

Background information about Turkey



Map of Turkey







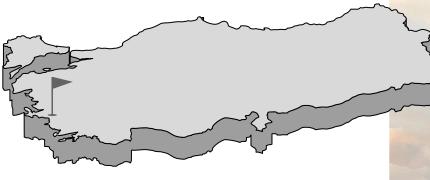
Where the wedding was





Where my cousin who got married lives and works (The capital of Turkey)

Izmir



Izmir

The wedding I went to was in Izmir, which is another city in Turkey on the coast. It is known for its beaches. It is a a popular summer vacation spot. My new cousin-in-law is from Izmir, so that is why the wedding was there. We were able to meet her family, since they all live in Izmir.

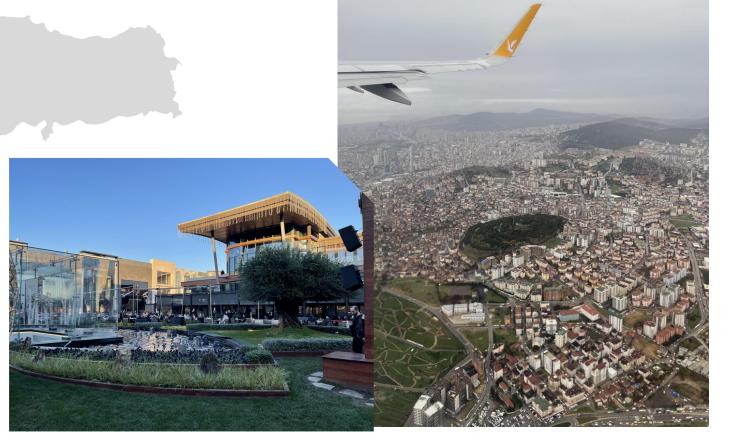


Flying into Istanbul

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Istanbul

I flew to Istanbul and spent a couple days with my uncle and aunt and then we drove to Izmir. The wedding was between Alp, my cousin, and Ayça, his new wife.



The morning of the wedding



On the day of the wedding, my family told me to get ready early in the morning. They said we would go as a family to 'receive' the bride from her house. My whole family: my cousins, aunts and uncles all drove to Aycas house to ask for final permission for the joining of our two families. It was a celebration of our two families coming together. We even had a band playing music and everyone was dancing.

Feast of Turkish food



Feasting All the neighbors came out to watch and Ayca's family prepared traditional Turkish Breakfast and drinks. Pictured is some of the food and drinks.

Back to the hotel

After celebrating, Ayça's family gave their blessing to Alp, and the rest of the Kazancioglu family took Ayça back to the wedding venue and hotel. We went back to the hotel to get ready.

The wedding



At the hotel, everyone got ready in their formal clothes and Ayca put on her wedding dress. We took pictures until the ceremony was about to start. The ceremony was a civil ceremony not a religious one. It was very basic and only lasted about 20 minutes. It was important for Ayca and Alp to get married civilly because they are both doctors and want to work together, which can be requested for married couples.

After the wedding



Turkey is a diverse country and there are varying degrees to which Turkish Citizens practice religion. Most of Turkey is Muslim, however, some follow Islam more strictly than others. Ayca's family is Muslim, but they do not practice, and therefore there was no religious component to this wedding. My family in Turkey is Greek Orthodox, and we will have a religious ceremony in my family's hometown of Antakya in the summer. This will be much longer. After the wedding, we went to a restaurant and ate fish and celebrated with popular Turkish songs

Thank you!



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