



Dear Member,

In commemoration of the 125th Anniversary of the Royal Australian Engineers Association, we invite you to join us and stand where the Anzacs once served and explore the terrain that makes up the Gallipoli battlefields. This tour explores the strategy and tactics of those who landed on the peninsula in 1915 while learning about the personal stories of those who came and those who never left. It is an educational journey into our past and, for some, a personal pilgrimage.

Our tours, now in their 29th year, provide you with the most complete understanding of the story of Gallipoli. The itinerary is designed by our experienced and respected historians and tour guides. You will walk the ground, view the terrain and learn of harsh challenges faced by those serving on both sides of the conflict.

The tour will begin on Monday 14th June, when you check in to your deluxe accommodation in the Galata quarter of Old Istanbul. That afternoon, enjoy a ferry cruise along the Bosphorus, one of the most strategically important waterways in the world, control of which was central to the Gallipoli campaign you are going to explore over the coming days.

The following morning you travel to the Gallipoli peninsula and your accommodation at the Kum Hotel for the following 5 nights. Your home away from home while on the battlefields is located just minutes from Anzac Cove, and the only accommodation on that part of the Gallipoli coast. It provides a convenient base, enabling you to return for lunch and to freshen up each day and with its own beach, outdoor bar area/s and a swimming pool too, it is perfect for your stay during the Summertime.

Your immersion into the campaign begins that afternoon with a discussion of the naval battle of March 1915. While most other tours begin at Anzac Cove, we believe it's critical to understand why the original plan for a naval operation evolved into the costly and futile land campaign. You end the day at Anzac Cove walking on the stony foreshore – the starting point for our exploration of the land campaign. Over subsequent days you will walk the battlefields from the landing beaches to the highest ridges. You will walk the same tracks forged by the Anzacs in 1915.

The tour will be accompanied throughout by BOTH your expert Australian military battlefield guide and your local Turkish guide. Their combined knowledge will provide a comprehensive balance of history and culture. They will take you to all the sites on the Peninsula including Anzac Cove, Lone Pine, Quinn's Post, The Nek, as well as Shrapnel Valley and Beach Cemeteries. You will have the opportunity to climb up Plugge's Plateau and walk down Rhododendron Ridge providing striking 360 degrees views of the now peaceful battlefield, and a different perspective of the harsh yet beautiful landscape.

You will also learn about the British and French landings at Cape Helles and the little known action by the Australian 2nd Brigade and its attack on the town of Krithia. You will visit the magnificent Çanakkale Martyrs' Memorial at Morto Bay which provides an understanding of the incredible cost paid by the defenders of this land. On the 18th of June, in honour of Lt Stan Watson RAE, your time on the Gallipoli battlefields will conclude with a special commemorative anniversary 'Waterloo' dinner.

The next day you cross the Dardanelles to Asian Türkiye and explore the ancient city of Troy while later exploring the historic waterfront of Çanakkale. The tour then returns to Istanbul where for the next two days, you will explore the beautiful sites of the Old City including the Blue Mosque, Hagia Sophia and for a spot of souvenir shopping, the immense and colourful Grand Bazaar, concluding with a farewell dinner overlooking this most majestic of cities at night.

The tour leader will be Paul Moggach, one of our highly respected Australian battlefield tour guides. Paul served for thirty-seven years in the Royal Australian Navy. He completed a number of demanding operational, command, instructional and staff appointments. A third-generation Australian serviceman, stories of his family's service helped shape his passion for the history of Australia's involvement in conflict during the 20th century. Paul is a tour guide at the Australian War Memorial in Canberra. He is currently the manager of tour guide training working with the Memorial's Military History, Education, Heraldry & Technology and Visitor Services staff in developing and delivering training to new guides. Paul now works to share the stories of Australia's military service personnel and help others understand Australia's rich military history.

Tour members are invited to advise Paul of any particular interest, such as relatives who took part in the campaign. He will then research the relative to ensure, where possible, that you visit any related sites and offer key background information relevant to the tour.

The power of Gallipoli lies in understanding the rugged terrain, while appreciating the enormous personal and physical sacrifice of those who served there.

Paul Moggach

The cost for the 10 day '125th Anniversary Gallipoli Battlefield Tour' is \$6,925.00 per person twin/double share and if required, a single supplement for a private room is available for an additional \$1,155.00.

The tour itinerary, booking form and tour terms and conditions are attached for your perusal.

The tour cost does not include airfares however Singapore Airlines is the preferred airline for our tours with their flights being the ones designated for the arrival and departure airport coach transfers included in the tour. Whilst we have access to very competitive economy, premium economy and business class airfares with Singapore Airlines, we can assist with any airline preference you may have. We can also assist with any other travel arrangements you may require during your time in Europe in-conjunction with the tour.

If you wish to confirm a place on the tour, please review the attached terms and conditions and return the completed booking form to us along with your deposit payment of \$1000.00 per person.

Should you require additional information or wish to discuss this tour further, please contact myself or my colleague Alyssa, on 1800 035 350 or via email, we are only too happy to assist with your enquiries.

Kind regards,



Michelle Waller
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