Anzac Uncovered
6 days | Starts/Ends: Istanbul

ANZAC Day Tours, Gallipoli 2016.
Starts: 21st April. A unique tour that takes an in-depth look at the many battlefields, memorials and strategic military points of the Gallipoli Peninsular. Plus Istanbul sightseeing and a cruise on the Bosphorus.

HIGHLIGHTS AND INCLUSIONS
Trip Highlights
• Istanbul - old city, Blue Mosque, Hippodrome, Hagia Sofia, Topkapi Palace and the Underground Cistern
• Bosphorus Strait - the strategic waterway dividing Europe and Asia
• Gallipoli Peninsular - ANZAC Cove, Lone Pine, Chunuk Bair memorials, Johnsons Jolly, battlefields and trenches
• Turkish International Service & Kilitbahir Fort
• ANZAC 2016 Dawn Service
• National services of Australia or New Zealand
• Anzac Eve - hotel accommodation, prior to the commencement of the Dawn Service

What's Included
• 4 breakfasts, 1 lunch (our ANZAC afternoon Turkish BBQ) and 2 dinners
• 3 nights Special Class hotels (3 - 4 star), 2 nights 2 - 3 star hotel in the Gallipoli Region.
• Guided sightseeing of the Blue Mosque, Underground Cistern, Hippodrome, Hagia Sofia and Topkapi Palace.
• Extensive sightseeing of Gallipoli, battlefields, memorials and trenches on 23rd and 24th April.
• Morning boat cruise along the Bosphorus in Istanbul
• Visits to the Grand Bazaar and Egyptian Spice Market
• 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.
• English speaking, degree qualified Turkish tour guide
• All relevant transfers and transportation in modern air-conditioned touring coach
• Commemorative ANZAC hoodie/jumper

What's Not Included
• Entrance Fees: $40-50 USD
• International flights & visa
• Tip for your tour guide and driver: as a guideline we recommend you budget USD $3-$5 per day, per traveller for your guide and USD $1-$2 per day, per traveller for your driver. Tipping your tour guide and driver is an entirely personal gesture

Anzac Uncovered - 6 days
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DETAILED ITINERARY

Day 1: Istanbul
Thursday 21st April 2016. Welcome to Turkey and your ANZAC experience! Airport to hotel arrival transfer. The remains of the day are free for you to independently explore. This evening after our welcome meeting at 08.00pm 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
Enjoy our guided city tour taking in the hippodrome area, exotic Blue Mosque, Underground Cistern, Hagia Sofia - Emperor Justinian’s grand basilica, Topkapi Palace and more. Later this afternoon we’ll wander the cavernous Grand Bazaar before walking to the waterfront, where located opposite is the colourful and ever lively Egyptian Spice Market. Time will be given for you to explore the exotic bazaar and possibly purchase some fresh or dried fruits, nuts, pistachios, Turkish Delight and other treats. Overnight - Istanbul (B)
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Day 3: Touring of ANZAC Cove

Istanbul - Gallipoli. An early morning departure to the WW1 battlefields on the Gallipoli Peninsula. 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.

The futile campaign, infamously known as Gallipoli, is poignantly etched in history. In the fierce struggle for Turkish territory, thousands perished as the odds were resolutely stacked against them. The Turks sustained terrible losses. Thousands of Australian, New Zealand, British, French and Indian Allied troops also died.

Today, we tour the region with ease and without the crowds, as most ANZAC pilgrims will descend upon the peninsula tomorrow. Walk in the footsteps of the ANZAC’s with visits to ANZAC Cove, Lone Pine Australian Memorial, Chunuk Bair New Zealand Memorial, Johnston’s Jolly and the trenches.

We then drive to the seaside village of Gallipoli. After hotel check in and dinner at our hotel, we'll descend upon the peninsular tomorrow. Walk without the crowds, as most ANZAC pilgrims will visit ANZAC Cove, Lone Pine Australian Memorial, Chunuk Bair New Zealand Memorial, Johnston’s Jolly and the trenches.

Day 4: Turkish Airforce Display, ANZAC Eve - hotel

Gallipoli. Returning to the Gallipoli National Park area, we attend the Turkish International Service and watch the Turkish Air Force display at Mehmetcik Abide. We then visit the small fishing village of Kilitbahir and tour the impressive Kilitbahir Fort. Kilitbahir - meaning lock of the sea, duly lives up to its name. The fort was built in 1453 by Mehmet II the Conqueror, as part of his successful siege on Constantinople. Many of the naval battles of the Dardanelles in the Gallipoli campaign took place here, from the strategically placed fort prior to the army landings. After we’ve explored the fort it’s time to sit down to relax at our ANZAC BBQ (late afternoon) lunch before returning to our hotel for dinner and an evening at leisure. Overnight - Eceabat & Gallipoli (B, L, D)

Day 5: ANZAC Day - Gallipoli 2016

Gallipoli - Istanbul. Hotel breakfast box. Today, the 25th April marks the reason we came to Turkey and Gallipoli. Departing our hotel close to midnight, we return to the Dawn Service Site.

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

Departing our hotel at approx 02:00am, we return to the Dawn Service Site, soaking up the atmosphere of the morning and the heartfelt chants of the crowd.

First light heralds a poignant bugle call and commencement of the Dawn Service. First light heralds a poignant bugle call and commencement of the Dawn Service. On completion of the Dawn Service at approximately 06:15, 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.

The average person would not 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 pickup point (normally Chunuk Bair and Lone Pine) for the drive to Istanbul. Arrive late evening (Timings on 25 April subject to coach traffic). Overnight - Istanbul (B)
**TRIP NOTES**

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**Day 6 : Istanbul - your way**

26th April 2016. Istanbul. At 09:00 (after breakfast), join us for a 2 hour cruise along the Bosphorus - the strait that divides European from Asian Istanbul. Returning to the hotel before 12noon and hotel check-out. This marks the end of a memorable ANZAC experience.

If your flight does not depart till later in the day opt to check out early in the morning, then after our Bosphorus Cruise pop across the road to explore the mammoth Grand Bazaar and exotic Egyptian Spice market. The ideal place for some last minute souvenir shopping! Make sure you have checked out of the hotel this morning though. (B)

**ANZAC UNCOVERED TOUR 2017**

The day to day itinerary detailed above related to the arrangements being offered on our ANZAC Uncovered tour in 2016. If travelling with us in 2017 our itinerary will differ slightly as sites are closed on various days and our itinerary will be re-arranged so that they are not missed or if unavoidable an alternative site will be offered.

**Entrance Fees & Tipping**

Entrance fees are not included in the cost of our tours. Funds collected in Turkey (and Egypt if travelling on one of our combo tours) for entrance fees are payable in local currency - Turkish Lira and Egyptian Pounds and will be collected by your tour guide.

Your tip kitty (approx USD$30 - $35), as noted in the 'Not Included' section of our trip notes is collected in local currency - Turkish Lira (TL). If travelling onward to Egypt the kitty relevant to the Egypt section of your holiday is payable in Egyptian Pounds (EGP).

The kitty will be collected from all tour participants to cover tips throughout your holiday. This saves you the hassle of knowing when and how much to tip bellhops, luggage luggers, antiquity guards, housekeeping, waiters and other support staff throughout the tour.

This tip kitty amount does not include a tip for your tour guide OR driver. For a job well done, we would suggest USD$3 - 5 per day for your tour guide and USD$1 - 2 for your driver. Tipping your guide and driver is an entirely personal gesture and ultimately the amount is up to you.

**Arrival Instructions**

**AIRPORT TRANSFERS**

An arrival transfer/shuttle bus from Ataturk International Airport is provided on day 1 of your tour from 00:01 through till 06:00 on day 2 (or relevant day if travelling on a tour that commences in Egypt and travels to Turkey at a later stage). If arriving to via Sabiha Gokcen Airport an arrival transfer is available on day 1 at 2.30pm & 8.00pm. If you are arriving earlier than day 1 and have purchased pre-tour accommodation with On The Go, a transfer will be provided. If you have not booked pre-tour accommodation with On The Go you will need to make your own way to the start hotel on day 1 after 14.00.

**ARRIVAL INSTRUCTIONS**

Upon arrival to Ataturk International Airport or Sabiha Gokcen Airport please proceed to the Arrival Hall. Upon entering the Arrival Hall turn LEFT. Here, you will be met by an On The Go Tours representative, carrying an On The Go Tours sign. Please present your tour voucher to our representative as you meet. Later you will need to hand it to your tour guide at your welcome meeting on the evening of day 1 (or relevant day). If, for any reason you are unable to commence your tour as scheduled, or on arrival are unable to make contact with our rep after 30mins of waiting in the Arrival Hall (at the Information Desk located to the left of the Arrivals Area, please do not exit the airport or make your own way to the start hotel, please call one of our 24 hour contact persons.

Your tip kitty will be collected on the day that your flight departs for the last time so ensure you have plenty of tips for the flight home.

Please note that when checking out of your hotel your room key card will also need to be handed in.

**Solo Travellers**

Due to capacity restraints we do not offer single rooms on the majority of our ANZAC Tours. On tours which do not offer a Single Supplement, we will match solo travellers up in a room with a person of the same sex.

Solo travellers will be allocated a single room for any pre and post tour accommodation and a compulsory single room supplement will apply. Then when the tour starts, you will move into a twin room to share with a room mate.

**Day 1 - Hotel Check-in & Welcome 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, usually 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. rooms are made up as twin rooms with two single beds. At time of booking we do take requests for those who wish to share a double bed though with the constraints of each hotels inventory this can not be guaranteed.

**Visas**

It is no longer be possible to obtain a visa on arrival in Turkey. Australian, British, Canadian, Irish and USA passport holders can apply for a 3-month tourist e-visa online at: https://www.evisa.gov.tr. The form is easy to complete and only takes a few minutes.

Costs are currently USD$50 for Australian and Canadian passport holders, USD$20 for USA, Irish, British and South African passport holders. New Zealand passport holders currently do not require a visa for a stay not exceeding 3 months.

**Anzac Uncovered - 6 days**

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<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Phone Number</th>
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<tr>
<td>USA</td>
<td>1 866 377 6147</td>
<td><a href="mailto:info@onthegotours.com">info@onthegotours.com</a></td>
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<td>CAN</td>
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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 Tours.

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 it’s important to pack some warmer clothes.

The weather on the Gallipoli Peninsula in April can be very hot during the day and bitterly cold overnight (with temperatures below freezing). Rain and very cold winds are possible and you can also get burnt from the sun and wind. It is important to ensure you have sufficient warm and protective clothing for all weather conditions.

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

The official currency in Turkey is the Turkish Lira.

Euro, British Pounds, US Dollars and other major currencies can be exchanged locally or in advance of departure. Istanbul Ataturk Airport offers speedy currency exchange facilities adjacent to the baggage hall. Additionally, exchange facilities are available at various bureaux de changes and banks in major towns have ATMs. It’s advisable to request bank notes in smaller denominations, as it can sometimes be hard to get change from large notes and smaller notes are handy for smaller purchases and gratuities.

Traveller’s Cheques are not recommended as they’re often difficult to exchange and incur high fees.

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.

Time Keeping

In order that we show the best of Turkey in a non hurried 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.

Istanbul Sightseeing

Istanbul sights are closed on the following days: Topkapi Palace is closed on Tuesdays and the Grand Bazaar is closed on Sundays. This in NO way affects your touring program.

Two of our tour start hotels - The Novotel Istanbul and Ibis Hotel Istanbul offer a 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 to independently explore, consider making use of the service. Taxis are also available from the hotel at all times, if all taxis are taken at any time another is typically along every few minutes, if not, ask reception to organise one for you.

Essential Packing

- These Trip Notes
- If spending the night at the Dawn Service site you will need snacks and water, warm clothes, hat/beanie, scarf, gloves, WC paper, wet wipes, camera and cushion. A torch is also handy. Blankets & compact sleeping bags are allowed. 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 possibly a cushion to sit on.
- Voltage in Turkey is 220V and outlets fit a two-pin European plug. Pack a Universal Adapter 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.

What to expect at the commemorations?

Attending Anzac Day commemorations at Gallipoli is challenging, even for experienced travellers. Visitors stay overnight at the Anzac Commemorative Site located in the open-air Gallipoli Historical National Park. At 5:30 am the one-hour Dawn Service commences. After the Dawn Service, most Australians walk 3.1km up unsealed Artillery Road towards the Lone Pine Memorial. New Zealanders continue a further 3.3km uphill along a bitumen road to Chunuk Bair.

The services finish around lunchtime and participants start to depart on their buses. Given the number of buses there is a long wait before all buses can be loaded and leave the Peninsula. The buses will arrive in no particular order and therefore it is impossible to predict the time that you will be picked up. Please be patient.

What conditions to expect at Gallipoli on Anzac Day

Anzac Day commemorations are held in the Gallipoli Historical National Park, which has no permanent infrastructure or shelter. You will be exposed to the elements for up to 24 hours (including overnight) and can experience all extremes of weather. Typically, it can drop to below 0 degrees Celsius in the early hours before the Dawn Service, but warm up considerably in the afternoon for the Lone Pine and Chunuk Bair services. Rain and very cold wind are also possible in April, as is unseasonal heat.

A moderate level of fitness is required as you will walk around 10km during the commemorative period. The terrain includes reasonably flat sealed roads, sloped and uneven gravel tracks and grassed areas (which can become slippery or muddy when wet), as well as walking uphill on a very steep graded dirt road. You will also need
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to stand for long periods at times, including in queues for security screening to enter each commemorative site. Some assistance is available, by advance application, for visitors with mobility issues.

All of the basic facilities like portable toilets, lighting and non-drinking water are brought in for the commemorations. Seating is not allocated and is extremely limited at all services.

Facilities for people with mobility issues or medical conditions at Gallipoli.
The commemorative sites are difficult to access for individuals who require special assistance. Limited mobility assistance is available including: seating in reserved stands, with access to a reserved disabled toilet, and seats on assisted mobility shuttle buses, which move between the commemorative sites.

The commemorative sites are not wheelchair-friendly and there are no wheelchairs available for use onsite. Only basic first aid facilities are available from the evening of 24 April and during the day on 25 April.

If you do have limited mobility it is also essential that you contact On The Go Tours and complete a fit to travel form so that we can assess if the tour is suitable for you.

Seating at the ANZAC Commemorations
• Seating at the commemorations is not allocated or reserved (other than for registered Assisted Mobility visitors) and some locations have restricted or no view of the commemorative services, other than on large video screens.
• The stands (with plastic bucket-style seats) will hold 50% of visitors and the grassed areas will hold 50% of visitors. You will not be able to lie down. Large groups may not be able to sit together and you may be separated from your group and/or tour guide or leader.
• On the Go requests that you try to obtain seating (when facing the stage) in the grandstand on the far right. We will try to gather as many On The Go groups here as possible to maintain commraderie for the evening.

Timings for ANZAC Day
• The ANZAC battlefield area of the Gallipoli Peninsula will close to all visitors from 12.01am on the morning of 24 April.
• Turkish security personnel will conduct a full security sweep of the National Park on the morning of 24 April to clear any unauthorised visitors.
• While many coaches and tour buses arrive at the Gallipoli Peninsula in the morning or during the day of the 24th, the Anzac Commemorative Site, where the Dawn Service is held does not open for visitor entries until 4pm.
• Due to the large crowds and a number of security processes, it may take a while to reach the Anzac Commemorative Site after the opening time.
• The overnight reflective program commences at 8pm on 24 April and runs until the early hours of the morning on 25 April.
• The reflective program includes documentaries and interviews about the Gallipoli campaign, as well as musical performances by the Defence Force band.
• The Dawn Service commences at 5.30am on 25 April and finishes at 6.30am.
• After the conclusion of the Dawn Service, Australians will walk to Lone Pine to attend the Australian Memorial Service, while New Zealanders will walk on to Chunuk Bair.
• The Australian Memorial Service at Lone Pine commences at 10.00am and concludes at 11.00am.
• The New Zealand Memorial Service at Chunuk Bair commences at 11.45am and concludes at 12.15pm.
• All Australians may be required to remain at Lone Pine until the conclusion of the New Zealand Memorial service, when coaches will be released to pick up their passengers at Lone Pine and then Chunuk Bair.
• Several hundred coaches may be queued in a random order and it could take a number of hours before your coach arrives. Therefore, you may not be able to leave the Gallipoli Peninsula until mid to late in the afternoon on 25 April. REMEMBER YOUR BUS NUMBER & LETTER

What will you need to bring to ANZAC Day Commemorations...

What to Take
• When you disembark your coach on arrival, you will need to ensure you are carrying everything you need for that night and the next day, including a sleeping bag, food, water, prescription medications, protective clothing, torch, sunscreen, camera, etc.
• As you will be seated for a long period of time, for extra comfort we recommend bringing a foam cushion to pad your seat.
• 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.
• Your main luggage will be stored securely in the coach.
• You will not be able to return to your coach if you have forgotten something or wish to return prohibited items.
• You will not return to your coach until the end of the commemorations period on the afternoon of 25 April.

What is prohibited?
• You can not take large backpacks or luggage, camping or cooking equipment, opened bottles of liquid, flammable liquids, weapons or sharp objects, other large objects or alcohol to the commemorative sites.
• Intoxicated persons will be denied entry to the commemorations.
• Alcohol is prohibited at the site.
• You should be aware that Turkey has very strict penalties for the possession of drugs.
• Swimming in the waters off the Anzac area is prohibited.
• As the area is a national park, the lighting of fires on the Gallipoli Peninsula is prohibited.

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.
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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 in the darkness of the early morning the landing crafts were swept northwards by uncharted currents to the very steep cliffs of Ariburnu. Unfortunately 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).