

ANZAC Memorial Tour of Turkey

11 days | Starts/Ends: Istanbul



ANZAC Day Gallipoli 2025. Starts: 16th April. Take in the highlights of Turkey and attend the ANZAC Day Dawn Service at Gallipoli on this 11 day tour. Marvel at the spectacular landscape of Cappadocia and discover the remarkable Roman ruins of Ephesus and Pergamum. See Istanbul's iconic Blue Mosque and paddle in Pamukkale's thermal pools. Visit legendary Troy and Gallipoli's WWI battlefields, before commemorating the brave ANZACs on ANZAC Day in 2025.

HIGHLIGHTS AND INCLUSIONS

Trip Highlights

- ANZAC Service Site - Attend the ANZAC eve vigil on the Gallipoli Peninsula and as the sun rises, pay your respects at the Dawn Service
- Gallipoli Peninsula - Learn about the Gallipoli Campaign, explore the WWI battlefields, memorial sites and ANZAC Cove
- Istanbul - Take in the highlights of Istanbul including the iconic Blue Mosque, Topkapi Palace, Hagia Sofia mosque and the Underground Cistern

- Cappadocia - Delight in surreal landscapes, hermit cave villages and World Heritage Listed Goreme Valley with its rock cut churches and Zelve Monastery
- Pamukkale - Paddle in the thermal waters flowing down the white travertine terraces
- Ephesus & Pergamum - Roam around the Roman ruins of ancient Ephesus, with its spectacular Library of Celsus and the hillside amphitheatre at Pergamum
- Konya - Visit the Mevlana Museum (or Green Mausoleum) and discover the original home of a mystical Sufi Muslim group and their founder Mevlana
- Kilitbahir - Admire the imposing fortress on the west side of the Dardanelles built to control the strait at its narrowest point
- Troy - Enjoy a short tour of the famous city of Homeric legend and see the giant replica Trojan Horse
- Silk Road from Konya - Stop off at the traditional roadside inn of Sultanhan Caravanserai, a resting point of former weary travellers
- Guided sightseeing of Ephesus, Pergamum, Pamukkale/Hierapolis and Cappadocia
- Guided sightseeing of Istanbul including the Blue Mosque, Underground Cistern, Hagia Sophia (exterior), Topkapi Palace, Hippodrome area and Egyptian Spice Market
- Guided sightseeing of Gallipoli, battlefields and war memorials (subject to site opening times set by the Anzac Day Organising Committee)
- Cruise along Bosphorus Strait in Istanbul
- 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 transfer and transportation in private modern air-conditioned vehicles
- Maximum Group Size: 32 persons

What's Included

- 9 breakfasts and 4 dinners
- 9 nights 4 - 5 star hotels
- 1 night at the Dawn Service site

What's Not Included

- Tipping Kitty: EUR€55-65pp, paid in EUR
- Entrance Fees: EUR€265-285pp, paid in EUR
- International flights and visa

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- 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 EUR €5 – 7 per day, per traveller for your guide and EUR €2 per day, per traveller for your driver. Tipping your tour guide and driver is an entirely personal gesture

DETAILED ITINERARY

Day 1 : Istanbul



Wed 16th April 2025. Welcome to Turkey and the start of a unforgettable ANZAC experience! Airport to hotel arrival transfer. Spend the rest of the day at leisure. If you are arriving to Istanbul early, we recommend joining our optional *Backstreets Of Istanbul Tour* taking place today. The tour commences at 9am. For further details of the excursion, please see our tour Trip Notes. This evening meet your guide and fellow travellers at a welcome meeting. **Overnight – Istanbul**

Day 2 : Istanbul – Old City Tour



Today we set off on guided tour of the old city, taking in the stunning Iznik

tilled Blue Mosque, historic Hippodrome area, 6th century Hagia Sophia (exterior only), ancient Underground Cistern, Topkapi Palace and more. This afternoon, we take a relaxing cruise on the Bosphorus Strait. Look out for waterside palaces framed by a modern city skyline dotted with expansive domed mosques and towering minarets of traditional Ottoman style. Afterwards there's free time to independently explore. From here you can either stay and discover the old city by night or return with your guide to our hotel for a little rest and relaxation.

Please Note: Starting January 2024, the lower floor of Hagia Sophia will be exclusively open to Muslims for prayer, while the upper floor galleries will be dedicated to touristic purposes with a newly imposed entrance fee. If you wish to explore the interior, you may have the opportunity during your free time in Istanbul. **Overnight – Istanbul (B)**

Day 3 : Cappadocia

Istanbul – Cappadocia. Today we depart Istanbul and begin our lengthy journey across the country towards Cappadocia. We'll make a number of stops on route. After arriving into Cappadocia this afternoon, the rest of the day is at leisure.

Optional Activities:

Turkish Folklore Evening – US\$70 per person

Optional activities can also be paid in Euro and Turkish Lira **Overnight – Cappadocia (B, D)**

Day 4 : Cappadocia's Goreme Valley



Perhaps the jewel in Turkey's crown, Cappadocia is an extraordinary national treasure. The surreal landscape has to be seen to be believed with its cave dwellings and phallic 'fairy chimneys' landscape that are the stuff of fables. Whole troglodyte (hermit) villages, subterranean churches and fortresses have been hewn from the soft, porous, eerily eroded rock of Cappadocia. A guided tour of the region takes us to the World Heritage listed Goreme Valley where we'll see stunning examples of rock-cut Byzantine churches, chapels and temples, and Zelve with its jaw-dropping landscape of towering eroded rocks.

Before our touring starts this morning there will be an optional balloon ride taking you over the incredible landscape of this region. Book and pay locally.

Optional Activities:

Hot Air Ballooning in Cappadocia – US \$350 per person

Optional activities can also be paid in Euro and Turkish Lira **Overnight – Cappadocia (B, D)**

Day 5 : Konya's Whirling Dervish Museum

Cappadocia – Konya – Pamukkale. It's an early departure this morning as we head for Pamukkale. On the way we visit the 13th century Seljukian masterpiece of Sultanhan Caravanserai before arriving in Konya. In Konya we visit the Mevlana Museum also known as the Green Mausoleum

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which is the original lodge of the Mevlevi Whirling Dervishes. We then continue our drive to Pamukkale for our overnight stay. **Overnight - Pamukkale** (B, D)

Day 6 : Pamukkale & Ephesus



Pamukkale - Ephesus - Kusadasi. Famed for its unique cascades of natural mineral rich pools, Pamukkale captures the heart of any traveller. Here we can paddle our feet in the warm water flowing over the terraces or take a relaxing dip in the Pamukkale Thermal Baths. Just beyond the thermal pools we make a stop at the Roman ruins of Hierapolis.

This afternoon we continue to the legendary Roman ruins of Ephesus. Easily the best-preserved classical city in the eastern Mediterranean, Ephesus stood as a vast Roman city with a population nearing 250,000. Rumoured to have been founded in the 13th century BC, it became the Roman capital of Asia Minor and enjoyed prosperity thanks to commerce and visiting pilgrims who flocked for a glimpse of the magnificent Temple of Artemis - one of the Seven Ancient Wonders. Strong archeological remains can be seen at Ephesus including the Great Theatre (once capable of seating 25,000 spectators at one time), Curetes Way (one of the main thoroughfares) the Temple of Serapis, the elegant façades of the Temple of Hadrian and the awesome Library of Celsus - underlining its status as a centre point for Roman urban life. Off Curetes Way are ancient public toilets, a brothel, remains of fountains and

various temples. We end our day at our hotel in Kusadasi.

Overnight - Kusadasi (B, D)

Day 7 : Roman Ruins of Pergamum



Kusadasi - Pergamum - Assos. This morning we drive north, stopping at the Roman ruins of Pergamum and its impressive hillside amphitheatre. We also visit the neighbouring Asclepion - a Roman precursor to modern-day hospitals - before continuing onto to Assos. **Overnight - Assos** (B)

Day 8 : Gallipoli - WWI Battlefields



Today we explore ANZAC Cove and the many memorials dotted across the WWI 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 - Assos / Canakkale** (B)

Day 9 : Troy & ANZAC Eve



Assos - Troy - Kilitbahir - Gallipoli. After a morning at leisure 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. After exploring Kilitbahir we stop in the town of Eceabat for dinner (at your own expense) before entering the Cove.

Please be sure to 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 coach and will not be accessible until the following morning. At this point it is a good time to make a note of 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.

While drop-offs usually run smoothly, be prepared for a long walk from where your coach is ordered to stop to get to ANZAC Cove proper on ANZAC Eve. Once we're in Anzac Cove you are free to visit the memorials and trenches that dot the area before taking your place among the many at the Dawn Service site for the atmosphere charged ANZAC Eve vigil.

Please note: Important instructions will be given about where to meet

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with your coach on 25 April, after the national services have concluded. It is vital that you follow meeting instructions in order that you rendezvous with your correct coach.

Overnight - Dawn Service site (ANZAC Cove) (B)

Day 10 : ANZAC Day - Gallipoli 2025



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. Lest we 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 pay their respects at the Lone Pine Memorial Service, while New Zealanders can attend the service at Chunuk Bair. **Please note:** the 2025 national memorial services at Lone Pine and Chunuk Bair are subject to confirmation.

Everyone will be picked up from Chunuk Bair after the service (exact time and location to be confirmed with your guide). We anticipate an early afternoon departure time from Gallipoli for our journey back to Istanbul.

Overnight - Istanbul

Day 11 : Istanbul

Sat 26th April 2025. Your tour ends after breakfast and hotel check out. We hope you have had a wonderful holiday in Turkey and a memorable ANZAC Day 2025 experience. (B)

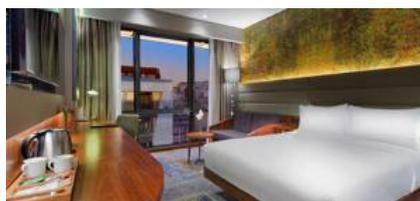
ACCOMMODATION

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

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

DoubleTree by Hilton Istanbul - Piyalepaşa

This impressive 5-star hotel is located in the upmarket Beyoglu district of Istanbul and a free shuttle is provided to the city centre, home to the Grand Bazaar, Blue Mosque, and Hagia Sofia, amongst other attractions. Rooms at the DoubleTree by Hilton are elegant and modern, with floor-to-ceiling windows, ensuite bathrooms, air-conditioning and a flatscreen TV. Some rooms feature a balcony. There is free Wi-Fi at the property and amenities include an indoor pool with whirlpool, fitness centre and sun terrace. There are two onsite restaurants and a daily breakfast buffet.



Burcu Kaya Hotel

Burcu Kaya Hotel, nestled in Cappadocia's Ortahisar District, offers an enchanting stay with its outdoor pool overlooking fairy chimneys, charming stone rooms, and a peaceful garden. The air-conditioned rooms combine authentic decor with modern comforts like flat-screen TVs, minibars, and private bathrooms with

complimentary toiletries. Guests can enjoy meals prepared with locally sourced ingredients at the on-site restaurant or relax with a drink by the lobby bar's fireplace. The hotel also offers activities such as table tennis, darts, and billiards, along with 24-hour assistance. Conveniently located, the hotel is a 5-minute walk from Ortahisar town center.



Adempira Termal & Spa Hotel

Adempira Termal & Spa Hotel is ideally located just a short drive from the Pamukkale Travertines surrounded by mountains. Guest rooms are modern and comfortable equipped with private bathrooms, air conditioning and satellite tv channels. There is a restaurant and bar onsite offering Turkish and international cuisine. The hotel features a Thermal Pool, Outdoor Swimming Pool, 2 Red Thermal Pools, Turkish bath and sauna as well as an array of luxurious spa treatments to indulge in after a day of sightseeing.



Ramada by Wyndham Hotel & Suites

Set within beautifully landscaped gardens and boasting an incredible panoramic view of the Aegean Coast, the Ramada Hotel & Suites is the perfect place to relax and soak up the sun by its large outdoor pool, or pamper yourself at the spa. Comfort is guaranteed in the spacious guest rooms, which are modern and well equipped. The hotel offers a choice of three bars, a buffet restaurant and

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an à la carte restaurant, serving tasty Italian cuisine. A variety of bars and restaurants can also be found within walking distance of the hotel, near Kusadası's pretty marina.



Eden Garden

The Eden Gardens hotel is a wonderful beachfront hotel located near to the historical town of Assos, surrounded by forest. Guest rooms are contemporary offering private bathrooms, satellite tv channels and a balcony with a sea or garden view. There is a restaurant onsite that serves local Turkish dishes using fresh local ingredients. The property also features a swimming pool, private beach, fitness centre and spa - the perfect way to relax after a day of sightseeing.



Parion Hotel

The Parion is an elegant property situated in the heart of Canakkale on the southern coast of the Dardanelles in Turkey. The hotel features 162 spacious guest rooms en suite facilities, air conditioning, flat-screen satellite TV and a minibar. Those looking for a bite to eat can check out the hotel restaurant, which serves a tasty breakfast buffet and offers an a la carte menu at lunch and dinner. There is also a hotel bar and room service is available.



BEFORE YOU GO

Optional Backstreets of Istanbul

If you are arriving to Istanbul early, we recommend joining our optional Backstreets Of Istanbul Tour taking place on the 16th April. Details of the day trip are as follows:

Istanbul has more than its fair share of Byzantine monuments, but few are as gorgeous as this mosaic and fresco laden Chora Museum (Church of the Holy Saviour). Originally a church and later converted into a mosque in the 16th century, the beautiful Byzantine mosaics depicting the lives of Christ and the Virgin Mary were covered in plaster. This protected them for several centuries until during World War II and the church-turned-mosque became a museum soon after.

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 Caddesi (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\$85 per person. Please note this tour requires a minimum of 6 passengers to operate. Reservations and payment can be made upon arrival to Istanbul.

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 and 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.

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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 Euros (EUR).

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

Egypt & Turkey ANZAC Day 2025 Please note: on this tour all entrance fees are payable locally in Egypt and will be collect on day 2 in Egyptian pounds (EGP). There are no entrance fees collected in Turkey. The tip kitty will be collected in two parts (USD\$40-50pp in Egypt and USD\$15-25pp in Turkey - payable in EGP and EUR)

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,

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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 (cabin baggage size) 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

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 Australians have the opportunity to visit the Lone Pine memorial site and New Zealanders can visit Chunuk Bair memorial site. Please note the Lone Pine and Chunuk Bair Memorial Services in 2025 are still subject to confirmation. 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.

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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.

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.

Registration for the 2025 ANZAC commemorations can be done here: <https://commemorations.teg.com.au/en/>

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 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-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

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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.

Turkey Country Guide

Visas and passports

Visa requirements are subject to change and visa procurement is the responsibility of the traveller and not On The Go Tours. It is therefore essential that you check current visa requirements with the embassy before travel.

Please also ensure that your passport is valid for at least 6 months from your planned date of departure from Turkey.

After booking your holiday, please provide us with your passport details as soon as possible so that we can proceed to book all services.

Turkey health requirements and water

You should seek medical advice before travelling to Turkey from your local health practitioner and ensure that you receive all the appropriate vaccinations. The tap water in Turkey is generally considered safe to drink, but as a precaution against stomach upsets you may want to drink bottled mineral water, which is readily available from shops, hotels and restaurants.

Essential packing

Please check local temperatures so you can pack accordingly.

- A small daypack for your day-to-day needs
- Tour Voucher and a copy of your travel insurance policy, spare passport

photos and a photocopy of your passport

- Universal travel adaptor
- Spare camera batteries/memory card so you can go snap happy
- Take out some Turkish Lira from the ATM facilities at the airport upon arrival
- Buy a phrasebook and practice locally
- Keep a supply of small Turkish Lira notes for local transactions

It's not like home

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

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

Shopping

Turkey is a virtual Aladdin's Cave. The Grand Bazaar in Istanbul is cavernous and full of unusual and everyday objects. Known locally as Kapali Carsi – the Grand Bazaar in Istanbul's Old City is a massive conglomeration of shops (some 4000) divided into areas specialising in gold, carpets, leather, souvenirs and clothing. Turkish handicrafts include a rich variety of textiles and embroideries, articles of copper, onyx and tile, mother-of-pearl, inlaid articles, leather and suede products. Jewellery, carpets and kilims represent top buys at the bazaar. Opening hours: Mon to Sat 0900 – 1900hrs (closed Sunday).

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Carpet Buying

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

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

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

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

shipping arrangements. Proceed with caution.

What to expect and Ramadan

Ramadan dates: 27 Feb – 29 Mar 2025 and 16 Feb – 18 Mar 2026 (approx). The month of Ramazan (Ramadan), the ninth of the Islamic calendar, is a great time to travel in the region as you get a real insight into the Muslim faith. It is a time for spiritual reflection, prayer, doing good deeds and spending time with family and friends. 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 Ramadan 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.

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

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:

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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