



Accessing the Gallipoli Commemorative Services

Information for Special Needs Applicants 2012

The Australian Government works closely with the Turkish and New Zealand Governments to commemorate the 1915 landings at Gallipoli each Anzac Day. All commemorative sites are the sovereign territory of the Turkish people. They are located on historic battlefields that are part of the Gallipoli Peninsula Historical National Park and are without shelter or permanent infrastructure. Please remember:

- The terrain at all three of the commemorative sites includes very steep, unpaved dirt roads, and visitors walk long distances. This may affect people with mobility issues.
- Visitors typically walk up to 8km during their time at the commemorative services, much of this uphill on difficult walking trails.
- There are NO additional people available to assist you onsite.
- Any individual attending this event is expected to be responsible for their own travel and safe movement to, on and between sites.
- It gets very hot during the day, so bring a hat and sunscreen.
- Please be prepared that it does get very cold on site. It is a good idea to wear several layers (including thermals) underneath a heavy jacket, a scarf, gloves and a warm hat. It is also useful to bring a blanket or sleeping bag.
- You are responsible for your own safety and welfare at all times.

Please read the following information carefully:

What you need to know before you go to Anzac Day Commemorations at Gallipoli:

Visit www.dva.gov.au/anzac for further information.

There are **four** commemorative sites at Gallipoli at which Anzac Day services are held each year and all four are open to the public. Those attending the Dawn Service at the Anzac Commemorative Site can go on to attend the Australian service at Lone Pine, the Turkish 57th Regiment service and/or the New Zealand service at Chunuk Bair. **However, due to the walking distances between the commemorative sites, it is generally not possible to attend all services on 25 April.**

You should have a moderate level of fitness if you plan to attend the Anzac Day commemorations. In fact, you can expect to walk up to 8kms on uneven surfaces. The walk from the Dawn Service to Lone Pine where the Australian service is held is approximately 3kms and includes a section of 1.5kms of uneven dirt surface with a very steep incline. **After the conclusion of the service at Lone Pine there is only limited time to walk from Lone Pine to the Turkish 57th Regiment Memorial service.** The Turkish service starts approximately thirty minutes after the conclusion of the Lone Pine service. The walk between these two services is approximately thirty minutes. The walk from Lone Pine to Chunuk Bair where the New Zealand service is held is 3.2kms up a steep bitumen surfaced road. It takes approximately one hour and fifteen minutes. The route slopes uphill past the Turkish 57th Regiment Memorial, please respect the fact that a Turkish service is in progress at the Memorial.

There is NO transport between the services apart from those for special needs visitors.

Seating

- Temporary tiered seating is installed at the Anzac Commemorative Site, Lone Pine and Chunuk Bair for the Anzac Day services.
- **Seating is not reserved**, except for people with **special assistance requirements** (i.e mobility issues) **who have registered** for seating with DVA, prior to the event.
- Reserved seating is not available for tour groups.

Toilets

There are temporary chemical toilets and hand washing facilities are installed from 24-25 April inclusive at the Anzac Commemorative Site, Lone Pine and Chunuk Bair. **The water in the washstands is not suitable for drinking.**

Weather

- The park occupies an area of the peninsula that is coastal and while the weather in April can be warm during the day, it can get extremely cold overnight (temperatures may be below 0 degrees Celsius).

- **There is no shelter** at any of the commemorative sites and visitors will be exposed to the weather for the entire period they are on site, which can be up to 24 hours.
- Rain and very cold winds are possible, and you must ensure you come prepared for these conditions.

Special Needs Assistance

- Special needs visitors will receive transport from the coach set-down point at Beach Cemetery to the security screening point. When you disembark from your coach you must have **everything you will need** for the evening and next day, including medication. You will not be able to return to your coach until it returns to pick up visitors after the services.
- Visitors should be able to walk 400m unaided (this is the approximate distance from the screening point to the special needs seating area).
- Allocated seating is reserved for special needs visitors at the Anzac Commemorative Site.
- After the dawn service, special needs visitors can choose to be taken by shuttle bus to **either** the Australian Service at Lone Pine or alternatively the New Zealand Service at Chunuk Bair.
- After these services you will be picked up by your coach from whichever site you attend. **You will need to arrange with your tour leader where you will meet your coach after the services before arriving at ACS. Special Needs assistance does not extend to transport from the Gallipoli Peninsula after the services.** Long waits for coaches can be expected after the services – some coaches may not depart the peninsula until 5:30pm on the 25th.
- Each coach has it's own identification number and individual tags for each passenger with their coach number on it. **Make sure you remember this number, it will help to identify your coach at the end of the day.**
- **Due to limited seating special needs passes can not be allocated to more than one carer per applicant.**

Qualifying for special needs assistance

Who is eligible for Special Needs?

1. People with a health issue that prevents them being able to transit the distance from Coach Set-down to ACS and/or traverse artillery road.
2. The War Widow's Guild
3. TPI veterans
4. Other veterans with significant health or mobility issues.
5. Persons aged 70 or over.
6. Carers of the above groups (**one per applicant**)

Applying for special needs seating:

It is not possible to obtain a special needs pass without submitting a **written application** to the Department of Veterans' Affairs. A person's mobility problems must substantially impair their ability to move around.

The application should state your:

- Name
- Postal address
- Nature of the mobility/health issue
- Name of your carer (if any)
- Date of departure from Australia, and
- Include a medical certificate to support your application.

Applications must be made by no later than 12 March 2012. Applications for special needs assistance must be made in writing via email to Gallipoli@dva.gov.au or to:

Commemorations Delivery Operations
Department of Veterans' Affairs
PO BOX 9998
CANBERRA ACT 2601

What next:

We suggest that you seek information from your tour operator about the ways in which they can best assist you in your travel and onsite needs. We also suggest that you register your trip with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade website: www.smarttraveller.gov.au and with DVA on www.gallipoliregistration.com

Registering your intention to travel on the DVA registration page does not automatically transfer your information to Smarttraveller. Visitors should therefore register on both systems.

It is important to note that just prior to Anzac Day, DVA plans to share the name and mobile phone contact details of those who have registered on DVA with the DFAT consular team. This information will only be used by DFAT in case of an emergency.