



## Did You Know?

- That İznik and Bursa were two of the capital cities of the Ottomans,
- That the tombs of the first six Ottoman Sultans are in Bursa,
- That the Green Tomb (Yeşil Türbe) famous for its tiles is in Bursa,
- That the world-renowned İskender kebab is the local speciality of Bursa,
- That the first Senate building in the world is in İznik,
- That the First and Seventh Ecumenical Council of Christianity met in İznik,
- That İznik is one of the only four cities in the world that are still surrounded by city walls...



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# BURSA



Monumental Grave of Karagöz - Hacıvat





The archaeological excavations carried out on the burial mounds in the region indicate that the first settlement in the area is more than 8 millennia old. Among more than 30 of these ancient burial mounds, the most important are Mentеше, Ilpınar, Demirtaş and Çakırköy.

When the first central authority of Anatolia, the Hittite Empire, collapsed around 1200 BC due to internal strife and migration from the west, Bursa was badly affected like many other parts of Anatolia. The region fell to the Lydians around the 7th century BC and then to the Persian Empire in 546 BC.

Prusias (232–192 BC), the King of Bithynia, was believed to be the founder of the city. The region was under the control of the Roman Empire in the 1st century BC and it came under Byzantine rule in 395 AD. During the 11th century the city frequently changed hands between the Byzantine and Seljuk empires. In 1326, it was conquered by Orhan Ghazi and added to the Ottoman territory.



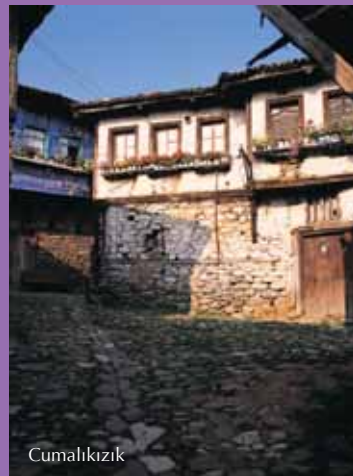


Bursa gained its historical importance during the reign of the Ottomans and Orhan Ghazi made Bursa the capital of the Ottoman Principality. After the conquest of Edirne in 1361 it became the capital of the European lands of the Ottomans while Bursa continued to serve as the capital of the Anatolian lands. When İstanbul was conquered in 1453, it became the only capital. Bursa then became a Sanjak, and in the 19th century it became the seat of the province.

Bursa is second only to İstanbul in regard to its abundance of Ottoman works of art. The riches from its historical and cultural backgrounds are on display in its numerous museums.



Ulu Mosque



Cumalıkızık



## Museum of Archaeology

Situated in the Cultural Park, the museum exhibits a large range of artefacts found in Bithynia and Mysia ranging from 3000 BC to the late Byzantine Period. Four halls of the museum display terracotta, marble and bronze statues, ceramics, glassware and gold jewellery. Architectural artefacts, sarcophagi, and grave steles are displayed in the garden. A replica burial mound and war chariot are on display in one of the halls.



## Museum of Atatürk

The mansion used by Atatürk during his visits to Bursa was given to him as a gift. In 1938, Atatürk donated the building to the Bursa Municipality. The building, situated on Çekirge Street, was converted into a museum and opened to the public on 29 October 1973 to mark the 50th Anniversary of the Declaration of the Republic. The three-storey mansion is a prime example of civic architecture of the period. Most of the displays include articles and possessions used and owned by Atatürk.

## Bursa City Museum

The museum is right behind the Atatürk Statue in the central square of Bursa. The modern exhibition has displays of the works reflecting the cultural, social and economic development of Bursa through history. There is also a gift shop selling local handicrafts.



## Museum of the 17th Century Ottoman House

The house is situated in the Muradiye Neighbourhood across from the local madrasah, and it is believed to occupy the site of a demolished mansion of Sultan Murat II. Because of this association there is a popular belief that Sultan Mehmet the Conqueror, son of Sultan Murat II, was born there. The house itself was built as a two-storey house over a cellar and is a prime example of wood carving and wood painting techniques.

## Museum of Forestry

Located on the Çekirge Street, Saatçi Mansion with its Ottoman baroque style is home to the Museum of Forestry. It has a different concept from other museums in the region. It is the first forestry themed museum in Turkey. The oldest item on display is an animal fossil dating back 16 million years, which was found in Orhaneli County. The other items on display are historical tools, material and equipment used in forestry, various documents, maps and photographs as well as collections of tree cross sections and fossilized plants.



### **Museum of Turkish and Islamic Arts (Yeşil Madrasah)**

The construction of the Yeşil (Green) Madrasah started in 1419 as part of the Yeşil Külliye (Complex of buildings adjacent to a mosque) in the centre of Bursa, and was completed in 1424 during the reign of Murat II. The building is also known as the Sultaniye Madrasah and its architect was Hadji İvaz Pasha. The madrasah has been used to educate and train many scholars and scientists and today serves as a museum.

The museum exhibits artefacts of the period between the 12th and 20th centuries, including ceramics, wood and metal ware, arms, illuminated manuscripts, Islamic coins and inscriptions as well as various tomb steles.

### **Uluumay Museum of Ottoman Folk Costumes and Jewellery**

The museum was opened to the public in 2004 in a building belonging to the Poet Ahmet Pasha Madrasah. It houses a collection of dresses and jewellery as well as other artefacts representing the daily social and cultural life of the period.

### **Hünkar Mansion**

Situated in the Eşrefiler Neighbourhood of Yıldırım County, the mansion was built under the auspices of Sultan Abdülmecid in the mid-19th century, and was used as a hunting and recreation lodge by the Sultans visiting Bursa. At a later time Atatürk stayed here with his adopted children, Sabiha Gökçen and Ülkü Adatepe, during one of their visits to Bursa. The mansion amidst the woods offers a magnificent view of the city, and it has exquisite carvings and furniture.



### **TOFAŞ Museum of Anatolian Carriages**

The museum houses a collection of carriages that have been part of Anatolian culture from antiquity to the present time. It is situated in the Umurbey Neighbourhood of Yıldırım County and exhibits various carriages and their parts in chronological order, ranging from the remains of a 2,600 year-old vehicle, a Roman chariot, primitive horse carriages and two-wheeled ox-carts of Anatolia (kağnı), right up to modern-day examples.

### **Library of Manuscripts (İnebey Madrasah)**

The building was commissioned by İnebey, who was one of the high ranking officers of Sultan Yıldırım Bayezid during the 14th century, and it is situated on the İnebey Street. Since 1969 it has housed a collection of illuminated manuscripts and exhibits old manuscripts and maps and a large selection of historical printed material produced in Ottoman script from the time of the first Turkish printer, İbrahim Müteferrika, until the adoption of the Latin script in 1928. The manuscripts are available for researchers and specialist use.





## Fortress of Bursa

The construction of the fortress started in the 1st century BC, and it was enlarged and renovated according to changing needs during the Roman, Byzantine and Ottoman periods. Today the length of the city walls is about 2 kilometres. Stone debris from the ancient buildings was collected and used in the construction of the city walls so you may see a sarcophagus, tomb stele or inscription tablet built into the walls. During the period of Orhan Ghazi, the walls were reinforced with triangular towers. Today the fortress displays the traces of the past in all its glory to visitors.

## Yıldırım Complex

Most of the complex was completed during the reign of Sultan Yıldırım Bayezid and it is situated in the Yıldırım Neighbourhood in the centre of Bursa. In the 1390s the **Mosque** was commissioned to be built on top of a hill by Sultan Yıldırım Bayezid. It has an inverted 'T' plan. During an earthquake in the 19th century both minarets collapsed. The present minaret was added later. The original **Madrasah** situated to the north-west of the mosque is used as a dispensary. To the west is the **Hamam** (bathhouse), which was built of rough stone in a square shape and is covered by a dome. Two hundred and fifty metres to the east is the first Ottoman hospital, the **Darüşşifa**. The **Tomb** of Sultan Yıldırım Bayezid was commissioned within the complex by his son, Sultan Süleyman Han, in 1403, following his father's death.

The **Yıldırım Bedesten** (covered bazaar) is situated across from the Yıldırım Complex, on the road from Ulu Mosque. Being the first bedesten of the Ottoman Empire, it was commissioned by Sultan Yıldırım Bayezid towards the end of the 14th century. The 14

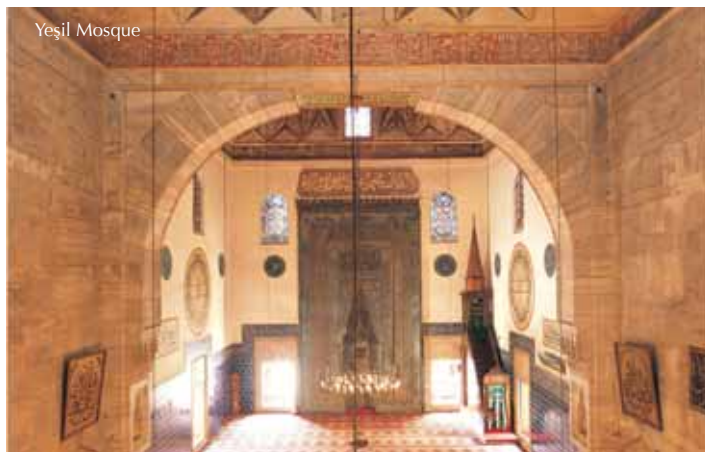
domes of the building are located on circular arches, which are supported by masonry pillars. In each façade there is a portal. Today the bedesten serves as a jewellers' bazaar and has 32 shops facing the inner courtyard and 68 shops facing the outer courtyard.

## Yeşil Complex

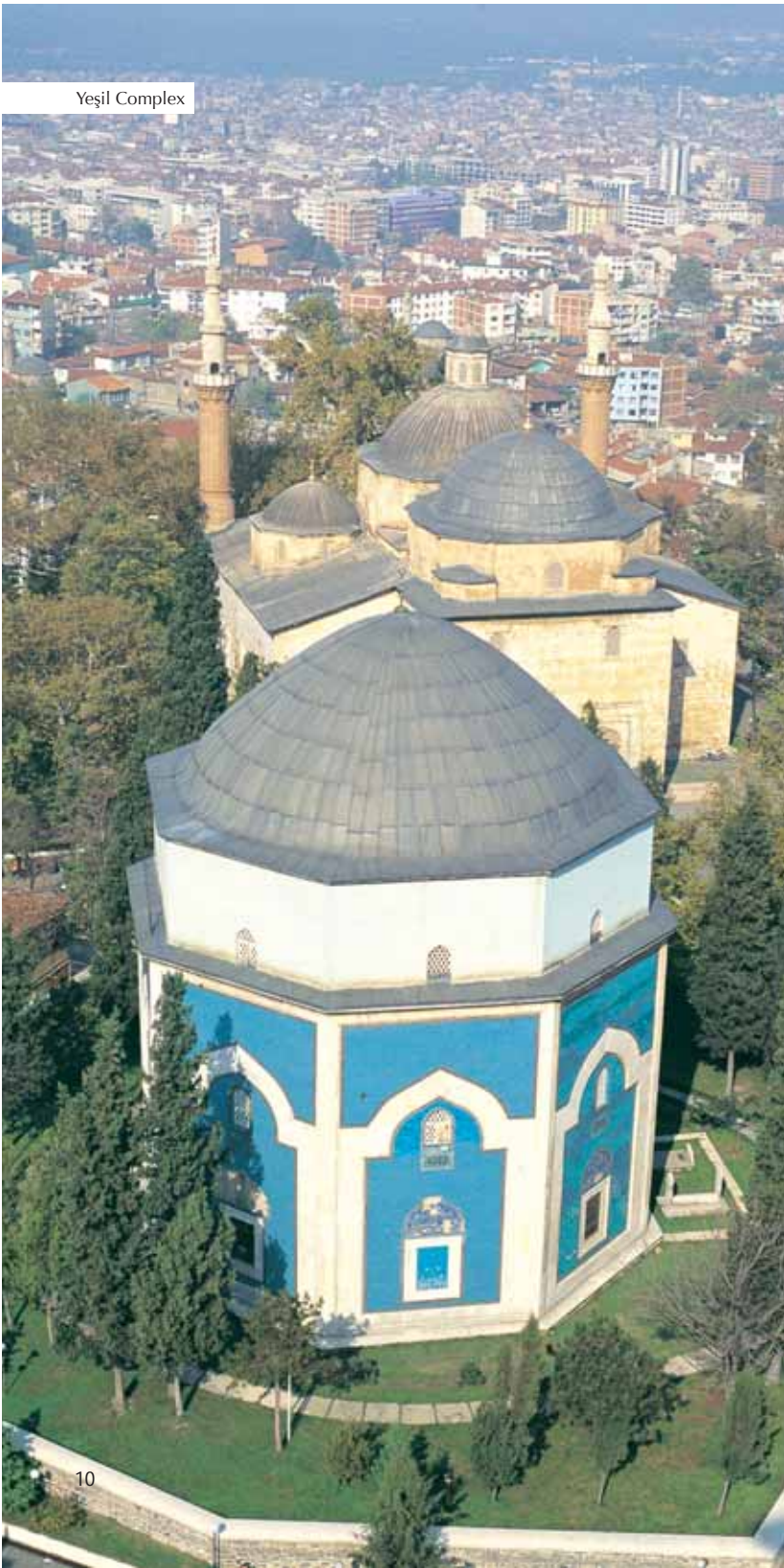
The **Yeşil (Green) Mosque** is one of the buildings making up the complex in the Yeşil Neighbourhood and has an inverted T-shaped (winged) plan. Its architect was Hadji İvaz Pasha. It is considered to be one of the masterpieces of early Ottoman architecture and one of the prime architectural buildings in Bursa due to its superb masonry and glazed tiles.

To the south-east of the mosque is the **Yeşil İmaret** (public kitchen), which was built during the early 15th century. Now partially ruined, this was the public kitchen where Çelebi Mehmet (later Sultan Mehmet I) personally served food to the poor every Friday.

The **Yeşil Tomb** was commissioned by Çelebi Mehmet to the architect, Hacı İvaz Pasha, in 1421. With its octagonal plan and a basement burial chamber it reflects the style of the Seljuk tombs. Due to the colour of the glazed tiles on the walls it is popularly known as the **Green Tomb** and it is readily identified with Bursa.



Yeşil Complex





This octagonal planned tomb was topped with a large lead-clad dome supported by a high and plastered drum. The doors, intricately worked with *rumi* figures (Anatolian line art, consisting of symmetric and complex curves), palmette and roses, are very attractive. Beyond the portal, the inner sanctum is covered with turquoise coloured tiles. Here stands the most magnificent mihrab clad with tiles. The colours are superb and it resembles the mihrab of Yeşil Mosque with its fluted pilasters, muqarnas (stalactite niche), *rumi* patterns, palmette and curling branch motifs and scripts.

To the west of the tomb is the **Yeşil Hamam** (bathhouse), built by Türbedar (tomb keeper) Köse Ali Pasha (Sofu Bedreddin) during the reign of the Sultan Mehmet the Conqueror in order to provide a steady income for the Yeşil Madrasah.



## Emir Sultan

The Emir Sultan Neighbourhood situated to the east of the Yeşil Complex derives its name from a Turkish scholar who was born in Bukhara. The **Emir Sultan Mosque** is situated next to the Emir Sultan graveyard and has a single dome placed on an octagonal drum. There are two minarets on both sides of the north façade. To the north of the mosque stands the **Tomb** where the sarcophagi of Emir Sultan's wife, Hundi Hatun, and his two daughters can be found. To the south stands the **Hamam** (bathhouse), which was commissioned by Hundi Hatun and repaired in the 17th and 18th centuries.

## Irgandı Bridge

The historic Irgandı Bridge, which was built over the Gökdere stream, is a curious rarity as it is a bridge with



Tophane Park

a market on it. Along the span of the bridge there are shops on both sides of the roadway and today they are occupied by cafes and shops selling handicrafts.

## Tophane Park

Tophane Park with its majestic plane trees provides the backdrop to the panorama of the city. Tophane Park also houses the Tomb of Osman Ghazi, the Tomb of Orhan Ghazi and the **Clock Tower**.

The Clock Tower was built in 1906 as a six-storey building reaching 25 metres high.



Clock Tower

### • The Tomb of Osman Ghazi

The story goes that while Bursa was under siege, Osman Ghazi (1258-1326) pointed out a building with a silver dome to his son, Orhan Ghazi, and told him, "My son, when I die, bury me under that silver dome." Following his death he was buried according to his wishes. The tomb is situated to the left of the entrance to Tophane Park and is an octagonal building covered by a dome. The entrance to the tomb is through a wooden portal. The Ghazi's mother-of-pearl inlaid timber sarcophagus is surrounded by a brass railing.



### • The Tomb of Orhan Ghazi

The tomb is situated to the right of the entrance to Tophane Park. The original building collapsed in the earthquake of 1855 and it was rebuilt by Sultan Abdulaziz in 1863. The dome and vaulted ceiling are supported by four thick columns with pointed arches. The interior is plastered.



Osman Ghazi



Orhan Ghazi





## The Mosque of Orhan Bey

It is known as the oldest mosque built by a Sultan. Situated across from the Municipality building, the mosque was built by Orhan Ghazi in 1339. The mosque was renovated by Sultan Çelebi Mehmet in 1417 and its architecture and decorations reflect the plain theme of early Ottoman art.

## Ulu Cami (The Grand Mosque)

In almost all of the principal cities in Turkey there is at least one 'grand' mosque. However, the Grand Mosque of Bursa is the grandest and most important one. The mosque was commissioned between the years 1396 and 1400 by Sultan Yıldırım Bayezid and is close to the Municipality building. It is renowned as the largest Ottoman mosque built before the conquest of İstanbul.

The mosque is one of the most impressive examples of rectangular shaped mosques covered by a multitude of domes with three entrance portals. Its 20 domes sit on thick stone walls and 12 pillars supported with arches and pendentives. The striking parts of the building are: the portal carved by Mehmed bin Abdulaziz Dakıva; the wooden carved pulpit with inlays, the muezzin's platform supported by walnut columns; and the elegant mihrab.



Ulu Mosque



Ulu Mosque

Besides its architectural features the quality of the wood carving and calligraphy-based decorations give the Grand Mosque a unique place among the buildings of Bursa.



## Muradiye Complex

The complex gave its name to the neighbourhood and its most important building is the **Muradiye Mosque**, which was commissioned by Sultan Murat II between the years 1424 and 1426. The mosque was built to an inverted 'T' plan and its wooden carved portal is one of the most magnificent examples. The dome and vaults over the late congregants' space are supported by four pillars and two columns. The main internal space is covered by two domes and the sides covered by semi-domes, thereby enlarging it. It was the last mosque to be commissioned by an Ottoman sovereign during his reign.

To the west of the mosque stands the **Muradiye Madrasah** that was built during the reign of Sultan Murat II. The portal is on the north façade. In the middle of the madrasah is a square courtyard, and the south side is a dome-covered large portico. Its walls are decorated with deep blue and green tiles. There is an octagonal pool in the middle of the courtyard. The rooms behind the porticoes are covered with pointed (ribbed) vaults. The bricklaying and bonding work of the madrasah is also very attractive.

Near the **Muradiye Mosque** stands the **Muradiye Hamam** and **Muradiye İmarethanesi** (public kitchen).





The Muradiye Neighbourhood also contains the resting places and tombs of many members of the early Ottoman dynasty. **The Tomb of Sultan Murat II** as well as the tombs of **Şehzade (Sultan's son) Mustafa, Sultan Cem, Şehzade Ahmet, Şehzade Mahmut and Şehzade Mustafa**, and the tombs of female members of the dynasty such as **Hatuniye, Saraylılar (the Odalisque), Mükrimе Hatun, Gülşah Hatun, Ebe Hatun, Gülrüh Sultan and Şirin Hatun** are situated in the neighbourhood. The superb masonry and brick work as well as the tile decorations of these tombs are dazzling. These tombs are important places to visit for tourists as well as domestic visitors.

## The Tomb of Süleyman Çelebi

The tomb of Süleyman Çelebi, the author of Mevlid-i Şerif (the hymn to the holy nativity), is situated on the road leading to the Çekirge Neighbourhood. Between the years 1945 and 1952, Haşim İşcan, then provincial governor, led a group of philanthropists to build a tomb for Süleyman Çelebi and transfer the grave from the courtyard of the Grand Mosque to the newly built tomb. It was built with *küfeki* limestone with an eight pillar supported canopy covering a marble sarcophagus.

## Monumental Grave of Karagöz-Hacivat

The grave of Karagöz-Hacivat is a memorial monument on the road leading to the Çekirge Neighbourhood, where the symbolic graves representing the characters of the famous shadow play *Karagöz* are set among the cypresses of the Yoğurtçu Baba graveyard.



## Sultan Murat I (Hüdavendigâr) Complex

Located in Çekirge Neighbourhood, the **mosque** within the complex was built by Sultan Murat I between the years 1365 and 1366. The ground floor of the two-storey building with its striking architectural features was designed as a **mosque** and the first floor was designed as a **madrasah**. With respect to its plan, it is considered to be one of the best examples of inverted 'T' shaped mosques. Across from the mosque stands the **Tomb of Sultan Murat I**. Sultan Murat I, the third sovereign of the Ottoman dynasty, was martyred at the end of the First Kosovo War in 1369 and his son Sultan Yıldırım Bayezid commissioned his tomb.

## Merinos Train Station

The Merinos Train Station was at the terminus of the railway between Bursa and Mudanya that operated between 1892 and 1951. The length of the railway was approximately 42 kilometres (26 miles) and it had six stations. Silks from Bursa as well as products from the Bursa Plain were taken from here to the port of Mudanya for export. The station building was restored and opened to the public. One of the steam locomotives that operated on the line is on display.

## Caravanserais

Bursa has been an important city throughout the Roman, Byzantine and Ottoman periods and, as a staging post on the Silk Road, contained several historic buildings that were built to last and that are still intact today. One of the various types of historic buildings is the 'han' or 'caravanserai', which provided safe stopover accommodation for the traders plying their trade between east and west. Among these architecturally and functionally attractive caravanserais, **Koza Han**, **Emirhan**, **Fidan**, **İpek**, **Geyve**, and **Pirinç** are important. Koza Han, in which there are shops selling silk fabric, is one of the prime shopping centres in Bursa preferred by visitors.



## Synagogues

In Bursa, buildings from the three main religions can be seen. **The Etz Chaim (Tree of life) Synagogue** was the first synagogue built during the Ottoman Period. The **Geruş (Exiled) Synagogue** and the **Mayor (Resettled Jews from Mallorca) Synagogue** are other important Jewish religious buildings.



## Plane Trees

The centuries-old giant plane trees have a special place in the eye-catching natural beauty of Bursa. The most important ones, attracting many domestic and foreign visitors every year, are the **Koğuk Çınar**, which has a circumference of 18.20 metres and is believed to be 700 years old, and the **İnkaya Çınar**, which has a circumference of 9.45 metres and is 600 years old. During the reign of Ottoman Sultans the salaries (ulufe) of the janissaries were distributed under the shade of the Koğuk Çınar, so it used to be called Ulufeli Çınar. With their magnificence they are living witnesses of Ottoman history.





## Cumalıkızık: A Living Ottoman Village

There are seven *kızık* villages, which have unique culture and historic architecture, set among the fantastic natural landscape of the lower northern slopes of Uludağ (Mount Olympus) at a 15-20 minute drive away from the centre of Bursa. The term *kızık* refers to the narrow valleys in which the villages are confined. The most attractive of them is **Cumalıkızık Village**. It is an Ottoman foundation village which is 700 years old. In the village you can find some of the best examples of Ottoman civic architecture. With its narrow, irregular streets where the two and three-storey houses are huddled together, the village is like an open air museum. The streets – in some places it is too narrow for two people to pass each other – are cobbled with flagstones, and there is a shallow gully along the centre of the street to carry water away. The ground floors of the houses are rubble stone masonry embedded with timber beams. While modern comforts do already have a foothold in the village, local customs and traditions still survive.





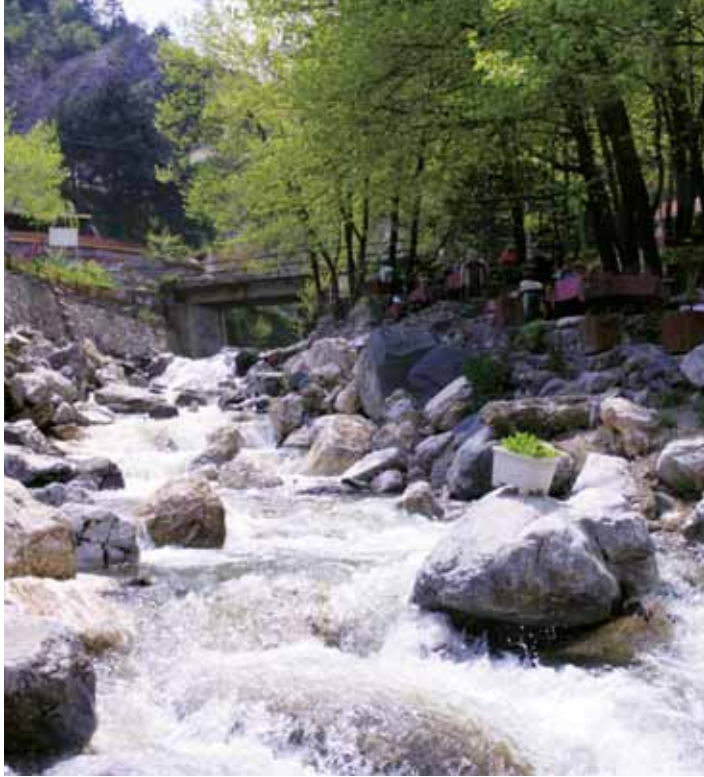
## Kültür Park

The park, situated to the north of Çekirge Street and to the north-west of the Bursa Atatürk Stadium has the largest green area within the city. In the park there are several places for refreshments such as restaurants, tea gardens and picnic areas as well as an artificial lake, archaeological museum, amusement park, open air theatre and a conservatory.



## Küreklidere Waterfalls

The waterfalls are situated near the Hamamlıkızık Village, within the forest, and have four cascades falling from a height of 80 metres. There is a nature trail along the Küreklidere stream as well as a trout farm which also has a restaurant.





## Uludağ National Park and Ski Centre

Uludağ (Mount Olympus) is 36 kilometres south of Bursa in the north Anatolian mountain range and with its 2,543 metre height it is the tallest mountain in the region. Uludağ is one of the most important winter sports centres in Turkey with skiing taking place for four months of the year. The centre provides facilities for Alpine and Nordic disciplines as well as ski touring and heli-skiing, and because of its proximity to the main Turkish cities, its good transport infrastructure and superb accommodation, it is a popular holiday choice.





With its natural beauty, rich fauna and flora protected by National Park status, Uludağ also has several designated trekking routes and camping facilities, which make the centre useable throughout the year.



## Soğanlı Botanical Gardens

**Soğanlı Botanical Gardens** have brought the rich flora of the Bursa region into a parkland setting, whereby visitors may enjoy hundreds of trees, shrubs and flowers. The park is used for scientific studies as well as plant observation and the nature trail is used for fitness training and leisure activities.

## High Plateaus

The **high plateaus** of Bursa with their greenery and pristine air are the principal places for eco-tourism in Bursa. Mountaineers, nature lovers, bird watchers, trekkers, mountain bikers and grass skiing enthusiasts will find excellent facilities in the high plateaus such as **Sarialan Yaylası, Kirazlı Yayla, Çobankaya Yaylası** and **Paşa Çayırı**.

# Thermal Tourism

## Thermal Tourism

### Spas

The sources of the rich thermal springs and spas of Bursa can be found on the lower slopes of Uludağ, in the Bademli Bahçe and Çekirge neighbourhoods. Their therapeutic use, i.e. drinking thermal spring waters, as well as bathing to cure some diseases, has been the principal reason for people visiting these historic spas, and today recreational treatments are becoming even more popular, which make them tourist attraction sites in Bursa.

#### • Eski (Old) Spa

Situated in the Çekirge Square this is the oldest and largest spa in Bursa. It has been known and used for many centuries. However, the current buildings were as a result of a huge rebuilding effort during the reign of Sultan Murat II.

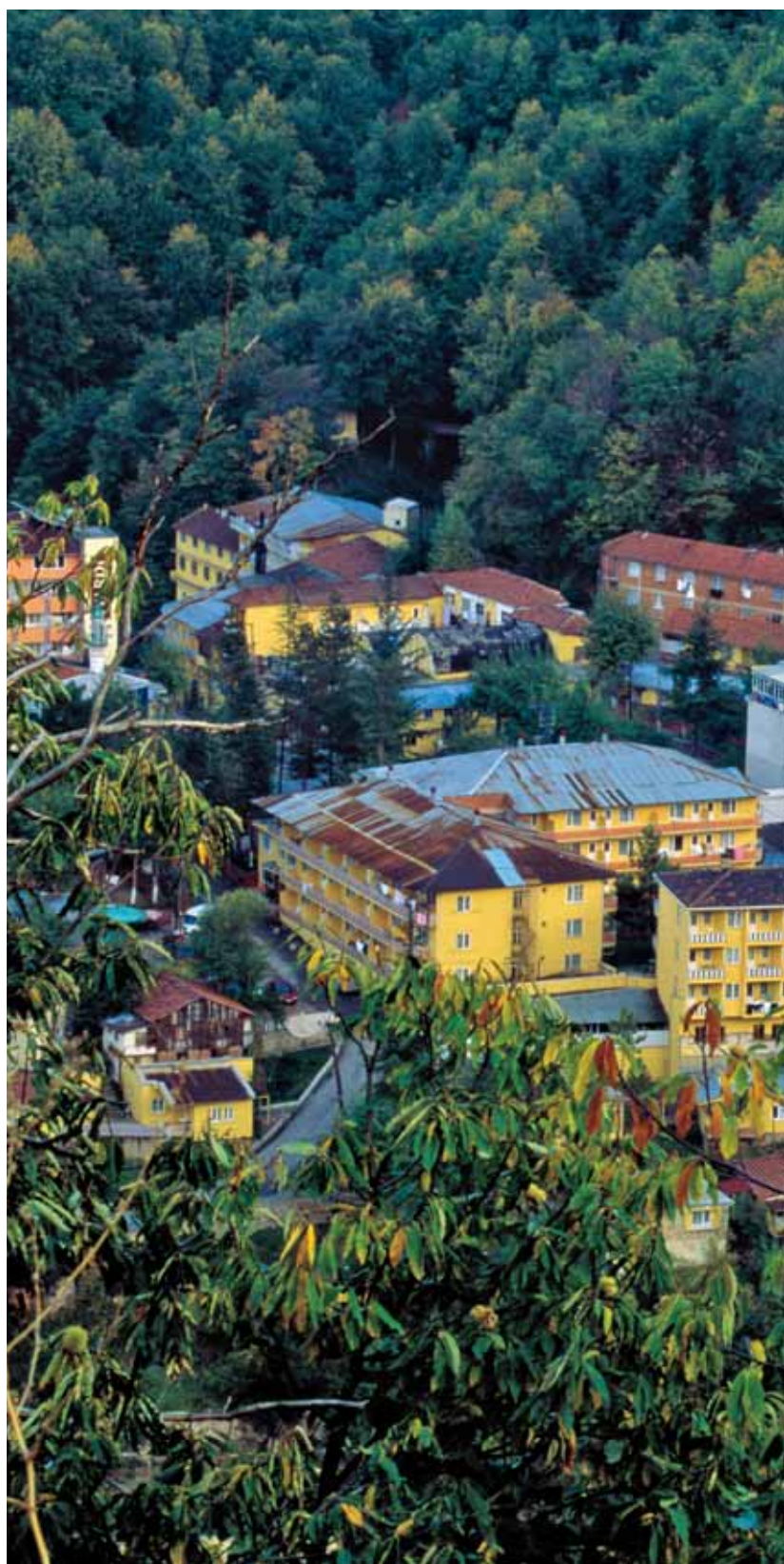
#### • Kükürtlü (Sulphurous) Spa

The Kükürtlü Spa is situated behind the Kükürtlü Gardens along the road from the centre of Bursa towards the Çekirge Neighbourhood. Its source comes from the Bademli Bahçe (almond orchard) region. The current men's section was commissioned by Sultan Murat I and the female section was commissioned by Sultan Bayezid II. At present it is managed as a rehabilitation centre by the Uludağ University.

#### • Yeni (New) Spa

The buildings of this spa were commissioned by Rüstem Pasha, the Grand Vizier of Sultan Süleyman the Magnificent, and it is famous for its therapeutic waters as well as the historic hammam building, which is a prime example of Ottoman classical architecture and is decorated with tiles and mosaics.









## *Sports and Entertainment* *Sports and Entertainment*

### **Sukay Park**

This park houses the first cable water ski facility in Turkey and has a 35,000 square metre artificial lake with a 5,000 square metre artificial island set among picturesque scenery. The park also has facilities for volleyball, tennis and track and field events, as well as a club house situated on the island.



## *Congress Tourism* *Congress Tourism*

### **Atatürk Congress and Cultural Centre**

One of the first modern industrial plants of the Republic of Turkey was the Merinos Textiles Factory built by Sümerbank. Today, its 260,000 square metre plot is dedicated to the Atatürk Congress and Cultural Centre and it has a 1,800 seat concert hall, an 800 seat performance hall and a 300 seat multipurpose hall. There are also 11 halls with a capacity varying between 50 and 100 seats. Using the most up-to-date technology the halls and social facilities have enabled Bursa to bid as an important centre for the international congress market.

# Counties Counties

The counties of Bursa are Büyükorhan, Gemlik, Gürsu, Harmancık, İnegöl, İznik, Karacabey, Keles, Kestel, Mudanya, Mustafakemalpaşa, Nilüfer, Orhaneli, Orhangazi, Osmangazi, Yenişehir and Yıldırım.

## Büyükorhan

The county was known as Orhan-ı Kebir during the Ottoman Period. Places to visit include **Derecik Basilica** from the 4th century and **Görecik Yayla**, a high plateau, which is 6 kilometres from the county centre and also ideal for nature trail walking, mountain biking and bird watching.

## Gemlik

Gemlik is a coastal county where the finest olives for eating are grown. During the summer the county becomes a hot spot for tourists in search of the sun and the sea. There is a museum in the county devoted to the third President of the Republic, Celal Bayar, and displaying his personal items and artefacts from the early days of the Republic.



## Gürsu

Gürsu is one the prettiest counties of Bursa and its historic oriental plane trees and buildings from the Ottoman Period are noteworthy. Moreover, it is possible to paraglide here as an alternative tourism option.

## İnegöl

İnegöl used to be an important settlement during the Ottoman Period. Historic buildings such as the **İshak Paşa, Yıldırım, Hamza Bey** and **Kurşunlu mosques** and **Kurşunlu** and **Ortaköy caravanserais** are worth a visit. The high plateaus of **Alaçam, Arabaoturacı, Boğazova, Kıran**, the historic oriental plane trees, **Oylat Cave**, and the **Oylat Spa and Picnic Area** are other tourist attractions in the county. A City Museum was opened early in 2009 and İnegöl is famous for its meatball industry as well as export oriented advanced furniture industry.



## İznik (Ancient Nicaea)

The county is situated on the eastern shore of İznik Lake. İznik was an important tolerant centre during the Roman, Byzantine, Seljuk and Ottoman periods in regard to its administrative as well as religious position. The First Ecumenical Council of the Christian Church was held in 325 AD at the Palace of the Senate, and the Seventh Ecumenical Council of Christianity, also known as the Second Council of Nicaea, was held in 787 AD in the Ayasofya Church in İznik. Both councils were extremely influential and many important decisions were taken at these councils.

The city walls of İznik are still standing, which unfortunately has not been the case for many other historic cities. During its long history İznik suffered from several powerful earthquakes and on each occasion it was repaired and extensively renovated. The county still proudly displays masterpieces from the Roman to the Ottoman periods.

İznik's attractive Roman masterpieces are: the **City Walls**, which are approximately 5 kilometres long; the **Lefke** and **İstanbul Gates** on the city walls; the **Theatre**; the **Stone Bridge** and **Beştaş Monument** (Obelisk). Byzantine masterpieces are: the famous **Ayasofya Church** (now called the **Ayasofya Museum**); the **Underground Grave** (Hypogeum) with its intricate floral and figurative frescos; **Böcek Ayazması** (Holy spring), and the **aqueducts**. Ottoman masterpieces are: the **Yeşil Mosque**, famous for its green tiles; and many other historic tombs, hammams and madrasahs. **İznik Lake**, **Sansarak Canyon** and the monumental trees provide some of the natural beauty of the region.



Yeşil Mosque



### • The Ceramic Art of İznik

The ceramic art of İznik flourished under the Seljuk influence and it gained a new perspective with the Ottomans. The first major example to the tile decoration of the Ottomans is the Green Mosque (*Yeşil Cami*) of İznik dating from the 16th and 17th centuries. The famous Ottoman traveller, Evliya Çelebi, visited İznik in the 17th century and reported that there were 300 tile kilns operating in İznik. However, during the 18th century İznik lost its prime position to Kütahya.

Most of the architectural masterpieces in İstanbul used İznik tiles. The distinguishing feature of İznik tiles are the specific blue, turquoise, green and red colours, as well as the stylised tulip, hyacinth, pomegranate and carnation figures. They also depict animal and ship figures. Included in the collections of the museums all over the world as precious art pieces, the İznik ceramics have recently begun to be produced again.







### • İznik Museum

The building was constructed in 1388 as a public kitchen in the memory of Nilüfer Hatun, mother of Sultan Murat I, to distribute food to the needy. One of the best examples of 14th century Ottoman architecture, it was the first public kitchen built to an inverted 'T' plan. During the early period of the Republic the building was used as a warehouse for various purposes, and in 1960 it was renovated and opened as a museum. The museum displays some of the archaeological finds from local excavations as well as exploratory digs at some of the tile kilns of İznik. The museum collection includes archaeological finds from local excavations as well as exploratory digs at some of the tile kilns of İznik.



- **İznik Ayasofya Museum**

Situated in the centre of İznik, this monument museum was once the church which witnessed the 7th Ecumenical Council in 787, a very important event for Christianity. It was built in the 4th century. However, it was demolished after an earthquake in the 11<sup>th</sup> century and rebuilt in the shape of a basilica with three naves. In 1331, this basilica shaped church was turned into a mosque by Orhan Ghazi.





## Karacabey

Karacabey is 65 kilometres west of Bursa and is famous for the **Karacabey Stud Farm** where racehorses are bred. Important historic buildings in the county are the **Ulu (Grand) Mosque**, commissioned by Sultan Murat I, **Karacabey Mosque**, which was built in 1457, and **Issız Cervanserai**. It has a coastal resort on the shores of the Marmara Sea called **Bayramdere** which is among the popular sea tourism facilities of the region.

## Keles

Keles County is situated on the southern slopes of Uludağ and its history goes back to ancient Bithynia. The most prominent historic building in Keles is the **Yakup Çelebi Complex**. The unique high plateau of **Kocayayla** is an ideal destination for camping, paragliding and trekking, while the river of **Kocasu** is attracting rafting enthusiasts.

## Kestel

The county is situated 12 kilometres east of Bursa. Its name derives from a Roman fortress. During the Ottoman Period Kestel was a village. However, it was developed with buildings commissioned by the chief religious official Mehmet Vani Efendi. Besides its historic fortress the most visited sites are: the **Babasultan Geyiklibaba Tomb**, the **seven-hundred-year-old giant oriental plane tree**; **Saitabat (Güvercinlik) Waterfall** and **picnic area** near Derekızık Village; **Gözede** and **Alaçam plateaus** which are very close to the centre of county.







## Mudanya

Mudanya County is situated along the shores of the Marmara Sea at the entrance of the Bay of Gemlik and it is approximately 25 kilometres from Bursa. The county is renowned for the **Armistice of Mudanya**, which was the ceasefire agreement ending the War of Turkish Liberation. The **Armistice House** is a 19th century Ottoman building, and it has been renovated to serve as a museum. The **Tahir Pasha Mansion** and several other ancient buildings, which are still in use as family homes, are examples of 17th and 18th century Ottoman civic architecture.

**Zeytinbağı** is a lovely coastal town in Mudanya County and is renowned for its secluded position among olive-orchard clad hills as well as its historic houses.

## Mustafakemalpaşa

The county's old name was Kirmastı, and in the county the ancient city of **Miletopolis** is noteworthy. Places of historical interest such as the **Lala Şahin Tomb**, the **Şeyh Müftü Mosque and Tomb**, and the **Hamza Bey Mosque and Tomb** are in the town, while the **Dorak Treasure** and **Kestelek Ruins** are all within the county. Picturesque natural wonders such as the **Suuçtu Waterfalls** near **Muradiyesarnıç Village** and **Suçıktı Picnic Area** in Sögütalan are also in the locality.



## Orhaneli

The county is situated on the slopes of Uludağ about 55 kilometres from Bursa. **Çınarcık** village and the area around it are renowned for their natural beauty and there are many facilities serving day trippers.

## Orhangazi

The county is situated on the road between Bursa and Yalova, 48 kilometres north of Bursa. When the Ottomans settled in the area it was a small market village; it began its development with a major mosque built by Sultan Orhan Ghazi. Orhangazi County nowadays is a major industrial area second to Bursa. The land lying to the west of İznik Lake comes under the beneficial climatic influence of the **Keramet Thermal Springs** and some of the best tasting olives in the world are grown here.

## Yenişehir

Yenişehir is 45 kilometres east of Bursa and was used as a central military settlement during the reign of Osman Ghazi to facilitate raids in the region. Over time it has been rebuilt and now houses a rich heritage from the Ottoman Period. The **Saray Hamamı** (Palace Hammam), the only building left standing from the palace commissioned by Osman Ghazi; the **Ulu** (Grand) **Mosque**, commissioned by Orhan Bey; a small dervish lodge called **Postinpuş Baba Zaviyesi**, from the reign of Sultan Murat I; the **Voyvoda Mosque** (**Çınarlı Mosque**), built in the 14th century; the **Koca Sinan Pasha Complex**, built in the 16th century; the **Bali Bey Mosque**; the **Süleyman Pasha Complex**; the **Çifte Hammam** (twin bathhouses), built by the Deli Hüseyin Pasha from Yenisehir in 1645; the **Orhan Mosque** in Yarhisar Village and the **Clock Tower** are noteworthy historic buildings. The **Şemaki House** is a unique example of Ottoman civic architecture and is open to visitors as a museum.





# *Local Characteristics*

## *Local Characteristics*

### **Handicrafts**

Situated on the Silk Road and being the first capital of the Ottoman Empire, Bursa is an important cultural centre. Some of the handicrafts representing the old skills are still practised in the region. The most well known are **cutlery making**, **rawhide sandal making**, **wickerwork**, **harness making** (production and repair of horse harnesses), **saddle making**, and most important of all, **tile making** and **silk production**.







## Karagöz Play

The 'shadow play' of Turkish popular theatre is known as Karagöz and its name is derived from the name of the chief hero of the plays. Its origin goes back to 700 years ago and the primary characters, Karagöz and Hacivat, are believed to have been masonry masters employed in the construction of the Ulu Mosque.



The plays consist of four parts. The *mukaddime* is the introduction of the plot, where invariably the contrasting characters of Karagöz and Hacivat end up in a fight. The *muhavere* is the second part and mainly consists of rapid dialogue and bitter wordplay between the characters, thereby developing the plot. The *fasıl* is the third part, where other characters are introduced. And *bitiş* is the finale, where dialogue and fighting is mainly again between Karagöz and Hacivat. The other characters usually include types such as: *Tuzsuz Çelebi* (a handsome and well-to-do youth who smooth-talks the ladies); *Matiz* (a drunkard); *Beberuhi* (a playful,



mentally retarded dwarf); *Arnavut* (an Albanian); *Yahudi* (a Jew); *Çerkez* (a Circassian); *Kürt* (a Kurd); *Laz* (a Lazi); *Tiryaki* (an opium addict, always asleep when needed); and *Zenne* (female characters, either young and man-eaters, or old and chatterboxes). During the play moving the mobile figures called “reflector” pressed on the curtain according to the dialogue, and all the different voices, accents and dialects of the characters are created by only a single artist. The wordplay, accents and dialects, misunderstandings and exaggerations are the principal comedy elements. The play generally has a deeper mystical or philosophical content, and it provides a deniable criticism.



## CUISINE

The **İskender kebab** (grilled meat slices served on a bed of pitta bread softened with tomato sauce, glazed with melted butter and with a side portion of yoghurt) is a unique Bursa dish of worldwide fame. **İnegöl-style grilled meatballs**, **Kemalpaşa dessert in syrup**, the hard and salty **Mihaliç cheese** made from sheep's milk, and **candied chestnuts** should all be tasted.



Candied Chestnuts

## SHOPPING

Bursa is one of the principal textile centres in Turkey and is famous for silk and wool fabrics, which have been exported since the days of the Ottoman Empire. The centre for buying silk fabric is the historic **Koza Han**. Bursa is also famous for its soft and fluffy **towels** and **bathrobes**. Also, world-renowned **candied chestnuts** (*marrons glacé*) of Bursa are a taste every visitor must try. Products can be purchased in shopping centres along the road to Istanbul as well as in small shops in the city centre.





## TRANSPORT

Bursa is situated at the junction of routes connecting the Marmara Region to the Aegean as well as the inner and western Anatolia regions, and has road, sea and air connections. Those who opt for road transport can find intercity coaches in every major city in Turkey to Bursa. The intercity bus terminal in Bursa is approximately 10 kilometres from the city centre. For those arriving from İstanbul there are regular fast ferries as well as passenger-only sea-bus connections to Mudanya, and the Bursa Yenişehir Airport is another alternative for those who choose air transportation.

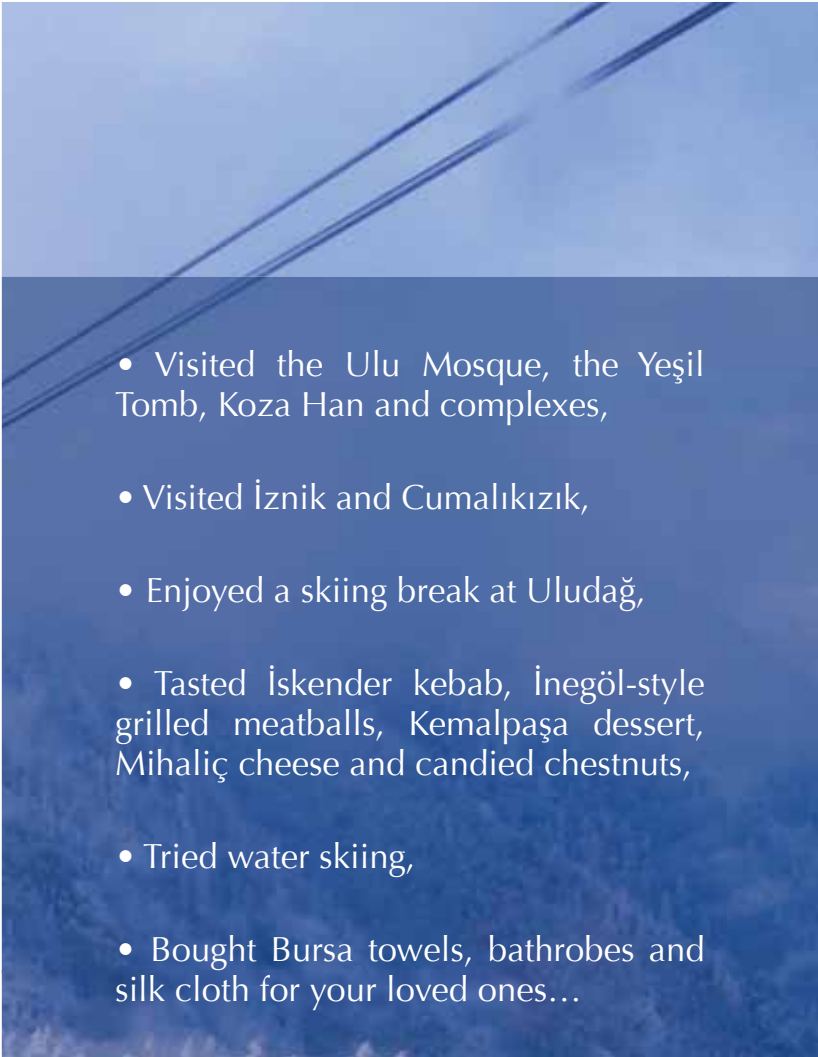


## ACCOMMODATION

After İstanbul, Bursa is the most important tourism centre in north-west of Turkey and offers various types of accommodation. In the city there are luxurious five-star hotels, pensions and aparthotels, and at Uludağ, boutique hotels and mountain chalet-style accommodation facilities are available for a comfortable holiday.

*Do Not Return  
Unless You Have...*



- 
- Visited the Ulu Mosque, the Yeşil Tomb, Koza Han and complexes,
  - Visited İznik and Cumalıkızık,
  - Enjoyed a skiing break at Uludağ,
  - Tasted İskender kebab, İnegöl-style grilled meatballs, Kemalpaşa dessert, Mihaliç cheese and candied chestnuts,
  - Tried water skiing,
  - Bought Bursa towels, bathrobes and silk cloth for your loved ones...





## FESTIVALS AND FAIRS

International Bursa Festival .....	
International Golden Karagöz Folk Dance Contest .....	
International Bursa Children and Youth Theatres Festival .....	
European Film Festival on Wheels .....	
International Bursa Karagöz Shadow and Puppet Festival .....	
Harmancık Animal and Goods Fair .....	
Traditional Keles Kocayayla Festivities .....	
Olive Festival .....	
Göynükbelen Strawberry and Cherry Festival .....	
Karagöz Cultural Festivities .....	
Culture and Arts Festival .....	
Orhangazi Olive Festival .....	
Folklore Festival .....	
Anniversary of Atatürk's Arrival at İznik .....	
İznik Fair .....	
Büyükorhan Fair .....	
Gölyazı Environmental and Cultural Festivities .....	
Cumalıkızık Raspberry Festivities .....	
Traditional Circumcision Festivities .....	
Traditional Gürsu Culture Art Week and Pear Festivities .....	
Commemoration Ceremony of Ulubatlı Hasan .....	
Spring Fair .....	
Autumn Fair .....	



- ..... **1 Jun–12 Jul (Centre)**
- ..... **7–12 Jul (Centre)**
  
- ..... **Oct (Centre)**
  
- ..... **Oct (Centre)**
- ..... **Dec (Centre)**
  
- ..... **17–22 Aug (Harmancık)**
  
- ..... **3–4 Jul (Keles)**
- ..... **3–4 Aug (Gemlik)**
- ..... **26–27 Jun (Orhaneli)**
  
- ..... **3rd week of Jun (Orhaneli)**
- ..... **10 Sep (Orhangazi)**
- ..... **3 Nov (Orhangazi)**
- ..... **Jul (Orhangazi)**
- ..... **15 Jul (İznik)**
- ..... **5–8 Oct (İznik)**
- ..... **24–27 Aug (Büyükorhan)**
- ..... **1st week of Jun (Nilüfer)**
- ..... **6 July (Yıldırım)**
- ..... **Last week of Jun (Gürsu)**
- ..... **Last week of Jul (Gürsu)**
  
- ..... **29 May (Karacabey)**
- ..... **26 May (Karacabey)**
- ..... **26 Sept (Karacabey)**

## AVERAGE TEMPERATURES (°C)

January	5.5	July	24.6
February	5.9	August	24.1
March	8.3	September	20.1
April	13.0	October	15.3
May	17.6	November	10.4
June	22.3	December	7.2



## IMPORTANT CONTACTS

### **Governor's Office**

(+90 224) 225 19 00 - 222 60 00

### **Metropolitan Municipality**

(+90 224) 225 18 09

### **Provincial Directorate of Culture and Tourism**

(+90 224) 220 99 26-220 70 19

### **Tourist Information Office**

(+90 224) 220 18 48

### **TÜRSAB (Turkish Association of Travel Agencies)**

(+90 224) 232 52 02

### **GÜMTOB (South Marmara Regional Association of**

### **Touristic Hoteliers)**

(+90 224) 233 62 24

### **Coach Terminal**

(+90 224) 261 54 00

### **State Hospital**

(+90 224) 220 00 20

### **Tourism Police**

(+90 224) 225 53 37

### **State Gallery for Fine Arts**

(+90 224) 223 26 59

### **Office of Regional Council for Protection of Cultural and Natural Heritage**

(+90 224) 220 14 37

### **Directorate of Museum of Archaeology**

(+90 224) 234 49 18

### **Library**

(+90 224) 326 79 09

### **Regional Office of the State Symphony Orchestra**

(+90 224) 241 57 73

### **Office for Relevé Drawing and Monuments**

(+90 224) 224 86 80

**Medical Emergency**      **Gendarmerie**

**112**

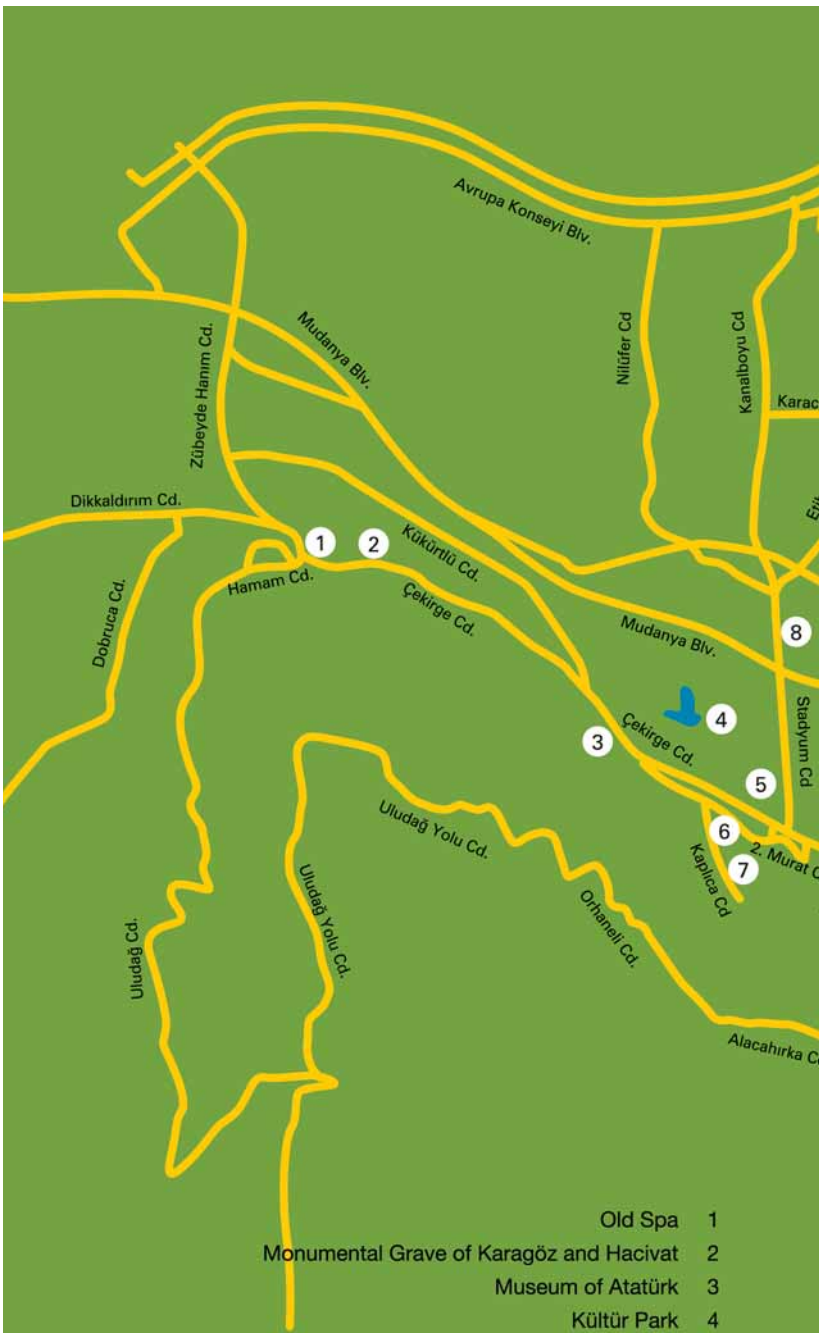
**156**

**Police**

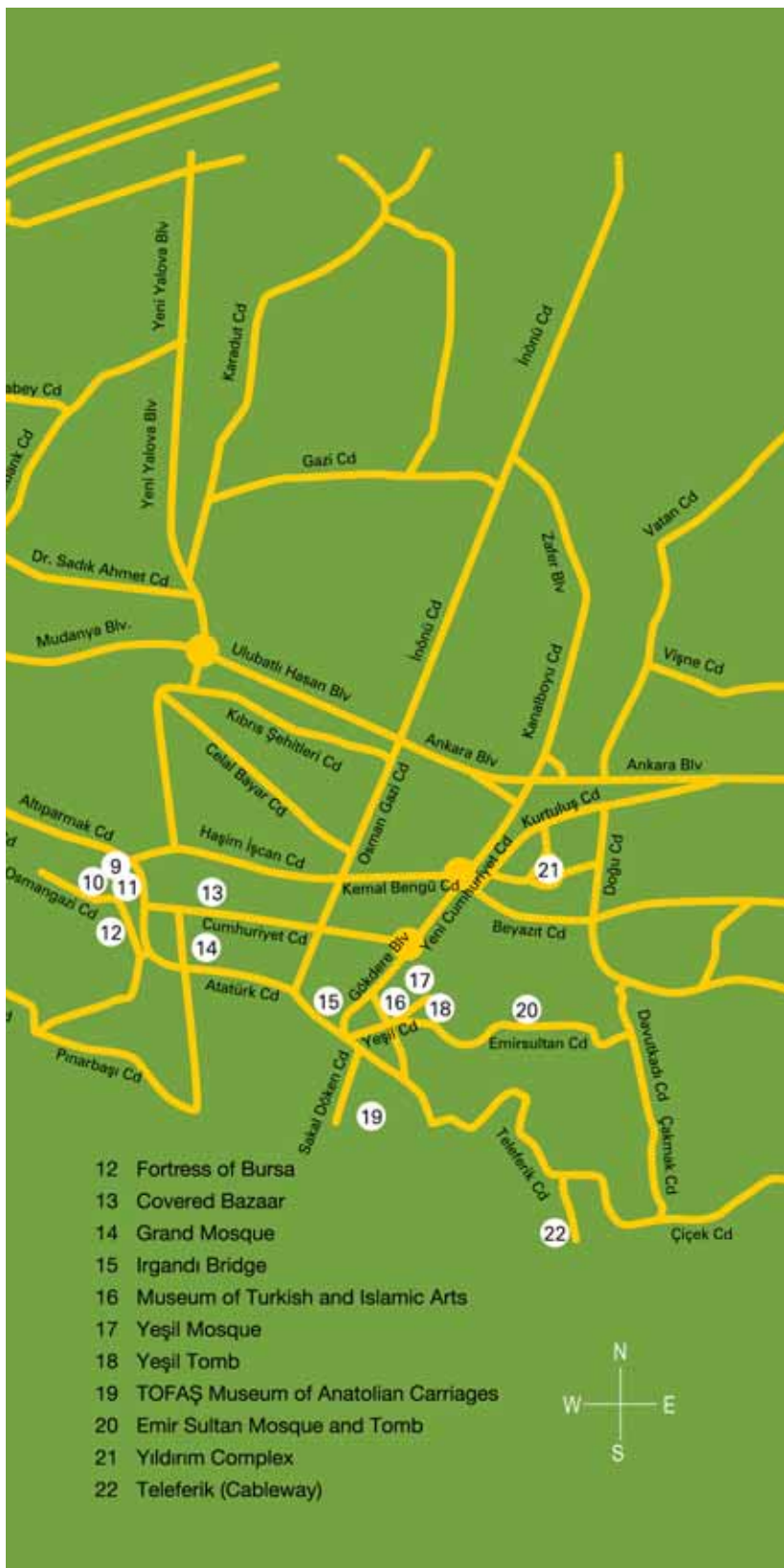
**Fire**

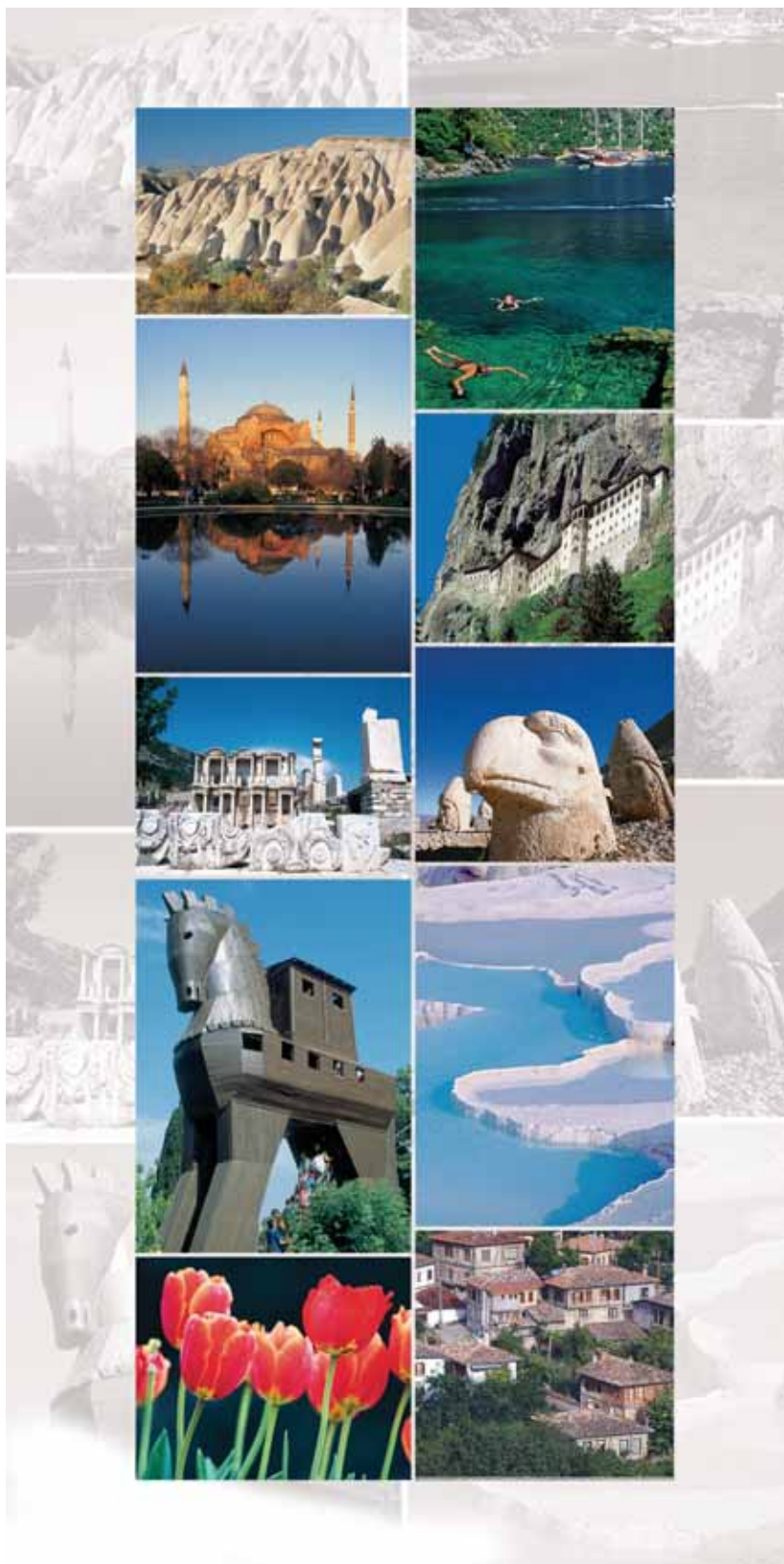
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**110**



- Old Spa 1
- Monumental Grave of Karagöz and Hacivat 2
- Museum of Atatürk 3
- Kültür Park 4
- Stadium of Bursa 5
- Museum of the 17<sup>th</sup> Century Ottoman House 6
- Muradiye Complex 7
- Atatürk Congress and Cultural Centre 8
- Tophane Park and Clock Tower 9
- Tomb of Osman Ghazi 10
- Tomb of Orhan Ghazi 11







## Cultural Heritage is Fragile

The world's cultural heritage is like a big puzzle. Each monument, each object, is an irreplaceable part of the overall picture which gives us insight into our origins, our development and our lives today. It helps us to understand and appreciate other cultures. Each discovery, each new interpretation adds to the puzzle and makes the picture clearer. We must ensure the protection of every single piece today, so that future generations may have the opportunities to enjoy the puzzle.

Many people are not aware that our cultural heritage is under stress from natural disasters such as earthquakes and floods, and from slower acting processes such as pollution or human actions. Even the most innocent gestures such as collecting ancient pieces of pottery or mosaics as souvenirs have a destructive impact if repeated by thousands. Touching an object of stone, metal or textile leaves traces of grease, acid or sweat on its surface. Climbing a monument wears down the structure underneath and can dismantle it. Writing or engraving names inflicts permanent damage. Strolling around narrow crowded places with bulky bags or backpacks might knock over an object or scratch a mural painting and ruin it. There are countless ways in which one can unknowingly contribute to the destruction of cultural heritage.

In 2020 there will be 1.6 billion visitors per year worldwide. Let us raise awareness of this issue so that we may join together to protect and enjoy the diversity and richness of our cultural heritage.

**International Organization for Conservation of Cultural Heritage (ICCROM)**





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# Bursa

The city of Bursa is located at the junction connecting Istanbul to the Aegean Region in a north-south direction, and has many distinctive features which make it special among the other popular tourist destinations. Bursa, one of the capital cities of the Ottoman Empire, stands as a reflection of the early periods of the Ottoman culture. It is home to numerous works belonging to many civilisations from antiquity to the modern day. The city is like an open-air museum with its historic atmosphere. With its lush green nature, its world-renowned winter tourism centre Uludağ, its Cumalıkızık Village housing traces of history, its thermal springs and counties of different beauty, Bursa is a leading tourism centre.

