow in the footsteps of democracy, one of the most far-reaching innovations of mankind.

SEVEN of the ancient Ionian cities, leaders in free thought, democracy and the sciences, are all located within the borders of present-day Izmir. The foundations of philosophy, mathematics and medicine were laid in the Ionia; the Ionians used the Phoenician alphabet and brought it to the Greek mainland; this alphabet served as a bridge for cultural exchange between Ionian, Eastern and Western civilizations.

Ionia gained prosperity through trade and seafaring, experienced its golden age around 650-545 BCE. During this period, the Ionian cities became a crucial center for science, art and culture; They benefited greatly from Mesopotamian and Egyptian knowledge of astronomy, medicine and healing. Ionian philosophers developed the logic and proof method which established the rational foundations of science. This type of free thinking as it developed theremade it possible for all sciences to consolidate and soon Ionians got ahead of

The ancient site of Teos, located 5 kilometers from Seferihisar is one of the oldest and most important historical remains in the district. Teos was one of the 12 Ionian cities established by the Achaean General Athamas around 1080 BCE.



You can take a long walk on the Bostanlı coast reflects the modern face of the city, and finish the day while you enjoy the view.

Eastern civilizations partly due to the roots of democracy which were laid there, and that allowed thinking and working in complete freedom.. The egalitarian system (isonomy) established in Ionia offered economic and political equality which prevented slavery. Accordingly, the exact sciences were born in the free cities of Western Anatolia.

In the course of the ancient period, Ionians founded twelve city-states on the coastline between Izmir and Aydın. The historian Strabo lists as the northern and southern borders of the region the Hermos (Gediz River) and Maiandros rivers (Büyük Menderes River). It is estimated that Ionian cities were founded around 1000 BCE. These cities were: Erythrai (İldırı - Çeşme), Klazomenai (İskele - Urla), Teos (Sığacık - Seferihisar), Lebedos (Gümüldür), Kolophon (Değirmendere - Menderes), Ephesus (Selçuk), Phokai (Foça), Priene (Söke), Miletus (Didim), Myus (Didim), Chios (Chios) and Samos (Samos). As the Ionia became increasingly wealthier and growing with maritime trade, it came to include later also Smyrna (Izmir).

Teos, a city in the Ionia, is the first place in history where a Union of Artists was founded. For many years, Teos remained as a center for art, and Anachreon, Antimachus, Epicurus, Nausiphanes, Apellikon and historian Hecataeus, who were among very important philosophers and artists of antiquity, lived here. In Teos, referred to by Herodotus as "the most moderate place in the world", many well-preserved ruins can still be seen today. The largest Temple of Dionysus in the ancient world is located here. Other ruins such as a port, theater and odeon can be visited as well.

Six Ionian cities established on the southwestern border of Izmir are now connected through the Ephesus-Mimas Road. The historical route starts out from Ephesus, passes through the ancient cities of Kolophon, Lebedos, Teos, Klazomenai and Erythrai, and reaches Karaburun. In the peninsula, there are olive and vineyard-themed routes, as well as trails that can be crossed on foot and cycling routes.



One of the things that visitors to Izmir always do is being photographed in front of the Clock Tower and feeding the birds lying around.

Emirali Kocal

VISIT THE ROOTS OF MEDICINE

The Acropolis, the administrative center of Pergamon, was built on a hill overlooking the Bergama Plain, offers a unique view.



The Asclepeion was built in 4th century BCE and was famous for its healing water and for the inscription "Death can't enter here" on its gate. Galen, the most important physician and pharmacist of the ancient world, is from Pergamon.



The Asclepeion of Pergamon in Izmir is one of the oldest healing temples in the world, an ancient centre for medicine and health. Come and discover the roots of ancient and modern medicine.

BERGAMA, founded on the ancient city of Pergamon, is one of the earliest settlements in the history of civilization. Although the history of the region dates back to the Bronze Age, the earliest remains on the top of the fortress where the Pergamon ancient city was founded belong to seven-sixth century BCE. Pergamon is the thirteenth UNESCO World Heritage Site in Turkey, due to its unparalleled historical and cultural value. The acropolis, the administrative center of Pergamon, was built on a hill overlooking the Bergama Plain, and offers unique views. In Pergamon, the Athena Temple, the Trajan Temple, the Altar of Zeus, an almost 10 thousand-person theater built in Anatolia, the Bacchus Temple, and the Bergama Library are awaiting visitors with all of their magnificence.

Growing up after Hippocrates from Kos, who is known as the father of medicine, Galen, the most important physician and pharmacist of the ancient world, is from Pergamon and received his first medical education there. Galen, who served as the palace physician of the Roman Empire, performed his job between the years of 157-161 CE in Pergamon. The snake figure, an ancient symbol of medicine and pharmacy, originated in Bergama, where many firsts took place. Built in the fourth century BCE, the Asclepieion of Pergamon is famous for its healing waters and bears the inscription "Death cannot enter here" written on its gate. The Asclepieion Health City, dating back to ancient times, was dedicated to Asclepius (the god of health in mythology) and has been an important treatment center for centuries. Here, the patients used to walk the 650-meter-long sacred road, drink from the healing water, - drinkable still today, and wash themselves in it; and only then the treatment of the illness would begin. The Asclepius archaeological site still preserves all of its magnificence today with its gallery courtyard, theater structure for 3,500 people, cult hall belonging to the Emperor Hadrian, its library and Asclepius temple with a circular plan.

Records on the export of orchid tubers used in the pharmaceutical industry go back to the 1700s.



VISIT THE ROOTS OF PHILOSOPHY

Ephesus is the most famous place to visit in Selçuk. This magnificent ancient city, has the privilege of being included in UNESCO World Heritage List, invites you to a magical journey through history with its magnificent structures such as the Great Theater, Celsus Library, and Hadrian's Temple.



Since many ancient philosophers sprang in the Ionia, the Izmir region has been home to many of the key ideas underpinning present day civilization. Come and share in the footsteps of ancient wisdom.

IONIA is highly regarded as the place where philosophy first emerged. Ionians, who developed the logic and proof method by ridding themselves of religious and mythological explanations, laid the rational foundations of philosophy in this part of the world. This favorable environment made it possible for philosophers like Thales to emerge. In another Ionian city, Ephesus, one of the lands where philosophy was born; philosophers such as Heraclitus, Hermodor, Alcidas saw their birthplace.

The Library of Celsius is one of the most significant buildings of the Roman period. It is also a funerary monument because it was built in 106 BCE by a son of Celsius, a famous governor of the region who had a great attachment to books, science and the arts.

Listed in the UNESCO World Heritage List while also being Turkey's largest open-air museum, the ancient city of Ephesus is visited by almost a million people every year. The Roman Period monument Celsus Library and the Temple of Artemis, considered one of the seven wonders of the ancient world, are all located here.

Ephesus, located in the Selçuk district of Izmir, was one of the twelve cities of Ionia. Its foundation dates back to 6 thousand BCE, during

the Neolithic Age. During excavations carried out in recent years, settlements belonging to the Hittites and the Bronze Age have been found in the mounds around Ephesus and Ayasuluk Hill, where the castle is located. During the Hittite Period, the name of the city was Apasas.

Since Ephesus has been displaced many times throughout its history, its remains are spread over a large area of 8 square kilometers. Ephesus, the port city where newcomers from the Greek mainland began to live in around 1050 BCE, moved around the Temple of Artemis in 560 BC. The current Ephesus, which can be visited today, was founded by Lysimakhos, one of the generals of Alexander the Great, around 300 BCE. Ephesus experienced its golden era during the Hellenistic and Roman times, and sustained then a population of two hundred thousand people as the capital of the Asian province and the largest port city. Ephesus has always played an important role in the fields of civilization, science, culture and art.

ANAXAGORAS - URLA

Anaxagoras is also among the philosophers from Izmir. He was a student of Thales, who is one of the founding fathers of philosophy. Anaxagoras belonged to one of the noble families of today's Urla, which was named Klazomenai in ancient world. He is also among Socrates's teachers. It is rumored that Anaxagoras spent his considerable wealth in the pursuit of scientific research. Urla has become today a center for culture, art, olives and wine.

HERACLITUS - SELÇUK

Heraclitus, the first philosopher to introduce a systematic view of knowledge in the history of Western philosophy, also lived in Ephesus. Heraclitus, was the most important name among the philosophers of nature, is famous for the aphorisms "The only constant in life is change" and "No man ever steps in the same river twice".

EPHESUS SCHOOL - SELÇUK

The Ephesus School, among the most important schools in the ancient world together with the Milesian School, was established within the borders of the ancient city of present-day Ephesus. Its founder was Heraclitus, the most famous of the philosophers of nature.

TRAVEL TO THE LAND OF MYTH

Homer was born on the banks of Meles River and lived on the shores that he likened to a garden of the sun. There is a monument of Homer where Meles meets the sea.

Izmir is believed to be Homer's birthplace, author of the epics of the Iliad and the Odyssey, oldest works of literature in the Western world. Immerse yourself in a world of heroic sagas.



IZMIR and the Ionian cities around it have become the places where the basic concepts that constitute the history of thought have matured. This geography, where medicine emerged and the first works of science and philosophy were written, is a land of philosophers.

Homer, the bard of the Iliad and the Odyssey, also revealed the first literary works of the Western canon here with inspiration drawn from the wine color of the Aegean Sea and the folds of the Meles. These Ionian cities, the center of intellectual production of this era, carry the traces of the social and intellectu-

al development of mankind up to the present moment with its large libraries and the squares where the voice of Homer is echoed.

LIBRARY OF PERGAMUM - GALEN - BERGAMA

The best starting point for the Izmir Literature Route is Bergama, the northernmost settlement of Izmir. The Bergama Library maintains an inventory of two hundred thousand books according to Plutarch; it is in a race with Alexandria Library in its own time. Galen, the famous philosopher and physician of the era also lived in Bergama.

HOMER - IZMIR

When we come from the north toward the south and center, we come always across the great poet Homer, the bard of The Iliad and the Odyssey, the founding texts of the canon of Western literature. The famous historian Strabo's mention of the existence of a stoa called Homereion around Izmir and the presence of a statue of Homer here among alleged evidence that Homer hailed from Izmir.

CELSUS LIBRARY - SELÇUK

The ruins of the third largest library of the ancient world, Celsus Library, are also located in Izmir. The library, one of the most important structures of Ephesus - protected as a UNESCO World Heritage Site- was built at the zenith of the Roman Empire's power, and is one of the most important structures that have survived to present day.

The parchment from Bergama has been known a high quality writing tool.

TRAVEL TO THE LAND OF OLIVE CULTURE

Olive is the eternal sacred tree of ancient mythology. Olivoculture has been present in the Izmir region since the most remote times of antiquity and from there spread west. In Izmir embrace ancient olive trees and visit the oldest known olive oil press known in the world.

THE olive, one of the most important aspects of Mediterranean life since times immemorial is the most characteristic produce of the Izmir Peninsula with its particular culture, taste and monetary value. When it comes to olives, Izmir is such an important destination that the first modern olive oil workshop in the world is located in the ancient city of Klazomenai in Urla.

Accordingly, the journey of olives on the Peninsula is one of the most enjoyable among thematic sightseeing routes you can follow in Izmir region. On this route passing through the districts of Güzelbahçe, Çeşme, Seferihisar, Menderes and Selçuk , there are olive trees, olive oil workshops, water sources, olive oil factories, landscapes and observation terraces, olive mashing sites, stones used in olive oil making, camping sites, wells, windmills and water mills.

The Olive is the most characteristic produce of Izmir since prehistoric times.

VISIT THE ROOTS OF MEDITERRANEAN GASTRONOMY

Herbs always have the leading role in the tables you sit in Izmir. Herbs, which are exposed to the sun in all seasons of the year and grown in fertile soil, are sometimes included as a salad and sometimes as a meal.



Valter Bernardeschi



The basis of Izmir cuisine, is made up of olive oil, herbs and vegetable dishes. Rich vineyards of Izmir provides its delicious seedless grapes. Olive oil, the "Liquid Gold" of Izmir since the ancient times and figs were one of the main trade goods of Izmir especially at the beginning of the republican era.



Aykut Uslutekin



Aykut Uslutekin

Ancient vineyards, goat pastures and olive orchards are widespread in the surroundings of the Izmir region, offering original and unique tastes of the Mediterranean.

THE interaction with different cultures throughout Izmir's history has enriched the culinary culture and carried it to the present day. Izmir cuisine has a culture blended with the influence of Rum, Bosnian, Albanian, Crete, Sephardic, Levantine, Anatolian and Greek cuisines. The basis of Izmir cuisine, which is a unique combination of Aegean, Mediterranean and Anatolian cuisines, is made up of fish, olive oil, herbs and vegetable dishes. When it comes to Izmir cuisine, delicious herbs that grow in the Aegean come to mind; among them, we can count tangle, hibiscus, şevket-i bostan, ivy and nettle. Various local markets, festivals, fairs, gastronomy tours and tasting events, where local dishes are held every year in the city, host many local and foreign tourists.



Mehmet Koyas

Kumru and boyoz are the main street flavors of Izmir.



Kemal Okul

VISIT THE HEART OF FAITHS

Artemis Temple, one of the seven wonders of the ancient world, is the largest temple of the Artemis cult according to the goddess tradition of Anatolia.



Yabets Sinagog in Pergamon, was built in 1875. Although the Jewish heritage in Izmir dates back to Romaniots, in just 5 minutes walking to the Symrna Agora, you can find the signs of Sephardic heritage.

Several religions, including Islam, Christianity and Judaism built their temples and shrines in Izmir, landmarks of the city, still in close proximity to one another – a testimony of coexistence.

IZMIR, where different cultures have co-existed with long-held tolerance in many years, is one of the model cities where you can admire the temples of different faiths in close proximity as the city is home to different religions. In Izmir, where you can hear the sounds of athan and church bells together while walking down the streets; there are so many buildings worthwhile seeing such as mosques bearing traces of Ottoman architecture, churches that have reached our present time without losing their appearance, synagogues dating back to 16th century and the residences of famous clergymen.

In the city center it is possible to see many historical mosques. In addition to these mosques, most of which were built in the Ottoman period, a number of small mosques still serve the needs of congregants. Among the mosques, often located around Kemeraltı : Hisar Mosque, Şadırvan Mosque, Kestanepazarı Mosque,





Hisar Mosque, which is one of the biggest mosques in Izmir, is located in the Historical Kemeraltı Bazaar with its magnificent glory.



St. Helen Church is located in Karşıyaka.

On the Bülbül Mountain, right next to Ephesus, there is a church. It is believed that Jesus' Mother Mary spent her last years there. Virgin Mary Church is a place of pilgrimage for Catholic Christians.



Başdurak Mosque, Kemeraltı Mosque, Yalı Mosque, Salepçioğlu Mosque and Damlaçık Mosque are among the main historical buildings worth seeing.

Besides the mosques, there are many churches to be seen in the city center: Saint Polycarpe Church, Aya Fotini Church, St. Vukolos Church Cultural Center . The House of Virgin Mary, an important site for Christianity and declared as a "place of pilgrimage" in Selçuk, "Double Churches," the first church built in honor of Virgin Mary, Bazilika, built in honor of Jesus' favorite apostle, St. John, the Seven Sleepers Cave, and three of seven churches of the New Testament built in Anatolia make Izmir an attractive location in terms of pilgrimage tourism.

Synagogues dating back centuries are of great importance in the cultural fabric of the city. They are mostly located in the districts of Göztepe, Kemeraltı, and Karşıyaka. Among them, it is indispensable to visit Beth Israel Synagogue, Shalom Synagogue, and Algazi Synagogue. The Jewish Circle route which includes nine synagogues and the rabbinate in Kemeraltı region, awaits visitors who want to experience Izmir's four-hundred-years of Sephardic heritage.



The Yalı Mosque, located in Konak Square, attracts attention with its tiles and octagonal plan.

HIGHLIGHTS IN IZMIR

Izmir is among the most popular destinations for a holiday of sea, sand and sun. On the other hand, its ancient past appeals to archaeology enthusiasts while its streets, lively around the clock, await the explorers of the modern city.



DOWNTOWN



Located in the city center, Historical Elevator is one of the symbols of Izmir for both its historical value and breathtaking views.



Emirali Koral

Izmir is on its way to become a bicycle city. During your stay in Izmir, you can safely bike along the 40 kilometers bicycle road right next to the shore and enjoy the view.



Izmir Bay brings water sports lovers together with many events organized throughout the year.

Konak has been the center of Izmir throughout history. There are many historical bazaars, inns, hotels, architectural heritage and monuments in Konak. Located in the center of the city, the Agora open-air museum is the most telling evidence of Izmir's multi-layered history. At Konak Square, there are the Yali Mosque-equipped with Kütahya tiles, Clock Tower, the City Hall, the Government House, the National Library and Historical Kemeralti Bazaar. Tarihi Asansör (Historical Elevator), which also gave its name to the surrounding district, is one of the main landmarks that should be seen in the city center. It was built in 1907 by Nesim Levi to facilitate pedestrian traffic, connecting two streets at different topographic levels. Basmane, the historical district of the city, takes its name from a printing factory set up here in the eighteenth century. Basmane attracts attention for its architectural heritage such as stone streets, where Izmir's old bay windowed houses are located, alongside mosques, the Ayavukla Church, Basmane Station and Dönertaş Public Fountain. The building of the station in Basmane has been in service since 1866.

NATURE OF İZMİR



Tijen Burultay

İZMİR, a Mediterranean city, has almost all variety of flora from the Eastern Mediterranean region. İzmir is home to a variety of ecological habitats such as forests, wetlands, marine and coastal ecosystems. Three stream basins of Western Anatolia - Bakırçay, Gediz and Küçük Menderes are flowing in to the sea from within the borders of İzmir province. Forests cover approximately 40 percent of the city and where forests end, the flora turns into maquis shrubland.

Although İzmir has a mild Mediterranean climate, it is also home to high mountains up to 2000 meters. Around the Bozdağ Mountain range, there is a Büyük Çavdar Ski Center, near Ödemiş. The Spil Mountain between Manisa and İzmir is one of the most ideal places for extreme sports and trekking. There are as well many suitable areas for trekking in Kemalpaşa, Ödemiş and the Bozdağ highlands, the Kozak Plateau in Bergama and in the immediate vicinity of İzmir.

The ancestor of the olive trees grow naturally in the forests of İzmir.



Tijen Burultay



Anemone is the spring messenger and one of the most beautiful flowers of İzmir. One of the first flowers that bloom in and around İzmir, it grows especially in maquis, forest and meadows.



Dalmatian Pelican is one of the two pelican species seen in Turkey. Dalmatian Pelican breeds in Gediz Delta, one of the most important natural habitats in İzmir. The Meles Delta and Karşıyaka coasts are other important habitats where the species can be seen in İzmir Bay.



The shores of Izmir are home to the Mediterranean Seal, one of the world's rarest twelve mammals and the rarest living species in Europe.

Izmir is home to nearly 5 percent of the world's Greater Flamingo population. Come and see flamboyances of flamingos in the Gediz Delta, a natural reserve and wetland of global importance, next to the city of Izmir.



GEDİZ DELTA

Izmir is the best proof that you can live in a modern city without leaving nature. A huge metropolis like Izmir contains the Gediz Delta, home to hundreds of species of birds and one of the largest coastal wetlands of Turkey. The Delta supplies approximately one third of Turkey's salt production and meanwhile, it is also arable land for farmers and fishers of Izmir. In recent months, an official candidacy application has been filed by Izmir Metropolitan Municipality for the Gediz Delta to be included in UNESCO World Natural Heritage List.

Birgi, in the proximity of Ödemiş, is located in a lush valley that also preserves its traditional architectural features with its high stone houses and wooden windows. There are tombs, as well as mosques and baths, and historical mansions, everything ranging from remote past to present in Birgi, with its history dating back 5,000 years.



Birgi, the historical neighborhood of İzmir, kind of takes its visitors on a journey in time with its architectural tradition.



Emrallı Kocalı

Lübbey

ÖDEMiŞ is located in southeast of İzmir, and Lübbey Village is 20 kilometers away from downtown Ödemiş. The history of Lübbey village in Ödemiş, İzmir goes back to ancient times. Zeibeks had military barracks in Lubbey in the Ottoman period. Rapid out-migration started in the 1980s. Some of the villagers in Lübbey moved to Camyayla, another village 10 kilometers away, for fertile agricultural lands, while others migrated to metropolitan areas.

Lübbey is a village at the foothills of Bozdağ, five hundred meters high.



Ferdi Akarsu



You can attend wine tastings in Şirince and take part in vine harvest during the season.

Şirince

Şirince Village, located approximately 10 kilometers from the center of Selçuk, is an old Greek-Turkish village town founded in the 9th century. Şirince is an important attraction today with its cobblestone streets with centuries-old houses, vineyards, peach and olive trees among other natural beauties.

Tire

TIRE is a district where history and nature go hand in hand with each other. Dating back three thousand years ago, Tire has a rich cultural heritage from the Hittites, Phrygians, Persians, Greeks, Romans, and Byzantines. The Tire plains, named Asia meadows, were even mentioned in Homer's Iliad. Tire was one of the Ottoman Empire's most important centers. There are many examples of historical architecture in Tire worthwhile seeing, such as mosques, inns, bathhouses, fountains, social complexes, libraries, and prayer rooms.



Tire is also famous for its local market. Besides fresh fruits and vegetables, there are also handicrafts for sale and people flock here from many parts of Izmir.

Tinning, weaving, shoe making, pottery and felt making are among local handicrafts that can still be seen in Izmir, especially in Tire and Menemen. You can come across examples of these handicrafts in many museums and workshops.



Ozan Çelik

Akropol, the first settlement in Bergama district, which means "castle", awaits in all its glory visitors who come to the city.

Pergamon - World Heritage Site

Dating back to the third century BCE, Pergamon is another asset in Izmir on UNESCO World Heritage List. The Acropolis of Pergamon was a major learning center in the ancient world and the administrative center of the Pergamon Kingdom. The Acropolis was also home to the steepest ancient theater and the second largest library in the ancient world as well as the first psychiatr hospital.

The Ancient City of Ephesus

One of the treasures on UNESCO World Heritage List, the Ancient City of Ephesus is an extraordinary historical treasure. The Great Theater in the city was the largest outdoor theater in the ancient world. One of the 7 wonders of the world, the Temple Artemis is also among the must-see structures as well as The Library of Celcus, another architectural gem.



Bergama Carpet

The carpets woven in Bergama for centuries have been passed down generations and have survived to present day; these carpets have become an important cultural heritage for Izmir. The Bergama carpets, where women from Izmir process every stage of life, presents unique examples of Anatolian abstraction with its patterns and narratives. Bergama carpets are produced in harmony with nature employing traditional weaving, a rarity nowadays. The wool collected without harming the animals was colored with madder root. As long as there are still the artisans who continue this ancient tradition, different stories of Anatolia will continue to live in Bergama motifs.



Urla, the nearest district where you can swim near the center of Izmir, has immaculate bays.

Urla

Urla is one of the most beautiful holiday resorts of the Aegean Region. George Seferis, Necati Cumalı and Tanju Okan all lived here. The longest coastline of Izmir is in Urla, with a beautiful view on the small Urla Bay and the 12 Islands across.

Cittaslow Seferihisar

Seferihisar Turkey's first Cittaslow city, Seferihisar is located 45 kilometers away from Izmir. The history of Seferihisar goes back three thousand years with the ancient city of Teos. Seferihisar promises peacefulness with its calm streets, friendly people, an ancient town and a crystal clean sea.

Seferihisar is the first Cittaslow city of Turkey.



Emirali Kotal



Emirali Kokal

The Siren Rocks mentioned in Homer's Odyssey are located in Foça. The Siren Rocks are also mentioned in Greek mythology; it was believed that their bodies were bird-shaped and their heads were like the heads of women.

It was believed that they caught the attention of people to the rocks with their music and sailors who were drawn by the music lost their bearings, crashed on the rocks and sank.

Foça

Located 79 kilometers north of Izmir city, Foça takes its name from Phocæa, an old Ionian city. The district is divided into two quarters as Old and New Foça, and has a small port. With its proximity to the center and its clean bays, it welcomes many tourists during the summer season. Making its name renown for the legendary Siren Rocks in Homer's Odyssey, Foça is the shelter area of the Mediterranean monk seals, on the verge of extinction.

Located west of Izmir, Çeşme is a world-famous holiday destination with its deep blue waters, white beaches and nightlife. The Çeşme Marina is one of the most modern and new facilities in the region; it is considered a paradise for yachting, awash with beautiful bays. Çeşme is also one of the first addresses that comes to mind for windsurfing in our country. With its convenient infrastructure for surfers of all levels, Alaçatı is also host to international surf races.

Çeşme Castle is one of the must-see values of Çeşme with its solidity that defies its history, its architectural structure and its museum bearing the traces of civilizations. Çeşme is also a paradise for those who are fond of water sports; Alaçatı is a frequented place for the surf lovers.



Emirali Kokal

İZMİR CITY CENTRE

With its ideal geographical location, unique natural beauty, outstanding history and dynamic economy, Izmir is a real Mediterranean legend. Izmir, a city dating back 8,500 years, has hosted a number of different civilizations like the Hittites, the Romans, the Byzantines and the Ottomans.

Izmir, which has a myriad of treasures like the ancient cities in Ephesus and Bergama, the remnants of the Temple of Artemis which is one of the 7 wonders of the world, and the house of Mary teams with the history. Described as a princess by Victor Hugo, Izmir is not only known for its history but also for its unique natural beauty. Having the world's best climate according to historian Herodot, Izmir has 300 days of sunshine in a year.

Izmir is a real wonder of nature with 600 kilometers of coastline, blue flag beaches and coves, a bird sanctuary, the Alaçatı surf center and thermal facilities.

-  Historical Buildings
-  Museums
-  Mosques
-  Churches
-  Synagogues
-  Important City Areas
-  Piers
-  Metro Station
-  Metro Line
-  İZBAN station
-  İZBAN Line
-  Train stations
-  Tourism Information

- 1 Clock Tower
- 2 Government Office
- 3 Konak Square
- 4 Kemeraltı
- 5 Havra Street
- 6 Sinyore Giveret Synagogue
- 7 Kızlarağası Inn
- 8 Abacıoğlu Inn
- 9 Painting and Sculpture Museum
- 10 History and Art Museum
- 11 Selçuk Yaşar Museum and Art Gallery
- 12 Toy Museum
- 13 Archeology Museum
- 14 Atatürk Museum
- 15 Etnography Museum
- 16 Music Museum and Sound Library
- 17 Arkas Art Center
- 18 Joy and Cartoon Museum
- 19 Radio and Democracy Museum
- 20 Mask Museum
- 21 Women's Museum
- 22 Konak Pier
- 23 Agora
- 24 Kıbrıs Şehitleri Street
- 25 Cumhuriyet Square
- 26 Gündoğdu Square
- 27 Culture Park
- 28 Kordon Waterfront
- 29 Elevator
- 30 Ayavukla Church
- 31 St. Polycarp Church
- 32 Salepçioğlu Mosque
- 33 Başdurak Mosque
- 34 Şadırvan Mosque
- 35 Hisar Mosque
- 36 Kadifekale
- 37 Cable Car
- 38 Sasalı Nature Park and Bird Sanctuary
- 39 Shalom Synagogue
- 40 Bet Israel Synagogue
- 41 Karagöl
- 42 St John Anglican Church
- 43 St Jean Cathedral



URLA

Urla, where nature and sea embrace history, is a waterfront settlement of Izmir. Urla is a leading region in Turkey for olives, grapes, fruit, artichokes, vegetables and agro tourism.

Must-See Places: The Urla Port, Klozemenai and Port Excavation Zone, Bademler, Ovacık, Demircili and Özbek Villages

DIKILI

Dikili is a district popular among summer vacationers for its Blue Flag beaches and its therapeutic waters. The thermal region in Dikili has been producing mud for three thousand years.

Must-See Places: Kalem Island, the Ancient City of Aterneus, Çandarlı Castle, Nebiler Village, Hayıtlı, the thermal spas in Kocaoba and the Deliktaş Village stone tombs.

FOÇA

It is said that Foça, a seaside area with a significant history, tourism and nature gets its name from the Mediterranean Seals that live on the surrounding islands and the Siren Bluffs. This is why seals are the city symbols.

Must-See Places: The Foça Castle, which is on the UNESCO World Culture Heritage Temporary List, windmills, Cybele Outdoor Temple, rock monument (Satrap Tomb), Stone Houses, Şeytan Bath – another tomb, Beşkapılar Castle and the Maritime Museum

ÇEŞME

The Çeşme peninsula, with its clear water, sun, fine sand and sulfurous therapeutic water, has a coastline spanning 29 kilometers. There are beaches, each more beautiful than the other along this coast. Alaçatı, one of the world's select surfing locations, is in Çeşme. The ancient city of Erythrai (presently Ildır), which is one of 12 Ionian cities, provides the opportunity to observe a wealth of archeological artifacts.

Must-See Places: Up to 20 beaches including Şifne, Küçük Liman, Pırlanta, Paşa Limanı, Ilıca Beach, Çiftlik, Altinkum, Çatal Azmak, Sakızlı Village, Tekke Beach and Ayayorgi in particular, the streets of Alaçatı and the Ancient City of Erythrai

KARABURUN

Karaburun, with its nature and unique flora, has heavenly coves that enchant visitors. There are suitable areas for diving.

Must-See Places: Karaburun Port and villages

SEFERİHISAR

Turkey's first Cittaslow (Slow City) city, Seferihisar, presents the sea and history together.

Must-See Places: Teos Ancient City, Siğacık Castle and Port, Lebedos, City Memorial Museum and House of Memoirs

GEDİZ DELTA

A huge metropolis like Izmir contains Gediz Delta, which is home to hundreds of species of birds and one of the largest coastal wetlands of Turkey. The Delta supplies approximately one third of Turkey's salt production and in the meantime, it is the production land for farmers and fishers of Izmir. In recent months, an official candidacy application has been filed by Izmir Metropolitan Municipality for Gediz Delta to be included in UNESCO World Natural Heritage List.

SELÇUK

Selçuk, where the Ancient City of Ephesus and the House of Mary are located, is a center for both religious and cultural tourism. The Ancient City of Ephesus is on the UNESCO World Heritage List. Pamucak, located 9 kilometers from the district center, is a favorite spot of vacationers with blue flag beaches. The Artemis Temple, one of the World's Seven Wonders, is also in Selçuk. Selçuk had a magnificent structure like the İsa Bey Mosque in the Islamic period. Established near the Ancient City of Ephesus and one of the most frequented tourism regions in Turkey, Selçuk has every type of accommodation available. Maintaining the texture of past centuries with homes in traditional architecture and narrow cobblestone streets, Şirince is nestled in greens near Selçuk.

Must-See Places: Ephesus, the House of Virgin Mary, the Basilica of St. John, Şirince Village, Ephesus Museum

MENDERES

The recreation areas in Menderes and waterfront settlements like Özdere and Gümlüdür make this a popular region in the summer months for seaside tourism. There are a number of ancient cities in the district as well.

Must-See Places: Claros Sacred Land, The Ancient Cities of Colophon and Notion, Özdere and Gümlüdür Beaches.

TORBALI

The Metropolis Ancient City is a significant archeological site in Izmir. The cutting and piercing tools left from the era when humans transitioned to settled life and began plant and livestock farming prove that there were Neolithic settlements in the area where the Metropolis ancient city artifacts were found and in Kuşçuburun and Tepeköy.

Must-See Places: The Ancient City of Metropolis

BERGAMA

Bergama is one the most important settlements in the history of civilization. It was established on the Ancient City of Pergamon. The city is on the list of UNESCO World Heritages for the archeological value it has. The father of medicine, Galenos and parchment paper are some of the most important contributions made by this region to world heritage. Galenos, who is known as the father of pharmacology, was born in Bergama in the II. Century AD. The symbol of medicine containing a snake, which is still used in the present day, was first used in Bergama. Above the entry door of the Asklepion the phrase "Death may not enter" is written. The symbol

of medicine, a column with two snakes winding around it, is displayed here. Bergama is an historical city in which Seljuk and Ottoman artifacts as well as Roman and Byzantine buildings can be found. The samples of civil architecture like mosques, inns, baths, water tanks with fountains, synagogues and covered bazaars are worth seeing.

Must-See Places: Bergama Acropolis Archeological Site, Basilica, Asklepion Archeological Site, Museum,



- HISTORICAL VENUES
- YACHTING / SEA SPORTS
- NATURE SPORTS
- SHOPPING
- THERMAL FACILITIES
- WINTER SPORTS
- MUSEUMS
- NATURE PARKS
- BIRD SANCTUARY / WETLAND
- AIRPORT
- BLUE FLAG BEACHES

ÖDEMiŞ

In Ödemiş it is possible to experience many different beneficial forms of tourism from religious tourism to winter tourism and highland tourism to ecotourism. Ödemiş is a warm, welcoming district in a traditional Aegean sense with local handcrafts, its famous meatballs and the amazing and colorful openair market held on Saturdays. Birgi, located in Ödemiş and a candidate for the UNESCO World Heritage List with unspoiled architecture from the 18th and 19th centuries, is one of Izmir's districts worth seeing.

Must-See Places: Bozdağ – Gölçük, Birgi, Çakırağa Palace, Yıldız City Archives and Museum

TIRE

Tire is a district that is intermingled with history. There are mosques, inns, baths, ancient social complexes, fountains, libraries and prayer rooms worth seeing dating back three thousand years in Tire as well as many examples of civil architecture. Tire also has a famous market. Different and new fields of use have been created for traditional handcraft products to adapt them to our present day.

Must-See Places: Tire Museum, Necip Paşa Library, Yeni Mosque, Yoğurtluoğlu Social Complex, Kaplan Village, Tire Market, Eski Yeni Baths





İZMİR FOUNDATION

Izmir Foundation is a city alliance constituted by 71 institutions which have prominent roles in shaping the future of Izmir. The Foundation embodies public organizations, chambers, private sector and non-governmental organizations. Founded in 2000, Izmir Foundation (Izmir Tourism and Promotion Foundation) aims to promote Izmir on a global scale and to sustain and enrich the cultural and natural heritage of the province.

Taking its strength from its members, Izmir Foundation endeavours to establish tourism as a leading sector in the city economy and to create new milieus of cooperation and partnership.

Contact Us

Şair Eşref Bulvarı No.50 Kültürpark İzmir Türkiye

+90 (232) 425 55 25

info@izmirvakfi.org

<https://www.youtube.com/c/visitizmir>

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