

Thrace & Marmara



Despite its easy access to İstanbul, Turkey's northwest corner is not a common stop on the tourist circuit. Perhaps it's not surprising: after all, Thrace, the solitary Turkish foothold in Europe, and Marmara, the Asian mainland around the sea of the same name, cover just a small proportion of the country's total area. Also, there are no major cities here whose names might mean anything to an international audience. Why head west from İstanbul when the whole country's waiting to the east?

Well, newflash. There's plenty to occupy all but the most casual of visitors here, and you don't even have to go through İstanbul to see the sights. As well as offering a quick and easy gateway to Greece, Eastern Europe and the Med, Thrace has piles of classic Ottoman architecture, lashings of strong liquor and the world's oldest sporting event bar the Olympic Games. Marmara, meanwhile, straddles the Dardanelles, is littered with beaches and fishing villages, and preserves the memory of one of WWI's fiercest battles, on the tragically beautiful Gallipoli peninsula.

Above all, this area is the place to come to see real modern Turkish life in all its mixed-up, idiosyncratic glory; to swap Greek recipes for Bulgarian dishes at Seljuk mosques, scramble in the scree on one of the Aegean's few undervisited islands, or ponder life, death, health, wealth, war and peace in the marks they've left on ancient scraps of land. This is where Turkey meets Europe, and until you can appreciate that fusion, you'll never understand the rest of this big, crazy country.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Jostle for the best minaret shot of Edirne's famous **Selimiye Camii** (p167)
- Ogle the slick-shiny oil wrestlers at the June festival in **Kırkpınar** (p171), near Edirne
- Feel the blood- and tear-soaked history of the **Gallipoli battlefields** (p183)
- Tuck into a quaint fish dinner at the dinky harbour in **Gelibolu** (p183)
- Relish the perfect valley-village seclusion of **Tepeköy** (p199), on the stunning island of Gökçeada



EDİRNE

☎ 0284 / pop 120,000

The main conurbation in Turkey's European territory, Edirne is rarely considered by tourists as anything other than a stopover on the road to İstanbul. Luckily the town seems entirely unperturbed by this 'neglect', and remains a bustling centre of modern Turkish life in all its forms, with the added colour of constant through-traffic from Greece and Bulgaria. Visitors who do pause to take an interest will find a surprising amount of impressive architecture – Edirne was briefly the capital of the Ottoman Empire, and many of the key buildings are still in excellent shape.

History

The Roman emperor Hadrian founded Hadrianopolis (later shortened to Adrianople) in the 2nd century AD. During Roman and Byzantine times it was important as a waystation on the Via Egnatia that connected Rome with İstanbul, but by the mid-14th century the growing Ottoman state was looking for new conquests. In 1363 the Ottoman army crossed the Dardanelles, skirted Constantinople and

captured Adrianople, which they made their capital.

For almost 100 years, this was the city from which the Ottoman sultan launched his campaigns in Europe and Asia. When at last the time was ripe for the final conquest of the Byzantine Empire, Mehmet the Conqueror (Mehmet Fatih) set out from Edirne for Constantinople along the Via Egnatia.

When the Ottoman Empire disintegrated after WWI, the Allies granted Thrace to the Greeks and declared Constantinople (now İstanbul) an international city. In the summer of 1920, Greek armies occupied Edirne, only to be driven back by Mustafa Kemal's army. The Treaty of Lausanne eventually granted Edirne and eastern Thrace to the Turks.

Orientation

The centre of town is Hürriyet Meydanı (Freedom Sq), at the junction of the two main streets, Saraçlar/Hükümet Caddesi and Talat Paşa Caddesi. Going east along Talat Paşa Caddesi and northeast along Mimar Sinan Caddesi you come to the Selimiye Camii. Down the hill and across Talat Paşa Caddesi is the Eski Cami,

and south of Hürriyet Meydanı is the Ali Paşa Bazaar – Edirne's largest covered bazaar.

The otogar (bus station) is 9km east of the city centre on the access road to the Trans-European Motorway (TEM). Buses to the otogar and dolmuşes to the Bulgarian border at Kapıkule leave from opposite sides of the road in front of the tourist office on Talat Paşa Caddesi.

South of the town centre, two graceful Ottoman bridges lead across the Tunca and Meriç Rivers to a cluster of inviting restaurants. The Kırkpınar stadium, where the annual oil-wrestling contests are held (see p170), is northeast of the town centre.

Information

Araz Döviz (Ali Paşa Bazaar, Talat Paşa Caddesi) Changes cash and travellers cheques.

Aşkın Net (Kaleiçi; per hr €0.55; ☎ from 10am) Internet access.

Post office (PTT; Saraçlar Caddesi)

Tourist office (☎ 213 9208; Talat Paşa Caddesi;

☎ 9am–6pm Mon–Fri) Reasonably helpful, with some English brochures.

Sights

SELİMİYE CAMİİ

It's impossible to miss the **Selimiye Mosque** (1569–75), Edirne's grandest and most central mosque, designed by the great Ottoman architect Mimar Sinan (see p117). Constructed for Sultan Selim II (r 1566–74) and finished just after his death, it is smaller but more elegant than Sinan's tremendous Süleymaniye Camii (1550) in İstanbul, and it's said that Sinan himself considered it his finest work.

To best appreciate the mosque you should enter from the west, as the architect intended, rather than through the terraced park and the *arasta* (row of shops) to the south.

The broad, lofty dome – marginally wider than that of İstanbul's Aya Sofya – is supported unobtrusively by eight pillars, arches and external buttresses, creating a surprisingly spacious interior. As they only bear a portion of the dome's weight, the walls are sound enough to hold dozens of windows, allowing the mosque to be flooded with light, which in turn brings out the colourful calligraphic decorations of the interior.

Beneath the main dome is a prayer-reader's platform, and beneath that a small fountain. All the fittings, from the delicately carved marble *mimber* (pulpit) to the outstanding

Iznik tile work around the *mihrab* (niche pointing towards Mecca), are exquisite.

Part of the Selimiye's effect comes from its four very tall (71m), slender minarets, fluted to emphasise their height. Each tower also has three *üşçerrefeli* (balconies) – Sinan's respectful nod, perhaps, to his predecessor, the architect of the Üçşerrefeli Camii (below).

One of the Selimiye's *medreses* (seminaries) houses the **Turkish & Islamic Arts Museum** (Türk-Islam Eserleri Müzesi; admission €1.10; ☎ 8am–noon & 1–5.30pm Tue–Sun), which has a variety of stone inscriptions and early Ottoman artefacts, plus a display on oil wrestling.

The ruined **Sultan Selim Saray Hamam**, just north of the mosque, is still awaiting restoration (originally scheduled for 2004!), though the houses next to it have been renovated in a 'modern Ottoman' style and look set to open as shops or cafés in the near future.

EDİRNE MUSEUM

This **museum** (☎ 225 1120; admission €1.10; ☎ 8am–noon & 1–5.30pm Tue–Sun) is opposite the Selimiye Camii to the north, with a garden of grave-stones in front. The grounds contain all kinds of jars, sculptures, dolmens and *menhirs* (standing stones), as well as replicas of the sort of wattle-and-daub huts that may have been used by Thrace's Stone Age inhabitants.

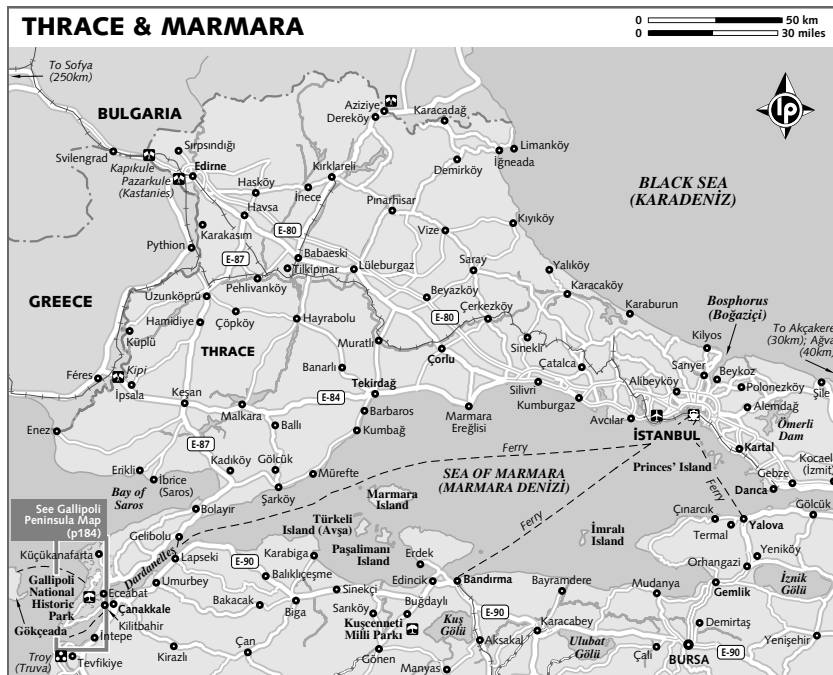
Inside, the slightly crowded displays include local history, embroidery, textiles and home furnishings. There are several reconstructions of rooms in old houses, including a circumcision room and bridal corner. The archaeological section runs from prehistory through to the classical period of Hadrianopolis, and has also acquired the finds from recent digs around the Macedonian Tower (see p169).

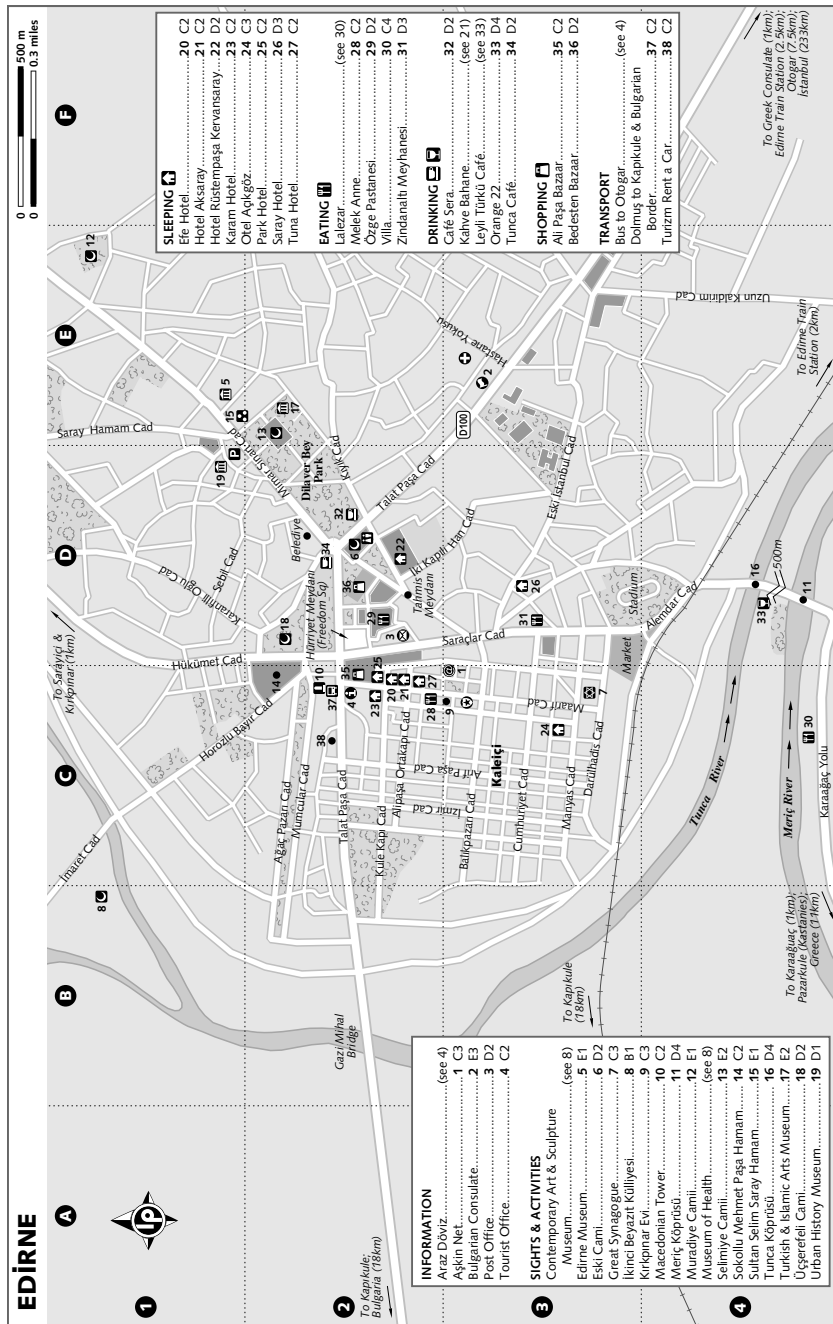
URBAN HISTORY MUSEUM

Housed in the restored Hafızağa Mansion, a particularly fine 19th-century wooden Ottoman villa, this small new **museum** (admission €1.10; ☎ 8.30am–noon & 1–7pm) has poster displays on Edirne's historic buildings, local governors, and some old postcards. As there are currently no English captions it's not an essential stop for visitors, but the house itself is nice and offers great views onto the west side of the Selimiye Mosque (across a car park).

ÜŞÇEREFELİ CAMİ

This mosque, with its four strikingly different minarets all built at different times, dominates





Hürriyet Meydanı. The name means 'Mosque with Three Galleries', a reference to the three balconies on the tallest minaret.

It was built between 1440 and 1447 in a design halfway between the Seljuk Turkish-style mosques of Konya and Bursa and the truly Ottoman style, which would be perfected in İstanbul. In the Seljuk style, smaller domes are mounted on square rooms, whereas here the 24m-wide dome is mounted on a hexagonal drum and supported by two walls and two pillars. The courtyard, with its central *sadırvan* (ablutions fountain), was another innovation that came to be standard in the great Ottoman mosques.

The mosque has been undergoing renovation for years, and unfortunately will be filled with scaffolding for the foreseeable future.

Across the street from the mosque is the atmospheric, unrestored **Sokollu Mehmet Paşa Hamam** (wash & massage €3.50; ☎: 6am-10pm for men, 10am-5pm for women), designed by Mimar Sinan for Grand Vizier Sokollu Mehmet Paşa in the 16th century. Some people may find a visit to the unrestored women's side a little too 'authentic' for comfort.

MACEDONIAN TOWER

Near the mosque and baths stands the restored **Macedonian Tower**, which dates back to Roman times. In the 19th century it served as Edirne's clock tower. Around its base, excavations have uncovered parts of the old city wall, a necropolis and the remains of a Byzantine church. Artefacts and smaller finds can be seen in the Edirne Museum (p167). There are bilingual signs and ladders down among the excavations, but unfortunately the site usually seems to be locked.

ESKİ CAMİ

From Hürriyet Meydanı, walk east along Talat Paşa Caddesi to the **Eski Cami** (Old Mosque; 1414). Behind it is the Rüstempaşa Hanı, a *han* (caravanserai) built a hundred years later and now the Hotel Rüstempaşa Kervansaray.

The Eski Cami exemplifies one of the two classic mosque styles used by the Ottomans in their earlier capital, Bursa. Like Bursa's great Ulu Cami, the Eski Cami has rows of arches and pillars supporting a series of small domes. Inside, there is a marvellous *mihrab* and huge calligraphic inscriptions on the walls. The columns at the front of the mosque were 'borrowed' from a Roman building.

KALEİÇİ

The Kaleiçi area, framed by Saraçlar Caddesi, Talat Paşa Caddesi and the railway line, was the original medieval town, with its narrow streets laid out on a linear grid plan.

Exploring at will is easy, but you could start by walking south along Maarif Caddesi, which takes you past some fine examples of ornate wooden houses and finishes at the ruins of Edirne's **Great Synagogue**. Other notable specimens grace Cumhuriyet Caddesi, which crosses Maarif Caddesi north of the synagogue.

MURADIYE CAMİİ

A walk of 10 to 15 minutes northeast of the Selimiye along Mimar Sinan Caddesi brings you to the **Muradiye Camii**, built for Sultan Murat II and topped with an unusual cupola. Finished in 1436, it once housed a Mevlevi whirling dervish lodge. The mosque's T-shaped plan, with twin *eyvans* (vaulted halls) and fine İznik tiles, are reminiscent of Ottoman work in Bursa.

The small cemetery harbours the tombstone of Şeyhülislam Musa Kâzım Efendi, the Ottoman Empire's last chief Islamic judge, who fled the British occupation of İstanbul after WWI and died here in 1920.

İKİNCİ BEYAZIT KÜLLİYESİ

Edirne's last great imperial mosque, the **Beyazıt II complex** was built by the Ottoman architect Hayrettin for Sultan Beyazıt II (r 1481-1512) between 1484 and 1488. Today it stands in splendid isolation to the north of Edirne, which means you get wonderful, uninterrupted views of it as you approach.

In style, the mosque lies midway between the Üçşerefeli and Selimiye designs: its large prayer hall has one large dome, similar to the Selimiye, but it also has a courtyard and fountain, like the earlier Üçşerefeli.

The complex is extensive and includes a *tabhane* (travellers hostel), *medrese*, bakery, *imaret* (soup kitchen), *timarhane* (asylum) and *darüşşifa* (hospital). The *darüşşifa* has been converted into the award-winning **Museum of Health** (admission €2; ☎: 9am-6pm). Although most of the exhibits are labelled only in Turkish, some of the recreated old rooms are fascinating, particularly the in-patients room illustrating treatment techniques – a surprisingly enlightened selection of quasi-New Age concepts such as music, scent therapy and, yes, basket-weaving.

Another part of the complex houses the **Contemporary Art & Sculpture Museum** (Çağdaş Resim ve Heykel Müzesi; admission €2; ☎ 9am–6pm) which, while not wildly exciting, is worth a quick look to see what sort of thing the local talent is turning out.

To get to the complex, walk along Hükümet Caddesi from Hürriyet Meydanı, passing the Üçşerefeli Camii on your right, and turn left immediately after its baths. Walk one block and turn right at the fountain. This street, Horozlu Bayır Caddesi, becomes İmaret Caddesi and takes you across the Tunca River via an Ottoman bridge (1488) to the complex. It's well worth coming out here for the walk alone.

SARAYIÇI

Translated as 'Inner Palace', **Sarayıçı** is actually a scrub-covered island that was once the private hunting reserve of the Ottoman sultans. Today it's the site of the famous Kırkpınar oil-wrestling matches (see opposite).

Near the ugly modern stadium stands the **Adalet Kasrı** (Justice Hall; 1561), a stone tower with a conical roof that dates from the time of Süleyman the Magnificent. In front of it are two stones: on the Seng-i Hümet (Stone of Respect) people would place petitions to the sultan, while the Seng-i İbret (Stone of Warning) would display the heads of any high-court officers who had offended the sultan.

Behind the Justice Hall is another small bridge. Cross it and on your right you'll see a memorial and museum dedicated to the Balkan Wars. To the left, the path winds past the scattered and scant ruins of the **Edirne Sarayı** (Edirne Palace). Begun by Sultan Beyazıt II in 1450, this palace once rivalled İstanbul's Topkapı Palace in size and luxury, although you'd be hard-pressed even to visualise the place now.

To get here from Hürriyet Meydanı, walk along Hükümet Caddesi and cross the Tunca River via the Kanuni Bridge. Alternatively, it's a scenic 1km walk along the flood-control embankment from the II Beyazıt Külliyesi (left).

SOUTH OF THE CENTRE

To get away from the busy town centre, simply follow Saraçlar Caddesi south under the railway line and across the **Tunca Köprüsü**, an Ottoman stone humpback bridge that spans the Tunca River. Further south the longer

Meriç Köprüsü crosses the Meriç River and offers wonderful views from a frescoed Ottoman kiosk in the middle.

The whole area around these bridges is packed with restaurants, tea gardens and bars, all great places to come for a drink or a meal in warm weather. The best ones are those on the southern side of the Meriç Köprüsü, which offer perfect sunset river vistas, great views of the lit-up Selimiye Camii and atmospheric frog background noise on the walk back to town.

From the Meriç Köprüsü, Karaağaç Yolu (also signed as Lozan Caddesi) leads on to the suburb of **Karaağaç**, where there are more old houses, the original station building and a monument to the Treaty of Lausanne.

Sleeping

Edirne's main concentration of hotels is along Maarif Caddesi; note that several places at the northern end have lively (ie noisy) late-closing music bars.

BUDGET

Hotel Aksaray (☎ 212 6035; Alipaşa Ortakapı Caddesi; s/d/tr with shared bathroom €12.50/19.50/25.50, s/d/tr/q €18/25/31/38) The cheapest option in town, with basic rooms and bathroom cubicles forcibly rammed into small spaces. The original ceiling fresco in room 103 is an unexpected bonus. Breakfast not included.

Saray Hotel (☎ 212-1457; Eski İstanbul Caddesi 28; s/d/tr €14/22.50/28) It may look like a smart business-class option from the outside, but inside the Saray is simply a good modern hotel at reasonable prices. Breakfast is an extra €2.80.

Tuna Hotel (☎ 214-3340; Maarif Caddesi 17; s/d/tr/q €19.50/28/36/42; ☎) The layout's slightly strange, especially the elongated triples on the ground floor, but otherwise there's nothing fishy about the Tuna, which does its best to welcome foreign visitors at the quieter southern end of Maarif Caddesi. The neat little courtyard provides a perfect spot for breakfast.

MIDRANGE

Park Hotel (☎ 225 4610; www.parkotel.com, in Turkish; Maarif Caddesi 7; s/d/tr €25/44.50/59; ☎) There's nothing spectacular about the Park's rooms, but the facilities go a long way to make it an attractive option, with restaurant, café-bar and barber on site and a big lounge centred around a fireplace. German is spoken and wireless Internet access is offered.

Otel Açıkgöz (☎ 213 1944; www.acikgoz.com, in Turkish; Tufekçiler Çarşısı 76; s/d/tr €28/44.50/61; ☎) The better of two hotels run by the Açıkgöz bathroom company, enjoying a quiet but very central location. The dedicated family room is a particularly good deal.

Efe Hotel (☎ 213 6080; www.efehotel.com; Maarif Caddesi 13; s/d/tr €33.50/44.50/56; ☎) The Efe is a touch smarter than most of the other choices here, especially in the lobby, and wi-fi Internet is free. The second-floor doubles are by far the nicest, and have fridges as well as the usual TV and phone. The hotel's 'English Pub' opens in summer only.

Karam Hotel (☎ 225 1555; Maarif Caddesi, Garanti Bankası Sokağı 6; s/d/tr €36/47/59; ☎) Set in a fine restored house, the dubious green colour scheme lets the spacious rooms down slightly, but all in all it's a good place to stay, and prices may be negotiable. There's an appealing courtyard restaurant and a music bar, which stays loud late on Wednesday and at weekends.

Hotel Rüstempaşa Kervansaray (☎ 225 7195; www.kervansarayhotel.net; İki Kapılı Han Caddesi 57; s/d/tr €26/47.50/61, ste €86; ☎) Facing the park next to the Eski Camii, this *han* was built for Süleyman the Magnificent's grand vizier Rüstempaşa in

about 1550. Its inner courtyard offers a romantic setting for breakfast, plus an Internet café and pool hall, but despite the potential of the building the bedrooms are distinctly underwhelming, especially the cheap singles, and prices don't even include breakfast.

Eating

RESTAURANTS

Edirne's delicacy of choice is *ciğer* (fried liver), sold by small shops all over town, which also usually serve *köfte* (meatballs). There's a wide assortment of eateries along Saraçlar Caddesi. The riverside restaurants south of the centre are more atmospheric, but most only open from June to September and are often booked solid at weekends for wedding and circumcision parties.

Özge Pastanesi (☎ 212 2333; PTT Arkası; dishes from €0.55; ☎ 8am–10pm) Upstairs seating and a good selection of cakes and fast food have kept the Özge's popularity up, where its neighbour the Saray seems to have waned.

Melek Anne (☎ 213 3263; Maarif Caddesi; dishes from €1; ☎ 8am–9pm) A whitewashed old house provides the location for Mama Melek's good home cooking including *mantı* (ravioli) and

EDİRNE WRESTLEMANIA

If you like the idea of watching muscular men in leather shorts coat themselves with olive oil and throw each other around for a few days, then Sarayıçı is the place to come towards the end of June, when the **Tarihi Kırkpınar Yağlı Güreş Festivali** (Historic Kırkpınar Oil Wrestling Festival) takes place.

The origins of this oleaginous contest go back almost 650 years to the early days of the Ottoman Empire, making it the world's oldest sporting event after the Olympic Games. Before the conquest of Edirne in 1361, sultan Orhan Gazi sent his brother Süleyman Paşa with 40 chosen men to conquer the Byzantine castle of Domuzlu at Rumeli, a feat they achieved overnight. Besides their soldiering prowess, all 40 were keen wrestlers and regularly challenged each other to bouts; the legend goes that two of them were so evenly matched that they fought for days without any clear result, until both of them finally dropped dead. When the bodies were buried under a nearby fig tree, a spring mysteriously appeared, and the site was given the name Kırkpınar, or 40 Springs, in honour of the 40 warriors who first wrestled there.

Today the original Kırkpınar actually falls within Bulgarian borders, but the Turks seem happy enough with their modern equivalent and the annual matches are the highlight of the Edirne calendar. Fighters compete in 11 categories over the seven-day festival, with dozens of matches taking place simultaneously in the large Sarayıçı stadium. Bouts can last up to 30 minutes, after which they enter 'sudden death' one-fall-wins extra time. When all the fights are decided, prizes are awarded for gentlemanly conduct and best entry technique, as well as the coveted and hotly contested head wrestler title.

During the festival the streets are crowded, the hotels are jam-packed and you may have to wrestle yourself just to get a parking space, but it's unquestionably a spectacle worth seeing, and the atmosphere can be fantastic. For more information visit the **Kırkpınar Evi** (www.kirkpinar.com) on Maarif Caddesi or surf to www.turkishwrestling.com.

grills. Plenty of local women and couples also come for breakfast.

Zindanaltı Meyhanesi (☎ 212 2149; Zindanaltı Caddesi 127; dishes from €1.70; ☎ 11am-midnight) Behind the fake stone cladding, this is three storeys of authentic and friendly *meyhane* (Turkish pub) experience, offering plenty of appetising mezes and meat to accompany the well-iced Efes and piped Turkish pop.

Villa (☎ 225 4077; Karaağaç Yolu; mains €3.50-8.50; ☎ 11am-11pm) One of the best riverside options, boasting a breezy open terrace past the southern end of the Meriç Köprüsü. The bilingual menu covers stews, grills and mezes, plus fish (price varies) and the intriguing 'chicken diversity'. Euros are accepted here if you're strapped for Turkish cash.

Lalezar (☎ 213 0600; Karaağaç Yolu; mains €3.50-8.50; ☎ 11am-11pm) Lalezar is right next to Villa and follows much the same formula, slightly more spread out with a larger play area for kids.

Drinking & Entertainment

Café Sera (Talat Paşa Caddesi) This big, open-air café in front of the Selimiye Camii is a great place to sit out by the fountains and watch the people coming and going, with the added benefit of being above street level.

Tunca Café (☎ 212 4816; Hürriyet Meydanı) This inviting, wood-filled tea garden is set around a duck pond facing the Kadın Kakları Parkı (Women's Rights Park).

Kahve Bahane (Alipaşa Otakapı Caddesi) It's a modern-style coffeehouse in a restored wooden building, complete with internal courtyard and full menu of fancy coffees.

Orange 22 (☎ 213 0066; Karaağaç Yolu) The Orange is a bit of an unusual bar-club option amid the pub and restaurant strip south of town, opting for a slick modern metallic style with vintage car pics and lots of spirits at the front terrace.

Leyli Türkü Café (☎ 214 0039; Karaağaç Yolu) Right next door, this student favourite opts for a much more traditional café-pub vibe, attracting daytime coffee-sippers as well as live music crowds.

Shopping

The most atmospheric places to shop are Edirne's restored Ottoman covered bazaars. The **Ali Paşa Bazaar**, off Saraçlar Caddesi, was designed by Mimar Sinan in 1569, while the **Bedesten Bazaar**, across the road from the Eski Cami, dates from 1414. Traditional local sou-

venirs include fruit-shaped soaps and miniature brooms decorated with mirrors and beads.

Getting There & Around BUS & DOLMUŞ

The otogar is 9km east of the city centre on the access road to the TEM. There are frequent buses for İstanbul (€6.70 to €8.35, 2½ hours) and at least five daily buses to Çanakkale (€11.10, 3½ hours). City bus 5 (€0.28) and frequent minibuses (€0.55) run to the otogar from in front of the tourist office.

If you're heading for the Bulgarian border crossing at Kapıkule, catch a dolmuş (€1.40, 25 minutes) from opposite the tourist office.

Pazarkule, the nearest Greek border post, is 13km south of Edirne, but there are no longer direct dolmuşes to take you there. You could catch a dolmuş to Karaağaç and then take a taxi, but it's easier just to pick up a taxi all the way from the centre (€5.50 to €8.50, 15 minutes).

For more information on all Bulgarian and Greek border crossings in this area, see p673.

CAR

The main highway connecting Europe and Edirne travels along the river valleys past Nis and Sofia, in between the mountain ranges of the Stara and Rhodopes to Plovdiv, and then along the Meriç River into Edirne, following the route of the ancient Via Egnatia from Rome to Constantinople.

From Edirne, the old highway (D100) continues east across the rolling, steppe-like terrain of eastern Thrace, still following the Via Egnatia. However, the E80 Avrupa Otoyol/TEM offers a far quicker and safer route to İstanbul, and is used by the majority of bus companies. If you're driving yourself, the toll of about €5 is a small price to pay.

You can hire a car from **Turizm Rent A Car** (☎ 214 8478; www.turizmrentacar.com; Talat Paşa Caddesi). Prices start at around €35 per day for a small sedan.

TRAIN

Edirne train station is 4km southeast of the Eski Cami. Bus 2 comes right here but any dolmuş or city bus along Talat Paşa Caddesi can drop you on the road 200m away. A taxi will cost around €5.55.

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The *Edirne Ekspresi* connects Edirne and İstanbul (€5.85), leaving Edirne at 7.30am and returning from Sirkeci station at 3.50pm. It makes 31 stops and takes 5½ hours. The *Bosfor Ekspresi* to Sofia and Bucharest passes through Edirne at 2.35am.

UZUNKÖPRÜ

☎ 0284 / pop 36,000

About 36km south of Havsa along the E87/D550, the farming town of Uzunköprü (Long Bridge) sits on the banks of the Ergene River. Amazingly, the long Ottoman bridge (1427-43; 1270m) after which the town is named is still standing, with all its 173 arches intact. It remains the town's main access road from the north, an impressive feat after nearly 600 years of continuous use.

Apart from the bridge there's little to see here, unless you pass through on Thursday for the weekly **market**.

GETTING THERE & AWAY

Uzunköprü is the border-crossing on the railway line connecting İstanbul with Greece; the *Dostluk-Filia Ekspresi* passes through at midnight, heading back to Sirkeci at 3.50am. The *Uzunköprü Ekspresi* offers a more convenient trip to İstanbul at 4.40pm (€6, 5½ hours). The station is 4km north of town – get a bus to Edirne to drop you off or take a taxi for €2.50.

Most days you can easily pick up a bus to Edirne (€2, one hour) from near the bridge.

TEKİRDAĞ

☎ 0282 / pop 118,000

You'd think a town famous for rakı (aniseed-flavoured brandy) and *köfte* would have no end of loyal fans, but as most travellers are passing through on their way to or from Greece, Tekirdağ is often no more than a pit stop. It doesn't have the historical or architectural clout of Edirne, but if you do pause for more than lunch you'll find there's plenty to like about this modest coastal centre.

Sights

The **waterfront** (*sahil*) is the focal point for leisure time in Tekirdağ, with a long promenade running right the way round the bay, punctuated by cafés, restaurants, parks and playgrounds. There's a small tourist information booth, which may or may not be staffed.

The **Rakoczy Museum** (☎ 263 8577; Barbaros Caddesi 32; admission €1.10; ☎ 9am-5pm Tue-Sun) is the unusual legacy of Prince Francis II Rakoczy (1676-1735), a Hungarian folk hero who led his rebel countrymen in their struggle against Hapsburg repression during the Hungarian War of Independence (1703-11). Forced into exile in 1711, he eventually turned up in Turkey and was given asylum by Sultan Ahmet III. In 1906 Rakoczy's remains were returned to Hungary, along with the interior fittings from his house. Between 1981 and 1982, however, these were painstakingly reproduced and displayed to the public in a surprisingly informative museum; what you see now was once the dining hall of his home. It's worth seeing just to admire the lovely watercolours of old Tekirdağ by Aladar Edivi Illes (1870-1958). To get here, walk west along the waterfront until you see the large wooden Namık Kemal Kütüphanesi (library) above you to the right. Cut up and past it along Rakoczy Caddesi and you'll find the museum on the left.

Continue along Barbaros Caddesi/Rakoczy Caddesi until you come to the **Museum of Archaeology & Ethnography** (☎ 261 2082; Vali Konağı Caddesi 21; admission €1.10; ☎ 9am-5pm Tue-Sun), housed in a fine late-Ottoman building. Here you can see the finds from several local *tumuli* (barrows) and from a site at Perinthos (Marmara Ereğli). The most striking exhibits are the marble tables and chairs set with bronze bowls from the Naip *tumulus*, and a wonderful pottery brazier in the form of a mother goddess from the Taptepe *tumulus* (both 5th century BC).

Further east, past the brown stone **Orta Camii** (1855), you'll find the cute wooden **Namık Kemal Evi** (Namık Kemal Caddesi 7; ☎ 8am-5pm Mon-Sat), a small ethnographical museum built to commemorate Tekirdağ's most famous son, who was born nearby. Kemal (1840-88) was a poet and advocate of national freedom, and had a strong influence on Atatürk, who called him 'the father of my ideas'. The house is beautifully restored, and holds occasional craft markets in the garden.

To get back to the waterfront, cross over to Mimar Sinan Caddesi and head downhill, past the small, square **Rüstem Paşa Külliyesi** (1553), built by the great Mimar Sinan for Rüstem Paşa, one of Süleyman the Magnificent's grand viziers. At the bottom of the hill there's a **statue** commemorating another famous Tekirdağlı, the great oil wrestler Hüseyin Pehlivan.

Sleeping & Eating

Yat Hotel (☎ 261 1054; İskele Caddesi; r €7.50-23) Not remotely yachtlike, this unfancy hotel offers a bewildering range of randomly shaped rooms with dated décor; upper floors are brighter and have balconies. Rates depend on your chosen combination of sea or town view, private, shared or shower-only bathroom, and so on. Breakfast costs €2.

Rodosto Hotel (☎ 263 3701; www.rodostohotel.com; İskele Caddesi 34; s/d/tr €33.50/44.50/67; 🏠) If you value comfort over price, the Rodosto is a good bet, banking on a touch of class to win over guests. Two rooms come with Jacuzzis, or at the other end of the scale you can opt for a boxy 'economy' single (€22.25). The conservatory restaurant above the lobby is an added plus.

Buses to Greece often pause for lunch in Tekirdağ, pulling up at the row of *köfteci* (*köfte* restaurants) just inland from the harbour. Meals are much of a muchness at these places, but the **Liman Lokantası** (☎ 261-4984; Yalı Caddesi 40; mains €2.80-5.60; 🕒 8am-10pm) has been reliable for years, and also has a posher harbour outlet opposite.

Getting There & Away

Buses for İstanbul (€6.70, two hours), Edirne (€6.70, two hours) and Çanakkale (€11.10, four hours) drop off and pick up on the waterfront. Some Edirne buses stop at offices along Muratlı Caddesi, on the other side of the town centre about 1.5km north of the promenade.

GELİBOLU

☎ 0286 / pop 23,130

This pretty little harbour town must get plenty of its visitors by mistake – Gelibolu is not the same as Gallipoli, it's simply the largest town on the peninsula with the same name, some 60km from the famous battlefield sites. Luckily, if you do fall prey to such confusion you'll find that Gelibolu is a nice stop in its own right, particularly if you stay over for dinner.

Everything you will need – hotels, restaurants, a PTT, banks – is clustered around Gelibolu harbour, which is also where the ferry to Lapseki docks.

Sights

The **Piri Reis Museum** (donation requested; 🕒 8.30am-noon & 1-5pm Tue-Sun) is housed in a stone tower overlooking the harbour walls, the sole re-

mainder of the Byzantine town of Kallipolis, which gave the present town and peninsula their name. The tower is named after the Turkish cartographer Piri Reis, whose statue stands on the coast near the otogar, looking out to sea. The fruit of his life's work, dating back to 1513, was the first known map to show the Americas in their entirety. Inside there's a large, shallow well and an upstairs chamber displaying copies of pages from Reis' famous map, together with a hotchpotch of historical exhibits and remnants from the Gallipoli battles.

The road north past the Hotel Yılmaz veers uphill, behind several military buildings. After 800m you pass the pretty shrine of **Ahmed-i Bican Efendi** on the left. Cross the road behind it and you'll find a mosque and the tomb of **Mehmed-i Bican Efendi**, author of a commentary on the Quran called the *Muhammediye*.

Return to the south road and eventually you will come to a small **türbe** (tomb) on the right. Take Fener Yolu beside it on to the headland and you'll see steps on the left leading down to the **Bayraklı Baba Türbesi**, a uniquely Turkish memorial. Karaca Bey was an Ottoman standard bearer who, in 1410, ate the flag in his keeping piece by piece rather than let it be captured by the enemy. When his comrades found him they asked where the flag was but refused to believe him; Karaca duly split open his stomach to prove the point and immediately became a local legend, renamed Bayraklı Baba (Flag Father). His pretty tomb is decked out with hundreds of Turkish flags – the attendant will sell you one to add to the collection.

At the edge of the headland, not far from the lighthouse tea garden, is the small but fascinating **Azebler Namazgah**, built in 1407. An unusual outdoor mosque complete with white marble *mihrab* and *mimber*, it is vaguely Mughal in appearance.

Return to the main road and continue downhill until you see, on the left, a **French Cemetery** from the Crimean War (1854–56), which also houses an ossuary containing the bones of Senegalese soldiers who died in the Gallipoli campaign. The road continues down to **Hamzakoy**, the resort part of town, which has a thin strip of sandy beach.

Sleeping

Hotel Oya (☎ 566 0392; Miralay Şefik Aker Caddesi; s €14, d €22.50-25) A good central choice with a mild

nautical theme. All rooms have digital TV and some have small bathtubs. Breakfast is served in the bright lobby restaurant.

Hotel Yılmaz (☎ 566 1256; Liman Meyki 8; r per person €14) The Yılmaz is convenient and very friendly, if not the smartest or quietest place in town, and rates may be negotiable. Skip the daily cassette-guided Gallipoli tours though – you'll get a much better deal in Çanakkale.

Otel Hamzakoy (☎ 566 8080; www.hamzakoy.8m.com; s/d €28/39) This pink-tinged block overlooking the bay is Gelibolu's sole resort hotel, and can be very quiet out of season. Rooms are light and spacious with modern furnishings, TVs, fridges and balconies. There is a licensed restaurant on site and two beach bar-restaurants.

Eating

The best reason to linger in Gelibolu is to have dinner in one of the harbourside restaurants, where you can tuck into fresh *sardalya* (sardines) while gazing out over bobbing fishing boats and being serenaded by wandering musicians. Your best bet is to stroll past them all and see which seems to be the happening place that evening. Most dishes cost from €2 to €5.50, although if you opt for fish your bill could rise to around €10 with alcohol.

İlhan Restaurant (☎ 566 1124; Balikhane Sokak 2; mains €2.80-6.70; 🕒 11am-10pm) This is easily the smartest of the harbour eateries, and also the largest, with a prime location giving it the benefit of sea as well as harbour views (when the Lapseki ferry's not in the way). The menu's also that bit more adventurous – in case you fancy chancing some cold scorpion fish.

Kumsal Restaurant (☎ 566 3626; Hamzakoy; mains from €2.80; 🕒 11am-10pm) A good alternative to the Otel Hamzakoy restaurants, Kumsal has indoor and outdoor tables right on the beach, offering a range of meat and fish dishes. The menu has no prices so check before ordering fish.

Getting There & Away

The otogar is 500m southwest of the harbour on Kore Kahramanları Caddesi, the main Eceabat road, served by buses to İstanbul (€10, 4½ hours) and Edirne (€8.35, 2¾ hours). You can pick up minibuses to Eceabat (€1.70, 50 minutes) and Çanakkale (€1.70, one hour, via Lapseki) from here or beside the harbour.

The Gelibolu-Lapseki car ferry (€0.85, bicycles and scooters €2, cars €4.75, 30 minutes) runs every hour on the hour in either

direction between 9am and midnight, with five departures each way between 1am and 8.15am.

To get to the Gallipoli battlefields, go to Eceabat then look for a dolmuş to Kabatepe. To get to Çanakkale, take the Gelibolu-Lapseki ferry then a bus or dolmuş, or take the minibus to Eceabat and then the ferry to Çanakkale.

GALLIPOLI (GELİBOLU) PENINSULA

The slender peninsula that forms the north-western side of the Dardanelles, across the water from Çanakkale, is called Gallipoli (Gelibolu in Turkish). For a millennium it has been the key to İstanbul: any navy that could break through the straits had a good chance of capturing the capital of the Eastern European world. Many fleets have tried to force the straits, but most, including the mighty Allied fleet mustered in WWI, have failed.

Today the Gallipoli battlefields are peaceful places covered in scrubby brush and pine forests. However, the battles fought here nearly a century ago are still alive in many memories, both Turkish and foreign. The Turkish officer responsible for the defence of Gallipoli was none other than Mustafa Kemal, later to become Atatürk, and his success is commemorated in Turkey on 18 March. The big draw for visitors, though, is Anzac Day on 25 April, when a dawn service commemorates the anniversary of the Allied landings, attracting thousands of travellers from Down Under and beyond (see p191).

Most of the peninsula is national park, and even if you're not well up on the history, it's still worth visiting for the rugged natural beauty of the site.

On the hillside by Kilitbahir, clearly visible from Çanakkale, gigantic letters spell out the first few words of a poem by Necmettin Halil Onan commemorating the struggle for Gallipoli in 1915:

Dur yolcu! Bilmeden gelip bastığın
bu toprak bir devrin battığı yerdir.
Eğil de kulak ver, bu sessiz yığın
bir vatan kalbinin attığı yerdir.

Traveller, halt! The soil you heedlessly tread
once witnessed the end of an era.
Listen! In this quiet mound
there once beat the heart of a nation.

The nearest base for visiting the battlefields is Eceabat on the western shore of the Dardanelles, although Çanakkale, on the eastern shore, has a much wider range of accommodation. Gelibolu, 45km northeast of Eceabat, is a less popular option.

For a detailed guide to all the Gallipoli sites, pick up the excellent bilingual *Gallipoli Bat-*

tlefield Guide (Çanakkale Muharebe Alanları Gezi Rehberi; Gürsel Gönçü & Şahin Doğan, 2006), which includes satellite-accurate maps. You can find it in bookshops in Çanakkale.

Many people visit Gallipoli on a guided tour (see p190).

History

Just 1.4km wide at its narrowest point, the Strait of Çanakkale (variously known as Çanakkale Boğazı, Hellespont or the Dardanelles) has always offered the best opportunity for travellers – and armies – to cross between Europe and Asia Minor.

King Xerxes I of Persia crossed the strait here on a bridge of boats in 481 BC, as did Alexander the Great 150 years later. In Byzantine times it was the first line of defence for Constantinople, but by 1402 the strait was under the control of the Ottoman sultan Beyazıt I, allowing his armies to conquer the Balkans. Mehmet the Conqueror fortified the strait as part of his grand plan to conquer Constantinople (1453), building eight separate fortresses. As the Ottoman Empire declined during the 19th century, England and France competed with Russia for influence over these strategic sea passages.

Hoping to capture the Ottoman capital and access to Eastern Europe during WWI, Winston Churchill, then British First Lord of the Admiralty, organised a naval assault on the straits. In March 1915 a strong Franco-British fleet tried to force them, but failed. Then, on 25 April, British, Australian, New Zealand and Indian troops landed on Gallipoli, and French troops near Çanakkale. Both Turkish and Allied troops fought desperately and fearlessly, and devastated one another. After nine months of ferocious combat but little progress, the Allied forces withdrew.

The Turkish success at Gallipoli was partly due to bad luck and leadership on the Allied side, and partly due to reinforcements to the Turkish side brought in by General Liman von Sanders. But a crucial element in the defeat was that the Allied troops landed in a sector where they faced then Lieutenant-Colonel Mustafa Kemal (later Atatürk).

A relatively minor officer, Mustafa Kemal had General von Sanders' confidence. He managed to guess the Allied battle plan correctly when his commanders did not, and stalled the invasion in spite of bitter fighting that wiped out his regiment (see p188).

Throughout the campaign, though suffering from malaria, he commanded in full view of his troops and of the enemy, and miraculously escaped death several times. At one point a piece of shrapnel hit him in the chest, but was stopped by his pocket watch. His brilliant performance made him a folk hero and paved the way for his promotion to *paşa* (general).

The Gallipoli campaign lasted until January 1916, and resulted in a total of more than half a million casualties. The British Empire suffered over 200,000 casualties, with the loss of some 36,000 lives. French casualties of 47,000 made up over half the entire French contingent. Half the 500,000 Ottoman troops became casualties, with more than 55,000 dead. Despite the carnage, the battles here are often considered the last true instance of a 'gentleman's war', with both sides displaying respect towards their enemy. Many of the smaller memorials illustrate tales of unusual bravery and fair play.

Orientation & Information

The Gallipoli Peninsula is a fairly large area to tour, especially without your own transport; it's over 35km as the crow flies from the northernmost battlefield to the southern tip of the peninsula.

There are currently 34 war cemeteries on Gallipoli. The principal battles took place on its western shore, near Anzac Cove and Arıburnu, and in the hills just to the east. Anzac Cove is about 12km from Eceabat and 19km from Kilitbahır. If time is tight or you're touring by public transport, head for Anzac Cove and Arıburnu first, which is also what the tours do.

Shops and stalls in every town here sell maps and guides to the battlefields. You can also find plenty of practical and background information on the internet at www.gallipoli-association.com and <http://user.online.be/~snelders>.

Battlefield Sites

Gallipoli National Historic Park (Gelibolu Tarihi Milli Parkı) covers much of the peninsula and all of the significant battle sites. Park headquarters is 2km southwest of Eceabat at the Kabatepe Information Centre & Museum (Kabatepe Tanıtma Merkezi Müzesi), where there's also a picnic ground.

The national park has several different sign systems: the normal Turkish highway signs,

the national park administration signs and the wooden ones posted by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission. This can lead to confusion because the foreign troops and the Turks used different names for the battlefields, and the park signs don't necessarily agree with the ones erected by the highway department. We've used both English and Turkish names in the text and on the Anzac Battlefields map.

On weekends from April to mid-June and again in September you'll find the battlefield sites overrun with school groups.

NORTHERN PENINSULA

About 3km north of Eceabat a road marked for Kabatepe and Kemalyeri heads west into the park. We describe the sites in the order most walkers and motorists are likely to visit them, although the tours often change the sequence to suit their narrative.

KILIA BAY INFORMATION CENTRE

Opened in 2005, this **centre** (Kilya Koyu Ana Tanıtım Merkezi; Map p184; admission free; ☎ 9am-noon & 1-5pm) is intended as the main information point for visitors to the battlefields. The complex includes the information centre, several exhibition areas, a cinema, library and café. It's about 2km outside Eceabat, 100m off the İstanbul highway.

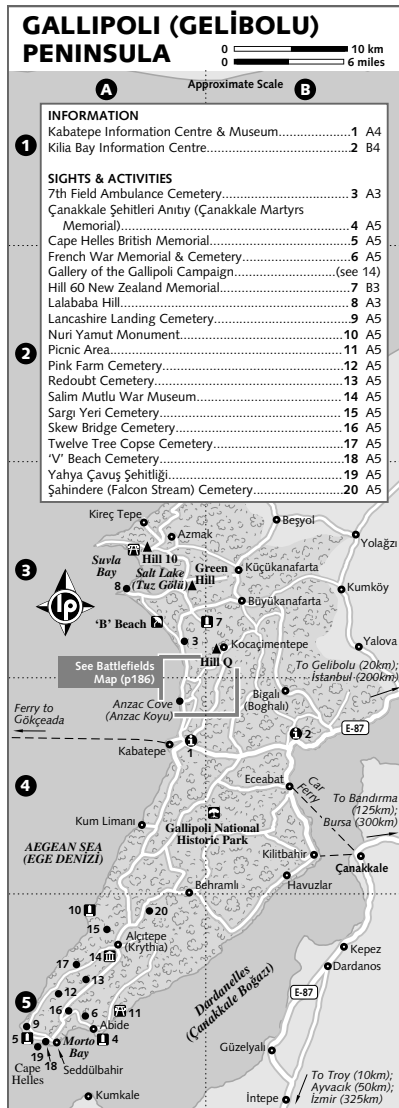
KABATEPE INFORMATION CENTRE & MUSEUM

This older **centre** (Kabatepe Tanıtma Merkezi Müzesi; Map p184; admission €0.75; ☎ 8am-noon & 1-5pm), roughly 1km east of the village of Kabatepe, holds a small museum with old uniforms, rusty weapons and other battlefield finds, including the skull of a luckless Turkish soldier with a bullet lodged in the forehead. Perhaps the most touching exhibit is a letter from a young officer who had left law school in Constantinople to volunteer in the Gallipoli campaign. He wrote to his mother in poetic terms about the beauty of the landscape and of his love for life. Two days later he died in battle.

The road uphill to Lone Pine (Kanlısirt) and Chunuk Bair begins 750m west of the information centre. Anzac Cove is about 3.5km from the centre.

KABATEPE (GABA TEPE) VILLAGE

The small harbour here (Map p184) was probably the object of the Allied landing on 25



April 1915. In the dark of early morning it's possible that uncharted currents swept the Allies' landing craft northwards to the steep cliffs of Arıburnu – a bit of bad luck that may have sealed the campaign's fate from the start. Today there's little in Kabatepe except for a camping ground and the dock for ferries that go to the island of Gökçeada (see p198).

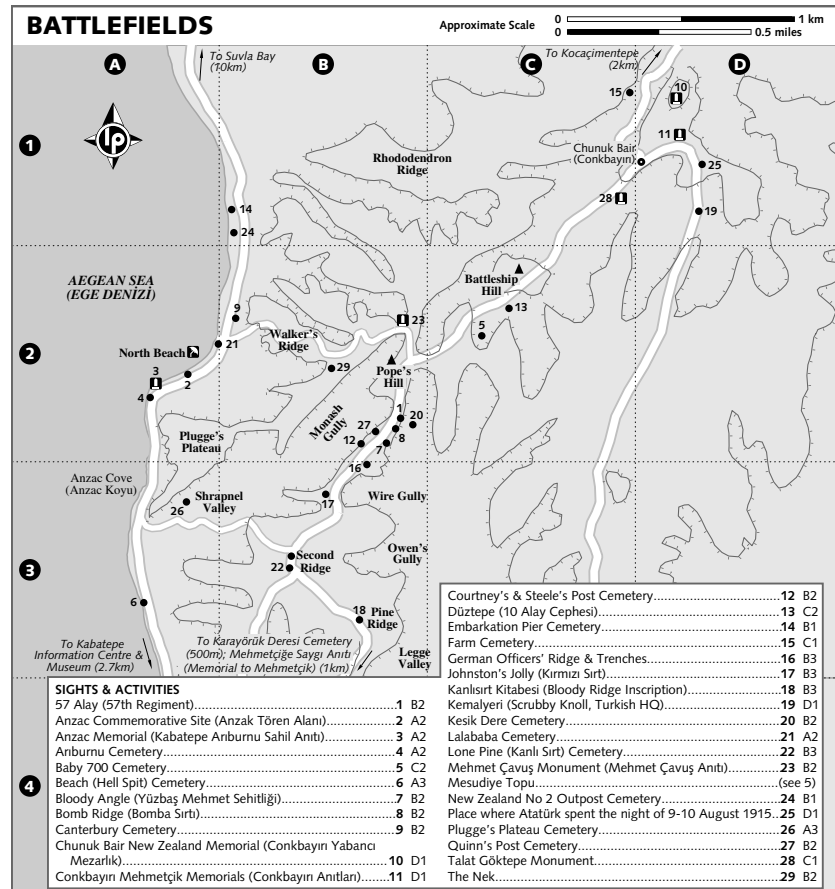
ANZAC COVE (ANZAC KÖYÜ) & BEACHES

Heading northwest from the information centre, it's 3km to the **Beach (Hell Spit) Cemetery** (Map p186). After another 90m a road cuts inland to the Shrapnel Valley and Plugge's Plateau Cemeteries.

Follow the coastal road for another 400m and you'll come to Anzac Cove, beneath and

just south of the Arıburnu cliffs, where the ill-fated Allied landing was made on 25 April 1915. Ordered to advance inland, the Allied forces met with fierce resistance from the Ottoman forces under the leadership of Mustafa Kemal, who had foreseen where they would land and disobeyed an order to send his troops further south to Cape Helles. After this failed endeavour, the Anzacs concentrated on consolidating and expanding the beachhead while awaiting reinforcements.

In August the same year a major offensive was staged in an attempt to advance beyond the beach up to the ridges of Chunuk Bair and Sarı Bair. It resulted in the bloodiest battles of the campaign, but little progress was made.



PRESERVING GALLIPOLI

Most of the Gallipoli peninsula is a protected national park, but its popularity with visitors makes effective site conservation challenging, and many people feel that the local government and park administration don't always handle the situation effectively. In recent years the flow of traffic has become particularly heavy, particularly around the most-visited monuments, and supposed 'improvements' such as car parks and road-widening have caused considerable damage to certain areas, most shockingly at Anzac Cove.

Of course seeing the entire peninsula on foot or by bike isn't feasible for all visitors, but if possible you should at least try (or encourage your tour driver) to leave your vehicle in Alçıtepe, Seddülbahir or Kabatepe when exploring the areas around these towns, rather than insisting on motoring right up to each and every site.

The other major problem is the proliferation of rubbish all over the peninsula, dumped by careless visitors and locals. As well as the inevitable food wrappers and plastic bottles, all kinds of domestic refuse and even large items such as old furniture crop up even at some of the most important memorial sites. What can you do? Easy: just don't drop your own litter, and feel free to pick up other people's!

Anzac Cove is marked by a Turkish monument, another 300m along, which repeats Atatürk's famous words of 1934:

"To us there is no difference between the Johnnies and the Mehments... You, the mothers, who sent your sons from faraway countries, wipe away your tears; your sons are now lying in our bosom... after losing their lives in this land they have become our sons as well."

A memorial reserve, the beach is off-limits to swimmers and picnickers. Sadly erosion and roadworks have damaged the cove considerably, and the beach is now little more than a narrow strip of sand. In 2005 witnesses reported seeing human remains uncovered and construction debris dumped on the beach, prompting outrage among preservation campaigners and war-grave officials. For more on conservation issues, see the boxed text, above.

A few hundred metres beyond Anzac Cove is **Arıburnu Cemetery** (Map p186) and, 750m further along, **Canterbury Cemetery**. Between them is the **Anzac Commemorative Site**, where the dawn services are held on Anzac Day. Less than 1km further along the seaside road are the cemeteries at **No 2 Outpost**, set back inland from the road, and **New Zealand No 2 Outpost**, next to the road. The **Embarkation Pier Cemetery** is 200m beyond the New Zealand No 2 Outpost.

LONE PINE

Retrace your steps to the Kabatepe Information Centre & Museum and follow the

signs just under 3km up the hill for Lone Pine (Kanlısirt; Map p186), perhaps the most poignant and moving of all the Anzac cemeteries. It's another 3km uphill to the New Zealand Memorial at Chunuk Bair.

This area saw the most bitter fighting of the campaign. Ironically, a disastrous forest fire of 1994 stripped away the pines, which had been planted after the war, returning the area to what it must have looked like in 1915. Today reforestation is once again underway.

The first monument, **Mehmetçiğe Saygı Anıtı**, on the right-hand side of the road about 1km from the junction, is dedicated to 'Mehmetçik' (Little Mehmet), the Turkish 'Johnnie' or 'GI Joe'. Another 1200m brings you to the **Karayörük Deresi Cemetery** and the **Kanlısirt Yazıtı**, which describes the battle of Lone Pine from the Turkish viewpoint.

At Lone Pine itself, 400m uphill, Australian forces captured the Turkish positions on the evening of 6 August. In the few days of the August assault, 4000 men died here. The trees that shaded the cemetery were swept away by the fire in 1994, leaving only one: a lone pine planted years ago from the seed of the original tree that stood here during the battle. The tombstones carry touching epitaphs: 'Only son', 'He died for his country', 'If I could hold your hand once more just to say well done', and include the grave of the youngest soldier to die here, a boy of just 14.

JOHNSTON'S JOLLY TO QUINN'S POST

Progressing up the hill from Lone Pine, you quickly come to understand the ferocity of

the battles. At some points the trenches were only a few metres apart. The order to attack meant certain death to all who followed it, and virtually all – on both sides – did as they were ordered.

At Johnston's Jolly (Map p186), 200m beyond Lone Pine, at Courtney's & Steele's Post, another 300m along, and especially at Quinn's Post (Bomba Sirt, Yüzbaşı Mehmet Şehitliği), another 400m uphill, the trenches were separated only by the width of the modern road. Some of the crumbling trenches have been refaced with wooden struts to give an idea of what they would have looked like in 1915.

On the eastern side at Johnston's Jolly is the Turkish monument to the soldiers of the 125th Regiment who died here on Red Ridge (Kırmızı Sirt/125 Alay Cephesi). At Quinn's Post is the memorial to Sergeant Mehmet, who fought with rocks and his fists after he ran out of ammunition, and the Captain Mehmet Cemetery.

57 ALAY (57TH REGIMENT) CEMETERY

Just over 1km uphill from Lone Pine is another monument to Mehmetçik on the western side of the road and, on the eastern side, the cemetery and monument for officers and soldiers of the Ottoman 57th Regiment, led by Mustafa Kemal, and which he sacrificed to halt the first Anzac assaults (see right). The cemetery (Map p186) has a surprising amount of religious symbolism (including an outdoor mosque reminiscent of the Namazgah at Gelibolu) for a Turkish army site, as historically the republican army has been steadfastly secular. The statue of an old man showing his grand-daughter the battle sites portrays Hüseyin Kaçmaz, who fought in the Balkan Wars, the Gallipoli campaign and at the fateful Battle of Dumlupınar during the War of Independence. He died in 1994, aged 110, the last of the Turkish survivors of Gallipoli.

Down some steps from here, the new **Kesik Dere Cemetery** holds the remains of a further 1115 Turkish soldiers from the 57th and other regiments.

MEHMET ÇAVUŞ MONUMENT & THE NEK

About 100m uphill past the 57th Regiment Cemetery, a road goes west to the monument for Mehmet Çavuş (another Sergeant Mehmet; Map p186) and The Nek. It was at The Nek on 7 August 1915 that the 8th (Victorian

and 10th (Western Australian) regiments of the third Light Horse Brigade vaulted out of their trenches into withering fire and certain death, an episode immortalised in the Peter Weir film *Gallipoli*.

BABY 700 CEMETERY & MESUDİYE TOPU

About 300m uphill from the road to The Nek is the Baby 700 Cemetery (Map p186) and the Ottoman cannon called the Mesudiye Topu. Baby 700 was the limit of the initial attack, and the graves here are mostly dated 25 April.

DÜZTEPE (10 ALAY CEPHESİ)

Another 1.5km uphill brings you to a monument (Map p186) marking the spot where the Ottoman 10th Regiment held the line. The views of the strait and the surrounding countryside are superb.

TALAT GÖKTEPE MONUMENT

About 1km further along from Düztepe is the monument (Map p186) to a more recent casualty of Gallipoli: Talat Göktepe, Chief Director of the Çanakkale Forestry District, who died fighting the forest fire of 1994.

CHUNUK BAIR (CONKBAYIRI)

At the top of the hill, 600m past the Talat Göktepe Monument, is a T intersection. A right turn takes you east to the spot where, having stayed awake for four days and nights, Mustafa Kemal spent the night of 9–10 August directing part of the counterattack to the August offensive, and also to **Kemalyeri** (Scrubby Knoll), his command post.

A left turn leads after 100m to **Chunuk Bair** (Map p186), the first objective of the Allied landing in April 1915, and now the site of the New Zealand Memorial.

As the Anzac troops made their way up the scrub-covered slopes on 25 April, Mustafa Kemal, the divisional commander, brought up the 57th Infantry Regiment and gave them his famous order: 'I am not ordering you to attack, I am ordering you to die. In the time it takes us to die, other troops and commanders will arrive to take our places'. The 57th was wiped out but held the line and inflicted equally heavy casualties on the Anzacs below.

Chunuk Bair was also at the heart of the struggle for the peninsula from 6 to 9 August 1915, when 28,000 men died on this ridge. The peaceful pine grove of today makes it difficult

to imagine the blasted wasteland of almost a century ago, when bullets, bombs and shrapnel mowed down men as the fighting went on day and night despite huge numbers of casualties. The Anzac attack on 6 to 7 August, which included the New Zealand Mounted Rifle Brigade and a Maori contingent, was deadly, but the attack on the following day was of a ferocity which, according to Mustafa Kemal, 'could scarcely be described'.

On the western side of the road is the **New Zealand Memorial** and some reconstructed **Turkish trenches**. There's a giant statue of Mustafa Kemal and signs to indicate the spots where he stood to give the order for the crucial attack at 4.30am on 8 August 1915; where he watched the battle's progress; and where shrapnel would have hit his heart, had it not been stopped by his pocket watch. Practically, it's unlikely that these were the actual locations, but the power of his legend is such that it doesn't really matter.

To the east a side road leads to the Turkish **Conkbayırı Mehmetçik Memorial** (Map p186), five giant tablets with Turkish inscriptions describing the battle.

Beyond Chunuk Bair the road leads to Kocaçimentepe, less than 2km along.

SOUTHERN PENINSULA

Far fewer people visit the sites of the southern peninsula (Map p184), which makes it a good place to come to escape the traffic and tour groups. It's easiest to get round these sites with your own transport. A taxi driver from Eceabat will charge you around €40 (negotiable) to whisk you around them for two hours.

From near the Kabatepe Information Centre & Museum a road heads south past the side road to **Kum Limanı**, where there's a good swimming beach.

From Kabatepe it's about 12km to the village of **Alçtepe**, formerly known as Krythia or Kirte. Close to the village's main intersection is the privately run **Salim Mutlu War Museum** (admission free; ☎ 8am–noon & 1–5pm), which houses relics from the northern and southern battlefields. Nearby, the **Gallery of the Gallipoli Campaign** (admission free; ☎ 8am–noon & 1–5pm) takes a more illustrative approach to events. In the village, signs point southwest to the **Twelve Tree Copse** and **Pink Farm Cemeteries**, and north to the Turkish **Sargı Yeri Cemetery** and **Nuri Yamut Monument**. The new **Şahindere (Falcon**

Stream) Cemetery, opened in 2005, is about 3km north.

Heading south, the road passes the **Redoubt Cemetery**. About 5.5km south of Alçtepe, south of the **Skew Bridge Cemetery**, the road divides, the right fork heading for the village of **Seddülbahir** (Sedd el Bahr), around 2km from the intersection, is a sleepy farming village with a few pensions, a PTT, a ruined Ottoman/Byzantine fortress and a small harbour. The old castle, formerly an army base, is currently under restoration.

Follow the signs for Yahya Çavuş Şehitliği to reach the **Cape Helles British Memorial**, 1km beyond Seddülbahir village square. Today there are fine views of the straits, with ships cruising placidly up and down, but in 1915 half a million men were killed, wounded or lost in the dispute over which ships should go through.

The initial Allied attack was two-pronged, with the southern landing at the tip of the peninsula on 'V' Beach. Yahya Çavuş (Sergeant Yahya) was the Turkish officer who led the first resistance to the Allied landing on 25 April 1915, causing heavy casualties. The cemetery named after him, **Yahya Çavuş Şehitliği**, is between the Helles Memorial and 'V' Beach.

Lancashire Landing Cemetery is off to the north; another sign points south to **'V' Beach**, 550m downhill.

Retrace your steps from the Helles Memorial back to the road division and then head east following signs for Abide or Çanakkale Şehitleri Anıtı (Çanakkale Martyrs' Memorial) at Morto Bay. Along the way you will pass the **French War Memorial & Cemetery**. French troops, including a regiment of Africans, attacked Kumkale on the Asian shore in March 1915 with complete success, then re-embarked and landed in support of their British comrades-in-arms at Cape Helles, where they were virtually wiped out. The French cemetery is rarely visited but quite moving, with rows of metal crosses and five white concrete ossuaries each containing the bones of 3000 soldiers.

At the foot of the hill is a pine-shaded picnic area. The **Çanakkale Şehitleri Anıtı** (Çanakkale Martyrs Memorial) or Abide monument is a gigantic four-legged stone table almost 42m high that commemorates all the Turkish soldiers who fought and died at Gallipoli. It's surrounded by landscaped grounds, including

a rose garden planted to commemorate the 80th anniversary of the conflict in 1995, and stands above another **war museum** (closed at the time of research). Translated, the poem on the altarlike stone beneath the monument's legs reads:

Soldiers who have fallen on this land
defending this land!

Would that your ancestors might descend
from the skies to kiss your pure brows.

Who could dig the grave that was not
too small for you?

All of history itself is too small a place
for you.

Tours

Tours can be a good idea, as this way you get the benefit of a guide who can explain the battles as you go along. The typical four- to six-hour tour includes transport by car or minibus, driver and guide, picnic lunch and a swim from a beach on the western shore. Most of the regular Gallipoli guides come in for lots of praise from readers, but ask around to be on the safe side.

Several agencies in Çanakkale and Eceabat organise tours and competition is at times aggressive.

Hassle Free Tours (☎ 0286-213 5969; www.hasslefreetour.com; €27) Operates tours out of Anzac House in Çanakkale (p193) and a secondary office in Eceabat (☎ 0286-814 2431). Hassle Free also runs tours out of Istanbul to Gallipoli for €60, inclusive of a stay of one night at Anzac House before visiting the ruins at Troy and either travelling on to Selçuk or back to Istanbul. However, visiting the battlefields straight after a five-hour bus ride from Istanbul is not much fun – it might be better to take the tour from Çanakkale.

TJs Tours (☎ 0286-814 3121; www.anzaccgallipolitours.com; €23) Based at the Eceabat Hotel (opposite), TJs comes highly recommended. İlhami Geziçi, also known as TJ, marries historical knowledge with genuine enthusiasm. A private two-person tour can cover the less visited sites at Cape Helles and around Suvla Bay for around €100. TJ also has a copy of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission's register to help visitors find a particular grave.

Trooper Tours (☎ 217 3343; www.troopertours.com; €23) Run by Fez Travel, the people behind the Fez Bus, this latest addition to the competition operates from the Yellow Rose Pension in Çanakkale (p195), benefiting from the captive market of travellers on other Fez packages. Having 'poached' popular veteran guide Ali Efe from Hassle Free, standards should be high too.

Troy-Anzac Tours (☎ 0286-217 5849; www.troyanzac.com; Saat Kulesi Meydanı 6, Çanakkale; €23) Facing the clock tower, this place has been in business the longest but doesn't seem to be as popular as the others, perhaps because it is not associated with a hostel.

Diving to examine the wrecks off the western coast of the peninsula is an increasingly popular pastime. TJs Tours charges €60 for two dives or €15 for snorkelling off Anzac Cove, including all equipment.

Sleeping

There are some excellent accommodation options inside the park itself, including a number of well-equipped camp sites. The majority are around Seddülbahir and can be tricky to get to without your own transport, so they're most popular with cyclists and caravanners. Apart from overnight tour groups, most other travellers stay in Çanakkale or Eceabat.

Mocamp Seddülbahir (☎ 862 0056; camping €5.60, tr €17) One of the more convenient options, right next to the beach in Seddülbahir. As well as the camping area, there are a few rooms above the site café.

Pansiyon Helles Panorama (☎ 862 0035; s/d with shared bathroom €14/28) In Seddülbahir, this welcoming guesthouse has the incongruous air of an English B&B. The eponymous panorama is of the Abide monument, which might not be the most elaborate sculpture in the world but is certainly dramatic on its cliff-top perch.

Hotel Kum (☎ 814 1455; www.hotelkum.com; s/d €35/52; 🍷) At Kum Limanı, south of Kabatepe, the Hotel Kum is virtually a resort complex, right on a sandy beach with facilities including restaurant, bar, disco and dive centre. The plain white décor is nothing special, and the whole idea of a 72-room hotel amid the war memorials is perhaps a little unseemly, but the setting is beautiful and standards are high. Camping costs €4, caravan parking €10.

Abide Motel (☎ 862 0010; s/d full board €28/56) Another reasonably priced establishment in a great location at Morto Bay, northwest of Seddülbahir near the Abide monument and the French Cemetery. The food is highly rated.

Getting There & Around

With your own transport you can easily tour the battlefields in a day. Touring by public transport is also possible, but dolmuşes serve only a few sites and villages. In summer, you might be able to hitch around the peninsula,

WARNING: ANZAC DAY CROWDS

In recent years the Anzac Day memorial service has become one of the most popular events in Turkey for foreign visitors. In 2005 more than 20,000 people came to mark the 90th anniversary of the Gallipoli landings, overwhelming the peninsula's modest infrastructure. In Çanakkale, hotels are usually booked out months in advance.

As well as the traffic, which reaches all-day jam proportions, many people report being ripped off on package deals. In particular, some tour operators claim to drive from Istanbul in time for the dawn service, when in fact even people coming from Çanakkale can't always make it in time. Book as early as possible with a reliable agency, and be wary of last-minute deals, especially in Istanbul.

The individual Australian and New Zealand ceremonies at Lone Pine and Chunuk Bair attract smaller crowds than the dawn service at Anzac Cove, and there are plans for a video link so visitors can view all three from one place, but even so, the sheer weight of numbers makes getting around a nightmare.

It's easier to appreciate Gallipoli's poignant beauty at almost any other time, and many visitors find their emotional experience completely different if they take the time to explore at leisure away from the crowds. Maybe the answer is to come for the dawn service and then come back for a quieter, calmer look on another day.

but in other seasons there may not be enough traffic. The most important group of monuments and cemeteries, from Lone Pine uphill to Chunuk Bair, can be toured on foot, an excellent idea in fine weather.

Ferries run from Çanakkale on the eastern side of the Dardanelles to Eceabat and Kilitbahir on the peninsula; see p197 for information. See p200 for information on ferries to Kabatepe.

Taxi drivers in Eceabat will happily run you around the main sites for around €40 but they take only two to 2½ hours and few of them speak English well enough to provide a decent commentary.

ECEABAT (MAYDOS)

☎ 0286 / pop 4500

Across the Dardanelles from Çanakkale, Eceabat is a small, easy-going waterfront town with good access to the main Gallipoli sites, offering a convenient base for battlefield visits if you don't fancy the bustle of Çanakkale. Ferries dock by the main square, Cumhuriyet Meydanı, which has restaurants, hotels, ATMs, bus company offices, and dolmuş and taxi stands.

Like most of the peninsula, Eceabat is swamped with groups of students over weekends from April through to mid-June and again in late September.

Sleeping

TJs Hostel (☎ 814 3121; www.anzaccgallipolitours.com; Cumhuriyet Caddesi 5; dm €8.50-11; 🍷 📺) In a multi-storey building 100m from the main square,

TJs is Eceabat's original backpacker hostel. Since TJs Tours opened the nearby Eceabat Hotel, the ageing hostel has been used mainly as a back-up option for busy periods.

Otel Boss (☎ 814 1464; Cumhuriyet Meydanı 14; s/d/tr €8.50/17/23; 🍷) A small, narrow budget hotel right on the main square, with a café downstairs. Opt for a corner room to get a bit more space.

Hotel Boss II (☎ 814 2311; dm €6, s/d/tr €8.50/17/23) Finally, a sequel that's better than the original. The bigger Boss has a choice of accommodation options, including some pleasant wooden bungalows, though the location's less convenient, a 10-minute walk west from the town centre. The on-site restaurant and bar save the hike back into town for refreshment.

Eceabat Hotel (☎ 814 2458; www.anzaccgallipoli-tours.com; Cumhuriyet Meydanı 20; dm €8.35, hostel s/d/tr €18/24/35, hotel s/d/tr €28/39/50; 🍷 📺 📺) Making the most of its commanding central position, the Eceabat has rooms to suit every budget, from the basic hostel bunk rooms and dorms to the smarter air-con hotel rooms, which boast balconies, parquet floors, TV and phone. The roof bar, Ottoman-styled lobby, tour office and regular barbecues round off the range of traveller services.

Aqua Hotel (☎ 814 2864; www.heyboss.com; İstiklal Caddesi; s/d/tr/q €22.50/39/56/67; 🍷) The third part of the Boss trilogy, this low castlelike building (actually a former tomato-canning factory) on the waterfront has a touch of style in its neat rooms and terraced restaurant, though the carpets are a bit worn. The Vegemite

bar-club seems a bit out of sync with the largely nonbackpacker clientele.

Free camping is possible on a grubby stretch of sand at the Boomerang Bar (below), but the facilities are pretty rough.

Eating & Drinking

Hanimeli (☎ 814 2345; İskele Caddesi; mains €1.10-4.50; ☎ 8am-10pm) Favoured by smaller tour groups at lunchtime, this little brown café serves up breakfast, *mantı* and traditional dishes, and also sells local produce such as olive oil. It's opposite the waterfront west of the centre.

Gül Aile Kebab Salonu (☎ 814 3040; Hanım Meydanı; mains €2-5.50; ☎ 8am-10pm) A typical family-friendly kebab and pide canteen in the middle of the row of shops and cafeterias leading west from the main square.

Maydos Restaurant & Bar (☎ 814 1454; İstiklal Caddesi; mains €2.50-5.50; ☎ 11am-10pm) Out on the waterfront past the Aqua Hotel, the Maydos is popular with tour groups, sporting a fine, vined terrace and a grill-heavy menu.

Boomerang Bar (☎ 814 2144; ☎ 5pm) Apart from the hotel bars, this place at the northern end of town is your only option for a not-so-quiet drink if you can't be bothered with the ferry hop to Çanakkale. It's aimed mainly at thirsty young Antipodeans, and stays open as long as there are customers still standing.

Getting There & Away

Long-distance buses pass through Eceabat on the way from Çanakkale to İstanbul (€12.50, five hours).

The Çanakkale–Eceabat ferries (€0.85, bicycles €2, cars €5.50, 25 minutes) run on the hour every hour from 7am to midnight (every 30 minutes in summer), with four services in each direction between 1am and 6am.

Hourly buses or minibuses run to Gelibolu (€1.70, one hour). In summer there are several dolmuşes daily to the ferry dock at Kabatepe (€1.10, 15 minutes) on the western shore of the peninsula. These can drop you at the Kabatepe Information Centre & Museum, or at the base of the road up to Lone Pine and Chunuk Bair.

Dolmuşes also run down the coast to Kilitbahir (€0.55, 10 minutes).

KİLİTBAHİR

A small ferry from Çanakkale sails to Kilitbahir, the 'Lock on the Sea': a tiny fishing harbour completely dominated by a massive

castle (admission €1.10; ☎ 8.30am-noon & 1.30-6.30pm Wed-Sun) built by Mehmet the Conqueror in 1452 and given a grand seven-storey interior tower a century later by Süleyman the Magnificent. It's well worth a quick look around – and a climb onto the walls if your nerves will stand it. Afterwards, check out the collection of defensive **bunkers** behind it.

There are a few small pensions, tea houses and restaurants here, as well as a row of souvenir stalls for the tour groups, but most people barely pause in Kilitbahir. From the ferry, dolmuşes and taxis run to Eceabat and Gelibolu, and to the Turkish war memorial at Abide, although you may have to wait for them to fill up.

ÇANAKKALE

☎ 0286 / pop 75,900

This sprawling harbour town is the busiest in the Gallipoli region, and is easily the most frequented stopover for groups and individuals visiting the battlefields and memorial sites (for local tour companies, see p190). It's also a good place to hang around in its own right, with a rare concentration of nightlife in its centre, and a sweeping waterfront drag that heaves with activity throughout the summer months.

Çanakkale is the most popular base for visiting the ruins at Troy (see p203), as well as Gallipoli, and has become a very popular destination for weekenders Turks. To have your pick of the hotels you're better off coming midweek.

Orientation

Çanakkale is centred on its harbour, with a PTT booth, ATM machines and public phones right by the docks, and hotels, restaurants, banks and bus offices all within a few hundred metres. The otogar is 1km inland, with a Gima supermarket right beside it. From the otogar, turn left, walk to the first set of traffic lights, and follow the 'Feribot' signs, which will bring you to the town centre and docks.

The dolmuş station for getting to Troy and Güzelyalı is also 1km inland, beneath the bridge over the Sarı (Yellow) River.

Information

Maxi Internet (Fetvane Sokak 51; per hr €0.55; ☎ 10-1am) The best of the many Internet cafés around the centre.

Tourist office (☎ 217 1187; ☎ 8am-noon & 1-7pm Mon-Fri) By the harbour; little information but may have a photocopied map.

Sights

MILITARY MUSEUM

The pretty park in the military zone at the southern end of the quay now houses the **Military Museum** (Askeri Müze; admission €1.70; ☎ 9am-noon & 1.30-5pm Tue-Wed & Fri-Sun) and all sorts of military paraphernalia.

A sea-facing late-Ottoman building contains informative exhibits on the Gallipoli battles and some artfully displayed war relics, including fused bullets that hit each other in mid-air – apparently the chances of this happening are something like 160 million to one, which gives a chilling idea of just how much munition was flying around.

Nearby is a replica of the **minelayer Nusrat**, which played a heroic role in the sea campaign. The day before the Allied fleet tried to force the straits, Allied minesweepers proclaimed the water cleared. At night the *Nusrat* went out and picked up and relaid loose mines. Three Allied ships struck the *Nusrat*'s mines and were sunk or crippled.

Mehmet the Conqueror built the impressive **Çimenlik Kalesi** fortress in 1452. The cannons surrounding the stone walls are leftovers from assorted battles; many were made in French, English and German foundries. Inside are more reminders of Atatürk and some fine paintings of the battles of Gallipoli.

ARCHAEOLOGY MUSEUM

Just over 2km south of the ferry pier on the road to Troy is Çanakkale's **Archaeology Museum** (Arkeoloji Müzesi; admission €1.10; ☎ 9am-5pm Tue-Sun).

The best exhibits here are those from Troy and Assos, although the finds from graves in Dardanos, an ancient town near Çanakkale, are also of interest. Unfortunately the displays look lost in this cavernous, mostly empty building, and could do with some beefing up.

Dolmuşes heading towards İntepe or Güzelyalı from Atatürk Caddesi run past the museum (€0.30).

OTHER ATTRACTIONS

The landmark five-storey Ottoman **clock tower** (*saat kulesi*) near the harbour was built in 1897. Vitalis, an Italian consul and Çanakkale merchant, left 100,000 gold francs to be used for the purpose when he died in France.

At the **Yalı Hamam** (Çarşı Caddesi; ☎ 6am-11.30pm for men, 8am-5pm for women), the full works cost about €8.50.

In Cumhuriyet Bulvarı, the broad main street, stands a **monument** of old WWI cannons. The inscription reads: 'Turkish soldiers used these cannons on 18 March 1915 to ensure the impassability of the Çanakkale Strait'. Nearby is an outsize copy of a Çanakkale pot – a rather kitschy 19th-century style that is slowly gaining popularity. Look for more modestly sized examples in shops around town.

East of the harbour, the waterfront promenade widens out and you're greeted by an impressive, full-sized **Trojan Horse**, as seen in the movie *Troy* (2004), with a model of the ancient city and some information displays beneath it.

Festivals & Events

Every March and April Çanakkale commemorates the great WWI battles of Gallipoli. **Turkish Victory Day** (Çanakkale Deniz Zaferi), when Ottoman cannons and mines succeeded in keeping the Allied fleet from passing through the Dardanelles, is celebrated on 18 March.

Most Australians and New Zealanders choose to visit on **Anzac Day**, 25 April, the anniversary of the Allied landings on the peninsula in 1915. A dawn service near Anzac Cove begins a day of commemorative events. This is when Çanakkale is at its most unbearably overcrowded – see the boxed text, p191. Unless the date has particular personal significance, you would be well advised to pick another date.

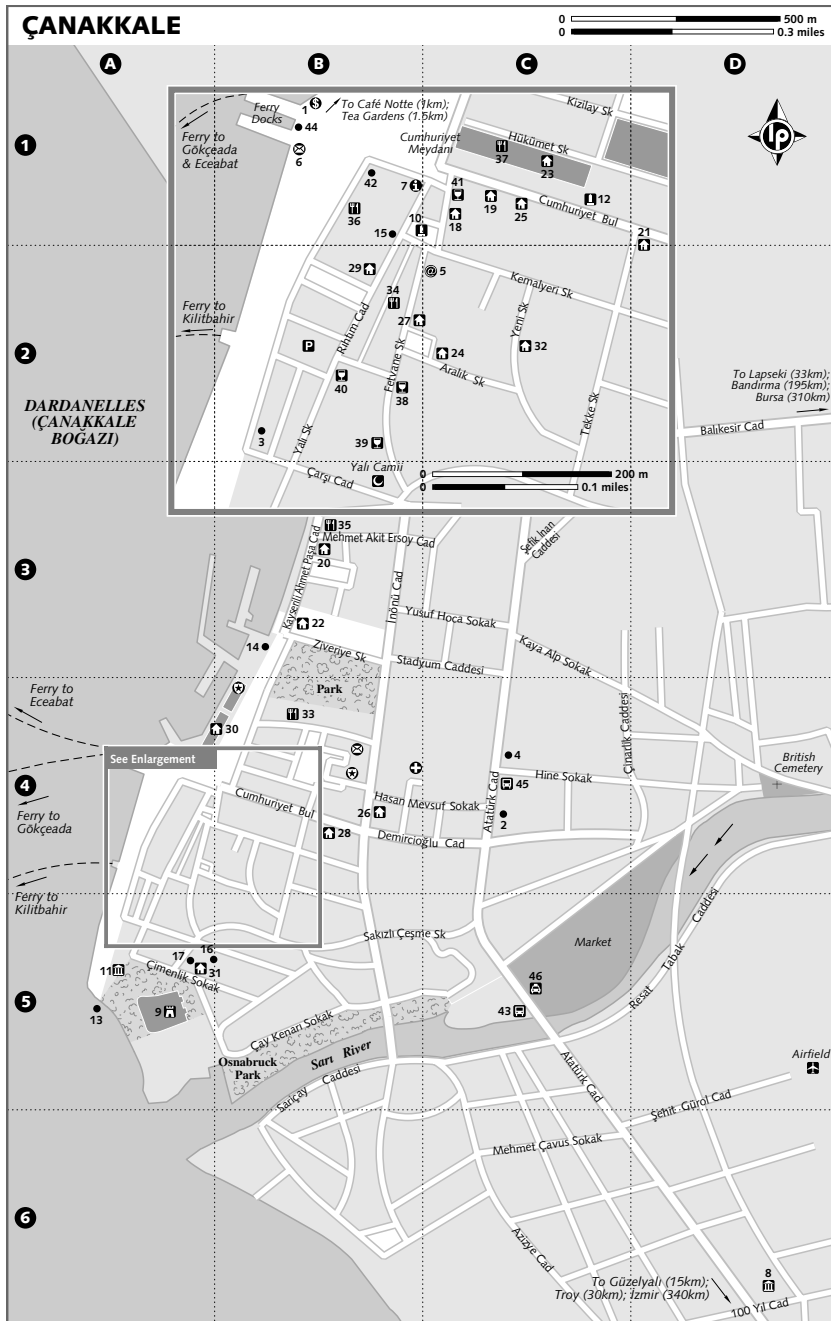
Sleeping

Çanakkale has hotels to suit all pockets, except on Anzac Day, when rip-offs and complaints are rife. If you do intend to be in town around 25 April, check prices carefully in advance.

BUDGET

Anzac House (☎ 213 5969; www.anzachouse.com; Cumhuriyet Bulvarı; dm €5, s/d/tr with shared bathroom €8.50/14/17; ☎) Not to be confused with the smarter Anzac Hotel, Anzac House is the first place most backpackers head for – it's big, cheap and is the base for Hassle Free tours. Unfortunately many of the rooms are little more than cupboards.

Pansiyon Sera Palas (☎ 217 4240; Cimenlik Kalesi Karşısı; s/d €13/26) Skip east from the naval museum to grab one of the four unexpectedly spacious family-run rooms here. The owner is a professional English-speaking tour guide. The showers aren't great, but it's worth the money.



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Hotel Efes (☎ 217 3256; Aralık Sokak 5; s/d €14/20) Behind the clock tower, the Efes is an excellent choice with cheery, rather feminine décor. The larger couples/family rooms are nicer than the dodgily plumbed standard singles, with TVs and even orthopaedic mattresses. The breakfasts are great, and there's a sunny little back garden with a fountain.

Yellow Rose Pension (☎ 217 3343; www.yellowrose4mg.com; Yeni Sokak 5; dm €5.50, s/d/tr €14/22.50/25; ☎) Increasingly popular with travellers, this bright, attractive guesthouse has a quiet location and lots of extras, from laundry and kitchen to book exchange and video library. It's also the local agent for Fez Travel and Trooper Tours.

Hotel İlion (☎ 212 4411; www.hotelilion.com; İnönü Caddesi 151; s/d/tr €23/34/48; ☎) A slim tower block facing towards the peninsula, offering modest two-star standards in simple rooms above a marble lobby.

MIDRANGE

Maydos Hotel (☎ 213 5970; Yalı Caddesi 12; www.maydos.com.tr; s €22.50-34, d €45-68; ☎) The latest venture from the people behind Hassle Free Tours, this brand-new hotel looks a world away from the cramped budget lodgings at the Anzac House, especially in the super-swish minimalist lobby with its stylish seats and plasma-screen TV. At these prices it's quite a bargain.

Anzac Hotel (☎ 217 7777; www.anzachel.com; Saat Kulesi Meydanı 8; s/d €25/35; ☎) It's been a while since its last major renovation but the Anzac's two-star improvements still hold good, and you could hardly get a better central location. There's a wheelchair ramp in the lobby.

Hotel Temizay (☎ 212 8760; Cumhuriyet Meydanı 15; s/d/tr €25/39/50; ☎) It looks posh from the outside, but inside this one-star establishment is nothing more or less than a reasonable, good-value hotel with tiny but shiny bathrooms and some street-facing balconies.

Otel Anafartalar (☎ 217 4454; www.hotelanafartalar.com; İskele Meydanı; s/d €25/40; ☎) A big pink block in a prime location near the ferry docks, the Anafartalar has fine views of the straits if you can bag a front room. It also has a popular waterfront restaurant.

Hotel Artur (☎ 213 2000; www.hotelartur.com; Cumhuriyet Meydanı 28; s/d/tr €25/40/50; ☎) This upper-end hotel has a nicely designed lobby with wireless Internet access and a bar. The spacious modern rooms have sofas as well as the usual amenities, and there's a restaurant downstairs.

Hotel Helen (☎ 212 1818; www.helenhotel.com; Cumhuriyet Meydanı 57; s/d/tr €25/50/65; ☎) Just next to Anzac House, the Helen aims for a sophisticated classical air in the marble lobby, and while the rooms may never launch a thousand ships, they have everything you need for a break on your own personal odyssey.

Çanak Hotel (☎ 214 1582; www.canakhotel.com; Dibek Sokak 1; s/d €28/45; ☎) This is another good tourist-class option tucked just off Cumhuriyet Meydanı, with facilities including roof bar and games room and a skylit atrium connecting the floors. The smart but low-key rooms tick all the right boxes.

TOP END

Büyük Truva Oteli (☎ 217 1024; www.truvahotel.com; Mehmet Akif Ersoy Caddesi 2; s/d/tr €44/54/65, ste €81; ☎) A discreet side entrance takes you into this

AUTHOR'S CHOICE

Hotel Kervansaray (☎ 217 8192; www.hotelkervansaray.org; Fetvane Sokak 13; s/d/tr €25/45/62; 🍷 🍷) Now that it's finally open, Çanakkale's first real boutique hotel is as lovely as you could hope for, laying on plenty of Ottoman touches in keeping with the restored paşa's house it occupies, even in the TV lounge. The rooms have a dash of character without being overdone, and the inviting courtyard and garden really sell the whole package.

elegantly old-fashioned three-star block on the waterfront road. The rooms range from comfy and modern to vaguely period, with some good sea views, and the big front terrace restaurant holds occasional special events.

Hotel Akol (☎ 217 9456; www.hotelakol.com.tr; Kordonboyu; s/d/tr €45/67/89, ste €111; 🍷 🍷 🍷) Also on the main bay road, this balcony-studded grey concrete tower is much easier on the eyes from the inside, where you can catch the straits views and admire the slightly overblown classical-themed lobby. It's mainly used by tour groups, so has plenty of high-capacity facilities to feed and entertain.

Eating

For a quick snack or cheap eat, there are small stalls and shops all over town, and street vendors set up along the waterfront in the evening selling corn on the cob, mussels and other simple items. Several shops on Yalı Caddesi sell *peynirli helva*, a local variety of helva faintly flavoured with cheese. The whole waterfront is lined with licensed restaurants, whose terraces pack out every evening as long as the weather permits.

Köy Evi (Yalı Caddesi 13; dishes €0.85-1.70; 🕒 8am-9pm) Proper home cooking rules in this tiny shop, where you can watch headscarved local women making *mantı*, *börek* (filled pastry) and other dishes before serving them to hungry customers.

Özsüt (☎ 213 3773; Kayserili Ahmet Paşa Caddesi 2/A; cakes from €1.10; 🕒 11am-11.30pm) The austere black-and-white décor of this patisserie chain belies the sheer indulgence of the sweet treats sold within. You'll pay more to eat in, but it's worth it for the extra presentation.

Yemek (☎ 217 0154; Cumhuriyet Meydanı 32; mains €2-8.50; 🕒 24hr) Across the road from Anzac

House, Yemek is a straightforward all-hours outlet for kebab, pide and cafeteria meals, with inside and outside seating for all seasons.

Rihtım Restaurant (☎ 217 1770; Eski Balıkhane Sokak; mains €2.80-7; 🕒 11am-11.30pm) An old favourite in the waterfront restaurant strip south of the harbour, Rihtım, also known as Çekiç, after its owner, has a varied menu of Turkish and Western dishes along with the usual fish and meat.

Café Notte (☎ 214 9111; Kayserili Ahmet Paşa Caddesi 40/1; mains €4-8; 🕒 11am-11.30pm) At the heart of the trendier northern waterfront strip, the 'Night Café' achieves a relaxed but smart bar-bistro feel, with a cosmopolitan menu and some competent cocktails (€3 to €5).

Hünnaphan (☎ 214 2535; Mehmetçik Bulvarı 21; mains €4.50-8.50; 🕒 11am-11.30pm) You don't always have to follow the crowds to get a good meal: set in a purple restored house away from the busy waterfront, this charming restaurant has fantastic ceilings, a beautiful patio garden and two semiprivate balconies for couples to enjoy park views, Turkish or Western dishes and an extensive wine list (bottles €10 to €140). The same firm runs a small hotel in Adatepe, south of Çanakkale.

Drinking & Entertainment

As well as all the waterfront restaurants, Çanakkale has some pleasant tea gardens, most notably those occupying the strategic sunset spots at the southern and northern ends of the quay.

The town also has an unusually busy bar scene, catering for local youth and student crowds, and marauding young Aussies and Kiwis in season. Many venues have regular live music, and most of the liveliest places are clustered around Fetvane Sokak. Lone men may be refused entry, though this won't always apply to tourists. Average opening hours are 9pm to 1am or 2am; any admission charges usually include one drink.

Han Bar (Fetvane Sokak 26; admission €2.80) Upstairs in the old Yalı Han, this is a very popular music venue where the bands may play anything from Turkish rock to the *Ghostbusters* theme tune. The outside gallery also overlooks the equally popular courtyard tea garden.

Hedon (Yalı Caddesi) This big bar-venue attempts a spot of lounge sophistication up front, until you get to the barn-like dance-floor. Admission depends on the night, usu-

ally around €4 when there's a band on. The clientele also varies – on one memorable night the bar had to close early because the entire crowd was underage!

TNT Bar/Hayal Kahvesi (☎ 217 0470; Saat Kulesi Meydanı 6) Facing the clock tower, this dual-identity bar and coffeehouse isn't always overfilled in the evenings, but does offer live music and cold beer.

Depo (☎ 212 6813; Fetvane Sokak 19; admission €2.80) The biggest and rowdiest of the Fetvane venues, open with a warehouse vibe and a fantastic open courtyard full of funky beanbag chairs, Depo favours upfront Western dance tunes.

**Getting There & Away
BUS & DOLMUŞ**

Çanakkale's otogar is 1km east of the ferry docks but you probably won't need to use it as most buses pick up and drop off at the bus company offices near the harbour. If you do need to go there, walk straight inland from the harbour to Atatürk Caddesi and turn left. The otogar is 100m along on the right.

You can buy bus tickets at the otogar or at the bus-company offices. There are regular services to Ankara (€19.50, 10 hours), Ayvalık (€8.50, 3½ hours), Bandırma (€6.10, 2½ hours), Bursa (€11.10, 4½ hours), Edirne (€11.10, 4½ hours), İstanbul (€14, 5½ hours) and İzmir (€14, 5½ hours).

Dolmuşes to Troy (€1.40, 35 minutes) and Güzelyalı (€0.85, 20 minutes) leave from a separate dolmuş station under the bridge over the Sarı River.

To get to Gelibolu (€2.50, one to two hours), take a bus or minibus from the otogar to Lapseki then the ferry across the Dardanelles; alternatively, take the ferry to Eceabat or Kilitbahir and then a minibus. For Lapseki (€1.70, 30 minutes), grab any bus bound for Gönen, Bandırma or Bursa, but make sure you will be allowed to get off at Lapseki.

If you're heading for Çanakkale from İstanbul, the quickest way is to hop on a ferry from Yenikapı then take a bus from Bandırma, rather than trekking out to İstanbul's otogar for the direct buses.

Many travellers opt to come here on tours from İstanbul. Packages usually include transport and guided tours of the battlefields and Troy; you can then either return to İstanbul or arrange to be dropped in İzmir or Selçuk. The typical cost is around €60, including one night's accommodation; see p135.

BOAT

Two car ferries cross the Dardanelles from Çanakkale to the Gallipoli Peninsula. One goes to Kilitbahir, the other to Eceabat. Timetables are posted outside the ferry ticket office by the harbour.

See p192 for information about Çanakkale-Eceabat ferries.

The smaller Çanakkale-Kilitbahir ferry (€0.55, cars €2.80, 15 to 20 minutes) can carry only a few cars.

From Monday to Friday a single daily ferry runs from Çanakkale to Gökçeada (€1.70, cars €10, 2½ hours), leaving at 5pm and returning at 8am. Check times in advance.

**AROUND ÇANAKKALE
Güzelyalı**

Güzelyalı is a tiny resort strung out along a thin strip of sandy beach, southwest of Çanakkale off the road to Troy, and can be a handy standby in high season, when Çanakkale's at its most crowded. The views across the Dardanelles are wonderful because no development is allowed on the site of the Gallipoli National Park.

The focal point of the beach for daytrippers is the **Günü Birlik Alan** picnic area, towards the far end of the road, which has changing-cubicles, showers, toilets, picnic tables, beach umbrellas and a small café. The village of Güzelyalı itself also has a few facilities and a pretty harbour.

SLEEPING & EATING

Sohbet Camping (☎ 0544 466 5897; tents €5) Sohbet is about 1.5km along the track heading south from Güzelyalı. Unfortunately, when you get there you find that the small bay is hemmed in by buildings and loud Turkish pop music is rife.

Tusan Otel (☎ 232 8746; www.tusanhotel.com; s/d €50/75; 🍷 🍷) The four-star Tusan is a collection of low green blocks in a wonderful hillside location amid pine trees and a landscaped garden, just past the Günü Birlik Alan. The rooms have fairly modern décor, TV, minibar and balcony; there's an 'English pub' on site, and the sea is just down the steps at the back.

İda Kale Resort Hotel (☎ 232 8332; www.kaleresort.com; s/d €70/100; 🍷 🍷) Back up the main road, the mock-castle design here is a little laughable, but the massive tiled rooms should snap you out of it, especially the individually

decorated bathrooms and combined pool and sea views. Some rooms offer disabled access. Discount rates may be available at quiet times.

Koşebaşı (☎ 232 8314; dishes from €2.80) A pleasingly rustic tea garden and café opposite Güzelyalı's small mosque.

GETTING THERE & AWAY

Dolmuş head for Güzelyalı from Çanakale at least once an hour (€0.85, 20 minutes).

GÖKÇEADA

☎ 0286 / pop 8900

At the entrance to the Dardanelles, rugged, sparsely populated Gökçeada (also known as Windy Isle) is Turkey's largest island, and one of only two inhabited Aegean islands belonging to Turkey. Its landmass measures roughly 13km from north to south and 30km from east to west, with some surprisingly dramatic scenery packed into that small area.

Originally called İmvros, Gökçeada was once a predominantly Greek island. During WWI it was an important base for the Gallipoli campaign, as Allied commander General Ian Hamilton stationed himself at the village of Aydıncık (formerly Kefalos) on the island's southeast coast. Along with its smaller neighbour Bozcaada (p206), Gökçeada was retained by Turkey but exempted from the population exchange after 1923. However, in the 1950s the Cyprus issue prompted the government to put pressure on local Greeks to leave, and today only a few remain.

Gökçeada's inhabitants mostly earn a living through fishing, farming the narrow belt of fertile land around Gökçeada town, and from tourism. Apart from some semideserted Greek villages, olive groves and pine forests, the island boasts fine beaches and craggy hills. For now it is a rare example of an Aegean island that hasn't been overtaken by mass tourism.

Foreign visitor numbers are clearly picking up, judging by the flurry of new accommodation options, but for the moment most visitors are still well-off İstanbullular or former Greek islanders and their descendants. Public transport is limited to taxis and a couple of bus routes, so if you don't mind a little expense, this is a great place to escape.

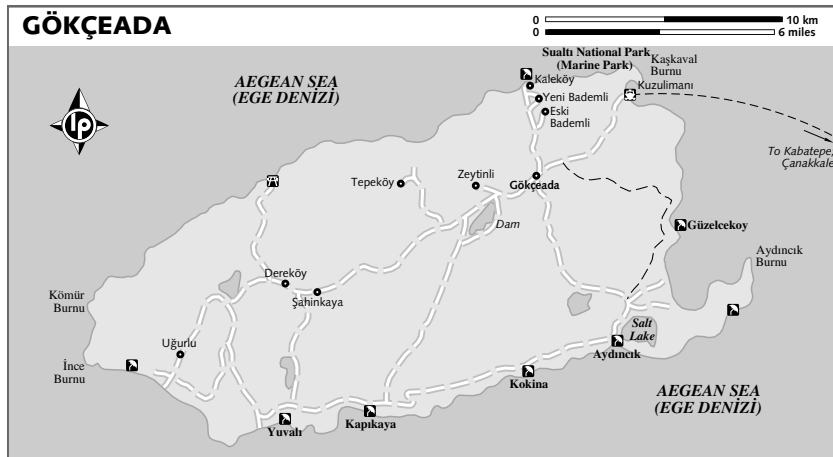
Information

Most facilities, including ATMs, taxis, Internet cafés and a small cinema, are found in Gökçeada town, where 85% of the island's population lives. The island's only petrol station is 2km from the town centre, on the Kuzulimanı road.

There's a **tourist office** (☎ 887 4642; www.gokceada.com; Barbaros Caddesi 56) by the Kaleköy harbour, though it wasn't operating at the time of research.

Sights

Gökçeada town itself is useful but not particularly inspiring, although crumbling remains of the old village hide on the hill behind the main square.



DAIRY TALES

As you approach Kuzulimanı by sea, look out for a spectacular geological feature just south of the harbour, strangely resembling a large stack of cheese. This is Kaşkaval Burnu, also known by locals as Peynir Kayalıkları, or Cheese Rocks.

Naturally there is a legend to go with this quirk of geography, and it's a strange one even by Turkish standards. The story goes that a greedy old lady lived on the coast here with her large herds of sheep and goats, whose milk she used to make vast quantities of cheese. Rather than give any to her poorer neighbours, though, she piled all the cheeses on top of each other, in the hope that this would allow her to reach heaven. Seeing such selfishness, God grew angry and sent a mighty blizzard, which froze both the old woman and her tower of dairy. The frozen cheese, of course, became the rocks you see today.

Presumably the lesson in all this is learn to share, and don't mess with the Big Cheese, or you might experience the wrath of Gouda... After all, who wants to end up as a Roquefort-mation?

Most people head straight for **Kaleköy**, which has a so-so small beach, a hillside old quarter and the remains of an Ottoman-era castle, but its harbour setting has been blotted by a large new resort hotel, and a yacht marina is also due for construction. The coastline between Kuzulimanı and Kaleköy is a **marine national park** (Sualtı Milli Parkı).

There are smaller beach resorts at **Kapıkaya**, **Kokina** and **Yuvah** along the south side of the island, although you'll need your own transport to reach them.

Heading west you'll skirt the Greek villages of **Zeytinli** (3km west of Gökçeada), **Tepeköy** (10km west) and **Dereköy** (15km west), all of them built on hillsides overlooking the island's central valley to avoid pirate raids. Nowadays many of the houses are deserted and falling into disrepair, and the churches are usually locked. However, Tepeköy and Zeytinli are both discovering the benefits of small-scale tourism thanks to a couple of inspired accommodation options, and either village is worth a visit in itself. Tepeköy in particular is absolutely gorgeous, surrounded by the green and grey of the island's scree-covered hills, with views over villages, valleys and lakes to the sea, plus a dash of Greek heritage in its main square and vine-shaded taverna.

The road west runs out at tiny **Uğurlu**, with nothing much to recommend it apart from another small beach.

Festivals & Events

During the **Yumurta Panayırı** (Egg Festival) in the first week of July many former Greek inhabitants, including the current Orthodox Patriarch of İstanbul, return to the island.

Sleeping & Eating

The old-fashioned *ev pansiyonu* (home pension), which has virtually died out elsewhere, is still alive and kicking on Gökçeada, and it's not unusual for locals to approach and offer you a spare room in their house, usually for around €8.50 a head including breakfast. Yeni Bademli in particular seems to be popular for this kind of deal, with virtually every house sporting a *pansiyon* sign!

Note that single rooms are in short supply, especially during the July and August peak season.

GÖKÇEADA

Otel Taşkın (☎ 887 2880; Zeytinli Caddesi 9; s/d/tr €14/23/31) The better of Gökçeada's two central hotels, this new establishment has a blue mosaic exterior and spacious, good-value rooms with TV, balcony and lots of light. The triples could happily sleep four. Add €2.80 per person during high season (15 July to 31 August).

Places to eat include the **Meydan Restaurant** (☎ 887 2393; mains €1.70-8.50), a terraced place decked with international flags off the main square, and **Taylan Aile Lokantası** (☎ 887 2451; Atatürk Caddesi; mains €1.70-6), next to the Pegasus Otel; both have extensive menus of the usual Turkish staples. For snack food, ice cream or desserts the nearby **Meydanı Cafesi** (Atatürk Caddesi) is big and airy, with a jukebox playing to the young crowd.

KALEKÖY

Yakamoz Pansiyon (☎ 887 2057; s/d/tr €17/28/34) Perched on the hill overlooking the harbour in Yukarı Kaleköy (Upper Kaleköy), this

multiterraced pension has a pleasant terrace restaurant.

Gökçe Motel (☎ 887 2726; s/d €14/28) At the foot of the hill, just before the harbour, this quirky site is less a motel than a collection of neat little huts around a garden, with solar power, bright linen and a small kitchen.

Kale Motel (☎ 887 4404; www.kalemotel.com; Barbaros Caddesi 34; r €11-70; 🍷) Arguably the best of the half-dozen hotel-restaurants that line Kaleköy harbour, though there's no need to rule the others out. Plus points here include a range of rooms, cool marble corridors and broad shared balconies. Prices drop considerably out of season.

Gökçeada Resort Hotel (☎ 887 4040; www.gokceadaresorthotel.com; Barbaros Caddesi 16; s/d/tr half board €50/67/89; 🍷 📺 🚰) Not the most sensitively designed island resort ever, but if you set store by facilities then there's nowhere else this side of the mainland that can offer gym, sauna, hairdresser, games room, basketball court and roof bar.

ZEYTİNLİ

Zeydali Hotel (☎ 887 3233; www.zeydalihotel.com; s/d €42/70, Jul & Aug €49/84; 🍷) A cobbled street winds up through Zeytinli to this delightfully stylish hotel inside a restored stone building and with its own restaurant on the ground floor. Rooms are imaginatively decorated in a style that mixes old and new. The hotel closes in winter, when only around 80 people remain in the village.

TEPEKÖY

Barba Yorgo Pension (☎ 887 4247; www.barbayorgo.com; s/d €17/34; 🍷 mid-Apr–mid-Sep) Rather than a formal pension, this is actually a group of lovely restored houses overlooking the valley, with wood floors, sparrows in the rafters and a glowering mountain right out back just

begging for a morning scramble. Advance reservation can be advisable, especially during August, as it's a long way back if you arrive to find it full.

The same owners also run the village taverna, a very friendly monopoly. Dishes cost around €1.70 to €14, including plenty of mezes and fresh fish; be sure to try the easy-drinking local wines.

Getting There & Away

There are two boat services to Gökçeada: one from Kabatepe on the northern side of the Dardanelles, the other from Çanakkale on the southern side. The summer timetable is fairly reliable, but high winds in winter can prevent boats sailing for up to 10 days at a time.

From Monday to Friday a ferry runs from Çanakkale to Gökçeada (€1.70, cars €10, 2½ hours), leaving at 5pm and returning at 8am.

More frequent daily ferries (€1.40, cars €8.50, 1¼hr) leave from Kabatepe to Gökçeada at 11am and 6pm, returning to Kabatepe at 7am and 4pm. Tickets are also valid for the Eceabat–Çanakkale ferry, so you don't have to pay again to cross the straits.

Getting Around

Ferries dock at Kuzulimanı, where dolmuşes should be waiting to drive you 6km to Gökçeada town (€0.85, 15 minutes), or straight through to Kaleköy, 5km further north (€1.70, 30 minutes). A bus service runs between Kaleköy, Gökçeada and Kuzulimanı roughly every two hours, though it doesn't always stick to the timetable.

Otherwise, the island is tricky to get around without your own transport. Taxis in Gökçeada charge around €2.80 to Kaleköy or Zeytinli, €5.50 to Tepeköy and €12 all the way to Uğurlu.