

TRANSPORT

Where is Izmir and how to get there?

Izmir, Türkiye's third largest city, boasts a rich transportation network. Upon arriving in Izmir, you can rent a car, use tour buses, or utilize public transportation such as rail systems, ferries, or the metro. Alternatively, you can rent a bicycle and explore Izmir's coastline.

Historically famous for its figs, Izmir is now one of Türkiye's most modern cities. It is considered the capital of the Aegean Region. Built around a large bay and supported by mountains to the south, it is an important port and trade center.

Today, Izmir is a very crowded city with a large population and a large number of domestic and foreign tourists. However, thanks to its various transportation options within and between cities, it is possible to travel to and from Izmir by road, rail, air, and sea.

How to get to Izmir?

Izmir is one of the most advantageous cities in the country, thanks to its extensive transportation network including air, land, sea, and rail. The Blue Train, ADB Airport, and road networks connecting to all surrounding provinces can assist you with transportation.

Visitors wishing to travel to Izmir can use these different transportation options.

Getting to Izmir by Air

To travel to Izmir by plane, the airport to use is Adnan Menderes Airport. Located in the Gaziemir district of Izmir, the airport offers several transportation options to different parts of the city, including the İzmir rail system and Havaİ shuttle bus services.

Havaİ shuttle services offer transportation options to various districts of the city within an average of 45-60 minutes. As a public transport option, the İzmir line, located at the airport exit, can be used. This line, serving Aliaİa, İiİli, Menemen, Halkapİnar, Karİİyaka, İirinyer, and Tepekİy, provides easy access to the city center.

Havaİ services provide transportation to areas such as Urla, İeyİme, Alaİatİ, Alsancak, Karİİyaka, Maviİehir, Bostanİİ, Gaziemir, Bayrakİİ, and Basmane.

Getting to Izmir by Bus

Izmir, a central city in the Aegean Region and Türkiye in general, can be reached by bus from almost every city in the country. Passengers wishing to travel to Izmir by bus can use the Intercity Bus Terminal in Bornova and other bus terminals located in various other cities.

After disembarking at the Izmir Intercity Bus Terminal in Bornova, you can reach the Karİİyaka and Maviİehir areas using Havaİ shuttle buses or bus lines 202 and 204. Alternatively, you can reach the Bornova metro station and use the Izmir Metro.

Getting to Izmir by Private Vehicle

There are four main highways that provide access to Izmir by private car. Visitors wishing to travel to Izmir by private vehicle can use the Istanbul-Izmir Highway, the Izmir-Aydİn-Denizli-Burdur Highway, the Northern Aegean Highway, or the Ankara-Izmir Highway, depending on their starting city.

Visitors from cities such as Istanbul, Tekirdaİ, Yalova, Bursa, Balİkesir and Manisa

They can use the Istanbul-Izmir Highway. The average travel time between Istanbul and Izmir via this route is [length not specified]. It takes 4.5 hours.

Visitors coming from Aydın, Denizli, Burdur and surrounding cities should use the İzmir-Aydın Highway. This route takes approximately 1 hour and 15 minutes to travel between İzmir and Aydın.

Visitors coming from Ankara, Yozgat, Afyonkarahisar, and surrounding cities should use the Izmir-Ankara Highway. The journey between Ankara and Izmir via this highway takes approximately 7 hours.

Finally, visitors coming from areas in the northern parts of İzmir, such as Foça, Aliağa, and Çandarlı, will only need to follow the Northern Aegean Highway.

Getting to Izmir by Train

Izmir has a railway network, offering train access from several cities. The Izmir Blue Train line, named after the city, provides train travel from Ankara, Kütahya, Eskişehir, Balıkesir, and Manisa to Izmir.

With this route, the journey time is 14 hours between Ankara and İzmir, 11 hours between Eskişehir and İzmir, 9 hours between Kütahya and İzmir, 4 hours between Balıkesir and İzmir, and 1.5 hours between Manisa and İzmir.

Transportation from Istanbul to Izmir

To travel from Istanbul to Izmir by air, you need to use Adnan Menderes Airport. The flight takes approximately 45-50 minutes. Airfare prices range from approximately 100-200 TL.

Buses traveling from Istanbul to Izmir provide passengers with access to the Intercity Bus Terminal in Bornova. From there, transfers can be made to Bornova buses and the Izmir Metro to reach different parts of the city.

There is no rail transportation option from Istanbul to Izmir.

Visitors wishing to reach Izmir by private vehicle must use the Istanbul-Izmir Highway and the D300-E96 highways. The Istanbul-Izmir Highway is a good option for faster travel between the two locations. The journey takes approximately 4-4.5 hours via this route. There are toll roads along this route.

Transportation from Ankara to Izmir

A flight from Ankara to Izmir takes approximately 1 hour and 15 minutes. A bus trip from Ankara to Izmir takes approximately 8 hours.

Visitors wishing to travel to Izmir by train can use the Izmir Blue Train. This line departs from Ankara and passes through Kütahya, Eskişehir, Balıkesir, and Manisa before reaching Izmir.

Visitors traveling by private car should use the Ankara-Izmir Highway. Travel time via this highway, which has toll roads, is approximately 7 hours.

Bicycle Tour Routes

1. Kordonboyu Bicycle Path

Distance: 7 km (One way)

Difficulty Level: Easy

Description: Kordonboyu is one of İzmir's best-known and most beloved coastal promenades. Located along the coast of the Gulf of İzmir, this promenade is very popular for both walking and cycling.

You can start from Kordon and follow the coastal road from Konak Square to Alsancak. The wide walking and cycling path allows for a pleasant bike ride with sea views.

Transportation: Easily accessible from central locations such as Konak, Alsancak, and Karşıyaka.

2. Alsancak – Karşıyaka Bicycle Path

Distance: 6 km (One way)

Difficulty Level: Easy

Description: This road stretches along the Gulf of İzmir, starting from Alsancak and ending at Karşıyaka.

It continues on. It offers both a peaceful route and wonderful views. You can feel the wind in the bay and enjoy a relaxing ride with the sound of the sea. Alternatively, you can also use sea transportation from Alsancak to Karşıyaka, and completing this route by bicycle offers a very pleasant experience.

Transportation: Accessible from Alsancak and Karşıyaka city centers.

3. Foça Bicycle Route

Distance: 30-40 km (Round trip)

Difficulty Level: Medium

Description: Cycling from İzmir city center to Foça offers one of the most immersive nature-filled journeys of the Aegean. This route provides a ride amidst sea views and lush greenery. Foça is also a popular tourist destination thanks to its historical charm and beautiful beaches.

After arriving in Foça, you can stroll along the coast and explore the natural beauty of the surrounding area.

Transportation: You can reach Foça from İzmir city center by private vehicle or public transport.

While reaching Foça by bicycle is a bit more challenging, it's a fantastic experience for nature lovers.

4. Cycling Routes in Çeşme and Alaçatı

Distance: 20-40 km (Different routes)

Difficulty Level: Medium – Hard

Description: Çeşme and Alaçatı, two of İzmir's most popular holiday resorts, offer fantastic routes for cyclists. The village roads of Çeşme and the narrow streets of Alaçatı, with their historic stone houses, are a great option.

It is surrounded by mountains. To reach Alaçatı, you can start from Çeşme, cycle around this region famous for windsurfing, and enjoy the magnificent Aegean views.

Transportation: You can reach Alaçatı from İzmir city center by bus or private car. Cycling within Alaçatı is a very enjoyable experience.

5. Karaburun Peninsula

Distance: 60-80 km (Round trip)

Difficulty Level: Difficult

Description: Karaburun is one of the most tranquil and naturally beautiful regions of İzmir. This route takes you towards the Karaburun Peninsula. Enjoy cycling while exploring coastal towns, forested areas, and views of the clear sea along the way. This route is suitable for cyclists who want a long ride surrounded by nature.

Transportation: Accessible by private vehicle from İzmir city center.

6. Pergamon Cycling Routes

Distance: 50-70 km (Round trip)

Difficulty Level: Medium – Hard

Description: Bergama is a district famous for its historical ruins and ancient structures. Cycling from İzmir city center to Bergama can be a historical journey. This route allows you to visit ancient Pergamon and the Askleion. Additionally, cycling along the village roads surrounding Bergama offers a challenging yet enjoyable experience.

Transportation: Bergama can be reached from İzmir city center by private vehicle. There are suitable cycling routes in Bergama.

7. Balçova – Cable Car Route

Distance: 10-15 km (Round trip)

Difficulty Level: Easy – Medium

Description: The Balçova region boasts a cycling route surrounded by nature. Cycling from Balçova to the cable car station allows you to enjoy views of İzmir while also providing a delightful experience of cycling through the forest. The cable car offers a panoramic view of İzmir.

You can admire the city from the high vantage point, and then begin your journey back.

Transportation: Balçova can be reached by public transport or private vehicle.

8. Gödence Village and Seferihisar

Distance: 25-35 km (Round trip)

Difficulty Level: Medium

Description: You can enjoy a pleasant bike tour amidst the natural beauty of the Aegean, visiting villages such as Seferihisar, Sığircık, and Gödence. This route is surrounded by olive groves and beautiful village landscapes. Furthermore, this region is one of the most tranquil and nature-filled areas of İzmir. Seferihisar is also the first district in Türkiye to be awarded the Cittaslow (slow city) title.

Transportation: Seferihisar can be reached from İzmir city center by private vehicle.

9. Narlıdere Bicycle Path

Distance: 10-15 km (One way)

Difficulty Level: Easy

Description: Narlıdere is located close to the city center of İzmir, and its cycling routes offer a peaceful and nature-filled ride. Narlıdere's green spaces and coastal road are ideal for cyclists seeking a short but enjoyable ride.