

# ESN Ege University Survival Guide

*Let your Erasmus journey begin*





# Welcome

*Welcome to İzmir! Thank you for choosing us and congratulations on your acceptance. After all those paperwork, now it is time to enjoy and get the full Erasmus experience! Hopefully, the best times of your life have just began. We hope you will collect unforgettable memories, and we are here to be your support system, well, also your drinking buddies during the ride. To take the ease off, we prepared a practical guide just for you! Here, you can find all the important details, practical information, and interesting facts about Izmir, Aegean Region, and Türkiye. All your questions on travelling, best way to eat and party are here, and many more. Also we are one phone call and text away, so if you have any queries not answered in this guide, feel free to get back to us. We look forward to meeting you in Izmir soon!*

*Best wishes, ESN Ege University Family*





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# What is ESN?

**Erasmus Student Network (ESN)** is one of the biggest student associations in Europe. It was born on the 16th October 1989 and legally registered in 1990 for supporting and developing student exchange. We are present in more than 1000 Higher Education Institutions from 42 countries. The network is constantly developing and expanding. We have around 15,000 active members that are in many sections supported by so-called buddies mainly taking care of international students. Thus, ESN involves around 40,000 young people offering its services to around 350,000 international students every year.



Erasmus Student Network

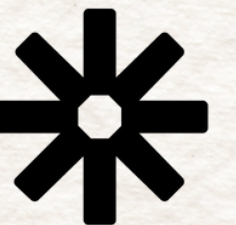


**42**  
countries

**1000<sup>+</sup>**  
HEIs

**15 000<sup>+</sup>**  
volunteers

**350 000<sup>+</sup>**  
students





# National ESN Events

**Chill'Ness** is the biggest national event of ESN Türkiye that takes place in Foça, İzmir at Acar Camping just by the beach. Get ready for a weekend full of concept parties, outdoor games, DJ performances and many more!



**Med'Ness** is a national Event of ESN Türkiye which gathers up Erasmus & Exchange students from various cities in Türkiye. Med'Ness takes place in a five-star hotel and everything is included! A mad weekend with mad people!



**Grand Cappadocia** is a national event of ESN Türkiye that takes place in Cappadocia, one of the most beautiful historical heritages of Türkiye. You'd better get ready to be fascinated by the beauties of nature and hot air balloons throughout the weekend!



**IceKissed** is a brand new national Event of ESN Türkiye that takes you to the wonderland and then the icy mountains of the villian of the story - not! It's a trip to the so-called disneyland of Türkiye, later on before you put on your ski boots you are allowed to eat the best İskender you can find!



## Grand Welcome & Grand Farewell

These parties take place at the beginning and ending of both semesters to say "welcome" and "see you soon" to you! So that you can see how the rest of the semester will be for you and so that you won't miss out the parties for a long time!

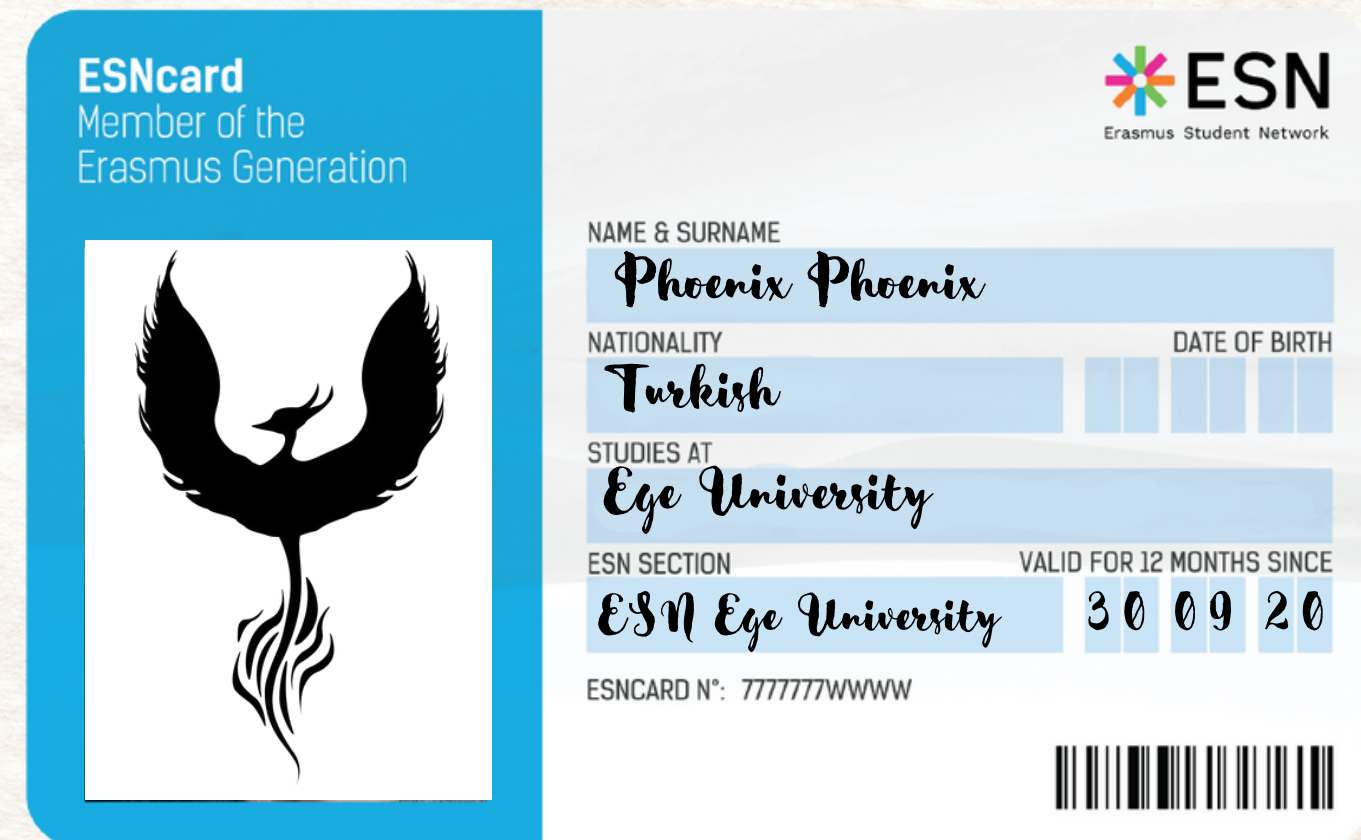




# ESNcard

The **ESNcard** is the membership card of the Erasmus Student Network (ESN). It gives you access to all the services offered by ESN and all our partners. The aim of the ESNcard - or ESN membership - is to support international students and trainees and give them access to affordable opportunities during their period abroad.

With the ESNcard, you will enjoy plenty of discounts - housing, sport, food, bars, etc.- all over Europe. You will also have the opportunity to participate in hundreds of events with your ESN section and other sections around your destination country, and even beyond, for the period of your membership. ESNcard is valid for 12 months after registration of the card. Check out [esncard.org](https://esncard.org) to see local and international allies!



**ESNcard.org**  
your ERASMUS starts *now!*





# Accommodation

In Türkiye, there are two types of renting flats. One of them is “renting from the landlord” and the other is “renting from the real estate agent”. If you rent the flat directly from the landlord you will not pay commission to the real estate. On the other hand, you can always choose a real estate agency and ask them to find you a flat, but they will require a commission which close to one month payment of the flat.

Of course you can always look for the options of accommodation online, but unfortunately most of them are Turkish.

Here some examples;

<http://www.apartsturkey.com/>

<https://www.sahibinden.com/en/for-rent>

**DEPOSITS:** You have to pay some deposit that ensures the house's furniture's safety. If you deliver the house like you took, the real estate agent or the landlord **must** give you your deposit back.

**MONTHLY REVENUES:** Monthly revenues are for the electricity, cleaning or other assurance of the apartment. It is usually not more than 5% of the monthly payment of the flat, unless the apartment has permanent doorman or central heating system.

**MONTHLY BILLS:** Every month you will receive your electricity, water, internet and natural gas bills. You need to pay them monthly otherwise they will be cut.





# Health Insurance

**Insurance covered by international Agreement:** If your country has a social security agreement with Türkiye, you need to bring the "Right to Health Assistance Certificate" with you. You can activate your governmental social security policy with this certificate which you can get from your Social Security Institution. You need to bring the document to the Social Security Institution of Türkiye (SGK)

**Governmental Social Security Insurance:** Turkish Government has its own SSI that you can apply. You should go to a tax office with your passport and ask for a tax number. After receiving the number you go to SGK to apply for your "General Health Insurance". The Insurance is only applicable in government hospitals and medical institutions.

**Private Health Insurance:** You also have the option of making a private insurance policy in Türkiye. Please be advised that the private health insurances are only applicable to private hospitals.

**Apart from the insurances above,** if you have an internationally applicable private insurance in your country you can use it for the residence permit application directly only if the regarding company has a branch in Türkiye and the Turkish branch gives you your policy in Turkish.

All kinds of private health insurances have to cover the "minimum policy content" clearly so that they would be accepted for the residence permit application. The immigration offices are strict about the requirements.





# Residence Permit

Residence permit is necessary for you to have during your stay in Türkiye. Although you have visa for a while, you must apply for residence permit on the very beginning of your journey in Türkiye. Moreover, you need to complete your application for the residence permit within the first three months after your arrival.

- If your stay in Türkiye is less than 90 days and your visa allows you to stay here 90 days, you do not need to apply for residence permit.
- If you have visa on your passport more than 90 days you still need to apply for residence permit.
- Turkish People who live in Europe if they have Turkish ID or Blue Card (MaviKart) they do not need to apply for residence permit.
- EU citizens have 90 days stay in 180 days. So if you are staying more than 90 days you have to apply for residence permit. It doesn't matter you leave Türkiye and come back. Your visa doesn't start again. You can go out of Türkiye and come back in your first 90 days. After you spent your 90 days you will be overstayed in the country that's why you need residence permit.

You can start your residence permit application process by filling in the application form at <https://e-ikamet.goc.gov.tr>

You will be applying for the “Short-Term First Application” and you should choose an available appointment date for you. By the way, you should be careful about not to choose the date too close so that you will have enough time to gather all documents you need for the application. Keep in mind that you will have to upload your biometric photo into the system on the application webpage. The documents you will need for application listed below. After you hand over your documents in full, the Immigration Office will send your residence permit to your address.





# Residence Permit Documents

1. Residence Permit Application Form
2. Four (4) pcs photos (must have been taken within the last 6 months, against a white background and biometric. Do not upload family, selfie (stadium selfie included), unrecognizable, non-up-to-date or black and white photos into the system, otherwise residence permit document shall not be issued!)
3. Passport or original and photocopy of passport substitute document (pages containing identity information and the page containing photo and processed pages)
4. e-Visa (if it is required for your country) or copy of your student consulate visa page on your passport
5. Valid Health Insurance (Check the health insurance in survival guide)
6. Student Certificate: The certificate received from the university which you are enrolled at must be e-signed/signed and sealed/stamped.
7. Document showing your address information
8. Residence Permit Card fee receipt





# Phone Registration

According to the Turkish Law, a smart-phone which is bought from abroad, has to be registered no matter if you are a citizen or not. Otherwise your phone will be blocked and you will not be able to use it in Turkish territory. You have 120 days to register your phone but this time may vary, therefore we suggest you to do it as soon as possible after you enter Türkiye.

In case you do not want to register your phone, you can buy a simple phone in Türkiye and use it without registration. However, be aware that smart-phone prices are quite expensive in Türkiye, so for that reason we suggest you to register your phone.

## Documents Needed for Registration

- Passport
- IMEI (International Mobile Equipment Identity) number (You can learn it by dialing \*#06#)
- Tax Fee





# Phone Registration

## Registration Procedure:

You have a mobile phone from your country, you came to Türkiye, got a Turkish sim card and then after some days you received an SMS from BTK (IT and Communication Authority) and the following days your phone is blocked. You have 120 days to register your phone after your arrival day.

If you do not want to register your phone you can buy a cheap phone from stores.

It is because of your phone is not registered to Mobile Devices Registration System. Even the phone is registered you have to match your sim card with your residence permit ID number as well.

## **Step 1: Get your residence permit.**

**Step 2: Registration fee pat to the tax office** Take your passport, residence permit card and 20.000 TL with you and go to any tax office around your district. After you get in the building you should go straight and ask for Vezne (Payment Desk). You should tell them "Cep Telefonu Kaydı" which means Mobile Phone Registration, don't forget to get your receipt.

**Step 3: Registration** Registration through operator company: After you received your receipt. You can go to your mobile operator company store in your district (Turk Telekom, Vodafone or Turkcell) in order to register your phone.





# SIM Card

As you will stay in Türkiye for a long time, it is wiser to purchase a prepaid SIM Card. There are three main mobile service operator called Turkcell, Vodafone and Turk Telekom.

The companies has different advantages and disadvantages, you can check the campaigns and prices from the websites below. However it is advised to go to a physical store to ask for the up-to-date campaigns. You should get your mobile phone and passport with you, when you get to store.

You can check the websites of the operator companies in Türkiye:

<http://www.vodafone.com.tr/en/>

<https://www.turktelekom.com.tr/en/>

<http://www.turkcell.com.tr/en/>





# Transportation

## HOW TO USE PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

Urban public transportation is under the authority and responsibility of the Metropolitan Municipality. **IZBAN** provides complete transportation services with lines and routes of public transportation and integrated bus-ferry-subway-suburban train network.

## HOW TO GET A TICKET (BILET35) AND CARD FOR PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

In Izmir, you can use “Izmirim” electronic card and Bilet35, which is a single-use paper ticket that can be used for 3, 5 and 10 trips, for benefiting from public transportation and some municipal services.

There are special cards issued to the agency personnel – public servants and students known as individual use cards. Please visit the link given at the bottom of this page to find out more about all these cards.

## HOW CAN YOU GET IZMIRIM CARD AND BILET35?

Cards and tickets are available at Konak and Karşıyaka Ferry Terminals, central stations of the subway system such as Konak, Fahrettin Altay, Bornova, Halkapınar and Şirinyer, Airport stations of the local train line during the office hours; you may also use the charging machines placed in each station to get a card and top up with Turkish Liras, including changes, until the last service. You may get and top up your card at the airport station and two designated booths open 24-hour and booths in the city. You may also get and top up your card at the booth located in the Intercity Bus Terminal and charging machine. Please visit ESHOT webpage Transportation Cards sections to find out the nearest card and charging points where you can get and top up bus, sea and rail system transportation cards.

You can also use your Visa and Mastercards on public transportation now if you have contactless payment!





# Student's Pass

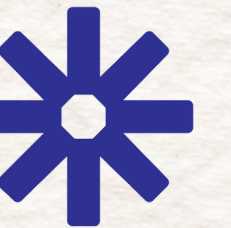
The first application **must be made online** from [www.izmirimkart.com.tr](http://www.izmirimkart.com.tr) or to the Department of Transportation Passes Branch in person. Fill out the preliminary application form available on [www.eshot.gov.tr](http://www.eshot.gov.tr) and [www.izmirimkart.com.tr](http://www.izmirimkart.com.tr); use the online and secure bank card payment option with 3D Security System or transfer **75₺** to the Eshot General Directorate KURUM TAHSİLAT account from any Vakıflar Bank Branch without paying any bank charges and fund transfer fee.

**Do not transfer the fee to the bank before filling out the application form.**

The students applying for a pass must save jpg file of their biometric photos taken in the last 6 months in the application form available on our webpage.

The applicants should visit [www.izmirimkart.com.tr](http://www.izmirimkart.com.tr) to check if their bus passes are printed. If applied in person, the card will be delivered in 15 minutes. If applied online, the card will be delivered 1 business day later by ESHOT Directorate of Transportation Passes Branch – Bus Pass Delivery offices located in the Konak Parking Garage.

For these procedures, you must present a photo ID card.





# Cost of Living in İzmir

## Transportation

One-way Ticket (Local Transport) 13₺

Taxi Start (Normal Tariff) 12 ₺

Taxi 1km (Normal Tariff) 9₺

Taxi 1hour Waiting (Normal Tariff) 60₺

Gasoline (1 liter) 35.36₺

## Utilities (Monthly)

Basic (Electricity, Heating, Cooling, Water, Garbage) for 85m2 Apartment 1,500.74₺

1 min. of Prepaid Mobile Tariff Local (No Discounts or Plans) 1,90₺

Internet (60 Mbps or More, Unlimited Data, Cable/ADSL) 212.8₺

## Rent per Month

Apartment (1-3 bedroom) in Centre 8000-15000₺

Apartment (1-3 bedroom) Out of Centre 5000-12000₺

## Sports and Leisure

Fitness Club, Monthly for 1Adult 1000₺

Tennis Court Rent (1 Hour on Weekend) 222₺

Cinema, International Release, 1 Seat 100₺

## Restaurants

Meal, Inexpensive Restaurant 125₺

Meal for 2 People, Mid-range Rest., Three-course 500₺

McMeal at McDonalds (or Equivalent Combo Meal) 160₺

Domestic Beer (0.5 liter draught) 75₺

Imported Beer (0.33 liter bottle) 90₺

Cappuccino (regular) 70₺

Coke/Pepsi (0.33 liter bottle) 45₺

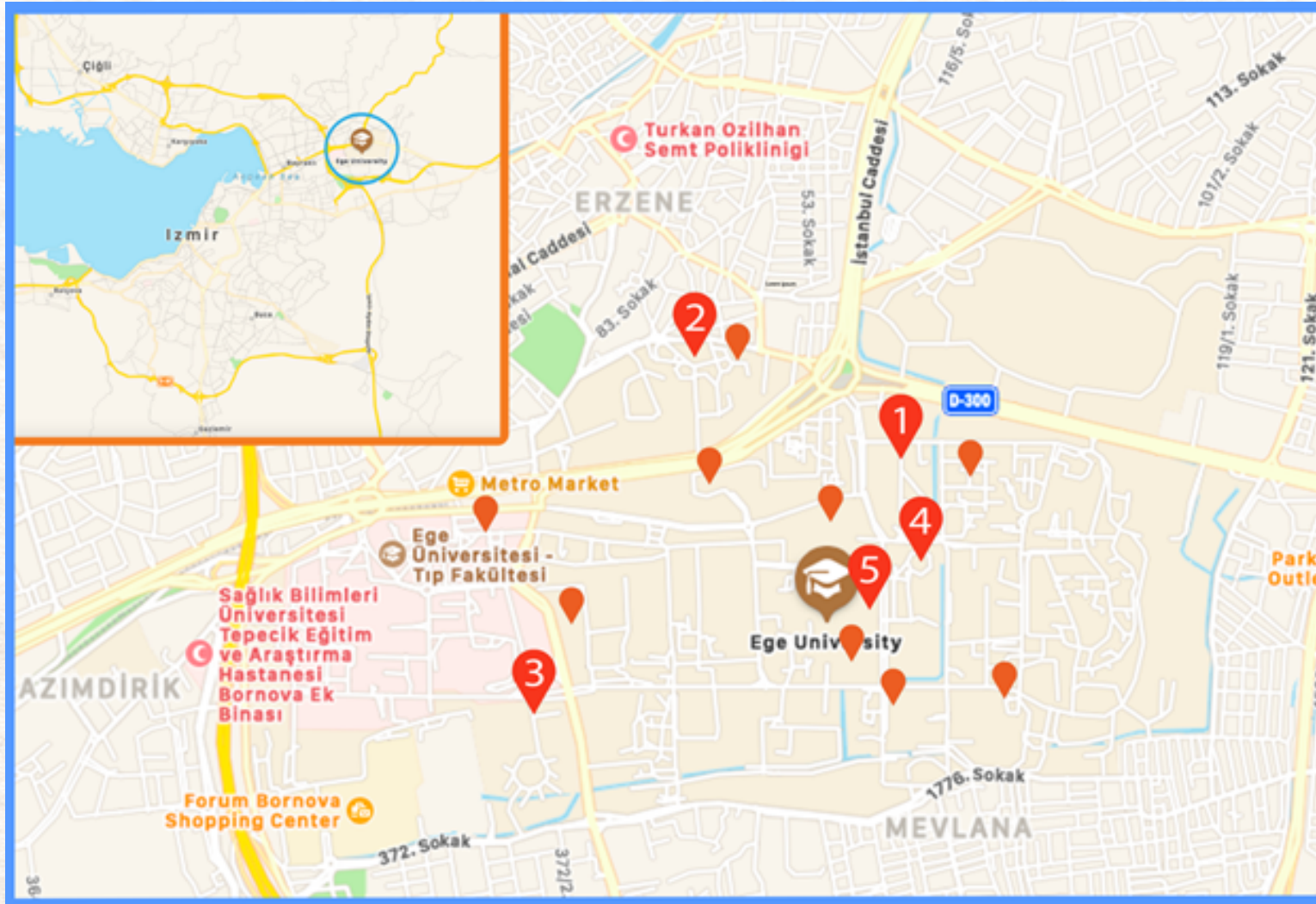
Water (0.33 liter bottle) 12₺

**A single person estimated monthly costs are 11,239.90₺ without rent.**





# Maps



On the upper right corner you see the full map of our city, İzmir. The blue circle is where our university is located, in Bornova.

<https://bit.ly/2t1wMpq>

## Red Pins;

- 1.The Ege University Metro Station. We have our own entry to the station inside the campus, so you can hop in and hop off without getting out of campus. <https://bit.ly/2UG23Kb>
- 2.The International Student Office, you can get any type of help there. <https://bit.ly/2TmQ47s>
- 3.The Student village. You can stay in the dorms for a cheaper price if you don't want to spent too much money for a flat. <https://bit.ly/2TtOc9S>
- 4.Swimming pool. <https://bit.ly/2WGaTJV>
- 5.The library <https://bit.ly/2t2f1q7>

## Orange Pins;

You can easily access to all department and faculties by clicking here; <https://bit.ly/2Tu1Eun>





# Useful Contacts

112: Ambulance

110: Fire Service

155: Police

158: Coast Guard

0 (232) 390 55 66: Emergency Service of Ege University Medical Faculty Hospital

0 (232) 444 1 343: Ege University Medical Faculty Hospital

0 (232) 311 55 55: Ege University Security & Guard

0 (232) 311 10 10: Rectorship of Ege University

0 (232) 483 30 39: Social Security Institution (SSI), İzmir

0 (232) 342 30 42: Bornova Square Taxi





# Basic Turkish

Hello! – Merhaba!

How are you? – Nasılsın?

I'm fine, and you? – İyiyim, sen?

Thank you! – Teşekkürler!

Goodbye! – Görüşürüz!

Do you speak English? – İngilizce biliyor musunuz?

I don't speak Turkish – Türkçe bilmiyorum

I don't understand – Anlamadım

Can you repeat? – Tekrar edebilir misin?

How much does it cost? – Ne kadar?

Where is the bathroom? – Tuvalet nerede?

Can you help me? – Yardım eder misiniz?

What? – Ne?

Excuse me – Pardon

Im sorry- Üzgünüm/Pardon

Help! – İmdat!

The Bill – Hesap

Water – Su

Beer – Bira

Yes – Evet

No – Hayır

Please - Lütfen

Okay – Tamam

1 Bir

2 İki

3 Üç

4 Dört

5 Beş

6 Altı

7 Yedi

8 Sekiz

9 Dokuz

10 On

20 Yirmi

50 Elli

100 Yüz

1000 Bin

ü - ue

ö - oe

ş - sh


ç - ch

i - yy

ğ - not really pronounced







# ESN Ege University Survival Guide

*Not so survival stuff!*





# Where to see in İzmir?

- Konak Square: İzmir's iconic square is also one of its busiest areas and named after the beautiful governor's mansion which is located there. Then you visit the square you must take a photo of the famous İzmir Clock Tower.
- Kordon: An essential part of İzmir, the city's beautiful seafront promenade passes the Cumhuriyet Square, the famous Alsancak neighbourhood, Konak Pier, and Konak Square.
- Agora: Agora dates back to the 4th century BC and served as a marketplace with vaulted chambers and basilicas. After collapsing in an earthquake in AD 178, Agora was rebuilt by the Roman emperor Marcus Aurelius with a beautiful Corinthian colonnade and Faustina Gate.
- Asansör (Historic Elevator): Asansör was built in 1907 by Nesim Levi to allow for passage between Karataş quarter and the hillside. The elevator inside the tower enabled passengers and goods to travel up the steep cliff. Nowadays, it has not only one of the best views but also one of the most famous restaurants of İzmir.
- Kızlarağası Inn: The historic Kemeralı Market is one of the most unique and authentic experiences in İzmir. Inside the market you'll also find Kızlarağası Hanı, a grand Ottoman-era caravanserai dating from the 18th century. The inn still carries the deep historic atmosphere and the city's best local shops as well as great coffee houses in the courtyard.





# Daily Trips from İzmir

- Ephesus: Dating back to 10th century BCE, this amazing city flourished under the rule of the Roman Republic, and some of its most striking structures are from that era. Make sure to see Temple of Artemis, Library of Celsus, the Odeon, and the Temple of Sebastoi.
- Pergamon: Pergamon has some of the best preserved ruins of the ancient Greek, especially Pergamon Altar. The former capital of the Attalid Dynasty, Pergamon is a UNESCO World Heritage Site due to the exceptional ruins of the theater, stoa, gymnasium, tumuli, and city walls, as well as the striking Kybele Sanctuary
- Çeşme-Alaçatı: You'll find lovely rental summer houses and beach clubs that host beach parties on a daily basis in Çeşme. And for a more laid back atmosphere head inland to Alaçatı, with signature stone houses and narrow streets.
- Urla: Urla known in Türkiye for its excellent wines and a day trip to a vineyard is an excellent choice for wine lovers.
- Şirince: One of the most idyllic hidden villages in Türkiye, Şirince's rows of historic Greek homes, narrow cobblestone streets, and friendly locals are cause for much undeterred joy and also known for its warm wine and fruit wines.





# Travel in Türkiye!



Crystal clear waters, huge mountains, the ruins of ancient empires, small idyllic villages, big cosmopolitan cities - Türkiye's many facets are what make it so unique and why it has continued to attract visitors.

The question is, did you start planning your trips already?

We gathered some recommendations and which city to find them! It will be an easy check list for you! Do not forget there are a lot to see on this land, you can simply do your own search and find out more!





# \*Travel Check List!

## Ankara

- ☐ Anıtkabir
- ☐ Ankara Castle
- ☐ Hamamönü
- ☐ Roman Bath
- ☐ The Temple of Augustus
- ☐ The Salt Lake
- ☐ Mogan Lake

## Denizli

- ☐ The Sacred Pool
- ☐ Pamukkale Travertines
- ☐ Salda Lake (Burdur)

## Antalya

- ☐ Ruins of Phaselis
- ☐ Kaleiçi
- ☐ Düden Waterfalls
- ☐ Köprülü Canyon
- ☐ Konyaaltı Beach
- ☐ Aspendos
- ☐ The Lycian Way

## Trabzon

- ☐ Ulu Mosque

## Gaziantep

- ☐ Zeugma Museum

## Çanakkale

- ☐ Troy

## İstanbul

- ☐ Maiden's Tower
- ☐ Basilica Cistern
- ☐ Topkapı Palace
- ☐ Rumeli Fortress
- ☐ Galata Tower
- ☐ Süleymaniye Mosque
- ☐ Hagia Sophia
- ☐ Grand Bazaar
- ☐ Blue Mosque

## Nevşehir

- ☐ Cappadocia
- ☐ Göreme National Park
- ☐ Tokalı and Elmalı Churches
- ☐ Underground Cities

## Bursa

- ☐ Uludağ
- ☐ Ulu Mosque

## Muğla

- ☐ Bodrum Castle
- ☐ Butterfly Valley
- ☐ Blue Lagoon
- ☐ Ölüdeniz (Dead Sea)
- ☐ Halicarnassus Mauseloum
- ☐ Kaunos
- ☐ Jasuswalk- Kızkumu
- ☐ Sedir Island
- ☐ Cleopatra Beach



# Museum Passes

With Museum Pass Türkiye, you can visit more than three hundred museums and archaeological sites that belong to Republic of Türkiye Ministry of Culture and Tourism for fifteen days and enjoy your trip through time.

The price of Museum Pass Türkiye which is valid for fifteen days starting from your first museum and archaeological site entrance is 4000₺.

MuseumPass provides one entrance to each museum.

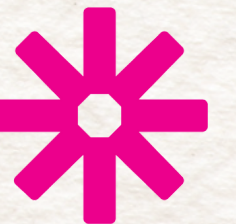
MuseumPass sales points are Bergama Asklepion Archeological Site, Bergama Acropolis Archeologic Site, Ephesus Archeological Site, Ephesus Archeological Site, The Terrace Houses, Çeşme Museum, Basilica of St. John, Ephesus Museum in İzmir.

You can also buy it online on MuseumPass purchasing website.

With Museum Pass The Aegean, you can visit more than sixty museums and archaeological sites that belong to Republic of Turkey Ministry of Culture and Tourism in İzmir, Aydın, Muğla, Denizli for 7 days and enjoy your trip through time.

The price of Museum Pass the Aegean which is valid for seven days starting from your first museum and archaeological site entrance is 2200₺.

There are also different passes available for Istanbul, Cappadocia, and the Mediterranean area.





# Must Try Turkish Dishes!

- İskender Kebap: The dish consists of döner kebab prepared from thinly cut grilled lamb topped with hot tomato sauce over pieces of pita bread and generously slathered with melted sheep's milk butter and yogurt. Tomato sauce and melted butter are generally poured over the dish, at the table.
- Yaprak Sarma: Grape leaves are soaked in brine to make them soft, then stuffed with semi-cooked rice and sometimes ground lamb, currants, or other ingredients. The rolled up leaves resemble small cigars, and are usually eaten room temperature as meze, with fish and Raki.
- Manti: You could think of mantı as some kind of dumplings. The two parts of the ingredients are the dough and the filling. The thinner the dough and the smaller the wrapped pieces are, the more masterful is the cook. The filling contains ground beef or lamb, onion, salt and pepper.
- Kumpir: The Turkish street food, kumpir is a baked potato buried under a mound of your chosen toppings, like sweetcorn, peas, tuna flakes and kisir, served on an aluminium foil dish. Cheese and butter should certainly not be omitted.
- Lahmacun: is a round, thin piece of dough topped with minced meat (most commonly beef or lamb), minced vegetables and herbs including onions, garlic, tomatoes, red peppers, and parsley, and spices such as chili pepper, paprika, and cinnamon, then baked.
- Kumru: Typically associated with Çeşme, kumru is a toasted sandwich prepared with an artisanal bread that is typically enriched with chickpea flour. It was originally prepared with sinik, a circular bread that was sold by street vendors, but it achieved its current form in the 1950s when sandwiches became a popular option in Türkiye.





# Must Try Turkish Desserts!

- Baklava: a layered pastry dessert made of filo pastry, filled with chopped nuts, and sweetened with syrup or honey.
- Lokum: Turkish delight or lokum is a family of confections based on a gel of starch and sugar. It is the best gift to give and best companion with coffee.
- Bomba: Izmir bomb, shortly bomba, is a type of biscuit in Turkish cuisine that contains chocolate cream and its derivatives. The dessert has a crunchy dough layer on the outside and a fluid cream filling inside. Dessert is not traditional in Turkish and Ottoman cuisine, its origins date back to the 2010s.
- Künefe: Künefe is a crispy cheese-filled dessert made with kadayıf, which is a traditional shredded wheat dessert with pistachio filling. Künefe is served hot out of the oven so the cheese is soft and stringy.
- Kazandibi: This name means burnt bottom milk pudding, but the burnt bottom comes from caramelised sugar, which adds a heavy crunch to the lightness of this milky dish.





# Must Try Turkish Drinks!

- Şalgam: Şalgam is a popular vegetable-based street drink originating from the cities of Adana and Mersin, located in southern Türkiye. In Turkish, the word şalgam means turnip, even though the drink is made from purple carrots, ground bulgur, salt, yeast, and water.
- Ayran: Ayran is a frothy beverage made with yogurt and cold water, which is the reason why it is sometimes described as "diluted yogurt." Because it is a typical summer drink, ayran is usually chilled and served in a tall glass as an accompaniment to numerous street food dishes.
- Turkish Coffee: The unique taste consists of fluffy foam, rich dark coffee and the slight bitterness of ground beans. Turkish coffee is one of the very few types of coffee that is actually boiled, drunk and then famously the ground beans at the bottom of the cup are read by a fortune teller, or if you are lucky, a well-spoken, imaginative friend.
- Turkish tea, with its history dating back 5000 years, has become the center of most social activities. It complements the Turkish culture today. The locals are constantly drinking it and will always offer it to guests throughout the day and even after a meal.
- Boza: Turkish Boza is a smoothie-like fermented drink that is mainly based on cracked wheat and yeast. It has a sweet and tangy flavour that everyone finds addictive! When we think of Turkish winters, often the thought of boza pops into our heads. This drink originated from ancient Anatolia, made up then of wheat, corn, rice and barley.
- Rakı: A colourless, alcoholic beverage always served with water and usually with ice. Most people mix in the water to turn it into a smoother, milky looking drink. You'll find many people enjoying a glass or two after work at sunset with friends, listening to music, enjoying some mezes and chatting the night away. Cheers!





# Vegan Options!

- **Çiğ Köfte:** Literally translated into “raw meatball” the kind sold in specialty shops and small street stalls is made from bulgur wheat rice – **not meat**. Cig kofte is often spicy, optionally more spicy, flavored with pomegranate sauce, and completely vegan.
- **Zeytinyağlı Enginar:** Vegans should learn the word “zeytinyağlı” well – it means with olive oil. These dishes are typically eaten cold like this artichoke appetizer (“meze”) and **more often than not, vegan**. Enginar is the bottom of the artichoke filled with peas, potato, and carrots.
- **Patlıcan Ezmesi:** Eggplant puree with olive oil, vinegar plus garlic is the most basic variety but there are more elaborate varieties like this recipe with tomato and parsley for example, that are all vegan as well.
- **Kısır:** This side dish is made from fine bulgur rice, onions, tomatoes, olive oil, plus a few other ingredients. Kısır goes well as a complimentary dish to so many other Turkish foods it’s often found next to the salads at many a la carte restaurants.
- **Gözleme:** Gözleme is hand-rolled dough that can be stuffed with spinach or potato (make sure it’s not mixed with cheese to stay vegan) cooked over a griddle. There’s a chance that butter is used to keep the dough from sticking to the pan but often in larger establishments it’s olive or sunflower oil; **keep in mind to double-check.**







# Welcome to the Phoenix Family

*#oopsIdiditEge*





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