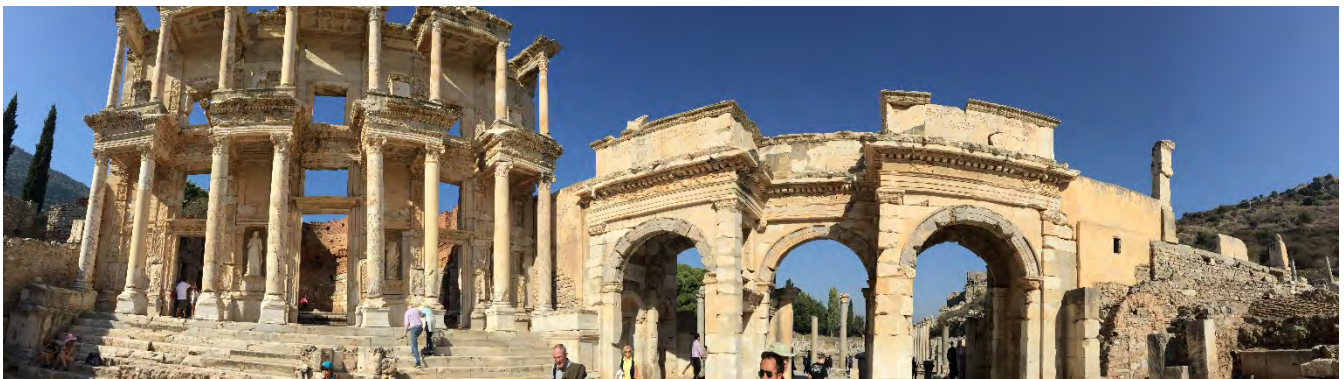


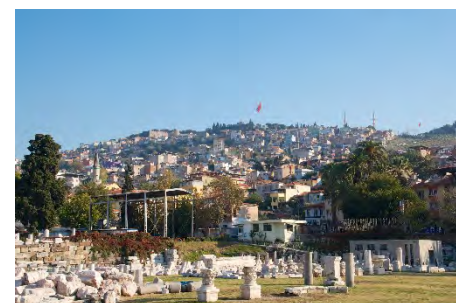
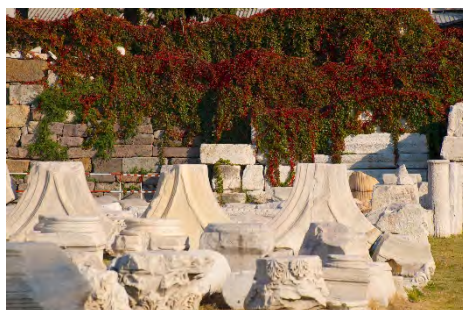
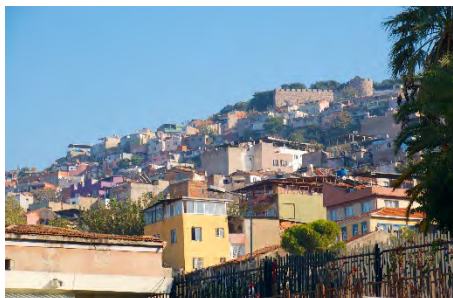
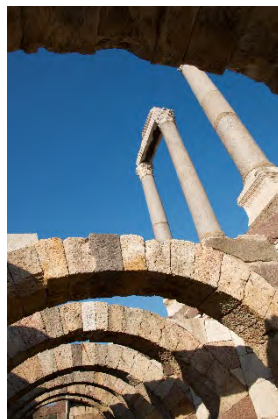
Thursday Nov 5 afternoon (part 2)

Ephesus was this morning, but here are a few more panoramic pictures of the Agora, the Library and the Theater. I think this give a better idea of the expanse of Ephesus.





After lunch and the museum in Ephesus, we drove about 2 hours to Izmir (Smirna), our next stop. We only had an afternoon so we saw the agora (old market/meeting place), which at first glance looks like a large field with a few columns. But once you walk down to the lower level there are beautiful arches upon arches where the markets once stood.



We were especially interested in seeing some of the old synagogues as Izmir once had a thriving Jewish population. One of the old synagogues is closed and surrounded by a large wall. We peeked in through a crack but only saw trees and garbage.



Down the street and around the corner was another old synagogue, Bet Hillel (Bet Illel). It is being restored by the Metropolitan municipality of Izmir and will re-open as a museum. I wasn't allowed to take pictures, but the caretaker, who is also doing the renovations, sat us down and showed us pictures on his computer of what it once looked like and what they plan for the renovation. And after that he allowed me one picture. The interesting part here is that the caretaker is a Muslim not a Jew. But he feels keeping history alive is important. Wonderful world sometimes!

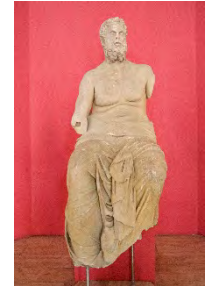






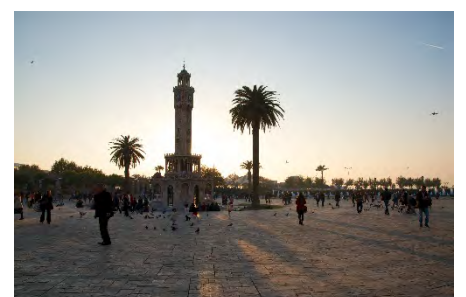
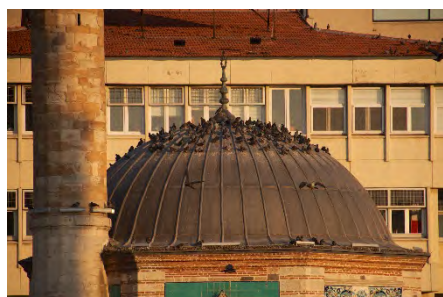
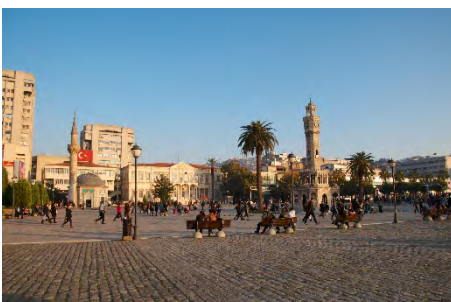
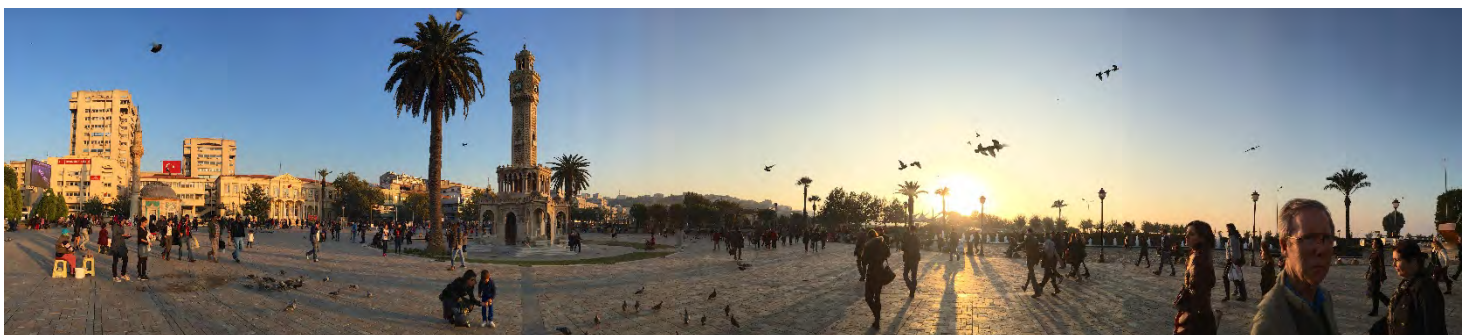
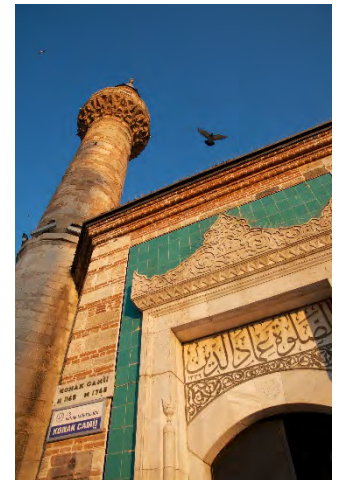
Street scene

We stopped next at the Kulturpark, a complex with park land and museums. Here we got see more of the history of Turkey, artifacts and statues, including this one of Homer.



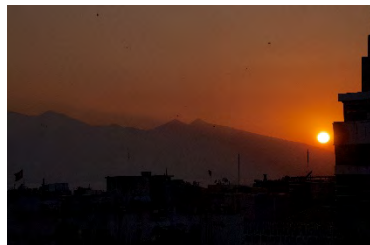
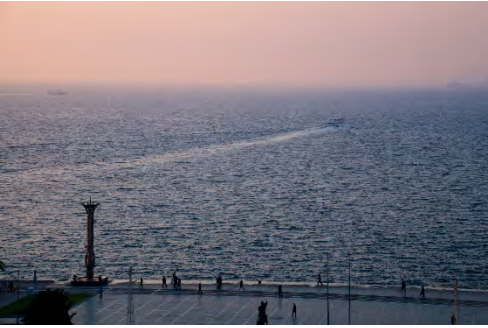
On the way to the hotel we drove along the water which was lined with a park and was full of families and couples strolling and enjoying the day. The road was lined with restaurants with views of the water and ships. We stopped at the main square, called Konak Square. This is very busy place on Ataturk Avenue, just off the water.

The square is surrounded by the Governor's Mansion (Konak means mansion), City Hall, the Central Bus Station and the Yali Mosque. The mosque is small from the outside, but with a beautiful dome covered in pigeons, and a tall minaret at its side. In the center of the square is the Izmir Clock Tower, an old landmark built in 1901.



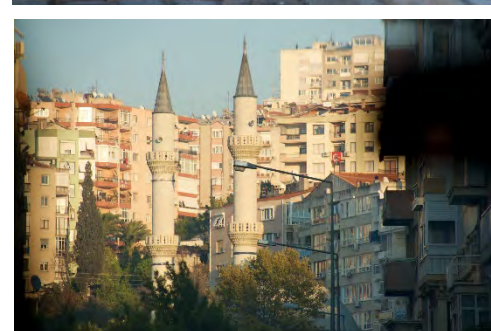
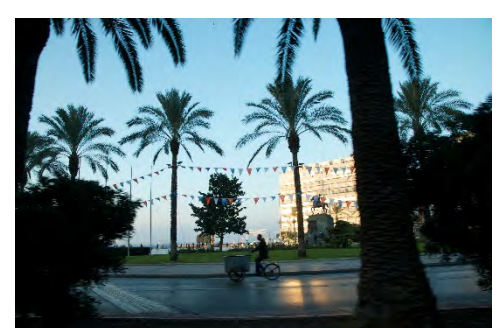
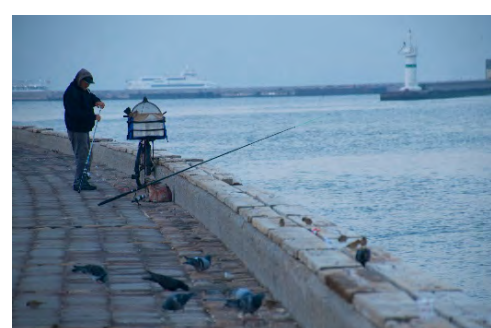
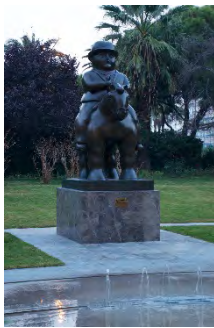
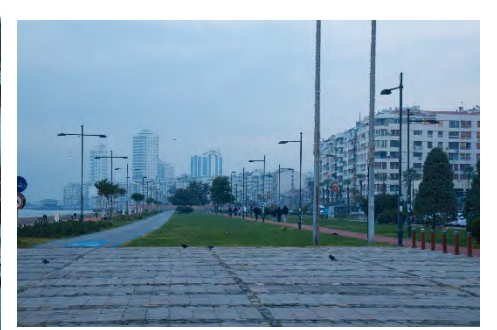


We drove through some of the city on our way to our hotel, the Swissotel, a large modern hotel overlooking the water. The view from our room was magnificent, both at night the following morning.



We had a reservation to eat in one of the fish restaurants on the water, which I am sure would have been lovely, but we were on the executive floor and stopped in there first for a drink. And what we found was a full buffet including seafood and salads and yogurt with cucumbers (which by now you know is my favorite) and plenty of dinner. So we had our reservation canceled and relaxed there instead, watching the sun set and eating all the wonderful food there. It was actually quite nice to just be in the hotel, not to have to go out to dinner and to take it easy for the evening.

And the next morning, before breakfast, we took a walk around the park along the water and just watched the early morning people, and the pigeons. That is the one thing we have missed as we have had very little opportunity to just wander the streets



Breakfast this morning was a cacophony of sights, colors and flavors. There was a whole olive bar! There was a whole section of pretzels. And cheeses. And fruit. And fresh vegetables. And pancakes, and waffles, and breads. And did I mention an olive bar? Needless to say I was so happy.

