

# İZMİR (SMYRNA)

## History

İzmir is a large city on the west coast of Turkey and it is the third most populous city in Turkey. İzmir is known as the pearl of Aegean region. The ancient city was known as “Smyrna”.

## Population

İzmir became a very important city in the late 16th century because French, English, Dutch and Venetian traders were interested in cotton and other products of the region. The city faced a plague in 1676, an earthquake in 1688 and a great fire in 1743, but still continued to grow. By the end of the 17th century, its population was about ninety thousand. According to the Turkish Statistical Institute, the city of İzmir had a population of about 3,5 million in 2012.

### Historical and Touristic Places around İzmir

İzmir is composed of 11 metropolitan districts. They are; Balçova, Bayraklı, Bornova, Buca, Çiğli, Gaziemir, Güzelbahçe, Karabağlar, Karşıyaka, Konak and Narlıdere.

İzmir is also close to some ancient cities such as Ephesus, Pergamon, Sardis and Klazomenai (tarihi İyonya kenti), and centers of international tourism such as Kuşadası, Çeşme, Mordoğan and Foça.

The “Agora of Smyrna” is well preserved, and it is arranged into the “Agora Open Air Museum of İzmir”.



“The Clock Tower” is a beautiful marble tower in the middle of Konak Square. It is 25 m in height. It was designed by Levantine French architect Raymond Charles Père in 1901. The clock workings themselves were given as a gift by the German Kaiser Wilhelm II.

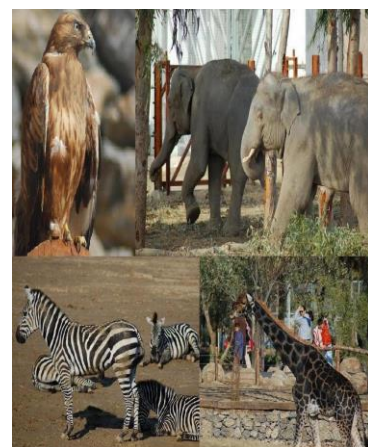


There are nine synagogues in İzmir. They are either in Karataş or in Havra Sokak (Synagogue street) in Kemeraltı, and they all bear the signature of the 19th century.



The İzmir Bird Paradise (Kuş Cenneti) in Çiğli is a bird sanctuary and it has recorded 205 species of birds.

There is also a large open-air zoo which was established in Çiğli in 2008 under the name “Sasalı Park of Natural Life”.



## Alsancak

Alsancak is the centre of shopping and fantastic cafes. There are modern buildings and attractive shops there. Most teenagers prefer Alsancak because there are lots of cafes and these cafes have delicious foods.

## Street of Bars

You can find live music in those places. The bars are different from the usual bars because attractive old houses are restored and they are used as a bar.

### Asansör:

It is an elevator from the 19th century. It is 51 metres in height. It links Mithat Paşa street to Halil Rıfat Paşa street. It was built in 1907 and restored by the municipality in 1993. On the upper side, there is an open-air cafe and a restaurant. You can have a delicious meal there with a breath-taking view of İzmir and the bay.



### House of the Virgin Mary

It is said that Virgin Mary had spent her last years there. It is located between Selçuk and Ephesus. Travel agencies in İzmir organise daily tours to this place.

## Izmir Fair

It is an international trade fair that has been held since 1932. Between August and September famous singers come to this fair and they give concerts.

## Karşıyaka

It is located on the north shore of İzmir and means "opposite shore". People who live in Karşıyaka think that they are different from the people of İzmir and they have an individual culture and history. They also have their own football team.

## Pasaport

Pasaport is between Konak and Cumhuriyet Square. Pasaport Dock was built in 1876. This area was full of old fashioned coffee houses which served water pipes as well as tea and coffee in the past, but today pubs took their places.

## Sports

Several important international sports events have been held in İzmir such as the Mediterranean Games in 1971 and the World University Games (Universiade) in 2005.

Notable football clubs in İzmir are: Altay, Bucaspor, Göztepe, İzmirspor and Karşıyaka.

## Climate

İzmir has a Mediterranean climate. Summers are hot and winters are warm. The average temperature is 18 degrees. In winters the weather is sometimes rainy and very cold. People can't decide what to wear when they want to go out, because the weather changes very often during the day.

## Accommodation

The accommodation is never a problem in İzmir. Because there are lots of hotels and they are very comfortable. You have lots of options to choose a hotel among them such as Hilton, Swissotel, Princess.

### Cuisine:

İzmir's cuisine has been affected by Aegean and Mediterranean regions. Some of the common dishes are "tarhana soup" (made from dried yoghurt and tomatoes), "İzmir köfte", "sulu köfte", "keşkek" (boiled wheat with meat), "zerde" (sweetened rice with saffron) and "müçver" (made from zucchini and eggs).

"Boyoz" and "lokma" are pastries associated with İzmir. "Kumru" is a special kind of sandwich that is associated particularly with Çeşme district and it is made from cheese and tomato and sometimes sucuk is also added.

Dishes made with fresh herbs have a special place in the Aegean cuisine. When spring comes local markets are filled with green vegetables, such as "radika, turpotu, hardalotu" and many more.



## Education:

The following universities were established in İzmir:

- Ege University
- Dokuz Eylül University
- İzmir Institute of Technology
- İzmir University of Economics
- Yaşar University
- İzmir University
- Katip Çelebi University
- Şifa University
- Gediz University

İzmir is also home to the third U.S. Space Camp in the world, Space Camp Turkey in Gaziemir.

