

Gallipoli Battlefield Tour – April 2027



Dear prospective traveller, the April 2027 departure to the Dardanelles will soon approach. The following draft itinerary is designed to allow the group to visit not only the key sites of the Gallipoli and Dardanelles campaign, but also some of the lesser visited areas of this fascinating battle landscape.

The tour will be led by Historian and Author Stephen Chambers, supported by Dr Andrew Rice.

The trip consists of a 7-day, 6-night tour of the Gallipoli Peninsula, Imbros and Istanbul with detailed, contemporary maps of battlefields to be provided on arrival at the hotel.

With over 20-years' experience of visiting the Peninsula, Stephen offers one of the most comprehensive tours to the Gallipoli battlefield. In addition, he has been delivering The Gallipoli Association tour programme since 2009, and numerous other tours to both First and Second World War battlefields, taking a variety of groups from the military, regimental associations, school and private civilian as well as family groups. This tour will study the Helles, Anzac and the Suvla Sectors as well as the island of Imbros with a particular focus on the medical war.

The tour uses a Mercedes Sprinter van whilst on the ground, this enables us to leave the main roads and access the remoter parts of the battlefield often overlooked.

The tour hotel will be a good quality 4* hotel, situated by the Dardanelles and in the heart of the bustling city of Canakkale.

Breakfasts and lunches are included; there is an excellent restaurant onsite, with many more within walking distance. All rooms have A/C, safe deposit boxes, TV and Wi-Fi

Example hotel images to be confirmed:



Logistics

The group will fly with British Airways or Turkish Airlines from the UK to Istanbul. Everyone has 23kg hold luggage plus a carry-on bag.

Once the group are all together and with local our Turkish guide, it is a short 5-minute walk to where the mini-coach will be waiting, this is fitted with seat belts, A/C and Wi-Fi.

The transfer is about 4 hours (including a break), we will be crossing the bridge spanning the Dardanelles and stop for a comfort break and refreshments around halfway.

On arrival at the hotel, we will check in, hand out maps and have a tour briefing lasting around 30 minutes before there is free time to explore Canakkale that evening.



Draft Itinerary

Day One – 5th April 2027

UK flight to Istanbul, transfer to Gallipoli by coach to the Hotel.

*This is a 4-hour transfer, all our vehicles are air conditioned. There will be a snack/toilet break halfway through the journey. All coaches are also fitted with Wi-Fi and carry complementary water.

Day Two – 6th April 2027

Helles - Beginning the morning on the top of Achi Baba, where we will experience panoramic views of the Helles battlefield, we will descend to the beaches to study the infamous and bloody landings of 25 April 1915. Next stop is Ertugal Fort to look at the naval attempts to force the Dardanelles before visiting the trenches and the Ottoman memorial to Sgt Yahya, all overlooking V Beach. We will visit V Beach CWGC Cemetery, the spit of rock where the River Clyde came shore, all under the shadow of Seddulbahir Fort. We will then advance up through the village to Doughty-Wylie VC's Grave, and then the Helles Memorial.

After lunch we will explore Gully Ravine, walking from the beach to the sites of various RAMC field ambulances, gun positions, bivouacs and even a battle school. Exiting the ravine, we will drive to Twelve Tree Copse CWGC cemetery to listen to some stories of bravery, courage, cowardice and survival as we study the battles of Krithia.

Day Three – 7th April 2027

Anzac - Our morning will be spent studying the Gaba Tepe sector with a walk along the shoreline from the Anzac Commemoration site to Beach Cemetery. We then further explore the Anzac sector via Shrapnel Valley up to the heights of Plugge Plateau, the first ridge captured by the Anzac's on 25 April 1915, an area later used for both field dressing and casualties clearing stations.

After lunch at a local restaurant, we will continue the Anzac advance from the Second Ridge at Lone Pine, Johnson's Jolly fighting trenches and tunnels, The Nek, the Ottoman position at the Chessboard and Walkers Ridge.

Day Four – 8th April 2027

Suvla - We will begin the morning atop Chunuk Bair and walk down Rhododendron Ridge via the Farm, the recent devastating wildfires across this area have provided a unique opportunity to follow the trench lines, dugouts and strongpoints for a short window before nature recovers the landscape. After a packed lunch at a local museum, we will visit the key areas of the Suvla Bay area including Suvla Point and General Stopford's HQ, Green Hill and Hill 10.

Day Five – 9th April 2027

Imbros – Gallipoli could not be sustained without forward bases, so today we will take a boat to the picturesque island of Imbros. Here we will look at the logistical war, the islands base, harbours, hospitals and airfields. After lunch, we will make our way back to Gallipoli and the hotel

Day Six – 10th April 2027

Checking out of our Canakkale hotel in the morning, we will return to Istanbul and question if Gallipoli achieved anything. We will talk about the Allied occupation of Constantinople (1918-1922) and visit the Crimean War (1854) site of Istanbul's (Florence Nightingale) hospital and military cemetery. Overnight in Istanbul hotel

Day Seven – 11th April 2027

Free time in the morning; flight from IST to UK in the afternoon/evening.



Meals Arrangements:

- Breakfast and lunches are provided throughout the tour.
- Evening meals are not provided, but the choice of local restaurants is extensive and varied.
- A good 3 course evening meal can be found for £15.
- The local shops provide most things you require within a 5-minute walk to the hotel.



