

Gallipoli 2016 Tour Operator Update #2

Introduction and purpose

These updates are intended to keep Tour Operators informed about the April 2016 Gallipoli commemorations in Turkey.



Accuracy

The information provided in this update is correct at the time of writing but could change depending on Jandarma requirements, visitor numbers, and other factors. If you have registered your email address with us (at gallipoli2016@nzdf.mil.nz) we will update you with any changes.

The Services

The Dawn Service will be held at the Anzac Commemorative Site (ACS) at dawn on April 25th.

The New Zealand Service will be held at Chunuk Bair commencing at 11:30am on April 25th.

Attendance

Attendance at the Dawn Service and the New Zealand Service at Chunuk Bair services is open to anyone provided they follow the event procedures and comply with the event requirements. There are no tickets and no ballot. Tour Group Leaders are welcome to accompany their visitors to the services.

Tour Group options – Dawn Service & New Zealand Service

Tour Operators have several service attendance options they could offer to their customers. This update provides details of the option for visitors to attend the Dawn Service and then proceed to the New Zealand service at Chunuk Bair.

Arrival on 24th April

Tour coaches may arrive at Mimosa Otopark for event registration from 11:00am on 24th April. Note that the Jandarma may stop coaches before Mimoso to make security checks. Visitors travelling on coaches that register before 4pm may disembark and wait in Mimoso Park, before walking the 3kms to the Anzac Commemorative Site (ACS). There will be shuttles available for visitors who are unable to walk this distance.

Coach registration will recommence at Mimoso Otopark from 6pm. Coaches registered after 6pm will then proceed to Beach Cemetery to disembark their passengers. The walk into ACS for these

visitors is approximately 700m. There will be shuttles available for visitors who are unable to walk this distance.

Coach registration will close at 02:30am on the morning of 25th April.

Overnight coach parking

After coaches have dropped off their passengers they will need to travel back to Kilye Bay Junction where they will turn left and travel through Bigalı and Büyükanafartala and park at the rear of the other coaches in the queue from the holding point north of Anzac Commemorative Site at Fisherman's Hut.

For safety reasons drivers must remain near their coach overnight as coaches may be required to pick up passengers early in the event of bad weather.

After the Dawn Service - walkers

After the Dawn service, at approximately 7:00am on 25th April, visitors wishing to attend the New Zealand service will be invited to depart the Anzac Commemorative Site on foot.

They will walk south down Anzac Cove Road until they reach Artillery Road which they will follow up the hill to Lone Pine. At Lone Pine visitors will re-join 2nd Ridge Road continuing the climb up to Chunuk Bair.

The total distance from the Anzac Commemorative Site to Chunuk Bair is approximately 9.5kms and climbs 260m in altitude. Visitors do not need to rush. A fast walker might make the journey in 1:45hrs, while a slow walker could take over 3:00hrs to reach Chunuk Bair. Walkers that wish to attend the New Zealand service need to arrive at Chunuk Bair by 10:15am.

There will be a very limited shuttle lift from ACS to Chunuk Bair available to take visitors who can't walk that distance. Any visitor interested in this option should enquire at the ACS Information Tent on the evening of April 24th.

It will not be possible for coaches to take their passengers direct to Chunuk Bair for the New Zealand service, as 2nd Ridge Road will not be open to public traffic until after 2pm on 25th April.

Any walkers that wanted to visit sites off 2nd Ridge Road, and did not want to attend the New Zealand service, should make their way to the holding area at Chunuk Bair by 12:30pm if they have arranged to be collected by their coach as part of the managed Chunuk Bair coaching loading process.

Walker support

While walkers should be self-sufficient there will be event Officials along the route to assist anyone who experiences difficulties. There will be several Turkish first aid stations, and portable toilets will be available at Lone Pine.

Chunuk Bair waiting area

When visitors arrive at the Chunuk Bair waiting area (Hill 261 / Ataturk Peace Park) they will enter through a security checkpoint. There will be shelter, toilets, water, medical support, and an information tent in this area. There will also be a food vendor (Turkish Lira cash only). All visitors are welcome to attend the New Zealand Service. Visitors will be invited to move from Hill 261 onto the Chunuk Bair site from approximately 10:30am.

After the New Zealand service

After the formal service visitors will have some time to reflect and to visit the memorial sites and graves at Chunuk Bair before coach loading commences.

After the Dawn Service - coaches

After the walkers have been released from ACS coaches will move through Anzac Commemorative Site (one way only, from north to south) to pick up any of their passengers that are not making the walk to the New Zealand service or any that have changed their minds overnight.

Coaches that need to collect some, or all, of their passengers from Chunuk Bair after the New Zealand service are likely to have several hours wait after leaving ACS. These drivers may wish to go into Eceabat for a rest before returning to Chunuk Bair. (Equally drivers may choose to travel directly from ACS to the base of 2nd Ridge Road, park, and wait). We just ask that the driver remains contactable by the cell phone number provided at time of registration in case there is any need to collect passengers early. If the weather conditions on the morning of 25th April make the walk too challenging we may need to adjust arrangements with the assistance of the coaches.

Chunuk Bair coach loading

Coaches need to have returned to the base of 2nd Ridge Road by mid-day. They will be held there until the Jandarma allow them to proceed up to Chunuk Bair.

There is enough flat space at Chunuk Bair (2nd & 3rd Ridge Roads intersection) for 5 coaches at a time to board their passengers. We ask that following coaches do not open their doors until they have moved into this loading area. Officials and the Jandarma will help manage the safe and efficient coach loading of your passengers but we ask for patience as there will likely be some delay in getting everyone re-united with their tour coach.

It is important that the coach card signs provided at coach registration remain visible until after all your passengers have re-boarded the coach at Chunuk Bair. Visitors will be provided with a matching card at registration to assist them in locating their coach.

Visitor requirements

Visitor information is provided on our <http://ww100.govt.nz/anzac-day-2016-gallipoli> website including:

- the site conditions and limited facilities;
- the challenges of staying overnight exposed to the elements;
- recommended items for visitors to bring with them;
- items that are banned and must not be brought to the services;
- the required level of fitness and mobility for visitors who wish to make the walk to Chunuk Bair, or other 2nd Ridge Road sites.

Tour options

This update has provided details on one option. Whichever option you provide to your customers it is very important that you have made clear arrangements with them, before you drop them off, for what happens after the Dawn Service. It might be prudent to have also discussed with them any flexibility for a change of mind (i.e. a change of mind overnight regarding what they wish to do after the Dawn Service).

Travel Advisory

Official travel advice for New Zealanders travelling in Turkey is provided at <https://www.safetravel.govt.nz/turkey>

Queries

If you have any queries about Gallipoli 2016 please do not hesitate to ask us via email to Gallipoli2016@nzdf.mil.nz