

## İzmir



Izmir: The pearl of the west, is Turkey's third largest city and one of the most important port cities. It has a great nature and a rich historical and cultural heritage.

Also known as Old Izmir, Smyrna, built on an islet of hundred acres flourished into a great center of civilization over time. Established about 8500 years ago, the city is now home to a variety of world heritages.

The largest city of the Roman Empire which set an example to other ancient cities, Ephesus with its architectural and cultural landmarks is one of the most visited regions near to Selcuk in Izmir province.

The city is known as "beautiful Izmir" as it is blessed with numerous scenic beauties and is under the effect of the Mediterranean climate.

The summer is hot and dry where as the winter is mild. Lush for all seasons, Izmir is one of the biggest pine nut production areas.

One of the most beautiful descriptions of this city was made by Herodotus, who was also from Izmir: "they have founded the city under the most beautiful sky and the best climate that we know on Earth."

Thus, the city has earned its place in history.

Izmir, with its thriving investments and developing façade, has become a cultural capital of the Aegean and is rapidly on the way of becoming a world trademark.

Wouldn't you like to get to know this thriving capital of the Aegean region?

## Events

Izmir is one of Turkey's leading cities and is frequently mentioned for its events, fairs and festivals organized throughout the year.

The Izmir International Fair is one of the most comprehensive and well-established fairs of Turkey and opened on September 9 for a period of 10 days every year.

Held for the first time in 2013, the Bornova Homeros Festival will be organizing a variety of social, cultural, artistic, scientific and sporting events.

The Flower Festival of Karsiyaka, where the beautiful flowers of the Aegean region are exhibited is held since 2001. The Hidrellez Day, on the other hand, is a traditional festivity celebrating the spring. You can make a wish at Hidrellez and jump over the camp fire that is traditionally lit to ward off bad luck or illnesses.

The International Izmir Festival brings together art and culture, while the International Poetry Festival of Bornova, welcomes artists from all over the world who combine their imagination with the power of their pen.

The Izmir European Jazz Festival and IF Izmir International Independent Film Festival feature creative works of art whereas the Dragon Cup Turkey is well known as one of the world's largest inter-institutional sports competitions.

The Balkan Folk Dance Festival brings together representatives of the

countries with cultures akin to Turkish culture and the Japanese Film Festival, organized in cooperation with Japan, brings distant cultures together.

Many more activities and festivals are waiting for their guests and of course you are invited too.

## **Attractions**

There are a variety of places to go and many delicacies to taste in the city center and in the districts of Izmir province.

Districts located in the center of Izmir such as Konak, Alsancak, Karşıyaka, Bornova, Goztepe and Güzelbahçe will give you some clues to city life in Izmir and fascinate you with its restaurants and beautiful views. Agamemnon Thermal Spa in Balçova will help you to get rid of the stressful day and relax.

Tourists who want to enjoy the sun and the beach visit coastal towns near to Izmir such as Çeşme, Alaçatı, Seferihisar, Foca, Karaburun and Urla. The foundation of these towns date back to ancient times and the architectural façade of these towns still bear traces of these times.

Offering crystal clear seas and beautiful weather, these valuable resorts of Izmir welcome guests all around the year.

The ancient cities and ruins such as the House of Virgin Mary, Ephesus, Teos, Kyme, Metropolis and Agora open doors to another world. The Clock Tower (Saatli Kule), the symbol of Izmir built during the Ottoman Era, is another must-see landmark of the area.

Thanks to its climate and seaside location, the cuisine of Izmir is rich in fish and herb specialties such as nettle, chicory, or soleirolia dishes and seafood dishes such as seabbeans, groupers, mussels, papalina and sardines.

Izmir Köfte (casserole of meatballs) and vegetable dishes with olive oil are the other popular dishes of the local cuisine which offers also lokma, sambali and quark cheese dessert with mulberries. Boyoz, a special kind of pastry made in Izmir and often eaten for breakfast, is another must-try specialty of the area.

In Izmir, there is a lot to do and to see. You will like the climate and enjoy your holiday.

## **How can I get there?**

Although the transportation network is still subject to improvements, Izmir has a fairly well-developed transportation system.

The Izmir Adnan Menderes Airport is located near the city center and receives direct flights from many countries alongside connecting flights from Istanbul. There are also direct flights from Izmir to any airport city in Turkey.

You may take the subway, bus or a taxi after your arrival at the airport to get to the city center or the nearby districts of Izmir.

Ferries are another transportation alternative in the city. You can shorten the time of transportation and enjoy a sea journey by taking the ferry to commute between the Karsiyaka and Konak districts.

You may also take the highway to arrive in Izmir. You can take one of the shuttle buses between any major city and Izmir and reach the city center by taking a cap, the metro or the public bus leaving from Izmir Bus Terminal.

The holiday resorts of Izmir can be reached by getting on any of the buses leaving from the bus terminal in that direction. You will find yourself at some corner of paradise at the end of your small trip.

The Izmir harbor is one of the three largest ports in Turkey, where world famous Cruise ships anchor. You may consider arriving in Izmir on one of those ships and spend a terrific holiday in this unique city.

There are many alternatives of transportation for a more convenient vacation in this timeless and historic city.