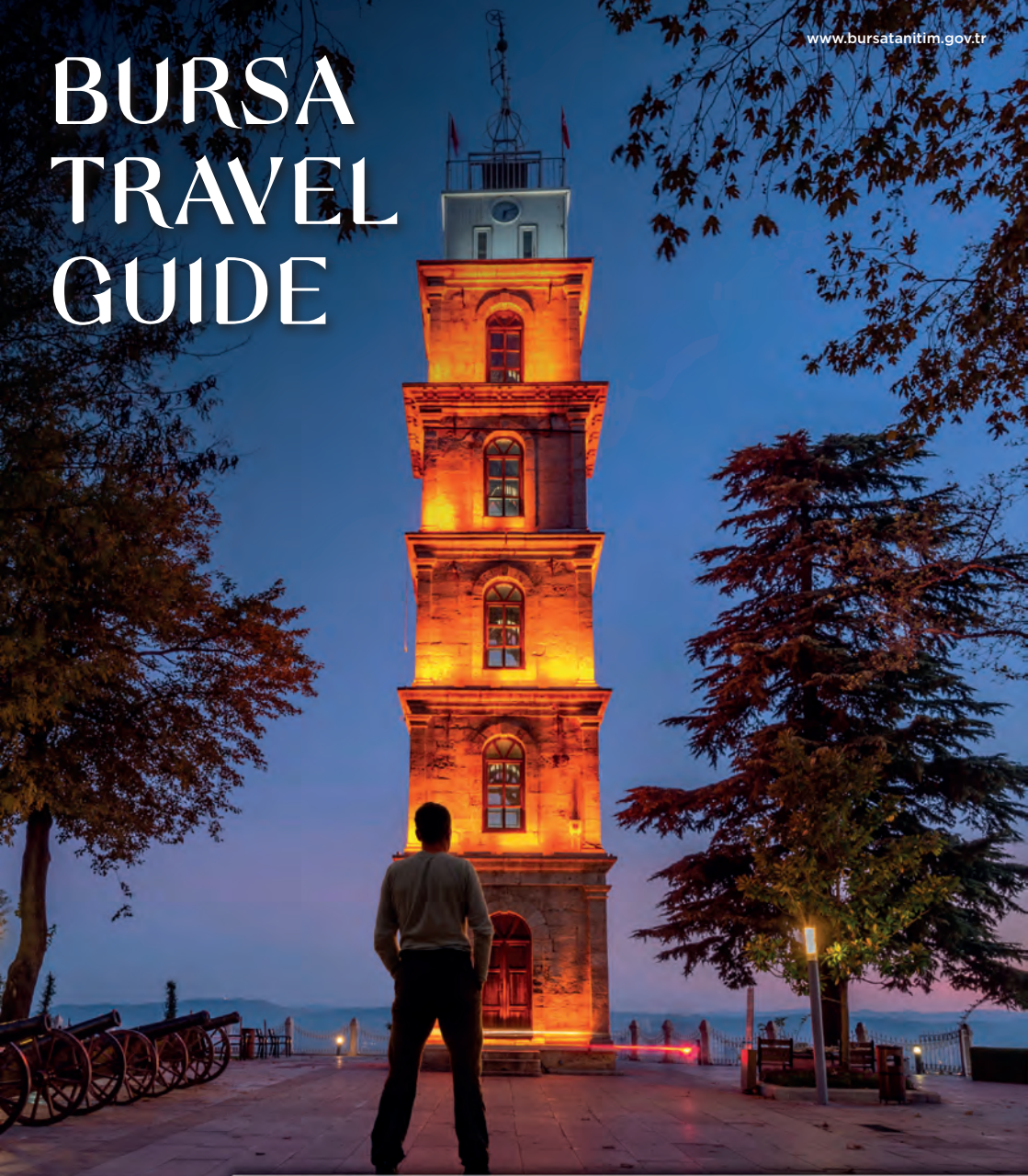


BURSA TRAVEL GUIDE



REPUBLIC OF TÜRKİYE
MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY
AND TECHNOLOGY

LOCAL
DEVELOPMENT
MOVE



BEBKA[®]
Bursa Eskişehir Bilecik Development Agency

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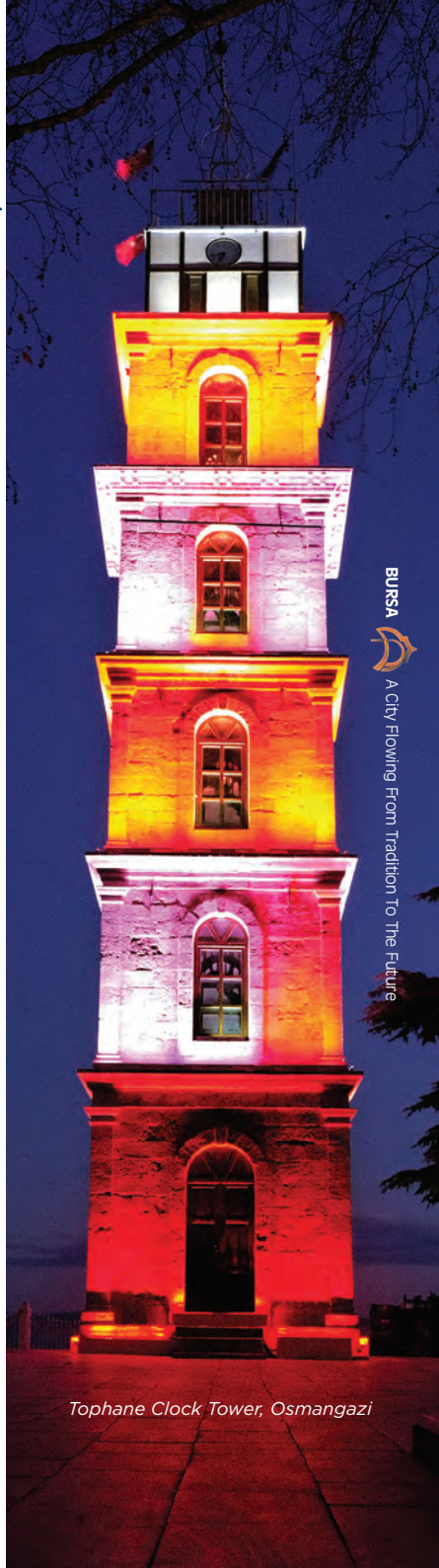
A CITY WHERE HISTORY, NATURE, AND FLAVOR CONVERGE

Bursa is a timeless city where every corner tells a different story, blending its deep-rooted past with the present. Known as the first capital of the Ottoman Empire, this ancient city carries the traces of history through its historic inns, mosques, and Cumalıkızık Village, listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

While watching the city from Tophane, you can offer your greetings to the tombs of Osman Gazi and Orhan Gazi. As you walk along the stone-paved streets, you may feel like you're part of a historical film. Among the old bazaars and inns, you can lose yourself in the spirit of the past.

Bursa is captivating not only because of its history but also because of its natural beauty. From the Karacabey Floodplain Forest to Lake İznik, this is a land of wonders where green and blue come together in perfect harmony. One day you might enjoy the sea breeze on the coast of Mudanya, and the next find yourself immersed in nature at the peak of Uludağ. Each season reveals a new face of the city, inviting you to discover the full splendor of its landscape.

One of Bursa's most cherished qualities is without a doubt its remarkable cuisine. This is the birthplace not only of Bursa kebab, but also of tahi ni pide, candied chestnuts, the fragrant olives of Gemlik, the rich Mihaliç cheese, and the famous Bursa peach that travels from vineyard to table. Every meal in Bursa reflects a cultural heritage passed down through generations, and each bite is a part of this unique journey of flavor.



BURSA



A City Flowing From Tradition To The Future

Tophane Clock Tower, Osmangazi

BURSA: A CITY FLOWING FROM TRADITION TO THE FUTURE

Bursa is not merely a city but a living piece of history. As the first capital of the Ottoman Empire, it preserves the legacy of the past in its caravanserais, mosques, and religious complexes. The domes of the Grand Mosque, the tiles of the Green Tomb, and the narrow streets of Cumalıkızık all stand as enduring marks of this heritage.

If you wish to take a historical journey, you can follow the footsteps of Evliya Çelebi. During his pilgrimage in the 17th century, this great traveler passed through Bursa and described the city as “made of water” in his Seyahatname. The routes that now honor his memory offer not only glimpses of the past but also a chance to discover the present by walking through it.

For this reason, Bursa is known as a city flowing from tradition to the future. The sounds of trade still echo in its inns, and daily life continues side by side with history in its old neighborhoods.

At the summit of Mount Uludağ, you find yourself at the heart of winter tourism. Along the coast of Mudanya, the calmness of a seaside town welcomes you. In its thermal baths, you become part of a centuries-old wellness tradition.

Beyond all of this, the voice of history lives on in Bursa’s rituals and melodies.

The traditional sword-and-shield dance, passed down from generation to generation in the very land where the Ottoman Empire was born, is more than just a ceremonial performance. It is a striking tradition that carries the grandeur of the past into today. Similarly, the Mehter march, with its majestic sounds, resonates through the city’s historic events, giving visitors a powerful sense of the Ottoman presence.

Bursa: The New Destination for Congress and Meetings

In addition to its rich history, Bursa also shines with its modern face and stands out with the opportunities it offers the business world. From international congresses to corporate meetings, from fairs to symposiums, the city hosts a wide variety of events. Its strong infrastructure, diverse accommodation options, and strategic proximity to Istanbul make it a highly attractive destination for professional organizations.

Multipurpose halls such as the Merinos Atatürk Congress and Culture Center, exhibition venues in the city, and conference facilities on Mount Uludağ stand out with their technical capabilities as well as their cultural atmosphere.





Historic Inkaya Plane Tree, Osmangazi

A JOURNEY THROUGH RICH HERITAGE, AN ENDLESS DISCOVERY

Bursa's touristic identity is a unique mosaic where history, nature, culture, wellness, and cuisine are interwoven. You might follow the footsteps of the past among its inns and historic bazaars, then find yourself walking through a floodplain forest accompanied by birdsong, or relaxing in the warm waters of thermal springs that have provided healing for centuries. In Bursa, everything appears just as it should, at exactly the moment you need it.

This is a destination that takes on a new spirit with every season. From the bazaars and inns that preserve some of history's most glorious legacies, to the forests and lakes that showcase every shade of green, to the mountains that dazzle with winter views, and the thermal waters that restore well-being — every corner of the city offers a new



Water Lilies, Karacabey Floodplain Forest

path of discovery. And of course, the cuisine of Bursa. Its tables carry the culinary legacy of the Ottoman Empire, bringing together local flavors and globally known gastronomic routes to offer a truly unforgettable experience.

This is not merely a city to visit, but a place to feel. History, nature, wellness, culture, and gastronomy all come together here in perfect harmony.

Bursa is calling you. Are you ready to begin this enchanting journey?

HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

This guide has been prepared to help you discover all the touristic treasures that Bursa has to offer. Whether you want to trace the footsteps of history, reconnect with nature, renew yourself in healing thermal waters, or savor the tastes passed down through generations, you'll find all the information you need right here.

The best way to understand Bursa is to touch it, to feel it, and to follow its rhythm. While listening to echoes of the past in its historic bazaars, you can sense freedom at the summit of Uludağ and find peace in the healing waters of thermal springs. The streets of the city will lead you from centuries-old inns to the calm of coastal villages and to natural wonders glowing with every shade of green.

This guide provides all the tips and details you need as you explore Bursa. All that remains is for you to go out and discover, enjoy the moment, and become part of the stories that await.

- ✓ If you're interested in history, get ready to explore the heritage that stretches from the Byzantine Empire to the Ottomans.
- ✓ If you're seeking an experience in nature, check out the routes that extend from the peak of Uludağ to the shores of Lake İznik.
- ✓ If you want to explore wellness tourism, take time to relax in Bursa's thermal waters that have offered healing for centuries.
- ✓ And of course, get to know the "From Grandfather to Grandchild" approach of Bursa's culinary heritage up close.



Ishak Pasha Mosque



Bursa Kebab



Historic Bursa City Walls

MANY REASONS TO VISIT BURSA... AND MANY WAYS TO GET THERE

✈ By Air:

The closest airport to **Bursa** is **Yenişehir Airport**, located about 50 kilometers from the city center. For those arriving via Istanbul, **Istanbul Airport** is 185 kilometers away, and **Sabiha Gökçen Airport** is 118 kilometers from Bursa.



- There are regular shuttle services between **Yenişehir Airport** and **Bursa Intercity Bus Terminal**.
- Scheduled buses also run between the city center (Kent Meydanı) and the airport.
- For the latest timetables, visit the official **BURULAŞ** website.

🚗 By Road:

Bursa is easily accessible by intercity bus services from many parts of Türkiye.

- **Approximately 2 to 3 hours from Istanbul**
- **Around 4.5 hours from Ankara**
- **About 3 hours from Izmir**

After arriving at Bursa Intercity Bus Terminal, you can reach the city center easily by bus, minibus, or taxi. Visit the **BURULAŞ** website for cur-



rent bus schedules and transportation information.

⚓ By Sea:

One of the fastest and most enjoyable ways to travel from Istanbul to Bursa is by sea. BUDO and İDO ferries operate regular routes from Istanbul to Mudanya and Güzelyalı ports.

- The ferry journey takes around 1.5 hours.
- From Mudanya and Güzelyalı ports, the city center is easily accessible by bus, minibus, or taxi.
- Ferry timetables may vary by season. For updated schedules, visit: budo.burulas.com.tr





History and Cultural Heritage

Some cities invite you not only to walk their streets but to embark on a journey through time. Bursa and İznik are exactly such places. These two settlements, where the Ottoman Empire was born, flourished, and left deep marks,

carry the spirit of the past into the present through centuries-old architectural landmarks, cultural heritage, and a living historical atmosphere. Whether you visit their magnificent mosques or take a coffee break in a historic inn, there is a story waiting to be told at every corner.



Bursa: The first capital of the Ottoman Empire

Symbolizing the rise of the Ottoman Empire, Bursa was conquered by Orhan Gazi in 1326 and became the empire's first capital. During this period, it gained importance not only as a

military and administrative center but also as a hub of trade, science, and the arts. It hosted the empire's earliest large-scale architectural projects, shaping the city's silhouette.

Bursa's historical fabric is adorned with early Ottoman structures. The Grand Mosque, commissioned by Yıldırım Bayezid, is considered one of the first major examples of Ottoman mosque architecture with its impressive design of twenty domes. Its interior stands out with intricate woodwork, calligraphy-covered walls, and a central fountain.

The Ottoman sultans' interest in Bursa extended beyond mosque construction. Through the complexes they built, the sultans also shaped the city's social life. The Muradiye Complex, which houses royal tombs, offers deep insight into the history of the Ottoman dynasty. The Green Complex and the Green Tomb are among the most refined examples of Ottoman art, renowned for their exquisite tilework.



Tomb of Sultan Murad II, Muradiye Complex

Inns, mosques and complexes: The legacy of the Ottomans

Bursa's cultural richness has been shaped by its historic inns, mosques, and religious complexes. The inns, in particular, are among the strongest reflections of the city's commercial identity.

At the heart of the Ottoman silk trade stood Koza Han, one of Bursa's most iconic inns. This historic site has served as a gathering place for merchants, travelers, and the curious for centuries, and still offers a peaceful pause today beneath the shade of ancient plane trees.

Emir Han, built in the 14th century, is the first inn constructed by the Ottomans in Bursa and sheds light on the city's commercial past. Once a stop for caravans, the building still welcomes visitors with its authentic atmosphere, evoking the bustling trade life of earlier times.



Tomb of Osman Gazi



Balıbey Inn



Koza Inn



Historic Covered Bazaar, İnegöl

The Grand Bazaar of Bursa, dating back to the Ottoman period, remains one of the city's most important centers of commerce. Interwoven with historic inns and bedestens, this lively market carries traces of the past in every corner — from silk and spices to handmade jewelry and antiques. Shopping here is more than a transaction; it feels like stepping into a journey through history.

The tombs that evoke the city's spiritual essence are among the most significant sites where the founding leaders of the Ottoman Empire are laid to rest. The tombs of Osman Gazi and Orhan Gazi are located in the very lands where the empire was born, offering visitors a direct connection to this profound heritage.

The religious complexes that form an inseparable part of Bursa's architectural fabric are some of the finest examples of Ottoman urban planning. The Yıldırım, Hüdavendigâr, and Emir Sultan complexes, comprising mosques, madrasahs, baths, and soup kitchens, reflect the social structure and public life of their era.

İznik: A crossroads of civilizations

Bursa's historical journey continues in İznik. With a past stretching from antiquity to the Ottoman era, İznik held great significance for both the Byzantine and Ottoman empires. The city hosted some of the most important councils of the Christian world and later became a

renowned center of knowledge and art under Ottoman rule.

One of the first things that comes to mind when thinking of İznik is its tra-

dition of tilemaking. Some of the most elegant Ottoman tiles were crafted here, and the famed İznik tiles that adorn many of Istanbul's mosques became internationally celebrated.

Among the city's most striking landmarks is the Hagia Sophia Mosque of İznik, which bears traces of both Byzantine and Ottoman periods. The ancient city walls encircling İznik are among its most distinctive features, while the ruins along the shores of Lake İznik offer a breathtaking landscape where history meets nature.

Tracing the past, discovering the present

Bursa and İznik captivate visitors not only with their historical landmarks but also with an atmosphere that nourishes the soul. Walking through the land where the Ottoman Empire was born, exploring the fine details of İznik's tile art, or simply enjoying a coffee break in one of its historic inns — each moment brings you closer to the grandeur of the past, still alive in the present.



Green Tomb, Tomb of Sultan Çelebi Mehmed



Lefke Gate



Hagia Sophia Orhan Mosque, İznik



Uludağ Ski Resort



Bursa Cable Car

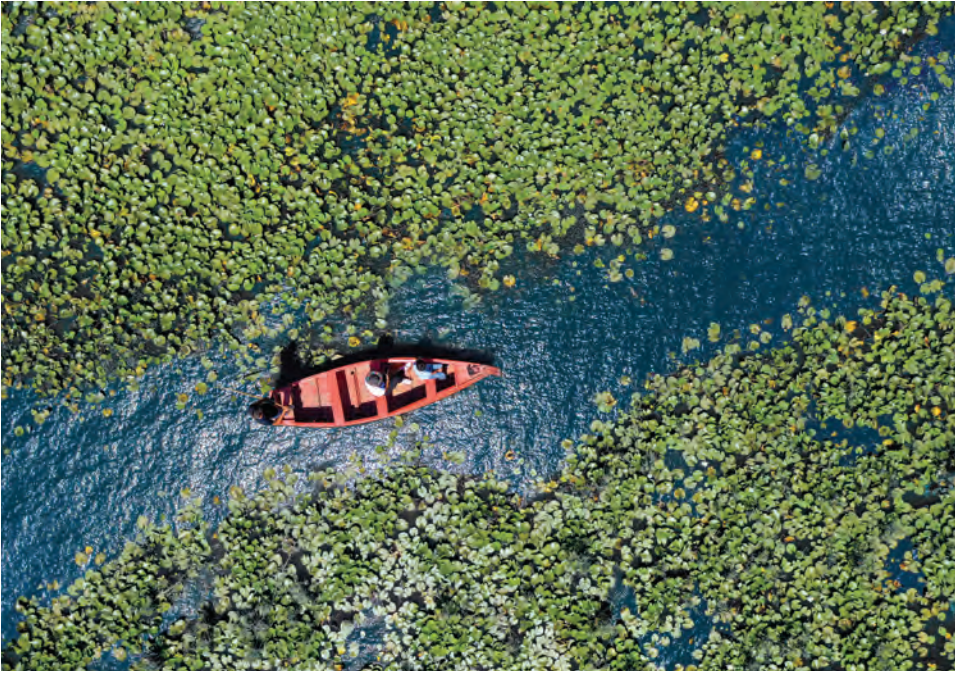
Uludağ: Nature and adventure in every season

One of Türkiye's most renowned winter tourism destinations, Uludağ stands out not only for its snow-covered peaks but also for the year-round beauty it offers to nature lovers. With its summit reaching 2,543 meters, this highest point in

the Southern Marmara region is also one of the most stunning nature escapes thanks to its rich flora and fauna.

Designated as a national park, Uludağ promises a unique discovery in every season. In winter, it draws crowds for skiing, snowboarding, and snowmobile tours. When spring arrives, the mountain welcomes hikers, cyclists, and campers. Its thrilling trekking routes wind through pine forests and up to the summit, where you may spot rare species like the Apollo butterfly. You can even touch the permanent snow that remains in some areas well into summer.

On clear days, the view stretches as far as Istanbul from the Grand and Little Peaks of Uludağ.



Karacabey Floodplain Forest, Karacabey

Karacabey Floodplain Forest: A magical meeting of water and green

One of the most enchanting faces of nature, the Karacabey Floodplain Forest is one of Bursa's hidden paradises. Here, the sea, sky, and forest come together in perfect harmony.

This unique corner of nature, where woodland meets the sea, invites discovery with its lush trees and ivy-covered paths. As you walk along water channels adorned with lotus flowers, you may feel as though you've stepped into an entirely different world. At Poyraz and Dalyan lakes, it's possible to observe pike and eel, and the area also serves as an important nesting ground for water birds.

Karacabey Longoz is ideal for hiking, birdwatching, and nature photography. It's a perfect route for anyone seeking a peaceful day immersed in the natural world. You can also enjoy water sports here.

Lake İznik and Lake Uluabat: Bursa's serene blue escapes

Although Bursa is often associated with its lush greenery, its shades of blue are equally captivating.

Lake İznik is a peaceful destination known for its breathtaking sunsets, tranquil shores, and historical surroundings. As one of the largest freshwater lakes in Türkiye, it offers a calm atmosphere with walking trails



Ayvainsi Cave

and lakeside restaurants. Watching the reflection of historic silhouettes on the water while enjoying local delicacies makes time spent here even more special.

Another natural gem, Lake Uluabat, is particularly famous for birdwatching and its vibrant ecosystem. Recognized as a “Living Lake” by UNESCO, it is a seasonal stopover for migratory storks during spring. The village of Gölyazı on its shore looks like a postcard with its cobblestone streets, centuries-old plane tree rising from the water, and traditional fishing boats. For those seeking a route that blends nature and history, Lake İznik and Lake Uluabat are among the most special stops in Bursa.



Uludağ National Park Entrance



Nilüfer Sudüşen Waterfall, Gemlik

Immersed in nature: Trekking, cycling and rural discovery routes

How about escaping the city and getting lost in nature, exploring new paths? Bursa is not only rich in historical landmarks but also offers unique trekking trails, cycling routes, and countryside exploration points that make it a rewarding destination for nature lovers.

Areas such as Uludağ, Keles, Orhaneli, and İznik feature a variety of routes for both trekking and cycling. Uludağ National Park, with its diverse vegetation and scenic views, provides trails suitable for hikers of all levels. From the foothills to the summit, the routes are ideal for summer hikes as well as winter snow walks.

For a more tranquil experience, the hills around İznik offer a unique journey through landscapes filled with historical atmosphere.

Bursa also has many natural cycling routes to explore. The area around Lake İznik is ideal for both road and mountain biking, while the rugged terrain of Orhaneli and Keles promises a more adventurous ride. Along these cycling paths, you can enjoy the peace of the lakeside and observe traces of rural life along village roads.

If you're curious to experience traditional village life, you are invited to explore the countryside of Bursa — especially villages like Cumalıkızık and Misi. With their centuries-old stone houses, organic farmers' markets, and warm hospitality, these areas are at the heart of Bursa's rural tourism.

Whether it's a challenging trek, a cycling adventure, or a quiet day in a village, Bursa offers countless opportunities for those who want to spend time in harmony with nature.

Alternative Routes



In this nature-filled route, you will experience both adrenaline and tranquility together...



On this route, history and blue will come together.



On this route, you will discover Uludağ's hidden treasures.



On this route, you will visit the most popular landmarks in Bursa.



This route generously presents Bursa's natural beauties to you...



On this route, you will experience nature and history hand in hand while walking through the irresistible beauty of the Gulf of Bursa.



Sustainable tourism: Bursa's legacy for the future

Bursa is an ideal destination for travelers who wish to explore in harmony with nature. By preserving its historical fabric and natural beauty, the city supports sustainable tourism and stands as one of the finest examples of environmentally conscious travel.

Environmentally friendly tourism practices

In recent years, there has been a grow-

ing number of tourism initiatives in Bursa that operate with environmental awareness. Waste management programs, carbon footprint reduction efforts, and ecotourism projects are gaining momentum both in the city center and in natural areas. Especially in places like Uludağ National Park, various measures have been implemented to ensure that visitors can enjoy the area without harming the environment.

As eco-friendly transportation becomes increasingly important, the city offers



Olive Trees



Cumalıkızık Village, Yıldırım



more sustainable ways to get around through bicycle lanes, electric public transport, and nature-integrated alternatives. Quiet, low-emission options now make it possible to travel comfortably without harming the planet.

Ecotourism routes are also creating excellent opportunities for nature lovers while generating economic benefits for local communities. In short, Bursa is the right place for those who want to explore while protecting nature.

Organic farming and the preservation of local products

With its fertile lands and deep-rooted agricultural tradition, Bursa is not only a city in harmony with nature but also a

hub of sustainable production. Thanks to initiatives that support local farmers, protect natural resources, and aim to preserve traditional farming, ecological and organic agriculture is becoming stronger each day.

In regions such as İznik, Orhangazi, and Mustafakemalpaşa, a growing awareness of farming in harmony with nature is taking hold. Olives, grapes, chestnuts, peaches, and black figs grown using traditional methods serve as both a vital source of income for local communities and a defining part of Bursa's rich gastronomic identity.

Farms that produce without harming the environment not only offer healthy food but also organize special visits





where guests can experience organic farming firsthand.

The local markets of Bursa are some of the most beautiful reflections of sustainable agriculture. In village markets in places like Cumalıkızık and Tirilye, you'll find freshly picked organic vegetables, fragrant homemade jams, cold-pressed olive oils, and handcrafted natural products. In some farms, you can even participate in grape harvests, olive picking, or traditional production workshops. These activities turn sustainable agriculture into a meaningful and hands-on experience in nature.

Green tourism and nature-friendly accommodation

With its approach to green tourism, Bursa promotes travel that respects and protects nature. From mountain hotels to rural boutique stays, many accommodations offer environmentally conscious services.

Hotels around Uludağ provide a sustainable lodging experience through energy-saving systems, recycling practices, and ecological initiatives. In addition, traditional village houses and bungalows set in nature offer peaceful holidays while supporting the local economy.

In Bursa's countryside, eco-farms and sustainable accommodation options are increasingly common. Guests can join in organic farming activities, try local flavors, and explore natural surroundings. These experiences allow visitors to spend their time in a way that supports both the environment and rural life.

Sustainable tourism in Bursa is more than just an alternative. It is a way of traveling that values nature and local traditions. Through eco-friendly lodging and routes designed to preserve the landscape, the city continues to welcome travelers who care about protecting the places they explore.



Uludağ Hotels Area, Osmangazi



Winter sports and mountain tourism: An adventure on the snow-covered slopes of Uludağ

Uludağ, one of Bursa's most magnificent natural treasures, is among the first destinations that come to mind in Türkiye when it comes to winter sports. Located about 35 kilometers from the city center, this unique mountain offers a snowy escape for everyone who wants to enjoy the winter season, especially for those who love skiing and snowboarding.

Uludağ Ski Center: A complete winter holiday, from slopes to hotels

If you're passionate about snow sports, you should definitely visit Uludağ — one of Türkiye's most developed ski centers, offering trails with varying levels of difficulty.

Uludağ delivers a highly comfortable experience with its modern chairlift systems, ski schools, and equipment rental services. Here, you can do much more than just ski. Your holiday can become truly unforgettable with fun activities such as snowboarding, snowmobile tours, and sledding.

The region offers a wide range of accommodation options, from luxury hotels to boutique stays. After a full day on the slopes, you can relax in the warm atmosphere of one of the mountain hotels located near the pistes. Whether you're in the mood for traditional flavors or international cuisine, you'll find yourself in the heart of a rich and satisfying gastronomic experience.

Bursa's alternative winter side: Snowboarding, winter festivals and camping

Bursa is a destination that goes beyond skiing and offers a variety of winter experiences. With its snowboard trails, music-filled and entertaining winter festivals, and campsites for those seeking solitude in nature, the winter season here takes on an entirely different spirit.

Snowboarding: Feel the freedom

Gliding freely over snow and feeling the wind as you pick up speed — snowboarding is more than just a winter sport. It is a passion. And Uludağ is one of the best places in Türkiye to experience it.

With its wide slopes, high-quality snow, safe zones for beginners, and profes-

sional instructors, Uludağ is also ideal for those trying snowboarding for the first time. For more experienced riders, off-piste areas and natural ramps offer moments full of adventure.

Beyond Uludağ, the high-altitude regions surrounding Bursa also provide suitable areas for snowboarding. When snowfall is sufficient, even spots closer to the city center can offer short and enjoyable rides.

Winter festivals: Where fun meets the snow

In Bursa, winter is not only the season of snow but also of music and joy. Events like Winterfest and university festivals bring concerts and lively activities to the snow-covered peaks, blending the excitement of skiing and snowboarding with entertainment.





And the festivals are not limited to music. Nature walks, themed competitions, and snow sports events add even more energy to the experience.

Dancing in the snow, sipping hot drinks, and breathing in the crisp mountain air are among the most enjoyable moments these festivals offer.

Winter camping: Immersed in nature beneath the snow

Winter camping is one of the most special ways to connect with nature. The silence of the snow, a campfire glowing beneath the stars, and breathtaking landscapes all come together to create a unique outdoor experience. Bursa offers wonderful routes for those who want to enjoy this magical adventure.

You don't have to reach the summit of Uludağ to camp. Keles Kocayayla, Orhaneli Sadağı Canyon, and Büyükoğran Görecik Plateau provide unforgettable moments for campers with their



snow-covered natural beauty. For those who prefer lakeside camping, Baraklı, Dağdibi, Ericcek, and Dağyenice ponds turn into serene and scenic getaways in winter. Lake İznik and the Karacabey Floodplain offer peaceful escapes where water and nature intertwine.

For travelers seeking a safer and more comfortable option, Misi Camping and Caravan Site and Gürsu Adrenaline Park are both situated in nature and provide practical facilities. The cold weather may be challenging, but for those prepared with the right gear, every moment turns into an adventure.

Health and thermal tourism: The healing waters of Bursa

Throughout history, Bursa has been known as a center of healing. Famous for its thermal springs since Roman times and continuing through the Ottoman era, the city remains one of the most important destinations for thermal tourism today. Here, the thermal waters offer relaxation not only for the body but also for the soul.

Çekirge hot springs: Healing from history

As Bursa's most established thermal district, Çekirge has welcomed those in search of healing for centuries. The Eski Kaplıca and Yeni Kaplıca baths, once favored by Ottoman sultans, still stand strong today and offer visitors a thermal experience enriched with traces of the past.

Kükürtlü Hot Spring, known for its distinctive scent, is especially preferred for treating skin conditions and joint problems. With its blend of historic bathhouses and modern thermal hotels, Çekirge is an ideal destination both for those who want to experience traditional spa culture and for those seeking a luxurious wellness retreat.

Oylat hot springs: Renewal in nature

For those who want to get away from the city and enjoy a thermal experience in the heart of nature, the Oylat Hot Springs are one of the best places to visit. Located in the İnegöl district and nestled among pine forests, this area is known not only for its warm waters but also for its peaceful atmosphere.

Oylat Cave, İnegöl



Yalçın Stud Farm, Hacıali Village, Mustafakemalpaşa

While the thermal waters are believed to help with rheumatic conditions and muscle pain, what truly makes Oylat special is the chance to pause, unwind, and reconnect with nature. It is a perfect escape for visitors who want to combine camping, hiking, and the comfort of a thermal bath all in one experience.

Tümbüldek hot springs: Calm and healing combined

Located in the Mustafakemalpaşa district, the Tümbüldek Hot Springs are ideal for those seeking a peaceful thermal experience in close contact with nature, far from the crowds. The warm

waters in the area are believed to be beneficial for skin conditions and respiratory ailments.

Thanks to the surrounding natural beauty, even a short visit to the springs can turn into a delightful day.

Thermal hotels and spa centers: Modern comfort and traditional healing

With its historic hot springs and thermal hotels, Bursa offers visitors a wellness experience that blends tradition with modern comfort. The luxury thermal hotels in the Çekirge district com-



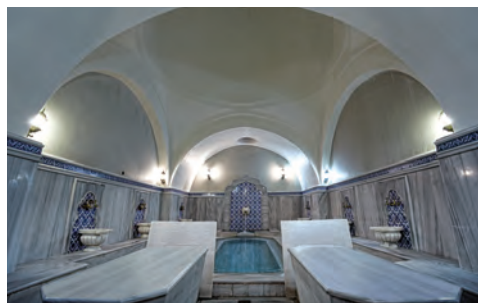
Oylat



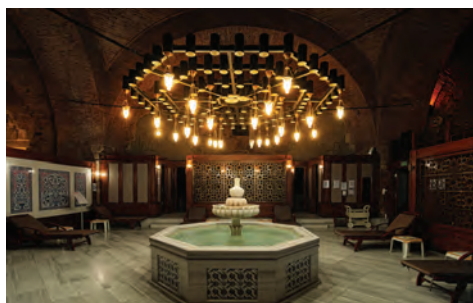
Around Kürekli Waterfall, Yıldırım



Historic Kervansaray Bathhouse, Osmangazi



Women's Section of the Historic Kervansaray Bathhouse, Osmangazi



Men's Section of the Historic Kervansaray Bathhouse, Osmangazi

bine the heritage of Ottoman bath culture with today's conveniences, while the facilities in Oylat and Mustafake-malpaşa provide a chance to rejuvenate in the heart of nature.

These establishments offer more than just thermal baths. Services such as massage, aromatherapy, and skincare treatments create not only physical relief but also mental relaxation.

As the warmth of the thermal waters eases the muscles, the mystical atmosphere of the bathhouses brings the spirit of the past into the present.

Medical tourism in Bursa

In addition to its thermal tourism offerings, Bursa is also an important center for modern healthcare services. The city's hospitals provide advanced medical care in a wide range of specialties, including orthopedics, physical therapy, fertility treatment, cosmetic surgery, and eye health.

With healthcare institutions that meet international standards, Bursa welcomes visitors from abroad as well, making it an attractive destination for medical tourism.

Gastronomy tourism: A journey through Bursa's table

Bursa Kebab



With flavors that trace back to the Ottoman era, unique agricultural products grown in fertile lands, and century-old recipes, Bursa is a true destination for gastronomy enthusiasts. In this city, eating is not just a necessity. It is a cultural experience. Every bite carries the legacy of the past, the generosity of nature, and the craftsmanship of skilled hands.

Bursa cuisine: Legendary flavors

When it comes to kebab, one place immediately comes to mind: Bursa. Created in the 19th century by İskender Efendi, this unique dish — served with melted butter, tomato sauce, and yogurt — is more than just a meal. It is a

full experience. Today, many restaurants across the streets of Bursa continue to preserve this tradition and serve the authentic taste of İskender kebab.

Another beloved classic is “pideli köfte,” a dish where flavorful meatballs are served on top of bread soaked in butter and tomato sauce. Simple yet impressive, it is one of the most cherished tastes of Bursa's local cuisine.

No introduction to Bursa's food culture would be complete without dessert. One of the city's most iconic sweets is candied chestnut, or “kestane şekeri.” Made from chestnuts gathered from the mountains and cooked in syrup, this delicacy has become a symbol of the city. It

is so popular that almost every visitor to Bursa brings home a box of it as a gift.

Local agricultural products: Bursa's abundant table

The richness of Bursa's cuisine is shaped not only by traditional recipes but also by the unique products grown in its fertile lands. Many flavors that have been cultivated for centuries are now essential parts of the city's gastronomic culture.

Mihaliç cheese is one of the most distinctive cheeses of the region. Produced mainly in the Karacabey and Mustafakemalpaşa areas, it is known for its firm texture and strong aroma. It is used in breakfasts, toasts, and dishes, and in some places, it is even served fried.

Gemlik olives are among Türkiye's most renowned varieties, small in size but rich in flavor. With their distinctive oil and intense aroma, they are a staple of breakfast tables. These olives, grown in the groves around Gemlik, are preferred both for eating and for olive oil production.

Another flavor closely associated with Bursa is its peaches. Juicy and sweet, Bursa peaches are considered among the finest in Türkiye. Especially in summer, if you visit the city, don't leave without picking a peach straight from the tree and tasting it.

Gastronomy routes and flavor stops

For those who want to explore Bursa's cuisine, there are many different gastronomy routes to follow. In this city, every flavor has its place, but more

important than specific venues are the districts and bazaars. Across every corner of Bursa, it's possible to trace the culinary heritage that stretches from past to present.

If you ask where to eat the best “pide-
li köfte” in Bursa, the answer is clear: Kayhan Bazaar. In the historic arcades of this marketplace, meatballs are served on wood-fired bread, topped with plenty of butter and tomato sauce — a true feast of flavor.

For pastry lovers, “cantık” is one of Bursa's most distinctive local tastes. Tuz Pazarı and Aynalı Bazaar are among the best places to try this dish. These small, round flatbreads are made with minced meat, cheese, or diced meat fillings. Served hot, they are irresistibly delicious.

When it comes to seafood, the coastal areas of Mudanya and Gemlik stand out. These regions are ideal for those who want to enjoy fresh fish, mezes, and long meals accompanied by sea views.



İnegöl Meatballs



Mustafakemalpaşa Dessert

For those with a sweet tooth, chestnut candy shops are a must in Bursa. Found in many parts of the city, this dessert is one of the most popular gifts to bring back from a visit.

If you want to explore international cuisine, rather than looking for individual restaurants, large shopping centers like Podyumpark are a great option. These venues offer a variety of choices from different world cuisines and provide a modern take on Bursa's culinary scene.

Bursa stands out not only with its food but also with the stories of the masters who prepare it. Some bakeries, meatball shops, and dessert makers have been serving the same flavors for three or even four generations. Grandchildren who have inherited the family craft continue to follow in their fathers' footsteps and keep Bursa's culinary traditions alive.

In this city, eating is not just about taste. It is about following the traces of the past and feeling the depth of a rooted culture. If you ever stop by a local food shop and see a grandson standing by the stove, preparing his grandfather's recipe, know that what you are tasting is not just a meal. It is living history.

From grandfather to grandchild: The century-old tastes of Bursa

Bursa has preserved its culinary traditions for centuries. Here, some dishes are more than just food — they are legacies passed down from one generation to the next. Even today, ovens with rising steam, kebabs cooked over wood fires, and desserts prepared with old recipes bring the traces of the past to the streets of the city.

Here are some of Bursa's century-old culinary landmarks:

• Pidecioğlu Pide Bakery (1860)

Founded in 1860 by Mustafa Bey, who came to Bursa from Hatay, this bakery is located in Kayhan Bazaar. It is known for its flatbreads prepared using traditional methods.

• Kebapçı İskender (1867)

Established in 1867, this venue is considered the birthplace of döner kebab. The famous Bursa kebab, known for its special sauce and presentation, continues to attract flavor lovers here.

• Turan Kadayıf (1890)

Operating in Tuz Pazarı since the 1890s, this establishment is a popular stop for dessert lovers, especially for its production of phyllo and kadayıf dough.

• Mahkeme Bakery (1892)

Founded in 1892 by uncles Ali and Mehmet, this bakery in the Selimiye neighborhood of Altıparmak is renowned for its traditional breads and pastries.

• Besler İnegöl Meatball Restaurant (1893)

Established in 1893 in İnegöl by Mustafa Efendi, a Bulgarian immigrant, this venue serves some of the finest examples of İnegöl-style meatballs.

• Famous Dessert & Ice Cream Shop – Ahmet (1920)

Founded in 1920 in Mustafakemalpaşa, this dessert shop is especially famous for its cheese dessert and ice cream.

• Cengiz Halva Shop (1920)

Established in 1920 in Yenişehir, this business is known for its variety of helva and other traditional sweets.

• Hacı Baba Grill Restaurant (1922)

Founded in 1922 by Ali Abraş near Çancılar Bazaar, this grill restaurant has been serving flavors passed down through generations.

• Historic Yaşayanlar Börek Shop (1925)

Established in 1935 by Bilal Yaşayanlar in Mollarap, this börek shop is known for its traditional pastry varieties.

• Geye Ice Cream (1927)

The journey of this flavor began in the 1870s with Şerbetçi Halil Ağa and continued in 1927 with the production of ice cream in Okçular Bazaar.

• Ulus Patisserie (1928)

Founded in 1928 by Hacı Rasim Öztat, this pastry shop has made significant contributions to Bursa's dessert and pastry culture.

• Famous Dirancı Halvas (1930)

Established in 1930 by Hüseyin Dirancı in Yenişehir, this business is known for its

helva and a variety of traditional sweets.

• Tavukçuoğlu Tripe Soup House (1932)

Founded in 1932 by Sabri Tavukçuoğlu in Bursa, this restaurant serves tripe soup and other traditional dishes.

• Mehmet Helvacı, Son of Hasan Tahsin (1933)

Established by Hasan Tahsin Helvacı, who migrated from Skopje to Türkiye in 1890, this business is known for its helva and various sweets.

• Hacı Aziz İnegöl Meatball Restaurant (1934)

Founded in 1934, this venue offers some of the most delicious examples of İnegöl-style meatballs.

• Çiçek Grill Restaurant (1963)

Established in 1963 by Hasan Erdihan Hınçalan, Çiçek Izgara has become a Bursa classic with its meatballs grilled over a wood fire.

• Ülkü Patisserie (1967)

Founded in 1967, Ülkü Pastanesi has served three generations with its 850-square-meter production facility and branches across various districts of Bursa.

• Baghdad Date Dessert Shop (1968)

Operated by the Bağdat family since 1968, this dessert shop is famous for its date dessert prepared with a special blend of spices.

• Sefa İnegöl Meatball Restaurant (1940)

Founded in 1940 by Hacı Asım Çelik, this establishment in İnegöl serves a variety of soups, stewed beans, rice, and İnegöl meatballs.

Bursa's gateway to the blue: Sea and coastal tourism

Although Bursa is often associated with its greenery and mountains, its coastline along the Sea of Marmara offers a compelling alternative for a seaside getaway. The shores of Mudanya, Gemlik, and Karacabey stand out with their proximity to the city center, well-preserved natural beaches, and peaceful atmosphere. These areas are ideal for those who want to get away from crowded destinations, unwind, and explore.

Unlike large holiday resorts, these coastal spots are not overly busy. That is actually their biggest advantage. Whether it's taking a morning swim, strolling along the beach at sunset, or simply sitting by the shore and listening to the silence, they offer a quiet charm. Each one is easily accessible and suitable for both day trips and extended holidays.

Mudanya's coastal life, Gemlik's nature-filled coves, and Karacabey's wide and tranquil shoreline each offer their own unique character. Yet they share something in common. They all offer a simple, sincere, and genuine seaside experience. These routes invite not only those looking to cool off, but also travelers who want to discover new places, connect with local life, and enjoy the slow rhythm of a relaxed vacation.

Bursa's coastal areas serve as a valuable guide for both those open to discovery and those passing through the city. Whether for a spontaneous escape, a summer holiday, or a short break, they offer a surprisingly peaceful way to meet the sea.

Beaches and water sports

For those who want to reach the sea during the summer months, Bursa's coastline stands out as a route that is



Karacabey Yeniköy Beach (Karacabey Strait)

Kapanca Harbor



close to nature and far from the crowds. Its proximity to the city center makes it easily accessible, and its natural shoreline remains largely preserved. With these features, Bursa becomes a very appealing choice for anyone looking to spend a quiet day by the sea.

The beaches of Eşkel, Mesudiye, and Kumyaka near Mudanya are especially popular on weekends, drawing both locals and visitors. With shallow and calm waters, they are ideal for families with children. Whether you want to swim, walk along the coast, or relax with a cool drink, these shores offer simple yet enjoyable moments. Small local businesses nearby make it easy to find anything you might need.

The shores of Gemlik offer a quieter and more nature-oriented atmosphere. Beaches like Kumsaz, Narlı, and Gemsaz attract both those seeking peace and those looking for a more active experience,

thanks to their clear water and wide open spaces. Light water sports such as pedal boats, canoeing, and paddle boarding are becoming increasingly popular in the area. On days with suitable winds, experienced windsurfers can also be seen along the coast.

Karacabey Boğazı is more of a natural retreat than a typical beach. It is a favorite spot for camping, walking along the coast, or early morning fishing. For those who want to spend a day away from the noise and stay close not only to the sea but to nature as a whole, it offers a powerful alternative.

Bursa's coastline appeals not only to swimmers but also to those who seek a deeper connection with the natural environment. Far from large resorts, these shores offer a modest yet meaningful experience that draws in those who prefer a simple and sincere relationship with the sea.

Mudanya — Kumyaka Marina, Mudanya



Yacht tourism and coastal life

The shores where Bursa meets the sea attract not only those arriving by land, but also visitors coming from the water. Especially in summer, the ports of Mudanya and Gemlik become lively spots for yacht tourism. Historic streets, small shops, and local markets offer enjoyable stops for those anchoring along the coast.

Watching the sunset from Mudanya's shoreline and ending the day with a sea-side dinner are natural parts of the holiday experience in this area. These places, with the spirit of a coastal town, appeal not only to those who want to swim but also to those who seek rest, slowness, and the beauty of the moment.

Gemlik, with its calm shoreline and still waters, is one of the preferred places for travelers looking to pause briefly during a sea journey. The walking paths along



the coast, small tea gardens, and peaceful atmosphere provide an ideal setting for those stepping ashore to relax and explore. For visitors who appreciate a slower pace of coastal life, Gemlik offers a simple yet memorable experience.

Every pause made by yacht along Bursa's coast is more than just a stopover. It is a chance to become part of the coastal rhythm, even if only for a short time. Towns like Mudanya and Gemlik offer a calm yet practical alternative for yacht tourism, while also preserving the essence of an authentic coastal lifestyle.

More than nature and history: Alternative tourism in Bursa

Bursa is not only known for its natural beauty and historical richness, but also for the variety of tourism experiences it offers. For those who want to spend time in nature, experience local culture firsthand, or plan a holiday off the beaten path, Bursa presents many alternatives waiting to be discovered.

From festival calendars to adventure routes, from handicraft workshops to outdoor sports, these options keep the city vibrant throughout the year. Sometimes it's a market set up in a village square. Other times it's a single step taken on the slopes of Uludağ. Each experience transforms Bursa from a place to visit into a place to truly live.

A calendar filled with culture: Festivals and events

Bursa's cultural richness is not limited to its museums or historical buildings. It also reveals itself through the festivals and events organized throughout the year. If you are an art lover with an interest in traditional culture and music, a holiday in Bursa might turn into something truly memorable. It could be a

chance encounter with a street concert, a food fair in a village square, or a timeless play performed on a local stage.

With a rich calendar of events spread across every season, Bursa offers more than just an opportunity to watch art. It invites you to become part of it. One of the city's most prominent cultural traditions is the International Bursa Festival, a summer staple for many years. From theater to dance, from traditional folk performances to symphony concerts, this festival brings art to life in iconic venues such as the Kültürpark Open-Air Theater. During the festival, local and international artists take the stage, transforming historical sites, parks, and squares into cultural gathering spaces.

Another important event that draws attention from all age groups is the Karagöz Puppet and Shadow Play Festival, rooted in Bursa's long-standing traditions. Considered the birthplace of shadow play in Anatolia and believed to be the home of Karagöz and Hacivat, Bursa takes pride in preserving this heritage. Thanks to the annual festival, this tradition is revived and celebrated. One of the devoted figures keeping shadow play alive, Şinasi Çelikkol, was honored in 2024 with the "Living Human Treas-



Traditional Turkish Shadow Theatre of
Karagöz and Hacivat



Historic Mirrored Bazaar

ure” award by President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan in recognition of his lifelong dedication to the art.

Bursa’s alternative cultural side is not limited to major events. As you move away from the city center, thematic festivals that highlight local products such as figs, olives, and peaches take on a more intimate and authentic atmosphere. Events like the Olive Festival in Tirilye, the Cherry Festival in Keles, the Peach Festival in İnégöl, and the Bursa Gastronomy Festival do more than promote regional flavors. They also give visitors a glimpse into the rhythm of local life.



At these festivals, visitors can buy local products from market stalls, watch folk dances, and even witness traditional bread baking in village ovens. A festival you happen to come across while planning a trip to Bursa might reshape your entire itinerary. It may even change the way you see the city altogether.

For adventure seekers: Adrenaline-filled routes in nature



Bursa offers strong alternatives for those who are looking for more than just peaceful nature walks. From paragliding and rafting to off-road trails and wilderness camping, the region provides a wide range of outdoor activities that raise the adrenaline level.

These experiences are not only for those who chase excitement. They also attract people who enjoy connecting with nature in new and unexpected ways.

Paragliding on the slopes of Uludağ

Are you ready to launch yourself into the sky from the slopes of Uludağ? Paragliding flights that begin on the foothills of this iconic mountain offer an unforgettable experience for those who want to discover Bursa from a completely different perspective.



These flights are especially popular in the summer, during periods when weather conditions are favorable. They are ideal for anyone who wants to stay close to nature while also enjoying panoramic views of the city’s skyline from above.

Flights are usually tandem, meaning they are done with an experienced pilot. This makes it a safe and encouraging option for beginners. The takeoff points are located in designated areas at higher elevations of Uludağ.

Flight times typically range between 20 and 30 minutes, during which passengers are treated to sweeping views of the Bursa Plain, forests, lakes, and even the distant Sea of Marmara.

Flowing with nature's rhythm: Rafting in Orhaneli



For those who want to move with the current and flow in harmony with nature, the rafting courses in Bursa offer a powerful alternative. Kocasu Stream in Orhaneli is an ideal route for anyone seeking an adrenaline-filled experience without straying far from the city. In spring, the rising water levels make the course more lively and suitable for both beginners and intermediate-level adventurers.

Rafting tours are generally carried out under the supervision of professional guides. After a short briefing, participants enter the water in groups equipped with safety gear and begin an exciting journey downstream. Rafting is also a social activity, offering moments full of teamwork, shared rhythm, and plenty of laughter.

A few hours spent following the rhythm of the river leave behind a sensation of both stillness and motion that goes far beyond the pace of city life. In the end,

what remains in memory is the pure joy of going with the flow.

A bit off the beaten path: Off-road routes in nature

Sometimes, connecting with nature in Bursa means taking rocky, muddy, and winding roads. Off-road routes are perfect for those who want to embrace exactly this kind of experience. The area around Inegöl is particularly well-suited for off-road exploration with 4x4 vehicles. Forest trails, rough terrain, and ever-changing weather conditions elevate these routes far beyond an ordinary drive.

In guided off-road tours, being in touch with nature is not limited to the time behind the wheel. During short breaks at higher elevations, participants can take a breath while enjoying the scenery, experiencing not just the sound of engines but also the stillness of nature.

Here, the point is not speed but rather control, courage, and a bit of curiosity. Along the route, it's not only the views that leave a mark—mud splattered on the tires becomes just as memorable.

For those who want to get away from the city without losing touch with nature, off-road adventures offer a deeper and more immersive kind of exploration.



Osmangazi

General Information

If you want to do more than just meet Bursa and truly connect with it, there is a clear place to start. Here, even the stones speak of history. Osmangazi, one of the city's oldest settlements, not only takes its name from the founder of the Ottoman Empire but also blends the traces of the past into the rhythm of today through its streets.

With its historical, cultural, and architectural richness, Osmangazi is one of the most significant districts not only in Bursa but also in all of Türkiye. Spanning from the slopes of Uludağ down to the plains, it offers visitors a journey through time with its inns, religious complexes, tombs, and museums.

Historical structures such as the Inns Area and the Sultan Complexes, both listed as UNESCO World Heritage Sites, clearly reflect Osmangazi's connection to its past. At the same time, modern urban life continues to grow on this historical foundation. The tombs of Osman Gazi and Orhan Gazi are must-see sites for those who want to witness the founding spirit of Bursa up close. This district is not just a place to live, but a living book of history.

Highlights for Visitors

The UNESCO World Heritage Sites are at the very heart of Osmangazi. The Grand Mosque, Yıldırım Complex, Hüdavendigâr Complex, and Muradiye Complex are among the finest examples of early Ottoman architecture. Especially the Inns Area, with historical trading centers such as the Covered Bazaar, Emir Han, Geyve Han, and Koza Han, continues to fascinate both local and international visitors.



Sitting down for a cup of tea in the courtyard of Koza Han is one of the most authentic ways to experience history.

Osmangazi also stands out with modern landmarks such as the Bursa Conquest Museum. Opened in 2020, this large museum presents the founding period of the Ottoman Empire through interactive exhibitions and digital storytelling techniques. While touring the museum, you don't just learn facts; you feel as if you're walking through history itself.

Other important stops, including the Tophane Clock Tower, Saltanat Gate, Balibey Han, and Panorama 1326 Conquest Museum, complete Osmangazi's historical and visual appeal. As the last stop before heading up Uludağ, Osmangazi serves as a natural bridge between city life and mountain exploration.

Local Products & Gastronomy

In Osmangazi, history is not only found in architecture but also kept alive at the table. Restaurants in this area proudly serve Bursa's classic flavors such as Bursa kebab, meatballs with pide, and walnut delight.

In the bazaars surrounding the Grand Mosque, small shops carry on the traditional culinary culture with homemade

tarhana, noodles, spice blends, and medicinal herbs.

Having a cup of Turkish coffee brewed over embers on the upper floor of Koza Han feels like taking a break within history itself.

Some of Bursa's well-known chestnut candy producers are also based in Osmangazi, offering a delicious treat for those with a sweet tooth.



Things to Do

Spending time in Osmangazi feels like having a conversation with history. In the morning, you can watch the city from Tophane, lose yourself in the Inns Area during the day, and explore the gates of history at the Conquest Museum in the afternoon.

For photography enthusiasts, the surroundings of the Grand Mosque offer unique beauty in every season.

Shopping in the historical bazaars, talking with local producers, and exploring traditional handicrafts are all part of the experience here. Osmangazi is not just a place to visit; it is a place to truly feel in every corner.





General Information

A coastal town where time slows down beneath the shade of olive trees, where the Marmara Sea meets the land, and where tranquility blends with a unique spirit — this is Gemlik. Located about 30 kilometers from the center of Bursa, this seaside district offers both natural beauty and historical depth, promising a peaceful yet rich experience for every visitor.

With a history dating back to ancient times, these lands have been home to many civilizations throughout the centuries. Yet what makes Gemlik truly special is not only its past, but also its strong connection to the sea, its calming natural surroundings, and the memorable local flavors that leave a lasting impression.

As Orhan Veli once said:
“When you're headed toward Gemlik, you'll see the sea; don't be surprised.”

Here, everything is a little simpler, yet richer in meaning. Gemlik is a coastal story woven together with history, nature, flavor, and serenity.

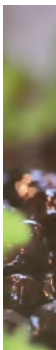
Highlights for Visitors

Gemlik is home to some of the clearest coastlines along the Sea of Marmara, making it a favorite destination for both locals from Bursa and travelers from farther away. The seaside neighborhoods of Kumla, Narlı, Kumsaz, and Karacaali stand out with their clean waters, long walking paths along the shore, and a variety of cafés.

Some of Gemlik's most cherished moments come with a morning stroll by the sea or watching the breathtaking sunset in the evening.

One of the district's most visited landmarks is the Celal Bayar Memorial Tomb. Located in the Umurbey neighborhood where the third President of the Republic of Türkiye was born and raised, this site offers a meaningful connection to the country's recent history. Next to the memorial lies a museum complex, where visitors can view personal belongings of Celal Bayar and important documents from his era.

Another spot in Gemlik that captures the hearts of nature lovers is the Sudüşen Waterfall. Located in the northeastern part of



the district, this scenic waterfall is reached by a pleasant drive through forested paths. It offers a peaceful escape during the summer months for those seeking to cool off and reconnect with nature. With its viewing terrace, hiking trails, and nearby picnic areas, it is a great destination for day trips and outdoor activities.

Gemlik Bay also holds surprises for diving enthusiasts and fans of water sports. The shores of Narlı and Karacaali, in particular, are known for their rich underwater life. Guided diving tours are available for both amateur and experienced divers, and the clear waters create ideal conditions for underwater exploration.

As you wander through the streets of Gemlik, you will come across historic mosques, fountains, mansions, and old Greek houses that reflect the district's cultural heritage. In this coastal town where the sea meets history and tranquility blends with discovery, every step offers a new detail and every view brings a unique feeling.

Local Products & Gastronomy

When people across Türkiye hear the name Gemlik, the first thing that comes to mind is undoubtedly the Gemlik ol-

ive. With its distinct oil content, shiny black skin, and long shelf life, this geographically indicated product plays a leading role not only on the table but also in the identity of the district. Many local producers still continue traditional olive processing methods today.

At local producers' markets and specialty shops, you can find not only olives but also olive oil, olive paste, soaps, and various brined products.

The region's climate and soil structure are also ideal for vineyards and garden crops. Depending on the season, tomatoes, peppers, figs, and grapes flourish here, enriching both the local cuisine and the shopping baskets of visitors. Many of these products are turned into handmade jams, pickles, and dried goods that brighten winter tables.

Seafood also holds a strong place in Gemlik's cuisine. Along the coast, fish restaurants are known especially for seasonal offerings like gilt-head bream, sea bass, sardines, and horse mackerel. Olive oil-based appetizers, calamari, shrimp, and fish soup make any dinner by the sea truly unforgettable. In seaside areas like Kumla, Narlı, and Karacaali, you can enjoy these dishes at both casual eateries and upscale venues.

The flavors of Gemlik linger not only on the palate but also in the mind. Each product reflects the lifestyle, effort, and nature of the region. In a single olive, you can sense the sun, patience, and tradition. In a plate of fish, you can taste the cool breeze of the Marmara Sea. In Gemlik, dining is not just about food; it is a journey into culture.



Büyükorhan

General Information

Büyükorhan is a quiet district tucked into the western slopes of Uludağ, far from the crowds and deeply connected to nature. Located about 100 kilometers from the city center, it offers a peaceful pace of life that feels refreshingly distant from the modern world.

Though the roots of Büyükorhan stretch back to the Byzantine era, what defines the region today is not its history, but the rhythm created by nature and simplicity. For those seeking a slower, more genuine way of life, this district still preserves that rare balance. With its high elevation and rich vegetation, Büyükorhan offers cool summers and clean, oxygen-rich air, making it an ideal destination for travelers in search of alternative, nature-based tourism

Öne Çıkan Turistik Noktalar

In Büyükorhan, the traces of history stand side by side with the untouched beauty of nature. The district's most renowned natural wonder is undoubtedly Görecik Plateau. With its cool air, fresh water springs, and open meadows, this plateau becomes a haven for campers, hikers, and caravan travelers, especially in the summer months. Reading a book in the shade during the day and gathering around a fire under the stars at night are simple rituals that define the experience here.

Another prominent site is the Derecik Basilica, one of the most important his-



torical landmarks in Büyükorhan. This Byzantine-era structure, nestled within dense forest, creates both a striking visual impression and a powerful symbolic presence.

Also worth visiting is the Dügüncüler Hot Spring and the surrounding tourism facilities. Drawing from natural thermal sources, this area offers not only health benefits through its hot waters but also a peaceful retreat in the heart of nature.

Büyükorhan preserves its cultural heritage not just in buildings but in daily life itself. Old fountains in village squares, stone-walled houses along rural paths, and a different story shared in every village create more than just a sight-seeing experience — they invite visitors to truly feel the spirit of the land.

Local Products & Gastronomy

The cuisine of Büyükorhan mirrors the way of life in the region: simple, yet full of depth. Here, meals are still cooked slowly over wood fire, taking their place at the center of the table. One of the district's most cherished recipes is Büyükorhan Kavurması — a dish where meat is seared in its own fat, with minimal sea-

soning, allowing the natural flavors to shine. Often served with village-style bulgur and a glass of ayran, this modest meal leaves a lasting impression on many visitors.

Beyond the food itself, the local market culture offers another layer of authenticity. Every Friday, the Cuma Pazarı (Friday Market) comes alive with seasonal greens, homemade jams, cheeses, fermented soups like tarhana, and sun-dried fruits. These stalls attract both locals and travelers looking for traditional flavors.

Büyükorhan Friday Bazaar Kavurma



On the same day, the Cuma Sofrası offers a wonderful opportunity to share a meal with the community and taste home-cooked dishes. The aroma of freshly baked bread from the tandır oven or a warm plate of local dessert is not just about satisfying hunger; it's a way of collecting memories. In Büyükorhan, every meal is part of the experience.

Görecik Plateau



Things to Do

In Büyükorhan, there is no rush. Everyone who arrives eventually learns to slow down. A morning walk in Görecik Plateau, embraced by the crisp air, is not just a physical activity, it can also mark the beginning of a mental reset. Later in the day, you might head to Dügüncüler Ilıcası. Immersing yourself in natural hot springs soothes not only the body but also the mind. These quiet, warm moments give new meaning to the idea of a “holiday.”

In spring and summer, the district hosts plateau festivals and local village celebrations, welcoming visitors into the heart of rural life. Sometimes you'll catch a folk dance performance in a village square, other times you'll find yourself sharing a conversation with a stranger over tea at a local café; moments that might not appear on a travel itinerary but become the most memorable parts of the journey.

Perhaps the best thing to do in Büyükorhan is simply to do nothing at all. Just be there, listen to nature, and let yourself move at the pace of time itself.

Büyükorhan Dügüncüler Thermal Spring



Yıldırım

General Information

Nestled on the slopes of Uludağ, Yıldırım is a district that brings together history, culture, and nature at the heart of Bursa. Named after the Ottoman sultan Yıldırım Bayezid, the district also carries the memory of Bursa's foundation. From complexes and tombs to villages and museums, every step offers a chance to trace the past while feeling the dynamism of the present.

With its location opening toward the east of Bursa, Yıldırım offers visitors a rich route for exploration and serves as a powerful starting point for those who want to understand the spirit of the city.

Highlights

The Yeşil Complex and Yeşil Tomb are iconic not only for Yıldırım but also for Bursa. With its fine craftsmanship, tiles, and the elegant details of Ottoman architecture, Yeşil Mosque is one of the first stops for anyone stepping into the area.

The Yıldırım Complex carries the traces of the sultan after whom the district is named, and the surrounding streets still keep history alive. These complexes are not only historical structures but also vast cultural memory spaces that tell the story of how life once took shape.

Cumalıkızık, listed on the UNESCO World Heritage List, attracts great interest from both local and international visitors. With its stone-paved streets, wooden bay-windowed houses, and lively village markets, Cumalıkızık is one



of the rare villages that make you feel as though you are walking through history.

Together with it, the Kızık Villages stand as living examples of Ottoman rural architecture, still waiting to be discovered as time capsules of the past.

Spaces that unite modern life with culture are also remarkably strong in Yıldırım. The Alev Alatlı Urban Thought and Art Center, Barış Manço Cultural Center, and the Hançerli and İncirli Cultural Centers are some of the venues that form the city's artistic pulse. With exhibitions, talks, theatre performances, and concerts, the cultural vibrancy in these places remains constantly alive.

Emir Sultan Mosque and Tomb impress visitors not only with their architecture but also with their spiritual atmosphere. Even sitting quietly in its courtyard becomes a brief pause for inner reflection.

Kaplıkaya Attraction Center is not only a natural area for families to spend time together but also an appealing stop for those with children, thanks to its aquarium and zoo sections.

The TOFAŞ Museum of Anatolian Cars is an impressive stop for those interested in the history of automobiles. This journey, extending from traditional carriage-making to modern vehicles, shows how industry and culture have become intertwined.

And one more detail: the French Cemetery is a quiet yet meaningful stop that offers a different perspective on the city's past.

Local Products & Gastronomy

Yıldırım is one of the districts where you can find the classic flavors of Bursa's cuisine. Bazlama flatbread, gözleme pastries, homemade jams, noodles, and bread baked in village ovens in Cumalıkızık are among the most prominent examples.

Additionally, local markets in the area offer traditional and natural flavors such as fruits and vegetables, tarhana soup mix, noodles, and molasses produced by local farmers.

In Yıldırım, eating is not just about satisfying hunger but also a way to connect with one's roots. The meals prepared in village homes carry the abundance of the past into the present.

Things to Do

The cable car line is one of the most enjoyable ways to reach Uludağ from Yıldırım. This journey, stretching from the city center directly to the mountain's summit, is unforgettable both for its scenery and the experience it offers.

Balaban Recreation Area is ideal for spending time in nature, having a picnic, or going on a short walk. It is a peaceful alternative for those looking for a quiet break within a green setting.

Zeyniler Village attracts literature enthusiasts, as it is the setting of Çalılıküşu, the famous novel by Reşat Nuri Güntekin. Alongside its natural beauty, it offers a unique experience through its literary significance.

The Umurbey Silk Production and Design Center connects Bursa's silk tradition with the present, featuring workshops and educational spaces that bring production into view.

Innovative institutions like the Mümine Şeremet Uyumayan Library and the Molla Yegan Children's University highlight the district's dedication to culture and education.

Yıldırım offers a multi-layered journey where you can trace Ottoman heritage, spend time in contemporary museums with your children, and take a break sometimes in the courtyard of a shrine, sometimes in a center for reflection.





Nilüfer

General Information

The modern face of Bursa, yet rooted deep in history. Nilüfer brings the past to life with centuries-old villages on one side and artistic streets on the other, blending heritage with contemporary elements. With its cultural routes, museums, cycling paths, and natural beauty, Nilüfer is a wonderful destination both for a peaceful exploration and an active day out.

This district combines the comfort of urban life with the tranquility of the countryside, offering a rich itinerary for those who want to take nature walks, visit museums, and discover new flavors. In Nilüfer, every step feels like an invitation to pause, reflect, and follow a story.

Highlights

Misi Village is one of the most prominent places where culture meets nature in Nilüfer. With its centuries-old stone houses, cobble streets, and riverside walking trails, it preserves a historic

atmosphere while offering visitors a space to breathe and unwind.

Gölyazı is perhaps the most photographed spot in Nilüfer. This small peninsula on the shores of Lake Uluabat wakes to the sound of rowboats in the early morning. Boat tours in Gölyazı offer a peaceful ride through the reeds, while sunset paints the town in a different color each evening.

The district's cultural face is shaped by thematic museums such as the Museum of Photography, the Museum of Literature, the Museum of Health, and the Museum of Musical Instruments. These places not only house collections but also keep culture alive with interactive exhibitions, workshops, and events.

The Görükle Population Exchange House allows you to explore the migration history of families who came from the Balkans. Traditional kitchens, family heirlooms, and archival documents speak from the walls of this unique home.





Gölyazı

Ayvaini Cave offers a truly unique experience for nature lovers. With its underground stream and narrow passages, it is a special destination for both hikers and cave enthusiasts.

The Archaeopark is another highlight, presenting the region's archaeological past in an open-air setting. It is both an educational and enjoyable stop, especially for families with children.

Local Products & Gastronomy

Nilüfer is also notable for its village markets and local product stalls. In Misi Vil-

lage, homemade jams, rustic breads, and natural soaps stand out, while in Gölyazı, fresh fish, dried vegetables, and locally produced olives are popular.

Things to Do

Things to do in Nilüfer are not limited to museum and village visits. Mysia Trails offer long routes planned for both hiking and cycling, making them an ideal choice for nature lovers. Along the way, historic villages, old fountains, and natural shaded spots accompany the journey.

Başköy Ertan Ayçetin Bicycle House serves as a resting point for those traveling by bike. It provides both technical support and helpful information.

You can take a sunrise boat tour in Gölyazı, have breakfast by the creek in Misi, or embark on a nature-filled adventure in Ayvaini Cave. Nilüfer may sit right next to urban life, but it still feels deeply rooted in nature and history.

MYSIA
TRAILS



Aktopraklık Mound Open-Air Museum and Archaeopark



Dr. Ceyhan İrgil Museum of Health



Gölyazı Church of Saint Panteleimon
(Gölyazı Cultural House)

İznik

General Information



Imagine a city where history, nature, and art come together on the same lakeshore. Located in the heart of Anatolia and shaped by thousands of years of history, İznik is a unique destination. Known as Nicaea in ancient times, this town holds a layered past stretching from Roman and Byzantine eras to the Ottomans.

Set along the shore of Lake İznik, the town offers not only traces of the past but also the calming presence of nature. Once the site of ecumenical councils and a center for colorful ceramic artistry, İznik today fascinates with its history, soothes with its nature, and inspires with its craftsmanship. With both cultural depth and natural beauty, İznik remains one of Bursa's hidden treasures.

Highlights

The most striking structure in İznik is the city wall that encircles it. Nearly five kilometers long, with majestic towers and four main gates, the walls have stood since Roman times. Yenişehir Gate, İstanbul Gate, Lefke Gate, and Lake Gate form the key entrances of this historical defense system. Lefke Gate in the east



still preserves its grandeur, while İstanbul Gate in the north draws attention with Roman-era stone carvings.

At the heart of the city, within the walls, stands the Ayasofya Orhan Mosque. Originally built as a basilica in the 4th century, it hosted the Second Council of Nicaea in 787, marking its place in Christian history. After İznik was taken by the Ottomans, it was converted into a mosque and today remains a place of worship bearing visible traces of its long past.

For those who want to explore İznik's identity tied to ceramics, the Tile Kilns Excavation Site, Nilüfer Hatun Ceramic Market, and Süleyman Pasha Madrasa are must-sees. The excavation site reveals the remains of historic kilns that once produced İznik tiles. In the ceramic market, master artisans still craft by hand, while the madrasa serves as a space that bridges history with living art.

The Green Mosque earned its name and reputation through its minaret decorated with colorful tiles. As an early Ottoman architectural example, it stands out with elegant details and vibrant design.

The Roman Theater from antiquity is now open to visitors following excavation and restoration. Other remnants from that era include the Roman Road, ancient water channels, the Obelisk, and underground burial chambers like the Hypogeum, all of which reveal the city's deep historical layers.

Another remarkable religious site is the Basilica of Saint Neophytos, now submerged under Lake İznik. Discovered from above, this underwater basilica is believed to have collapsed during an earthquake and offers a rare glimpse into early Christian heritage.

The Senate Palace is known as the site of the First Council of Nicaea, a major event in Christian history. Though only partial ruins remain, it continues to attract many visitors for its symbolic value.

Other sites for a culturally rich day include the tombs of Davud-i El Kayseri and Sarı Saltuk, the I. and II. Murad Hammams, and the Kayıkhane Social Facility by the lake.

Local Products & Gastronomy

İznik's historical flavors still live on along the lakeside tables. In villages where fishing remains a livelihood, fresh carp and catfish are the most well-known dishes. Olive cultivation, olive oil production, and grape vineyards also stand out in the region's food culture.

At İznik's local markets, you can find homemade jams, pickles, noodles, and tarhana. These flavors are not only pleasing to the palate but also preserve a culinary heritage that continues to be passed down. The traditional cuisine of the area remains simple yet deeply rooted in taste and tradition.

Things to Do

Exploring İznik might begin by watching an artisan at a tile workshop, then continue with a quiet walk along the old city walls. At Süleyman Pasha Madrasa and the Ceramic Market, visitors can try their hand at painting their own tile and become part of a centuries-old craft.

A lakeside walk, watching the sunset, or setting off from Kayıkhane on a rowboat are just a few of the ways to experience the calm of the lake. A short boat ride near the location of the submerged Basilica of Saint Neophytos offers a unique glimpse beneath the surface.

For history enthusiasts, the Roman Theater, the city walls, ancient roads, and the area around the Senate Palace form an impressive open-air route that can be explored on foot. Every corner in İznik echoes the voice of another time.



Mudanya

General Information

Mudanya is Bursa's elegant face that opens to the Sea of Marmara. With a breeze that carries the scent of the sea and streets lined with historic buildings stretching from past to present, this coastal district offers both a peaceful getaway and a vibrant cultural route.

This seaside town, once home to various civilizations over the centuries, blends Ottoman and Greek architecture with touches of Cretan cuisine and scenic walking paths. From the moment you step into Mudanya, time slows down and you find yourself face-to-face with the sea and the rhythm of tranquility.

Highlights

At the heart of Mudanya stands the Armistice House, more than just a structure—it is a silent witness to a pivotal moment in the founding of the Republic. The Armistice of Mudanya, signed here on October 11, 1922, marked one of the diplomatic victories that paved the way for the end of the War of Independence. Today, the building serves as a museum, drawing visitors with its historic atmosphere and detailed exhibitions.

Tahir Pasha Mansion and Taş Mektep are prominent examples of the district's civic architecture. Both buildings have been restored and now serve as venues for events and cultural activities, preserving the town's architectural memory.

Kapanca Port, once the old port area of Mudanya, enchants visitors with its small harbor lined with fishing boats and the soft glow of the setting sun. This modest harbor and its peaceful sea make the town feel like a poem written along the shore.



Mudanya Coast



Tirilye



Armistice House Museum



Kумыaka

And of course, Tirilye... This historic neighborhood of Mudanya, with its streets lined with Greek architecture, churches, and stone houses, feels like a world of its own. The Tirilye Cultural Center, also known as the Church of Saint Basil, is an architecturally impressive site. Nearby, the Archangels Church, Kemeralti Church, Dereköy Church, and Aydınpınar Church also offer significant insights into the region's religious and cultural heritage.

The Mudanya Orthodox Church, now functioning as the Uğur Mumcu Cultural Center, is another beautiful place where the district's cultural memory continues to live.

Kumyaka, with its coastline, stone houses, and peaceful atmosphere, is a lesser-known yet equally captivating alternative to Tirilye.

Local Products & Gastronomy

Mudanya's cuisine begins with the offerings of the sea but is enriched with Cretan influences. Olive oils, herb-based dishes, pastries filled with curd cheese, and seafood make up the distinctive flavors found here.

The olives from Kumyaka and Tirilye define the region's identity. In addition to olives produced in the area, Mudanya is also known for handmade olive oils, soaps, and dried herbs, all available in local markets and village stalls.

In Tirilye's small restaurants and coastal fish eateries, the scent of freshly grilled fish meets the sea breeze at sunset. A mild evening wind, the freshness of the sea, and local flavors all find their way to your table.

Things to Do

Time flows best on foot in Mudanya. Every street reveals a new detail. The route from the Armistice House to Tirilye is a historical and natural walking path.

Morning walks along the coast, coffee breaks in Kapanca, and quiet moments on the shore with a book in hand—all these experiences capture the soul of Mudanya and offer a deeper sense of place.

The BUDO and IDO ferry piers connect Mudanya to Istanbul and other nearby cities. These coastal trips not only offer access to Mudanya but also bring the scent of the sea and the feeling of history closer within just a few hours.

Cycling along the shoreline, stopping by coastal cafés, and photographing the narrow streets of Tirilye are also part of the experience. Whether it's the wind in your hair or the silence of a side street, Mudanya always has a gentle story to share.



Karacabey

General Information

Located in the west of Bursa, stretching from the Marmara shores to Lake Uluabat, Karacabey is a tranquil yet rich destination for those who seek nature. With its fertile lands, it offers a unique escape that blends nature and discovery. Its wetlands and rich ecosystems, combined with traditional production culture, make this district a diverse route for nature lovers and cultural enthusiasts.

Traces of ancient civilizations can be seen throughout Karacabey. Today, the district is known for its protected areas as well as its agricultural and livestock activities. Its rural character and biodiversity make it an ideal ground for sustainable tourism. Especially during migration seasons, as flocks of birds fill the skies, Karacabey transforms into the heart of a documentary-worthy nature scene.

Highlights

One of the first places that comes to mind when thinking of Karacabey is undoubtedly the **Eskikaraağaç European Stork Village**. Located on the shores of Lake Uluabat, this village is home to Yaren the stork and his friend Adem Amca, a fisherman. Their remarkable friendship draws nature lovers from all over. Stork nests are visible throughout the village, and each year in March, Yaren returns to the same nest, adding joy to local lives. In addition to being part of the European Stork Villages



Eskikaraağaç



Uncle Adem and Yaren the Stork

network, Eskikaraağaç also hosts annual events with support from the EuroNatur Foundation.

Another key natural attraction is the **Longoz Forests**, one of Turkey's rare flooded forests. The Karacabey Longoz is home to a unique ecosystem with an impressive diversity of flora and fauna. Nilüfer Creek flows through this lush forest, which also contains small lakes. This wetland is among the most valuable natural reserves in the region.



For those looking for another unique experience, the **Ovakorusu Bear Sanctuary** provides an opportunity to observe bears in a protected, natural environment. Rescued bears that were once held captive or injured are rehabilitated here. Visitors can witness ongoing conservation efforts in this large forest area.

Issiz Han, a historical structure reflecting the architectural heritage of Karacabey, is also worth visiting. This restored Ottoman-era inn preserves

both historical ambiance and traditional construction techniques.

Local Products & Gastronomy

With its fertile plains and lakes, Karacabey is one of Bursa's most important agricultural centers. Tomato, pepper, melon and watermelon are widely grown here. These products not only enrich local tables but also color festival stalls like the Linden Festival and Stork Festival with regional delights.

Homemade jams, molasses, tarhana, and dried fruits sold in local markets offer natural and authentic flavors. Locally made pickles and products derived from lake and river fishing also represent the essence of Karacabey cuisine.

Things to Do

For photography lovers, **Eskikaraağaç Village** offers scenes of stork nests, lake views and a traditional ambiance. Especially in spring, **birdwatching events** attract nature enthusiasts who want to observe migrating birds along the shores of Lake Uluabat.

If you visit **Karacabey Stud Farm**, one of Turkey's oldest centers for breeding purebred Arabian horses, you'll not only see these majestic animals up close but may also witness equestrian shows or take part in local festivals. You can even go for a short ride on horseback. Karacabey is a destination where time slows down, and nature becomes your closest companion.



Suuçtu Waterfall

Mustafakemalpaşa

General Information

As you head south of Lake Uluabat, you'll find a vast landscape where nature and history intertwine—this is Mustafakemalpaşa. Named during the early years of the Republic, this district offers a calm yet vibrant atmosphere through its heritage of local production, healing waters, and natural richness.

Located about an hour from central Bursa, Mustafakemalpaşa welcomes visitors with its expansive forests, lakes, waterfalls, and rural culture. It's a peaceful retreat woven with nature and tradition.

Highlights

Perhaps the most renowned natural wonder of Mustafakemalpaşa is **Suuçtu Waterfall**. Especially during spring and autumn, the waterfall flows with great force, creating a stunning visual experience. With surrounding walking trails, picnic spots, and scenic viewpoints, it

offers a full day of exploration and relaxation.

Another impressive natural site is Kabataş Waterfall, less known but ideal for those seeking solitude in nature. Tucked away in the forest, it feels like a hidden sanctuary of calm.

For panoramic views of the **Mustafakemalpaşa Plain, Dorak Viewpoint** is the perfect spot. Whether watching the sunrise or sunset, this is an ideal place to pause and connect with the landscape.

Tümbüldek Thermal Springs is another highlight, long known among locals for its healing mineral waters. Said to be beneficial for rheumatism and skin ailments, these springs offer a natural space for physical relief and rest.

The Muradiyesarnıç Social Facilities and the surrounding countryside offer a pleasant stop for day trips and nature walks.

For those interested in history, the **Paşalar Excavation Site** sheds light on the region's past through its archaeological findings. Revealing traces of life from earlier times, this area highlights that Mustafakemalpaşa is not only rich in nature but also in historical significance.

Local Products & Gastronomy

The most iconic flavor that has made Mustafakemalpaşa known across Türkiye is without a doubt the **Mustafakemalpaşa Dessert**. Made from whey, this dessert has a soft center and a slightly crispy exterior, making it the perfect companion to a cup of tea. It's a must-try when visiting the town, especially fresh from a local bakery.

Another regional specialty is the wide variety of products made from **buffalo milk**. **Karaoğlan Buffalo Farm** offers a strong example of local production, combining dairy products with a glimpse into rural life. Butter, yogurt, and cheese are all made using traditional, natural methods.

In village markets, visitors can find **fresh seasonal fruits and vegetables, homemade jams, tarhana, and dried goods**, depending on the time of year.

Things to Do

In Mustafakemalpaşa, **nature walks** are almost part of everyday life. A hike along the trails near **Suuçtu Waterfall** provides not only physical exercise but also a mental reset.

Kabataş and Kösehoroz Waterfalls are ideal for **nature photography and cam-**



ping. Outdoor tours, picnic excursions, and trekking routes are especially popular in spring.

A visit to **Tümbüldek Thermal Springs** is a great way to end the day with some physical and mental relaxation.

Local social facilities and scenic terraces offer quiet escapes that are well-organized and off the beaten path. With its blend of nature and traditional production, Mustafakemalpaşa leaves a lasting impression on those who enjoy exploring.



Orhangazi

General Information

Stretching toward the Marmara Sea with olive-covered hills and natural hot springs, Orhangazi is a tranquil yet discovery-filled destination. Located in the northeastern part of Bursa and neighboring the Gulf of Gemlik, the district enjoys both fertile lands and cooling breezes.

In addition to its natural beauty, Orhangazi stands out with its agricultural traditions, local production strength, and thermal tourism potential. It's an ideal spot for short but memorable breaks.

Highlights

One of Orhangazi's most striking natural spots is Gürle Mountain, a favorite among paragliding enthusiasts. The launch site here welcomes both professionals and amateurs. Gliding from this point offers a unique perspective of the region, with views stretching from Lake Uluabat to the Marmara Sea.

Gürle Village is known not only for mountain sports but also for its historic architecture. Gürle Mosque and Gürle Bathhouse reflect the area's architectural heritage with their traditional stone craftsmanship. Wandering the quiet streets offers glimpses into the past.

Keramet Thermal Spring, located within the district borders, is a popular weekend retreat. With its warm waters and lake-like appearance, it offers a peaceful thermal experience in open nature. It's a year-round destination for those seeking relaxation.



Gürle Mountain Paragliding



Çamlık Recreation Area Caravan Park

Local Products & Gastronomy

When it comes to Orhangazi, the first thing that comes to mind is olives. The district's groves play a significant role in the local economy through both production and export. The black olives served at breakfast are one of the region's signature flavors.

Another standout is Gedelek pickles. Made from century-old recipes, this local specialty is well-known not only in Bursa but across Türkiye. The pickles here are at their freshest and most natural. Visitors can purchase homemade varieties at village markets.



Gedelek Pickles



Mahmudiye Strawberries

Orhangazi also has a sweet side. Mahmudiye strawberries, though small in size, are rich in flavor. Often turned into jams during the harvest season, they're a popular souvenir for visitors.



Malhun Hatun Dessert

And finally, the intriguingly named Malhun Hatun Dessert is a traditional treat unique to the area. Nestled between syrup- and milk-based desserts, it holds a special place in the district's culinary identity.

Things to Do

Nature tops the list of things to do in Orhangazi. Paragliding from Gürle Mountain is not just for thrill-seekers; it's also perfect for anyone wanting to

see the district from a bird's-eye view.

Around Keramet Thermal Spring, you can spend a relaxing day soaking in the water while surrounded by nature. The soothing power of the water

slows down time in the midst of greenery.

End your day with a visit to Gedelek Village. Small discoveries like pickle-making workshops, strolls through village markets, and walks among olive groves offer a simple yet fulfilling experience.

Orhangazi is a quiet yet rooted district; its landscape and cuisine linger in memory. Sometimes it tells its story through a panorama in the sky, other times through the flavor of a bowl of pickles.



Keramet Thermal Spring

Oylat Thermal Springs



General Information

A rich history carried from the Ottoman era to the present and a landscape surrounded by fertile plains... Located approximately 45 kilometers from the city center, İnegöl stands out with its industry, cultural heritage, thermal springs, natural beauty, and distinctive cuisine.

With roots stretching back to the Byzantine and Ottoman periods, İnegöl still bears the marks of this deep-rooted past through its preserved architecture and living traditions. Its location along the Evliya Çelebi Route also adds to its identity as a cultural crossroads.

Öne Çıkan Turistik Noktalar

One of İnegöl's most remarkable features is the seamless harmony between nature and culture. Among the district's most striking natural wonders is Oylat Cave. Filled with stalagmites, stalactites, and towering columns, this vast cave is not only one of the largest in Türkiye but also offers a mesmerizing experience with its natural coolness and interplay of light. Nearby, Oylat Waterfall

Oylat Waterfall Eco-Tourism Trail



awaits visitors at the end of a refreshing hike through oxygen-rich paths.

Oylat Thermal Springs have been known for centuries for their healing waters, which are said to help with rheumatism, skin conditions, and respiratory ailments. Several small hotels and guesthouses in the area allow visitors to stay for a few days and unwind.

For those interested in connecting with history, the Turgut Alp Tomb is a notable stop, both architecturally and spiritually. As one of Osman Gazi's trusted comrades, Turgut Alp's resting place reinforces İnegöl's role in the Ottoman legacy.

The İnegöl City Museum is another must-see for culture lovers. With exhibits showcasing the district's history, traditions, and craft culture, the museum is



Oylat Cave



Cerrah Beans



İnegöl Meatballs

not just a display area but an immersive narrative for those wishing to better understand İnegöl.

Local Products & Gastronomy

When one thinks of İnegöl, the first flavor that comes to mind is undoubtedly İnegöl Köfte. Known for its unique character, absence of spices, and a blend of beef and lamb, this dish is more than just food—it is a symbol of the region's culinary heritage.

Today, the culinary culture gathered under the name "Gastro İnegöl" extends far beyond köfte, bringing the region's agricultural richness to the table. Here, food still holds the meaning of something "cooked at home." With traditional recipes kept alive, this cuisine offers both local and international visitors a truly flavorful experience.

Things to Do

Throughout the year, the district hosts a wide range of activities. During spring and summer, nature walks offer a peaceful exploration of the Oylat Valley's rich flora. For those wishing to engage more

closely with the natural environment, birdwatching, plant observation trails, and guided trekking tours are available.

For adventure seekers, the Outdoor Sports Tourism Center features mountain biking routes, orienteering trails, and seasonal camping events. Group nature camps, open-air sports festivals, and athlete-focused routes create an inviting space for all outdoor enthusiasts.

In the villages of İnegöl, gastronomy workshops, craft classes, and local market tours draw in visitors seeking a hands-on cultural experience. Participating in traditional bread-making in village ovens, learning the secrets of İnegöl köfte from local masters, or witnessing the seasonal harvest are just a few of the many immersive experiences offered here.

In winter, the Oylat area embraces a calm stillness and shifts toward thermal tourism. A few days at the hot springs offer a refreshing reset for both body and mind.

Everything to do in İnegöl gains meaning through a connection—whether to nature or to the rhythms of local life.

Kestel

General Information

Nestled on the slopes of Uludağ, Kestel is a district where nature and history walk side by side. Despite being very close to Bursa city center, its forests, waterfalls, and mountain villages give the feeling of entering a completely different world.

Sometimes you pause beside a rushing waterfall, sometimes you sit in silence beneath a centuries-old plane tree. This land, where rural life continues in harmony with nature, is also one of the early Ottoman settlements. With its blend of daily nature escapes and cultural heritage sites, Kestel offers a peaceful yet compelling alternative for visitors.

Highlights

One of the first places that comes to mind when talking about Kestel is Saitabat Waterfall. Fed by mountain springs from Uludağ, this spot becomes a favorite retreat in the summer for those looking to cool off in nature. Surrounded by picnic areas, trout restaurants,

and walking trails, it's perfect for those who want to hear the sound of water mingling with birdsong.

Another natural gem is Küreklidere Waterfall. Reached through a forest path, this lesser-known site offers a quieter experience. Its untouched surroundings make it ideal for photography, meditation, or simply taking a breath.

Adventure seekers have also discovered Narlıdere Canyon in recent years. The rocky slopes and the cool stream bed provide a dynamic setting for nature walks. Guided tours and jeep safaris are popular activities in the area.

Kestel Castle offers a quiet but striking glimpse into the district's past. Dating back to the pre-Ottoman period, it reflects the architectural features of the region's defensive structures.

One of the district's spiritual landmarks is the Tomb of Geyikli Baba, a dervish whose life left a mark on early Ottoman history and folklore. The tomb is still visited today, and its surroundings

Kestel Castle





Saitabat Waterfall



Aksu Village Museum



Plane Tree Road

offer a peaceful retreat amid various shades of green.

Baba Sultan Plane Tree, another symbol of Kestel, has stood for more than 600 years. It is not only a natural monument but also a living memory of the region's identity.

Local Products & Gastronomy

The mountain villages of Kestel reflect a way of life rooted in self-sufficiency and traditional flavors drawn from fertile lands. Village-baked bread, walnut pastries, homemade noodles, and tarhana can be found in local markets, each distinguished by their unique aroma.

Fruits like plums, pears, and cherries are harvested in season from local orchards and turned into jams and fruit leathers. For those who appreciate the taste of freshly picked produce, Kestel is one of the purest places to connect directly with the source.

The Village Museum in Aksu not only intro-

duces this culture of production through taste, but also tells the story of a lifestyle passed down through generations.

Things to Do

Connecting with nature in Kestel goes beyond simple walks. Jeep safaris, canyon treks, and waterfall trails offer a more active way to explore. The Narlıdere area is suitable for both seasoned adventurers and those heading out on their first nature walk.

For a calmer experience, you might spend a quiet morning by Gölbaşı, read a book under the shade of the Baba Sultan Plane Tree, or take a stroll along the tree-lined road in Dudaklı.

Depending on the season, local festivals, nature tours, and handicraft workshops invite you into a day that flows gently but is filled with meaning. Whether it's a short escape for the day or a few days of fresh air, Kestel promises moments of stillness and discovery.

Keles

General Information

Nestled on the southern slopes of Uludağ, Keles is a highland district rising through pine forests. As you move away from Bursa city center, nature becomes more audible, and Keles welcomes you with its quiet charm, cool air, and unique character.

This mountain town, where rural life is still vibrant and traditional production continues, offers clean air, lush plateaus, small lakes, and nature trails that make it an exceptional escape for nature lovers. In addition to its natural beauty, Keles also has a rich cultural atmosphere with thermal springs, local festivals, and a vibrant producers' market.

Highlights

At the heart of Keles lies Kocayayla, one of the most renowned highlands not just in Bursa but across Türkiye. Its green meadows, wide camping grounds, and walking trails attract



Gelemic Village

nature lovers each year. During the summer, the Keles Kocayayla Festival brings together culture and nature with traditional games, folk concerts, and regional delicacies that create a festive spirit amid the outdoors.

Kocayayla Tourism Facilities provide infrastructure for camping, caravanning, hiking, and other outdoor activities. The development in the area is planned with respect for nature, preserving the essence of the highland atmosphere.

Surrounding the plateau are Gököz and Baraklı Lakes—ideal for lakeside camping, quiet relaxation, or simply listening to the silence. The reflection of mountain silhouettes, the sound of birds, and the



Kocayayla Tourism Facilities



scent of pine trees all explain why Keles is so beloved by nature enthusiasts.

For those interested in historical sites, Haydar Spring offers a small but healing experience. This natural thermal source has been used by locals for centuries and is surrounded by peaceful pine forests.

Local Products & Gastronomy

The most renowned product grown in the fertile lands of Keles is the Keles cherry. Bringing a vibrant color and a rich flavor to the district during the summer months, the cherry harvest season offers visitors a unique experience for both the eyes and the palate.

Cheeses made from highland milk, gözleme filled with fresh herbs, and breads baked in village ovens are staples of Keles's culinary culture. Keles stew, slow-cooked in wood-fired ovens, and goat kebab prepared using traditional methods stand out as some of the region's most authentic and time-honored dishes. These products can be purchased directly from local producers at the weekly farmers' markets.

Things to Do

Keles offers plenty for those who want to



feel like a part of nature. The surroundings of Kocayayla are ideal for camping, hiking, and cycling. Morning walks are especially peaceful, with the sounds of nature more pronounced at dawn.

The Keles rafting trail provides a short but exciting adventure along the creek that runs through the district, particularly during seasons when water levels are suitable. It is a great option for those seeking a light outdoor thrill.

Camping at Baraklı or Gököz Lakes and spending an evening under the stars by the fire is a memorable way to end the day. Haydar Spring is perfect for a restorative break after a full day outdoors.

Keles offers quiet yet unforgettable moments in the heart of nature. Sometimes it enchants with silence, sometimes with the shade under a cherry tree.

Harmancık

General Information

Tucked away in the quiet embrace of the mountains in southwestern Bursa, Harmancık is a small but characterful district. Located about 100 kilometers from the city center, this nature-friendly region appeals to those seeking to slow down, unplug, and reconnect with simplicity.

With its dense forests, tranquil ponds, hiking trails, and commitment to sustainable tourism, Harmancık has become one of Bursa's alternative travel routes. Everything moves slower here; more calmly, more genuinely. There's no noise, but the songs of birds fill the air. No shopping malls, but you'll find village markets, forest paths, and peaceful lakes. For those who wish to rest without breaking their connection with nature, Harmancık is a place of quiet discovery. Best of all, it has embraced modern tourism without compromising its authenticity.



Archer Süca

Highlights

Harmancık's close bond with nature is its strongest feature. One of the first stops for visitors is Karaca Pond. Surrounded by walking trails and picnic areas, this scenic lake offers a peaceful atmosphere that transforms with the light; morning mist, midday sun, or the red hues of sunset. It's not just a natural attraction, but a view that soothes the soul.

One of the district's most notable projects is its Eco-Tourism Facilities. Designed in harmony with nature, these accommodations offer an environmentally conscious vacation experience that goes beyond traditional hospitality. Wooden structures, rooms built with natural materials, and restaurants that support lo-



Eco-Tourism Facilities

cal production create an immersive stay where visitors not only rest, but also gain environmental awareness.



For those who travel by camper, the district's Caravan Park is a major asset. As caravan tourism gains popularity in Türkiye, Harmancık has already responded to this trend. This forest-adjacent site offers safety and comfort, with electricity, water, and waste systems integrated—making it easy to enjoy a nature-aligned vacation.

Beyond the natural scenery, Harmancık's rural architecture and village life are waiting to be discovered. Stone houses, forest trails, and preserved traditional lifestyles offer not just beautiful views but an authentic way of life.

Local Products & Gastronomy

Meals in Harmancık reflect the simplicity and richness of the environment. The district's cuisine blends traditional Anatolian flavors with locally sourced ingredients. A standout is *Harmancık Köftesi*, a beloved dish among locals and visitors alike. Spiced generously and grilled until crispy on the outside yet juicy inside, it is typically served with village bread and roasted peppers.

Dishes made with local vegetables,

homemade yogurt, and wild herbs gathered from nearby mountains bring the meaning of “natural” directly to the plate. Depending on the season, village markets are filled with fresh fruits and vegetables, jams, tarhana, molasses, and other regional products that carry the essence of local culture.

In Harmancık, gastronomy is more than a meal; it's a way of living in harmony with nature and taking part in its cycle of production.

Things to Do

Time flows gently in Harmancık, shaped by moments unhurried and serene. Most visitors choose not to plan their day, but to follow the rhythm of nature instead. A morning walk around Karaca Pond, reading a book by the water, relaxing in a hammock, or spending time on solitary activities like photography, nature watching, or meditation—these are among the most enjoyable things to do here.

Thanks to the Eco-Tourism Facilities, accommodation itself becomes part of the experience for those seeking a sustainable holiday. Spending a few days immersed in nature offers not only rest, but also a chance to slow down and feel renewed.

For those planning a caravan holiday, the district is a safe and peaceful stop. Some may prefer to stay in their caravans and go hiking, while others may stroll through nearby villages to connect with local life.

You can complete your nature-filled experience with a delicious break at Harmancık Köfte Evi, where traditional meat dishes are served.

Orhaneli

General Information

Nestled on the southern slopes of Uludağ, Orhaneli is a peaceful nature retreat. Located about an hour from Bursa city center, this mountain district offers a refreshing escape with its clean air, flowing springs, and lush landscape.

Rural life remains vibrant here. With hiking trails, camping spots, and local festivals, Orhaneli is open to small discoveries in every season. Time moves slower, but each moment feels full and meaningful.

Highlights

One of the district's most remarkable natural areas is Sadağı Canyon. Its hiking paths and cascading waterfalls make it a favorite among nature lovers and photography enthusiasts. Winding between high cliffs, the trails are accompanied by the sounds of rushing water or birdsong, guiding visitors deep into nature.

Karagöz Recreation Area is a peaceful and easily accessible option for day trips. With picnic tables under the pine trees and a quiet forest setting, it is an ideal spot for relaxation.

Orhaneli Kocasu Rafting



Beyce Natural Living Center is another key stop in the district, designed in harmony with nature. Offering eco-friendly accommodation and camping experiences, it appeals to visitors who want to enjoy a holiday without harming the environment.

Orhaneli is known not only for its natural beauty but also for its cultural memory. The annual Karagöz Festival brings the traditional shadow puppet art to life and fills village squares with festive activities. Local legends say that Karagöz stories have been told here since the Ottoman era, giving the festival an added layer of meaning.

Local Products & Gastronomy

The abundance of Orhaneli comes to life at the weekly Beyce Market. Stalls are filled with wild thyme, nettles, and forest berries gathered from nature, along with homemade gözleme, tarhana, and handcrafted goods. The Orhaneli Women's Cooperative plays an important role in this production process by supporting women's labor and helping to sustain local products.

In Orhaneli's culinary culture, natural ingredients are at the forefront. Whatever is cooked comes directly from the front yard, the field, or the garden. During the summer months, local festivals feature traditional dishes such as keşkek and sac böreği, offering visitors a glimpse into the region's authentic cuisine.

Things to Do

Orhaneli offers simple yet rewarding trails for hiking and nature lovers. Walks through Sadağı Canyon follow a route where water flows beside rocky cliffs.

For a short but fun river adventure, Orhaneli Rafting is an excellent choice, especially in spring when the water level rises. Guided by local experts, these experiences follow a respectful approach to nature.

For campers, both the eco-living centers and areas near the canyon provide suitable grounds. Evenings spent under a sky full of stars bring a sense of peace that lingers long after.

A day in Orhaneli feels like a pure experience in nature. It calms you with its silence and revives you with its greenery.



Yenişehir

General Information

To the east of Bursa lies Yenişehir, a district rich in history and inviting in nature. Neighboring one of the Ottoman Empire's first capitals, Yenişehir stands out for its cultural depth and agricultural strength. It is an ideal destination for those seeking to move away from city life and get closer to both the past and the natural world.

In the early Ottoman period, Yenişehir held great significance. Today, its location also makes it strategically important, as it hosts Bursa Yenişehir Airport (YEI), providing domestic flight access to the region. Thanks to this connection, Yenişehir serves as a welcoming transit point for visitors from all over Türkiye.

Highlights

In the town center, the Yenişehir Clock Tower is both a city symbol and a silent witness to passing time. One of the region's historically rich spots is Yarhisar Village, where the Yarhisar Grand Mosque, Fountain, and Bath showcase traditional Ottoman architecture through stone and timber design.

On the edge of the village lies Yarhisar Waterfall, a scenic walking route popular among locals for picnics or short nature hikes.

Günece Cennet Canyon lives up to its name with lush greenery, small cascades, and a refreshing atmosphere.



Şemaki House Museum



Yenişehir Clock Tower

It remains a hidden gem for nature lovers.

For those interested in the district's Ottoman legacy, the Sinan Pasha Complex, Sinan Pasha Mosque, and Kumluk Mosque offer insight into Yenişehir's historical importance. Şemaki House Museum, a restored traditional home, showcases the daily life of the past. It keeps the memory of Yenişehir alive with handwoven rugs, household items, and authentic interior details.



Local Products & Gastronomy

Yenişehir is widely recognized for its peppers. Known for their thick flesh and rich flavor, Yenişehir Peppers are an iconic symbol of the region's agricultural heritage. The annual Yenişehir Pepper Festival brings producers and visitors together, with stalls offering not just peppers but also homemade jams, noodles, crafts, and local specialties.

Other traditional flavors of Yenişehir include tarhana soup, savory flatbreads cooked on iron plates, and rus-



tic breads baked in wood-fired ovens. These goods can often be found at local markets, where buyers can connect directly with producers.



Yarhisar Waterfall



Things to Do

Yenişehir is one of those rare places where you can enjoy several different experiences in a single day. Start your morning with a short hike around Yarhisar Waterfall, then spend your afternoon in the tranquil setting of Günece Cennet Canyon.

For those drawn to history, the Şemaki House Museum and the Ottoman-style mosques and complexes offer quiet, meaningful moments of cultural discovery.

Gürsu



Kule Forest Park Recreation Area

General Information

Nestled against the slopes of Uludağ in eastern Bursa, Gürsu is a district that brings you one step closer to nature while remaining within reach of the city center. With its lush landscape, strong agricultural heritage, and recent investments in alternative tourism, Gürsu has quietly become a captivating destination.

Here, you can spend a day hiking through forests, taking in panoramic views from scenic terraces, and challenging yourself at an award-winning adventure park. Despite its small size, Gürsu offers big experiences and remains one of the region's hidden gems.

Highlights

One of Gürsu's most well-known recent additions is the Gürsu Adrenaline Park.



Adrenaline Park



Recognized as Türkiye's third-place winner in the European Commission's "European Destinations of Excellence" (EDEN) competition, the park has gained international attention.

Activities like ziplining, giant swings, and alpine coasters offer excitement without compromising the surrounding natural environment. Designed with sustainability in mind, the park also serves as a training and activity center for young outdoor sports enthusiasts.

For a quieter escape, Kule Forest Park is ideal. With spacious picnic areas, walking paths, and fresh mountain air, the park is a popular weekend spot for families.

At the top of Gürsu's elevated landscape is the Gemi Viewing Terrace, offering breathtaking scenes of the Bursa Plain. Golden-hued fields at sunset, rolling hills, and the silhouette of the city backed by towering peaks make this one of the region's most photogenic stops.



Adrenaline Park Facility



Botanically, Gürsu is home to rare species. One of them is the Göksığır Kuyruğu (*Scrophularia goksuyhyrensis*), an endemic plant that blossoms in spring and adds a splash of color to the mountainsides.



Local Products & Gastronomy

Gürsu is especially known for its fruit production, with the most famous product being the Deveci pear, registered with a geographical indication. Large, juicy, and sweet, this pear is a symbol of Gürsu's agricultural identity and plays a significant role in both domestic and export markets.

Peaches, plums, and apples are also widely grown in the region. Local farmers' markets sell freshly harvested fruits, homemade jams, and dried products directly from the producers. Thanks to the district's fertile lands, ta-

bles here are filled with the most natural seasonal flavors.

Things to Do

Things to do in Gürsu revolve around nature and simplicity. You can start the day with thrilling activities at Adrenaline Park and then relax in the Forest Park.

Taking a walk in Kule Forest Park or enjoying the view from the terrace is perfect for those seeking a break from urban life. In spring, organized hikes and trekking trails become particularly popular.

Botanical tours during the blooming season of the Göksığır Kuyruğu offer a truly unique experience for nature lovers. Gürsu offers not only activities but also a peaceful, grounding atmosphere. Whether you seek excitement or simply a breath of fresh air, this district has something for everyone.

Uludağ: Winter Sports, Nature Walks, Mountain Adventures

Uludağ is not only one of Bursa's icons, but also one of Türkiye's most renowned nature destinations. With its snowy slopes in winter attracting skiers and its cool, pine-scented air in summer drawing nature lovers, this majestic mountain offers a different charm in every season. Easily accessible from the city center, Uludağ is a favorite weekend escape for locals and visitors alike.

In the winter months, Uludağ becomes a hub for skiing, snowboarding, and other snow sports. The 1st and 2nd Development Zones offer slopes suitable for both beginners and professionals, along with hotels, cafés, and social spaces that make your mountain stay more comfortable. From trekking on snow-covered trails to scenic views

from chairlifts and cozy evenings by the fireplace, Uludağ offers not only activity but also serenity.

In spring and summer, the mountain reveals a completely different side. Hiking trails, campsites, and waterfalls within Uludağ National Park provide an immersive experience close to both the city and nature. Areas like Çobankaya, Sarıalan, and Softaboğan Waterfall are ideal for hiking, camping, and picnicking. With endemic flora, clean mountain air, and quiet trails, Uludağ draws in those seeking a breath of fresh air year-round.

Gastronomy Special: Signature Flavors of Bursa

Bursa's culinary tradition is a rich tapestry of centuries-old flavors, locally sourced ingredients, and cultural rituals. What makes this cuisine special is not just the taste of the food, but the

Uludağ Ski Resort



memory, tradition, and shared experience behind each dish.



Candied Chestnut

Iskender Kebab, arguably the most famous dish from the region, continues to surprise with every serving. The combination of wood-fired döner layered over buttery flatbread, topped with tomato sauce and fresh yogurt, creates more than just a meal—it creates a ritual. Add to that regional favorites like Pide-*li Köfte*, *Cantık*, *Tahinli Pide*, and *Cevizli Lokum*, and you have a Bursa table that reflects generations of culinary mastery.

What makes these dishes even more unique is that many are still prepared using techniques passed down through generations. Local markets are filled with handmade noodles, traditional *tarhana* soup mix, grape molasses, and dishes made with foraged mountain herbs—all expressions of Bursa's agricultural and cultural heritage.

Geographically indicated products like *Gemlik* olives, *Mihaliç* cheese, and Bursa peaches also enrich the table, prov-

ing that food in Bursa is not only for nourishment but also for understanding and connecting with the land.

A meal in Bursa may start in the shadow of a *caravanserai*, continue with village-style breakfasts featuring olives, and end with a sweet treat of candied chestnuts. Every bite tells a story of history and abundance.

Historic Inns and Covered Bazaar District: Kozahan, İpek Han, Bakırcılar Market

At the heart of Bursa lies the Historic Inns and Bazaar District, a place where the rhythm of history still echoes in every stone and alley. More than just ancient walls or wooden shutters, this area is a living stage of trade, craftsmanship, and tradition.

Having served as one of the first major Ottoman trade centers, Kozahan was built in 1491 for silk merchants. Today, sipping tea in the courtyard beneath the towering plane tree is like having a conversation with the past. The upper floor of the han is still filled with textile and silk shops, where even the quiet looms seem to whisper old stories.



İrgandı Bridge



Ballıbey Inn

İpek Han is another elegant stop. With its graceful historical structure, the han preserves the quiet dedication of artisans through displays of silk scarves, handcrafted fabrics, and traditional crafts. Every corner of this inn reminds visitors of Bursa's place along the historic Silk Road.

Bakırcılar Market is a vibrant, echoing melody of craftsmanship. The clanging of hammers, conversations between masters, and the smell of heated metal fill the air. Every stall holds a story—pans, kettles, and serving dishes are not just items, but the embodiment of skill and heritage.

Wandering through this area is not merely shopping—it is listening to the rhythm of tradition. The Historic Inns and Covered Bazaar District encapsulates not just commerce, but the cultural memory of Bursa. For anyone seeking to truly understand the spirit of the city, this is the perfect place to begin.

Silk Road Route: Bursa's History of Trade and Craftsmanship

Once nestled at the foot of the mountains along a great caravan route stretching from East to West, Bursa stood as one of the golden links of the Silk Road. For centuries, it was not only a waypoint but also a thriving center of production, craftsmanship, and trade. Even today, the traces of this ancient road can still be felt beneath your feet as you walk through Bursa's streets.

Known in history as the “city of firsts,” Bursa earned its fame through silk production. Raw silk brought from the East was pro-



Gürsu Historical Silk Road



cessed here by master artisans, who gave it not just form, but meaning. Structures like Koza Han, İpek Han, and Emir Han served as central hubs of this culture of production, each filled with the energy of bustling commerce.

In the courtyards of these inns, cauldrons once boiled, women spun silk threads, and merchants opened their stalls at dawn. They were all part of Bursa's industrious spirit.

Alongside trade, the city grew through skilled crafts. Coppersmiths, blacksmiths, silk weavers, and saddlers each produced more than just goods; they sustained a living tradition. The journey from making to marketing shaped not only the economy but also the social life of the city. In Bursa, an inn was not merely a trading post—it was a place of gathering.

Today, while the physical traces of the Silk Road may have faded, its spirit still lingers. A silk scarf bought from Koza Han, a handcrafted cezve from the

Coppersmiths' Market, or a delicately woven handkerchief still tie the past to the present. Bursa continues to honor the memory of those ancient trade routes through its dedication to craftsmanship, sharing, and creating.

Thermal Routes: Çekirge, Oylat and Other Healing Waters

Bursa holds stories that rise from beneath the ground. These stories, passed down over centuries, are told through the steam clinging to a hammam's marble stone or through the healing waters of a thermal hotel. From Çekirge to Oylat, this route of warm springs is a journey of renewal that embraces not only the body but also the soul.

When it comes to culture in Bursa, one of the first places that comes to mind is undoubtedly Çekirge. These thermal sources, known to have brought relief even to Ottoman sultans, still retain



Tümbüldek Thermal Springs

their power today. The tradition that began with ancient hammams continues with modern spa hotels, bridging past and present. Hammams like Muradiye and Eski Kaplica stand out with their architectural beauty and therapeutic waters. Stepping inside, you are greeted not only by warmth, but also by history itself.

Another remarkable stop on this route is Oylat, the gem of İnegöl. Flowing through a lush valley, the hot spring here offers relief for physical ailments and mental fatigue alike. Surrounded by nature and nestled in silence, Oylat Thermal Springs provide a deep sense of peace. When combined with the nearby cave and waterfall, the experience becomes a retreat for both body and spirit.

Thermal centers can be found throughout the region: Tümbüldek, Kükürtlü, and the hot springs of Gemlik all offer

varying minerals, temperatures, and types of serenity. Some ease rheumatism, others rejuvenate the skin, and some simply invite you to slow down. Sometimes, that's all you truly need.

The best thing to do along this route is to surrender yourself to the water. Let time slip away. Watch the past shimmer through the steam. Because in Bursa, thermal water is not just warmth. It is a tradition, a ritual, and at times, life itself.

Cultural Festivals and Events: Karagöz Festival and International Bursa Festival

For those who want not just to see Bursa but to truly feel it, the best time to visit is during a festival. These are the days when the city generously shares its history, art, traditions, and soul. Streets fill with music, public squares come alive with folk dances, and laughter

echoes through the bazaars. Everyone becomes part of the celebration, not just as a spectator but as a participant.

At the heart of these celebrations is the International Karagöz Puppet and Shadow Play Festival, a tribute to the centuries-old art form born in these very lands. Held every November, the festival honors the legacy of Karagöz and Hacivat while showing how traditional art can meet the modern world. It brings together puppet artists from across Turkey and around the globe. During this festival, Bursa becomes a stage for shadow theatre, where children's laughter grows louder behind the screen, guided by the silent mastery of the puppeteers.

Equally important is the International Bursa Festival, one of the most vibrant highlights of the city's cultural calen-

dar. Taking place in June, the festival offers a wide range of performances, from classical music and jazz concerts to contemporary dance shows and traditional folk dances. Venues like Merinos Park and the Open-Air Theatre turn the city into a vast stage. Here, the universality of art meets the layered identity of Bursa. Sometimes you catch the final note of a symphony carried by a breeze from Mount Uludağ, and sometimes you feel the pulse of folk dances in a historic square.

In Bursa, festivals are more than organized events. They are expressions of the city's identity, memories, transformations, and spirit. Whether you find yourself enchanted by a Karagöz performance or listening to live music under the stars, every festival in Bursa is a chance to reconnect with the essence of life itself.



Top 10 Things to Do in Bursa

1. Experience the Seasons on Mount Uludağ

Uludağ is more than a snow-covered summit. It is a natural wonder that reflects each season in its own colors. In winter, it invites skiers with its slopes. In summer, it offers a peaceful retreat with cool air and the scent of pine trees. A ride on the cable car brings you closer to the sky.



A day here can include a walk through the forest, a warm cup of sahep, or a playful snowball fight. With ski resorts, hiking trails and camping areas, this vast mountain is not only for sports enthusiasts but for anyone seeking the rhythm of nature.

2. Step Back in Time in the Historic Inns District

At the heart of Bursa lies a story told through stone walls. Kozahan, Bakırcılar Bazaar and İpek Han are some of the city's oldest commercial landmarks. Once frequented by silk traders, today these inns offer a chance to enjoy coffee in a historical setting and discover traditional craftsmanship.



The sound of a coppersmith's hammer, the sparkle of silk scarves, and the charm of hand-painted tiles all invite visitors into a living history.

3. Watch the Sunset in Gölyazı

Gölyazı is a small peninsula village on the shores of Lake Ulubat. Mornings begin with the soft sound of boats touching the water. Evenings close with the sun casting a golden glow across the lake.

With its stone streets, historic Greek houses and the large plane tree by the water, Gölyazı feels like time slows down. Watching the sunset here is not just a view, it is a feeling.



4. Walk Through Ottoman History in Cumalıkızık

This UNESCO-listed village is like a time capsule. Its cobbled streets, bay-windowed houses and rich breakfasts create a vivid link to the past.

Arriving early, you will smell the bread from village ovens and hear children's voices echoing in narrow alleys. Cumalıkızık preserves a traditional texture that softens the longing for a simpler time.



5. Feel the Spirit of Yeşil Complex

The soul of Bursa is hidden in Yeşil. The turquoise tiles of the Yeşil Tomb, the elegance of the mosque and the peaceful courtyard of the complex offer more than architecture. They invite visitors on an inner journey.

The Ottoman grace reflected in every detail here touches not just the eyes but also the heart.

Spending a few hours here creates a quiet stillness within. Standing at the mosque's walls, pausing at the tomb's entrance, feels less like a visit and more like a conversation between the soul and the past



6. Rest and Rejuvenate in the Thermal Springs

In the historic baths of Çekirge or the healing waters of Oylat nestled in nature, thermal waters in Bursa soothe not only the body but also the soul. These centuries-old springs are part of the city's deep-rooted tradition of health and wellness. Whether you're feeling like an Ottoman sultan in a marble bathhouse or taking a quiet retreat in the forested hills of Oylat, a thermal experience in Bursa is more than a treatment. It is a moment to reconnect with yourself.



7. Discover the Shadow Play of Karagöz

Karagöz and Hacivat are not just puppets. They are two mischievous spirits who have lived in Bursa's memory for centuries. Watching them on stage brings joy not only to children but also to grown-ups who still remember how to laugh. Bursa, known as the heart of traditional Turkish shadow theatre, keeps this heritage alive at the Karagöz Museum.

8. Touch a Story Woven in Silk

Silk in Bursa is not just a fabric. It is a graceful thread that weaves through

the city's past. Holding the edge of a silk scarf in Kozahan is like brushing against history itself. Once the final stop for caravans from China, Bursa still carries this legacy through its handcrafted silk textiles.

9. Taste Bursa to Know It

If there is one true way to experience Bursa, it is through its flavors. The richness of melted butter over Bursa kebab, the smoky scent of grilled köfte, the soft sweetness of chestnut candy... Each dish is a note in the city's culinary memory. Whether it's a warm plate in a humble eatery or a jar of homemade jam from a village market, Bursa's cuisine is built on tradition and filled with sincerity. Here, food is more than nourishment. It's a story told in every bite.



10. Celebrate the City Through Its Festivals

Bursa decorates not only its streets but also its spirit with year-round festivals. Feel the rhythm in the International Bursa Festival, laugh with shadows during the Karagöz Festival, or embrace rural life at the Cumalıkızık Raspberry Festival. Each event offers a different way to connect with the city's soul. Sometimes a city reveals itself in a musical note, a flicker behind a curtain, or the scent of summer fruit in a market stall. In Bursa, a festival is not just a celebration. It is the pulse that brings everyone together.





Historic Bursa Municipality Building, Osmangazi

Tracing Time: A Journey Through the First Capital of the Ottoman Empire

Bursa is not just a city. It is a bridge between past and present, where every step leads you through layers of history. As the first capital of the Ottoman Empire, the city holds a deep and vivid heritage that forms the heart of its cultural discovery routes.

One of the most iconic and immersive paths begins in the Hanlar District and winds its way toward Tophane. Starting at Kozahan, the scent of silk mingles with the texture of stone as you pass through alleys shaped by centuries. The rhythm of the Coppersmiths' Bazaar echoes in your steps, leading you to a quiet pause in the shadow of the Clock Tower.

Visiting the tombs of Osman Gazi and Orhan Gazi is more than a historical stop. It is a moment of connection with the roots of an empire. These tombs rest on a hilltop in Tophane, gazing out

over the Marmara landscape. The view is striking, but what truly stays with you is the silence steeped in history.

As you walk through the Imperial Gate and descend toward Setbaşı, you continue not just along a road but within the founding memory of Bursa itself.

Cumalıkızık



Cumalıkızık and the Kızık Villages: A Journey Through Stone, Earth and Timelessness

Listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site, Cumalıkızık is one of Bursa's most photographed yet deeply felt cultural stops. Its cobbled streets, timber-framed bay windows and sunlit courtyards in the early morning light whisper a different story with every step.

Alongside Cumalıkızık, other nearby Kızık villages such as Fidyekızık, Değirmenlikızık and Derekızık may not be as well-known, but they offer a true glimpse into the rural Ottoman way of life. Time seems to flow a little slower in these villages. A cup of tea sipped in a quiet village café is not just a drink, but a link to centuries-old traditions.



Muradiye Museum of the Quran and Manuscripts, Osmangazi



Bursa Archaeology Museum, Osmangazi

Freezing Time in the City's Museums

Bursa's museums are more than places of information. They are spaces that capture the soul of the city. The Bursa City Museum tells the story of everyday life through the centuries, while the Museum of Turkish and Islamic Arts brings visitors into contact with the aesthetic depth of Ottoman culture. The İznik Museum, located in what was once a sacred city of ecumenical councils, opens the door to layers of religious and cultural history.

Theme museums like the TOFAŞ Museum of Anatolian Cars offer a fresh perspective on cultural diversity. The journey from traditional carriages to automobiles also reflects the broader transformation story of modern Turkey.

The Migration History Museum strikingly illustrates how the migration routes stretching from the Balkans to the Caucasus have breathed life into Bursa.

From Silk to Shadow: Every Facet of Culture

Cultural exploration in Bursa is not limited to historical buildings. The Karagöz Museum pulses at the heart of the traditional shadow puppet art. Watching Karagöz and Hacivat come to life is a captivating experience not only for children, but for anyone curious about the subtle humor and creativity of the past.

Whether it's touching a silk scarf in Kozahan along the Silk Road route, joining a workshop in the artisan village of Misi, or quietly observing a master painter at work in İznik, each encounter reveals another layer of culture.

In Bursa, cultural discovery is not just about following a route. It may lie in the scent of an old market, in the silence of a shrine, or in the hands of a skilled craftsman. Every step pulls you deeper. In this city, culture is not just seen. It is lived.



Adil Can Güven, a Living Human Treasure of İznik



Tofaş Bursa Museum of Anatolian Cars, Yıldırım



Evliya Çelebi Route

Evliya Çelebi Route: A Path Once Taken Through Bursa

As you walk through the streets of Bursa, it's possible to hear echoes of the past. Among those footsteps, one figure stands out; the legendary traveler Evliya Çelebi. During his pilgrimage from Istanbul to the Hijaz in 1671, he passed through Bursa and described the city in great detail in his Seyahat-nâme. Today, a special cultural route follows in his footsteps: the Evliya Çelebi Cultural Route.

This is one of Turkey's first long-distance cultural trails, stretching approximately 600 kilometers from Yalova through İznik, Bursa, İnegöl and finally Kütahya. With support from the Bursa Metropolitan Municipality, this project brings the legacy of Evliya Çelebi into

the present. The route offers a journey immersed in both nature and history, allowing you to experience Bursa's cultural heritage step by step.

Key stops along the Bursa segment of the route include the İznik City Walls, Grand Mosque (Ulu Camii), Kozahan, Muradiye Complex, Green Tomb and Tophane. These are not just architectural landmarks; they are windows into the past, seen through the eyes of Evliya Çelebi himself. He once wrote: "Bursa is made of water; from every corner, a fountain flows."

If you wish to discover Bursa beyond the usual tourist trails, this cultural route should be at the top of your list. To walk in Evliya Çelebi's footsteps is to step directly into a living story told centuries ago.

Local Passion: Bursaspor and the Spirit of Sport

Cultural discovery in Bursa goes beyond historical monuments. The city's emotional bond with football also deserves attention and at its heart lies

Bursaspor. Founded in 1963, the green-and-white team made history in 2010 by becoming the first club from outside Istanbul to win the Turkish Süper Lig. This victory marked not only a sporting triumph but also a milestone in Bursa's collective memory.

In Bursa, match day means streets buzzing with excitement, balconies draped in green and white, and chants echoing around the stadium. The love for Bursaspor is felt citywide. It's not just about football; it's about identity, pride and community. The supporters' group "Teksas" is synonymous with the city's vibrant fan culture, adding unmatched energy to the stands.

If you want to experience this passion firsthand, head to Timsah Arena. With its distinctive architecture and unforgettable atmosphere, the stadium offers more than just a game; it's a cultural experience. As you explore Bursa, don't be surprised if your path leads here. After all, one of the best ways to understand a city is to see what it loves most.



Nature and Hiking Trails

From the Foothills to the Peaks of Uludağ: Immersive Nature Routes

Uludağ is undoubtedly Bursa's most renowned natural destination. But it's not just a winter resort. In spring and summer, the mountain transforms into a favorite retreat for nature lovers and hiking enthusiasts. The trail beginning in Sarıalan and stretching through Çobankaya to Kirazlıyayla offers a unique path where you can lose yourself among fir trees. Early morning hikers walk through dew-kissed trails as bird-song blends with the day's first light.



As you climb higher, the changing vegetation reflects not only a physical ascent but also a sense of spiritual renewal. With campsites, scenic viewpoints and small waterfalls along the way, this route offers a true escape into nature for those seeking peace and solitude.

In the Shadow of Lakes: Keles and Harmancık Trails

A lesser-known but unspoiled trail lies within the Kocayayla-Gököz-Baraklı triangle in Keles. The paths between these highlands are filled with the cool

scent of mountain grasses, especially in summer. Walking along the lake's edge, pausing simply to watch the reflections on the water, becomes its own kind of meditation.



The area around Karaca Lake in Harmancık is ideal for short yet tranquil walks. Protected by eco-tourism principles, the area also promotes an environmentally conscious discovery experience. As you follow forest paths, you may hear the whispers of nature or even lock eyes with a curious squirrel.

Canyons and Waterfalls: Nature's Wild Side

Orhaneli's Sadağı Canyon and Mustafakemalpaşa's Suuçtu Waterfall offer routes for those seeking nature's more dynamic and dramatic expressions. Sadağı Canyon, with its narrow passages, cascading streams and paths winding through high rock formations, appeals to those who seek both adventure and serenity. On hot summer days, the canyon's cool air feels like a hidden treasure.

The area around Suuçtu is perfect for combining hiking and picnicking in larger groups. Walking beneath the trees with the roar of the waterfall be-



hind you creates a simple yet powerful connection with nature.

Quiet Paths Through Villages

Trails that start in Cumalıkızık and pass through the villages of Zeyniler, Fidyekızık and Derekızık offer a blend of natural beauty and cultural heritage. Walking these paths is not just a journey through trees but also through time. You may rest under ancient plane trees and catch the scent of fresh bread from a nearby village oven.

In Nilüfer, the Mysia Trails are among the most well-organized hiking routes in the region. With mapped trails, clear



markings and village crossings, these routes offer both safety and enjoyment. Whether you are a beginner or an experienced hiker, you'll find a path that suits your pace.

Spring and Autumn: The Perfect Seasons

The best times for hiking are undoubtedly spring and autumn. During these seasonal transitions, nature turns into a stage filled with budding blooms or falling leaves. Bursa's forests, lakes, highlands and canyons offer the most vibrant scenes of this natural performance.



Gastronomy Tours and Local Flavors



Bursa Kebab

Heritage on the Table: Flavors Passed Down Through Generations

The cuisine of Bursa is more than just recipes. It is a legacy of traditions, memories and shared meals handed down from one generation to the next. To explore this rich culinary heritage, the best place to begin is Kayhan Bazaar. Known as the home of cantık—a crispy, oven-baked flatbread—this market offers a nostalgic start to the day with flavors that linger on the palate.

In the heart of the city, Tuz Pazarı is filled with regional products ranging from cheeses to seasonal herbs. The conversations shared with local vendors here remind visitors that food is not just nourishment but a social bond.

Next, the journey leads to Cumalıkızık Village. As you stroll through its cobble streets, you'll encounter gözleme stalls, homemade jams and the warm scent of bread rising from village ovens. Cumalıkızık's traditional flatbread and homemade tarhana soup are simple yet powerful representations of Bursa's culinary depth.



*Traditional Meat Sauté
from Büyükhöyük*



Tahini Flatbread



Walnut Turkish Delight

Mudanya and Tirilye, Bursa's charming coastal towns, represent the region's lighter and more refreshing flavors. Daily catches, olive oil-based mezes and Cretan-style herb dishes decorate the tables. Tirilye olives, with their rich aroma and flavor, elevate even the simplest breakfast.

From Highlands to the Table: Rural Tastes

In Bursa's mountain districts, a cuisine shaped in harmony with nature continues to thrive. In areas like Keles, Orhanlı and Büyükorhan, meat dishes are slow-cooked over wood fires. *The Büyükorhan-style kavurma* and bulgur-based village meals reveal the rustic simplicity and depth of the region's food culture.

Rural farmers' markets offer perfect opportunities to connect with local people and bring natural products to your table. Keles cherries, Harmancık köfte, Mustafakemalpaşa

dessert, Gürsu pears and Yenişehir peppers are more than just flavors. They are cultural emblems that tell a story of place and tradition.

Inegöl is a gastronomic destination all its own. The famed Inegöl Meatballs leave a lasting impression with their simple yet distinctive taste. Accompanied by buffalo yogurt, wild herbs from local markets and village cheeses, this stop becomes a highlight of any culinary tour.

The vineyards of Nilüfer are a delightful alternative for those curious about the local flavors of Bursa. Especially around Gölyazı and Misi, visitors who arrive during harvest season will find themselves immersed in both nature and unforgettable tastes.



Gastronomy Route Suggestion:

1. Morning: Traditional village breakfast in Cumalıkızık



2. Lunch: Cantık (Bursa-style flatbread) in Kayhan + shopping at Tuz Pazarı (Salt Market)



3. Evening: Seafood menu by the Mudanya coast



4. Next day: Inegöl meatballs + visit to the Keles local producers' market



5. Final: Sunset in Gölyazı



Family-Friendly Stops in the City Center

Bursa offers a wide range of options that are both fun and educational for families with children. A great place to start is the **Kaplıkaya Attraction Center**, especially ideal for younger kids. With its aquarium, natural habitat zones and picnic areas, this center provides a full day of activities where children can learn about nature through play.

Another central stop is the **TOFAŞ Museum of Anatolian Cars**, perfect for children and parents with an interest in automobiles. The museum showcases the evolution from traditional carriages to modern vehicles and includes interactive exhibits that engage visitors of all ages.

A visit to **Cumalıkızık Village** offers families a hands-on encounter with rural life. Strolling through its narrow cobble streets gives children a glimpse of the past, while the village atmosphere invites families to stop for a gözleme

break. Children playing among the wooden houses form a natural connection between history and the present.

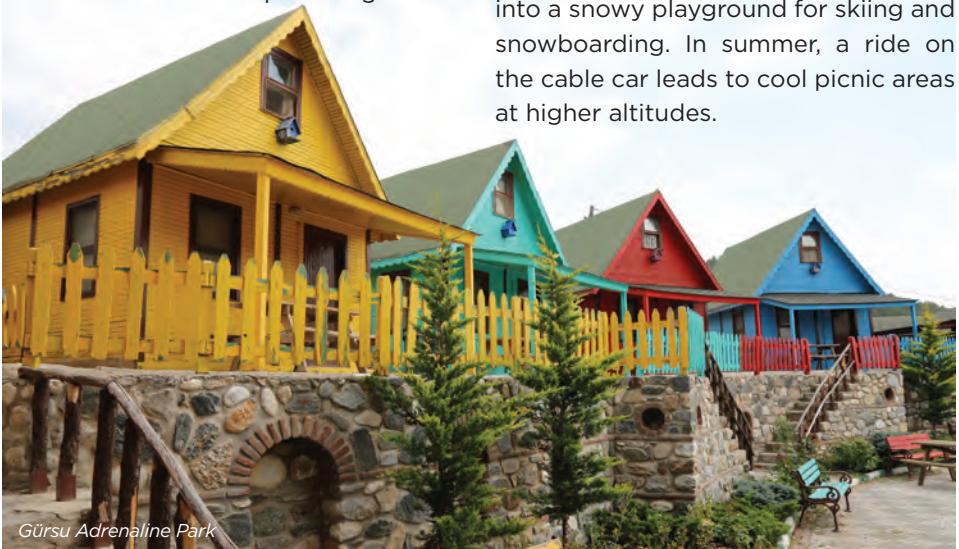


Doburca Mill Park and Social Facility

Merinos Park, with its **Energy Museum** and **Migration History Museum**, provides a balance of green space and cultural enrichment. Open areas offer safe and enjoyable play zones for kids, while adults can explore the exhibitions or relax under the trees.

Nature Escapes with the Family

For families seeking a nature-filled getaway, **Uludağ** offers year-round experiences. In winter, the mountain turns into a snowy playground for skiing and snowboarding. In summer, a ride on the cable car leads to cool picnic areas at higher altitudes.



Gürsu Adrenaline Park

The back trails behind the main hotel zone provide gentle and fun hiking routes that are ideal for children. These paths offer a peaceful way to explore the mountain without straying far from comfort and safety.

The **Suuçtu Waterfall** in Mustafakemalpaşa is another great option for families. Its shallow streams, shaded picnic areas and easy walking paths create the perfect setting for a relaxing day in nature. The calm atmosphere and scenic beauty make it a destination where both children and adults can unwind.

Outdoor Adventures for Curious Young Explorers

The **Karacabey Longoz Forests** are an ideal destination for inspiring a love of na-



Suuçtu Waterfall



Gölyazı Boat Tour



Yaren the Stork, Eskikaraağaç Karacabey



Karacabey Floodplain Forests

ture in children. Families looking to build ecological awareness can enjoy bird-watching, nature walks and short boat rides through this unique ecosystem.

Another exceptional experience awaits at the **Eskikaraağaç (Stork Village) Bird Watching Center and Embalming Exhibition Hall**, where children can not only learn about wildlife but also be inspired by a real-life story of migration and friendship between a fisherman and a stork.

For families with older kids, **Gürsu Adrenaline Park** offers an exciting alternative. Activities like ziplining, alpine sledding and forest adventure trails are designed with safety equipment and a deep respect for nature. Surrounding picnic areas provide a quieter option for those visiting with younger children.

By the shores of **Lake İznik**, families can enjoy peaceful moments with scenic picnics, bike rides and gentle rowing excursions. A **Gölyazı boat tour** completes the day with tranquil views where nature and history meet.

Getting to and Around Bursa

If you're planning a trip to Bursa, the first step is knowing your travel options. Whether you're arriving by air, road, or sea via Istanbul, getting to Bursa is likely easier than you expect. Once you're in the city, public transport systems including metro lines, buses, cable cars and minibuses make getting around smooth and efficient.



How to Get to Bursa

1. By Road:

Bursa is about two hours from Istanbul and well connected via highways.

The main intercity bus terminal (Bursa Otogar) is located around 10 km from the city center and receives regular services from many cities across Turkey. From the terminal, BURULAŞ city buses and taxis are available for onward travel.



2. By Air:

With its modern terminal, Yenişehir Airport offers both domestic and limited international flights. While public transport from the airport is available, most travelers prefer taxis or private shuttles. The jour-



ney to the city center typically takes 45 to 60 minutes.

3. By Sea:

If you're coming from Istanbul, the sea route can be an enjoyable option. Ferries operated by IDO and BUDO depart from Yenikapi or Pendik and arrive in Mudanya. From there, minibuses and buses connect to the city center. This route is especially scenic and popular in summer months.



Getting Around in the City

1. Bus Network:

Bursa's bus system is one of the most commonly used public transport options. Operated by BURULAŞ, buses serve nearly all districts and neighborhoods. Routes and timetables are available at burulas.com.tr.



2. Rail Systems:

BursaRay, the city's metro line, runs along an east-west axis and offers fast and comfortable travel, especially toward Nilüfer and Yıldırım districts. For those heading to the historical city center, you can transfer at Osmangazi Sta-



tion to the T1 tram line, which connects directly to key sites like the Grand Mosque and Heykel.

3. Minibuses and Shared Taxis:

Minibuses are especially common between neighborhoods and in more rural areas. They are also a practical way to reach tourist destinations outside the city center, such as Mudanya, Tirilye, and Gölyazi.



4. Reaching Uludağ:

Uludağ is one of Bursa's most iconic spots, and there are several ways to get there:

- **Cable Car:** Starting from Tefferruç Station, the 9 km long cable car route offers breathtaking views of the city and the forest as you ascend.
- **Minibuses:** Regular minibus services depart from Tophane and go directly to the summit.
- **Private Car:** The 32 km mountain

road is paved and safe, offering a scenic and flexible drive if you have your own vehicle.

5. Ticketing and Transportation Cards:

Bursakart is the city's primary transit card and is valid on all metro lines, buses and some minibus routes. You can purchase and top up your card at bus stops, metro stations and designated kiosks across the city.



Bonus: Tips for Planning Your Transportation

- **Do not underestimate the distances between districts.** Bursa covers a large area, and reaching places like İznik from the city center may take 1.5 to 2 hours.
- **Expect heavy traffic on the Uludağ road during holidays.** To avoid the crowds, consider planning your trip at alternative times.
- **Check transport schedules in advance.** The **BURULAŞ** mobile app and website are both very useful for real-time information and route planning.



Accommodation Experience in Bursa

A break in the heart of history, immersed in nature or by the sea...

In Bursa, where you stay often reflects the soul of the city.

One of the best ways to explore Bursa is by choosing your accommodation area wisely. Each district offers a different atmosphere and tells a different story. Where you decide to stay depends on the experience you're seeking.

modern comfort. You can enjoy breakfast in an Ottoman courtyard while planning your day surrounded by history.

Comfort Through Thermal Tradition:

If you're looking for a stay that is both relaxing and therapeutic, the Çekirge district is the place to be. Known for its centuries-old thermal tradition, this area features historic hammams, natural hot springs, and spa-equipped hotels.

Whether you prefer luxurious resorts or family-run inns, this district is especially popular among wellness travelers seeking both rejuvenation and tradition.

Modern Comfort in the Heart of City Life:

For those who want to stay close to Bursa's vibrant social scene, Nilüfer and Görükle offer the most suitable options. These areas are filled with modern hotels, cafés, restaurants, and shopping centers, as well as easy access to public transportation.



Dikili Stone / Obelisk - Bursa

A Journey Through Time in the Historic Center:

For those who want to feel Bursa's soul at its deepest, Osmangazi and Yıldırım districts are the ideal starting points. Waking up to the domes of the Grand Mosque, walking to the Green Complex, or spending a morning wandering the cobblestone streets of Cumalıkızık becomes part of your daily rhythm here.

Boutique hotels converted from traditional buildings offer an elegant experience, combining historical charm with



Gölyazı Cultural Center

Especially in Nilüfer, international hotel chains and residence-style accommodations are ideal for business trips and long stays. In the evenings, you can attend a concert at a local culture center or enjoy a relaxing walk in nearby parks.

A Seasonal Retreat in Uludağ:

At the summit of Bursa, Uludağ offers dramatically different landscapes depending on the season. In winter, cozy up by the fireplace in a snow-covered mountain hotel. In summer, enjoy the cool highland breeze during a forest walk.

From ski resorts to mountain lodges, from boutique hotels to eco-friendly campsites, Uludağ is a four-season getaway destination where you can reconnect with nature.



Seaside Serenity: Mudanya, Tirilye, and Gemlik:

If your idea of a perfect stay involves the sound of waves and sunset views, the coastal districts of Mudanya, Tirilye, and Gemlik offer just that. These seaside towns provide a slower pace and peaceful atmosphere.



In Mudanya, boutique hotels housed in restored stone buildings line the historic coastline. In Tirilye, you can have breakfast in courtyards that reflect Greek architecture and enjoy tea by the sea while soaking in the whispers of the past. Gemlik welcomes you with its long promenade, tranquil vibe, and local flavors—an invitation to slow down and breathe.

Peaceful Escapes Closer to Nature:

For those seeking quiet and nature-driven retreats, Bursa's mountainous districts like Keles, Harmancık, Orhaneli, and Büyükorhan are perfect. These areas offer small guesthouses, highland homes, and eco-friendly lodges.

During spring and summer, the surroundings of Baraklı and Gököz lakes, as well as ecotourism facilities in Kocayayla and Harmancık, become ideal locations for those wanting to disconnect. Here, you can go for a morning hike, stargaze in the evening, or explore nearby villages for fresh local products.

Shopping in Bursa: What to Buy and Where

In Bursa, shopping is not just about meeting needs. It is also a way of discovering the city's cultural memory. Here, shopping means encountering tradition and taking home a story shaped by craftsmanship. Sometimes, it is in the delicate touch of silk, other times in a handmade soap where you meet mastery face to face.

Hanlar District and the Covered Bazaar: The Heart of Craftsmanship

Located in Bursa's historic center, the Hanlar District and the Covered Bazaar have been central to the city's trade life for centuries. These Ottoman-era structures still host a vibrant shopping culture today.

As you stroll along the cobbled streets, you'll come across historic inns filled with local goods. At Koza Han, silk scarves and shawls are carefully displayed, while İpek Han offers fabric sold by the meter. The Coppersmiths' Bazaar is ideal for kitchenware, souvenirs, and meticulously crafted handmade items.



This area is not only for shopping. It's also a place where the past and present blend seamlessly, offering visitors a truly atmospheric experience.

Modern Shopping Spots: Urban Lifestyle Hubs

In addition to traditional bazaars, modern shopping centers spread across the city add a contemporary touch to Bursa. These malls, which host both local and international brands, offer a fast and convenient shopping experience. They also serve as social hubs with cinemas, dining areas, and entertainment venues.



The districts of Nilüfer, Osmangazi, and Görükle are the most active areas for modern shopping. With their proximity to the city center and a dynamic young population, these areas are ideal for those who want to keep up with current shopping trends. These spaces strike a balance between tradition and modernity, making shopping another way to feel the city.

Handicrafts and Souvenirs: A Memory Made by Hand



Looking for a souvenir in Bursa might lead you directly to an artisan's workshop. Here, souvenirs are often handmade rather than mass-produced. From silk fabrics and ceramic plates to copper coffee pots and elegant knives, each item is both functional and meaningful.

These locally made products carry cultural value and offer a unique character. A souvenir in Bursa is not just an object. It is a small story that holds a trace of experience.

Neighborhood Markets: The Soul of the City on the Street

The neighborhood markets of Bursa are among the city's most authentic



and colorful expressions. These markets, set up in different neighborhoods each day, offer more than just products. They are great places to catch the city's rhythm, meet locals, and explore the culinary roots of Bursa.

Stalls brim with seasonal produce, wild herbs from nearby villages, homemade jams, cheeses, and dried foods. As you walk among them, the voices of friendly vendors mix with the scent of fresh vegetables, offering not just taste but also warm conversations and smiles.

Where to Buy Local Products

For those wishing to return from Bursa with a local flavor, natural aroma, or handcrafted keepsake, the best places to shop are women's cooperatives, municipal-supported regional shops, and village markets. Products such as olives, olive oil, natural soaps, jams, and dried herbs can be bought directly from their producers.

Villages like Cumalıkızık, Tirilye, Misi, and Gölyazı have market stalls that offer more than goods. They also share the stories of labor, authenticity, and traditional production. Shopping here becomes one of the simplest yet most meaningful ways to connect with the city's culture.

Health and Thermal Tourism: The Healing Waters of Bursa

Throughout history, Bursa has been known as a center of healing. From the Roman era to the Ottoman period, the city gained fame for its thermal springs, and today it remains one of the most important destinations for thermal tourism in Türkiye. In Bursa, thermal waters are not only soothing for the body but also relaxing for the mind.

Çekirge Thermal Springs: Healing from the Past

Çekirge is Bursa's oldest and most established thermal district, welcoming those in search of healing for centuries. The Old and New Baths, preferred even by Ottoman sultans, still stand tall and continue to offer a unique thermal experience steeped in history.

The Kükürtlü Thermal Bath, known for its distinctive sulfur scent, is especially popular for skin problems and joint pain. In Çekirge, historical baths and modern thermal hotels coexist, making it an ideal location for both traditional spa culture and luxurious relaxation.

Oylat Thermal Springs: Renewal in Nature

For those looking to escape the city and immerse themselves in nature, the Oylat Thermal Springs in İnegöl offer the perfect getaway. Nestled among pine forests, Oylat is not only known for its healing waters, believed to help with rheumatic and muscular ailments, but also for its peaceful ambiance.

This destination offers more than just hot springs. It's a place to breathe deeply, walk through forest trails, and feel your stress melt away. For visitors seeking to combine camping, hiking, and thermal wellness, Oylat is truly a one-of-a-kind retreat.

Tümbüldek Thermal Springs: Serenity and Wellness Combined

Located in Mustafakemalpaşa, Tümbüldek Thermal Springs offer a quieter and more nature-focused thermal experience. The thermal waters here are said to be beneficial for skin conditions



Bursa Old Thermal Spring





Oylat Thermal Springs

and respiratory issues. With its surrounding natural beauty, even a short visit to this area can become a refreshing full-day experience.

Thermal Hotels and Spa Centers: Modern Comfort Meets Traditional Healing

Bursa offers a health experience that merges traditional charm with modern amenities. The luxurious thermal hotels in Çekirge blend Ottoman bath culture with contemporary comfort, while fa-

cilities in Oylat and Mustafakemalpaşa present a tranquil, nature-based renewal opportunity.

Many of these hotels provide not only access to thermal pools but also massage services, aromatherapy, and skin-care treatments. As your muscles relax in the warm mineral waters, the mystical atmosphere of the historical baths takes you on a journey through time.

Health Tourism in Bursa

Beyond its thermal riches, Bursa is also a rising star in modern health tourism. The city hosts well-equipped hospitals and clinics offering advanced medical services in orthopedics, physical therapy, fertility treatments, cosmetic surgery, and eye care.

Meeting international standards, these facilities attract patients from abroad, positioning Bursa as a desirable destination for health-focused travel.



10 Essential Tips for First-Time Visitors in Bursa

1 Don't Underestimate the Distance Between Districts

From the foothills of Uludağ to the shores of Lake İznik, from the beaches of Mudanya to the forests of Karacabey, Bursa spans a wide area. Travel times between districts can take longer than expected.

🚗 Transportation Tip: If you're relying on public transportation, BURULAŞ buses, the metro line, and sea ferries can be helpful. For district-to-district travel, checking bus schedules in advance or renting a car can save valuable time. Especially for more remote routes like Uludağ or İznik, starting early in the day is key to making the most of your trip.

2 Public Transportation Is a Lifesaver — Get a Bursakart

BursaRay, buses, and minibuses are widely used for transportation within the city. If you don't have a BursaKart, you can use your contactless debit or credit card. You can purchase a BursaKart from kiosks or vending machines in the city center and load it digitally for a seamless travel experience.

3 Take the Cable Car to Uludağ — But Watch the Wind

The cable car line to the summit of Uludağ is one of Bursa's most iconic experiences. However, trips can be canceled due to strong winds or bad weather. It's a good idea to check service updates beforehand. Once at the top, you'll be rewarded with breathtaking views..

4 Cumalıkızık Is Not Just a Village — It's a Living Heritage

This historic village, listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site, is special not just for its cobbled streets and wooden houses, but for its living traditions. Arrive early to enjoy a traditional village breakfast, then browse the local stalls set up by village artisans and producers.

5 Bazaars and Inns: A Journey Through Time

Having a cup of tea in Kozahan, browsing handmade crafts at the Copper-smiths' Bazaar, or discovering silk scarves in the Covered Bazaar is more than just shopping — it's a journey through history. These historical districts are living examples of how the



past flows into the present. Be sure to dedicate a few hours of your visit to exploring these remarkable areas.

6 Bursa Cuisine Is More Than Just Inegöl Meatballs and Sweets

Bursa Kebab may be the most famous dish, but the city's culinary scene offers much more. Pideli köfte, walnut delight, candied chestnuts, milk pudding, and handmade noodles await you across various districts. Whether from a neighborhood market or a village bakery, these flavors offer an authentic taste of Bursa's local food culture.

7 Historic Landmarks Shine After Dark

Mosques, tombs, and clock towers that impress during the day take on a completely different atmosphere at night. When illuminated, landmarks such as the Grand Mosque, the Green Tomb, Emir Sultan, and the Tophane Clock Tower look like elements of a theatrical stage. A stroll between Setbaşı and Tophane in the evening is an ideal way to take in this captivating scene.

8 Nature Is Not Limited to Uludağ

While Uludağ is a captivating destination year-round, Bursa's natural

beauty extends far beyond its iconic mountain. You can watch the sunset in Gölyazı, feel the refreshing breeze near Suuçtu Waterfall, or listen to birdsong in the Karacabey Floodplain Forest. Throughout Bursa, there are countless opportunities to connect with nature.

9 The City Is Full of Museums — Don't Miss Museum Days

The Bursa City Museum, TOFAŞ Museum of Anatolian Cars, Migration History Museum, and Energy Museum are just a few of the city's themed venues that offer insight into its rich cultural heritage. Keep in mind that many museums are closed on Mondays, so it's wise to check opening hours in advance. Some offer discounted or even free admission on specific days.

10 Time Moves Slowly in Bursa — Don't Rush

Bursa isn't a city to be rushed through. Every street corner tells a story, and every tea break offers a moment to pause. Sip your tea in one of the historical inns, listen to silk merchants chatting, or taste a jar of jam brought in from a mountain village. The most memorable moments often come from the parts of your journey that aren't written into any itinerary.

☛ Bonus Tip:

If your visit coincides with one of the city's festivals, consider yourself lucky. The International Bursa Festival, Karagöz shadow play events, stork festivals, or village fairs all offer a closer look into the heartbeat of the city.



Domestic Sister Cities

- | | | |
|------------|--------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Denizli | 7. Muş | 13. Rize |
| 2. Kars | 8. Bitlis | 14. Akpınar (Kırşehir) |
| 3. Amasya | 9. Antakya (Hatay) | 15. Turhal (Tokat) |
| 4. Van | 10. Bilecik | 16. Arpaçay (Kars) |
| 5. Kütahya | 11. Niğde | 17. Niksar (Tokat) |
| 6. Bayburt | 12. Ardahan | 18. Ağrı |

International Sister Cities

- | | | |
|----------------------|----------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Darmstadt | 11. Kulmbach | |
| 2. Saraybosna | 12. Filibe (Plovdiv) | |
| 3. Oulu | 13. Plevne | |
| 4. Kairouan | 14. Tiran | |
| 5. Lefkoşa | 15. Kosice | |
| 6. Anshan | 16. Vinnitsa | 21. El-Halil |
| 7. Bitola / Manastır | 17. Bahçesaray | 22. Veliko Tarnovo |
| 8. Çadır Lunga | 18. Priştina | 23. Galkayo |
| 9. Kızıldorda | 19. Mestanlı | 24. Novi Pazar |
| 10. Mascara | 20. Mogilev | 25. Ningbo |



Membership in International Organizations

- | | |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • International Council of Museums • Asia Pacific Network of Science & Technology Centres • European Network Science Centers & Museums • European Association of Zoos and Aquaria • League of Historical Cities • World Health Organization European Healthy Cities Network • Union of Turkish World Municipalities • World Heritage Cities | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • International Agricultural Cities Association • Network of European Museum Organisations • Association of Towns Awarded the Europe Prize • EHTTA, European Historical Thermal Towns Association |
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