

Visiting Hours		
<b>April 1-October 31</b> Opening Time: 08:30 Closing Time: 19:00 Ticket Office Closing Time: 18:30	<b>October 31-April 1</b> Opening Time: 08:30 Closing Time: 17:30 Ticket Office Closing Time: 17:00	Open everyday.
<b>Address:</b> Namazgah, Tank Sarı Sk. No: 29, 35240 Konak/İzmir		
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GENERAL DIRECTORATE FOR CULTURAL ASSETS AND MUSEUMS

# SYMRNA AGORA

GET REFRESHED IN THE SPRING DREAMED BY ALEXANDER THE GREAT





In the 4th century BCE, Anatolia was ruled by Persians. In this environment, Macedonian King Philippos II, who became an important power by bringing together the tribes in northern Greece, succeeded in bringing the Greek city-states together within the framework of the Corinthian League in 388 BCE, and he made this League declare war with his son Alexandros II against the Persians and undertook the leadership of the war.

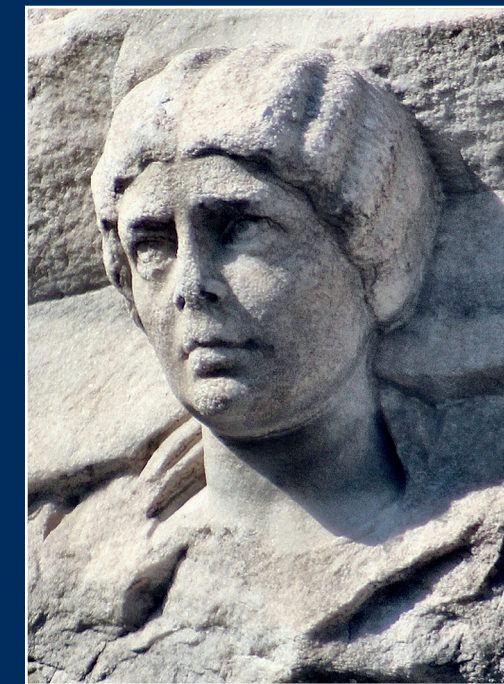
After Philippos was killed in 336 BCE, the leadership was assumed this time by his son Alexander the Great. Alexander the Great, who entered Anatolia by crossing the Dardanelles in 334 BCE, defeated the Persians for the first time on the coast of Granikos (Biga-Kocabaş Stream), and reached Sardes and then Ephesos. In the 2nd century CE, it is seen that Pausanias based the legend of the establishment of the city on Alexander in his work called *Periegesis tes Hellados*. Here is what Pausanias told about the foundation of the city.



"The modern city was founded by Alexander, the son of Philip, in accordance with a vision in a dream. It is said that Alexander was hunting on Mount Pagus, and that after the hunt was over he came to a sanctuary of the Nemeses, and found there a spring and a plane-tree in front of the sanctuary, growing over the water. While he slept under the plane-tree it is said that the Nemeses appeared and bade him found a city there and to remove into it the Smyrnaeans from the old city. So, the Smyrnaeans sent ambassadors to Clarus to make inquiries about the circumstance, and the god made answer:- Thrice, yes, four times blest will those men be Who shall dwell in Pagus beyond the sacred Meles."

The city, which joined the League of Ionian Cities as the 13th member with the suggestion of Ephesus, grew as a new city on the slopes and plains between Pagus Hill (Kadifekale) and Port (Kemeraltı) during the reign of the commanders Antigonos, Lysimakhos and Seleukos after the death of Alexander, and then during the Pergamon Kingdom. Later, it preserved its importance as an important port city connecting the inner regions of Anatolia with the sea until today.

In ancient cities, agoras were the political, administrative, judicial and commercial centers of the city. A few building blocks were reserved in the center of each city for the agoras. The Agora area was surrounded by porticos (columned galleries). Behind the galleries, public structures such as the Bouleuterion (Parliament Building), Prytaneion (the building where official ceremonies and meetings were held, dinners were given), Official Offices, Court, Stock Exchange, Archive, Meat-Fish Market, Latrina (Toilets) could be found. Porticos were semi-open spaces used for protection and shelter of people in sunny, rainy, extreme cold and heat. In the courtyard of the Agora, there were monuments with steps, statues, altars for religious ceremonies, exedras (seats made of marble), a temple and fixed altar of a god respected by the city.



Smyrna Agora covers a rectangular area in the center of the city, in accordance with the grid city plan of this region. It was the administrative, political, judicial and commercial center of Smyrna. The slope of the land in the area where the Agora was planned was eliminated with the basements built in the west and north, the remains of which can be seen today. The courtyard of the Agora was filled up to the upper level of the basement floors and raised and turned into a terrace. This terrace plane is surrounded by porticos. Smyrna Agora was used as a cemetery during the Byzantine and Ottoman periods.