

February 2008

WORLD WATERPARK

The Official Magazine of the World Waterpark Association

My Kind of Waterpark, CoCo Key Is!

Chicago's CoCo Key
Water Resort

A Waterpark With All The Trimmings
Aquacity In Izmir, Turkey

Schools Out For Summer...Sort Of
Updates on the school-start-date issue

Long Live Point Mallard!
In Decatur, Alabama



A WATERPARK WITH

From healing powers to adrenaline rush: Aquacity takes on Turkey

— BY MESUT DURGUN —

Izmir, which is the third-biggest city in Turkey, is one of the most modern, developed and, commercially busy centers in our country. It's also the home of Aquacity, close to the center of Izmir.

But to understand the popularity of Aquacity and the reason for its location, one must first understand a little about this gorgeous region of Turkey.

ROOTS IN ANCIENT TIMES

To the west of Izmir is the Cesme Peninsula, lapped by the waters of the Aegean Sea. Nearby is the city of Ephesus, which was one of the most famous cities of ancient times and one of the biggest cities of the world during the Roman Empire. Today Ephesus is rich in culture and art, and visitors flock there for its myriad artistic activities.

Visitors come to "Beautiful Izmir" (as the Turkish call it) for its mild climate, palm-lined promenades and surrounding mountains. The city lies at the head of a long and narrow gulf furrowed by ships and yachts, and in the summer, the constant and refreshing sea breezes temper the sun's heat.

Izmir's port is second only to Istanbul. A cosmopolitan and lively city all year round, Izmir bursts with an added vibrancy during the international Arts Festival (June/July) and the International Fair (August/September).

The region is also famous for a spa with a history that dates back more than 3,000 years. In ancient times, the spa was known as Agamemnon Spa, so named because of two tales—one involving Agamemnon's daughter, and the

other about his warriors. Most believe the tales are true.

The first tale says Agamemnon's daughter had a skin disease. She was beautiful, but wounds peppered her skin. The doctors could not help her, so Agamemnon chained her up at the spa and left her to die. She drank the healing water and rolled in the mud. Then, 21 days later, she got better. She was more beautiful and healthier than before.

The second tale says Agamemnon, the king of Mycenaean, sent his wounded warriors to the spa on a suggestion of a prophet. And they also became better.

Nowadays, this modern facility, renamed Balcova Spa, serves both domestic and foreign guests. Guests partake of thermal pools, electrotherapy, actinotherapy, hydrotherapy and other kinds of treatments. As a bonus, all guests in Balcova Thermal Hotel adjacent to Aquacity can use the waterpark for free.

COMBINING OLD WITH NEW

The area once known as Agamemnon's Spa is now home to the Balcova Thermal Hotel and Aquacity. Aquacity's construction was completed in 2005 and also goes by the initials ISTOT (Izmir Waterpark Thermal Tourism Hotel).

Aquacity is next to the city center, only 25 kilometers away from Izmir International Airport and 90 kilometers from Ephesus. The facility is open from 10 a.m. to 11 p.m. year-round.

Three swimming pools—one indoor and the others semi-Olympic-sized—grace a portion of Aquacity's



ALL THE TRIMMINGS

40,000 square meters. The first and only aquapark in Izmir, Aquacity also has 22 waterslides, all by Polin, and a capacity of 4,000 guests.

Although it is located at the city center, the park is far from the maddening crowd. Guests have chance to have a great day and enjoy their time at Aquacity surrounded with pine trees and very blue water.

A wide range of waterslides target all age groups. All of our waterslides are designed, manufactured and installed by Polin. Starting from the initial phase to the end, Polin's professional team was there, guiding, helping and working to make this dream come true.

The park includes black holes, open waterslides, free-fall slides, multi-slides, tube slides, twister slides, kamikaze slides, a space bowl, a family slide, kid's waterslides, a cobra slide, a rabbit slide and a slide with an elevator for the disabled.

The slide for the disabled is unique, and we are very proud to have it. Under the supervision of our expert team, those who are physically challenged may enjoy the thrill of a waterslide. In addition, disabled individuals may take swimming courses from a physically challenged member of our staff who better understands the challenges of the water for the group.

At Aquacity we also have a wave pool, water labyrinth, water castle, rafting river, dolphin fountain, penguin and mushroom showers, artificial rocks, waterfalls, terraces for resting and sunbathing, pool for kids, a trampoline, rope-climbing tower, a playground for

kids, a tropical island, a beach, a horror cave (scream cave), thermal Jacuzzi and a dancing fountain situated on a platform that can be walked on.

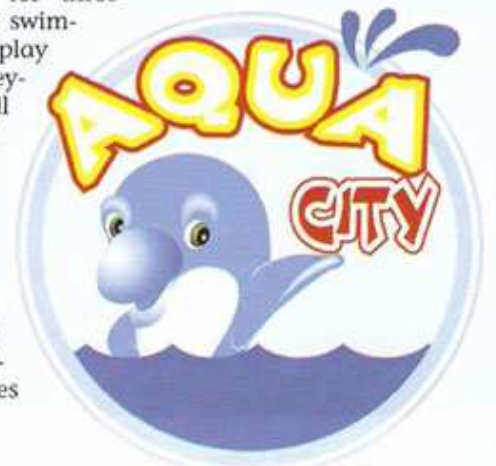
KEEPING VERY BUSY

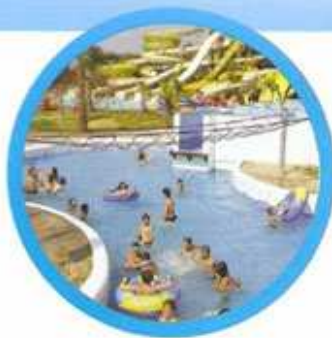
Aquacity's activity program includes many amusing and interesting activities, such as a wave pool, pool games, water ball, water volleyball, water basketball, water gym, aerobics, mini golf and water dances.

Inside the amphitheater, shows and theatre performances entertain guests in the evenings. Additionally, for the competitive spirit, there are dart and shuffle-board tournaments.

Children between 5 and 14 ages can spend their summer holidays at Aquacity Summer Camp every weekday for three weeks. Kids take swimming lessons, play basketball, volleyball, and football and enjoy dances and movies in their spare time.

They also will have the chance to enjoy Aquacity and its wonderful activities





for the whole day, all under the supervision of our experienced team! The campers are served breakfast, lunch and brunch at Aquacity, and shuttle buses pick them up and return them home each day!

Polin, designer and the manufacturer of our slides and animation products, provides service to our slides periodically. In addition to the daily water cleaning and analysis, pools receive whole disinfectants via automatic dosing pumps.

The bacteriologic analysis of water is performed by the official hygiene institute, and officials from the provincial and municipal health foundations test the pool water periodically.

SERVING THE NEEDS

We have a wide range of food items in our fast-food restaurants including pizzas, hamburgers, hot dogs and chicken, but we also serve special Turkish cuisine, including doner, pide, lahmacun and gozleme.

Guests can accompany their choices with fruit or maize steeped in boiling

AQUACITY SUPPLIERS

Development/Design:

Polin Waterparks & Pool Systems

Consultants:

Polin Waterparks & Pool Systems

Construction:

Polin Waterparks & Pool Systems

Waterslides:

Polin Waterparks & Pool Systems

Wave pool: Isilti Construction

Wave generator: Cevre Pools

Raft/Tubes/Mats: Sevytor / Zebec

Children's equipment:

Polin Waterparks & Pool Systems

Lockers: Politeknik

Pool and/or deck coatings:

Isilti Construction

Filtration equipment: Astral

Pumps: Standart Pump

Chemical: Akuzman

Chemical controllers: Astral

Food/Equipment:

Coca Cola, Efes Pilsen, Pinar

with fruit or maize steeped in boiling water. For dessert, visitors can try ice cream. Waffles are also available. Whatever the choice, the food is prepared hygienically and remains of top quality.

Aquacity also has an infirmary on site, and a specialist doctor and a nurse work there continuously. Our lifeguards are well educated, having graduated from the sports academy, and their knowledge of first aid is first-rate.

Rounding out the list of amenities is a 280-vehicle parking lot, dressing areas, lockers and indoor and outdoor showers.

Although Aquacity has been opened only since 2005, visits are up to 150,000 per year. Add in hotel guests, and the number of visitors to the entire facility now stands at 500,000 people.

Colorful shows. Unlimited fun. Everlasting adventure. The fastest, the most popular and the most adventurous slides and activities. They're all part of this giant aquapark surrounded by a green paradise dropped right into the history of "Beautiful Izmir!" **WWA**



AQUACITY DETAILS

Park name: Aquacity Balcova

Location: Balcova, Izmir, Turkey

Web site:

[http://www.aquacitybalcova.com/
?langid=en](http://www.aquacitybalcova.com/?langid=en)

Owners: Balcova Thermal Turizm &
Hotel Trade Company

Letme: ISTOT A.S. (Izmir Water Play
Tourism & Hotel Company)

Admission prices: \$20 US

Dates open: Year-round

Size/Acres:

40.000 m² [approx. 10 acres]

Capacity: 4000 visitors

Number of employees:

Year-round: 90

Seasonal: 120

Clientele (local vs. tourist): Both

Future expansion plans: Yes

Planned manufacturer:

Polin Waterparks & Pool Systems

**Staff retention programs or in-service
programs:** Turkcell Program