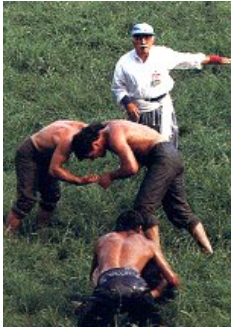


## Edirne



Edirne: One of Turkey's border cities and gateway to the West, a charming city with a fascinating nature and cultural heritage. Founded by the Thracians that migrated from Middle Asia in the ancient times, the city was named, "Paşa Sancağı" (an administrative division) during the Ottoman era. Edirne grew in importance as it served as capital city for 92 years after it was taken by the Ottomans. Edirne province, which stretches along the Meriç River, is situated south of the Istranca Mountains. Edirne is under the effect of a continental climate. The long and cold winter months are followed by warm summer months. Edirne, abounding in historical buildings and structures, has also many places worth seeing and many delicacies worth trying. A cultural mosaic, the city will embrace you with its hospitable inhabitants. Are you ready to meet Edirne, one the most beautiful cities of western Turkey?



### How can I go there?

Located in the Thracian region, Edirne can be reached only via highway as there is no airport nearby. The nearest airport is located in Istanbul. After your arrival in Istanbul, you can take one of the intercity buses leaving from the central bus station to Edirne and arrive there after a short drive. The local transit occurs via public transport vehicles and taxis. Edirne is waiting for you to spend a nice time.

### Attractions

Turkey's westernmost province, Edirne will surprise you with the variety of historical structures and streets around every other corner. The bridges scattered all over Edirne, due to the four rivers passing through the area, give the historical city the final touch. Beyazıt, Gazi Mihal, Yıldırım, Yalnız Göz, Fatih, Meriç, Saraçhane and Tunca Bridges are among the historical bridges taken under protection. The Edirne Archeology and Ethnography Museum, Museum of Islamic Arts, Turkish History of Psychiatry Museum and Lausanne Monument and Museum exhibit the local artifacts and shed light to the history of the region. The Enez (Ainos) Castle, the Church of Sweti George, the Church of Sts. Constantine and Helen, the Jewish Synagogue, Adalet Kasrı (Justice Tower), Rüstem Pasha Caravanserai and the Selimiye, Defterdar, Darül Hadis, Ayşekadın mosques are some of historical monuments of the city. You can visit the historical houses of Edirne, Selimiye Mosque and historical bazaars and even take a traditional bath in a Turkish bath if

you wish.

We recommend not to leave Edirne before tasting the local specialties such as Kavala cookies and almond paste as well as pan fried liver, damat paçası (kind of pastry with chicken, oven made), mamzana (salad with eggplant), ciğer sarma (a type of liver meal), Elbasan tava and satır köfte (meatballs in local style ).

Hardaliye, which is a mixture of mustard and hot almond with grape juice, is another delicious local drink that you should try. We are sure that you haven't drunk such a delicious drink before.

Saros Gulf is one of the most beautiful places in the region of Thrace. Saros where you can enjoy the sun, the sea and the beach, is a gateway to the Aegean Sea. Enez, Güneyli, Keşan and Uzunkum beaches are among the alternative destinations.

The Gala Lake National Park (a natural protection area) and other lakes are among the natural beauties of the area where you can observe the Meriç River meeting with the Aegean Sea. We recommend you not to forget your camera as you visit this huge area of lakes.

Referred to as the "Gateway to Happiness" or the "City of Festivities," by the Ottomans, Edirne is ever ready to welcome you!

## **Events**

As a living cultural mosaic, Edirne entertains its guests with festivals organized during the whole year.

The International Wind Instruments Festival becomes the scene of a variety of concerts by national and international artists and musical groups. Organized in June, the festival program includes a variety of concerts.

The Kırkpınar Oil Wrestling and Cultural Festival, Mecidiye and Kurtbey Dallık Festival, Ipsala Çeltik (Rice) Culture and Arts Festival are among the other festivals of this city.

Edirne is waiting for all vacationers who wish to explore and get to know the regional festivals.