

## TRAVEL BROCHURE OF OUR CITY 'İZMİR'

**İzmir**, historically Smyrna, is Turkey's third most populous city and the country's second largest port city after Istanbul. It is located along the outlying waters of the Gulf of İzmir, by the Aegean Sea, on the west part of Turkey. Its population is about 3,8 million. It has an area of 7350 km<sup>2</sup>. It is composed of twelve metropolitan districts (Balçova, Bayraklı, Bornova, Buca, Çiğli, Gaziemir, Güzelbahçe, Karabağlar, Karşıyaka, Konak, Menemen, Narlıdere, and Torbalı.)



İzmir has a typical Mediterranean climate characterized by long, hot, dry summers and cool, rainy winters.

### HISTORY

Modern İzmir incorporates the nearby ancient cities of *Ephesus* and *Pergamon* and centers of international tourism such as *Kuşadası*, *Çeşme*, *Mordoğan* and *Foça*.

**Smyrna** was the ancient city in Turkey. Its remains are located within the urban zone of İzmir (Bayraklı). **Bergama** is known for its cotton, gold and fine carpets; the city was the ancient Greek and Roman cultural center of **Pergamon**; its wealth of ancient ruins continues to attract considerable tourist interest.

**Smyrna**



**Pergamon**



**EPHESUS (Efes)** was an ancient Greek city on the west coast of Anatolia, near present-day Selçuk, İzmir.

**Temple of Artemis**



**Temple of Hadrian**



**Tomb of John the Apostle at the Basilica of St. John**



**Gate of Augustus**



**Roman Library of Celsus**



**The Cave of the Seven Sleepers**



**House of the Virgin Mary**



**Theater**



**Image of Ephesus on the reverse of the 20 lira**





## LANDMARKS

One of the more pronounced elements of İzmir's harbor is the ***Clock Tower***, a beautiful marble tower that rests in the middle of the ***Konak Square***, standing 25 m (82 ft) in height.



***Kemeraltı*** is a historical market (bazaar) district of İzmir. The district covers a vast area extending from the level of the Agora of Smyrna to the seashore along the Konak Square. It is one of the liveliest parts of İzmir. The court of the 1744-built ***Kızlarağası Han*** (caravanserai), with 1592-built ***Hisar Mosque*** in the background, in Kemeraltı. The caravanserai is a cultural center and a touristic attraction today.



***Kadifekale*** (the velvet castle) is the name of the hill located within the urban zone of İzmir as well as being the name of the ancient castle on top of the same hill.



***Asansör*** (elevator) is a building in İzmir's Karataş quarter, Konak and became one of the landmarks.



***Alsancak*** is a large business and luxury quarter. The Port of İzmir, İzmir Alsancak Stadium and Alsancak Railway Station are located in Alsancak, as well as the city's lushest and most expensive apartment blocks and the busiest office buildings, including consulates. Many restaurants, bars, cafes, hotels and other entertainment venues are also concentrated in Alsancak, increasingly within the older and more traditional one- or two-storied buildings found in the inner smaller streets and are often.

**Enjoying Kordon with a ride on İzmir's phaetons**

**Port of Alsancak**



***The İzmir Birds Paradise***, a bird sanctuary near Karşıyaka, contains 205 species of birds. A large open air zoo was established in the same district of Çiğli in 2008 under the name ***Sasalı Park of Natural Life***.



## CULTURE

The city hosts an international arts festival during June and July, and the *Izmir International Fair*, one of the city's many fair and exhibition events centered, covers an area of 421,000 m<sup>2</sup>, open-air theatres, the Painting and Sculpture Museum, art centers, amusement park, zoo, parachute tower, also hosts concerts.



İzmir hosted the Mediterranean Games in 1971 and the World University Games (Universiade) in 2005.

The *zeybek* is a form of folk music and dance peculiar to Western Anatolia in Turkey.



## CUISINE

İzmir's cuisine has largely been affected by its multicultural history, hence the large variety of food originating from the Aegean, Mediterranean and Anatolian regions. Another factor is the large area of land surrounding the region which grows a rich selection of vegetables. Some of the common dishes found here are the *tarhana soup* (made from dried yoghurt and tomatoes), *İzmir köfte*, *keşkek* (boiled wheat with meat), *zerde* (sweetened rice with saffron) and *mücver* (made from zucchini and eggs). *Boyoz* and *lokma* are Turkish pastries associated with İzmir. *Kumru* is a special kind of sandwich that is associated particularly with the Çeşme district and features cheese and tomato in its basics, with sucuk also added.

## TRANSPORTATION

İzmir is served by national and international flights through the *Adnan Menderes International Airport*

There is a modern *metro line* running from the southwest to the northeast .

All major districts are covered by a dense municipal *bus network* under the name ESHOT.

İzmir's urban *ferry services* for passengers and vehicles are very much a part of the life.



