

Bursa Turkey is not one of the most popular cities in Turkey compared to Istanbul. But, to be honest, Bursa is one of the most charming cities in Turkey.

I know you're here to get more information about Bursa city.

Perhaps you're in Istanbul and heard about Bursa from someone now you want to visit Bursa to make your trip more exploring. But you don't have enough knowledge to visit.

No worries! I'm here to help with this guide.

In this useful Bursa travel guide, you will discover some of the attractive places that you can visit as well as interesting things to pursue in the city. In this way you can choose what to visit especially if you have little time exploring this historical city.

Let's get started!

What is Bursa, Turkey Famous For?

Bursa is a city located in Turkey and that is one of the oldest cities ever. It is known as the birthplace of the first Ottoman Empire, the eye-pleasing beauty Grand Mosque, mouthwatering Iskender Kebab, the silk route, and the soothing hot springs. But there's even more that makes Bursa special.

A City with a Long History

Bursa is one of the most beautiful cities in the western part of Turkey with an approximate population of 3.1 million people. Depending on the sources, the history of the city starts from as early as 4000 B.C. and it has been inhabited for centuries. Through the ages, Bursa has always been on the drawing board of different civilizations that contributed to its shape.

Bursa was known as Prusa ad Olympum in the Roman Empire period and was a key city on the trade route of Silk. During the Roman reign, the rulers erected quite a number of magnificent structures in the city such as the Grand Theater which has been retained up to date.

Eventually, the town started becoming a part of the Byzantine Empire and carried on the tradition of becoming a major hub of culture and commerce. As it has been mentioned before, during this period, numerous Byzantine churches and monasteries were constructed in

the city.

You may wonder why has Bursa become such a strategic city. Well let me tell you the reason:

Bursa is the First Capital of the Ottoman Empire's

Bursa's history took a major turn in the 14th century when it was chosen by Osman I to be the first capital of the Ottoman Empire. This decision marked the beginning of a new chapter for Bursa, making it the heart of a rapidly growing empire. The city's fertile lands and strategic location made it a key city in the Ottoman Empire.

During Ottoman rule, Bursa saw significant growth and became known for its beautiful architecture. Many grand mosques, palaces, and bazaars were built, including the famous Bursa Grand Mosque, also known as Ulu Cami. This mosque, with its intricate designs and tall minarets, is a perfect example of the Ottoman Empire's architectural skill.

Bursa's location on the Silk Road helped it become a thriving trade center. The city's markets were full of goods from different parts of the world, making it a vibrant place for commerce.

One of Bursa's most famous products was silk. The city became well-known for producing high-quality silk fabrics, which were highly valued and sold across the world.

In addition to its role in trade, Bursa is also known for its natural hot springs. These thermal waters have been used for healing and relaxation for centuries. Even the Ottoman sultans visited Bursa to enjoy its hot springs and rejuvenate.

Today, Bursa is a lively and modern city that still holds on to its rich history. Visitors can explore ancient landmarks, shop in bustling markets, or relax in thermal spas. The city's mix of history, culture, and natural beauty makes it a fascinating place to visit.

When is the Best Time to travel Bursa Turkiye?

It will depend with the individual, if they prefer political, religious or commercial activities, as the best time to be in Bursa. One of the most important factors that need to be given consideration is the weather conditions. With regards to weather it is relatively cool, the best times of the year are spring (April and May) and autumn (September and October).

The activities you engage in will also be determining the decision you are to make. There are

things that you can do especially in the winter season such as snow skiing. Summer can be really beneficial to children in a way that they can do some outdoor activities such as hiking and swimming.

If You Are Coming to the Bursa, How Many Days Would You Spend?

Before travelling to Bursa, you might be a little concerned on the number of days which would be best to spend in this city. It is also possible to spend only a day in Bursa, many people even come there by car from Istanbul and take the ferry back in the evening.

However, it is better if you can spend 3-4 days there. This allows you to explore the city at a relaxed pace and really soak in the local culture.

12 Things to Do in Bursa & Must-See Spots

There is a lot to do and many exciting places to visit, especially for history lovers. Indeed, ranging from crowded market places to serene mosques and lovely gardens Bursa is a great place to be.

However here are the top things to do in Bursa Turkiye

1. Bursa Grand Mosque

The Bursa Grand Mosque is a place you shouldn't miss. Built in 1399, this mosque was created by an Ottoman Sultan after a big battle victory. Today, it's a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Even though the mosque has been repaired many times because of earthquakes, it's still the heart of the city. It's easy to visit since it's in the Old Town. Inside, you'll find a beautiful fountain, and the mosque itself is a peaceful and stunning place to explore.

2. Green Tomb (Yesil Turbe)

The Green Tomb, also known as Yesil Turbe, is another must-see. This tomb, with its green

tiles, is where Sultan Mehmed I rests.

The tomb is decorated with beautiful calligraphy and patterns on the outside. Inside, the tiles create a calm and peaceful atmosphere. The Green Tomb is a great example of the amazing craftsmanship from the Ottoman period.

3. Bursa Citadel and City Walls

The Bursa Citadel and the city walls show the city's long history. These ancient structures have been around for centuries, witnessing many battles and changes.

The Citadel, or Bursa Kalesi, was originally built by the Bithynians. Over the years, it was rebuilt by the Romans and Byzantines. The Citadel's large stone walls and towers once served as defenses. Now, they offer great views of the city's skyline, including its mosques and historic buildings.

4. Green Mosque (Yesil Cami)

Next to the Green Tomb is the Green Mosque. This mosque is part of a larger complex and is known for its beautiful courtyard and impressive architecture. Inside, the mosque is decorated with stunning Islamic artwork, and the natural light creates a peaceful setting. It's a place where you can feel both the spiritual and artistic sides of Bursa.

5. Bursa Grand Bazaar

If shopping is your interest, then Bursa Grand Bazaar is the place that would suit you most. This is a colourful and a very vibrant market for souvenirs with loads of Turkish tea and coffee houses. The Bazaar was constructed in 1340 A. D and together with the city is designated a UNESCO world heritage.

Here, you can get almost all kinds of products, fashion accessories, textile, clothing, jewelries, spices and all sorts of stuffs. This makes the bazaar's corridors and entrances to be broken arched thus the bazaar remains cool and clients can shop even during hot weather.

6. Cumalıkızık - An Ottoman Village

Cumalıkızık is a charming Ottoman village near Bursa. This 700-year-old village is like a living museum, with old wooden houses that show what life was like in the early Ottoman period.

The village is surrounded by green hills, making it a great spot for nature lovers. The narrow streets and traditional houses make you feel like you've stepped back in time. Cumalıkızık also has local markets where you can buy authentic Turkish products and taste traditional dishes.

7. Silk Bazaar (Kapali Carsi)

The other ancient Bazaar that are important to visit is the Silk Bazaar situated in Bursa, Turkey. Located in the heart of the Sultanahmet area in Istanbul, the bazaar was constructed during the 15th century by Sultan Mehmed I and this famed bazaar is famous for the liveliness it observes.

It's a great place where you can purchase Turkish silk products textiles, clothes and many other products. The bazaar's architecture is also influenced from the Ottoman period; the roofs are formed of covered arcades and domes which blend well with the flavour of the bazaar. Not only a shopping center but also a source how to get acquainted with the best samples of Turkey's cultural legacy.

8. Bursa's Museums

Bursa has many museums that showcase the city's history and culture. The İznik Museum, recently reopened after an eight-year restoration, is a must-see. It features artifacts from different periods, from prehistoric times to the Ottoman era.

Other museums worth visiting include:

- **Bursa City Museum:** Displays the history and culture of Bursa, with artifacts and exhibitions.
- **Bursa Atatürk Museum:** Dedicated to Mustafa Kemal Atatürk, the founder of modern Turkey, it showcases his personal belongings.
- **Bursa Archaeological Museum:** Houses archaeological finds from prehistoric times to the Ottoman period.
- **Bursa Aviation Museum:** Great for aviation fans, it features aircraft and exhibits about Turkey's aviation history.
- **Bursa Karagöz Museum:** Focuses on the traditional Turkish shadow play character, Karagöz.
- **Bursa Gökçeören Village Life and Ethnography Museum:** Offers a glimpse into rural life with ethnographic items.

9. Yeni Kaplica - Bursa's Best Turkish Bath

Bursa is famous for its thermal baths, and Yeni Kaplica is one of the best. This bath has been around since 1522, built by Suleyman the Magnificent. With marble walls, eight columns, and beautifully decorated ceilings, Yeni Kaplica offers a truly authentic Turkish bath experience.

10. Emir Sultan Park

Emir Sultan Park is a peaceful place named after a famous religious figure, Emir Sultan. The park is full of greenery, well-kept gardens, and has a large pond with fountains. It's a great spot for a walk, a picnic, or just to relax.

The park is also home to the Emir Sultan Mosque, an important historical site in Bursa. The mosque's beautiful architecture makes it a must-visit.

11. Uludag Mountain

For nature lovers, Uludag Mountain is a great place to visit. It's a popular ski resort in winter, but it's also beautiful in other seasons. You can take a 5.5-mile cable car ride from Bursa to the top of the mountain, enjoying stunning views along the way. At the top, you'll find hotels, restaurants, and coffee shops.

12. Merinos Mosque

Merinos Mosque, built in 2013, is a modern mosque in Bursa's Merinos Park. It combines traditional Ottoman architecture with modern design. The mosque is part of a larger cultural complex and is known for its elegant prayer hall and spacious courtyard.

This mosque is a great example of how Bursa blends its rich history with the modern world, making it a city full of surprises and must-see attractions.

Where to Stay in Bursa

Bursa, a historical city in Turkey, offers a wide range of accommodation options to suit every traveler's needs and budget. Whether you're seeking a luxurious stay, a comfortable mid-range experience, or a budget-friendly option, you'll find plenty of choices.

Recommended Hotels

Luxury:

- Almira Hotel Thermal Spa & Convention Center
- Mövenpick Bursa Hotel and Thermal Spa
- Marigold Thermal & Spa Hotel Bursa

Mid-Range:

- ibis Bursa
- Holiday Inn – Bursa City Centre
- Sheraton Bursa Hotel

Budget-Friendly:

- Gorukle Oruc Hotel & Spa
- Ramada by Wyndham Bursa Nilufer

FAQs About Visiting Bursa Turkiye

What to buy in Bursa Turkey?

Bursa is known for its unique products and handicrafts. Here are some popular items to consider:

- **Silk**
- **Turkish Delight**
- **İskender Kebab**
- **Ceramics**
- **Ottoman-style jewelry**

How far is Bursa from Istanbul?

Bursa is approximately 157 kilometers (97 miles) from Istanbul. The driving time is usually around 2 hours and 30 minutes, depending on traffic conditions.

Is Bursa in Turkey worth visiting?

Absolutely! Bursa offers a unique blend of history, culture, and natural beauty. It's a great destination for those interested in exploring the Ottoman Empire's roots, enjoying delicious food, and relaxing in thermal baths.

Is Bursa Safe?

Yes, Bursa is generally a safe city for tourists. But it's always good to be careful and keep your things safe.

What is the Famous Food of Bursa?

İskender Kebab is the most famous food from Bursa. It's a delicious dish with thinly sliced lamb, grilled and served on pita bread with yogurt, tomato sauce, and melted butter. Other local foods include Bursa-style meatballs, chestnut sweets, and different Turkish pastries.