



ANZAC AND ANCIENT CIVILISATIONS

9 DAYS/8NIGHTS - 20 APRIL TO 28 APRIL 2007 - ESCORTED GROUP TOUR

Featuring in depth sightseeing and quality inclusions throughout Istanbul, our unique Gallipoli programme with our War Historians over 4 nights, plus the Western Coast of Turkey to visit the ruins of ancient Pergamum, the bustling port of Kusadasi and one of the archeological wonders of the world - the mighty city of Ephesus.

DAY 1 - 20 APRIL ISTANBUL

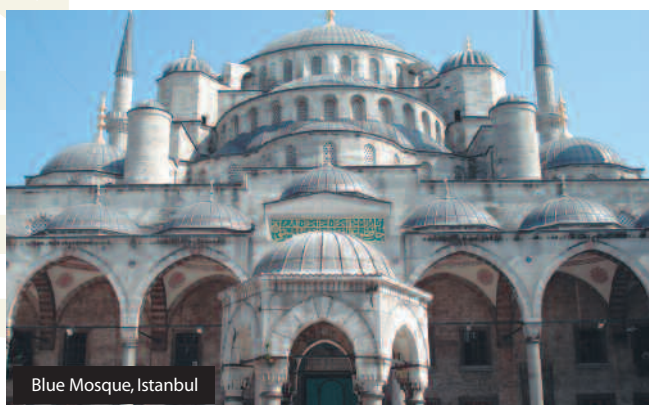
Welcome to Istanbul – the only city on earth that embraces two continents – both Europe and Asia. Those passengers arriving into Istanbul airport today will be met and transferred to your hotel. Early this afternoon we have included a cruise on the Bosphorus, the winding strait that separates Europe and Asia, past shore front wooden villas, marble palaces, and rustic stone fortresses. This evening become acquainted with your travelling companions and tour guide over a welcome drink. *Your Istanbul Hotel: The Akgun Hotel.*

DAY 2 - 21 APRIL ISTANBUL

We've included a full day of sightseeing, today. We visit the Blue Mosque, the Byzantine Hippodrome, known as the Sultanahmet Square and the nearby Yerabatan Cisterns. Built in the fourth century, these underground cisterns riddle the foundations of the city. They have been extensively excavated and renovated and the piped classical music heightens this unique experience. Your tour of Istanbul would not be complete without a visit to Topkapi Palace, (formerly the Sultan's Palace) home to the treasures of the Ottoman Empire and one of the most important historical sites in Istanbul. This afternoon we also visit the famous Grand Bazaar, a maze of 65 winding, covered streets and arguably the most famous 'covered market' in the world. This evening join your fellow travellers for an information night and introduction by your Australian War Historian. (B)

DAY 3 - 22 APRIL GALLIPOLI

We depart Istanbul (around 8.00am) for the 5 hour drive to the Gallipoli Peninsula, where our Gallipoli Campaign begins. Today you will spend time at The Anzac Commemorative site, Anzac Cove, Shrapnel Valley and Beach Cemetery - home to one of Australia's most legendary soldiers, Private John Simpson. Our last stop on the Gallipoli Peninsula will be the Kapatebe War Museum with its collection of war relics, before catching



Blue Mosque, Istanbul



Ephesus

the ferry across the Dardanelles to Canakkale. We stay here for the next 4 nights so we can have a full, uninterrupted day on the Gallipoli Peninsula tomorrow. This will allow us to properly immerse ourselves into the conflict and tragedy that evolved over 90 years ago before the masses and crowds that later descend on the peninsula. Canakkale town, guarding the entrance to the Narrows of the Dardanelles, is the perfect base for our stay and is a bustling port that comes alive in these days before the ANZAC Commemorations. (B, D)

DAY 4 - 23 APRIL GALLIPOLI

A full day is planned. The peninsula today is filled with cemeteries, a war museum and many memorials to the tragic events of 1915. As you enter this almost barren land, you can still sense the war and heartache that once dominated the landscape, breaking the silent air. You will visit the Anzac Memorials at Lone Pine, Chunuk Bair, Walker's Ridge, the Nek and the surrounding trenches. The presence of our War Historians will make this a very special day! (B, L, D)

DAY 5 - 24 APRIL GALLIPOLI

Today the choice is yours! You can either spend the morning relaxing in Canakkale charging your batteries ready for the early Commemorations tomorrow or return with us to the Gallipoli Battlefields. Perhaps visit Cimenlik Castle where, in 1452 Sultan Memhet II built Cimenlik Castle and in March 1915 this fort contained heavy artillery, which engaged allied warships in the strait. Beside the fort today is the Turkish navy's minelayer, Nusrat, whose undetected mine laying activities led to the



Ataturk Memorial

sinking of Allied warships on 18 March 1915. This afternoon we have also included an excursion to the ancient city of Troy, site of the mythological battle Homer immortalized in The Illiad, which dates back to 3,000 BC. (B, D)

DAY 6 - 25 APRIL GALLIPOLI - ANZAC DAY

Departure from your hotel is scheduled before midnight to ensure we arrive at the ANZAC Commemorative site in ample time for the Dawn Service at 5.30am. As the dawn breaks you will be part of the truly international gathering of people who have travelled across the globe to commemorate the tragic events of the 25th April 1915. Following the Dawn Service you will have a choice of attending either the Australian or New Zealand National Services at Lone Pine or Chunuk Bair. Mid afternoon we re-cross the Dardanelles and return to your hotel for dinner and a welcome rest. Breakfast and lunch packs have been included today. (B, L, D)

DAY 7 - 26 APRIL KUSADASI

Travelling south down the beautiful mountainous coastline of Turkey our first stop will be at the ancient Acropolis of Pergamum, famous for its wealth of archaeological ruins where, from the Temple of Trajan, you will take in the stunning views of the surrounding countryside. We'll also spend time exploring the Asklepion, one of the major hospitals of antiquity. We then continue along the West Coast before arriving at the popular port of Kusadasi, in ancient times a resort town for the wealthy citizens of Ephesus, and a well-known commercial port under the Ottoman rule. We stay here 2 nights. (B, D) *Your Kusadasi Hotel: Fantasia Hotel.*

DAY 8 - 27 APRIL KUSADASI

The highlight of today will be a visit to one of the ancient wonders of the world, the inspiring ruins of Ephesus. Rated one of the world's best archaeological sites, you will walk along the 2,000 year old marble streets, visit the Temple of Hadrian and the famous Library of Celsus. Your tour is made complete with a visit to the nearby House of the Virgin Mary nestled high in the hills overlooking the city of Ephesus. This afternoon you will return to your hotel where the rest of your day is at leisure. The perfect opportunity to explore this lively Turkish port. (B, D)

DAY 9 - 28 APRIL KUSADASI

Your day is free in Kusadasi. Later this afternoon we have included a transfer to Izmir airport to connect with the 6pm flight. (B)

Why not join us after this tour on the Impressions of the Greek Islands Tour?

Specially designed to 'bolt on' to our ANZAC and Ancient Civilisations tour, this delightful programme commences in Western Turkey at Kusadasi, explores the limestone cascades of Pamukkale then spends 6 glorious days island hopping through the delightful Greek Islands of Rhodes, Santorini and Mykonos to ancient Athens.

Features and Inclusions

- Arrival transfers in Istanbul on 20 April
- Departure transfer Kusadasi to Izmir Airport 28 April for the 6pm flight
- 2 nights 4 star accommodation in Istanbul
- 4 nights Superior Tourist Class or 4 star hotel in Canakkale region
- 2 nights First Class accommodation in Kusadasi
- Breakfast daily, 6 dinners
- Lunch packs 23 and 25 April
- 1/2 day Bosphorus Cruise
- Full day sightseeing tour of Istanbul
- Extensive touring of the Gallipoli Battlefields
- Visit to Troy and Ephesus
- Services of War Historians throughout Gallipoli region
- Services of experienced Tour Guide
- Assistance by our friendly and experienced staff
- Anzac Day Dawn Service
- Australian or New Zealand National Services at Lone Pine or Chunuk Bair
- Travel by First Class air-conditioned coaches
- Welcome Drink and Information evening in Istanbul
- End of tour tips to guides and drivers
- Entrance fees as per itinerary, services, hotel portorage, tips, local taxes.

Special Group Flight departures available.

AUD\$ **1,899** NZ\$ **2,279**
PP TWIN SHARE PP TWIN SHARE

SINGLE SUPPLEMENT AUD\$399 / NZ\$479
(land only prices)