

Anzac Day at Gallipoli 2012-

What to Expect and How to Prepare



You can assist the Australian and New Zealand Governments who coordinate Anzac Day services at Gallipoli by registering your intention to attend. Log onto www.dva.gov.au/anzac and follow the links to the registration page. We also recommend you register on the Smart Traveller website (www.smartraveller.gov.au).

Registering your intention to travel on the DVA registration page does not automatically transfer your information to Smartraveller. Visitors should therefore register on both systems.

It is important to note that just prior to Anzac Day, DVA plans to share the name and mobile phone contact details of those who have registered on DVA with the DFAT consular team. This information will only be used by DFAT in case of an emergency.

How do I get to Gallipoli?

Most people travel to the Gallipoli Peninsula by coach or minibus as part of a tour group. You will need to organise this in advance – do an online search for a tour operator or see your travel agent. The site opens on the afternoon of 24 April. **Opening times have varied in previous years. In 2012 the site will open in the early evening on the 24th of April, most likely at 6pm.**

What happens when I arrive?

Several kilometres from the Anzac Commemorative Site, coaches and their passengers are welcomed by a member of the visitor services team and issued with a coach Identification number for the coach and individual tags for each passenger with their coach number on it.

Make sure you retain the tag and remember this number, it will help to identify your coach at the end of the day.



Coaches set down their passengers at Beach Cemetery, which is about one kilometre (15 minutes walk on a graded dirt road) from the Anzac Commemorative Site where the Dawn Service is held.

When you disembark from your coach you must have **everything you will need** for the evening and next day, including medication. Make sure you have appropriate clothing for the cold conditions overnight. Warm, wet weather and thermal clothing is strongly recommended for the evenings. You will not be able return to your coach until after the services have finished on the afternoon of 25 April.

You will pass through a security screening point before entering the site, then walk approximately 600 meters to the ceremonial area. **The security checkpoint is similar to that at an airport – we suggest that keys, phones and coins are placed in your day pack or bag.** Due to the large number of visitors long delays can be expected at the security checkpoints. When you have passed through the security check point, a security wristband will be given to you, which you must wear at all times until you leave the Gallipoli Peninsula Historical National Park. All the commemorative services are held in a National Park that encompasses battlefields, memorials and cemeteries. All infrastructure must be brought in from outside the park.

After the services, be prepared to wait several hours for your coach to pick you up: some coaches may not leave until approximately 5:30pm.

What about the weather?

The weather on the peninsula can be **bitterly cold** (below freezing) at night and hot and sunny during the day so you need to prepare for both, and there is chance of rain and very cold winds. You can expect to be on site, in the open and exposed to the elements, for between 12 and 30 hours. There is **no shelter** at any of the commemorative sites or within the Anzac area. We strongly recommend you wear warm and wet weather protective clothing, as well as a hat/cap and sunscreen are necessary in order to ensure your well-being and comfort at the ceremonies.

What should I take with me?

You can't bring big bags or camping equipment with you but make sure you have a day pack or small bag that contains the following:

- Small back pack
- Wet weather jacket and pants
- Warm, thermal clothing, jacket, beanie, hat or cap, gloves, socks, scarf
- Warm blanket/sleeping bag
- Comfortable, sturdy walking shoes (must have closed toe shoes)
- Prescription medications (if necessary)
- Food/snacks
- Drinking water (in unopened bottles)
- Sunscreen
- Torch (with batteries)
- Camera (with batteries)

Remember to take what you need with you – you won't be able to return to your coach until after the services have been completed.

What can't I bring to the services?

There are some things you are not allowed to bring with you onto the commemorative sites:

- large backpacks (e.g. luggage sized)
- camping equipment
- alcohol (Intoxicated persons will be refused entry)
- flammable liquids
- weapons or sharp objects (including metal cutlery)
- opened and partially consumed beverages including water.
- Swimmers – **you are not able to swim**

These prohibited items **MUST** be left on your coach/minibus. All visitors to the commemorative services should expect to undergo airport like screening at entry. Bags may be searched.

What to expect at Gallipoli

Each of the commemorative services on 25 April is open to the public and a lot of people travel a long way to attend services. Seating at the commemorative sites is available in the stands around the grassed area, or on the grassed area itself. **Seating cannot be reserved.** On 24 April, the Anzac Commemorative Site, and particularly the grassed areas, fill up quickly. People may end up sitting very close to each other and, if the site reaches capacity, people will be asked to stand. **Sleeping across seats in the stands is not permitted.** Large groups who arrive after midnight may not be able to find room to be seated as a group and should be prepared to split up to be seated or to stand. There is no shelter available at the commemorative sites.

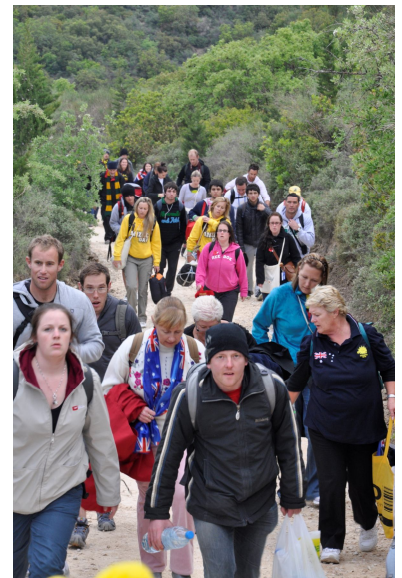
An overnight program of music from the First World War era, documentaries, historical footage and onsite interviews provides you with the opportunity to learn more about the Gallipoli campaign and reflect on the campaign.

You should have a reasonable level of fitness if you plan to attend the Anzac Day commemorations. In fact, you can expect to walk up to 8km on uneven surfaces, including steep uphill paths and roads.

The walk from the Dawn Service to Lone Pine where the Australian service is held is approximately 3km and includes a section of 1.5km of uneven dirt surface with a very steep incline. **Visitors will be screened again on arrival at Lone Pine and Chunuk Bair.** The walk from Lone Pine to Chunuk Bair where the New Zealand service is held is 3.2km up a steep bitumen surfaced road. However, due to the walking distances and terrain between the commemorative sites, and the number of visitors walking to each service, it may not be possible to attend all the services on the 25th of April.

What sort of facilities are there?

- Food and refreshments are available for purchase from Turkish food sellers on site.



- You may bring in your own food.
- We encourage you to bring water, however **opened bottles are not allowed** through the security points.
- Limited basic facilities including toilets, lighting and non-drinking water are brought in to the commemorative sites for the Anzac Day commemorations on 24 and 25 April.
- There is no shelter
- Basic First Aid facilities
- Limited special needs assistance is available for people with mobility issues (Please make contact prior to Anzac Day, providing information in relation to medical conditions to receive assistance). Applications must be made in writing to Gallipoli@dva.gov.au
- Toilet facilities are available.
- Rubbish disposal facilities are provided & you will also be provided with a biodegradable rubbish bag.

Swimming in the waters off the Anzac area is prohibited. Need more information? Email Gallipoli@dva.gov.au