

Anzac Digger 2021

6 days | Starts/Ends: Istanbul



ANZAC Day Tours, Gallipoli 2021. Starts: 21st April. In just 6 days you will take in the delights of Istanbul and explore the WW1 battlefields on the Gallipoli Peninsular and remember those fallen at the Dawn Service.

HIGHLIGHTS AND INCLUSIONS

Trip Highlights

- ANZAC Service Site - Commemorate at the Anzac eve vigil and 25th April Dawn Service, with the option to attend the Australian or New Zealand Memorial Services
- Gallipoli Peninsula - ANZAC Cove, Lone Pine Memorial and Chunuk Bair Memorials, battlefields and trenches
- Istanbul - The Old City, Blue Mosque, Hippodrome, Hagia Sofia and the Underground Cistern
- Troy - Enjoy a short tour of the famous city of Homeric legend
- Kilitbahir - Admire the imposing fortress on the west side of the Dardanelles built to control the strait at its narrowest point
- Bosphorus Strait - The strategic waterway dividing Europe and Asia

What's Included

- 4 breakfasts

- 4 nights Special Class (3 - 4 star) hotels
- 1 night at the Anzac Dawn Service site
- Guided sightseeing of Istanbul including Topkapi Palace, the Blue Mosque, Underground Cistern, Hippodrome and Hagia Sofia
- Guided sightseeing at Gallipoli, war cemeteries and battlefields (subject to site opening times set by the Anzac Day Organising Committee)
- Morning cruise along the Bosphorus in Istanbul
- Visits to the Grand Bazaar and Egyptian Spice Market
- Escorted by an English speaking, degree qualified Turkish tour guide
- Airport arrival transfer on day 1 from Istanbul International Airport at any time, or from Sabiha Gokcen Airport at 11am and 3pm only
- All relevant transfers and transportation in modern air-conditioned vehicles

What's Not Included

- Tipping Kitty: USD\$20-30pp, paid in local currency
- Entrance Fees: USD\$30-40pp, paid in local currency
- International flights and visa
- Attendance Pass for ANZAC. Please see the Trip Notes for information on how to obtain your attendance pass - these are free of charge but need to be registered for in advance

- Tip for your tour guide and driver: as a guideline we recommend you budget USD \$5 - 7 per day, per traveller for your guide and USD \$2 per day, per traveller for your driver. Tipping your tour guide and driver is an entirely personal gesture

DETAILED ITINERARY

Day 1: Istanbul - Gateway to the Exotic East

21st April 2021. Welcome to Turkey and your ANZAC experience! On arrival you'll be met and transferred to your hotel in Istanbul and the adventure begins! The earlier you arrive the more time you'll have to independently explore the city and take in the best of its fantastic sights. Istanbul is easy to get around on foot and there are plenty of attractions dotted about the old city. So let the roaming begin!

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

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Day 2 : Istanbul Old City Tour



We'll spend the morning cruising the amazing Bosphorus strait, the geographical divide between Europe and Asia. Later we'll return to dry land and discover the old city on a guided sightseeing tour, 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 3 : Gallipoli - WW1 Battlefields



Istanbul - Gallipoli - Canakkale/Ayvalik. This morning we depart Istanbul and head across the dardanelles waterway that forms the continental boundary between Europe and Asia. Later in the day we will 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 4 : ANZAC Eve at Gallipoli



Ayvalik – Troy - Kilitbahir - Gallipoli Today it's an early morning departure to the WW1 battlefields on the Gallipoli Peninsula. There will be a wake up call, which your guide will arrange, though please set your personal alarm just in case as to avoid missing the bus. Breakfast is from 06.30hrs. Please bring your bags with you and place them on the bus. Pay all room bills and hand your key into reception before going to breakfast. Please make sure you have separated your luggage into a smaller day pack that you want to keep with you at Anzac Cove, (i.e warm clothes, blankets, snacks, toiletries etc) and place them on the bus with you. Large bags will go underneath the bus and will not be accessible until the following morning.

At this point it is a good time to fix in your mind the letter of your coach. All On The Go coaches are clearly identifiable by an On The Go Tours sign on the right side of the windscreen front. And more importantly remember your coach letter – i.e coach A, B, C etc.

07.30hrs: we depart for Gallipoli. A stop will be made at a medium-sized grocery store with adjoining take away restaurant or similar facility for you to purchase lunch and stock up on food and snacks for the following day at lower prices than on the peninsular. Whilst some hot food can be purchased at Gallipoli from Turkish vendors in the cove, some people consider the range limited and expensive.

Early this evening we all relax before the Australians can head to Lone Pine for the

Australian Wreath Laying Ceremony. 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. Important instructions will be given about where to meet with your coach on 25 April after the national services have concluded. It is very important you follow meeting instructions in order that you rendezvous with your correct coach.

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

Day 5 : ANZAC Day - Gallipoli 2021



Gallipoli. 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. Lest we forget.

The service lasts for an hour and public wreath laying at the ANZAC Memorial site is possible afterwards. Later this morning Australian's have the opportunity to visit the Lone Pine Memorial Service at the cemetery that begins at 09:30. Our New Zealanders are invited to attend the New Zealand service at Chunuk

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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 an early afternoon departure time from Gallipoli for onward travel to Istanbul.

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

Day 6 : Istanbul - your way

26th April 2021. After a final breakfast and hotel check out at 12 noon our tour sadly concludes. We go home with some wonderful memories and an enriched imagination.(B)

Optional Backstreets tour

If you're arriving to Istanbul a day or two earlier than your tour commencement date you may wish to consider joining our Backstreets Of Istanbul tour taking place on 21 Apr 2021. Details to the day trip are as follows:

Departing our hotel at 9am, we begin with a guided tour of Topkapi Palace – the royal residence of the powerful Ottoman Sultans who ruled their vast empire from here for more than 400 years. Today the expansive complex, serves as a museum housing an impressive collection of royal jewellery, robes, weaponry and treasures. We continue on to Suleymaniye Mosque, an exquisite blend of Islamic and Byzantine architectural design which overlooks the waters of the Golden Horn estuary

After a lunch break we cross the bridge over the Golden Horn to commence a walking tour of old Taksim. Starting on Istiklal Cadessi (Independence Avenue) which is a hive of activity any time of day or night, we'll weave through the backstreets, an often neglected sightseeing route dotted with historic buildings, crumbling churches, hip cafes, swanky restaurants and market stalls. The area is one of the most colourful districts in the city. Continuing downhill we arrive

at Karakoy and cross the Unkapani Bridge, before arriving at the Egyptian Spice Market where free time is given for you to buy sticky Turkish delight, baklava, dried fruit, nuts and salted fish if you like. You may prefer to just grab a fresh Simit (bread stick toasted with sesame seeds) take a seat and watch the hubbub of activity that surrounds the area before our tour concludes and we return to our hotel.

Departs at 9am, return to the hotel at approx 5pm. Includes guided tour, transportation and entrance fees. Lunch break given between approx: 12.30 – 13.30 for you to do your own thing. Distance covered on foot: approx 5KM, mostly downhill. Cost: US\$60 per person. Please note this tour requires a minimum of 4 passengers to operate. Reservations and payment can be made upon arrival to Istanbul.

KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

Welcome to Turkey - Arrival transfer

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).

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 in the arrivals hall, 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.

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.

Entrance fees & tipping

Entrance fees and tip kitty are not included in the cost of our tours as noted under the 'Not Included' section on page 1 of this document. Funds will be collected by your guide at the beginning of your tour and payable in local currency - Turkish Lira.

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\$5 - 7 per day for your tour guide and USD\$ 2 for your driver, per traveller. Tipping your guide and driver is an

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entirely personal gesture and ultimately the amount is up to you.

Arriving at Gallipoli & security

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.

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 Mimoza Park Otopark and wait in Mimoza Park (across the road from the Otopark) until the site opens. If you have waited in Mimoza 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 Mimoza

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.

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

Please seriously consider how well your child 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 parenting facilities at the commemorative site.

What to take and what not to take

Arrival to the Dawn Service site - What to take with you on the 24th April

- 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/blanket, food, water, prescription medications, warm protective clothing - hat/beanie, scarf, gloves, torch, sunscreen, camera, WC paper, wet wipes, hand sanitiser, 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
- Your ANZAC Commemoration Attendance Pass from the Australian Government which you should have registered for in advance

- 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
- 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

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.

What is prohibited

- You cannot 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
- Alcohol is prohibited at the site and intoxicated persons will be denied entry to the commemorations
- Smoking is not permitted in the stands or 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 at the Anzac area is prohibited
- As the area is a National Park, the lighting of fires on the Gallipoli Peninsula is prohibited

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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 MIMOZA 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. 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 an 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.

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 aids 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.

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 website for the registration of passes is: <https://overseascommemorations.ticketek.com.au/memberhome>

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.

Laying wreaths or floral tributes

Wreath laying 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: It is your responsibility to carry your own wreath or floral tribute 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.

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

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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 pre-arranged with their tour provider where they will be picked up from.

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-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 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.

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 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.

Groups & time keeping

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.

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.

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

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also Helles Memorial (British, Australian and Indian servicemen).

Turkey Country Guide

Visas & passports

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 & 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.

Turkey essential packing & currency

Please check local temperatures so you can pack accordingly. Visit www.worldclimate.com to get an idea of what the weather will be like on your tour.

- A small daypack for your day-to-day needs
- A photocopy of your passport data pages and your Tour Voucher
- 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 locally
- Keep a supply of small Turkish Lira notes for local transactions

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. Exchange facilities are available at various bureau de changes and banks in major towns have ATMs. Traveller's Cheques are not recommended as they're often difficult to exchange and incur high fees.

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.

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.

Troubleshooting

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.

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

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www.onthegotours.com
 UK 020 7371 1113 info@onthegotours.com
 AUS 1300 855 684 aus-info@onthegotours.com
 NZ 0800 44 77 69 CAN 1 866 890 7038
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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

When bartering for goods, set your budget, don't be swayed and remember the caveat – 'let the buyer beware.' 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.

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.

Approximate Ramazan dates: 13 April - 12 May 2021. 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:

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 13th of May and 20th of July 2021

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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