

ANZAC DAY 16-DAY TOUR 2010

Greetings! Hope this finds you well and you are getting a tad excited about ANZAC in Gallipoli – it will be an experience you will not forget for a long time and will not regret. To help your tour run as smooth as possible please read the following document which outlines some basic info on Turkey and indeed the Beige Brigade ANZAC Tour.

ITINERARY – 16 DAY BEIGE BRIGADE ANZAC TOUR

Day 1 - Sun 11th April 2010 – Istanbul

Own flight arrangements to Istanbul's Ataturk Airport where you will be met by our crew and transferred to your hotel to meet the guide and the rest of your group. For those coming into Istanbul by bus, overland, or from Sabiha airport you can make your own way to your hotel. Check-in is from 12 noon. Details of your hotel will be sent 2 weeks prior to the tour beginning. Tonight we have a wee opening party with a great night in Istanbul's famed Sulthanamet area. It will be a cracking night and break a fair bit of ice so you can get to know your fellow travelers!

Day 2 - Mon 12th April 2010 – Istanbul Old City Tour

After breakfast, enjoy a guided tour of Istanbul's fascinating old city. Istanbul is the only city to span two continents, Europe and Asia. Sites include the Blue Mosques, Topkapi Palace, the Underground Cistern and the Hippodrome. Overnight Istanbul. (B)

Day 3 – Tues 13th April 2010 – Istanbul Golden Horn and Pera tour

Dolmabahce Palace, the marvelous panorama of the Golden Horn and the Bosphorus from Galata Tower, Pera, Süleymaniye Mosque, St. Chora Church (Kariye Museum), Pierre Loti café the best spot to view marvelous Golden Horn, Eyup Sultan Mosque. Overnight Istanbul. (B)

Day 4 – Wed 14th April 2010 – Ankara & Cappadocia

After breakfast, drive to the nation's capital, Ankara, visiting the Ancient Civilization's Museum and the Mausoleum of Turkey's first President, Ataturk. With Ankara behind us, we head for the surreal moonscape of Cappadocia. Overnight Cappadocia. (B)

Day 5 – Thur 15th April 2010 – Cappadocia Tour

Cappadocia's amazing landscape will snap you out of any potential hang over as we visit the Goreme open-air museums, Pasabag and Uchisar Castle. Almost lost in time, enjoy the friendly locals and the unique atmosphere while tonight there will be an optional Turkish folklore evening.

Day 6 – Fri 16th April 2010 - Konya, Antalya & Olympos

Leaving Cappadocia we head south along an ancient Silk Road for the stunning Mediterranean Coast. Along the way you see a Caravansary in Sultanhani and the deep blue lake in Obruk. At Turkey's religious capital Konya, we tour the Mevlana Whirling Dervish Museum. Overnight Olympos. (B)

Day 7-9 – Sat 17th - Mon 19th April 2010 - Three Night Cruise: Olympos to Fethiye

Get set for an amazing 4 days & 3 nights as we cruise through the idyllic crystal blue waters of Turkey's famed Mediterranean coast. This will be one of the highlights of your traveling career, let alone your Anzac tour experience. Under the guidance of your fully experienced local yachting crew (who also happen to prepare & cook all our meals each day) we laze our way along the spectacular Mediterranean coast visiting amazing places such as Butterfly Valley, St Nick's Island, Oludeniz, the rock tombs of Myra, Kas, and a wealth of incredible turquoise bays and beaches. Be as energetic or lazy as you like, snorkeling, swimming, sipping on an icy Efes or cocktail, reading your latest Harry Potter novel, this is the life. The vessels are an average of 8 berths with all sleeping, eating and toilet facilities on board. (Breakfast, lunch & dinner are included each day on the boat.)

Day 10 – Tues 20th April 2010 – Fethiye

The cruise finishes up at the seaside town of Fethiye where we spend the day chilling out and regaining our land legs and arms.

Day 11 – Wed 21st April 2010 – Pamukkale

Today we check out the famous calcium terraces of Pamukkale (cotton castles), photos of which adorn every promotional feature on Turkey...next to the frolicking kid on all the Underground Posters. If we have time we can also do some bombs or staples into 'Cleopatra's Pool' in the ruins of Hierapolis, an ancient health spa, just above the calcium terraces. We then set off further south for the port city of Kusadasi. Overnight Kusadasi.

Day 12 – Thur 22nd April 2010 – Ephesus & Kusadasi

Today we have a fully guided tour of the ancient Roman city of Ephesus – one of the best preserved ancient cities in Turkey...and indeed the world. During the cruise season it can be rammed with annoying American Tourists – but we'll get in early and shout them down...its well worth it! We also visit the local leather factory & a carpet village to learn how carpets are made by hand, what determines their value and the historical and cultural context in which this folk art has blossomed...and you'll no doubt buy a rug and get it sent back to London...and wonder what to do with it when it arrives!! After a day's shopping in the markets it's time for a night on the town. And what better way to do that than a Turkish bath - guaranteed to loosen every dead follicle & skin cell imaginable...maybe a few brain cells also. Warning: it can be quite brutal. We head out tonight in Kusadasi to experience the local bar & club scene.

Day 13 – Fri 23rd April 2010 – Pergamum & Ayvalik

This morning we start making our way towards the WWI battlefields of Gallipoli, first stopping off for a tour of the magnificent acropolis of ancient Pergamum. Tonight we stay in the town of Ayvalik near the famous ancient site of Troy. By staying here we are a stones throw from the Gallipoli Battlefields and it gives us a perfect platform to leave early the next day and get a full day on the peninsula...and most importantly before all the other groups arrive!

Day 14 - Sat 24th April 2010 – Gallipoli Tours

We depart early this morning for a tour of Troy, the site of the famed Trojan Wars. (The visit to Troy is time dependant – we may have to head straight to Gallipoli to avoid the crowds!).

Then we head towards the World War I battlefields of Gallipoli for a fully guided tour of this now serene site. We visit all the famous NZ battle sites including the legendary Chunuk Bair New Zealand Memorial, ANZAC Cove, Johnston's Jolly and the Turkish 57th Regiment memorial. We will also have time to stroll through what was once 'no-mans land' between the ANZAC's and Turkish. Tonight, we sample some of the local kebabs on offer before heading back to the site of the ANZAC Dawn Service. We watch the sun set over Anzac Cove, watch a few documentaries on the big screens and get in the mood for the moving experience to follow in the small hours of the morning. Keep warm in your sleeping bag and Beige Brigade hoodie under the stars with the thousands of others while waiting for sunrise. It DOES get cold, particularly if there is a wind! And with number swelling over 15,000 in 2008 it will also get very crowded. But we'll make sure we secure a good place!

Day 15 - Sun 25th April 2010

Awake before sunrise to the ANZAC Dawn Service and commemorate our fallen forefathers on this special day. After the Dawn Service we walk together with the many thousands up to Chunuk Bair for the NZ Memorial service. You can attend both the Australian & NZ Memorial Services, but to ensure you get a good possie for the NZ service you will have to skip the Aussie one. After the services we walk through the national park to the coaches for the ride to Istanbul and a chance to reflect on the whole Gallipoli experience. You'll be leaving a different person, no two ways about it. Back in Istanbul we check into our hotel before heading out for more of the city's famous night life.

Today is a chance to catch up on any shopping at the Grand Bazaar in central Istanbul....and have a mighty farewell party!

Day 16 - Mon 26th April 2010 - Check out

Check out and return home or carry on adventures in Europe.

Note: Tour does not include entrance fees to museums and mosques as required at some venues. No entry fee is required at the Gallipoli battlefields or Anzac services.