



Türkiye

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EDİRNE



REPUBLIC OF TÜRKİYE
MINISTRY OF CULTURE
AND TOURISM

Selimiye Mosque



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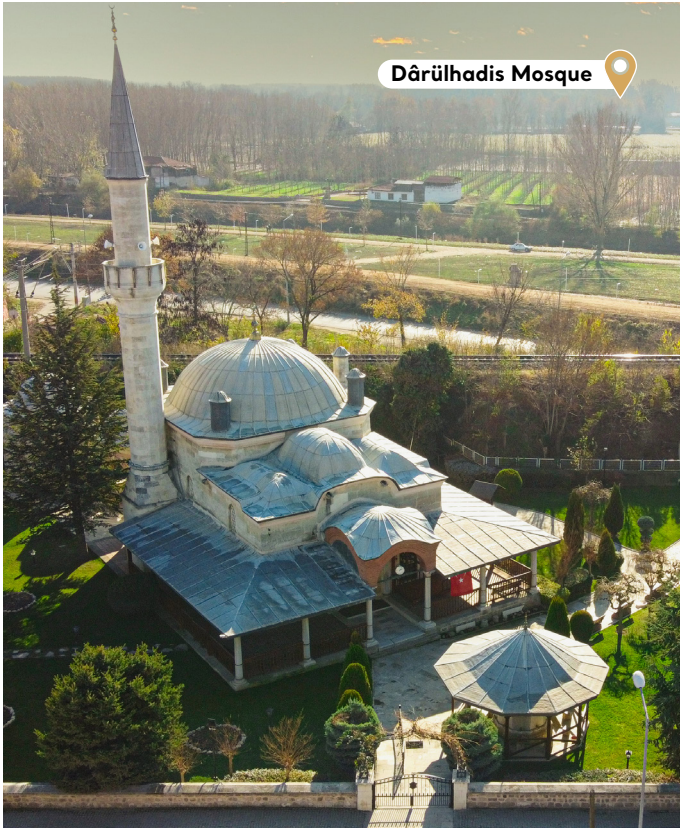


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Selimiye Mosque





DISCOVER EDİRNE

- Welcome to Edirne, "wherever you turn your head in this city, you will see history and travel through time". This city served as the capital of the Ottoman Empire for nearly a century, from 1361 until the conquest of İstanbul. Every corner of this city is adorned with invaluable works of this magnificent civilization.
- Immerse yourself in the soothing ambiance of the Selimiye Mosque, which stands out like a glittering diamond wherever you go in Edirne and impressing you not only with its elegance but also its architectural brilliance.
- Do not miss the chance to shop in the 225-meter-long, 73-arched, and 4-gated Selimiye Arasta Bazaar, built opposite the Selimiye Mosque Complex during the reign of Murat III to generate income for this massive complex. Its shops are filled with the most unique products of Edirne.
- Explore the Ottoman legacy of the city's bridges, including Uzunköprü, one of the longest stone bridge in the world, which stretches across the city like a necklace of jewels.
- Inhale the spiritual air of this ancient city at Edirne's historical mosques such as Beylerbeyi, Dâr-ül-Hadis, Eski (Ulu), Gazi Mihal Bey, Hıdır Ağa, Kasım Pasha, Sitti Şah Sultan, Muradiye, Şah Melek, Üç Şerefeli, Yıldırım Mosque, Enez Ayasofya, Hersekzâde Ahmed Pasha, Alaca Mustafapaşa.

- Enjoy the nature without leaving the city in the recreation areas surrounding Edirne's two most important rivers, Meriç and Tunca.
- Experience both history and nature together on the Meriç River with the historic Kancabaş boats, painted in the unique shade of Edirne Red.
- Indulge in the sea, sand and sun at the beaches of Enez, Erikli, Mecidiye-Uzunkum, as well as Danişment and Gökçetepe nature parks and Mecidiye-İbrice Harbor. Take a plunge into the refreshing waters of the Aegean.
- Spend peaceful moments in Danişment Nature Park, Gökçetepe Nature Park, Koru Mountains, Söğütlük Urban Forest, Tavuk Forest (Has Bahçe), Enez Dalyan Lake and Erikli Salt Lake, surrounded by Edirne's unique nature.
- Be sure to visit Edirne Archaeology and Ethnography Museum, Turkish-Islamic Arts Museum, historical Karaağaç Neighborhood, Karaağaç Train Station and Lausanne Monument to gain an in-depth understanding of Edirne's history and culture.
- Visit Necmi İğe House Ethnography Museum which showcases Edirne's historical fabric and cultural heritage, offering visitors the opportunity to closely experience the city's traditional way of life.



Necmi İe House Ethnography Museum



Edirne Museum





II. Bayezid Complex Health Museum 



CULTURAL TREASURES

Edirne, which has held the keys to Thrace and thus the passage between Asia and Europe for ages, has been an important settlement since the earliest times. Edirne first appeared on the stage of history with the city of Uskudama, founded by Thracian Tribes. Since then, many different cities have been established within the present-day borders of Edirne. After Uskudama, Edirne was home to Odrysia, the capital of the historical Odrysonian Kingdom, which was later transformed into the city of Orestias, founded by Orestes, the son of Agamemnon and his wife Clytemnestra, who commanded the Achaean forces in the Trojan War. Hadrian, the third of Rome's "Five Good Emperors" and the most important emperor in terms of public works, expanded the borders of the city of Orestias, renewed its walls, and renamed it Hadrianopolis after the many new buildings he constructed. Even during the Roman Period, the city of Edirne proved that Hadrian's appreciation of it was not in vain by hosting many historical events. For instance, Constantine achieved victory over Licinius here; Emperor Valens was defeated and killed by the Goths at the Battle of Adrianople in 378 CE. Adrianople, which passed to the Eastern Roman Empire after the division of Rome, experienced short-lived





Uzunköprü



Bulgarian invasions before the Latin invasions during the Crusades but remained largely an Eastern Roman city until it came under the control of the Ottoman Empire in 1361 during the reign of Sultan Murat I Hüdavendigâr. Thus, the Ottoman Capital was moved from Bursa to Edirne, and one of the first monumental mosque and the first monumental palace, which were to symbolize the transition of the Ottoman Empire from a principality to a state striving for global dominance, were established in Edirne.

There are vestiges and reminders of the Ottoman Empire everywhere in Edirne, which was the capital of the empire for the second-longest period of time, behind İstanbul. In Edirne, the city of rivers and bridges, the "Uzunköprü", built on the Ergene River between 1427-1444 and still one of the longest stone bridge in the world today, is one of the most precious of the countless gifts bestowed on Edirne by the Ottomans. The 15th century Fatih (Cephanelik) Bridge with three arches, the Sultan Bayezid II. Bridge built in 1488 by Architect Hayrettin together with the Sultan Bayezid II Complex, the 16-arched Gazi Mihal Bey Bridge, the XVI. century by Mimar Sinan, the four-arched Kanuni (Saray) Bridge, the Yalnızgöz Bridge, also by Mimar Sinan, the ten-arched Saraçhane Bridge built by the famous vizier Hadım Şahabettin Pasha in 1451 and the Ekmekçizade Tunca Bridge built by



the architect Sedefkâr Mehmet Ağa at the beginning of the 17th century are located on the Tunca River. In addition, the Mecidiye (Meriç) Bridge on the Meriç River was built between 1842 and 1847 during the reign of Abdülmecit and is 263 meters long with 12 arches.

The Ottoman legacy in Edirne encompasses more than just palaces, mosques, and bridges. Annually hosted in Edirne, Kırkpınar Oil Wrestling Festival stands as Türkiye's oldest cultural and sporting event, adding another layer to the city's rich heritage. There exist numerous legends surrounding Kırkpınar Oil Wrestling Festival. At the same time Kırkpınar Oil Wrestling Festival was inscribed on UNESCO's Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity in 2010. Many legends surround the origins of the Kırkpınar Oil Wrestling Festival. According to the most common account, during Orhan Gazi's campaigns to conquer Rumelia, his eldest son Süleyman Pasha marched with 40 soldiers against the Eastern Rome-held Domuzhisar and captured it in a surprise attack.

Kırkpınar Oil Wrestling Festival Area



After securing other fortresses, the group of 40 warriors retreated and rested in Samona, now within the borders of Greece. There, the warriors began wrestling among themselves. Among them, two brothers, said to be named Ali and Selim, engaged in a match that lasted for hours without a clear winner.

Later, on Hidrellez Day, the same pair wrestled again near Ahıköy meadow, close to Edirne. Despite wrestling all day, they still couldn't determine a victor. Their struggle continued under candle and lantern light throughout the night. Ultimately, they both collapsed and passed away from exhaustion. Their companions buried them beneath a fig tree in the meadow before departing. Years later, when the group returned to the site, they discovered a spring gushing forth where the two wrestlers had been laid to rest. In their memory, the area was named "Kırkpınar," meaning "Forty Springs".

NATURAL BEAUTIES

The rivers Meriç, Arda, and Tunca, which originate in the rocky Balkan Mountains, meet in Edirne, a city known for its intertwining rivers and numerous bridges. They join the waters of the Ergene River further south before pouring into the Aegean Sea. Edirne appears to have absorbed the riches of these varied seas and climates as it is located at the crossroads of the Thracian Region, nestled between three seas—the Black Sea, the Sea of Marmara, and the Aegean. Perched on the Aegean Sea's frontier, Edirne also beckons as a coastal destination, unveiling a trove of pristine beaches cradled by untouched natural surroundings. The renowned Erikli Beach, adorned with its excellence, stands as the jewel of the Saros Gulf, shining brightly in the Aegean landscape. Its golden sands and crystal-clear waters have earned it a reputation that echoes far and wide.

For those who relish the purity of swimming in refreshing, translucent waters, Enez Beach offers an irresistible allure. Renewed and cleansed by its ever-moving currents, this beach holds a magnetic pull for aquatic enthusiasts seeking an invigorating experience. Meanwhile, Mecidiye Uzunkum Beach in the village of Keşan's Mecidiye quarter presents a secluded oasis of tranquility. Surrounded by untamed maquis vegetation, the expansive sandy expanse is void of nearby settlements, creating





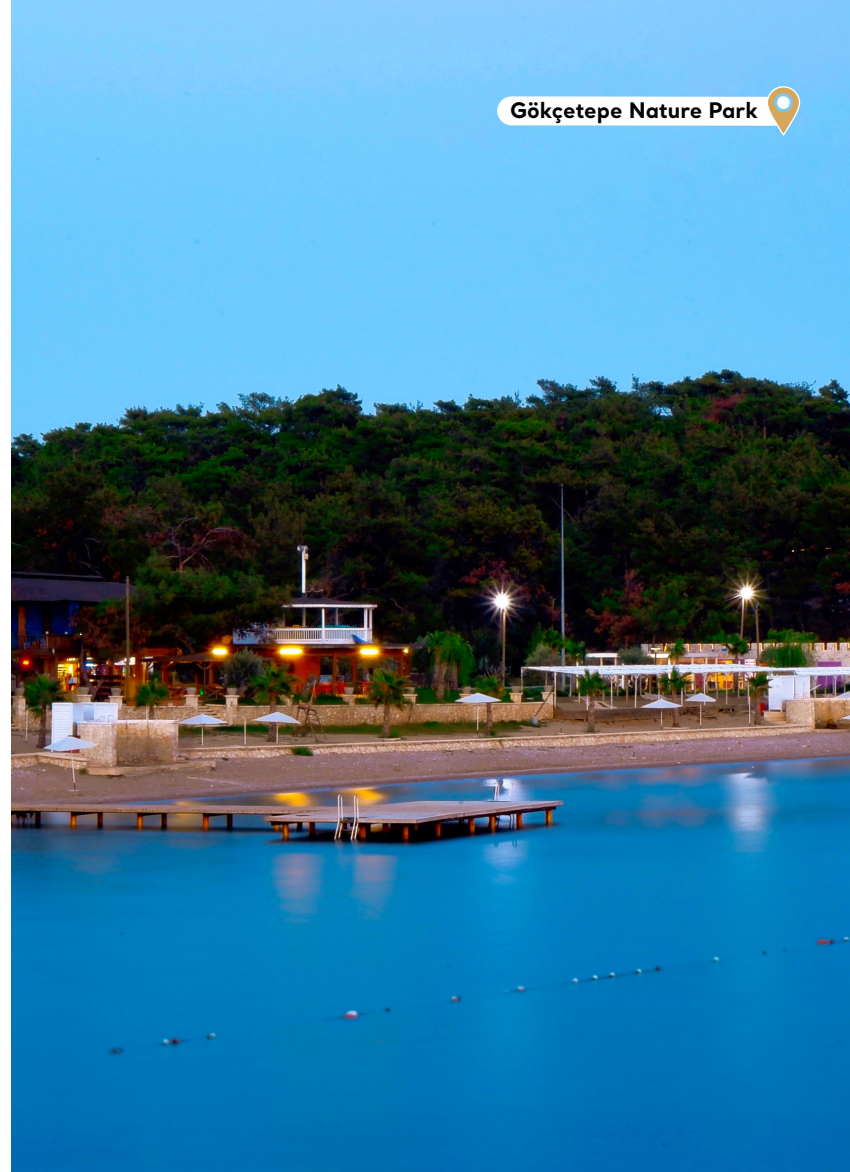
an environment that invites leisurely angling and invigorating diving endeavors. This coastal haven promises an exploration waiting to unfold.

Encompassing an expansive 6,090 hectares of wetlands and forests, Gala Lake National Park stands as one of the biggest wetland areas of Türkiye's ecological tapestry. It beckons to avid birdwatchers, boasting a captivating array of 163 bird species awaiting observation. Among them, 46 species are native residents, 27 are winter migrants, and 90 are summer migrants. Beyond its allure for avian enthusiasts, the park offers an ideal setting for educational purposes, delving into rare ecosystems, biodiversity studies, geological formations, geomorphology, as well as providing picturesque backdrops for photography and exploration of archaeological sites. Additionally, the park is a cherished haven for leisurely excursions and picnics, inviting both family gatherings and rendezvous with friends.

Spanning a sprawling 1,319 hectares, Danişment Nature Park emerges as a haven for those yearning to bask in nature's embrace. This idyllic expanse unveils a unique beachfront, along with camping facilities and daily use areas, catering to various preferences of the visitors. A plethora of opportunities await within its realm, ensuring an enjoyable sojourn amidst pristine surroundings.

Venturing to Gökçetepe Nature Park reveals an enclave rightly dubbed the hidden paradise. Its sandy shores coalesce harmoniously with the encompassing forest, forming a natural marvel. This oasis beckons those who relish moments spent in intimate communion with the sea, a serene escape from the public eye. Steeped in historical resonance, Mecidiye-Ibrice Harbor presents an irresistible allure to both novice and seasoned diving enthusiasts. Its shallow, temperate waters, devoid of disruptive waves, serve as an inviting canvas for underwater exploration, recounting tales of the past through submerged artifacts.

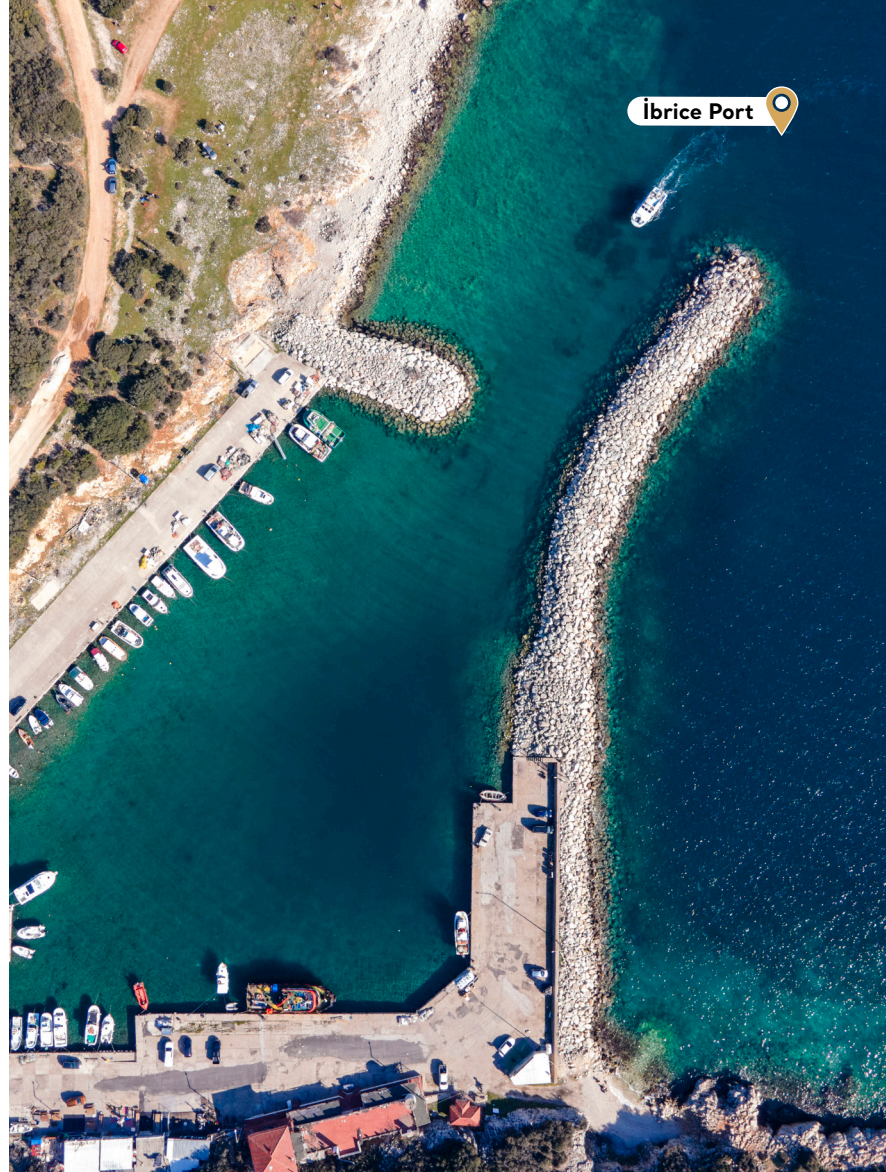
The grandeur of Koru Mountains, a sentinel marking the northern bounds of the Gallipoli Peninsula, unfurls with an enchanting panorama. Lush forests adorned with red pine, larch, and oak trees adorn its terrain, serving as a testament to nature's boundless vitality and resilience.



Within the embrace of Edirne, Söğütlük City Forest reigns as a pinnacle of recreational delight. Offering a multitude of engaging activities, it entices visitors with an array of leisurely pursuits and the promise of cherished memories.

Nestled within the embrace of history and verdant foliage, Sarayıçi Tavuk Forest (Has Bahçe) stands as a serene testament to nature's splendor. A historical hunting lodge, harking back to the era of Sultan Mehmet IV, graces its expanse, encapsulating a tranquil corner of paradise, cocooned in natural beauty.

Enez Dalyan Lake emerges as an exclusive migratory bird watching sanctuary, captivating all who venture to its shores with an enchanting avian symphony. Adjacent to Erikli Beach, Erikli Salt Lake captivates with its innate charm and frequent visits from migratory birds, rendering it a captivating tableau of natural wonder.





Zerde



Mutancana



Edirne Almond Cookie

EDİRNE CUISINE

When thoughts turn to Edirne, the quintessential dish that springs to mind is undoubtedly Edirne Fried Liver, colloquially referred to as 'Tava Ciğer' (leaf liver). Accompanied by the distinct Edirne-style fried red peppers, this culinary delight is an indelible mark on your palate. Crafted from humble ingredients such as beef liver, sunflower oil, and grain flour, the masterful execution of this dish ensures that Edirne becomes etched in your gastronomic memory.

Beyond its role as the Ottoman Empire's capital, Edirne welcomed numerous sultans who frequented the city during their campaigns and for various other reasons post the conquest of İstanbul. This historic interplay left an

enduring imprint of palace cuisine on Edirne. It is this legacy that bequeaths a rich tapestry of delicacies like Mutancana, Zirva, Zerde, Marzipan, and Deva-i Musk Halva into Edirne's traditional flavors.

The fecund Thracian plains also contribute significantly to Edirne's culinary prowess. Noteworthy among the city's indigenous products are Edirne Beyaz Cheese, Karaçalı Honey, İpsala Rice, Couscous, Keşan Satır Meat, and Eel—these local treasures boast both exceptional quality and a natural allure.

Edirne is a destination rich in geographically indicated products: Edirne Fried Liver, Edirne Ciğer Sarma (stuffed liver), Meriç Peanuts, Keşan Chopped Meat, İpsala Rice, Edirne White Cheese, Keşan Siğilli Okra, Deva-i Misk Halva, Meriç Black Melon, Edirne Almond Paste, Edirne Scented Fruit Soap, and Keşan Mahmutköy Dried Beans are some prime examples.

Among the array of edible treasures, Edirne showcases an array of signature dishes and desserts. Akitma, akin to a pancake, and Kapama, a hearty preparation featuring lamb or chicken meat, are emblematic of the city's culinary finesse. Spinac Mujvar, a delectable eggplant-based snack, and Mamzana, a savory treat, add further depth to Edirne's culinary profile. Kaçamak, crafted from corn flour, joins the ensemble, while Liver Sarma, Almond Paste, Kallavi Cookie, Gaziler Halva, Edirne Almond Cookie, and Kalburabastı—a three-milk caramel cake—add their distinct notes to this culinary symphony. These creations stand as an ode to Edirne's culinary heritage, inviting you to indulge in its rich tapestry of flavors.



Fried Liver 



Kirkyama

LOCAL HANDICRAFTS

Edirne's rich historical tapestry is also intricately woven into its artisanal crafts. The tiles used in the structures of Edirne, boasting exquisite craftsmanship, hues, motifs, and designs befitting palatial grandeur, serves as a conduit bridging the past's skillful techniques to the present day. The art of Edirnekâri or "Edirne Work," adorns various decorative objects like dowry chests, writing desks, money safes, binders, and cabinet doors. This ornamental style utilizes paint and varnish to create motifs on surfaces ranging from wood and cardboard to leather.



Edirne Scented Fruit Soaps



Mirror Broom ●

Edirne Scented Fruit Soaps, originating from the 17th century, carve a unique niche in Edirne's heritage. Crafted by blending musk, amber, and rose essence into a paste-like consistency, artisans shape the soap to resemble fruits, dyeing them in authentic colors. This exclusive product, originated from Edirne, was once employed within the Ottoman palace and subsequently dispatched to European courts as a prestigious diplomatic offering.

One of the main elements of Kirkpinar Oil Wrestling Festival, the "Kispet," represents a distinctive Edirne handicraft. Fashioned from buffalo, calf, and malak leather, it undergoes meticulous processes, demanding an unparalleled level of craftsmanship.



Edirnekâri ●

"Kiryama" or patchwork, deeply ingrained in Edirne's heritage, fascinates not only as a sewing technique but also as a reflection of social traditions and interpersonal bonds. The act of assembling patches mirrors a tradition and signifies a style of connection within the community. Among Edirne's urban customs, the Mirror Broom holds a significant role, evolving from a functional household item to a traditional gift. Cloth dolls adorned in the traditional attire of Edirne encapsulate the essence of the city and its people, offering a charming representation to visiting guests. The cloth dolls adorned with Edirne's traditional costumes symbolize the friendly, green-eyed people of Thrace, offering visitors a glimpse of Edirne's warmth and charm.

EDİRNE IN 48 HOURS

First Day

Rise early with the sun and make your way to the Meriç River, where an array of parks, cafes, and riverside restaurants await to kickstart your day with a hearty breakfast, featuring the delectable local flavors of Edirne. You can enjoy the breathtaking scenery by taking a nostalgic tour on the deep blue waters of the Meriç River aboard the traditional Kancabaş boats. As you meander toward the heart of the city, a series of historical bridges spanning the Meriç and Tunca Rivers will beckon, inviting you to traverse their majestic arches on foot. Take this chance to intimately appreciate the intricate craftsmanship of these remarkable structures.

Upon reaching the city center, your initial destination undoubtedly must be the Selimiye Mosque, an architectural masterpiece conceived by the brilliant Mimar Sinan. The indelible impression left by this symbol of elegance, counted among the world's most significant historical monuments, will linger in your memory, etching its grandeur into your soul.

Continuing your urban expedition, the Selimiye Arasta Bazaar awaits just across the thoroughfare. Located in the midst of





Edirne Hıdırlık Bastion Balkan History Museum



Muradiye Mosque

Arasta, where you can find all the traditional products of Edirne together, stepping beneath the "Dome of Prayer" that graces the center of Arasta, the echoes of prayers and pledges from generations gathering under this very dome for nearly 450 years will resonate within. Exiting arasta, seek out a nearby eatery to indulge in the iconic Edirne Fried Liver—an obligatory culinary experience for any visit to this enchanting city. Immerse yourself in the exquisite flavors, savoring every morsel.

Post-dinner, pay homage to the valor of our fallen heroes by embarking on a poignant journey through history. Visit the Edirne Archaeology and Ethnography Museum, Edirne Military Hospital Martyrdom, Balkan Martyrdom and Monument, as well as the Şükrü Pasha Monument and Edirne Hıdırlık Bastion Balkan History Museum. These sites encapsulate pivotal chapters in our shared narrative. If you wish, you can explore the city's invaluable cultural heritage aboard the tourist train designed like a nostalgic tram. At the same time, you can enjoy the informative narration provided by the audio guide on the train.

Unwind by watching the sunset over the Meriç River while sipping your coffee, letting the day's fatigue melt away. For your evening repast, ensure you relish one of Edirne's signature dishes, such as Fried Liver or Liver Sarma—a fitting culmination to a day steeped in the city's rich tapestry of flavors and history.

Second Day

Rise and shine early in the morning, kickstarting your day with a delectable breakfast infused with the distinct flavors of Edirne right at the heart of the city. Once satiated, set your course toward the alluring Aegean coastline of Edirne. Take your pick from the inviting beaches of Enez, Erikli, or Mecidiye-Uzunkum, allowing yourself to bask in the embrace of the sea, sand, and sun until the noon hour beckons. As the sun ascends overhead, venture toward the Keşan or Enez district center for a midday reprieve, indulging in the tantalizing array of Edirne's culinary delights that await your discerning palate. Following this satisfying interlude, chart a course to one of Edirne's serene havens, each offering a unique communion with nature's splendor.

Embark on a leisurely stroll amidst the enchanting landscapes of Koru Mountains,



the tranquil haven of Tavuk Forest, or the captivating expanse of Enez Dalyan Lake. Alternatively, venture to the pristine shores of Erikli Salt Lake, each locale inviting you to immerse yourself in the embrace of nature's beauty. As the day gracefully evolves, the allure of cool waters beckons. Dive into the refreshing depths of the Aegean from the serene shores of Danişment and Gökçetepe Nature Park or the sandy expanses enveloping Mecidiye-Ibrice Harbor. Allow the sea's embrace to wash over you, complemented by the warmth of the sun.

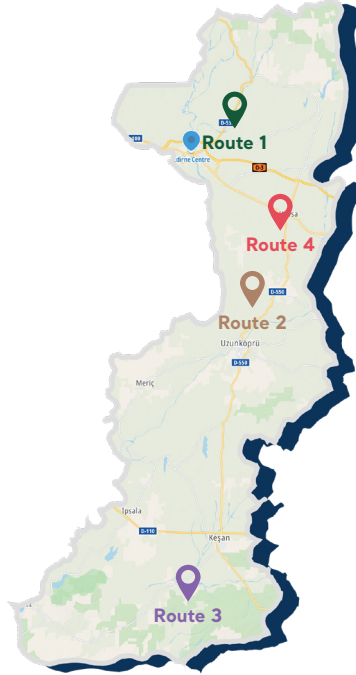
With the sun beginning its descent, reflect on the day's idyllic adventures as you linger by the coast, watching as the horizon transforms into a canvas painted with hues of gold and crimson. Your journey through Edirne's scenic wonders, flavored by its culinary treasures, culminates in an exquisite symphony of sea, sun, and soulful serenity.



HOW TO GET THERE?

Edirne, the crossing point of the roads and railways connecting Türkiye to Europe, is very easy to reach from all over Türkiye and the world thanks to its superior transportation infrastructure. You can reach Edirne from İstanbul either by your own car or by intercity bus in about 2,5 hours. You can also reach Edirne by intercity busses from Bursa in about six hours and from Ankara and İzmir in about 10 hours. This distance will take around 7 hours by a private vehicle.

The train transportation to Edirne from İstanbul is also very comfortable and convenient. You can reach to Edirne Station from İstanbul Halkalı Train Station by the İstanbul-Kapıkule train line in approximately 4 hours every day.



ROUTES

Route 1 - Historical Edirne

- Şükrü Pasha Monument
- Ekmekçizade Caravanserai
- Edirne Hıdırlık Tabya Balkan History Museum
- Sultan Bayezid II Complex and Health Museum
- Gazi Mihal Bey Hamam
- Selimiye Arasta Bazaar
- Turkish Islamic Arts Museum
- Saraçlar Street
- Ali Pasha Bazaar
- İlhan Koman Mansion
- Rüstem Pasha Caravanserai
- Bedesten Bazaar
- Sokullu Hammam
- Old Clock (Macedonia) Tower
- Deveci Han
- Justice Pavilion
- Edirne Military Hospital Martyrdom
- Edirne Museum
- Hacı Adil Bey Fountain
- Karaağaç Train Station
- Historic Train Station and Lausanne Monument
- Lalapaşa Dolmens
- Caravanserai

📍 Route 2 - Edirne Faith Route

- Muradiye Mosque
- Selimiye Mosque and Complex
- Ottoman Tombstones
- Hidırağa Mosque
- Üç Şerefeli Mosque
- Old (Ulu) Mosque
- Edirne Great Synagogue
- Dârülhadis Mosque
- Yıldırım Bayezid Mosque
- Gazi Mihal Bey Mosque
- Şah Melek Mosque
- Kasım Pasha Mosque
- Sittişah Sultan Mosque
- Sveti Georgi Church
- The Church of Saints Constantine and Helena
- St. Ioannes - John The Baptist Church
- Hersezkâde Ahmed Pasha Mosque
- Alaca Mustafapaşa Mosque
- Enez Castle and Enez Hagia Sophia Mosque
- Tomb of Has Yunus Bey

📍 Route 3 - Edirne's Nature

- Söğütlük City Forest (National Garden)
- Meriç and Tunca Riverbanks
- Sarayıçi Tavuk Forest
- Erikli Beach
- Erikli Salt Lake
- İbrice Harbor
- Danişment Nature Park
- Gökçetepe Nature Park
- Mecidiye Beach
- Uzunkum Beach
- Enez Beach
- Enez Lagoon Lake
- Gala Lake National Park
- İpsala Koyuntepe


📍 Route 4 - Edirne Bridges


- Yıldırım Bayezid Bridge
- Gazi Mihal Bey Bridge
- Sultan Bayezid II Bridge
- Yalnızgöz Bridge
- Saraçhane Bridge
- Kanuni Bridge
- Fatih Bridge
- Tunca Bridge
- Meriç Bridge
- Uzunköprü




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