



Izmir & the North Aegean

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Why Go?

The quieter northern section of Turkey's Aegean coast is the ideal destination for anyone who wants to relax in the sun – without getting stuck on the beach. There are beaches, of course – such as those on Bozcaada – but the hills and peninsulas are also rich in history and culture. There's the remains of Troy, hilltop ruins in Bergama and Behramkale, and, around the latter, communities descended from Turkmen nomads.

Perhaps the most poignant piece of local history is the population exchange between Turkey and Greece. In spots such as Ayvalık and Bozcaada town, you might hear elderly people chatting in Greek as you wander through the picturesque old Greek quarter.

The local city, Izmir, is a laid-back place with plenty of sights around its bazaar and waterfront. It's also the gateway to the Çeşme Peninsula, where Alaçatı offers the greatest concentration of the region's many boutique hotels.

Best Places to Stay

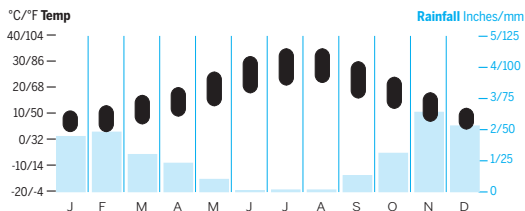
- » Biber Evi (p166)
- » Alaçatı Taş Otel (p198)
- » Hünnap Han (p168)
- » Foçantique Boutique Hotel (p182)
- » Annette's House (p169)

Best Places to Eat

- » Balıkçı (p170)
- » Cafe Agrilia (p199)
- » Sakız (p189)
- » Sandal Restaurant (p163)

When to Go

Izmir



June Bozcaada's wine festival is on the viticultural Aegean island.

July International Izmir Festival brings music and dance to the region.

September Windsurf and *gület* cruise on the Çeşme Peninsula without crowds.



İzmir & the North Aegean Highlights

- 1 Wander the crumbling, atmospheric backstreets of the old town in **Ayvalık** (p169)
- 2 Explore the ruins of the Roman Empire at **Pergamum** (Bergama; p174), one of the country's finest ancient sites
- 3 Climb Behramkale's cobbled streets to the amazing

Temple of Athena (p166) with its glorious sea views

- 4 See where the Turks holiday in **Foça** (p181), an amiable seaside town straddling two bays

- 5 Relax on the beach and sample the local vino on the idyllic, epicurean island of **Bozcaada** (p160)

- 6 Hunt for bargains in **İzmir's** (p187) chaotic bazaar before retiring to the waterfront for a sunset drink
- 7 Windsurf by day and fine-dine by night in **Alaçati** (p198), the region's favourite boutique bolt hole