

Turkey



Join us on our commemorative tour to Turkey to celebrate the former regiment members who participated in WWI, in particular Gallipoli and the Battle of Lone Pine, and those who were awarded the VC for their valour on the 9th of August, 1915.

The tour has been designed to visit the battlefield of Gallipoli and other iconic places in Turkey.

First-time visitors to Turkey often leave home with preconceived notions about what their destination will be like. But Turkey represents many, often contradictory things: it's ancient and modern, westernised and Oriental, religious and secular, wondrous and ordinary, familiar and exotic. But there is one undeniable common denominator, and that is that Turkey, and the Turkish people, know how to do hospitality. It is a unique country; a rich, layered and magical world full of history, culture, gastronomy, and commerce -- increasingly Europeanised yet (notwithstanding the über-cosmopolitan center that is Istanbul) still unspoiled and innocent. In the heartland, people are still pleasantly surprised and proud of the fact that people come to visit from far and wide.

PRICES START FROM*:

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|---|---------------------------|-----------------------|
| Package (with airfare) | \$4,565 share twin | \$5,160 single |
| Land only (no airfare): | \$2,235 share twin | \$2,830 single |
| 6-night land only tour to Istanbul and Gallipoli only, 2nd-8th August: | | |
| \$1,290 share twin & \$1,625 single (based on 10 people) | | |

ABOVE COSTS INCLUDE:

- Return airfare on Singapore Airlines from Perth (* based on a minimum of 20 people)
- Current taxes
- 16 nights' hotel accommodation
- Meals as indicated, except for formal dinner
- A bottle of water per touring day
- All transfers
- English-speaking guide
- Entrance fees to museums specified in the tour itinerary
- Service charge and V.A.T.

ABOVE COSTS DO NOT INCLUDE:

- Turkish visa (e-visa now done online in advance for USD60)
- Personal expenses
- Travel insurance
- Formal dinner on 6th August
- Alcohol, mineral water, soft drinks, tea or coffee during meals
- Tips to guide and driver

**Please register
your interest
by the end of
October 2014**

NOTE: Arrangements can be made. for those wanting to extend in Turkey or travel onto Greece

For bookings and information, contact:-

Maxiema Lager on (08) 9382 5044 or groups@traveltree.com.au

Itinerary overleaf....

7TH BATTALION COMMEMORATIVE TOUR TO TURKEY



02 Aug, Sun – Istanbul

Arrive in Istanbul and be transferred to your hotel. Rest of the day is free.

* Guaranteed early check-in is only available for an extra night's cost.

03 Aug, Mon - Istanbul (B)

Group breakfast at the hotel followed by a tour of Istanbul.

Start with a visit to the Spice Bazaar, where you will experience the smells of cinnamon, cloves and thyme emerging from every store; the same smells that filled the air over 400 years ago. Next, you visit the Underground Cistern built by Justinian in 535. You will also be visiting the Chora Church, considered to be one of the most beautiful examples of Byzantine architecture, and Suleymaniye Mosque, one of the best works of Architect Sinan. You then embark on a scenic tour of the Bosphorus, the natural waterway that divides Asia from Europe, passing palaces, castles, palatial homes and the two magnificent suspension bridges.

04 Aug, Tue – Istanbul (B)

After breakfast, proceed to the "Old City" for a full day tour including the Blue Mosque, famous for its blue tiles and six minarets built in the name of Sultan Ahmet I. Next you will have a look at the Hippodrome of Constantinople, where horse and chariot races used to take place. Then visit the Hagia Sophia museum, which is one of the greatest religious and architectural marvels of all times. Finally the famous Topkapi Palace museum will be visited, which was built as the home of the Ottoman sultans. You then stop at the Treasury before ending at the Grand Bazaar.

05 Aug, Wed - Istanbul - Gallipoli (B)

Morning check-out from the hotel to begin your scenic drive down to Gallipoli, historically famous for being the site of many battles during WWI. This is approximately five hours' drive. Check in to your hotel, the Iris, in the middle of Gallipoli Peninsula. Afternoon trip to ANZAC Cove, Pluggers Plateau and Ariburnu.

06 Aug, Thu – Gallipoli (B)

Morning free to relax, walk around town or even drive up to Cape Helles and Krithia. Late afternoon drive to Lone Pine for a commemorative service and wreath-laying. There will be a formal dinner this evening.

07 Aug, Fri - Gallipoli (B)

Morning drive back to Anzac cove, visit the Nek cemetery for a service and a wreath-laying at the memorial for the 10th Light Horse Regiment (WVA). Short stop at Lone Pine to pay our last respects. Return to hotel. The people who have opted for the shorter tour will leave the group here and return to Istanbul. The rest of the group will proceed to Troy and overnight.

08 Aug, Sat –Troy – Pergamon - Kusadasi (B, D)

Referred to in Homer's "Iliad" and "Odyssey", Troy is, in fact, nine cities superimposed one upon another. Troy VI pertains to the famous Trojan War of Homer where the legendary heroes included Agamemnon, Achilles, Ulysses and Nestor on the Greek side, and Priam, Hector and Paris on the Trojan side. Proceed to the hauntingly beautiful city of Pergamon. En route you will visit the Asclepion of Pergamon, which was a famous health centre, where methods of treatment included blood transfusions, music therapy and meditation. Drive to Kusadasi for dinner and overnight.

09 Aug, Sun – Kusadasi – Pamukkale (B, D)

Following breakfast, you drive to Selçuk to visit the House of Virgin Mary on top of Mt. Coressos. Then your memorable visit to Ephesus will begin, in addition to viewing one of the Seven Churches of Revelation from the Temple of Artemis (one of the Seven Wonders of Antiquity). Dinner and overnight at Pamukkale.

10 Aug, Mon - Pamukkale - Antalya (B, D)

Today you will tour the Antique City of Hierapolis, in Pamukkale, where calcareous hot springs have descended over cliffs, creating a fascinating travertine in the form of white terrace and basins. After a photo stop, you will have a scenic drive to Antalya. Check in to your hotel, dinner and overnight.

11 Aug, Tue – Antalya (B, D)

Depart in the morning and visit Perge, the place where most of the statues that are on display in Antalya Museum were unearthed. Next proceed to Aspendos, which bears one of the best preserved Roman theatres in Anatolia. After lunch, visit Antalya museum which is one of Turkey's largest museums. As a museum exhibiting examples of works, which illuminate the history of the Mediterranean and Pamphylia regions in Anatolia (Asia Minor), Antalya Museum is one of Turkey's most important museums.

12 Aug, Wed - Antalya - Konya (B, D)

Following an early breakfast you will drive through an interesting landscape, where peasants make their living. You will have lunch en route before arriving in Konya. Konya was the centre of the Selçuk Empire, as well as the city of Mevlana and its Whirling Dervishes. After visiting the Mevlana Museum, continue to your hotel in Konya for dinner and overnight.

13 Aug, Thu – Konya - Cappadocia (B, D)

Today, you start at Devrent Valley, where various types of fairy chimneys are abundant. Afterwards visit Pasabagi (Monks' Valley), where you will see remarkable earth pillars situated in the middle of a vineyard. Then drive to Avanos, which is known for its pottery, a craft dating back to the Hittite period.

After lunch proceed to Goreme Open Air Museum to visit the churches, chapels and monasteries carved into the fairy chimneys from the 10th to the 13th centuries with frescos painted on the walls. There will be time to take photos in the neighbouring valleys before going to the hotel.

14 Aug, Fri – Cappadocia (B, D)

Optional early morning balloon tour. See addendum for details.

Meet in the hotel lobby in the morning to visit Rose Valley, one of the most beautiful trekking valleys in Cappadocia. You will hike through the valley and explore the famous rock-cut churches.

Rest in Cavusin, an old Greek village, known for its Christian houses and churches. After lunch visit Ortahisar Castle, where storage caves can be observed.

In the afternoon visit Kaymakli Underground City where early Christians lived in fear because of their faith. On the way back visit to panoramic Pigeon Valley, where pigeons contributed to the lives of locals thanks to their manure fertilising the vineyards. You may also like to taste Cappadocia wine in a local winery. Drive back to the hotel.

15 Aug, Sat – Cappadocia - Ankara (B, D)

After breakfast, depart from your hotel and proceed to Ankara. You will visit the Anatolian Civilisations Museum, where there are numerous remnants from the Stone Age, Neolithic Age, Hittites, Urartians, Phrygians and many others. You will also see the Citadel of Ankara and Mausoleum of Ataturk, the burial place of the national hero who founded the modern Republic of Turkey. Dinner and overnight in Ankara.

16 Aug, Sun – Ankara – Safranbolu (B)

Departure from Ankara and drive to Safranbolu. In Safranbolu, you start your tour from Hidirlik Hill to view the city. You will discover many well-preserved wooden houses in Safranbolu. You will then visit Kaymakamlar Museum, Cinci Inn & Bath, the old government building and Arasta bazaar. You will visit traditional handicraft shops and learn about the techniques of the coppersmith, cobbler and saddle-pack maker. You can watch the craftsmen work and buy their goods.

17 Aug, Mon – Safranbolu – Istanbul (B)

After breakfast, drive to Istanbul. Check in to your hotel and rest of the day is free.

18 Aug, Tue - Istanbul (B)

Free time until your transfer to Ataturk airport for your flight home or onwards.

Hotels to be used:

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| <i>Istanbul</i> | : Zurich Hotel – local 4 star – Old City |
| <i>Canakkale</i> | : Iris Hotel - local 4 star (Gallipoli Peninsula) |
| <i>Kusadasi</i> | : Marina Hotel – local 4 star |
| <i>Pamukkale</i> | : Pam Thermal Hotel - local 5 star |
| <i>Antalya</i> | : BW. Khan Hotel – local 4 star |
| <i>Konya</i> | : Özkaymak Hotel – local 4 star |
| <i>Cappadocia</i> | : Dinler Nevsehir Hotel – local 4 star |
| <i>Ankara</i> | : Royal Anka – local 4 star |
| <i>Safranbolu</i> | : Kadioglu Konagi Hotel – special hotel |

Ballooning in Cappadocia

Pick up from the hotel roughly one hour before sunrise (approximately 5am) and transfer to the base. While waiting for the other participants, you will be served tea, coffee and cookies, following which you will proceed to the take-off field designated for that day. After a safety briefing delivered by the pilot, climb in to the baskets and take off. Rise to the altitudes of several hundred metres to have a breathtaking view of the area, as you drift through the valleys and canyons for some 60 minutes. Upon landing, have a traditional celebration party with champagne and cakes. You will then be transferred back to the hotel. **COST: Euro 165.00 per person.**

* Please note that there are many balloons company in the area. The selected one has the highest reputation on safety, experience of their pilots and quality of their service.