

Looking ahead

Erzurum Half Marathon, Turkey

7 May 2017



Erzurum offers Urartu, Persians, Romans, Arabs, Seljuks, Byzantine, Mongols and Ottomans heritage.

The foundation of the city of Erzurum, which is the greatest city of Eastern Anatolia is assumed to be at the date of 4900 B.C. The region including Erzurum was dominated by various tribes and nations as Urartu, Kimmers, the Scythians, Meds, Persians, Parphts, Romans, Sassanids, Arabs, Seljuks, Byzantine, Mongols and Ilkhanids. The city and the surrounding region was conquered by Ottomans in 1514 and continued their dominance until 1923, in which the Republic of Turkey



was founded. The Congress was assembled in Erzurum in 1919, where the foundations of national unity and independence movements were laid.

As the city is established at the skirts of Palandöken Mountain, the city had gained great importance in the field of winter tourism during the recent years. 2017 Winter EYOF (European Youth Olympic Festival) will be organized in Erzurum in February. Erzurum will host the greatest organization by means of Youth Games of Europe after having organized 2011 Winter Universiade Games. The city houses numerous historically rich

works of art and therefore the city is like a cultural center having the major potential for tourism. The altitude of the city center from the sea level is 1850m.

The 2nd edition of the Erzurum Half Marathon was held on Sunday, 22 May 2016. Assefa Bekele (ETH) won with 1:08:53 in men and Mulu Diro Melka (ETH) won with 1:16:49 in women. About one thousand runners from six countries participated.

The third edition of the Erzurum Half Marathon will be held on Sunday, 7 May 2017. Expo will be open in the city's largest square on Saturday. First prizes are, 10.000 TL (US.\$ 3.000) in Half Marathon, 3.000 TL (US.\$ 1.000) in 10 km and 300 TL (US.\$ 100) in the age groups from 35 until 75+. Ottoman military band, is thought to be the oldest variety of military marching bands in the world, performs Ottoman Empire marches during Expo.

Participants should not leave Erzurum without; Skiing at Palandöken, A sightseeing via Kule Cafe, Visiting the Double Minaret Madrasah (Theology School), Yakutiye Madrasah, Ulu Mosque, Rafting if you happen to go to Ispir, Visiting Tortum Waterfall and Lake if you happen to go to Tortum, Tasting Çag kebab, Su boregi, Ayran çorbası, Kadayıf dolması.

The Erzurum Airport is 10 km away from the city center. There are daily flights from Istanbul and Ankara to Erzurum.



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