

# Gallipoli & Troy

## 4 days | Starts/Ends: Istanbul



*Head away on a short break with a difference. 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

- 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
- Istanbul - Explore the old city your own way
- Day 1 and day 4 offer the opportunity for you to independently explore Istanbul. Consider a visit to the old city, Blue Mosque, Hagia Sofia, Hippodrome, Underground Cistern or Topkapi Palace

#### What's Included

- Breakfast daily and 1 hotel dinner
- 3 nights 4 star hotel
- Guided sightseeing - Gallipoli and Troy (with others\*)
- English speaking, degree qualified Turkish tour guides on days 2 and 3
- Entrance fee to Troy
- Airport arrival transfer on day 1

- All relevant transfers and transportation in modern air-conditioned touring vehicle/coach
- \*This tour is operated in conjunction with other operators, not solely On The Go. Travellers may join from a variety of travel companies for touring arrangements each day and may be staying at alternative hotels

#### What's Not Included

- 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 of our on the go representatives, 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 : Gallipoli Battlefields



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## Gallipoli & Troy

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 3 : 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 mid morning and the remainder of the day is offered at leisure in Canakkale before your transfer back to Istanbul at 6pm.

Canakkale 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 11pm/ midnight.

**Overnight - Istanbul (B)**

### Day 4 : 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.**

#### Ramada Old City

A member of the reputable Ramada chain, the Istanbul Old Town property is modern and comfortable with excellent amenities. Guestrooms are bright and spacious with contemporary amenities. Two restaurants are on offer and our personal favourite is the wonderful roof top restaurant, serving delicious local cuisine coupled with a magnificent view of the City and Sea. The perfect way to end the day. Located very close to the Historical part of the city with major Monuments are all walking distance.



#### 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.



#### Kolin Hotel

Looking out across the Dardanelles, the modern and bright Kolin Hotel offers well appointed rooms with hard wood flooring and tasteful decor. The hotel also boasts a luxury spa, wellness centre and a number of mouth watering restaurants all set within perfectly manicured lawns. Sipping a sundowner on the roof bar, overlooking the beautiful strait, is the perfect way to end the day. The hotel is located on the water's edge a short drive from the town centre with beautiful views out to sea.



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## Welcome to Turkey - Arrival transfer

A complimentary airport arrival transfer is included. Upon arrival at the airport you will be met by a representative from On The Go Tours. The prominent sign depicting our company logo easily identifies our representative. Please have your Tour Voucher handy and make it available to our representative. Our representative will assist you with your luggage and escort you to our vehicle and be transferred to your hotel.

### 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, for any reason you have trouble locating our representative** (after waiting 20 minutes in the arrival hall) or your flight to Turkey is delayed, please call or send a text message (standard text message, not Messenger or WhatsApp) to the emergency contact number as stated on your Tour Voucher.

### Please note

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.

## 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).

### Tippling

Tippling is an essential part of the culture. For a job well done, we would suggest for your tour guide: USD\$5 - 7 per traveller, for each day of sightseeing.

For your driver and On The Go Representative we'd recommend USD\$2 - 3 per traveller for each day of service. Tippling is an entirely

personal gesture and ultimately the amount is up to you.

## KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

### Turkey Country Guide

### Visas & passports

Visa requirements are subject to change and 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 so that we can proceed to book all services. Please be advised visa requirements are subject to change, therefore it is essential that you check current visa requirements with the embassy before travel. For information about visas, head to [www.onthegotours.com/Turkey/Visas](http://www.onthegotours.com/Turkey/Visas)

### Turkey health requirements & water

You should seek medical advice before travelling to Turkey from your local health practitioner and ensure that you receive all the appropriate vaccinations. 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.

### Essential packing

Please check local temperatures so you can pack accordingly. Visit [www.worldclimate.com](http://www.worldclimate.com)

- A small daypack for your day-to-day needs
- Tour Voucher and a copy of your travel insurance policy, spare passport photos and a photocopy of your passport
- Universal travel adaptor
- Spare camera batteries/memory card so you can go snap happy
- Take out some Turkish Lira from the ATM facilities at the airport upon arrival
- Buy a phrasebook and practice locally

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- Keep a supply of small Turkish Lira notes for local transactions

## It's not like home

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

Please visit [www.onthegotours.com/Turkey/Travel-tips-and-useful-info](http://www.onthegotours.com/Turkey/Travel-tips-and-useful-info) for local customs, currency, WiFi and other helpful information to prepare you for an enjoyable holiday.

## 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 to Sat 0900 – 1900hrs (closed Sunday).

### 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.

In the tourism industry it's common practice for commission to be offered in exchange for recommending particular shops or suppliers. This can become an issue when clients feel obliged to purchase. We do our best to avoid this by monitoring all shopping experiences offered.

All shopping experiences on your tour have been noted in the itinerary and they have been carefully selected based upon positive feedback from On The Go travellers. You are under no obligation to partake in a listed shopping experience and you are most welcome to wait inside or outside the premises.

Although we only visit reputable retailers, please note that we cannot explicitly guarantee the quality of their products. All purchases made whilst on holiday with us are at your own discretion. Please make sure that you are completely happy with your purchase. On The Go cannot be held responsible for any items that you buy if they fail to meet expectation, or any shipping arrangements. Proceed with caution.

## What to expect & Ramadan

Ramazan dates: 13 April - 12 May 2021 (approx). 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.

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## 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
- All museums in Turkey will open at 1pm, on the 13th of May and 20th of July 2021
- The Spice Bazaar and Grand Bazaar are closed as follows:

2020: 1, 2, 3 Aug / 29 Oct

2021: 1 Jan / 13, 14, 15 May / 20, 21, 22, 23 Jul / 29 Oct

## 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.

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