

Notes regarding the following itineraries

My name is Rod Margetts. I was a 2/69 graduate to Infantry, and subsequently served on for 31 years.

I saw Gary McKay's proposal for the Vietnam tour and I'm pleased to see interest amongst Scheyvillians for such experiences. For the last 10 years I've been a contract battlefield guide, working with Boronia Battlefield Tours in Melbourne. In that time, I've taken groups to Gallipoli; the Western Front; North Africa and Israel; Malaysia, Singapore and Thailand; and Vietnam. Presenting and explaining our rich military history to interested people has become my passion.

I'm not trying to compete with Gary. Rather, I would like to offer an additional choice for the consideration of members with an interest in our military past.

The Itineraries include attendance at the 105th Anniversary services to commemorate the landings at Anzac Cove. They can, however, be run at other times depending on numbers, to cater for reunions, family pilgrimages or family bonding.

The itineraries provide an in-depth understanding of the entire Gallipoli campaign, from the commencement of the naval action in late 1914, through the subsequent French, British and ANZAC landings, to the final major actions of August and the ultimate withdrawal from Gallipoli at the end of 1915. The explanations are presented in a style suitable for teenage and adult males and females.

Accommodation. At Gallipoli the accommodation is in the only hotel adjacent to the battlefield. This means no wasted time travelling to and from the various sites and no box lunches. In Istanbul the accommodation is in the Old City, walking distance from all the significant sites.

The itineraries can be run as 'land only', commencing and finishing in Istanbul, or as a package including airfares from / to Australia. Pricing options are included below the itineraries.

I'm happy to discuss and clarify aspects of the itineraries, or any of the other Boronia battlefield tours with any interested members, at any time. I can be reached at rodm709@gmail.com or on 0447 061 519.



Gallipoli in Depth 105th Anniversary Anzac Day Tour 20 – 26 April 2020

Day 1. Monday 20 April

This morning travel by coach to Gallipoli with lunch upon arrival at the Kum Hotel. In the afternoon enjoy a special highlight boat tour of the Gallipoli coast for an unforgettable view of the valleys and ridges from the sea, just as the Australian soldiers first would have seen it on the landing 105 years ago (weather permitting). Return to the hotel for dinner.

Overnight: Kum Hotel, Gallipoli

L D

Day 2. Tuesday 21 April

Begin today with a discussion on the Australian landings. Drive along the coast for your first visit to Anzac Cove. Visit Ari Burnu cemetery, where the Dawn Service was held until 2000 and Beach cemetery, where the grave of John Simpson Kirkpatrick “the man with the donkey” lies. Take in the stunning view of the Sphinx and finish with a stop at the beautiful Shrapnel Valley Cemetery, including a walk up to Plugge’s Plateau, the first ground captured on 25 April 1915. Return to the hotel for lunch. This afternoon travel to Second Ridge for a tour of the ‘Old Anzac’ front line positions from Lone Pine to Quinn’s Post. Return to the hotel for a BBQ dinner.

Overnight: Kum Hotel, Gallipoli**B L D****Day 3. Wednesday 22 April**

This morning we head to the southern tip of the Peninsula to discuss the British landing area. Our first stop is at Kilitbahir Fort and the Rumeli Mecidiye gun battery for discussions on the naval assaults of 1915. We then move on to Achi Baba, one of the key points on the Peninsula and a British objective on 25 April 1915. Moving further south, visit the impressive Turkish Memorial at Morto Bay, and the French Cemetery nearby. After lunch continue with a discussion of the main British landings at ‘V’ and ‘W’ Beaches and a visit to the Commonwealth Memorial at Cape Helles. The day will end with a discussion on the

Australian 2nd Brigade attack on Krithia and a visit to Redoubt Cemetery. Return to the hotel for dinner.

Overnight: Kum Hotel, Gallipoli**B L D****Day 4. Thursday 23 April**

Today we consider the August Offensive, the last attempt to break out of the Anzac beachhead. Begin at Lone Pine, with the attack by the Australian 1st Brigade. Planned as a ‘feint’, the fighting there was intense, lasting four days. Next we move to The Nek, site of the disastrous charge by the Australian 3rd Light Horse Brigade on 7 August 1915 and then on to Chunuk Bair, the New Zealand objective and site of bitter fighting, 7 to 10 August. From there gain a different perspective of the land on a guided walk from Chunuk Bair down Rhododendron Ridge to the northern outposts, the ground covered by the New Zealanders in their attack on the heights. Return to the hotel for lunch. This afternoon we visit Suvla Bay, the site of the second major British landing at Gallipoli, mounted in support of the August Offensive. Return to the hotel for dinner.

Overnight: Kum Hotel, Gallipoli**B L D****Day 5. Friday 24 April**

After breakfast Cross the Dardanelles for a visit to Fort Çimenlik and the naval museum before lunch in Canakkale. Then take free time to shop, or enjoy the waterfront promenade, before returning to the hotel for rest and dinner.

Overnight: Kum Hotel, Gallipoli**B L D****Day 6. Saturday 25 April – ANZAC DAY**

An early departure from the hotel to attend the Anzac Day Dawn Service at the Anzac Commemorative Site and the Australian national ceremony at Lone Pine. Return to the hotel for BBQ lunch with the remainder of day free for rest.

Overnight: Kum Hotel, Gallipoli**B L D****Day 7. Sunday 26 April**

After breakfast, we travel to Istanbul airport for departure, or for those joining our optional 3-night extension tour package continue onto the city for further touring. (Please note, arrival time in Istanbul will be approx. 2.00pm).

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Istanbul Extension Tour

3 nights, 26 – 29 April 2020

Day 1. Sunday 26 April

After breakfast depart the Gallipoli Peninsula, travelling to the vibrant city of Istanbul. With its population of around 15 million, it is a fascinating mix of ancient and modern times. Stop for lunch enroute, then it's onto the Egyptian Spice Bazaar to explore the colourful array of spices, Turkish Delight, fruit and nuts. Later check-in to the hotel located in the Old City to freshen up before having dinner together at the onsite restaurant.

Overnight: Kent Hotel Istanbul

B L D

Day 2. Monday 27 April

Begin this morning at the sixth century Basilica Cistern, the largest of Istanbul's ancient water storages and featured in many movies and novels. At just under 10,000 square meters in size with 336 marble columns supporting the ceiling, two depicting the Medusa head, it is an impressive site to explore. Then move onto Topkapi Palace, the main residence of the Ottoman Sultans for over 400 years to see the extensive grounds and rooms. After a stop for lunch in a local restaurant join an afternoon cruise along the Bosphorus, seeing beautiful mosques, palaces and historic timber houses on both the European and Asian shoreline. Dinner tonight will be at leisure, perhaps enjoy one of the many restaurants or cafes located around Sultanahmet Square.

Overnight: Kent Hotel Istanbul

B L

Day 3. Tuesday 28 April

This morning enjoy a guided tour of the famous sights of the old city. Visit Hagia Sophia, one of the great marvels of architecture and the most important Byzantine monument in Istanbul, followed by a tour of the Hippodrome and the beautiful Blue Mosque, with its immense interior lined with 20,000 handmade ceramic tiles. Following free time for lunch, visit the famous Grand Bazaar to browse some of the 5,000 shops selling gold, silver, leather, carpets, ceramics, Turkish delight and all kinds of souvenirs. This evening attend our farewell dinner with unforgettable views of Istanbul by night at the Arcadia Blue Restaurant.

Overnight: Kent Hotel Istanbul

B D

Day 4. Wednesday 29 April

After breakfast, check out and transfer to the airport for return flight to Australia or onward flight to other destinations.

B

B L D = Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner included

Pricing

Gallipoli in Depth tour: \$2,785.00 land only, twin share. Single Supplement \$300.00.

Istanbul Extension tour: \$1,255.00 land only, twin share. Single Supplement \$350.00

Return airfare with Singapore Airlines \$2,150.00 per person.

All prices are in Australian dollars.

