

ANZAC DAY 9-DAY TOUR 2011

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 the Beige Brigade ANZAC Tour. We pride ourselves on respecting the ANZAC tradition – so please respect our stance on a complete alcohol ban while on the Gallipoli Peninsula.

ANZAC DAY 2011 9-DAY TOUR ITINERARY

Day 1 - Sat 23rd April 2011 – Istanbul

Make your 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 brave sods 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.

Tonight is our opening to the tour with a night planned in Istanbul's Sulthanamet area - the place should be crawling with all sorts including a significant amount of fellow antipodeans. Tonight is an ideal way to break the ice with your fellow tourists & year after year ends up being a great night out.

Day 2 – Sun 24th April 2011 – Gallipoli Tour

We depart very early this morning (6 a crack!) and head straight to Gallipoli to avoid the crowds!! At approx midday we will arrive at 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 3 - Mon 25th April 2011 – ANZAC Day

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. Late afternoon we pile onto the coach to reflect on the last 24hrs and head to the seaside resort town of Ayvalik. Overnight Ayvalik.

Day 4 – Tues 26th April 2011 – Pergamum Tour

Today we head for the party port town of Kusadasi first stopping off for a tour of the magnificent acropolis of ancient Pergamum. En route we'll swing into one of the famous Turkish leather factories and witness possibly the most unique fashion show this side of the 1980's. This is a fantastic chance to purchase items that would go down a storm in Soho (leather hats, hot pants etc). We overnight in Kusadasi this evening – relax by the pool and check out the lively nightlife.

Day 5 – Wed 27th April 2011 – Ephesus

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 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 6 – Thur 28th April 2011 – Pamukkale

Shake off the potential hangover from the night before as today we'll 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, manu's or staples into 'Cleopatra's Pool' in the ruins of Hierapolis, an ancient health spa, just above the calcium terraces. Overnight in Pumukale.

Day 7 - Fri 29th April 2011 – Bursa Tour

Today we start our journey back north to Istanbul. Our first stop is passing through the former Ottoman Empire capital of Bursa. Opportunities to check out the mighty Grand Mosque and famous Silk Markets for some additional items for the growing souvenir pile. We overnight in Istanbul tonight.

Day 8 - Sat 30th April 2011 - Istanbul City Tour/Farewell party

Today is a chance to check out one of the biggest and oldest cities in Europe. Our city tour includes the Blue Mosque, Museum of Turkish & Islamic Art, Topkapi Palace, The underground cistern and the Hippodrome. Tonight is also the mighty farewell party – a chance to reflect on a pretty memorable 8 days! Overnight in Istanbul.

Day 9 - Sun 1st May 2011 - 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.