



ANZAC DAY DAWN SERVICE PRE TOUR SHORT STAY

Short Stay | 3 Days | Physical Level 4
Istanbul (1N) - Canakkale - Istanbul

Commemorating one of the fiercest and most bitterly fought campaigns of the First World War, the deeply evocative ANZAC Day Dawn Service unfolds among the barren valleys and ridges of Gallipoli.

This pre tour extension is combinable with Treasures of Turkey classic group tour departing Australia 24 April 2026 (beginning in Istanbul 25 April 2026).

Please note that this short stay will operate as a group subject to minimum numbers.

TOUR INCLUSIONS:

- Accommodation
- Meals as stated
- Daily tours and entrance fees
- Transportation and transfers as stated
- English speaking guide

To book call **1300 727 998** or visit your local travel agent

Visit [wendywutours.com.au](https://www.wendywutours.com.au)

ITINERARY

23 April 2026/ Day 1: Arrive Istanbul

Meals: D

Arrive in one of the most important and inspiringly beautiful historic cities, Istanbul.

Your guide will welcome you at the airport arrivals hall and you will transfer to your hotel.

**24 April 2026/ Day 2: Istanbul to Canakkale**

Meals: B, L, D

After breakfast you will be driven to Gelibolu. Following check in at your hotel in Canakkale, enjoy the rest of the day at leisure.

This evening, dine in the hotel restaurant for dinner before preparing for the Anzac Dawn Service.

Later in the evening, you will be transferred to the Anzac Commemorative Site which opens to the public at 10.30pm on 24th April.

**Important**

Before going to the Anzac Commemorative Site on 24th April, you will need to have your luggage packed and you will be instructed to put it in a vehicle. The next day you will board this vehicle directly from the ceremony site and depart for Istanbul.

The weather at Gallipoli can be highly variable and the site is exposed with no permanent shelter. Severe windchill can result in temperatures falling to below freezing overnight on 24 to 25 April. In contrast, you could experience hot temperatures during the following day. On previous Anzac Days, strong winds and heavy rain have been experienced on the site. You must ensure you come prepared for these conditions. You will be expected to bring your own mat to sit on and blanket/sleeping bag to cover up when waiting for the dawn service to commence. A warm coat, beanie and gloves would be a good idea.

You will have to choose between attending either the Australian Memorial Service at Lone Pine Cemetery, or the New Zealand Memorial Service at Chunuk Bair as there won't be enough time to attend both.

There will be several walks to get between the various ceremony sites, one of which is around 6km over a hilly, unpaved road. Only bring what you can carry as there are no porters or shuttles.

There will be strong security at the site, similar to airport security and your bags will be checked. You cannot bring your own food and drink into the site but food and drink is available to purchase.

If for some reason you opt out of the Anzac Day Dawn Service, you will be able to remain at the hotel in Canakkale for the night of the 24th April, however there is no refund for opting out.

Destination Information

Gallipoli Peninsula - A narrow and strategic peninsula separating Thrace (European Turkey) from Anatolia, infamous for the Gallipoli campaign during World War I, which was intended to secure the peninsula for Allied ships to pass through the Dardanelles and take Constantinople (Istanbul) thereby defeating Ottoman Turkey.

25 April 2026/ Day 3: ANZAC Day Dawn Service

Meals: B, L

For breakfast today, you will be provided with a breakfast box to take to the Anzac Service.

The pre-service Anzac programme commences at 1.30am in the morning on 25th April, as follows:

5am: Spirit of Place

5.30am: Official Anzac Day Gallipoli Dawn Service

10am: Australian Memorial Service, Lone Pine Cemetery

11:30am: New Zealand Memorial Service, Chunuk Bair



This afternoon you will be picked up from the memorial service and transferred directly to your hotel in Istanbul.

Destination Information

The ANZAC Day Dawn Service - Observed on ANZAC Day, this early service has its origins in an operational routine which is still observed by the Australian Army today. During battle, the half-light of dawn was one of the most favoured times for an attack. Soldiers in defensive positions were, therefore, woken up in the dark, before dawn, so by the time first light crept across the battlefield they were awake, alert, and manning their weapons. This was, and still is, known as "stand-to". It was also repeated at sunset.

Updated: March 2025