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Presents



## WWI Centennial Series - 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gallipoli

April 22 to May 1, 2015

A visit to Gallipoli for Anzac Day is a life-changing experience. And there will be no more amazing an experience than the centenary of the original landing at Gallipoli in 1915. Following the success of his book, *Gallipoli: The Battlefield Guide*, Mat McLachlan has personally designed an itinerary that offers the best way for Australian and New Zealand travellers to make this dream a reality. When you visit Gallipoli with Mat McLachlan Battlefield Tours, you can rest assured that you are travelling with the best historians, and seeing the entire Gallipoli battlefield at a relaxed pace. Mat McLachlan Battlefield Tours also offers several inclusions that are not available with any other tour company. Our 2015 tour will utilise quality hotel accommodation (not cruise ship), and be guided by Australia's leading Gallipoli experts.

**PLEASE NOTE:** Passengers on this tour who receive a ticket in the ballot will participate in the official commemorative services. All other passengers will participate in alternative Anzac Day services.

\$3950.00 per person, twin share (land only)



*Please note: This itinerary is an indication of the sites that will be visited on the tour, but the order of touring on each day may be altered. This itinerary is also subject to change once final plans for Anzac Day services have been announced.*

# Itinerary

## Day 1, 22 April – Istanbul

Welcome to Istanbul and our tour in the footsteps of the original Anzacs! On arrival at Istanbul Airport we will be met by a representative from Mat McLachlan Battlefield Tours and transferred to our hotel. This evening we will come together to enjoy a welcome drink followed by dinner, an excellent opportunity to get to know our fellow travellers. (D)

## Day 2, 23 April – Istanbul

Today we will explore Istanbul, one of the world's great historic cities. Formerly known as Constantinople, it was this city that was the ultimate objective of the entire Gallipoli campaign, and today we will delve into its cultural treasures. We will begin with a visit to the grandiose 15th century Topkapi Palace, former home of the Sultans of the old Ottoman Empire. Its displays include an incredible collection of jewels and ornaments and the original Harem, where the Sultan's wives and children lived. Next we will visit the famous Blue Mosque, one of the most spectacular mosques in the world, and the Hippodrome, an Ancient Roman racetrack constructed in the 3rd century AD. We will also visit the amazing Basilica Cistern, one of several hundred ancient cisterns built beneath Constantinople in the 6th century to supply water to the city. Today visitors can walk on platforms over fish-filled ponds, as classical music and artistic lighting illuminate the chamber. Be sure to see the sculpture of Medusa's head, positioned upside-down as a support base for one of the cistern's columns. We will end a memorable day with a visit to the magnificent Aya Sofia, originally a Byzantine church and now a museum, featuring spectacular mosaics and decorations. We will also have time to wander the maze of shops in the Grand Bazaar, one of the world's largest and oldest markets. (B)

## Day 3, 24 April – Istanbul to Gallipoli

We will leave Istanbul today to travel to Gallipoli for the Dawn Services (either the official commemorative site for passengers who have received tickets in the ballot, or our own exclusive Dawn Service site on the Gallipoli battlefield). Our departure time will be dependent on local traffic conditions and expected transfer time to the peninsula. As we travel along the Sea of Marmara and the straits of the Dardanelles, we will be viewing the waterway that the British, French and Anzac troops were intended to secure during the Gallipoli campaign. This inconspicuous stretch of sea was the cause of the carnage at Gallipoli. On arrival at Gallipoli we will travel directly to the Dawn Service sites. (B)

## Day 4, 25 April – Anzac Day

An Anzac Day we will never forget! We will arrive at the Dawn Service sites during the night (our arrival time will depend on traffic flows and local road closures). Then, as the sun rises, we will join thousands of other Australians and New Zealanders in commemorating the 100th anniversary of the Gallipoli landings. Passengers who receive a ticket in the ballot will attend Anzac Day services at North Beach and Lone Pine. All other passengers will attend our exclusive Anzac Day Dawn Service at a significant site at Gallipoli. In the afternoon we will board our coach for our transfer to our Gallipoli hotel. On arrival we will check in and have time to rest after a long and emotional day. (B)

## Day 5, 26 April – Ancient Troy

We will have a relaxed morning, to give us time to sleep in after the busy previous day. In the afternoon we will travel south to tour the ancient city of Troy, immortalised in the tales of the Trojan War and the story of the famous Trojan Horse. We will also see the remains of Turkish forts on the Asian side of the Dardanelles, which played a crucial role in stopping the Allied naval attack in March 1915. This evening we will enjoy dinner in our hotel. (B, D)

## Day 6, 27 April – Helles and Suvla

Our next day will be spent exploring a chapter of the Gallipoli story that is less well-known, but no less important, the battlefield at Cape Helles on the southern toe of the peninsula. British and French troops landed on the beaches at Helles at the same time the Australians came ashore at Anzac Cove. More than 30,000 of them were killed in nine months of fighting, as they desperately tried to advance northwards and link up with the Anzacs. Today we will visit the cemeteries where many of them still lie, as well as the beaches where they were mown down as they came ashore. We will also pay our respects to the soldiers on the other side of the line, the Turks, at the impressive Martyr's Memorial overlooking Mordo Bay. We will

enjoy a picnic lunch before discovering the story of the Anzac's forgotten battle at Gallipoli with a visit to the battlefield at Krithia. Hundreds of Australians and New Zealanders were killed here during a murderous advance in May 1915, yet today the battle is virtually unknown. This afternoon we will drive north to visit the battlefields at Suvla Bay, scene of missed opportunities and bitter disappointment during August 1915. We will return to our hotel this evening for dinner, and the chance to share our stories of a memorable day with the rest of the group. (B, L, D)

### Day 7, 28 April – Anzac Sector

Today we will visit the battlefields that were the birthplace of the Anzac legend. We will explore Anzac Cove, North Beach, Shrapnel Gully, Lone Pine, The Nek, Quinn's Post, Chunuk Bair and many more, escorted by our expert historian, who will bring the stories of courage and sacrifice that define the Gallipoli campaign to life. The most moving part of this experience will be spending time in the cemeteries where thousands of Anzacs lie, and seeing the graves of legendary Anzacs including John Simpson, the 'man with the donkey'. Lunch is included today, as is dinner in our hotel. (B, L, D)

### Day 8, 29 April – Gallipoli to Istanbul

We farewell the battlefields this morning and return to Istanbul. On arrival we will check in to our hotel and enjoy time at leisure. Dinner tonight will be at the hotel. (B, D)

### Day 9, 30 April – Istanbul

A final day in Istanbul to enjoy last-minute sightseeing and shopping. Our tour manager will be on hand to recommend a range of activities as we enjoy the day at leisure. This evening we will come together for a farewell dinner, a final opportunity to say goodbye to our travelling companions. (B, D)

### Day 10, 1 May – Farewell

Sadly our tour ends this morning. After breakfast, we will be transferred to the airport to meet our onward flight. Passengers joining our extension tours of Turkey or the Western Front will be transferred to the meeting points for those tours. Our journey in the footsteps of the original Anzacs may be over, but the memories will last a lifetime. (B)



Deposit of \$2100.00 per person due to hold spot. Final balance due November 24, 2014. No refunds after that date. Valor Tours Ltd. includes emergency travel insurance through Travelex. Cancellation insurance available for \$190 per person up to \$4000.00 of coverage. Air fare to Istanbul is not included; however Valor Tours will be happy to assist with this. Mail check to address below or call Valor Tours Ltd. at 1-800-842-4504 with your credit card. Space limited.

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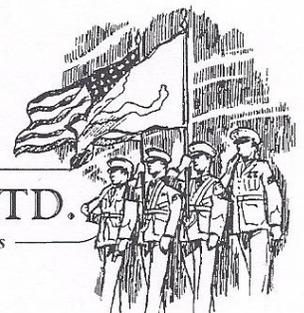
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**VALOR TOURS, LTD.**  
— Focused Expeditions —

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- The best historians: Mat McLachlan Battlefield Tours employs Australia's leading battlefield historians. No other tour company can match the quality and expertise of our guides. You will recognise our historians from their books and TV appearances
- All excursions, scenic drives and sightseeing as described in the itinerary
- Return airport transfers in Istanbul
- Tips to your Tour Manager, Historian and Driver
- Anzac Day commemorative services (at the official sites for passengers who receive a ticket in the ballot, or at our dedicated commemorative site for others)
- 5 nights' accommodation at Gallipoli, more than other tour operators, plus 4 nights' accommodation in Istanbul
- Sightseeing tour of Istanbul, including the Blue Mosque, Aya Sofia, Topkapi Palace (and the Harem), the Grand Bazaar and more
- Half-day tour to ancient Troy
- Hotel portorage
- Breakfast daily, 2 lunches, 5 dinners
- Welcome drink in Istanbul
- Services of a Tour Manager, Driver, WWI War Historian and experienced local guides
- Extensive touring of the WWI battlefields
- All entrance fees as per the itinerary
- Travel by first-class air-conditioned coach with seat belts, toilet and DVD player
- Bottled water for each passenger each day
- Commemorative cap
- Autographed copy of Mat McLachlan's definitive book, *Gallipoli: The Battlefield Guide*
- Quality travel bag

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