Overview

Izmir is located in the Gulf of Izmir in the Aegean Sea. The recorded urban history of İzmir dates back almost 5,000 years. The location as a Mediterranean port made Izmir a major location for maritime trade. Izmir’s remarkable growth began in the late 16th century when cotton and other products of the region attracted French, English, Dutch and Venetian traders here.

After World War I, the tension between the Greeks and the Turks in the region rose and escalated when the Turks burned down the city of Izmir and finally gained full control over it. Due to this Great Fire of 1923, there is a relative lack of historical sights in Izmir, especially when one considers how old the city really is. The modern construction of the city is sometimes odd for those expecting historic Ottoman architecture, but there is still lots to appreciate.

Today, Izmir is the third largest city in Turkey with a population of around 3.7 million, and the second biggest port after Istanbul. Konak Square, with its emblematic Ottoman Clock Tower, is Izmir’s main gathering point and social pinnacle for young Turks. The square leads into a long, winding Bazaar where lots of bargains can be found. Lining Birinci Kordon, a long main boulevard parallel to the waterfront, are dozens of bayside cafes where one can relax with wine and appetizers of local seafood while watching the crowds pass by. Not to be missed is the Agora, an enormous 2,000 year old marketplace where Roman farmers and merchants once sold goods. It’s one of the few places that has been spared from the modern urbanization.

Cruise Ship Pier Location

Cruise ships dock in Izmir in a neighborhood called Alcansak. Izmir downtown can be reached by foot via a 30 minute walk south along the shoreline.

Taxi Transportation

Plenty of taxis are available at the cruise terminal.
Taxi Companies Contact Data

- Iskele Taxi, Tel.: +90 232 422 6754
- Mimar Sinan Taxi, +90 232 463 4800
- Yeni Liman Taxi, Tel.: +90 232 421 0361

General Store Opening Hours

Opening times differ a lot around Turkey, but generally are Monday to Saturday from 9.30 am to 7 pm. On Sundays most shops are closed.

Service Locations

ATM:
- Right outside the terminal is an ATM located

Free wifi:
- There are several Internet cafes on the Birinci Kordon. Fast food chains – including McDonald's at Kibris Sehitleri Caddesi 65 and branches of Starbucks in Alcansak and other locations around the city – provide free wifi for customers.

Tipping / Bargaining Habits

In Turkey, tipping is discretionary, but expected. Tipping in Turkish Liras is better than Dollar or Euro. Tips on credit cards are not possible. Bargaining is widely expected in all bazaars and other small shops in Turkey.

Safety Advice

Izmir is considered a relatively safe city - however, the city has some unsafe neighborhoods. As always, be aware of your surroundings and lock up your valuables. In the bazaar in particular you will be approached by many vendors and face an incessant wave of requests to “come in and look”. Be polite but firm with vendors you aren't interested in, and also be aware of and keep your wallet/purses close. When it gets crowded pickpocketing is possible.

Nice To Know

- Milas, near Izmir, is one of the main carpet-weaving areas in western Turkey. If you want to pick up an affordable carpet then the bazaar in Izmir is an ideal spot!

Pharmacy / Hospital Contact Data

There are plenty of pharmacies in Izmir and you are never far from one.
Embassy Of the United States of America, 110 Atatürk Blvd., Kavaklıdere, 06100 Ankara, Tel.: +90 312 455 5555, Fax: +90 312 467 0019, e-mail: webmasterankara@state.gov

British Embassy, Şehit Ersan Caddesi 46/A, Çankaya, Ankara, Tel.: +90 312 455 33 44, Fax: +90 312 455 33 52

Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany, Remzi Oğuz Anl Mh., Atatürk Blv No:114, 06690 Cankaya, Ankara, +90 312 455 5100

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