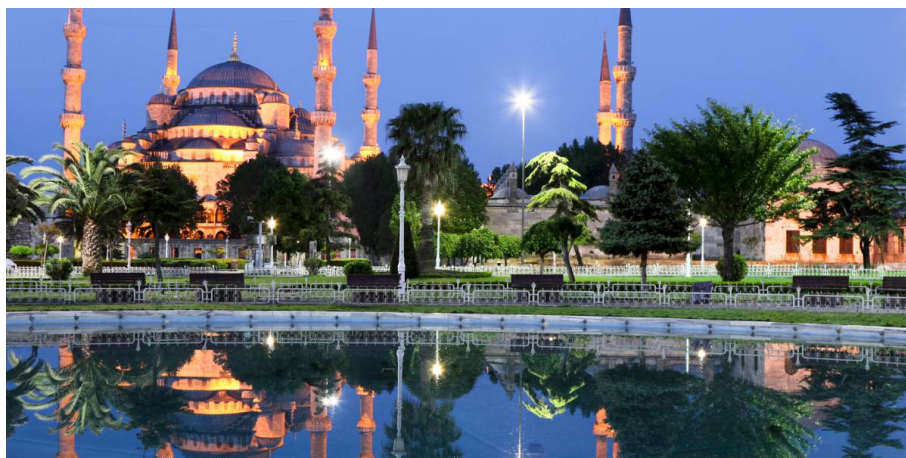


Istanbul & Gallipoli

5 days | Starts/Ends: Istanbul



Head to Turkey for a short break with a difference. Explore cosmopolitan Istanbul, pay your respects at Gallipoli and explore the ruins of legendary Homer's Troy with its famous Trojan wooden horse.

HIGHLIGHTS AND INCLUSIONS

Trip Highlights

- Istanbul - the old city, Blue Mosque, Hagia Sofia, Hippodrome, Underground Cistern and Topkapi Palace
- Gallipoli Peninsular - ANZAC Cove, Lone Pine, Chunuk Bair memorials, Johnson's Jolly and The Nek
- Gallipoli Region - battlefields and trenches
- Troy - Trojan horse and ancient ruins

What's Included

- 4 breakfasts and 1 hotel dinner
- 4 nights 4 star hotel
- Airport arrival transfer on day 1
- Guided sightseeing - Istanbul (private), Gallipoli & Troy (with others)
- All relevant transfers and transportation in modern air-conditioned touring vehicles/ coach
- This tour is operated in conjunction with other tourist groups, not solely On The

Go. Travellers from a variety of travel companies will join together for the touring arrangements offered each day and may or maybe be retiring to the same hotel as you in the evening

What's Not Included

- Entrance Fees: USD\$35-45pp, paid in local currency
- International flights and visa
- Tipping - an entirely personal gesture

DETAILED ITINERARY

Day 1 : Istanbul

Welcome to Turkey! Arrive at Istanbul Airport, where after you have attended to customs and immigration formalities, you'll be met by one on the go representative, who will be easily recognised by the company sign he/she is carrying. Remember, the representative won't know what you look like, so it will be important to look out for our company sign, in order to facilitate rendezvous. From here, you'll be transferred into Istanbul.

Day One is designed to be an arrival day for all passengers, so there are no formal arrangements on this day. If arriving early enough into Istanbul, you'll have time to get acquainted with this remarkable city. Istanbul is easy to get around on foot and there are plenty of restaurants and cafes dotted about the city. If arriving before day 1 of the tour you

will need to make your own way into Istanbul and to our hotel at your own expense.

It is suggested you reserve some extra time for Istanbul, as our Gallipoli & Troy Mini Stay concentrates on the incorporation of the Gallipoli Peninsular and Troy. Perhaps consider extending your stay by a night or two before or after the touring arrangements.

Overnight - Istanbul

Day 2 : Istanbul City Tour



Istanbul. This morning we enjoy a guided tour of Istanbul's old city. Our tour includes visits to the stunning Blue Mosque famed for its blue Iznik tiles and unique 6 minarets, the ruinous Hippodrome – now a small park of sorts and once scene of chariot races and political activities in Byzantine times, Hagia Sofia Museum - constructed as a Basilica in the 6th century by Emperor Justinian, Topkapi Palace and the Underground Cistern – an ancient underground water tank - replete with

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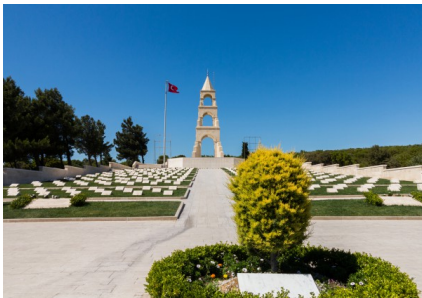
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Istanbul & Gallipoli

carved and fluted Corinthian columns and a puzzling head of Medusa.

Please note that some sites are closed on certain days in Istanbul. Hagia Sofia - closed on Mondays, Topkapi Palace closed on Tuesdays and Grand Bazaar - closed on Sundays. So only external viewing will be possible on these days. **Overnight - Istanbul**

Day 3 : Gallipoli Battlefields



This morning you will be picked up from your hotel between 06:30 - 07:00. Please bring all your luggage with you, have eaten breakfast and be waiting in the hotel reception at this time. Our vehicle will be picking up travellers from various other hotels in the city and as such the time frame is based on being the first pick up or the last. Once all are onboard we drive south to the WW1 battlefields of Gallipoli. Here, we'll embark upon a guided tour of the region, once the site of fierce fighting and today almost hauntingly beautiful, with its wooded landscape dotted with understated memorials to the war dead.

Our guided tour of the region will take in sights such as Lone Pine Australian War Memorial and cemetery, Chunuk Bair New Zealand War Memorial and cemetery, the Nek, Johnston's Jolly and the many fortified trenches still clearly visible amongst the scrub after all these years. Roughly 3 feet deep, the system of trenches provided much needed safe cover for troops as they desperately fought the enemy. **Overnight - Canakkale (B, L, D)**

Day 4 : Legendary Troy



Early this morning we continue to Troy. If you've seen the movie 'Troy' based on poet Homer's 'The Iliad' you'll be familiar with Paris, his prized Helen and Hector on the Trojan side and Agamemnon and Achilles on the Achaean (Greek) side. The legend of the lost city of Troy and Homer's poetry was brought alive by its rediscovery in 1863. Subsequent excavations revealed 9 ancient cities, one on top of the other, dating back to 3000BC! We enjoy a tour of the ruins and see a replica of the Trojan wooden horse that helped sack Troy. The tour of Troy finishes in late morning and the rest of the day is spent at leisure in Cannakale before your transfer back to Istanbul at 6pm.

Cannakale is a popular student town on the shores of the Dardanelles with a great cafe culture. You'll notice that there is another massive horse (similar to the one in Troy) - this is the one from the actual film, Troy later donated to the town by Brad Pitt himself! Given the nautical nature of the town there is an interesting naval museum to explore next to a replica of the the Nusret Mine ship - a later decommissioned war ship from WW1. The waterfront offers a great range of restaurants specialising in seafood - so it's a great place to grab a spot of lunch or early dinner before heading back to Istanbul. Arrival into Istanbul is late in the evening, around 11 or 12 o'clock. **Overnight - Istanbul (B)**

Day 5 : Istanbul

Our Mini stay concludes after breakfast. If you wish to extend your stay to explore the sights in Istanbul and Turkey then please speak to one of our expert staff who can arrange extra nights accommodation and excursions for you.

(B)

HOTELS

Highlighted below are some of the hotels which we frequently use on this tour, though we reserve the right to substitute these hotels to ones of a similar standard.

Please refer to your Tour Voucher for your confirmed arrival hotel and further arrival information.

Orka Royal Hotel

Opened in 2005, the Orka Royal is a modern and elegant hotel offering guests a traditional Turkish welcome. The contemporary guest rooms are comfortable and well equipped. The hotel also boasts an Al Fresco Restaurant and Bar - why not try some classic Turkish dishes washed down with a few glasses of wine? The perfect way to end an enjoyable day sightseeing. Perfectly located within walking distance of the Blue Mosque and Hagia Sofia, a few streets away from the mighty Bosphorus.



Hotel Akol

Built in 1990 and recently renovated the Hotel Akol is a comfortable hotel with fantastic views across the Dardanelles. Guestrooms are bright and spacious and have excellent facilities including Wi-Fi being available throughout. There are a number of great restaurants and bars at the hotel, including Radika Fish Restaurant, arguably one of the finest sea food eateries in Canakkale. Sipping a cold beer in the evening at the trendy rooftop bar overlooking the city is the perfect way to end an evening. Well located on the seafront in the centre of town.

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Istanbul & Gallipoli



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 oft futile battle whilst trying to push forth, the Allied forces were withdrawn in January 1916.

In the nine months of this bitterly fought campaign more than 36,000 Commonwealth servicemen died. The 31 war cemeteries on the Peninsular contain 22,000 graves though it was possible only to identify some 9,000 of these. 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).

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KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

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 cannot be guaranteed.

Pre-Tour Accom & Arrival Transfers

If you would like to arrive into Turkey prior to your tour 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 arriving on day 1 of a holiday or booking pre-tour accommodation with us on a tour that includes an airport arrival transfer (as indicated in the 'What's Included' section of these trip notes) we will be at the airport (Istanbul or Sahiba Gokcen), ready to transfer you to your hotel.

If arriving prior to 8am 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.

ARRIVING INTO ISTANBUL AIRPORT

Upon arrival to Istanbul International Airport please proceed to the Arrival Hall. Upon entering the Arrival Hall turn LEFT. Here, you will need to look for your name on one of the electronic screens located in the arrivals hall. Our representative will be located near to the screen with your name on. Please present your tour voucher to our representative when you meet them.

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.

If your tour or sailing holiday does not include an arrival transfer, you will need to make your own way to the tour start point. Details of the tour/ sailing holiday start point can be found on your Tour Voucher.

Guides & Groups

Some of our group tours are sectors of a larger tour. Some travellers on your trip may only travel with you for part of your tour. It also might be that you end your holiday part way through a longer tour and others in the group continue on.

Entrance fees

On group tours, entrance fees to tourist sites are not included in our tour price (except on our City of Sultans tour). Funds will be collected in Turkey (and Egypt if travelling on one of our combo tours) for your entrance fees, that are payable in local currency - Turkish Lira and Egyptian Pounds and will be collected by your tour guide. You will find the cost of entrance fees noted under 'What's Not Included' on page 1 of this document. Entrance fee amounts do change, therefore upon arrival in Turkey your tour leader will outline the exact total of your entrance fees

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and collect this amount in Turkish Lira on day 2 of your tour. A breakdown of these costs is available upon request from your guide.

Tipping Kitty

It is customary to tip in Turkey. At the start of your tour we collect a small tipping kitty from all tour participants to cover tips en-route (to be paid in Turkish Lira). This saves you the hassle of when and how much to tip bellhops, luggage handlers, waiters, your airport representative and other support staff throughout your tour.

This tipping kitty does not include a tip for your tour guide (for a job well done!) where we recommend an amount of approximately USD \$4-5 per day, though the amount to tip your guide is up to you.

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.

Departure Transfers

We offer complimentary departure transfers to Istanbul Airport at 9am and 1pm on the final day of the following tours: Turkey Discovered, Turkey Unplugged, Turkey and Tutankhamun (day 8 for Turkey & Tutankhamen tour).

Christmas Turkey: A departure transfer is offered on the final day of your tour at any time.

Should you require a departure transfer at any other time or to Sabiha Gokcen Airport, this can be booked in advance or locally.

Turkey Country Guide

Blue Mosque Renovations

The Blue Mosque (also known as Sultanahmet Camii in Turkish) is currently undergoing renovations and for the foreseeable future there will be scaffolding erected inside and other construction works will be taking place. Whilst we will visit the inside of the Blue

Mosque when included on a tour, please be aware that some parts of the Mosque may be off limits to tourists.

Turkey Visas

Please be advised that visa requirements are subject to change and that visa procurement is the responsibility of the traveller and not On The Go Tours. Please also ensure that your passport is valid for at least 6 months from your planned date of departure from Turkey.

After booking your holiday, please provide us with your passport details as soon as possible.

Australian, British, Canadian and Irish passport holders can obtain a 3-month tourist e-visa online prior to departure. Costs are currently USD\$60 for Australian and Canadian passport holders, USD\$20 for British, USA and Irish passport holders. South African passport holders currently need an e-visa but there is no charge for this. New Zealand passport holders currently do not require a visa for a stay not exceeding 3 months.

To arrange a Turkey e-visa online go to: <https://www.evisa.gov.tr>

After suspending all visa services for U.S citizens in October 2018, the Turkish Government have now announced the resumption of limited visa services for U.S. citizens. U.S citizens are not eligible for E Visas and must apply for a visa via their nearest consulate or embassy. Please note that the Turkish Government may change the visa requirements/restrictions at any time. If you are a U.S Citizen who plans to visit Turkey, it is essential that you contact your local Turkish embassy/consulate for the latest advice.

Turkey Health Requirements

You should seek medical advice before travelling to Turkey from your local health practitioner and ensure that you receive all the appropriate vaccinations. As a guide Diphtheria, Hepatitis A and Tetanus is strongly recommended. The tap water in Turkey is generally considered safe to drink, but as a precaution against stomach upsets you may want to drink bottled mineral water, which

is readily available from shops, hotels and restaurants.

Turkey Fact File

Official Name: Republic of Turkey

Capital: Ankara

Population: 70 million

Total Area: 780,580 square kilometres

Official Language: Turkish. Kurdish, English and French also spoken

Religions: Islam 99.8%, Christian and Jewish 0.2%

Voltage: 230 volts

Dialling Code: +90

Time Difference: GMT/UTC +2. For other time differences please visit www.timeanddate.com

Turkey Brief History

Present-day Turkey was created in 1923 from the Turkish remnants of the Ottoman Empire. In 1945 Turkey joined the UN, and in 1952 it became a member of NATO. Turkey intervened militarily on Cyprus in 1974 to protect Turkish Cypriots and prevent a Greek takeover of the island; the northern 37 percent of the island remains under Turkish Cypriot control. Relations between Turkey and Greece have improved greatly over the past few years. Politically, modern Turkey was almost entirely the creation of one man, Mustafa Ataturk.

Turkey Time & Voltage

Turkey is 2 hours ahead of Greenwich Meantime (GMT). From the last Sunday in March to the last Sunday in October, Turkey observes Daylight Saving and is 3 hours ahead of GMT. Standard voltage is 230 - 240 volts. Primary sockets generally require the 3 round-pin variety, similar though not identical to European sockets. Greek sockets are of the 2 round-pin variety. We recommend that you pack a universal travel adaptor. You will need a voltage converter and plug adaptor to use U.S. appliances.

Turkey Currency

The official currency in Turkey is the Turkish Lira.

Euro, British Pounds, US Dollars and other major currencies can be exchanged

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locally or in advance of departure. Istanbul Airport offers currency exchange facilities. Additionally, exchange facilities are available at various bureau 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.

Turkey Geography And Climate

Turkey has borders with Greece, Bulgaria, Armenia, Georgia, Iran, Iraq and Syria with easy land and sea access to the Gulf States, the Levant and North Africa. It is the ninth largest country in the Middle East and the third largest in Europe. Turkey only consists of 23,000 sq. km in Europe: the remainder is in Asia. The Sea of Marmara and the Bosphorus and Dardanelles straits separate the European (Thrace) and Asian (Anatolian) parts of Turkey. Anatolia is a high plateau region, rising progressively towards the east and broken by the valleys of some 15 rivers, including the Tigris and the Euphrates. There are numerous lakes including Lake Van, which is really an inland sea. In the north the chain of the Pontine Mountains runs parallel to the Black Sea; in the south, the Taurus Mountains almost touch the narrow, fertile coastal plain. The climate is temperate with hot, dry summers and mild, wet winters (harsher in interior).

Turkey is a destination that can be visited year-round. Temperatures in Turkey during the Northern Hemisphere summer are generally high, particularly during the summer months from June through September. April can spring up surprising results. Days can be amazingly warm, though temperatures do drop at night, so pack some warmer clothes. Summer in Turkey for the most part is hot and dry. For the beach worshipper, June through September is best, when you'll enjoy glorious Mediterranean sun. Turkey is a lovely winter destination, the weather is usually temperate, although from December through to February you may enjoy a little snow in

Istanbul, Anatolia or Cappadocia. Whatever month you consider, you'll be rewarded with seasonal variations that range from leaf-strewn autumns to sun-kissed summers.

Visit www.worldclimate.com to get an idea of what the weather will be like on your tour.

Turkey Money

ALL prices stated in this dossier are given as a guide only and are subject to change. All prices are quoted in US dollars.

Local currency

The monetary unit in Turkey is the lira, TL. For up to date exchange rates with your own currency visit www.oanda.com or www.xe.com. Changing money, credit cards & ATMs

Rates for foreign currency are always better inside Turkey. Private exchange offices have competitive rates and no commission. Banks are generally open Monday – Friday 8.30am – noon and 1.30pm -5pm. Most charge a commission of US\$2.50 for travellers cheques. ATMs are widely available in cities.

Entrance fees

Generally speaking most entrance fees will be covered by the recommended spending money. There are, however, other sites and museums that are not part of the tour programme which you may wish to visit in your free time. If you have an International Student Card you will often be entitled to reduced entrance fees.

Tipping

Many workers in Turkey are poorly paid and depend on tips for their main income. As tips are a normal part of everyday culture in Turkey we operate a compulsory tipping kitty to save you money and embarrassment. Each member of the group contributes to the kitty (approx US \$15 per person per week) and this is then used to pay tips to any people who provide services to the group as a whole e.g. porters, housekeeping staff in hotels etc. Except at the cheapest restaurants, a 10%-15% charge is added to the bill. As the money does not necessarily find its way to the waiter, you may want to leave an additional 10% on the table or hand it to the waiter.

Turkey Optional Excursions

A full list of the main excursions available on each tour can be found on daily itinerary on these trip notes. All prices given are approximate and are subject to change due to local inflation or exchange rates.

Turkey Local Transport

In Istanbul many of the sights are within walking distance of each other and the best way to get to know the area is on foot. However, it's easy and relatively cheap to jump in a taxi and criss-crossing the Bosphorus by ferry is great fun.

Turkey Security

Most people find that Turkey is a safe and friendly country but as in any foreign place you should exercise a reasonable degree of caution. Don't walk around lonely back streets at night (particularly in Istanbul), don't wear expensive looking jewellery or a classy watch and don't carry a wallet in your back pocket. Don't carry your camera openly; always have it in a small day pack which is firmly attached to your body, preferably in the front in crowded places. Take particular care not to become too relaxed if you have had a few drinks and are returning to your hotel at night – it is best to always take a taxi. Always wear a money belt or leave your valuables, including your passport, in the hotel security box.

Turkey Essential Packing

- A small daypack for your day-to-day needs
- A photocopy of your passport data pages
- The voltage in Turkey is generally 220V and outlets fit a two-pin European plug. You should pack a Universal Adaptor and check that it is suitable for Turkey
- Spare camera batteries/memory card so you can go snap happy
- If you fancy a tippie, take advantage of Duty Free
- Take out some Turkish Lira from the ATM facilities at the airport upon arrival
- Buy a phrasebook and practice your Turkish
- Keep a supply of small notes for local transactions

Is This Holiday For You?

Travelling to far-flung corners of the earth often involves encountering lifestyles and

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conditions that are very different from what you are used to back home. As such it is important to come prepared for unusual situations, local inadequacies and unpredictable events as and when they occur. Foreign travel is definitely not suitable for people who expect everything to go exactly as planned, as things can and do change in foreign countries. The people, customs, creed and languages are different from one region to the next.

Turkey is a country of unparalleled contrasts, a destination where you'll be afforded plenty of unique encounters, and if you can travel with an open mind you will have a wonderful time here. In return, please remember to demonstrate sensitivity and respect for local customs.

Turkey Local food And Drink

Evening meals and lunches will generally be eaten in local restaurants. Please see your tour notes for details about any included meals.

Simple snack - \$2-\$5

Meal -\$5-\$15

Fancy restaurant - \$20-\$25

Your tour leader will take you to local restaurants, so you can experience the vast variety of Turkish cuisine.

Food

Lots of tasty treats are available in Turkey. Snacks include borek or poca (small pastries filled with meat, cheese or potato) sold from snack carts in the street, also simit (sesame-seed bread rings). Other snacks are lahmacun (small pizzas with meat based toppings) and in coastal cities midye tave (deep fried mussels). Main meals include several variations of the kebab, fish and seafood are good, but usually pricey and sold by the weight rather than by the item. Most budget restaurants are alcohol free. A useful exception is a meyhanes (tavern) which usually serves mezes, an extensive array of cold appetisers as well as grilled kebabs and fish. Most common mezes are dolma (pepper or vine leaves stuffed with rice) and patlican salata (aubergine in tomato sauce). The best dessert is undoubtedly the honey soaked baklava. Turkish delight

- solidified sugar and pectin, flavoured with rose water or pistachios, and sprinkled with powdered sugar - is another popular sweet.

Drink

All drinks such as bottled water or soft drinks are at your own expense at all times and are fairly inexpensive. Water from a tap or well should not be considered safe to drink. Bottled water, carbonated soft drinks and fruit juices are widely available throughout the country. Alcoholic drinks vary in price, with beer generally being the cheapest option.

1l of water - \$0.50

30cl bottle of soft drink - \$0.50-\$1

40cl bottle of beer - \$2-\$3

Turkish coffee is served in tiny cups and can be very strong. The same can be said for the tea (chai) which is served in delightful tulip-shaped glasses. The local firewater is anis-flavoured raki, stronger than Greek Ouzo. Alcoholic drinks are available in most places, but in smaller towns it is not as widely obtainable.

Turkey Shopping

Turkey is a virtual Aladdin's Cave. The Grand Bazaar in Istanbul is cavernous and full of unusual and everyday objects. Known locally as Kapali Carsi - the Grand Bazaar in Istanbul's Old City is a massive conglomeration of shops (some 4000) divided into areas specialising in gold, carpets, leather, souvenirs and clothing. Turkish handicrafts include a rich variety of textiles and embroideries, articles of copper, onyx and tile, mother-of-pearl, inlaid articles, leather and suede products. Jewellery, carpets and kilims represent top buys at the bazaar.

Opening hours: Mon - Saturday 0900 - 1900hrs (closed Sunday).

The Egyptian Spice Bazaar at Eminonu near Istanbul is an easy continuance from the Grand Bazaar or good start point before heading onto the cavernous Grand Bazaar. Here, you can buy a dizzying array of spices at a fraction of the cost you'd expect to pay back home. Pine Kernels, peppercorns, real Iranian saffron and other precious commodities are hawked here at knockdown prices! Real

Turkish delight is available by the tonne as well. Why not the milk-based Turkish delight studded with pistachios!

Opening hours: 0900 - 1900hrs Monday - Sunday.

Markets and bazaars abound in other towns, too. During your stay in Turkey, you may visit a leather manufacturer and emporium. Although the quality of some of the jackets and clothing outstanding, the initially quoted prices can also be rather outstanding. If you do fancy a particular item, haggle, even if you are in the confines of what looks to be a smart showroom.

Carpet Buying

Turkey is justly famous for its carpets and kilims (a napless woven rug) and you'll be spoilt for choice. To ensure you get a good buy, spend time visiting several shops to compare price, pattern-type and quality. A good quality, long-lasting carpet should be 100% wool. Check the quality of the weave for possible holes. A wool carpet will have fine, frizzy fibres if you turn the carpet on its back. Cheaper carpets are made of cotton and most often the fringe will be too. If you want a wool carpet and the fringe is of cotton, it's likely the carpet won't be a woollen one! The lies can be bigger than the fall of Ottoman Empire. Don't make the mistake of buying a cotton carpet at the price of a wool one! Many carpets are made to look like antiques at prices to match.

IMPORTANT FOR ALL SHOPPING

Set your budget and don't be swayed, remember the caveat - 'Let the buyer beware'. Any purchases made whilst on holiday with us, irrespective of whether the store is recommended by us or other, are at your own discretion. Please make sure that you are completely happy with the product you are purchasing and the delivery arrangements (we would recommend you take away with you any purchases rather than rely on shipping services). On The Go cannot be held responsible or accountable for items bought in country or shipping arrangements. We will not become involved later in your holiday or once you return home should your purchase not live up to your expectations. Proceed with caution.

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Istanbul & Gallipoli

Turkey National Holidays

1 January - New Year's Day

23 April - Children's Day

1 May - Labour Day

19 May - Youth Day

30 August - Victory Day

6 October - Liberation War Day

25 December - Christmas Day

Important: there are several religious public holidays whose dates are determined by the Islamic lunar calendar and differ every year according to the universal Gregorian calendar.

The month of Ramazan (Ramadan), the ninth of the Islamic calendar, is a great time to travel in the region as you get a real insight into the Muslim faith. It is a time for spiritual reflection, prayer, doing good deeds and spending time with family and friends. The fasting is intended to help teach Muslims self-discipline, self-restraint and generosity. It also reminds them of the suffering of the poor, who may rarely get to eat well.

During the day, people must refrain from eating, drinking, smoking and sexual activity, so if you encounter someone who is a bit grumpy please be understanding, flexible and sympathetic. As tourists you will be generally unaffected although some places may close early, but your tour leader will do their best to plan around this. Most hotels bars and tourist restaurants will remain open.

In the evening you will experience a celebratory atmosphere at iftar, when people break their fast. To witness Ramazan is a real highlight making your tour in the region that bit more interesting. Each year it begins roughly ten days earlier than the year before, according to the Gregorian calendar.

Turkey Site Opening Times

Popular sightseeing spot in Istanbul are closed on specific days. Please plan your visit accordingly.

Topkapi Palace - Closed Tuesdays

Grand Bazaar - Closed Sundays

Blue Mosque - Closed during all prayer times and Friday's until 3pm

The Spice Bazaar and Grand Bazaar are closed as follows for 2020:

01 January

24, 25, 26 May

31 July

1, 2, 3 August

29 October

The Spice Bazaar and Grand Bazaar are closed as follows for 2021:

01 January

13, 14, 15 May

20, 21, 22, 23 July

29 October

All museums in Turkey will open at 1pm, on the 24th of May and 31st of July 2020

All museums in Turkey will open at 1pm, on the 13th of May and 20th of July 2021

During Ramadan (known as Ramazan in Turkey), some restaurants and shops (excluding those catering mainly for tourists) and attractions may close earlier, so itinerary scheduling may be slightly altered to ensure featured attractions are visited.

Approximate Ramazan dates:

24 April - 23 May 2020

13 April - 12 May 2021

Istanbul & Gallipoli - 5 days

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