

# Giza & Gallipoli

## 15 days | Cairo to Istanbul



*ANZAC Day Tours, Gallipoli 2020. Starts: 13th April. Our Giza and Gallipoli is a ready made 15 day combo tour of Egypt & Turkey. See the legendary pyramids, Valley of the Kings and sail the River Nile on a 5 star Nile cruiser before flying onto Istanbul, then Gallipoli for Anzac Day 2020.*

### HIGHLIGHTS AND INCLUSIONS

#### Trip Highlights

- Istanbul - explore the old city, Blue Mosque, Topkapi Palace, Hippodrome, Hagia Sofia and the Underground Cistern
- Bosphorus Strait - discover the strategic waterway dividing Europe and Asia
- Gallipoli Peninsula - step back in time at ANZAC Cove, Lone Pine and Chunuk Bair memorials, battlefields and trenches
- ANZAC Dawn Service and option to attend the New Zealand Memorial Service
- Cairo - gaze in awe at the ancient Pyramids of Giza, explore the Necropolis of Saqqara and see King Tut's treasures at the new Grand Egyptian Museum
- Luxor West Bank - discover exquisite tombs in the Valley of the Kings, the towering Colossi of Memnon and the beautiful Temple of Queen Hatshepsut

- Luxor - roam around the colossal Temple of Karnak and take an optional tour of the beautifully illuminated Luxor Temple at night
- Kom Ombo - visit the Nile side Temple of Kom Ombo
- Nile cruising - cruise the River Nile from Luxor to Aswan on board a 5 star river cruiser
- Aswan - take leisurely boat trip to Agilika Island to explore the romantic Philae Temple and wander around the colourful souqs

#### What's Included

- 13 breakfasts, 2 lunches and 2 dinners
- 4 nights 4 - 5 star hotels (Egypt), 4 nights 3 - 4 hotel (Turkey)
- 1 night at the Dawn Service site
- 4 nights aboard a 5 star Nile Cruiser (en suite cabin)
- 2 overnight trains: Cairo - Aswan and Luxor - Cairo (Private 2 berth sleeper cabin)
- Airport transfers on days 1 and 9 at Cairo Airport. In Turkey airport arrival transfer on day 9 at Istanbul International Airport at any time of day or from Sabiha Gokcen Airport at 11am and 3pm - you must provide your flight details from Cairo
- Guided sightseeing of the Blue Mosque, Underground Cistern, Hagia Sofia and Hippodrome area and Gallipoli
- Guided sightseeing of Galipolli

- Guided touring of Cairo, Giza, Saqqara, Aswan & Luxor
- Visits to the Grand Bazaar and Egyptian Spice Market
- Morning Cruise along the Bosphorus in Istanbul
- Escorted by an English speaking, degree qualified Turkish tour guide in Turkey and degree qualified Egyptologist throughout Egypt
- All relevant transfers and transportation in modern air-conditioned touring coaches/ vehicles

#### What's Not Included

- Tipping Kitty: Turkey: USD\$20-30pp / Egypt: USD\$50-70pp, paid in local currency
- Entrance Fees: Turkey: USD\$30-40pp / Egypt: USD\$90-110pp, paid in local currency
- International flights, visas and flight from Cairo to Istanbul
- Tip for your tour guides in Turkey and Egypt - we recommend you allow \$3 - 5 USD per day, per traveller. Tip for your driver in Turkey and Felucca Crew/ Nile Cruise staff in Egypt, we recommend you allow \$10 USD for each. These tips are an entirely personal gesture
- Attendance Pass for ANZAC. Please see the Trip Notes for information on how to obtain your attendance pass - these are

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free of charge but need to be registered for in advance.

## DETAILED ITINERARY

### Day 1 : Cairo

Sunday 12th April 2020. Welcome to Egypt! Upon arrival at Cairo airport you will be met and transferred to your hotel. The rest of the day is free to relax or those arriving early can opt to join a Backstreets Tour of Cairo which departs the hotel at 10am. At 7pm this evening meet your guide and the rest of the group at a Welcome Meeting.

For those arriving a day or two earlier than day one of the tour, one of our staff will be on hand to advise on where best to enjoy your extra time in Cairo in advance of the tour commencing.

Our Welcome Meeting will be held tonight, at 7pm where we will meet our guide and fellow travellers. **Overnight - Cairo**

### Day 2 : Pyramids & Saqqara

Discover Egypt's main attraction today as we visit the incredible Pyramids of Giza and the Sphinx. The largest of the pyramids, Cheops, was the tallest man-made building on Earth for 3,800 years. Experts still can't agree how the ancient Egyptians constructed the pyramids with their limited technology - it remains a mystery. We continue to the necropolis of Saqqara, home to the famous Pyramid of Djoser. This ancient monument dates back to around 2700BC and is surrounded by countless tombs and burial sites. After our tour, we return to Cairo for the evening. **Overnight - Cairo (B)**

### Day 3 : The Grand Egyptian Museum



Cairo - Aswan. Today we visit the new Grand Egyptian Museum, which houses a giant exhibition containing the treasures of King Tutankhamun. Many pieces on show are being displayed for the first time and artefacts have been brought together from across Egypt and the world to this one fantastic location. The museum also makes use of new technology including virtual reality. After our visit, the afternoon is free to relax at the hotel, before we board the night train to Aswan this evening. **Overnight - Sleeper Train (B)**

### Day 4 : Luxor & Dendera



We arrive into Luxor this morning and drive to Dendera which is one of Egypt's best preserved temple complexes, located 60km north of Luxor. This vast complex covers 40,000 square meters and its temples, chapels and shrines were gradually built over thousands of years. Dendera's crowning glory is the 2000 year old Temple of Hathor with its exquisitely decorated ceiling. After our guided tour of this incredible site we return to Luxor where the afternoon is free to spend at leisure. Take a stroll around town or enjoy a refreshing swim in the pool and soak up the sunshine. This evening there is an optional visit to view the beautiful Temple of Luxor at night. Book and pay locally. **Overnight - Luxor**

### Day 5 : Valley of the Kings & Karnak Temples

4000 year-old Luxor is ancient Egypt at its very best and this morning we visit Luxor's famous West Bank. Our first stop is the famous Valley of the Kings, which is studded with beautifully decorated tombs, including the tombs of Ramses II, Seti I, Amenhotep II and of course, King Tutankhamen.

Note: The Valley of the Kings ticket includes entry to 3 tombs. A subset of the 64 tombs at the site are open at any point in time and your guide will offer advice on the best ones to visit on the day. The tomb of King Tutankhamen is nearly always open and requires an additional entrance fee to visit.

After exploring this incredible site we travel on to visit the beautiful limestone, colonnaded Temple of Hatshepsut, who was one of only three Egyptian ruling queens. On the West Bank we'll also see the imposing 18m-high Colossi of Memnon, which are all that remains of the temple of the hedonistic Amenophis III.

Returning to the East Bank we check-in on board a 5 star Nile cruiser which will be our home for the next four nights. Enjoy lunch and some rest and relaxation on board before we visit the colossal Temple of Karnak later this afternoon. More than a temple, Karnak is a spectacular complex of sanctuaries, pylons, chapels, halls and obelisks, all dedicated to the Theban gods and to the greater glory of Egypt's Middle and New Kingdom rulers. **Overnight - Nile Cruising (B, L, D)**

### Day 6 : Nile Cruising



Nile cruising. Today we set sail downstream to Edfu. Relax on deck and go for a swim, soak up the sunshine and enjoy the views as we cruise the River Nile. **Overnight - Nile Cruising (B, L, D)**

### Day 7 : Kom Ombo Temple

Nile cruising. Enjoy another day relaxing on board the cruiser as we sail the Nile to the Temple of Kom Ombo today, which is dedicated to Sobek the crocodile god, and Horus the falcon-headed god. This temple is unusual because everything is architecturally doubled and perfectly symmetrical along the main axis of the temple including twin

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halls, courts, colonnades, sanctuaries and entrances. After a guided tour of the temple we continue our journey, arriving into Aswan this evening. **Overnight - Nile Cruising** (B, L, D)

### Day 8 : Aswan, Abu Simbel & the Philae Temple

Optional early morning excursion to the Temples of Ramses II at Abu Simbel today. Alternatively you can spend the morning at leisure.

This afternoon we take a short motorboat trip to Philae Temple - dedicated to the goddess Isis. The temple dates from 4th century BC but the Ptolomies and the Romans up to 3rd century AD built most of the existing structures. In danger of being completely submerged by the rising water of Lake Nasser, in 1972 UNESCO stepped in and an 8-year rescue effort was undertaken to relocate the entire temple 20m higher on nearby Agilika Island.

Upon returning to Aswan we visit a perfume oil emporium. The use of essential and perfumed oils in Egypt dates back to 2700BC. Perfumed oils were used by women, pharaohs and by temple priests for worship who offered a melange of 6 perfumes called Kyphi to the Sun God at dawn, noon and dusk. At the perfumery, there's a million and one exquisite glass bottles filled with perfumed oils that make for a truly authentic Egyptian gift. For those that are not interested there is a supermarket nearby where you can use the opportunity to purchase snacks and incidentals. **Overnight - Nile Cruising** (B, L, D)

### Day 9 : Aswan at leisure

Aswan - Cairo. Today offers free time for you to discover Aswan - your way. Consider a visit to the Old Cataract Hotel, where Agatha Christie wrote the novel Death on the Nile or opt for a visit to the well-curated Nubian Museum.

Late this afternoon, we board the overnight train (twin berth sleeper cabins provided) for our journey back to Cairo.

**Overnight - Sleeper Train** (B)

### Day 10 : Cairo to Istanbul

Cairo - Istanbul. Arriving into Cairo early this morning (approx 7am) the Egyptian section of your tour comes to an end with included transfer to the airport for your flight to Istanbul. The flight to Istanbul isn't included in the cost of the tour. Turkish Airlines offers open jaw flights into Cairo and returning from Istanbul, check their website for more details or we can arrange flights on your behalf! If you provide us with your incoming flight details to Turkey we will be there to meet you at Istanbul airport and transfer you to our hotel.

**IMPORTANT:** Please ensure you book a flight departing Cairo after 12noon. you should not book a flight any earlier than this in case our train arriving to Cairo earlier this morning is delayed. **Overnight - Istanbul** (B)

### Day 11 : Istanbul Old City Tour



This morning we spend a couple of hours cruising the Bosphorus before embarking on a guided sightseeing tour of the old city, taking in the stunning Iznik tiled Blue Mosque, Topkapi Palace, Hippodrome area, the 6th century Hagia Sofia, the ancient Underground Cistern and more. This afternoon time is given for you to explore the mammoth Grand Bazaar and exotic Egyptian Spice Market, the latter is located opposite the ferry terminal. Afterwards, you can opt to stay and discover the old city by night or return to the hotel.

**Overnight - Istanbul** (B)

### Day 12 : Gallipoli - WW1 Battlefields



Istanbul - Gallipoli - Canakkale/Ayvalik. Today we explore ANZAC Cove and the many memorials dotted across the WW1 battlefields. Our guided tour takes in sights including ANZAC Cove, Lone Pine Memorial and cemetery, Chunuk Bair Memorial and cemetery, the Nek, Johnston's Jolly and the many fortified trenches still clearly visible amongst the scrub after all these years. **Overnight - Ayvalik/Canakkale** (B)

### Day 13 : ANZAC Eve at Gallipoli



Canakkale/Ayvalik - Troy - Kilitbahir - Gallipoli. This morning we enjoy a short-guided tour of Troy. The legend of the lost city of Troy and Homer's poetry was brought to life by its rediscovery in 1863. We then continue to the village of Kilitbahir, situated on the eastern shore of the Gallipoli peninsula, and dominated by the fortress of the same name. You'll have some free time this afternoon before early this evening we make our way to Anzac Cove. Once we're in Anzac Cove you are free to visit the memorials and trenches that dot the area before taking our places amongst the many at the Dawn Service site for the atmosphere-charged ANZAC Eve vigil. **Overnight - Dawn Service site (ANZAC Cove)** (B)

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## Day 14 : Istanbul

Gallipoli - Istanbul. Today, the 25th April is 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. Let's not forget.

The service lasts for an hour and public wreath laying at the ANZAC Memorial site is possible afterwards. Later this morning Australians have the opportunity to visit the Lone Pine Memorial Service. Our New Zealanders are invited to attend the New Zealand service at Chunuk Bair later on in the morning. Everyone will be picked up after the service at Chunuk Bair (exact time and location to be confirmed with your guide). We anticipate an early afternoon departure time from Gallipoli for onward travel to Istanbul. Crossing the Dardanelles by ferry we will arrive into Istanbul later this afternoon.

### Overnight - Istanbul

## Day 15 : Istanbul

Sunday 26th April 2020. Our tour concludes after breakfast and hotel check out at 12 noon. This morning or later today after hotel check out, consider venturing over to the colossal Grand Bazaar for some of those last minute souvenir purchases.(B)

## Airport Arrival - Egypt

Upon arriving at Cairo Airport you will be met by a representative from On The Go either just before immigration or in the baggage hall near the luggage belt of your respective arriving flight. The prominent sign depicting our company logo easily identifies our representative. Please have your tour voucher handy and make it available to our representative. After collecting your luggage you will be escorted to our awaiting transportation.

If, for any reason you have trouble locating our representative (after waiting 20 minutes in the arrival hall) or your flight to Egypt is

delayed, please call or send a text message to the emergency contact number as stated on your tour voucher.

### KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

## Entrance Fees & Tipping

Entrance fees are not included in the cost of our tours. Funds will be 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 as noted in the 'Not Included' section of our trip notes is collected in local currency - we don't have one for Turkey but we do in Egypt for those 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.

## Registration For ANZAC

For those attending the ANZAC commemorations at Gallipoli it is necessary for everyone to register for an attendance pass with the Australian Government in advance. The passes are offered free of charge by the Australian Government using a first-in approach. You will need to register for your pass yourself and they will be instantly confirmed via email. Physical passes will be sent out approximately 1 month before the commemoration. Each individual can register up to 10 individuals under their account login. The registration form will pre-populate most fields to help families putting in multiple registrations.

The registration process will open in November 2019, at which point we will provide more information, so please check back with us then.

## Arrival Instructions

### AIRPORT TRANSFERS

An arrival transfer/shuttle bus from Istanbul 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 11am & 3pm. If you are making your own way to the start hotel on day 1, please do so after 14:00 (standard hotel check in time).

### ARRIVAL INSTRUCTIONS

Upon arrival to Istanbul 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 30 mins 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, of which the telephone numbers can be found on your voucher.

## 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.

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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.

## 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.

## 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.

## Climate In April

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.

## Essential Packing For ANZAC

- 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 permitted. Temperatures can be sub - zero and there is always the threat of prevailing rain
- Your ANZAC Commemoration Attendance Pass from the Australian Government which you should have registered for in advance.

- 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. It may also be advisable to take a portable charger for your phone or camera so you can charge on the go as well as when at the hotels
- 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

## The Gallipoli Environment

The Anzac Day Dawn Service is held at the Anzac Commemorative Site in the Gallipoli Campaign Historical Site, which is in an isolated area within a national park and has no permanent infrastructure or shelter. You will be exposed to the elements for the entire period you are onsite – which can be up to 24 hours.

Very basic and limited facilities including temporary seating, lighting and portable toilets are available onsite for the period of the commemorations. Limited rubbish disposal facilities are available, and where possible, visitors are asked to take rubbish with them.

There is no running water or power onsite, except for those in use for the services.

You will need to bring adequate supplies of non-perishable food and unopened bottled drinking water with you – there are no cooking facilities onsite. Bottled water and limited supplies of Turkish food can be purchased from vendors onsite.

Mobile phone coverage is available at the commemorative sites.

## Arriving At Gallipoli

Several kilometres from the Anzac Commemorative Site, coaches and their passengers will be welcomed by a member of the visitor services team. Each coach will be registered and given a coach identification number. Each passenger on the coach will be provided with a tag with the coach identification number, helping passengers to identify their coach number when departing Gallipoli on 25 April. Important information will

also be provided during the coach registration process.

Visitors who arrive before the Anzac Commemorative Site is opened will have their coach registered then disembark their coach at the Mimosza Park Otopark and wait in Mimosza Park (across the road from the Otopark) until the site opens. If you have waited in Mimosza Park, when the Anzac Commemorative Site is opened to visitors, you can walk or catch a shuttle bus to the site.

Visitors who arrive after the site has opened will have their coach registered at Mimosza Park Otopark, before driving on to set down passengers at Beach Cemetery, which is about 1km from the Anzac Commemorative Site.

When you disembark your coach, you should take everything you need for your entire stay as coaches depart the area and you will not be able to access your coach again until you depart on 25 April. Please ensure you have everything you need for the overnight stay ready before you disembark your coach.

## Timing of the Commemorative Services

The Anzac Commemorative Site, where the Dawn Service is held, closes to the public on the morning of 24 April. Following a full security sweep, the Anzac Commemorative Site opens for visitor entries at approximately 6pm.

Coach registration at Mimosza Park Otopark commences from around 09:30pm on 24 April. The road into Anzac Commemorative Site is closed to further arrivals at 3am on 25 April.

The overnight reflective program commences at 11pm on 24 April and runs until the early hours of 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 Services commences at 5.30am and concludes at 6.30am.

After the Dawn Service Australian's have the opportunity to visit the Lone Pine Memorial Service at the cemetery that begins at 09:30.

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Our New Zealanders are invited to attend the New Zealand service at Chunuk Bair at 11:30. Everyone will be picked up after the service at Chunuk Bair (exact time and location to be confirmed with your guide). We anticipate and early afternoon departure time from Gallipoli for onward travel to Istanbul or Ayvalik.

Please note that the arrangements of the afternoon are subject to change as traffic flow and road closures are determined by the local authorities at the time.

## ANZAC: The Weather

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. 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 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.

## ANZAC: Health, Fitness And First Aid

A moderate level of fitness is required as visitors can expect to walk several kilometres over 24-25 April. The terrain includes reasonable flat sealed roads, cobblestone paths, sloped and uneven gravel tracks and grassed areas (which can become slippery

or muddy when wet) as well as very steep ungraded paths. Access to seating in the stands requires climbing stairs.

Visitors will often need to stand and queue for long periods at times, for security screening to enter the commemorative site, as well as for the limited public amenities. If the site is nearing the safe capacity, visitors on the grassed areas will be asked to stand.

Limited medical support is provided by local Turkish health authorities from the evening of 24 April to the morning of 25 April. If you require any medical aides or equipment, including medications, wheelchairs or mobility aids, you will need to bring these with you.

You should bring your own prescription medication (if required) and basic first aid supplies, including non-prescription pain relief medication and band-aids. The medical support provided is equipped for medical emergencies and is not designed to treat minor ailments.

## ANZAC: Safety & Security

You are responsible for your own safety, welfare and security of belongings at all times.

Security and crowd management are the responsibility of Turkish security personnel with airport-style screening of visitors at the entry point to the commemorative site, including bag searches.

Due to cultural sensitivities, visitors are likely to be separated into male and female lines to go through security checkpoints.

You should follow the instructions of Turkish security personnel at all times

### Children and Infants

Please seriously consider how well your child or infant would cope with the travel and environmental conditions at Gallipoli, including overnight in the open in cold temperatures, with no shelter. It is important to remember that there are only limited toilet facilities, with no infant changing or parenting facilities at the commemorative site.

## ANZAC: Seating at the Commemorations

Seating at the commemorations is not allocated or reserved (other than for registered Assisted Mobility visitors) and is available on a first-come, first-served basis.

Seating is available in temporarily erected metal grandstands with plastic bucket-style seats or on grassed areas (with no seats). Some seating may have restricted views, however large screens are available to view the service.

You should be aware that large groups may not be able to sit together and you may be separated from your group and/or tour guide. You should make sure you have your tour guide's contact details in case you are separated.

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 camaraderie for the evening.

## ANZAC: Assisted Mobility Visitors

Attending Anzac Day is physically challenging and given the conditions, can be potentially hazardous to the very young, very old or those with medical conditions. You should advise your doctor of the conditions you are likely to experience overnight and seek their advice about your suitability to safely travel to Gallipoli and attend the Anzac Day commemorations.

Extremely limited onsite assistance is available to visitors who have a health or mobility issue. Visitors will need to request this assistance at the information tent when they arrive at Gallipoli. The number of places available for Assisted Mobility visitors is very limited and will be allocated on a most-at-need basis. Access to this assistance cannot be guaranteed.

Eligible Assisted Mobility visitors will be provided with an access pass and are able to have one carer with them to provide personal assistance. Onsite assistance comprises of

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reserved seating, access to several dedicated toilets and transport from the coach set down point to the Anzac Commemorative Site.

There is a distance of approximately 400 meters from the entry point to the Assisted Mobility seating area over uneven ground and assisted mobility visitors will need to traverse this distance unaided. The assisted mobility seating area is accessed via steps.

While staff are allocated to monitor the assisted mobility seating area they are unable to provide one-on-one or personal carers or provide medical aids and wheelchairs on request. If mobility aides are required visitors should ensure they bring them when they depart their coach.

## ANZAC: What To Take And What Not To Take

### 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.
- Drones, remote control devices and selfie sticks.
- Intoxicated persons will be denied entry to the commemorations.

- Alcohol is prohibited at the site.
- Smoking is not permitted in the stands and enclosed areas.
- Professional photographic equipment (including zoom lenses, audio visual or cinematographic equipment).
- 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.

## ANZAC: Laying Wreaths Or Floral Tributes

Wreathlaying by invited official representatives will occur during the Dawn Service at the Anzac Commemorative Site. Members of the public who wish to lay a wreath or floral tribute will have the opportunity to do so at the conclusion of the service.

If you wish to lay a wreath or floral tribute, you will need to bring this with you and register your details at the information tent when you arrive at the Anzac Commemorative Site. The proceedings will be announced by the Master of Ceremonies who will call individuals in order to lay their wreath or tribute.

Please note that you will need to organise your own wreath or floral tribute. It is your responsibility to carry it with you, care for it and transport it to the Anzac Commemorative Site. There are no facilities or arrangements for storage or transport of personal wreaths at the commemorations.

## ANZAC: Departing The Gallipoli Peninsula

Following the conclusion of the Dawn Service, coaches will commence loading from the Anzac Commemorative Site. Please wait inside the commemorative site with your coach group until your coach number is called.

There may be hundreds of coaches at the commemorations, so long waits and delays can be expected. You should not make any onward travel arrangements or connections

for the afternoon or evening of 25 April. Please be patient while the process occurs.

There are several coach loading zones for visitors. Coaches will not arrive in numerical order, so it is impossible to predict in advance which loading zone would be utilised by which coach. Arriving coach numbers will be called by an announcer and displayed on screens.

Once your coach number has been called, visitors should move to the coach loading zone and board the coach after it has come to a complete stop. Please follow the instructions of service officials and be mindful of your safety.

Visitors who arrive at the commemorations in private vehicles are responsible for returning to their vehicle to depart Gallipoli. Visitors who arrive at the services by taxi are responsible for their own departure from the peninsula.

Visitors who choose to depart Anzac Commemorative Site on foot after the Dawn Service must ensure that they have arranged with their tour provider where they will be picked up from.

## ANZAC: Assistance To The Commemorations

The Department of Veterans' Affairs receives a great many requests from groups and individuals wishing to contribute to the Anzac Day commemorations at Gallipoli.

The Dawn Service at Gallipoli follows a traditional format and structure agreed by the governments of Australia, New Zealand and Turkey. Many hundreds of thousands of Australians are descendants of a veteran of the Gallipoli campaign and feel an emotional connection to the commemorations. Given the above, unsolicited offers or requests to provide content or performing a role within the ceremony will not be accepted. This includes offers of artefacts or relics, bugles or other musical instruments, songs, poems, speeches or readings.

Conservation Volunteers, provides volunteers to assist with the annual commemorations at Gallipoli. Conservation Volunteers advertise for applications each year. More information

## Giza & Gallipoli - 15 days

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## Giza & Gallipoli

is available at the Conservation Volunteers website.

The choir that supports the services at Gallipoli is the combined choir of students from St Joseph's College and All Hallows' College.

Conservation Volunteers and the choir were both engaged through a tender process. Medical support is provided by Turkish health authorities. Interpreters are provided by the 18 March University in Canakkale.

### ANZAC: 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 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).

### Egypt Country Guide

#### Visas - Egypt

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 Egypt.

After booking your holiday, please provide us with your passport details as soon as possible so that we can proceed to book trains and flights tickets, if included within your holiday.

#### Visas are required by all visitors to Egypt.

**E-Visa.** You can obtain an e-Visa for tourism purposes prior to travel by completing an application and making payment online. The e-Visa can be obtained up to 3 months prior to travel and is valid for 30 days from the date of entry. The e-Visa is available to a long list of eligible countries and the Government of Egypt is constantly adding to the list. The current cost (Mar 2018) of a single entry e-Visa for tourism purposes is USD25 or equivalent. The visa cost is set to rise to USD60 and this may happen at any time. We recommend you secure an e-Visa prior to travel as it will speed up and smooth the immigration process upon your arrival.

Online applications can be completed at: [visa2egypt.gov.eg](http://visa2egypt.gov.eg)

#### Visa upon arrival.

It still remains possible for nationals of some countries to procure their tourist visa upon arrival at Cairo International Airport. Please contact your nearest Egyptian Embassy or Consulate to see if this is available to you. The current cost of the visa (Mar 2018) is USD25 and is payable in USD CASH ONLY. The visa upon arrival cost is also set to rise to USD60 and this could happen without notice. Although not official a visa can near always also be paid in equivalent GBP or Euro CASH ONLY according to the exchange rate of the day. Please note that in the event of visa

refusal at port of entry, On The Go Tours cannot be held responsible.

Important: RSA, Chinese and passport holders from a number of other countries cannot obtain an e-Visa or Visa upon arrival. Citizens of these countries must obtain an Egyptian Tourist Visa prior to travel. Please contact your nearest Egyptian Embassy or Consulate for further details.

Note: When filling in an Egyptian visa form, you will be asked to provide your address in Egypt. For the purposes of this form, please use either of the following addresses:

Holiday Inn Cairo Maadi.  
Corniche El Nil, Maadi, Cairo 11431  
Tel + 202 25260601

Steigenberger Cairo Pyramids Hotel  
Alexandria Road, Pyramids - Giza, Cairo, Egypt  
Tel +202 33772555

Le Meridien Pyramids  
El Remaya Square, Pyramids, Cairo, 12561, Egypt  
Tel: +202 3377070

Mecure Cairo Le Sphinx Hotel  
1 Alexandria Desert Road, Pyramids, Cairo, 12556, Egypt  
Tel: +202 33776444

Oasis Hotel  
Cairo-Alexandria Desert Road, Pyramids 12556 - Cairo / Egypt  
Tel: +202 38387333 & +202 38387666

### Currency

The currency of Egypt is the Egyptian Pound.

Pound Sterling, US Dollars, Euro and other major currencies can be exchanged in Egypt. Exchange facilities are available at most hotels and all major towns have ATMs. It's advisable to request 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.

### Giza & Gallipoli - 15 days

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# Giza & Gallipoli

## Health Requirements

You should seek medical advice before travelling to Egypt from your local health practitioner and ensure that you receive all of the appropriate vaccinations. As a guide Tetanus, Diphtheria, Typhoid, Hepatitis A and Rabies are strongly recommended. As tap water is not safe to drink in Egypt, only drink bottled mineral water which is readily available in hotels, shops and restaurants.

## Climate

Temperatures in Egypt are generally high (25 - 30 degrees) and even hotter in the summer months from May to September, when the sun can be fierce and temperatures soar, so pack light comfortable clothing, sunscreen and a hat.

In Cairo and the Nile Delta region, winter (October to February) can be cooler - so take a jacket, long-sleeved tops and trousers for the cooler evenings. The south remains warm during this time but again, temperatures do drop in the evenings. Rainfall is negligible with the most falling along Egypt's Mediterranean coastline.

## Time & Voltage

Egypt is 2 hours ahead of Greenwich Mean Time (GMT). Standard voltage is 220 volts. Primary sockets require the European, 2 pronged variety. We recommend that you pack a universal travel adaptor. You will need a voltage converter, and plug adaptor in order to use U.S. appliances.

## Camera Fees

At some sites there is an additional fee for use of a camera or video. Camera/video (not professional) fees range between USD\$3 – 30 per site. There is no fee for taking as many photographs as you like at the Pyramids and Saqqara. The cost for using camera inside Valley of the Kings (though not permitted inside the tombs) is approx. USD\$18. The cost for photographing the treasures inside the Egyptian Museum is USD\$6

## Essential Packing

- Towel for the felucca (if applicable to your chosen tour)
- Lightweight cotton garments

- Comfortable walking shoes for the Pyramids and Valley of the Kings. Pack flip flops/thongs/jandals to wear aboard the Nile felucca or Nile Cruiser

- DEET based mosquito repellent and antihistamine cream
- 2 pin, European electrical adaptor
- A small daypack for your day-to-day needs
- Sunglasses, hat, sunscreen, swim costume and torch
- Sleep sheet or sleeping bag if travelling with us on the felucca or onward to Jordan.

Felucca (Egypt): We suggest hiring locally a freshly laundered winter warmth blanket for USD\$15 (total) for the 2 night stay.

Wadi Rum Camp (Jordan): All bedding (which is freshly laundered) is provided at Wadi Rum and therefore bringing a sleeping bag is not a necessity but your own personal choice.

If doing a felucca cruise or travelling between November and March, pack warm clothes (i.e. – fleece, jacket, trousers, jeans, hat and scarf) as temperatures plummet at night.

## Troubleshooting

These things will most likely never happen, but it's good to be prepared if they ever do. Here are a few tips to keep your trip hassle-free. Egypt is no worse than anywhere else when it comes to crime. Minimise your chances of being robbed with these tips:

- Leave valuables in the hotel safe deposit or better still, at home
- Keep bags locked at all times with a combination/padlock. Bags should also be locked when being transferred in vehicles, onboard the train, felucca or when taking a flight.
- Carry your passport on your person
- Carry spare passport photos & a photocopy of your passport
- Carry your bag close to your person rather than over your shoulder
- Travel in a group or pair, especially if you are female

Please note On The Go Tours will not be held liable for loss or damage to personal property under any circumstances.

## Etiquette

Despite the inevitable ups and downs of travelling abroad, you will generally be shown

great hospitality in Egypt. In return, please demonstrate sensitivity and respect for the local customs. Egypt is a Muslim country; so care should be taken to dress respectfully in large cities and towns, for example, when at markets and in public places.

- Ladies should avoid wearing 'clingy, tight or suggestive' attire, and stick to cool, flowing, cottons in busy city areas and markets
- Take care to dress conservatively and ensure that limbs are covered and remove footwear prior to entering a mosque
- Ex-military style clothing should not be worn
- Ask permission before taking photographs of people
- The standard form of greeting is a handshake. Men and women do not kiss at any time as a form of greeting.

## Ramadan

The majority of the Egyptian population is Muslim (approx 86%), with a small minority of Jews and Christians. Ramadan is a month of fasting observed by Muslims in Egypt and throughout the world and adherents of the Muslim faith fast during daylight hours and break their fast with lavish meals and lively celebrations in the evening. Ramadan culminates a month later in a 3 day celebration called Eid al - Fitr. Many shops (excluding those which cater mainly to tourists) and attractions close earlier during Ramadan. As such we will start our tour earlier during this period to make the best use of time and itineraries will be slightly altered to ensure we visit all attractions, leisure time will be offered in the late afternoon. Non-Muslims are not expected to fast over Ramadan, but it is considered impolite to eat food or drink on the street.

Note: Traffic is exceptionally heavy during Ramadan, especially toward the time of breaking the fast. Forthcoming Ramadan dates are as follows, (approximate) -

23 April – 23 May 2020

12 April – 11 May 2021

## It's not like home

Travel to far - flung corners of the earth involves lifestyles and conditions that are sometimes very different from what you

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# Giza & Gallipoli

are used to back home. You must come prepared to cope with unusual situations, local inadequacies and unpredictable events as and when they occur. Foreign travel is definitely not suitable for people who expect or demand everything to go exactly as planned. With the greatest respect and in the interest of your ultimate enjoyment you must understand this. Things can and do change in foreign countries.

## Shopping

Egypt is a virtual Aladdin's Cave. While Cairo's Khan al-Khalili bazaar is cavernous and full of unusual and everyday objects, smaller souqs and bazaars abound in other towns, too. Top buys include - perfume concentrate, carpets and rugs in innumerable hand-loomed designs, backgammon boards, hand-crafted shisha pipes, Pharaonic objects fashioned in marble and alabaster, Egyptian cotton clothing and of course - authentic papyrus.

**IMPORTANT:** 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. Proceed with caution.

## 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](http://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 locally or in advance of departure. Istanbul Airport offers currency exchange facilities.

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# Giza & Gallipoli

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](http://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](http://www.oanda.com) or [www.xe.com](http://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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## Giza & Gallipoli

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 mezzes, an extensive array of cold appetisers as well as grilled kebabs and fish. Most common mezzes 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.

### Giza & Gallipoli - 15 days

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# Giza & 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 2019:

01 January

04, 05, 06 June

11, 12, 13, 14 August

29 October

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

All museums in Turkey will close at 1pm, on the 14th of June and 20th of August 2019

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

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

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