

 **Izmir**
the frontier city of  Turkey

İzmir

City of exquisite history, blue sea and good food.

City of gods, emperors, sultans; of the sun and the wind.

City of the wise, the hero, the learned and the free;
a treasure trove for historians, archeologists and scholars.

İzmir... City where historical Silk Road meets the Aegean,
and the skyscrapers salute the ancient ruins,
city where the future is brilliant and the horizon is bright.

City where life paces up in Kordon, slows down in
Seferihisar and turns into pure pleasure in Çeşme.

İzmir... The city of olives, figs and grapes... The land of the
natural, organic and fresh.

Leaning against 8,500 years of history and looking
hundreds of years ahead, İzmir is gloriously situated on
the western edge of Turkey, acting as the western port
opening up to Europe. It was no coincidence that Darius
built the Persian Royal Road in 5th century BC to reach this
city; and that mausoleums and temples were dedicated to
gods here.

Warmed by soothing thermal waters of Balçova, adorned
with Bird Paradise, generously sprinkled with architectural
masterpieces, delicately framed with beautiful beaches,
İzmir is one precious gem by the Aegean.

The Temple of Artemis, an actual Wonder of the Ancient
World; Asclepion, the historical center of healing and the
Temple of Zeus are just some. Festivals and exhibitions,
fairs and conventions fill up İzmir's calendar year 'round.
İzmir... The bountiful, the fruitful and the beautiful.



Clock Tower
Konak

İzmir, with its 8,500 years of history encompassing 3,500 years of recorded urban history and its land spreading over 12,012 km², is a metropolis in the west of Turkey. The economically fertile atmosphere stemming from its ports, economic variety, skilled manpower and its geographic location has turned İzmir into the 3rd largest economy in Turkey. With its spectacular growth rate, İzmir has recently been determined as one of the top 5 fastest growing metropolitan economies of the world.



Izmir, undoubtedly owes much of its economic and social prowess to its location and climate, but even more so to its social mosaic that has allowed many cultures and civilizations to flourish over the centuries. Persians, Greeks, Assyrians, Romans, Byzantines and Ottomans are only a few of the dozens of civilizations that Izmir has hosted throughout its long history.

Izmir takes pride in its multi-religious weave. In Izmir, several churches and synagogues are harmoniously intertwined with mosques and ancient houses of worship.

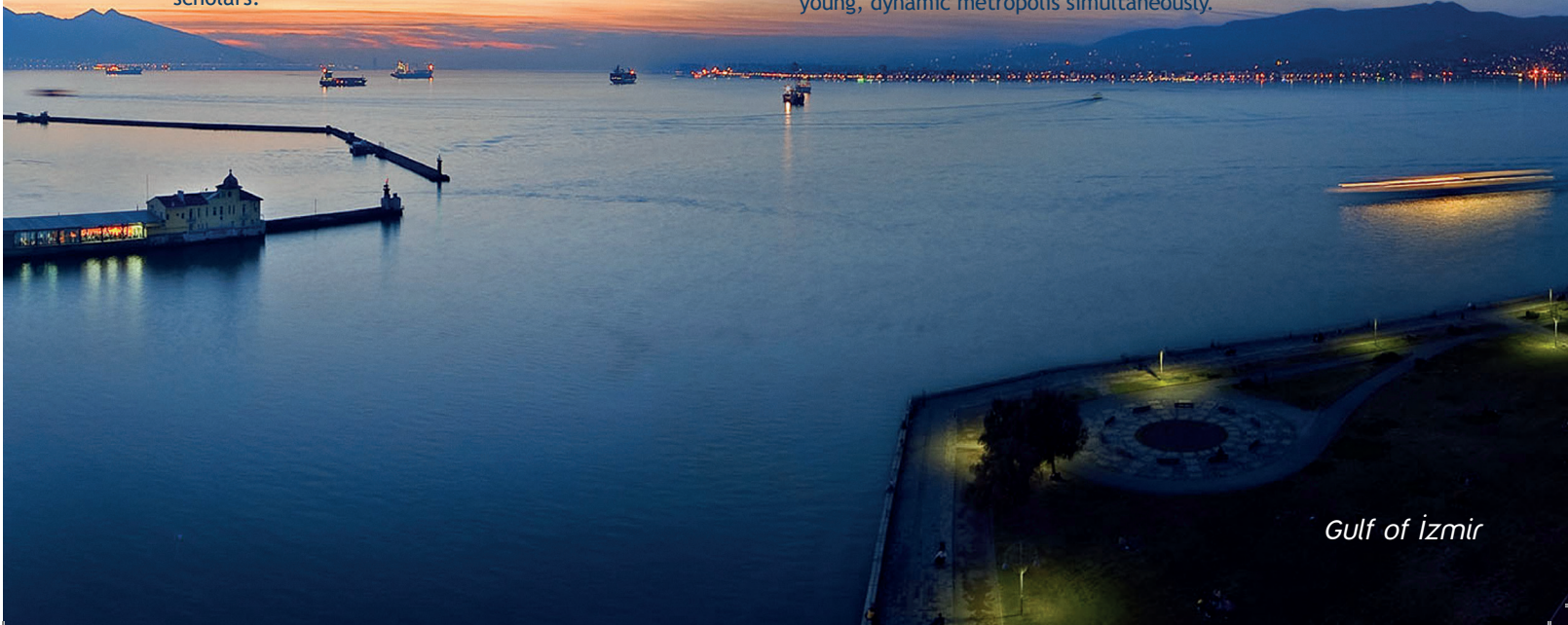
43 percent of the 4 million population of Izmir is under 30, which makes the city a vibrant one. Izmir hosts tens of thousands of students, providing the whole country with a constant stream of scientists, artists, businessmen and scholars.

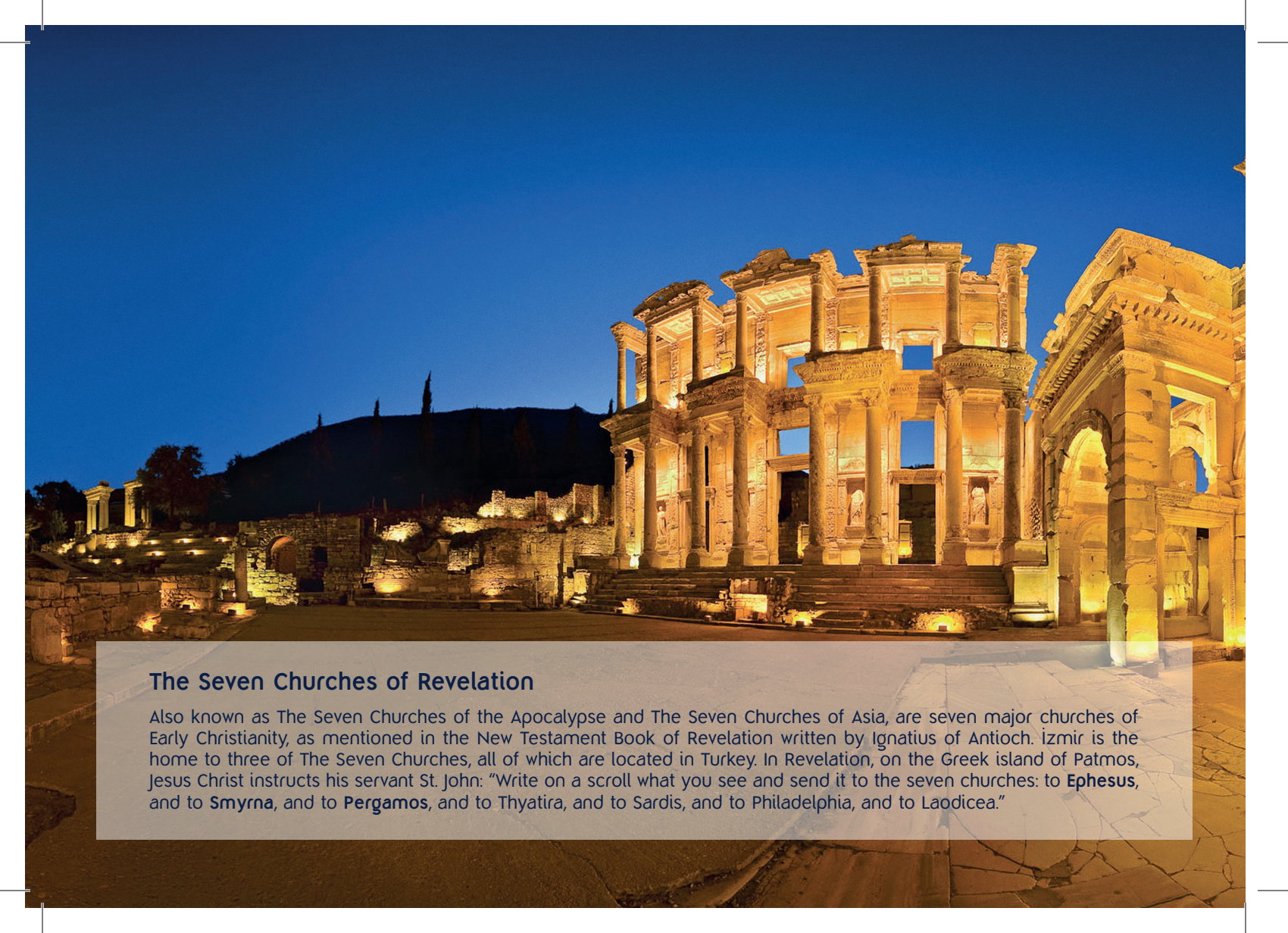
Its perfect climate makes Izmir a wonderful habitat for staples like olives, figs, grapes and cotton. Blessed with a great spot for fresh seafood and variety of olive oils to drizzle over, the purest and simplest forms of culinary wonders make Izmir a destination for foodies as well.

Although opening up to the blue, Izmir is also a very “green” city; it boasts numerous spots for healthy living, offers active lifestyle solutions for its locals, takes measures to protect the environment and supports the use of renewable energy.

Portrayed by 19th century French poet **Victor Hugo** as “princess”, Izmir (formerly known as Smyrna) is a rooted city that has once been inscribed on ancient coins and a young, dynamic metropolis simultaneously.

Gulf of Izmir

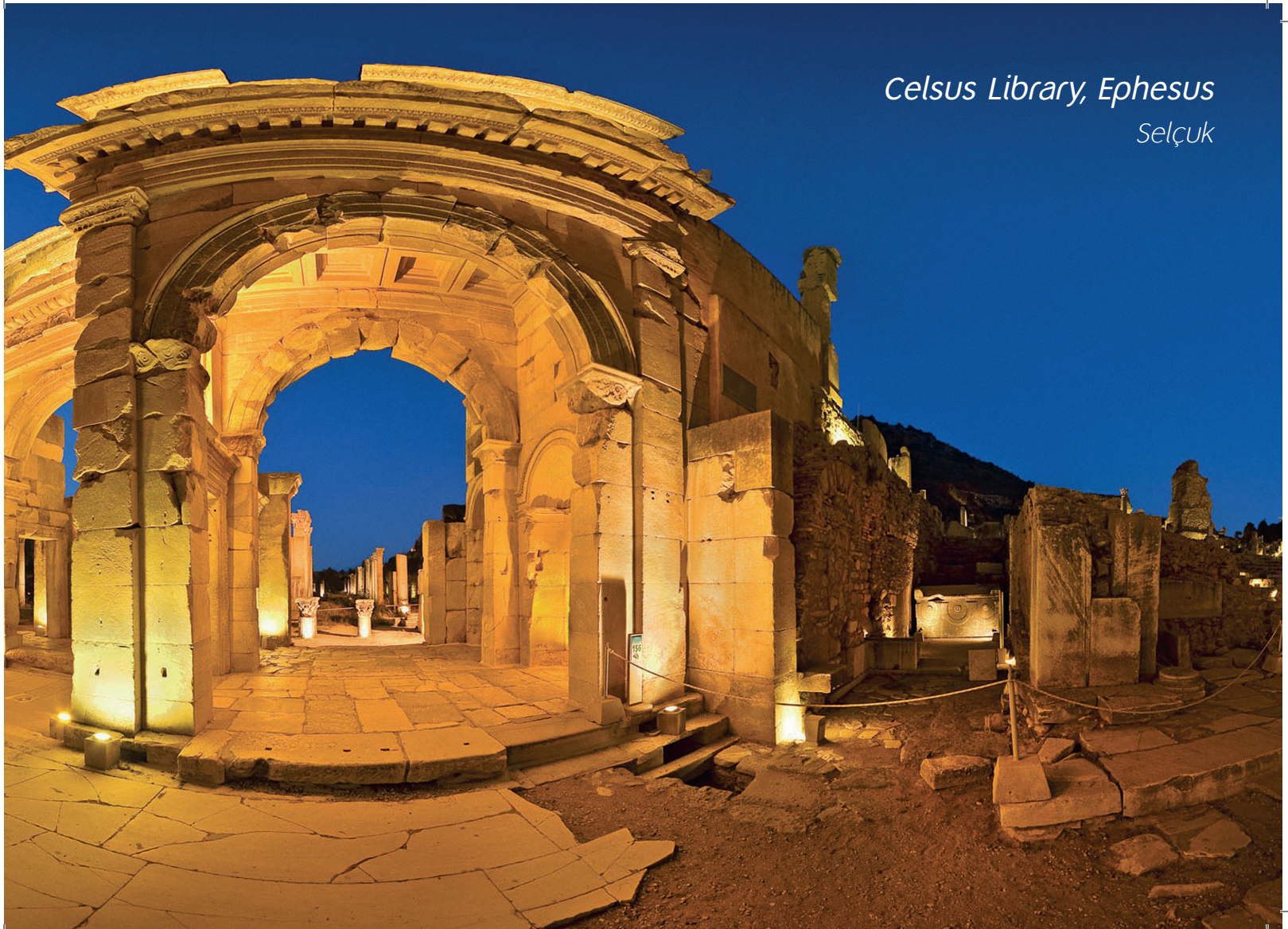




The Seven Churches of Revelation

Also known as The Seven Churches of the Apocalypse and The Seven Churches of Asia, are seven major churches of Early Christianity, as mentioned in the New Testament Book of Revelation written by Ignatius of Antioch. Izmir is the home to three of The Seven Churches, all of which are located in Turkey. In Revelation, on the Greek island of Patmos, Jesus Christ instructs his servant St. John: "Write on a scroll what you see and send it to the seven churches: to **Ephesus**, and to **Smyrna**, and to **Pergamos**, and to Thyatira, and to Sardis, and to Philadelphia, and to Laodicea."

Celsus Library, Ephesus
Selçuk



Kemeraltı, the old bazaar is filled with some colorful knick knacks that will remind you of İzmir. The oldest meeting point and shopping center of the city, Kemeraltı is the busiest pedestrian street of İzmir. On its twisting lanes and narrow courts, one can find everything for every budget.

The area is also famous for its 9 synagogues (on Havra Street), 4 of which are in good condition. Portugal Synagogue, among all, is famous for the passionate speeches of Sabbetai Sevi.

Asansör (Elevator) is probably the most recognized landmark of İzmir. Built by a Jewish banker, Nesim Levi, in 1907, it provides access from the lower coastline level to the hillside level. Now operated with electricity, originally both elevators in the structure were water driven. The balcony in the upper level provides excellent views of the entire Gulf of İzmir and is now a great dining spot. The charming old street at the foot of the elevator is named after Dario Moreno, an international singer and a native of İzmir.

The **State Opera House**, whose walls are adorned with fine paintings and The National Library, one of the most important libraries containing 20 thousand books from the Ottoman period to our day, are other architectural landmarks of İzmir worth seeing.

The former Customs building, designed by the famous French architect **Gustave Eiffel** in the 19th century, is now being used as a recreational area that boasts several cafes, restaurants and shops.

The **Clock Tower** at the city center which was built in 1901 by German architects to commemorate the reign of Sultan Abdulhamit II is the city's unofficial symbol. In its lace-like stone masonry, standing 25 meters tall, the tower has 4 elegant fountains on 4 corners.

Historical Airgas Factory, which was constructed by the French 150 years ago, was restored by İzmir Metropolitan Municipality, preserving its original architecture. Today it hosts many cultural events such as exhibitions, concerts and open-air film screenings.

The **Culture Park**, İzmir's largest recreational area is home to İzmir International Fair and encompasses many indoor and outdoor venues such as museums and art centers, theaters, an amusement park as well as gardens, restaurants and cafes. The Culture Park resembles a botanical garden with its 8,000 trees and 200 species of plants and flowers. The **İzmir International Fair** it hosts, the oldest in the country, has been visited by millions since its first year, 1936.

Pasaport Pier, Alsancak Train Station, Stock Exchange Hall and Former Ottoman Bank are among the other architectural structures worth seeing based on their importance in their time and location.



Asansör (Elevator)

Konak



4 MILLION
POPULATION
43% BELOW **30**



27,5 °C



13 °C



AVERAGE TEMPERATURES

300
SUNNY
DAYS
A YEAR ON AVERAGE



8500
YEARS OF HISTORY



AVERAGE
AGE

34



91%
OF THE
POPULATION
LIVES IN
THE CITY

38.4202° N, 27.1283° E



30
DISTRICTS

629 km
COASTLINE

12.012 km²

 HISTORICAL PLACES

 YACHTING / WATER SPORTS

 BLUE FLAG BEACHES

 OUTDOOR SPORTS

 SHOPPING

 THERMAL FACILITIES

 WINTER SPORTS

 MUSEUMS

 NATURAL LIFE PARK

 BIRD PARADISE

 AIRPORT




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