

**National Trust of Australia**



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### **Our Heritage at Gallipoli – ACT National Trust to tour the battlefields again**

The ACT National Trust is again planning a tour to Gallipoli to explore our history and heritage which is intrinsically connected to the 1915 conflicts on the Peninsula.

The Trust's Heritage Officer, Dr Peter Dowling, said today, "One of our major purposes is to foster public knowledge about places that are significant to the heritage of all Australians.

"One way of doing this is to look outside of the confines of the ACT and even the confines of Australia to places where we can find our historic and cultural roots. The tour is for both members of the Trust Australia wide and for non-members who wish to come along."

"Early this year we took a group to explore the history and archaeology of Greece – among the many places we visited, ten were listed as World Heritage Sites. The tour visited the Australian War graves on Crete and learnt about the tragic involvement of Australian men and women in the Second World War battles for Greece. During a tour to Egypt last year another National Trust group explored the ancient civilisations along the Nile and then took time out to visit the battle sites of El Alamein where our troops also fought the German army."

The tour beginning in March 2008 will travel through Western Turkey to explore the history of Western and Eastern cultures from the Stone Age period right through to the early Christian and Islamic periods.

This tour will feature a comprehensive visit of the battlefields of Gallipoli, taking in the major sites but also going to battle sites few Australians get to when they visit. During a five-day stay at Gallipoli the tour leaders will discuss both the Turkish and Australian sides of the battles right where they occurred.

Dr Dowling said that by visiting these sites on the other side of the world we can better understand our own diverse cultural backgrounds and in turn better understand and appreciate the heritage places that we see everyday when we are at home.

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