



Izmir & the North Aegean

Includes »

Bozcaada	169
Behramkale & Assos.....	172
Ayvack.....	175
Bay of Edremit	175
Ayvalık.....	176
Alibey Island	181
Bergama (Pergamum) ...	182
Çandarlı.....	187
Yeni Foça	188
Foça.....	188
Izmir.....	190
Manisa.....	200
Çeşme.....	201
Alaçatı.....	205
Siğacık.....	208
Akkum & Teos	208

Why Go?

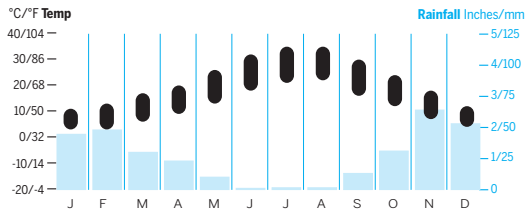
Izmir is Turkey's third-largest city – a buzzing, Eurocentric metropolis with an attractive bazaar and *kordon* (seafront) – and the short stretch of coast running north is a colossus for history buffs. The hilltop ruins of Bergama and Behramkale are breathtaking sites of antiquity, while others lie hidden along peninsulas inhabited by descendants of the Turkmen nomads.

The Greek influence in this region is inescapable. Many towns experienced the great population exchange of the early twentieth century and today, in places like Ayvalık and on the island of Bozcaada, the architecture, music and food seem like bittersweet echoes from across the horizon.

Beaches along the Ege Deniz (Aegean Sea) and the Biga Peninsula are superb (and often empty), while on the Çeşme Peninsula, Alaçatı offers world-class windsurfing.

When to Go

Izmir



Best Places to Eat

- » Asma Yaprağı (p205)
- » Sakız (p196)
- » Sandal Restaurant (p170)

Best Places to Stay

- » Vintage Boutique Hotel (p204)
- » Key Hotel (p195)
- » Lola 38 (p189)
- » Assos Alarga (p173)

May Cruise in a traditional wooden boat on the Çeşme Peninsula without crowds.

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

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



İzmir & the North Aegean Highlights

1 Ferry to **Bozcaada** (p169) to lounge on beaches and indulge in fine local wine and dining

2 Take a cable car to **Pergamum** (Bergama; p181), one of the country's finest ancient sites

3 Wander the crumbling, atmospheric backstreets of the old town in **Ayvalık** (p176)

4 Climb the cobbled streets of Behramkale to the amazing **Temple of Athena** (p172) with its glorious sea views

5 Enjoy the liberal atmosphere of **Alsancak**

(p195) in İzmir, Turkey's third-largest city

6 Windsurf by day and party by night in **Alaçatı** (p204), the glamour town of the Çeşme peninsula

7 Take a road trip around the **Biga Peninsula** (p173), with its ruins, villages and sleepy beaches