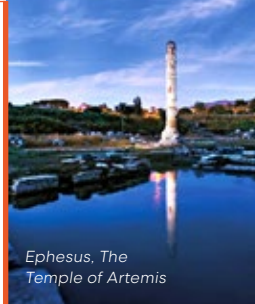




Izmir, A Universal City

Izmir has been one of the **most important port cities of the Mediterranean** since ancient times. It is the center where products, ideas and cultures meet and spread around the world taking on new meanings and contents. Izmir is the cradle of civilization that **brings together the continents of Europe, Asia and Africa**. It is the key point of the world's oldest trade routes.



Ephesus, The Temple of Artemis



Ephesus Ancient City

The brightest reflections of knowledge, philosophy and the long journey of science were seen in Izmir. The foundation of modern medicine was laid here. The basic pillars of the culture of democracy were built here and spread all over the world from Izmir. The world's first known parliaments, the oldest assemblies where democratic decisions were made and established in this city and in the unique geography that gave life to this city.

Izmir was always and still is a unique crucible where different cultures mix and mingle. Throughout its history, traders and conquerors rushed to it; scholars, philosophers, dervishes and jurists found the source of creative freedom in it. The cultural and ethnic diversity it contains has made Izmir a city open to innovation and diversity. Izmir is a universal city and deserves universal attention.

visit izmir

Your city guide with all the up-to date information about Izmir will help you plan your perfect trip. Exploring the city with Visit Izmir, the promotional face of Izmir, is both simple and fun. Visit Izmir, which contains detailed information about innovations, places to see, accommodation and activities in the city, shows you how to reach all these points on updated maps. You can send your comments and suggestions about Visit Izmir to the e-mail address

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Izmir Foundation

izmir.bel.tr
izmirvakfi.org



Discover the Past Enjoy the Moment

Izmir not only presents its visitors with monumental works of art and architecture from a rich past that dates back thousands of years; **it also tells the story of a culture that has preserved its authenticity.**

visitizmir.org





8,500 Years in a Day

İzmir is a modern city built on ancient settlements dating back **8,500 years** and witnessing an uninterrupted historical process until today. From the **Neolithic Age** to the **present**, all phases of **human history** continue to exist in the streets of İzmir.



Agora Ruins

Its historical process can be followed from three different settlements. The remains of the first settlement, which dates back to 8,500 years ago, are located in Yeşilova Mound in Bornova. The history of Yassitepe Mound near Yeşilova dates back to 5 thousand years ago. The history of Smyrna-Tepekule Mound in Bayraklı, the second settlement, dates back to 3 thousand BC. Traces from the Bronze Age to the end of the Iron Age were found here.



Pergamon Market



Ephesus Ancient City

Discover the Roots of Commerce

The history of trade dates back to ancient times in İzmir; it is deep enough to go back to the Neolithic age. İzmir gained its commercial structure and identity at that time and has always been a center of trade. Founded in the 4th century BC with the initiative of Alexander the Great, the new city was built as a port city, extending from the slopes of Kadifekale towards the sea. During the Roman and subsequent Byzantine empires, İzmir continued to exist as an important commercial city. During the Ottoman period, especially from the seventeenth century, it was positioned as the warehouse and export port of goods coming from the East and produced in Anatolia.

Journey to the Roots of Democracy

Ionian settlements around İzmir hosted the oldest democratic assemblies. You can follow the first steps of democracy, which is one of the most comprehensive innovations of humanity and which has been rediscovered after ages and adopted as the indispensable form of government of the modern world, for which millions struggle for the sake of democracy in İzmir.

Visit the Roots of Philosophy

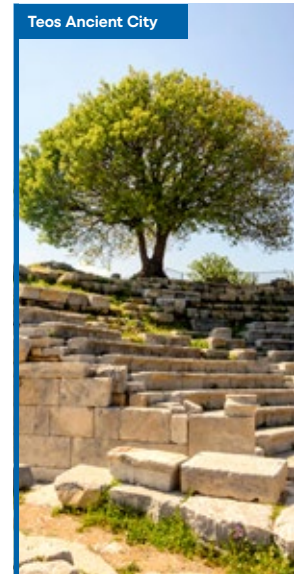
İzmir is known as the fertile land of conceptual and free thought, where the foundations of philosophy are laid. It invites its visitors to follow the traces of this ancient wisdom and wander through the fertile gardens of philosophy.

Visit the Heart of Faiths

İzmir, where different cultures live in tolerance, is one of the cities where structures belonging to different beliefs can be seen together. There are many structures worth seeing in the city, from mosques bearing the traces of Ottoman architecture to churches that have survived without losing their texture, from synagogues dating back to the 16th century to the houses of the clergy.



The House of the Virgin Mary



Teos Ancient City



Travel to the Land of Myths

Homer, inspired by the color of the Aegean Sea and the curves of Meles River, created the first literary works that would form the basis of Western culture here.



Join the World of Flavors and Tastes

İzmir cuisine is a flavor world with a culture blended with the influence of Greek, Albanian, Cretan, Sephardic, Levantine, Anatolian and Greek cuisines.



Visit The Source of Medicine

Pergamon Asclepion became one of the oldest medical schools and the famous healing centers. Galen, the most important physician and pharmacist of the ancient world, received his first medical education here.