



PLACES OF INTEREST AT THE CITY CENTER OF İZMİR



1 İZMİR ATATÜRK MUSEUM

It was constructed as a mansion 1875 – 1880. This historical residence was given to Mustafa Kemal Atatürk as a gift in 1927 by Municipality of İzmir. Atatürk stayed in this mansion when he visited İzmir. The mansion was converted into a museum in 1941.



2 CUMHURİYET SQUARE & ATATÜRK MONUMENT

The Atatürk Monument situated at Cumhuriyet Square symbolizes his order: "Armies, your first destination is Mediterranean. Ahead!". The monument was built by Italian sculptor Pietro Canonica in 1933.



3 PASAPORT PIER

The pasaport pier was built between 1867 – 1876. The passenger hall that was ruined by the great fire in 1922 was rebuilt in 1926. The pier is a typical sample the First Nationalist Architecture seen in the early years of Republican Period and inspired from the Ottoman – Seljuk architecture.



4 DIRECTORATE OF CULTURE AND TOURISM

The building was used as İzmir Commercial Stock Exchange between 1891 – 1919. During occupation in 1921 it served as Greek National Bank. It was used as a post office after 1922. It was restored in 1998 and since then it has been used as Directorate of Culture and Tourism.



5 KONAK PIER (THE OLD CUSTOMS BUILDING)

The building that has an elaborately detailed façade was completed in 1854. Considering the geometrical resemblances in the forms of the steel elements, it is most probable that the structural design belongs to Gustave Eiffel School. Today the building has been re functioned as a colorful shopping center.



6 YALI (KONAK) MOSQUE

Drawing the attention with its tiles and octagonal plan, Yalı (Konak) Mosque located at Konak Square is one of the most elegant mosques in İzmir. It was constructed in the 18th century by Ayşe Hatun, the daughter of Mehmet Paşa.



7 GOVERNMENT BUILDING

Government building, which was constructed between 1868 and 1872, played an important role during the Turkish War of Independence. Upon the arrival of the Turkish army in İzmir on September 9, 1922, the Turkish flag was hoisted at the Government Building and this became the symbol of the independence of İzmir.



8 CLOCK TOWER

It was constructed by Said Pasha on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of Sultan Abdülhamit's ascending the throne in 1901. The elegant looking clock tower known as the symbol of the city adorns the Konak square just like a pearl.



9 İZMİR ARCHEOLOGY MUSEUM

At the entrance (middle floor) of the three storeyed building marble works such as statues, busts and portraits of Archaic, Classical, Hellenistic and Roman periods are exhibited. On the upper floor the findings unearthed during the excavations carried out İzmir and its environs are exhibited. On the same floor in the treasury hall ornaments made of gold, silver and precious stones, glass objects and coins are displayed.



10 İZMİR ETHOGRAPHY MUSEUM

The museum which is next to the Archaeology Museum was constructed in the 19th century in Neo-Classical style. This building is known to be used as a hospital in 1831 (St. Roch Hospital) and to be converted into a care house for poor Christian families by the French in 1845. The museum that was constructed of cut stones was restored and has been used as Ethnography Museum since 1988.



11 ASANSÖR (THE HISTORICAL ELEVATOR)

The public elevator was built by Nessim Levy, a Jewish businessman, in 1907 to overcome the topographic barrier between the districts of Mithatpaşa Street and Halil Rifat Paşa district. The upper Promenade of the lift boasts a cafe and a restaurant in which visitors can relax and get an unparalleled view of the Gulf of İzmir.



12 BET ISRAEL SYNAGOGUE

Bet Israel synagogue, located at Karataş district of İzmir was built with the imperial edict of Sultan Abdülhamit II in 1907 so that the Jewish people could practice their religion. It is the biggest and most prestigious synagogue in İzmir.



13 KEMERALTİ SHOPPING DISTRICT

It is a historical bazaar which includes the area from Mezarlıkbaşı to Konak Square. In the past the bazaar was partially vaulted, covered with tiles and it looked like a covered bazaar with its side streets. Today, Kemeraltı Bazaar is the most important shopping center of İzmir as it was in the past. It is possible to find any type of traditional Turkish handicrafts such as ceramics, wooden products, carpets and kilims as well as products of leathersuitable to every taste and budget in this bazaar which is composed of 15.000 small and large shops.



14 KEMERALTİ MOSQUE

Constructed in 1671 by Yusuf Çavuşzade Ahmet Ağa, the mosque is one of the most important works in İzmir. The cubic area for worshipping has one dome. There is a madrasah (theological school), a library and a public fountain around the mosque. The mosque has outstanding decorations made of gypsum plaster.



15 SALEPÇIOĞLU MOSQUE

Constructed in 1906 by Salepçizade Hacı Ahmet Efendi, the mosque has a large dome. The outer walls of the mosque were built of marble and green stones. Composed of six sections, Salepçioğlu Mosque has a delicate architectural appearance. It is among the most charming mosques in İzmir.



16 BAŞDURAK MOSQUE

Başdurak Mosque, whose walls are made of stones and whose minber (pulpit) is made of marble, was constructed in 1652 by Hacı Hüseyin Ağa.



17 ALİ PAŞA SQUARE

The şadırvan (water-tank with a fountain), located at the square, was constructed in the 18th – 19th centuries by Çeşmeli Ahmet Reşid. It is an octagonal structure made of marble. The dome is carried by eight marble columns.



18 KESTANE PAZARI MOSQUE

Composed of a large dome above a square area and four domes around it, the mosque was constructed in 1667.



19 ŞADIRVAN MOSQUE

The mosque constructed in 1636 takes its name from the şadırvans located near and below it. It was restored in 1815. The mosque having a minaret with only one balcony in the east and a library in the west has an altar and a pulpit made of marble.



20 HAVRA SOKAĞI (THE STREET OF SYNAGOGUES)

The Street of Synagogues is one of the busiest corners of the Kemeraltı. The street takes its name from the synagogues that are densely located in this area.



21 AGORA

The Smyrna Agora, situated at Namazgah district of İzmir belongs to Roman period though it was built during the Hellenistic period. Smyrna Agora was a state agora rather than a commercial one. The latest excavations have revealed that Smyrna Agora is the largest agora ever known in the world. It is one of the places that one cannot miss it in İzmir.



22 ABACIOĞLU HANI (CARAVANSERAI)

It is located on Anafartalar Street, the heart of Kemeraltı. It is not exactly known when the inn is established. Abacıoğlu inn is designed as a big courtyard in the middle and two stored shops around it. The inn which is very nice and comfortable break place during your visit in Kemeraltı, is restored in 2007 and now giving service as a touristic place with its restaurant, cafeteria, silver shop, carpet and leather shops and tea house.



23 KIZLARAĞASI HANI (CARAVANSERAI)

Kızlarağası Han was constructed by Hacı Beşir Ağa in 1744. Being one of the rare existing works of the Ottoman architecture in İzmir, the caravanserai was planned with a bazaar and a courtyard just like the order Ottoman inns. Restored between 1988 and 1993 and opened at present as a touristic bazaar, Kızlarağası caravanserai has many shops which sell various handicrafts, any type of dazzling souvenirs, carpets, kilims, silver jeweleries, clothes, hubblebubbles and leather clothes as well as a tea house where you can drink tea while enjoying the mystical atmosphere.



24 HİSAR MOSQUE

Located at Hisarönü, Kemeraltı next to Kızlarağası caravanserai, Hisar Mosque was constructed by Yakup Bey in 1597. The mosque was built of hewn stones and its inner part displays the most beautiful examples of the Ottoman art of decoration. Hisar Mosque is the largest mosque in İzmir.



25 MİMAR KEMALETTİN FASHION STREET

The street takes its name from architect Kemalettin who was the first founder of the Association of Architects and Engineers. Mimar Kemalettin Street that was restored and renovated in 2002 is considered to be a fashion center of the city with its new appearance.



26 ST. POLYCARP CHURCH

St. Polycarp Church is the oldest existing church in İzmir. It was dedicated to St. Polycarp who was martyred by the Romans in 155 A.D. at the stadium near Kadifekale. During the region of Suleiman the Magnificent, around the year 1625, permission was granted to build a chapel. The frescoes on the walls are worth seeing.



27 AHMET PİRİŞTİNA CITY ARCHIVE AND MUSEUM

The historical building that served as a fire brigade at Çankaya, Şair Eşref Boulevard from 1932 to 2001 was restored and converted into Ahmet Piriştina İzmir City Archive and Museum in 2003.



28 İZMİR MUSEUM OF ART AND HISTORY

Located at the Culture Park, the museum is consisted of 3 sections. The department of Sculptures stands on the right side, the Department of Ceramics is located in the middle and Department of Precious Artefacts is situated on the left hand side.



29 KADİFEKALE (VELVET CASTLE)

Dominating the city below the castle was built by Lysimachos, one of the generals of Alexander the Great, upon the order of Alexander the Great in the 3rd century B.C. Established 186 meters above sea level, Kadifekale is located on an area of 6 kilometers. While the eastern and southern walls of the castle were destroyed, its northern and western walls and its five towers still remain. The height of the towers is 20 to 35 meters. Inside the castle a large cistern belonging to the Byzantine period and a ruin of a mesjid can be visited.