



İzmir & the North Aegean

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Best Places to Eat

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Best Places to Sleep

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Why Go?

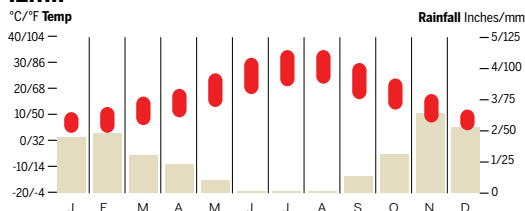
An extraordinary number of attractions are waiting to be discovered along the short stretch of coast between the Dardanelles and the Çeşme Peninsula. There are sandy beaches aplenty, and innumerable scenic viewpoints from where the Greek islands of Lesbos and Chios appear to float on the sparkling Aegean Sea.

There are also plenty of reminders of the region's importance in antiquity, most notably the extraordinary Acropolis and Askeplion at Bergama (Pergamum), the evocative ruins of Teos and the spectacularly sited Temple of Athena at Behramkale (Assos).

But as wonderful as these beaches and ruins are – not to mention the compelling attractions on offer in the urbane city of İzmir – most people who visit this part of the country say their most lasting memories are of the bittersweet traces of Greek heritage that have influenced the local cuisine and architecture and enriched the lives of its inhabitants.

When to Go

izmir



Apr Alaçatı hosts a foodie celebration of Aegean ot (wild greens).

Jun The International İzmir Festival brings music to the region.

Sep Bozcaada celebrates the grape harvest at its wine festival.



İzmir & the North Aegean Highlights

1 Bozcaada (p177)

Enjoying fine wine, fresh fish and Greek-style mezes on an island escape.

2 Bergama (Pergamum) (p190)

Exploring one of Turkey's most magnificent ancient sites.

3 Ayvalık's Old Town (p184)

Wandering the atmospheric backstreets of this Greek neighbourhood.

4 Behramkale & Assos (p180)

Admiring the glorious sea views from the Temple of Athena.

5 İzmir (p198)

Losing yourself in the labyrinthine

lanes of the historic Kemeraltı Market.

6 Alaçatı (p217)

Partying with the glitterati in the glamorous town of the Çeşme Peninsula.

7 Manisa (p212)

Marvelling at the beauty of the 16th-century Muradiye Mosque.