



Share the Experience

PRE-DEPARTURE INFORMATION

ANZAC 2012

Thank you for choosing to holiday with Topdeck! We certainly appreciate your decision to travel with us and rest assured that everyone at Topdeck will be doing their utmost to ensure you have the holiday of a lifetime.

We have prepared the following pre-departure information which we trust will assist you in planning your trip. Some points should be taken as a *guide only* - after all, everyone is different! For instance information such as daily spending money and clothing lists can vary greatly from one person to the next, so please bear this in mind. However, we are sure you will find the information in general to be very useful.

Get ready for a fantastic holiday!

From all the crew at Topdeck Travel

BAGGAGE

We recommend soft bags, suitcases or frameless backpacks, plus a small day pack or carry bag. **No external framed bags** please, as they damage other bags on the coach.

Please limit your luggage to a **maximum of 20kgs**. Maximum allowable size for all backpacks must not exceed 70cm x 50cm x 25cm. Please note that due to space and weight restrictions on our coaches, passengers with too much luggage on departure morning may be told that they cannot take their entire luggage with them. Any luggage left behind will be at your own risk and you will be required to pay any cost that is incurred.

SUGGESTED CLOTHING LIST

As a general rule, **pack light!** People invariably bring more than they need, and you will have to transport it around before and after the trip, as well as in and out of the accommodation during the trip!

Many Turkish hotels have small lifts, or only one lift to serve many people, and in a few cases do not have a lift at all. There may be occasions where you are required to take your luggage up stairs, and the more you bring, the more difficult that will be!

Remember also that during your trip you are bound to find items that you may wish to buy, so leave room in your luggage for additional purchases. A full coach of passengers with heavy bags may render it overweight, which will result in severe disruption to our schedules and potentially affect our itinerary, so please pack so that your baggage will be less than 20kg by the end of the trip, not just at the start!

The following clothing list is suggested, based on our experience:

- 1 pairs of jeans / trousers
- 1 pair of walking shoes
- 1 sweater/jumper
- 1 warm jacket/coat
- 3 shirts / t-shirts / long-sleeved shirts
- 1 rainproof jacket
- 1 pair of shoes (smart/casual)
- Underwear and socks
- Hat, scarf, gloves

Please Note: Please be aware that entry into some sights requires clothing to cover knees, chest and shoulders. In addition, most things you might want to bring, for instance washing powder, insect repellent etc. are easily purchased in Istanbul before your trip starts.

General things to pack:

- Swimming costume
- Towel (optional)
- Toiletries
- Basic medical kit (inc. plasters, aspirin etc)
- Washing powder
- Insect repellent
- Conversion plug

Whilst towels are provided in all hotels, they can sometimes be small, so it is useful to bring your own.

Dawn Service

On the eve of the Dawn Service we will stay at Gallipoli to ensure you are in a good position to see and hear the dawn service on April 25. We find somewhere to all sit to wait for sunrise and the service to commence. Anzac Cove does not offer any cover and is completely exposed to the wind and rain, so we suggest you bring the following items for the hours before the dawn:

- Sleeping bag
- Beanie / woolly hat
- Blanket
- Warm Clothing
- Thermal underwear / socks
- Gloves
- Wet weather clothing

On the way to Gallipoli all our trips will stop at a supermarket where you can stock up on supplies as there are no shops at Anzac Cove, only some hot food and drink vendors and souvenir sellers.

INSURANCE

It is **compulsory** for all passengers to take out comprehensive travel insurance before the trip departs covering cancellation, medical expenses including repatriation, loss or damage to baggage and personal belongings, money and public liability. Topdeck can issue travel insurance, please refer to our website www.topdeck.travel, click on 'Travelling with Topdeck' and then 'Travel Advice' for more information. You must bring a copy of your travel insurance policy with you on the trip.

Your Trip Leader will make a record of your basic travel insurance details at the start of your trip, e.g. the name of the insurance company, the 24 hour emergency telephone number, and your policy number. These will be faxed back to our London office to ensure that if you lose your policy details, they can be easily retrieved.

VISAS AND PASSPORT INFORMATION

Please make sure your passport is valid for at least 6 months after the day you arrive in Turkey.

Visa requirements change periodically and you should check the requirements before travelling. EU members, as well as citizens of the US, Canada, Australia and New Zealand can generally pick up entry visas at the Turkish border, the cost of which varies dependent on Nationality. If you are flying in to Turkey and do not have the relevant visa, go first to the visa counter before proceeding to the immigration desk. There are often long queues, so try to have USD, GBP or Euro cash if possible. South Africans require a visa but must obtain this prior to arrival in Turkey. Check with the Turkish Consulate before travelling to find out whether your country is charged.

It is your responsibility to ensure you have the relevant documents/visas and Topdeck will accept no responsibility for being refused entry through incorrect documentation. Consult your travel agent or local consulate to determine which visa you will require.

HEALTH AND VACCINATIONS

If you suffer from any kind of medical condition you must advise Topdeck at the time of booking, or at least six weeks prior to the departure of your trip. No vaccinations are currently compulsory for entry into Turkey. Please reconfirm this before you leave as conditions could change.

If you require regular medication, you must have an ample supply of medication before your trip departs, as it can be difficult to obtain in some places. You must be able to administer your own medication, as Topdeck Road Crew will not be able to administer it, and there are no guarantees that there will be anyone with first aid training on board.

SPENDING MONEY

Automatic Teller Machines (**ATMs**) are available in most towns and are the safest and easiest way to have access to cash. Travellers' cheques are also accepted and are an alternative to using ATMs.

Most well known **credit cards** are accepted in Turkey. We recommend that you bring yours along in case you see something special, which you haven't budgeted for. Please let your bank or credit card company know that you are travelling to Turkey before you depart, to avoid any automatic restrictions being placed on your card. Credit cards **CANNOT** be used for optional excursions.

Based on past experience, we recommend the equivalent of around €50 Euros per day to cover your normal expenses including sightseeing, small souvenir shopping and non-included meals. If you wish to purchase expensive souvenirs, you will need to budget for more, or use your credit cards for these purchases. Remember, this is a *guideline* figure and can vary greatly between individuals according to your overall personal budget and spending habits!

Cash can be exchanged in currency exchange offices (döviz bürosu) in all major cities and towns. Banks charge commission. Travelers' cheques can only be exchanged in banks with a passport. Many establishments in resort areas will accept Euros.

CURRENCY

The currency in Turkey is the Lira (YTL). It is generally always possible to exchange money in to Lira after arriving in Istanbul, but by far the easiest way is to make a withdrawal from a local ATM.

Some optional excursions can be paid for in Euros, so it may be useful to bring some with you.

TIPPING

In Turkey tipping is not necessary, though it has become more and more expected by the locals, especially in the larger towns that have become used to western tourists. In Turkish Baths especially someone will likely make a point of saying goodbye to you personally, expecting a tip. In restaurants 5-10% is appreciated.

OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES

On all trips we have arranged extra activities that we think will enhance your travel experience, but you have a choice as to whether or not you will participate. These are called Optional Excursions and are not included in the cost of your trip. They are usually organised on a group participation basis and should be taken into consideration when budgeting your spending money.

None of the optional excursions on your trip are operated by Topdeck, and nor do they form part of your contract with Topdeck for your trip. Topdeck arranges optional excursions as an Agent of the local supplier. Should you participate in any optional excursions your contract will be with the local supplier of the excursion, and their conditions will apply. We have selected all of these operators based on recommendations from past passengers and Topdeck Road Crew.

Entrance Fees

Entrance fees to the museums and historical sites are not included in your trip price, and vary depending on the region. The entrance fees to the museums in major cities are more expensive than the small towns, but you can calculate an average cost of between 10 YTL to 20 YTL (GB £5 to £10) for each museum and historical site. At some of the sites visited on the itinerary a student card may entitle you to a discount.

As a guide, the following prices were charged to various sites in 2011:-

Hagia Sofia:	25 YTL
Goreme Open Air Museum:	15 YTL
Mevlana Whirling Dervish Museum:	3 YTL
Pergamon Acropolis:	20 YTL
Dark Church, Cappadocia:	8 YTL
Ephesus Antique Site	25 YTL
Ephesus Roman Villas	15 YTL
Ephesus Archaeological Museum	8 YTL
Troy:	15 YTL

Most museums and palaces are open every day of the week except Mondays. There are a few notable exceptions: Topkapı Palace is closed on Tuesdays instead of Mondays; Dolmabahçe Palace is closed Mondays and Thursdays and the Chora Church is closed on Wednesdays. For further information on museums visit: www.kulturturizm.gov.tr

ACCOMMODATION

Your ANZAC trip will stay in a range of hotels of 2*, 3* and 4* quality. One night will be spent camping out "under the stars" at ANZAC Cove, in order to secure a good position for the Dawn Service on April 25. . Please be aware that the rating system may not be the same as in your home country, and Turkish hotel rooms may be smaller than what you are used to in other parts of the world.

Rooms are en-suite and either twin or triple share, depending upon the size of the whole ANZAC group.

If you are travelling as a couple and would prefer to have a double bed, please ask your travel agent to inform us and officially request a double room. **We never presume that two people travelling together are a couple, even if you share the same surname, unless informed otherwise.** It may not always be possible to obtain a double room for you due to a limited amount of double beds in a

particular hotel or an especially high number of couples on the trip. However we will try our best to arrange a double bed where possible, provided that you or your travel agent has informed us at least six weeks prior to the departure of your trip.

MEALS

Your included meals are detailed in the 'What's Included' section on the trip pages in our brochure and on your detailed Trip Itinerary.

Breakfasts are included every day in the hotel, except on the first morning and on ANZAC Day, when we will be on location at ANZAC Cove. They are usually 'continental breakfasts', which are typical in most European countries. Do not expect to find hot food at breakfast, although there may be some available in certain accommodations.

Lunches are not included. Any included dinners (as per your trip itinerary) are normally served in the hotel where you are staying and are either 2 or 3 courses. Meals served in these hotels are usually a limited buffet style meal. Water is usually provided free of charge, and if you wish to purchase additional drinks you can do so at your own expense.

If you have special dietary requirements e.g. vegetarian or wheat intolerance, we will make every endeavour to cater to your specific needs as long as you advise your agent or reservations when you book. However, we cannot cater for tastes or dislikes, as most of our included evening meals feature a set menu.

TOILETS

In most of Turkey you will have to pay a small amount to use public toilets at service stations and in city centres. It is a common practice in Europe and should be regarded as a form of 'tipping', as the money goes to the people who clean and/or maintain the facilities. On occasion these public toilets do not supply toilet paper, but it may be useful to carry a pack of tissues with you.

WEATHER

Except for the eastern part of the Black Sea coastlands, most of Turkey has a very sunny climate even in winter. Average daily sunshine amounts range from three to four hours in midwinter to as much as twelve to thirteen hours in summer. Although summer temperatures are rather high, the heat is tempered by the low humidity inland and the sea breezes along the coast. Occasionally the nights may be sticky and humid on the Aegean and Mediterranean coasts. Average daytime temperatures are as follows:

	January	April	July	October
Istanbul	6°C	13°C	25°C	17°C
Cappadocia	-2°C	15°C	30°C	22°C

ELECTRICITY

All appliances need a double round pin type plug for 220 volts AC, 50-hertz.

CLAIM YOUR FREE TOPDECK GLOBAL SIM CARD BEFORE YOU LEAVE FOR YOUR TRIP

All our travellers are entitled to claim a free TopDeck global SIM card to use while on their Topdeck trip! Just follow this link to claim yours: www.topdeck.ekit.com/freesim - use your Topdeck "Booking Reference" and purchase a minimum of \$20 calling credit.

The Topdeck SIM is a "roaming free" SIM card just drop it into your mobile and enjoy savings of up to 90% on calls while travelling throughout Europe.

Every SIM card includes the ekit Travel Journal. The Travel Journal automatically updates your location to Google maps on a daily basis. This allows you to keep track of where you've been, and with the option to publish this on facebook and twitter you can easily show-off your travels to friends and family. Not only does this provide a hassle free way of keeping in contact, but you can text in your own journal updates or photos for an even more detailed record of your holiday!

- Free Global SIM card and US \$5 bonus call credit, when you purchase \$20 of call credit
- Coverage in 150 countries including all TopDeck destinations

* Fast low-cost 1st class shipping to Australia, UK, Europe, USA and Canada

* You can upgrade your SIM card's calling plan for even better international rates:

- Passport Plus – International rates from just USD \$0.29 per minute
- Passport SIM / Home & Roam SIM – Free to receive calls in over 60 countries

To redeem your FREE SIM card and \$5 credit **before you travel** visit: www.topdeck.ekit.com/freesim - and use your Topdeck "Booking Reference". For more information visit the above URL or phone our dedicated 24/7 Customer Service on: **(AUS)** 1800-795-252, **(UK)** 0800-376-2370, **(USA)** 1-888-513-8804, **(CAN)** 1888-513-8804

DEPARTING ON YOUR TRIP

Check in on the first day is between 2.00pm and 6.00pm in the hotel reception. Your Topdeck Trip Leader will be available to assist you with checking in. A group meeting will be held the same evening at 7.00pm to run through the itinerary of the trip and provide general information about your ANZAC trip.

If you should experience difficulties of any kind in Turkey please contact our local operator New Faces on the following numbers:

+90 555 860 93 16 or
+90 554 831 82 51 or
+90 555 860 93 25

If you are unable to reach New Faces on these numbers please contact Topdeck in London on +44 20 8987 3300. If it is out of office hours, you can ring our emergency number on +44 77 9277 5415 and our staff can advise you what to do next.

Pre and Post Tour Accommodation

Should you require pre or post tour accommodation please notify your agent at the time of booking; this can be pre-booked for you by Topdeck and must be pre-paid. Unless a room is immediately available most hotels/hostels will not provide you with access to a room until at least midday; it may be later than this if the hotel has had high occupancy the previous night. Pre and post tour rates can be obtained from your Travel Agent or Topdeck.

Pre and Post Tour Accommodation cannot be booked as share accommodation unless booking with other passengers, and thus single travellers must pay for a single room. Any Post Tour Accommodation will be in the same hotel as you stay on your final night of the trip, however you may be required by the hotel to change rooms for any Pre or Post Tour Accommodation.

FINISHING YOUR TRIP

All ANZAC trips finish in Istanbul after breakfast on the final day. You will have stayed in Istanbul the night before, making it possible to arrange onward travel arrangements for the date your trip finishes. Please be aware that if you have arranged post-tour accommodation the hotel may require that you change rooms on this day.

Delays often occur during the ANZAC Day period on the roads coming towards Istanbul from Gallipoli, and your arrival time back in Istanbul could be delayed by up to several hours depending upon traffic. Therefore we strongly recommend that you do not book flights out of Istanbul on the night of April 25.

GREAT DEALS ON OUR FESTIVALS AND SHORT BREAK PACKAGES!

Did you know Topdeck also run a great range of festival and short break packages all year round? These include:

- Oktoberfest
- Pamplona – Running of the Bulls
- Las Fallas
- Edinburgh Fringe Festival
- Christmas and New Years Trips
- St. Patrick's Day
- Easter Trips
- La Tomatina
- Venice Carnival
- Ski packages and MORE

For further details, dates and prices, or to book, please visit our website www.topdeck.travel

PAST PASSENGER DISCOUNT

Thinking about booking another trip, festival or short break with us? As a thank you for being a loyal Topdeck customer, you can claim the following discounts on your next trip!

- 5% off any Topdeck trip departing in 2012.

Terms & Conditions apply – please see the website for full details

TOPDECK REWARDS



SAVE 10%*

WHEN YOU BOOK YOUR
SECOND TOPDECK FESTIVAL



SAVE 12.5%*

WHEN YOU BOOK YOUR
THIRD TOPDECK FESTIVAL



SAVE 15%*

WHEN YOU BOOK YOUR
FOURTH TOPDECK FESTIVAL

*For terms and conditions please see go to www.topdeck.travel and look under 'deals and competitions'

FINAL CHECKLIST

- Passport
- Airline tickets (Where applicable)
- Insurance Policy (You must bring this with you)
- Visas if required
- Camera, Batteries
- Conversion plug
- Topdeck eKit global phone card, sim card or phone
- Sense of excitement!

We trust you have found this information useful, and we sincerely hope that you have a fantastic holiday with Topdeck! Thanks again for choosing to travel with us.

From all the crew at Topdeck Travel