

Anzac Digger - 5 days go guide

don't leave home without it



Starts: 22nd April. A short and sweet deal that incorporates Gallipoli and Istanbul, combined with sightseeing and awesome inclusions such as our traditional Turkish ANZAC Eve barbecue.



WHAT YOU SEE AND WHAT YOU GET

Trip Highlights

- Istanbul - the old city, Blue Mosque, Hippodrome, Topkapi Palace, Hagia Sofia (exterior only) and the underground cistern
- Bosphorus Strait - the strategic waterway dividing Europe and Asia
- Gallipoli Peninsular - ANZAC Cove, Lone Pine & Chunuk Bair memorials, Johnson's Jolly, National services of Australia or New Zealand
- Battlefields and trenches
- ANZAC Dawn service
- National services of Australia or New Zealand

What's Included

- 3 breakfasts PLUS our ANZAC afternoon Turkish BBQ
- 3 nights 4 star and Special Class hotels
- Airport arrival transfer on day 1 from Ataturk International Airport at any time of day or from Sabiha Gokcen Airport at 2.30pm and 8pm.

- Guided sightseeing of Istanbul including the Blue Mosque, Underground Cistern, Topkapi Palace, Hippodrome and Hagia Sofia (exterior only).
- Afternoon Bosphorus cruise – Istanbul
- Guided sightseeing of Gallipoli, war cemeteries and battlefields (subject to site opening times set by the Anzac Day Organising Committee).
- English speaking, degree qualified Turkish tour guide
- Modern air-conditioned touring coach
- All relevant transfers and transportation
- Commemorative ANZAC hoodie/ jumper

What's Not Included

- Entrance Fees: \$20-30 USD
- International flights & visa
- Tip for your tour guide and driver. We recommend you allow \$3 - 5 USD per day, per traveller to cover tips for these mentioned above. Tipping your tour guide and driver is an entirely personal gesture

DETAILED ITINERARY

Day 1 : 22 April - Istanbul

Sunday 22nd April 2012. Welcome to Turkey and your ANZAC experience! Airport to hotel arrival transfer. The earlier you arrive the more time you'll have to independently explore the city its fantastic sights. Istanbul is easy to get around on foot and there are plenty of attractions dotted about the old city.

This evening after our welcome meeting opt for a drink in the bar, a great way to break the ice and meet fellow travellers. **Overnight - Istanbul**

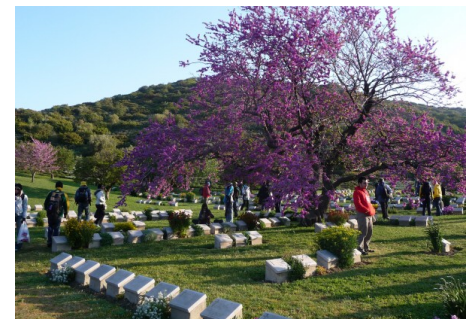
Day 2 : Istanbul old city

Istanbul. Enjoy our classic city tour taking in the Hippodrome area, the stunning Blue Mosque, Topkapi Palace, Hagia Sofia (exterior only), the underground cistern and more. This afternoon, enjoy a relaxing afternoon Bosphorus cruise.

Optional Istanbul by Night

Please indicate your preference and pay when you purchase your tour (tickets not available to purchase in Istanbul). 20.00hrs - For all persons who have pre - purchased ticket to our ISTANBUL BY NIGHT PARTY, please meet your guide in the hotel reception to depart for the venue. The party is not a black tie event, though please refrain from wearing shorts. Your ticket price includes – a sit down dinner, Turkish belly dancers, entertainers and live music. Drinks – both alcoholic and non - alcoholic are available at bar prices and are not included in the cost of the ticket. Alternatively, if you are not attending the performance, you are free to spend the evening as you wish. **Overnight - Istanbul (B)**

Day 3 : Gallipoli



Istanbul - Gallipoli. A very early departure to the WW1 battlefields on Gallipoli Peninsular. Early Wake up call, which your guide will arrange (please set your personal alarm as well to avoid missing the bus). Breakfast from 06.30hrs. Please bring your bags with you and place them on the bus. Pay all room bills and hand your key into reception before going to breakfast. Please make sure you have separated your luggage into a smaller day pack that you want to keep with you at Anzac Cove, ie warm clothes, blankets, snacks, toiletries etc and place them on the bus with you. Large bags will go underneath the coach and will not be accessible until the following morning.

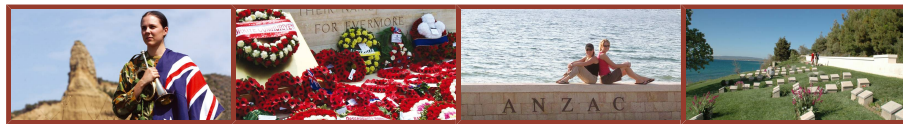
At this point it is a good time to fix in your mind the letter of your coach. All on the go coaches are clearly identifiable by an on the go sign on the right

Anzac Digger - 5 days

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updated on 10-10-2011

This Go Guide has been compiled with care and good faith. It gives an accurate illustration of the proposed arrangements for this holiday. Circumstances beyond our control such as changes in local conditions, inclement weather or other reasons could force us to make changes to this itinerary. This document does not form part of a contract between the traveller and on the go and their affiliates. Any costs shown are subject to change though are an accurate reflection of costs at time of writing. Please also note that visa requirements are subject to change and are the responsibility of the traveller and not that of on the go



side of the windscreen front and more importantly remember your coach letter – ie – coach A, B, C etc.

07.00hrs: we depart for Gallipoli. A stop will be made at a medium-sized grocery store with adjoining take away restaurant or similar facility for you to purchase lunch and stock up on food and snacks for the following day at lower prices than on the peninsular. Whilst some hot food can be purchased at Gallipoli from Turkish vendors present at Lone Pine and other points, some people consider the range limited and expensive.

Arriving to Gallipoli early, will allow us the maximum time to visit the sites that dot the region. Visits will be made to many of the war memorials for example; Lone Pine, Chunuk Bair, Johnston's Jolly, trenches, battlefields and Kabatepe - the modest ANZAC museum, (sites visited are subject to ANZAC Cove opening times as set by the ANZAC Day Organising Committee).

Early this evening, we'll relax at our exclusive ANZAC Eve Turkish BBQ before later taking our places amongst the many at the Dawn Service site. Important instructions will be given about where to meet with your coach on 25 April, after the national services have concluded. It is very important you follow meeting instructions in order that you rendezvous with your correct coach.

Whilst drop-offs usually run smoothly, be prepared for a long walk from where your coach is ordered to stop, to get to ANZAC Cove proper on ANZAC Eve. At the Dawn Service site we take our places amongst the many, with the atmosphere charged we wait for dawn's first light. **Overnight - Dawn Service site (ANZAC Cove) (B, L)**

Day 4 : ANZAC Day - Gallipoli



Gallipoli - Istanbul. Today, the 25th April marks the reason we came to Turkey and Gallipoli. Dawn and first light signals the commencement of the annual Dawn Service, attended by Australian, New Zealand and other foreign dignitaries, military personnel and a strong following of regular Australian and New Zealand folk. The poignant and emotive service commemorating this important and historical date allows us time to reflect. Lest we forget.

On completion of the Dawn Service at approximately 06.15hrs, visitors have a four-hour period before commencement of the Australian National Memorial Service at Lone Pine Service at around 10.30hrs. Many walk the 2-3 kilometres

distance via Ari Burnu, Beach, Shrapnel Valley and Shell Green Cemeteries. Please note: For those intending to attend both the Lone Pine and Chunuk Bair services, the only method of travelling between these two sites is on foot. The time between the Australian National Service at Lone Pine ending, and the New Zealand National Service at Chunuk Bair beginning, is approximately 1 hour and 15 minutes. The route from Lone Pine to Chunuk Bair is approximately 3.3 kilometres on foot up a gradual incline. The route is well marked but will take a reasonably fit individual about 1 hour to complete. It is not thought the average person would have enough time to attend both services due to the uphill climb of some 3.3 km from Lone Pine to Chunuk Bair. However, if you do decide you think you'll have the time, en route, just off the road you'll be walking up will be a Turkish Service in progress at a Memorial dedicated to the Turkish war dead. Please respect the solemnity of the occasion as you walk past, by remaining quiet.

If you don't think you'll be able to make it to Chunuk Bair between the Australian Service ending and the New Zealand Service commencing, don't start the walk. Remain around the area where Lone Pine Memorial is located. This afternoon, we re-group at a designated pick up point (probably Chunuk Bair and Lone Pine) for the drive back to Istanbul. Exercise patience on 25 April after the national services at Lone Pine and Chunuk Bair as you wait for our coaches to collect you. Everybody wants out as soon as the services draw to a close, and hundreds of coaches must wait in turn on the service road across the hill that runs parallel with the road you'll be waiting on.

With on the go's organisational skills and plans honed through many years, we take the sweat and frustration out of visiting during the region's busiest time. Still, it's important that you take any little hiccups during the hosting of such a large event in your stride. Remember our Diggers had it a lot harder. Late evening arrival (timings on 25 April subject to coach traffic). **Overnight - Istanbul**

Day 5 : 26 April - Istanbul



Thursday 26th April 2012. Our tour concludes after breakfast and hotel check out at 12noon. This morning or later today after hotel check out, opt to head over to the colossal Grand Bazaar and exotic Egyptian Spice market for some last minute souvenir shopping. We hope you had a wonderful tour and memorable ANZAC experience.

Overnight - Istanbul (B)

KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

Climate

Turkey is a destination that can be visited year-round. Temperatures in April can spring up surprising results. Days can be amazingly warm, though temperatures do drop at night, so pack some warmer clothes.

Health Requirements

Turkey - It is recommended that you be vaccinated for Tetanus and Polio, if you haven't had a booster in the last 10 years. Food and waterborne diseases are more common, so we recommend vaccinations for Typhoid (valid 3 years) and Hepatitis A (validity varies). However vaccination information can change and this information is intended as a guide only. Please contact your local healthcare professional for the most up to date and accurate advice.

Currency

ATM facilities, banks and exchange booths are available in all major cities and towns. Facilities are not available at ANZAC Cove.

Turkish Lira - abbreviated to TL or TRY.

USD 1 = TL 1.8

GBP 1 = TL 2.8

EURO 1 = TL 2.5

AUD 1 = TL 1.8

Time

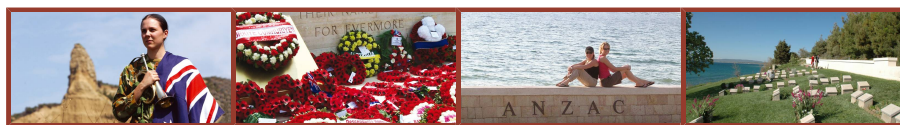
Time Zone - Turkey is two hours ahead of Greenwich Mean Time. Daylight saving time (+3 hours) is observed from the last Sunday in March to the Saturday before the last Sunday in October.

Essential Packing

- This Go Guide
- If spending the night at the Dawn Service site you will need a torch, snacks and water, warm clothes, hat/beanie, scarf, gloves, WC paper, wet wipes, camera, cushion and sleeping bag. Camping equipment is a no go, all you really need is a good sleeping bag. (temperatures can be sub - zero and there is always the threat of prevailing threat of rain)
- For those not staying out all night you will still need to bring along warm clothes and and possibly a cushion to sit on.
- Voltage in Turkey is 220V and outlets fit a two-pin European plug. Pack a Universal Adaptor suitable for Turkey
- Spare camera batteries and memory cards.
- A small day pack for day to day use and while at ANZAC Cove - large bags or back packs are not permitted in ANZAC Cove.

Holiday Money

Funds collected in Turkey for entrance fees and tip kitty (if applicable to your holiday) or optional excursions that you may wish to participate in are payable in local currency (TL).



Pre-Tour Accommodation

If you would like to arrive into Turkey before your ANZAC tour starts or stay on longer, we can arrange pre or post tour accommodation for you. Pre/post tour accommodation is located at the hotel your tour commences/ends and is inclusive of breakfast.

If you are arriving on day 1 of your tour or booking pre tour accommodation with on the go, we include a complimentary airport arrival transfer any time of day or night from Ataturk International Airport and transfer shuttle service at 2:30pm and 8pm from Sabiha Gokcen Airport.

If arriving at any other time we can arrange airport transfers at an additional cost. Please contact us for further details.

If arriving prior to 9am on day 1 (essentially on a flight that arrives very, very early in the morning) you will need to purchase a night of pre-tour accommodation to save you waiting until standard hotel check in time, which is generally 2pm.

Arrival Transfers

On all our ANZAC tours, an airport arrival transfer is offered on DAY ONE of your tour from Ataturk International Airport at any time of day or night (00:01 - 23:59 hours) or from Sabiha Gokcen Airport at 2.30pm and 8pm.

SABIHA GOKCEN AIRPORT

If arriving into Istanbul Sabiha Gokcen International Airport, an additional 50km from the Istanbul city centre. Please be timely in exiting customs and in meeting our awaiting representative, who will be holding an on the go tours sign.

ATATURK INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

After you have attended to customs and immigration formalities, collected your luggage and exited the customs area. You will be at the 'meet and greet' area (familiar to all airports where people kiss, hug and rendezvous). TURN LEFT, and walk along passenger concourse. LOOK TO THE RIGHT! Our representative will be waiting on the right behind the barracade, displaying an on the go sign. Transfers are every hour on the hour from this meeting point. As with everything be sure to be there 5 minutes early, as we don't like to delay proceedings.

Transfers take approx an hour from the airport to our hotel. During peak periods and busy afternoon Istanbul traffic transfers may take up to 2 hours.

Remember to look out for the on the go sign. Our reps won't know what you look like! Your arrival hotel name and address will be written upon your 'Tour Voucher'. Please keep this handy and make it available to our representative upon meeting him at the arrival point!

Visas

Australian, British, Canadian, Irish and USA passport holders can obtain a 3-month tourist visa upon arrival at Istanbul Atatürk International Airport. Cost is currently USD\$20/EURO 15 for

USA, Irish and Australian passports, and USD\$60/EURO 45 for Canadian passports, GBP10/EURO 15 for British passports. South African passport holders can obtain a 30 day tourist visa upon arrival for USD\$20. South African citizens may be asked to show proof of funds upon arrival (50USD/day). Nationals of selected EU countries can also obtain their tourist visa upon arrival. New Zealand passport holders currently do not require a visa for a stay not exceeding 3 months.

Ensure that your passport is valid for at least 6 months from your date of departure from Turkey. Please double-check all visa requirements with the Turkish embassy at least one month before travel, as the above is intended as a guide. Visa procurement is subject to change and remains the responsibility of the traveller and not that of on the go.

Hotel Check-in, Group Meeting

Upon arrival, please check in with the hotel reception, you will need to complete a hotel registration card and hand over your passport to which you can collect from reception later in the day. Please look for the welcome sign located in the hotel foyer which will outline our arrangements for the coming days (including the exact time of your welcome meeting this evening, often at 8pm) and the name of your tour guide. You'll then receive a room key and you can head up to your room.

Please note that most accommodation is based upon twin share, i.e. all rooms are made up as twin rooms with two single beds positioned separately in the room. At time of booking we can take requests for those who wish to share a double bed though with the constraints of each hotels inventory this can not be guaranteed.

The ANZAC Campaign

The Gallipoli and ANZAC Campaign - With the intention of capturing and securing the Ottoman capital of Istanbul, thus opening the road to Eastern Europe during World War One, Winston Churchill, British First Lord of the Admiralty, organised a naval assault on the strait. A strong Anglo - French fleet tried first in March 1915 but failed to secure the region.

Then, on a date now etched in history - 25 April, 1915 - British, Australian, New Zealand and Indian troops landed on Gallipoli at what is now known as ANZAC Cove. It is thought that the small harbour of Kabatepe Village may have been the object of the Allied landings on this fateful date but perhaps in the pitch dark of the early morning the landing craft were swept northwards by uncharted currents to the very steep cliffs of Ariburnu. A bit of bad luck really as whilst the Allies were forced to advance inland up and over the steep cliffs, Mustafa Kemal (Atatürk) had foreseen the landing here and sent his Turkish troops here to do ferocious battle with the partly unsuspecting Allies. Both Allied and Turkish troops fought desperately and gallantly, slaughtering one another in vast numbers.

After nine months of ferocious and often futile battle whilst trying to push forth, the Allied forces

were withdrawn in January 1916. The 13,000 souls who rest in unidentified graves in the cemeteries, together with more than 14,000 whose remains were never found, are individually commemorated by name on the Lone Pine Memorial (Australian and New Zealand servicemen), the Twelve Tree Copse, Hill 60 and Chunuk Bair Memorials (New Zealand servicemen) and also Helles Memorial (British, Australian and Indian servicemen).

Make the most of ANZAC

on the go want you to get the most out of your time at Gallipoli during the ANZAC Commemorations. Timetables relating to the various Memorial services at Gallipoli for Anzac Day as issued by the Governments of Australia and New Zealand and the Government of Turkey are not available at time of printing. However, the Commonwealth War Graves Commission upon entry to the ANZAC Cove Dawn Service site will distribute official programs on the evening of 24 April, so be sure to secure a copy. In 2010 and 2011, the official program of services was distributed on a complimentary basis. Dignitaries and VIPs will attend services from the governments of Australia, New Zealand, United Kingdom and Turkey, along with Military representatives. As such, please expect TRAFFIC DELAYS at all times.

ANZAC Top Tips

- In order that we show the best of Turkey in a nonhurried fashion to you, it is imperative you are ready for departure each day. Please do not delay and inconvenience fellow travellers. It is your responsibility to be at the proposed meeting point for the group in time. We will depart at our specified times.
- En route to the Gallipoli Peninsular from Istanbul we stop at a supermarket giving you the chance to pick up reasonably priced snacks and drinks.
- Buy a foam cushion for sitting at the cover to pad your seat for the evening.
- Your main luggage will be stored securely in the coach.
- Alcohol is not permitted in the Dawn Service Site. We ask that you respect this. All bags are searched upon entry to the Dawn Service Site. Any alcohol found is often confiscated. Intoxicated persons are refused entry from the site.
- In previous years over 14 000 people attended the Dawn Service Ceremony. The Dawn Service site is situated south of ANZAC Cove overlooking the Aegean coastline. The site has a small grassed area, seating approximately 1500 people and the remainder of the attendees enjoy views from the tiered grandstand. Although the grand stand can be a little uncomfortable, as dawn breaks the advantage is clear as you enjoy spectacular views across the coast and uninterrupted views as the ceremonies take place.
- Security is always high during ANZAC commemoration at Gallipoli. The Turkish Government works closely with the



Australian and New Zealand Governments to ensure that security is tight. Turkish Gendarmes are present in large numbers at the event. They are there to keep order, ensure traffic runs smoothly and carry out spot checks on persons and baggage being taken into the Dawn Service Site.

- Toilet facilities are provided at the Dawn service site, and previously they were clean and plentiful.
- Imagine the rubbish a crowd can leave behind. Don't add to it. Take all personal litter with you.
- On departing Gallipoli there is no particular order to when your bus will arrive. If buses are blocked in by other vehicles there is not much that can be done. Please be PATIENT, possibly there are hundreds of others in the same situation.

Istanbul Sightseeing

Istanbul sights are closed on the following days: Topkapi Palace is closed on Tuesdays, Hagia Sofia closed on Mondays. Grand Bazaar and Egyptian Spice Market are both closed on Sundays. This in NO way affects your touring program.

Our tour start Hotels (The Novotel Istanbul and Ibis Hotel Istanbul) offer a complimentary hotel shuttle bus service to and from Sultanahmet - the old City (taking approximately 35 minutes) and Taksim Square a few times a day. If you are arriving early and wish independently explore, consider making use of the service.

Anzac Digger - 5 days

updated on 10-10-2011