

Detailed Trip Notes

11 Day ANZAC Day 2011 Tour

Duration: 11 Days / 10 Nights
Starts in: Istanbul
Ends in: Istanbul
Price: AUD\$1370 / GBP840 per person twin share
 AUD \$1480/ GBP905 per person single

Please note: this itinerary is correct at the time of printing. Occasionally our itineraries are updated to reflect improvements. It is important that you check back to our web page at www.goholidayturkey.com to review the itinerary and trip notes closer to your departure date to ensure you have the most up-to-date information.



DAY BY DAY ITINERARY

Day 1 - 24th April - Welcome to Istanbul

We meet in Sultanahmet in Istanbul front of the Aya Sofya at 6.30am for a 7am departure to Gallipoli. Along the way we will stop so you can stock up on supplies to see you through the night and the following day.

Once we arrive at the Gallipoli peninsula, we will do a tour of the battlefields with one of the most experienced Gallipoli tour guides.

Following the tour we make our way to Anzac Cove in the early evening to make sure we have a good spot for the long night ahead. Overnight at ANZAC Cove (Please note: no accommodation is provided for tonight - you will sleep under the stars to get the full ANZAC experience)

(Lunch)



Day 2 - 25th April - ANZAC Day at Gallipoli

We will awake before sunrise for the Anzac Dawn Service. After the service you will make your way on foot to either the Lone Pine Memorial or the Chunuk Bair Memorial for the Australian and New Zealand services. Unfortunately the tight timing of the services and long walking distances makes it difficult to attend both services.

Our bus will pick you up at the designated meeting point after the Australian and New Zealand services, and we will make our way to Kusadasi - a port town a short drive from Selcuk, where the ruins of Ephesus are located. Overnight in Kusadasi. *(Lunch, Dinner)*

Day 3 - 26th April – Ephesus to Pamukkale

Turkey's carpets are world-famous, and this morning we will watch a demonstration of carpet weaving and learn some basic information about the different styles of carpets. Following this, we do a guided tour of Ephesus¹. Ephesus is the most visited ruin site in Turkey. The facade of the library alone is worth the trip. Following the Ephesus guided tour, we will visit the Virgin Mary's House², stopping afterwards for cold drinks and then a quick visit to see one of Turkey's best leather factories. We then drive to Pamukkale where we will spend the night.

(Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)



Day 4 - 27th April - Pamukkale

Today we tour Pamukkale and see the amazing travertines (calcium pools) and the ruins of the ancient spa town of Hierapolis³. The World Heritage- listed white travertines stand as a monument to nature's wonder. Set within a farming landscape, the pools appear as if by magic and invite you to walk its paths. Hierapolis has a very large amphitheatre to wander through and the Cleopatra antique thermal pool allegedly cures almost every ailment



¹ Entry fee not included

² Entry fee not included

³ Entry fee not included

known to mankind. Your tour will include some time to swim in the thermal pool⁴. We will then head up the hill to a spot not easily reached by tourists to enjoy a fabulous Pamukkale sunset.

Night in Pamukkale. *(Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)*

Day 5 - 28th April - Fethiye / Ölüdeniz

We leave Pamukkale for Fethiye and the beautiful town of Ölüdeniz which boasts one of the most stunning beaches in Turkey. We stop on the way in Dalyan to experience a mud bath and visit a beach famous for its turtles. At this time of year, we may be lucky to spot some turtles. Free Afternoon. Night in Oludeniz. *(Breakfast, Dinner)*



Day 6 - 29th April - Oludeniz

Today, weather permitting, we will do a boat cruise around beautiful Oludeniz Bay. If the weather is not kind to us, this activity will be substituted with a visit to a Hamam (Turkish Bath) and Kayaköy⁵, a ghost town of 2000 stone houses, deserted after a population swap between Greece and Turkey after WWI. Night in Oludeniz. *(Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)*

Day 7 - 30th April - Olympos

Today we drive from Oludeniz to the very relaxed village of Olympos where you will have the experience of staying in a tree house. Situated on the Mediterranean coast, the tiny village of Olympos today hides the fact that it was once a powerful city holding an out numbered three seats in the 17th Century six seat federation until piracy brought about its demise. Tonight you will have the amazing experience of climbing Mt Olympos to see the Chimaera, also known as Yanartaş or Burning rock. The Chimaera are flames that burn from the crevices of the rocky slopes of Mt Olympos on contact with the air. Ancient civilizations used to attribute these flames to the breath of a monster. You will need good walking shoes and a torch for this excursion. Night in Olympos. *(Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)*

Day 8 – 1st May – Perge, Aspendos, Konya

Today we travel to the warmth of the city of Antalya, situated on a rocky coastline, with the impressive Taurus Mountains in the background. We will visit the Roman ruins of Perge with its amazing stadium and unusual Hellenistic-Roman gate towers. Then we move on to visit Aspendos which has the best-preserved Roman theatre in Turkey, and one of the best in the world. After a day of ruin-hopping, we move on to Konya where we will spend the night. *(Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)*

Day 9 – 2nd May - Konya to Cappadocia

This morning we visit the Mevlana (Whirling Dervish) museum before travelling to Cappadocia where we will begin a tour which continues tomorrow. This afternoon we visit Ilhara Valley, a former retreat of Byzantine monks, and where you will see dozens of painted churches carved from the rock which have survived the centuries. We will also visit Derinkuyu Underground City, extending eight levels underground, and carved out of volcanic rock. Night in Goreme in a cave hotel. *(Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)*



Day 10 –3rd May

OPTION : Before sunrise enjoy a fabulous 1 hour hot air balloon ride over the top of the amazing landscape of Cappadocia. Enjoy champagne on landing. We highly recommend this option, as for most of our guests it is undoubtedly the highlight of their trip to Turkey.

Full day tour of Cappadocia, where you can wander through the desert, surrounded on every side by cave houses dug by hand in the natural rock formations that form the magical landscape. We will visit places such as Zelve Valley⁶, (now an open air museum showcasing abandoned homes and churches), Goreme Open Air Museum⁷ and more. Night in Cappadocia in a cave hotel. *(Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)*

Day 11 –4th May

This morning we drive to Ankara where we visit the “must-see” Museum of Anatolian Civilisations which houses the best artefacts from all of the major excavations in Turkey. Here you will see relics from the Palaeolithic, Neolithic, Bronze Age, and Hittite civilisations, to name just a few. We then start to make our way back to Istanbul where our tour finishes this evening when we drop you back to the Aya Sofya. Please note that accommodation tonight is not included in your tour. We recommend using www.hostelworld.com or www.hostelbookers.com to book somewhere close to the Aya Sofya. Alternatively, we can help you book post-tour accommodation. *(Breakfast, Lunch)*

Inclusions:

- 9 nights accommodation in pleasant budget hotels
- Fully qualified, English speaking tour guide, registered with the Turkish Ministry of Tourism
- Entrance fees to all sites as stated in the itinerary
- Transportation in a fully air-conditioned, non-smoking coach
- Breakfast each day (except 25th April)
- 10 Lunches
- 9 Dinners

Not included:

- Cleopatra Antique Swimming Pool (Pamukkale) – 25TL
- Cappadocia Hot Air Balloon
- Tips
- Drinks
- If you would like to participate in any optional activities during your tour, your tour guide will be happy to book it for you so that you can take advantage of our special travel agency rates.

Important Note:

1. ANZAC Cove is an alcohol-free zone. As per an agreement between the Australian, New Zealand and Turkish governments, anyone taking alcohol into the Dawn service site may be escorted off the site by the military police. Go Holiday Turkey also reserves the right to refuse access to our bus attending the Dawn Service if we believe that an individual is overly intoxicated. Go Holiday Turkey will not refund monies of anyone unable to attend the Dawn Service because of an alcohol related incident.

ANZAC DAY – What to Expect

The experience of attending an ANZAC Day Dawn Service at Gallipoli is something you will remember forever. It can be quite tiring, but well worth it. A moderate level of fitness is important.

The crowd size varies each year, but the average crowd is somewhere between 5,000 and 10,000. Expect to see hundreds of buses and sea of red, white, blue, green and gold, black and white and red and white as young Australians, New Zealanders and Turkish people proudly display their country colours.

We will get to ANZAC Cove in the early evening of 24th April in order to get as good a spot as possible. After getting off the bus, we take a short walk along a bush path to get to ANZAC Cove. There will be a bag search point – please note that alcohol is strictly forbidden at the site as a result of rowdy behaviour in years gone by. Any alcohol will be confiscated.

At Anzac Cove, Lone Pine and Chunuk Bair Memorials there is temporary grandstand seating erected as there is not enough room for everyone to sit on the grassy areas. Unfortunately seating cannot be reserved or guaranteed. The downside of this is that if you happen to miss out on a spot on the grass, trying to sleep on the grandstand seats can be a little uncomfortable. Our big tip to you – make sure you have an early night the night before.

We then settle in for the night to wait for the Dawn Service. There will be plenty to do however – large TV screens will show documentaries, there is likely to be some entertainment, and throughout the evening there will be speeches from a range of dignitaries from Australia, New Zealand and Turkey. The atmosphere at the site is electric.

Food stalls and stalls selling memorabilia will be set up at the site, and there are plenty of toilets available.

Nights at ANZAC Cove are always very cold – you'll need to make sure you have warm clothes packed and a sleeping bag is a must have. It is very common to see people rugged up in warm clothes, a big jacket, a hat and a scarf inside their sleeping bags. All of this is for a very good reason 😊. The days are often very warm, so you need to make sure that you are dressed in layers so that you can adjust your clothing easily as the day warms up. It's a good idea to pack some wet weather gear too as rain is not uncommon at this time of year.

Make sure that whatever you bring can be easily carried because once the bus drops us off at the site on the 24th, we won't be able to access the bus or our luggage again until we are picked up on the 25th. We suggest a small day pack. Please note that camping gear and large backpacks are prohibited at the site.

After the Dawn Service finishes, we make our way to the Australian and New Zealand memorial sites. Be prepared for a fairly steep uphill walk. Suncream and a hat are important as there is no shade cover at the Australian and New Zealand memorial sites. It's a good idea to make sure you have something to sit on during these services – most people simply spread out their sleeping bag. At the Australian memorial site, the New Zealand and Turkish services are usually screened, and vice versa, so you don't need to worry about trying to rush between the sites.

After the services the hundreds of buses are allowed back into the site to pick up their passengers. Your guide will have told you the meeting point the afternoon before. This part of the day is quite a sight to behold, as thousands of people sit or lie on the grass waiting for their bus and then scramble to try to get on the right bus. It is important to be watching out for your bus, as the buses have a very short time they are allowed to stop in order to prevent traffic chaos.

The Australian Department of Veteran Affairs website has a good overview of what to expect at ANZAC Day, including information for people who require special needs assistance – we highly recommend you read it prior to the day:

http://www.dva.gov.au/commems_oawg/commemorations/commemorative_events/anzac_day/gallipoli/Pages/index.aspx#prep

Useful Information

Airport / Transfers

Ataturk International airport is approximately 25km west of Istanbul's city centre. The easiest way to get to Sultanahmet is by taxi. The day time fare will cost approximately 30TL, but after midnight it will cost around 50-55TL.

Sabiha Gokcen is on the Asian shore of Istanbul and is much further from the hotel. We advise that you avoid flying into this airport if possible. If you do fly to Sabiha Gokcen airport, you can catch a Havas airport bus to Taksim, and then a taxi to Sultanahmet (approximately 10TL-20TL depending on the time of day).

Airport buses to Aksaray leave every 30 minutes from 6am-11pm. You will need to catch a tram from Aksaray to Sultanahmet or a taxi.

Accommodation

We can book additional accommodation for you in Istanbul either before or after the tour. Contact us for prices.

Clothing

We suggest light, easily washable T shirts or shirts with sleeves. Slacks, shorts, jeans for tourist areas only. If you are travelling on to more conservative areas in Turkey, we recommend slacks (not jeans or shorts) for men and for women, clothing that makes sure that shoulders and knees are covered.

Meals

As a guide, it is possible to buy a filling lunch for 10TL or dinner for approximately 15TL.

Breakfast in Turkey is generally very simple, consisting of bread, jam, cheese, tomato, cucumber, olives and tea and coffee.

Mobile Phones

We are unsure whether Mobile Phones will work in Turkey. Contact your provider if you want to know more. We do know that if the phone does work it will be very expensive. Email is probably the easiest way to keep in contact with your friends & family. There are internet cafes at nearly all the towns that we will be staying in.

Money matters

From January 1, 2005 until December 31, 2008, Turkey's currency was called the New Turkish Lira (*Yeni Türk Lirası*, YTL or TRY). On 1 January 2009, Turkey introduced a new series of banknotes called "E9" which have strengthened anti-counterfeiting measures. At this time, Turkey dropped the "New" from the currency name, and so the currency is again called the **Turkish Lira**. Notes are in denominations of TL1, 5, 10, 20, 50 and 100 liras. The lira is divided into 100 **Kurus** (pronounced kooROOSH), with **coins** in denominations of 5, 10, 25 and 50 (Kurus) and TL1 and TL2.

The easy way to convert to AUD\$ is AUD\$1 = 1YTL approximately.

Visa, MasterCard & American express credit cards are accepted in Turkey. Cirrus and Plus are also available. There are ATMs in nearly every town or you can get cash from inside the bank. We recommend that you try to use cash when purchasing goods as paying with credit cards or travellers cheques incurs high costs. There are money exchanges in most towns for cash or traveller cheques. Every town has different rate for money exchange, ask Adem or your tour guide before you change money & he will advise you on the best rate or best exchange to visit.

Packing

Other items to pack:

- Head Scarf if you have one (if not there are very pretty ones you can buy in Turkey that are quite inexpensive) to visit Mosques
- One slightly more dressy change of clothes for dinner in the hotel or restaurant
- Comfortable walking shoes or sneakers
- Swimsuit and towel
- Hat, sunglasses, sunscreen, insect repellent
- Personal toiletries and underwear
- Rain jacket and cardigan or jacket for cool nights or change in the weather
- Alarm Clock

Tips

Please note, it is customary in Turkey to give a tip to the tour guide and bus driver if you are happy with their service. Because wages are so low in Turkey it is also nice to leave a tip for waiters.

Valuables

Please ensure that you keep your passport, tickets & money in a very safe place. We recommend that you wear a money belt or bum bag. Make copies of your passport and tickets & note the numbers of your traveller's cheques and keep these in your luggage.

Visas

Please note that visas are the responsibility of the individual traveller. Requirements vary depending on where you are from, and where you are going next. It is important to check this information prior to your departure.

As a guide, visas for Australian citizens are obtained on arrival in Turkey and cost 20USD per person (note that prices are subject to change without notice). It is critical that you pay for this in cash in USD as Turkish Lira are not accepted for visa payments. Make sure you have some USD with you to avoid any hassles at the visa window.

Water

It is best not to drink tap water while you are in Turkey, so make sure that every evening you stock up on enough bottled water to see you through the night. Bottled water is reasonably inexpensive.

Weather Conditions

We will be travelling in spring, this is a great time to travel as it has not yet warmed up to very high temperatures but can still be quite cool in some areas especially at night. There is still some rain around but mostly it should be fine. We are hoping for temperatures ranging between 20 – 30°C. Try to keep your luggage as light as possible, as heavy luggage becomes a burden once you have been on the road for a few weeks!

We have put a great deal of thought into planning this itinerary for your enjoyment.

Please remember that group excursions require the co-operation of the whole group to make this trip the success we envision.

WELCOME ABOARD!