

EXCLUSIVE OPTIONAL TOUR

Classical Turkey Tour - 28 April to 06 May 2014

On completion of your Gallipoli Battlefield tour, join us on an exclusive "Classical Turkey" tour incorporating the highlights of this wonderful country. The tour, specially designed and exclusive to Boronia Travel Centre tour members, will visit Ankara and the Hittite Museum and Cappadocia the land of Fairy Chimneys' with its unique volcanic landscape, ensuring time for an optional sunrise balloon ride, a once in a lifetime experience! Also visit Pamukkale to see the world famous natural cascading terraces and Kusadasi, to wander the waterfront and markets, and explore Ephesus, the magnificent Greco-Roman city, before returning to Istanbul for a final farewell dinner.



Itinerary

Day 1. Monday 28 April

This morning travel to Ankara, the capital city of Turkey via the highway. Upon arrival enjoy a city tour, visiting the Anatolian Civilizations Museum (The Hittite Museum) and the Mausoleum of Ataturk. ANKARAB (D)

Day 2. Tuesday 29 April

After breakfast drive to Cappadocia, the land of the 'Fairy Chimneys'. Tour the Goreme Open Air Museum with its wonderful rock-carved churches and ancient frescoes dating back to 11/12th centuries. Also see the beautiful underground city of Kaymakli or Derinkuyu, with the unique maze of caves and tunnels built in the 7th century for tens of thousands Christians fleeing persecution and undiscovered until the 1960s. CAPPADOCIA (B D)

Day 3. Wednesday 30 April

Today enjoy a full day touring the villages among the unique volcanic landscapes of Cappadocia. Visit Avanos town famous for its colorful Turkish potteries and handmade original Turkish carpets. Tonight following dinner join an optional show, Cappadocia By Night in an underground cave with folklore shows and belly dancers. CAPPADOCIA (B D)



Day 4. Thursday 01 May

This morning there will be an opportunity for you to join an optional sunrise balloon ride over the unique rock formations and valleys, a once in a lifetime experience. Then travel onto Konya, the first Turkish kingdom of Anatolia and visit Mevlana's Mausoleum, the holiest shrine of the mystic sect of 'whirling dervishes'. KONYA

Day 5. Friday 02 May

Following breakfast depart for Pamukkale along a scenic mountain route. Upon arrival, check into hotel and spend the remainder of the afternoon relaxing in the thermal pool. PAMUKKALE (B D)

Day 6. Saturday 03 May

This morning tour the ancient Roman city of Hierapolis and the world famous natural hot spring calcium cascading terraces, giving the name to the area as "Cotton Castle". We will then depart for Kusadasi, stopping enroute to visit Aphrodisias the city of marble, with its ancient stadium and unique theatre of the world, the Temple Of Aphrodite. KUSADASI (B D)



Day 7. Sunday 04 May

Today enjoy a full day guided tour of the Roman ruins of Ephesus. See the Library of Celsus, the Gates of Augustus and the Temple of Artemis, one of the seven wonders of the ancient world, wander along the ancient Marble Road and explore the Great Theatre. There will also be an opportunity to visit the House of Virgin Mary, where she is believed to have spent her last days. Following the tour there will be time to wander along the waterfront and markets of Kusadasi before joining the group for dinner. KUSADASI (B D)

Day 8. Monday 05 May

After breakfast, check out and depart for Izmir airport for return flight to Istanbul. Upon arrival transfer to the hotel with the remainder of the day free for personal sightseeing and shopping. This evening enjoy a farewell dinner including a famous belly dancer show. ISTANBUL (B D)

Day 9. Tuesday 06 May

Tour ends with a transfer to the airport for return flight to Australia or onward flight to other destination.

GALLIPOLI IN DEPTH

Gallipoli Battlefield Tour - 17 April to 28 April 2014

April 25 2014, marks the 99th Anniversary of the landing at Anzac Cove, where the ANZAC legend was born. Walk in the footsteps of our diggers and trace the whole campaign from Suvla Bay in the north to the tip of Cape Helles in the south. You will, with expert guidance, scour the dramatic ridges and isolated beaches and come to understand how the Anzac's courage, resourcefulness and humour in adversity became a source of national pride and an expression of national character.

Highlights

- ANZAC Day Dawn Service
- Australian National Ceremony at Lone Pine
- Exclusive beachfront accommodation within the Gallipoli Battlefield
- Private boat tour along Gallipoli Coast
- 6 Full days at Gallipoli - prior to Anzac Day crowds
- Walk down Rhododendron Ridge
- Ancient Ruins of Troy
- Istanbul Sightseeing
- Farewell dinner with magnificent views

Itinerary

Day 1. Thursday 17 April

For those members travelling on our group flights you will be met by your local guide at Istanbul Ataturk Airport and transferred to the hotel for check in and breakfast. This afternoon enjoy a cruise along the Bosphorus, seeing beautiful Mosques, Palaces and historic timber houses on both the European and Asian shoreline. ISTANBUL (B D)



Day 2. Friday 18 April

After breakfast begin the day with a guided tour of famous sights of the old city, including the Hippodrome, the beautiful Blue Mosque and Hagia Sophia, one of the great marvels of ancient architecture surviving in the world and the most important Byzantine monument in Istanbul. After lunch visit the Underground Cistern followed by free time to bargain and barter at the Grand Bazaar, before returning to the hotel. ISTANBUL (B L)

Day 3. Saturday 19 April

This morning travel by coach to Gallipoli with lunch upon arrival at the Kum Hotel. In the afternoon drive along the coast for your first visit to Ari Burnu cemetery - where the Dawn Service was held until 2000 - and Beach cemetery, where the grave of John Simpson Kirkpatrick "the man with the donkey" is a place of pilgrimage for Australians. Take in the stunning views of Plugges Plateau, and the Sphinx, finishing with a stop at the beautiful Shrapnel Valley Cemetery. Enjoy dusk at Anzac Cove. GALLIPOLI (B L D)

Day 4. Sunday 20 April

After breakfast cross the Dardanelles for a guided tour of the ruins of the most famous ancient city in the world - Troy. On return stop at the Dardanos Battery gun emplacements for discussions on the naval assaults of 1915. Lunch will be in Canakkale, followed by a guided tour of Fort Çimenlik war relics and naval museum. GALLIPOLI (B L D)

Day 5. Monday 21 April

Begin today with a guided walking tour of 'Old Anzac' front line positions from Lone Pine to the Nek, the site of one of the greatest tragedies in Australian military history occurred. Return to hotel for lunch. In the afternoon visit the northern battlefields of Suvla and Hill 60, where Hugo Throssell became the only Australian light horseman ever to win the Victoria Cross. Following dinner, attend optional film night. GALLIPOLI (B L D)

Day 6. Tuesday 22 April

In the morning tour the remaining significant Anzac positions and cemeteries, including 4th Battalion Parade Ground and Shell Green, concluding with a walk down Bolton's Ridge or the famous Artillery Road. Return to hotel for lunch. This afternoon enjoy a tour of battlefields from the Turkish side, with an expert Turkish historian and guide, Kenan Celik OAM. GALLIPOLI (B L D)

Day 7. Wednesday 23 April

After breakfast enjoy a special highlight boat tour of the Gallipoli coast from Anzac Cove to Suvla Bay for an unforgettable view of the valleys and ridges from the sea, just as the Australian soldiers would have seen them at the landing 99 years ago (weather permitting). Following lunch, travel up to the Anzac heights for a guided walking tour from Chunuk Bair down along Rhododendron Ridge to the northern outposts. Upon return to the hotel visit the Kabatepe Simulation and Information Center, a newly opened museum with modern audio and visual effects. GALLIPOLI (B L D)



Day 8. Thursday 24 April

This morning we head to the southern tip of the Peninsula for a guided tour of the landing at Cape Helles and the Krithia Battlefields, including a short walk to Achi Baba, one of the commanding points the Allied forces repeatedly tried to capture. Return to hotel for a barbecue lunch with the afternoon free for rest in preparation for Anzac Day GALLIPOLI (B L D)



Day 9. Friday 25 April

An early departure from the hotel to attend the Anzac Day Dawn Service and the Australian national ceremony at Lone Pine. Return to hotel for lunch with the remainder of day free for rest or optional guided walking tours of battlefields, conditions permitting. GALLIPOLI (B L D)



Day 10. Saturday 26 April

Today leave the battlefields behind returning to Istanbul, with lunch en route at Kosk restaurant. This afternoon will be free for personal sightseeing, shopping and time to explore the many colorful and interesting cafes of this wonderful city. Perhaps take a walk down Istiklal Street, a pedestrian shopping avenue near the hotel with its old trams rattling along. ISTANBUL (B L)

Day 11. Sunday 27 April

After breakfast, visit the Dolmabahce Palace, a wonderful example of the grandeur of the Ottoman Empires last years, and where Mustafa Kemal Ataturk spent his final days. We then return to the Old City and visit a carpet showroom for an interesting presentation on the background of Turkish carpets. Following lunch, explore Topkapi Palace, the main residence of the Ottoman Sultans for over 400 years. This evening attend our farewell dinner whilst enjoying a magnificent view of Istanbul by night. ISTANBUL (B L D)

Day 12. Monday 28 April

Tour ends with a transfer to the airport for return flight to Australia or onward flight to other destination. (B)