

Thrace & Marmara



You could almost call this Turkey's forgotten corner. Despite its easy access to İstanbul, the northwest is not a very common stop on the tourist circuit. Of course there are reasons for this, well, oversight.

Thrace (Trakya), the Roman province shared with Greece and Bulgaria and the country's only foothold in Europe, covers just a fraction of the nation's total land mass and is Turkey at its most Balkan, without the well-known draws of the south and east. Marmara, the Asian mainland around the eponymous sea, may be just a hop, skip and a jump from İstanbul but it's built-up and heavily industrialised along its southern shores. And there really aren't any big cities here with 'household' names.

Ah, but the things you'll miss if you don't make it here. Thrace has an embarrassment of Ottoman architecture, with mosques and civic buildings equal to those in the capital. It can also boast Turkey's finest rakı (aniseed barndy), the world's oldest sporting event after the Olympic Games and delightfully unspoiled fishing villages on its Black Sea coast. Marmara, meanwhile, is littered with beaches, claims one of Turkey's two inhabited Aegean islands and, in the west, where it straddles the Dardanelles, preserves the memory of one of WWI's fiercest and most costly battles on the Gallipoli Peninsula.

What's more, you don't even have to go through İstanbul to see the sights. Northwest Turkey is an easy gateway to and from Greece and Eastern Europe via Bulgaria (not to mention Aegean Turkey). If you've just arrived overland from elsewhere in Europe, this is the perfect introduction to Turkey and the Turks.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Marvel at the floating dome in master architect Mimar Sinan's masterpiece, the **Selimiye Camii** (p169) in Edirne
- Get down and slippery at the annual oil wrestling festival in late June at the **Kırkpınar** (p172) near Edirne
- Walk through the blood-soaked past and peaceful present of the **Gallipoli battlefields** (p178)
- Enjoy the rugged landscape and the eerily out-of-time Greek atmosphere of some villages on the remote island of **Gökçeada** (p192)
- Cool off in the gin-clear waters of the Black Sea at the delightfully unspoiled fishing village of **Kıyıköy** (p194)



South of the centre, two graceful Ottoman bridges lead across the Tunca and Meriç Rivers to a cluster of inviting restaurants. To the northeast, another Ottoman bridge leads to Sarayıçi and the Kırkpınar stadium, where the annual oil-wrestling contests are held (p172).

Information

Araz Döviz (Ali Paşa Bazaar, Talat Paşa Caddesi; ☎ 9am-7pm Mon-Sat) Changes cash and travellers cheques; you'll find a half-dozen commercial banks opposite.

Aşkin Net (Orhaniye Caddesi; per hr TL1; ☎ 8am-2am) Internet access in Kaleiçi.

Post office (PTT; Saraçlar Caddesi)

Tourist office (☎ 213 9208; Talat Paşa Caddesi; ☎ 9am-6pm) Very helpful, with English-language brochures and city map.

Sights

SELİMİYE CAMİİ

Edirne's grandest house of worship, the **Selimiye Mosque** (1569-75), was designed by the great Ottoman architect Mimar Sinan (p111) for Sultan Selim II (r 1566-74). The mosque is smaller but more elegant than Sinan's Süleymaniye Camii in İstanbul, and it is said that the master considered this to be his finest work.

Enter the mosque though the courtyard to the west, as the architect intended, rather than through the terraced park and the subterranean row of shops to the south. The complex lit up at night is a spectacular sight.

The broad, lofty dome – at 31.3m marginally wider than that of İstanbul's Aya Sofya – is supported by eight unobtrusive 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, the light from which brings out the colourful calligraphic decorations of the interior.

The delicately carved marble *mimber* (pulpit) with its conical roof of İznik tiles and the *şadırvan* (ablutions fountain) beneath the central prayer-reader's platform are particularly exquisite. The best views of the interior are from the mezzanine-level *mahfel* (gallery).

Part of the Selimiye's striking effect comes from its four 71m-high minarets, which Sinan fluted to emphasise their height. Each tower also has three *şerefes* (balconies), Sinan's respectful nod, perhaps, to his predecessor, the architect of the Üç Şerefeli Cami (right).

A *medrese* (seminary) in the southeast corner of the complex houses the **Turkish & Islamic Arts Museum** (Türk İslam Eserleri Müzesi; ☎ 225 1120; admission TL3; ☎ 8am-5pm Tue-Sun), whose 15 rooms and central courtyard contain a variety of stone inscriptions and early Ottoman artefacts, plus displays on oil wrestling and dervishes.

EDİRNE ARCHAEOLOGY & ETHNOGRAPHY MUSEUM

This **museum** (Edirne Arkeoloji ve Etnografya Müzesi; ☎ 225 1120; admission TL5; ☎ 9am-noon & 1-5pm Tue-Sun) east of the Selimiye Camii faces a garden of janissary gravestones. The museum grounds contain all kinds of jars, sculptures, a dolmen, menhirs (standing stones) and a Roman family tomb from the 2nd century AD. Inside, the displays focus on local history and traditional products (p174), embroidery, textiles, calligraphy and coffee ware. There are several reconstructions of rooms in old houses, including bridal and circumcision rooms. The archaeological section runs from prehistory through to the classical period of Hadrianopolis and displays finds from recent digs around the Macedonian Tower (p171) and the rich Taşlıcabayır tumulus near Kırklareli to the east. The terracotta sarcophagi (6th century BC) from Enez (Aenus) in southwest Thrace are exquisite.

EDİRNE URBAN HISTORY MUSEUM

Housed in the restored Hafızağa Mansion, a particularly fine 19th-century Ottoman villa, this small **museum** (Edirne Kent Tarihi Müzesi; ☎ 214 4026; Arif Paşa Caddesi; admission TL2; ☎ 8.30am-noon & 1-6pm) has poster displays on Edirne's historic buildings, old maps and postcards. As there are no English captions, it's not an essential stop, but the house itself is lovely and offers great views onto the west side of the Selimiye Mosque. There's a great shop selling traditional Edirne products here.

ÜÇ ŞEREFELİ CAMİ

The **Three-Balcony Mosque**, with its four strikingly different minarets, dominates Hürriyet Meydanı. The name refers to the three balconies on the tallest minaret. The second highest has only two.

It was built between 1438 and 1447 in a design halfway between the Seljuk Turkish-style mosques of Konya and Bursa and the truly Ottoman style, which would later

reach its pinnacle 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 massive hexagonal pillars. The covered courtyard, with its central *şadırvan*, was another innovation that came to be standard.

Across the street from the mosque is the atmospheric **Sokollu Mehmet Paşa Hamam** (wash & massage TL20; ☎ 8am–10pm for men, 10am–6pm for women), designed by Mimar Sinan for Grand Vizier Sokollu Mehmet Paşa in the 16th century.

MAKEDONYA KULESİ

Southwest of the hamam stands the restored **Macedonian Tower**, part of the city fortifications dating back to Roman times. Around its base, excavations carried out in 2002 and 2003 have uncovered parts of the old city wall, a necropolis and the remains of a Byzantine church. Artefacts and smaller finds, including the Cemetery Stele with three figures and an angel, can be seen in the Edirne Archaeology and Ethnography Museum (p169).

ESKİ CAMİ

West of Hürriyet Meydanı is the **Old Mosque** (1403–14), which 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 *mimber* and striking red, white and black geometric patterns on the dome; huge calligraphic inscriptions cover the walls. The columns at the front of the mosque were recycled from a Roman building.

KALEİÇİ

The Kaleiçi area, framed by Saraçlar Caddesi, Talat Paşa Caddesi, the railway line and the Tunca River, was the original medieval town, with narrow streets laid out on a grid plan. Exploring at will is easy, but you could start by walking south from the tourist office along Maarif Caddesi, which takes you past some fine examples of ornate wooden houses with attractive Edirnekâri woodwork and finishes at Edirne's derelict **Great Synagogue** (Büyük Sinagog; 1906). Cumhuriyet Caddesi, running perpendicular to Maarif Caddesi, is another interesting street.

MURADIYE CAMİİ

A 15-minute walk northeast of the Selimiye Mosque along Mimar Sinan Caddesi brings you to the **Muradiye Mosque**, built for Sultan Murat II and topped with an unusual cupola. Note the massive calligraphy on the exterior. Built between 1426 and 1436, it once housed a Mevlevi whirling dervish lodge. The mosque's T-shaped plan, with twin *eyvans* (domed side chambers) and fine İznik tiles, is reminiscent of Ottoman work in Bursa.

The small cemetery on the east side contains the grave of Şeyhülislâm 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.

SULTAN II BAYEZİD KÜLLİYESİ

This **mosque complex** was built by the Ottoman architect Hayreddin for Sultan Bayezid II (r 1481–1512) between 1484 and 1488. Today it stands in splendid isolation to the north of Edirne. In style, the mosque lies midway between the Üç Şerefeli and Selimiye models: its large prayer hall has one large dome, similar to the Selimiye, but it also has a courtyard and fountain, like the earlier Üç Şerefeli. The interior has a rough, almost unfinished feel to it.

The complex is extensive and includes a *tabhane* (travellers hostel), bakery, *imaret* (soup kitchen), *timarhane* (asylum), *medrese* and *darüşşifa* (hospital). The last two, to the west of the mosque, have been converted into the innovative and award-winning **Museum of Health** (Sağlık Müzesi; ☎ 212 0922; www.trakya.edu.tr/kulliyiye; admission TL10; ☎ 9am–7pm).

The seminary consists of a dozen rooms on three sides of a courtyard and traces medical education under the Ottomans, with recreated classrooms, students' quarters, a library and surgical operations in progress. The first two courtyards of the hospital, traditionally reserved for outpatients and the hospital administration, have 10 rooms examining in great detail aspects of Ottoman medicine – from pharmaceuticals to gynaecological disorders. The best part is the hexagonal structure at the end called the *şifahane* (healing room) where resident patients stayed. The winter and summer rooms are filled with mock-ups of patients with various maladies (psychosis, neurosis, depression, epilepsy etc) being treated in surprisingly 'New Age' ways: soothing music, water bubbling from a central fountain, aromatherapy and, yes, even

SLIP-SLIDING AWAY IN EDİRNE

One of the world's oldest and most bizarre sporting events, in which muscular men naked except for a pair of heavy leather shorts coat themselves with olive oil and throw each other, takes place annually in late June/early July at Sarayı in northern Edirne. It's called the **Tarihi Kırkpınar Yağlı Güreş Festivali** (Historic Kırkpınar Oil Wrestling Festival).

The origins of this oleaginous contest go back almost six-and-a-half centuries to the early days of the Ottoman Empire. Before the conquest of Edirne in 1361, sultan Orhan Gazi sent his brother Süleyman Paşa with 40 men to conquer the Byzantine fortress at Domuz in Rumelia, the part of the Ottoman Empire in Europe. The two-score soldiers were all keen wrestlers and after their victory challenged each other to bouts. 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. The site was given the name Kırkpınar, or '40 Springs', in the wrestlers' honour.

The original Kırkpınar is now the village of Samona just over the border in Greece; the annual three-day contest has been held here since the birth of the republic. Wrestlers, who are classed not by weight but by height, age and experience, compete in 13 categories – from *minik* (toddler) to *baş* (first class) – with dozens of matches taking place simultaneously in the large Sarayı stadium. Bouts are now capped at 30 or 40 minutes, after which they enter 'sudden death' one fall-wins overtime. When all the fights are decided, prizes are awarded for gentlemanly conduct and best entry technique, as well as the coveted and hotly contested *başpehlivan* (head wrestler) title.

For more information visit **Kırkpınar Evi** (Kırkpınar House; ☎ 212 8622; www.kirkpinar.com; 🕒 10am-noon & 2-6pm) with displays in Edirne or check out its website. For better videos and links, visit www.turkishwrestling.com.

basket-weaving and what looks suspiciously like macramé.

Approach the complex via the Ottoman **Yalnızgöz Köprüsü** (Lone Eye Bridge; 1570) crossing the Tunca River.

SARAYIÇI

The **Inner Palace** 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 (above).

Near the modern stadium, which is flanked by uberbutch *başpehlivan* (champions) in bronze, 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 square columns: on the Seng-i Hürmet (Stone of Respect) to the right people would place petitions to the sultan, while the Seng-i İbret (Stone of Warning) on the left displayed the heads of high-court officers who had managed to dis the sultan.

Behind the Justice Hall is the small **Fatih Köprüsü** (Conqueror Bridge; 1452). Cross it and on your right you'll see a sombre **Balkan Wars memorial** and graves. Straight ahead and to the left are the scattered ruins of **Edirne Sarayı**

(Edirne Palace). Begun by Sultan Bayezid II in 1450, this palace once rivalled İstanbul's Topkapı Palace in size and luxury, though you'd be hard-pressed even to visualise the palace nowadays.

To get here walk north along Hükümet Caddesi and cross the Tunca River via the **Saray Köprüsü** (Palace Bridge; 1560). Alternatively, it's a scenic 1km walk along the river embankment from the Sultan Bayezid II complex.

SOUTH OF THE CENTRE

To reach the quiet south from the busy town centre, simply follow Saraçlar Caddesi under the railway line and cross the **Tunca Köprüsü**, an Ottoman stone humpback bridge dating to 1615, and the much newer **Meriç Köprüsü** (1847). The area around the 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 River, which offer perfect sunset river vistas and great views of the illuminated Selimiye Camii.

Sleeping

Most of Edirne's budget and midrange hotels are along Maarif Caddesi running parallel to Saraçlar Caddesi.

BUDGET

Hotel Aksaray (☎ 212 6035; fax 225 6806; Alipaşa Ortakapı Caddesi; s/d/tr without bathroom TL30/55/70, s/d/tr/q TL35/65/80/100; 🚻) The cheapest option in town, the 'White Palace' has 12 basic rooms in a charmingly decrepit old building, and bathroom cubicles rammed into impossibly small spaces. The ceiling fresco in ground-floor room 103 is an unexpected bonus.

Saray Hotel (☎ 212 1457; www.edirnesarayhotel.com in Turkish; Eski İstanbul Caddesi 28; s/d/tr TL35/60/75; 🚻 📺) It may look like a smart business-class option from the outside, but inside this place is nothing more than a modern and very clean 44-room budget hotel. It's a bit away from the action.

Otel Açıköz (☎ 213 1944; www.acikgoz.com in Turkish; Tüfekçiler Çarşısı 54; s/d/tr TL40/60/80; 🚻 📺) One of two hotels run by the 'Open Eye', a company specialising in bathrooms and kitchens, enjoys a quiet location in Kaleiçi. The 35 rooms are bare-bones but clean.

Tuna Hotel (☎ 214 3340; fax 214 33 23; Maarif Caddesi 17; s/d/tr/q TL50/70/90/100; 🚻 📺) This 18-room hotel at the quieter southern end of Maarif Caddesi is an excellent choice for the price. Room 106 overlooks a neat little courtyard and a back annexe with triples and quads.

MIDRANGE

Park Hotel (☎ 225 4610; parkotel@superonline.com; Maarif Caddesi 7; s/d/tr/ste €40/57/75/100; 🚻 📺) There's nothing spectacular about the Park's 60 rooms, but the facilities go a long way to make it an attractive option, with a restaurant and café-bar and a big lounge with bright Picasso prints and a fireplace.

Efe Hotel (☎ 213 6166; www.efehotel.com; Maarif Caddesi 13; s/d TL85/125; 🚻 📺) A personal favourite, the Efe is a very stylish place, especially the lobby, which is filled with antiques and curios. The 22 rooms, especially the second-floor doubles, are big and bright and have fridges and even electric kettles. The hotel's flashy English Pub opens from September to May.

Hotel Rüstempaşa Kervansaray (☎ 212 6119; kervansarayhotel@mynet.com; İki Kapılı Han Caddesi 57; s/d/tr €47/85/110; 🚻 📺) Just south of the Eski Cami, this *han* (caravanserai) was built for Süleyman the Magnificent's grand vizier Rüstempaşa in about 1550 and turned into a hotel in 1972. Its inner courtyard offers a romantic setting for breakfast but the 75 guestrooms, though of a good size, are distinctly underwhelming and airless. Reach them via 21 narrow stone steps.

TOP END

Our pick Selimiye Taşodalar (☎ 212 3529; www.tasodalar.com; Taşodalar Sokak 3; r €80-135, ste €200; 🚻 🚻 📺) Edirne's first boutique hotel, the 'Stone Rooms' could not be in a choicer spot: a series of rebuilt Ottoman-era cells in a garden overlooking Selimiye Mosque and the ruined Sultan Selim Saray Hamam. The nine rooms, whose prices are negotiable, are of different sizes and each bears the name of a sultan. The decor might be a little too Ottoman for some tastes and the plastic flowers and factory-made carpets are naff, but the rooms are bright and airy, the furniture of lovely Turkish cedar and the welcome warm. Choose double room 106 or family room 108, both of which face the mosque. The hotel has an in-house restaurant and a pleasant outdoor tea garden.

Eating**RESTAURANTS**

There's a wide assortment of eateries along Saraçlar Caddesi. The riverside restaurants south of the centre are more atmospheric, but most open only in summer and are often booked solid at weekends for wedding and circumcision parties.

The city's dish of choice is *Edirne çiğeri*, thinly sliced calf's liver deep-fried and eaten with crispy fried red chillies and yoghurt.

Özge Pastanesi (☎ 212 2333; Murat Turgu Caddesi; dishes from TL2) Upstairs seating and a good selection of cakes and fast food have kept the Özge's popularity up. It's right behind the main PTT.

Melek Anne (☎ 213 3263; Maarif Caddesi 18; dishes from TL2; ☎ 8am-8pm) A whitewashed old house provides the setting for 'Mama Angel's' good home cooking including *mantı* (Turkish ravioli; TL4.50) and *gözleme* (savoury pancake). There's a vegetarian menu.

Zindanaltı Meyhanesi (☎ 212 2149; Saraçlar Caddesi 127; dishes from TL4; ☎ 10am-midnight) A three-storey *meyhane* (tavern) with above-average mezes and grills (eg *pirzola*, or flattened lamb chop, TL8). The rooftop seating and 'seaside' fountain are worth the climb.

Niyazi Usta (☎ 213 3372; Alipaşa Ortakapı Caddesi 5; dishes from TL6; ☎ 11am-9.30pm) If you're ready to try Edirne-style calf's liver, this bright, modern and spotlessly clean eatery opposite the Hotel Aksaray is the place. The pictures on the walls show the chef meeting with the crew from CNN Türkiye.

Lalezar (☎ 213 0600; Karaağaç Yolu; mains TL8-15; ☎ 11am-11pm) The best riverside option in Karaağaç, Lalezar has a bilingual menu offering *güveç* (stew cooked in an earthenware pot), grills and fish. The grounds are a delight, and some choice tables are set on raised platforms among the trees

Drinking & Entertainment

Tunca Café (☎ 212 4816; Hurriyet Meydanı; ☎ 8am-midnight) This very leafy tea garden is set around a duck pond facing Zübeyde Hanım Kadın Kalkları Parkı, a 'Women's Rights Park' named after Atatürk's mother.

Café Pena (☎ 225 6969; Alipaşa Ortakapı Caddesi 6; ☎ 9.30am-midnight) This modern-style café in a restored wooden building next to the Hotel Aksaray serves a full menu of fancy coffees and attracts a lively, young crowd. Need a friend? Come here.

London Café (☎ 213 8052; Saraçlar Caddesi 74; ☎ 9am-midnight) This unexpected pleasure palace on two floors serves non-Turkish staples such as pasta and sandwiches but its *raison d'être* is the dispensing of booze.

Balkon (☎ 214 9454; Karaağaç Yolu 22; ☎ 6pm-3am) This ambitious two-storey bar-club with live music nightly and a huge covered balcony is the best of a string of drinking spots on the spit of land between the Tunca and Meriç Bridges known as Bülbül Adası (Nightingale Island). Love the leopard-skin bar stools.

Shopping

The atmospheric **Ali Paşa Covered Bazaar** off Saraçlar Caddesi was designed by Mimar Sinan in 1569, while the **Bedesten**, across the road from the Eski Cami, dates from 1418. Each morning the merchants in the **Selimiye Arastası** (Selimiye Arcade), also known as Kavaflar Arastası (Cobblers' Arcade) below Selimiye Mosque, promise to do business honestly.

Traditional Edirne souvenirs include fruit-shaped soaps (*meyve sabunu*) scented with attar of roses, and marzipan (*badem ezmesi*). Buy the former at **Edmis** (☎ 214 12 71; Arif Paşa Caddesi), a shop next to the Edirne Urban History Museum, and the latter at the branch of **Keçecizade** (☎ 212 1261; Saraçlar Caddesi 50) across from the post office. You'll also find these as well as *aynalı süpürge*, miniature brooms decorated with mirrors and embroidery, and given to young girls for their dowry, at the gift shop of the Edirne Urban History Museum.

Getting There & Around

BUS & DOLMUŞ

Edirne's otogar is 9km east of the centre on the access road to the TEM. There are frequent buses for İstanbul (TL20, 2½ hours) and at least five daily buses to Çanakkale (TL25, four hours). City bus 5 (TL0.50) and frequent minibuses (TL0.50) run to the otogar from in front of the tourist office on Talat Paşa Caddesi.

If you're heading for the Bulgarian border crossing at Kapıkule, catch a dolmuş (minibus; TL5, 25 minutes) from opposite the tourist office on Talat Paşa Caddesi.

Pazarkule, the nearest Greek border post, is 13km south of Edirne, but there are no 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 (TL20, 10 to 15 minutes).

For more information on all Bulgarian and Greek border crossings in this area, see p678.

CAR

The old highway D100 runs east from Edirne across the rolling, steppe-like terrain of eastern Thrace, following the ancient Via Ignatia, which once linked Rome with Constantinople. However, the E80 (or TEM) offers a far quicker route to İstanbul, and is used by most of the bus companies. The toll from Edirne to İstanbul is under TL10.

You can hire a car from **Turizm Rent A Car** (☎ 214 8478, 0535-724 8440; www.turizmrentacar.com; Talat Paşa Caddesi 32). Prices start at around TL60 per day (TL50 a day for more than a week) for a small sedan.

TRAIN

Edirne train station is 4km southeast of the Eski Cami. Bus 3 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 TL10.

The *Edirne Ekspresi* connects Edirne and İstanbul (TL13), leaving Edirne at 7.30am and returning from Sirkeci station at 3.50pm. It makes 31 stops and takes five hours. There's a second return journey from Edirne at 4.05pm. The *Bosfor Ekspresi* to Sofia and Bucharest passes through Edirne at 2.35am.

UZUNKÖPRÜ

☎ 0284 / pop 39,100

About 63km southeast of Edirne on the E87/D550, the farming town of Uzunköprü (Long

Bridge) sits on the banks of the Ergene River. Amazingly, the 1392m-long Ottoman bridge (1426–43), after which the town is named, is still standing with all of its 174 arches intact. It remains the town's main access road from the north, an impressive feat after nearly six centuries of continuous use. If approaching from the south, you'll find it at the end of Hayrabolu Caddesi.

GETTING THERE & AWAY

Uzunköprü is the border crossing on the rail 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 (TL11.50, four hours). The station is 4km north of town – get a bus to Edirne (TL5, one hour) from the station by the bridge to drop you off, or take a taxi for TL7.

TEKİRDAĞ

☎ 0282 / pop 134,000

Famous both for its grapes – used to produce some decent wines and even better raki (p176) – and cherries, Tekirdağ is perched in the hills above an attractive bay on the northern shore of the Sea of Marmara. Since most travellers pass through on their way to or from Greece, Tekirdağ is often no more than a pit stop. That's a shame, as the city once known as Rodosto has interesting architecture, including some lovely wooden *yalı* (seafront mansions), excellent museums and unusual mosques. And you certainly won't go hungry here; Tekirdağ boasts its very own spicy variety of *köfte* (meatballs).

Sights

The **waterfront** is the city's focal point, with a long promenade running round the bay and punctuated by cafés, restaurants, parks, playgrounds and a small **tourist office** (☎ 261 1698; ☎ 9am–6pm Mon–Fri year-round, 10am–7pm Sat & Sun Jun–Sep).

One of the most unusual museums in Turkey, the **Rakoczi Museum** (Rakoczi Müzesi; ☎ 263 8577; Macar Sokak 21 & Barbaros Caddesi 32; admission TL2; ☎ 9am–noon & 1–5pm Tue–Sun) is devoted to the life and times of Transylvanian Prince Ferenc (Francis) II Rákóczi (1676–1735), the courageous leader of the first Hungarian uprising against the Habsburgs between 1703 and 1711. Forced into exile, Rákóczi eventually turned up in Turkey and was given asylum by Sultan

Ahmet III; he settled in Tekirdağ in 1720 and lived here until his death. In 1906 the prince's remains were returned to Kassa in Hungary (now Košice in Slovakia), along with the interior fittings from the house. Between 1981 and 1982, however, these were painstakingly reproduced and put on display in a surprisingly informative museum that is something of a pilgrimage site for visiting Magyars. The 10 rooms on three floors contain portraits, weapons, contemporary kitchen equipment and ceramics and even an 18th-century Turkish-style toilet. The finest room is the 2nd-floor reception, with stained-glass windows, walls painted with Hungarian folk motifs and a chair made by the good prince himself. Worth seeing are the lovely watercolours of old Tekirdağ by Aladar Edivi Illes (1870–1958) on the 1st floor. To get here, walk west along the waterfront for about 1km until you see the large wooden Namık Kemal Kütüphanesi (library) above you to the right. The museum is up the small slope on the left.

From the Rakoczi Museum, walk east along Barbaros Caddesi, which counts a number of ramshackle wooden mansions facing the sea, until you come to the **Tekirdağ Museum** (☎ 261 2082; Barbaros Caddesi 1; admission TL3; ☎ 9am–5pm Tue–Sun), housed in a fine late-Ottoman building. Here you can see the finds from several local tumuli (burial mounds) and from a site at Perinthos (Marmara Ereğlisi). The most striking exhibits are the marble chairs and the table set with bronze bowls from the Naip tumulus dating to the early 5th century BC; and a wonderful pottery brazier in the form of a mother goddess from the Taptepe tumulus (4300 BC). Most interesting are the poignant inscriptions from a number of Roman grave-stones translated into English. Read them and weep; they are timeless.

Further east and downhill, past the early-Ottoman **Eski Cami** at No 17 and the brown stone **Orta Camii** (1855) at No 3, you'll find the gingerbread-like wooden **Namık Kemal House** (Namık Kemal Evi; Namık Kemal Caddesi 9; admission free; ☎ 9.30am–5pm Mon–Sat), a small ethnographical museum dedicated to Tekirdağ's most famous son, who was born nearby. A nationalist poet, journalist and social reformer, Kemal (1840–88) had a strong influence on Atatürk, who called him 'the father of my ideas'. The two-storey house is beautifully restored; don't miss the music room, the kitchen with its Turkish utensils, and the beautiful coffered ceilings.

THREE CHEERS FOR RAKI

The unofficial national drink of Turkey is raki (pronounced 'rah-kuh'), an aniseed-flavoured distillation not unlike French pastis. Like the latter, it is drunk with lashings of ice and water. But unlike the French tippie, which is an appetiser, raki is often consumed with food. Turkey is the world's third-largest producer of grapes, a high percentage of which are grown around Tekirdağ. About a third of these grapes are consumed fresh but much of the rest goes into the making of raki. It's a long and very complicated process, involving fresh grapes or well-preserved raisins that are mashed, shredded, mixed with water and steamed. Anise is then added and the product goes through a double-distillation process. After that it is watered down to an alcoholic strength of about 45% and aged for between 60 and 75 days. The most common brand is Yeni Raki (New Raki) but arguably the best is Tekirdağ Rakısı, said to have a very distinctive flavour because of the artesian water it uses from Çorlu, a town to the northeast of Tekirdağ. Turks drink what they call *aslan sütü* (or 'lion's milk', possibly because of the milky-white it turns when water is added) with anything, but it's best with cold meze, white cheese and melon, and with fish.

To get back to the waterfront, cross over to Mimar Sinan Caddesi and head downhill past the small, square **Rüstem Paşa Külliyesi** (Mimar Sinan Caddesi 19) on the right, designed in 1546 by the great Mimar Sinan. At the bottom of the hill there's a **statue** commemorating another famous Tekirdağan, the great oil wrestler Hüseyin Pehlivan (1908–82).

Festivals & Events

The red-letter event of the year here is the **Kiraz Festivali** (Cherry Festival), a week-long orgy in mid-June of cherry-gobbling and judging as well as music concerts and oil-wrestling matches.

Sleeping & Eating

Golden Yat Hotel (☎ 261 1054; www.goldenyat.com, in Turkish; Yali Caddesi 42; s/d/ste TL65/120/170; 🚿 📺) Not remotely yacht-like, this 54-room hotel has had a major facelift in recent years and is now *the* place to stay by the harbour. Upper floors are brighter and have balconies; room 403 is a corker and you won't forget the views from the eyrie-like 5th-floor breakfast room in a hurry.

Rodosto Hotel (☎ 263 3701; www.rodostohotel.com, in Turkish; İskele Caddesi 34; s TL45-70, d/ste TL100/150; 🚿 📺) The 30-room Rodosto, the only other accommodation on the waterfront, seems to have been left in the wake of its upgraded neighbour. Rooms are tired and in need of a refit, especially the boxy 'economy' single (TL45). At the other end of the scale, two 'suites' (large guestrooms, really) come with jacuzzis.

Buses to Greece often pause for lunch in Tekirdağ, pulling up at the row of *köfte* res-

taurants opposite the promenade serving the celebrated *Tekirdağ köftesi*, a spicy version of the ubiquitous meatball eaten with rice and peppers. Head for **Meşhur Köfteci Ali Usta** (☎ 261 1621; Yali Caddesi; dishes from TL4; 🕒 8am-midnight), the 'Famous Master Ali Köfte Restaurant', which has been at it since 1966. Another option is the **Liman Lokantası** (☎ 261 4984; Yali Caddesi 38; mains TL5-12; 🕒 8am-midnight), which also has a terrace café opposite on the harbour.

Getting There & Away

Buses for İstanbul (TL10, two hours), Edirne (TL10, two hours), Eceabat (TL20, three hours) and Çanakkale (TL25, 3½ hours) drop off and pick up along the waterfront.

GELİBOLU

☎ 0286 / pop 31, 200

The pretty little harbour town of Gelibolu is not the same as Gallipoli. It's just the largest town on the peninsula and happens to have the same name, though it is almost 50km from the main battlefield sites. If you do fall victim to such confusion and get off at the wrong stop, you'll find Gelibolu to be a very pleasant stop. Hotels, restaurants, a post office, banks and internet cafés – just about everything you'll need – are clustered around the harbour, which is also where the ferry to Lapseki across the Dardanelles docks.

Sights

On the entrance road into town is the award-winning **Gallipoli War Museum** (Gelibolu Savaş Müzesi; ☎ 566 1272; www.gelibolusavasmuzesi.com, in Turkish; Sahil Yolu; TL2.50; 🕒 9.30am-7pm Tue-Sun), which, though it lacks any English-language signage, gets top

marks for presentation; artefacts – weapons, mess kits, spent shells, fob watches, Bovril jars – are before, above and even below you under glass. Unlike most such collections, most of the 7000-odd pieces come from just one area of the peninsula.

The **Piri Reis Museum** (☎ 566 1011; donation requested; ☎ 8.30am-noon & 1-5pm Fri-Wed) is housed in a stone tower overlooking the harbour walls, all that is left of the Greek settlement of Callipolis, which gave the present town and peninsula their name. The museum honours the swashbuckling admiral and cartographer Piri Reis (1470–1554), whose statue stands in the harbour on the way to the ferry pier. He is celebrated for his *Kitab-i-Bahriye* (Book of the Sea), which contains detailed information on navigation and very accurate charts of ports in the Mediterranean. But 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.

The road from the museum veers uphill, passing several military buildings. After about 800m you'll come to the pretty shrine of **Ahmed-i Bican Efendi**, above the road in a minipark to the left. Across the road is the much grander tomb of **Mehmed-i Bican Efendi**, author of a commentary on the Quran called the *Muhammadiye*.

Return to the south road and walk to the landmark **Hallac-ı Mansur Türbesi**, which looks more like a mosque than a tomb. Just before it, turn right onto Fener Yolu (Lighthouse St) and begin walking out to the headland, the site of what was once the 14th-century **Gelibolu Fort**. A short distance on the left you'll see flag-draped steps leading down to the **Bayraklı Baba Türbesi** (Flag Father Tomb). It contains the mortal remains of one Karaca Bey, 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 asked where the flag was; he told them but they refused to believe him. Karaca duly split open his stomach to prove his actions and a legend was born. The 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, about 50m west of the tea garden, is the unusual **Azebler Namazgah**, a vaguely Mogul-looking outdoor

mosque built in 1407 complete with white marble *mihrab* (niche indicating the direction of Mecca) and *mimber*. On the beach below the headland is the small outdoor **Deniz Kuvvetleri Kulturpark** (Sea Forces Culture Park) full of spent torpedoes, mines and even a tiny submarine.

Return to the main road and continue downhill; on the left a tall modern bell tower marks a **French Cemetery** from the Crimean War (1853–56), what the French call the *Guerre d'Orient*, which also houses an ossuary containing the bones of 11 Senegalese soldiers who died in the Gallipoli campaign and were buried here between 1919 and 1923. Next door is the **Saruca Paşa Türbesi**, the tomb of a late 14th-century Ottoman military hero. The road continues down to **Hamzakoy**, the resort part of town, which has a thin strip of rough sandy beach.

Sleeping

Yılmaz Hotel (☎ 566 1256; fax 566 3598; Liman Mevki 8; s/d TL25/50) The 20-room Yılmaz is convenient and friendly, if not the smartest or quietest place in town, and rates may be negotiable.

Oya Hotel (☎ 566 0392; fax 566 4863; Mıralay Şefik Aker Caddesi 7; s/TL30, d TL50-60, tr TL70) This is a better and even more central choice than Yılmaz, with something of a nautical theme. All rooms have digital TV and some have small bathtubs.

Otel Hamzakoy (☎ 566 8080; www.hamzakoy.8m.com, in Turkish; s/d TL50/70; ☎) This pink-tinged block overlooking the bay about a kilometre north of the centre is Gelibolu's premier resort hotel. The 50 rooms are full of light and are spacious, with modern furnishings and balconies. There is a licensed restaurant on site and a café-bar right on the beach just opposite.

Eating

Have dinner at one of the harbourside restaurants, where you can tuck into local *sardalya* (sardines) cooked in a clay dish. One of the most reliable places is **İlhan Restaurant** (☎ 566 1124; Balikhane Sokak 2; mains TL7-15; ☎ 10am-midnight) right on the pier, with both sea and harbour views. The menu is also that bit more adventurous, with such delicacies as small-scaled scorpion fish. Yum.

Getting There & Away

The otogar is 500m southwest of the harbour on Kore Kahramanları Caddesi, the main road to Eceabat, and served by buses to İstanbul (TL27, 4½ hours) and Edirne (TL20,

three hours). You can pick up minibuses to Eceabat (TL5, 35 minutes) and Çanakkale (TL7, one hour via Lapseki) from here or beside the harbour.

The Gelibolu–Lapseki ferry (TL2, bicycles and scooters TL5, cars TL23, 30 minutes) runs every hour on the hour in either direction between 9am and midnight, with six departures each way between 1am and 8am.

GALLIPOLI (GELIBOLU) PENINSULA

☎ 0286

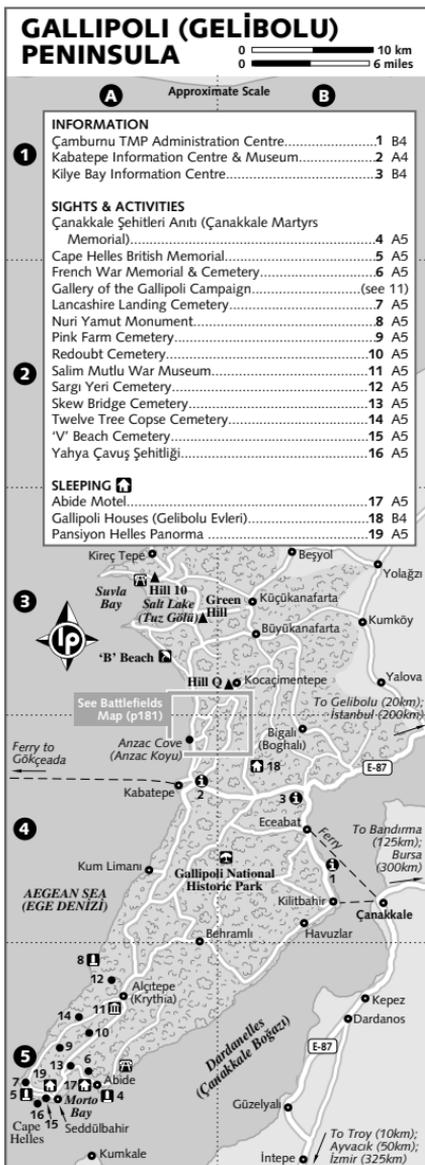
For a millennium the slender peninsula that forms the northwestern side of the Dardanelles strait across the water from Çanakkale has been the key to İstanbul: any navy that could break through the strait had a good chance of capturing the capital of the Eastern European world. Many fleets have tried to force open the strait, but most, including the mighty Allied fleet mustered in WWI, have failed.

Antipodeans and many Britons won't need an introduction to Gallipoli; it is the backbone of the 'Anzac legend' in which an Allied campaign in 1915 to knock Turkey out of the war and open a relief route to Russia turned into one of the greatest fiascos of WWI. By the end of the campaign 130,000 men were dead, a third from Allied forces and the rest Turkish.

Today the Gallipoli battlefields are peaceful places, covered in brush and pine forests. But the battles fought here nearly a century ago are still alive in many memories, both Turkish and foreign, especially Australians and New Zealanders, who view the peninsula as a place of pilgrimage. The Turkish officer responsible for the defence of Gallipoli was none other than Mustafa Kemal – the future Atatürk – and his victory is commemorated in Turkey on 18 March. The big draw for foreigners, though, is Anzac Day (25 April), when a dawn service marks the anniversary of the Allied landings, attracting ever-increasing numbers of travellers from Down Under and beyond (p185).

The most convenient base for visiting the Gallipoli battlefields is Eceabat on the western shore of the Dardanelles, although Çanakkale, on the eastern shore, has a wider range of accommodation and restaurants and more vibrant nightlife. Despite its name, Gelibolu, 42km northeast of Eceabat, is not really an option.

The southern third of the peninsula is given over to a national park. Even if you're not well



up on the history, it's still worth visiting for the rugged natural beauty of the area.

History

Not even 1500 metres wide at its narrowest point, the Strait of Çanakkale (Çanakkale Boğazi), better known as the Dardanelles or the Hellespont in English, has always

offered the best opportunity for travellers – and armies – to cross between Europe and Asia Minor.

King Xerxes I of Persia forded the strait with a bridge of boats in 481 BC, as did Alexander the Great a century and a half later. In Byzantine times it was the first line of defence for Constantinople, but by 1402 the strait was under the control of Sultan Bayezid I, which allowed 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, Great Britain and France competed with Russia for influence over this strategic sea passage.

In a bid to seize the Ottoman capital, then First Lord of the Admiralty Winston Churchill organised a naval assault on the strait early in 1915. In March a strong Franco-British fleet tried to force them without success. 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, devastating one another. After nine months of ferocious combat but little headway gain, the Allied forces withdrew.

The outcome 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.

A relatively minor officer, Kemal had managed to guess the Allied battle plan correctly when his commanders did not, and he stalled the invasion in spite of bitter fighting that wiped out his regiment (p184). Although suffering from malaria, Kemal commanded in full view of his troops throughout the campaign, miraculously escaping 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, of which 130,000 were deaths. The British Empire saw the loss of some 36,000 lives, including 8700 Australians

and 2700 New Zealanders. French casualties of 47,000 made up over half the entire French contingent; 8800 Frenchmen died. Half the 500,000 Ottoman troops became casualties, with almost 86,700 killed. 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.

Orientation

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 three dozen Allied war cemeteries in the national park, with about another 20 Turkish ones. The principal battles took place on its western shore, near Anzac Cove and Ariburnu, and in the hills just east. Anzac Cove is about 12km northwest of Eceabat and 19km from Kilitbahir. If time is tight or you’re touring by public transport, head for Anzac Cove and Ariburnu first.

Information

KILYE BAY INFORMATION CENTRE

Opened in 2005, this **centre** (Kilye Koyu Ana Tanıtım Merkezi; Map p178; admission free, parking TL3; ☎ 9am–noon & 1–5pm) is the main information point for all visitors to the battlefields but focuses on assisting Turkish travellers. The complex includes the information centre, several exhibition areas, a cinema, library and café. It’s about 2km north of Eceabat, some 100m off the İstanbul highway.

KABATEPE INFORMATION CENTRE & MUSEUM

This older **centre** (Kabatepe Müzesi ve Tanıtma Merkezi; Map p178), roughly 1km east of the village of Kabatepe, contains a small museum with old blood-stained uniforms, rusty weapons, cartridge cases all welded together 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. Another soldier wrote rather timelessly to his mother: ‘You are proud to have

given birth to four soldiers... I have enough money. I don't want underwear.'

Be aware that during the winter of 2007–08, damage to the centre's roof forced the information centre and collection to move to the **Çamburnu TMP Administration Centre** (Çamburnu TMP İdari Merkezi; Map p178; ☎ 814 1128; adult/student TL2.50/1; ☎ 8am–7pm), about 1.5km south of Eceabat. It might still be there when you visit; make sure to phone ahead.

The excellent bilingual (and most historically accurate) reference is *Gallipoli Battlefield Guide* (Çanakkale Muharebe Alanları Gezi Rehberi; TL25) by Gürsel Göncü and Şahin Doğan, available at certain bookshops in Çanakkale and Eceabat. Also worthwhile is *Gallipoli: A Battlefield Guide* by Australians Pam Cupper and Phil Taylor. The very detailed *Gallipoli Peninsula National Historic Park Guide Map* (Gelibolu Yarımadası Tarihi Milli Parkı Kılavuz Harita; TL5) can be bought at the park information centres.

You can also find plenty of history and practical information on the internet, including the **Visit Gallipoli** (www.anzacsite.gov.au) and **Gallipoli Association** (www.gallipoli-association.org) websites. While Peter Weir's 1981 film *Gallipoli* is an easy way to get an overview of the campaign, more factual is the documentary *Gallipoli* (Gelibolu; 2005) by Tolga Örnek. The documentary *Gallipoli: The Fatal Shore* (1987) by Harvey Broadbent is now quite dated, but it includes invaluable footage of interviews with veterans of the campaign. Most hotels and guest houses in Çanakkale and Eceabat screen at least one of these every night.

Tours

Many people visit Gallipoli on a guided tour, which is the best way to see a lot in a short amount of time. Also, the usually very well-informed guides can explain the battles as you go along, answer question and even help you locate a specific gravesites. The five- or six-hour tour includes transport by car or minibus, guide, picnic lunch and a swim from a beach on the western shore.

The best agencies in Çanakkale and Eceabat are listed here:

Crowded House Tours (☎ 814 1565, 0535-416 6473; www.crowdedhousegallipoli.com; TL50) Based at the Hotel Crowded House in Eceabat; afternoon tours led by the indefatigable Bülent 'Bill' Korkmaz (p183) are among the most informative and popular on the peninsula. You can combine a battleship tour with a morning of snorkelling

(TL25, including transportation and equipment) in Suvla Bay, north of Anzac Cove, where there are more than 200 shipwrecks from the campaign.

Hassle Free Travel Agency (☎ 213 5969; www.hasslefreeout.com; TL45-55) Operates tours out of the Anzac House Hostel (p189) in Çanakkale, with a branch in Eceabat (☎ 814 2431; Yahya Çavuş Sokak 3a). Hassle Free also runs tours out of Istanbul to Gallipoli for €89, inclusive of one night's stay at Anzac House before visiting the ruins at Troy and either travelling on to Selçuk or Kuşadası and back to Istanbul. Visiting the battlefields straight after a five-hour bus ride can be exhausting; it might be better to take the tour from Çanakkale.

TJs Tours (☎ 814 3121; www.anzaccgallipolitours.com; TL45) Based at TJs Hotel (p186) in Eceabat, this agency comes highly recommended from readers. İlhami 'TJ' Gezici 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 €130.

Trooper Tours (☎ 217 3343; www.troopertours.com; TL55) Run by Fez Travel, the people behind the Fez Bus and based at the Yellow Rose Pension (p190) in Çanakkale, this outfit also has tours of Troy for TL50, including transport and entrance fee.

Battlefield Sites

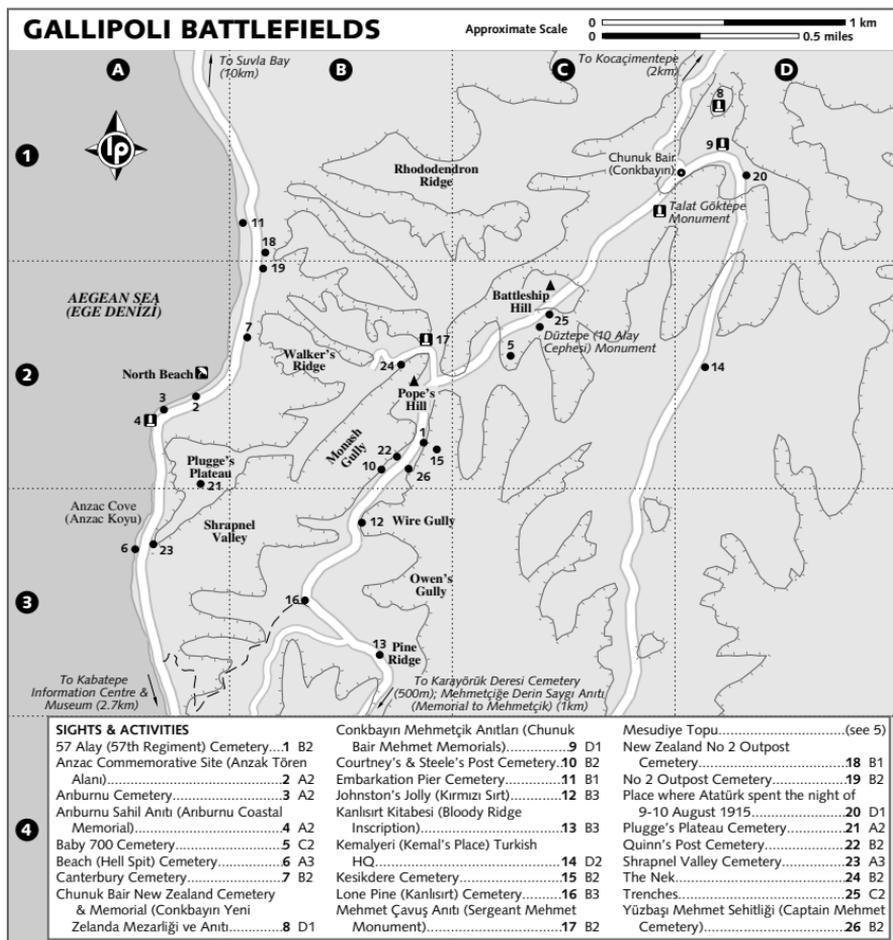
Gallipoli National Historic Park (Gelibolu Yarımadası Tarihi Milli Parkı) encompasses 33,000 hectares of the peninsula and all of the significant battle sites. There are several different signage systems in use: normal Turkish highway signs; national park administration ones; and wooden signs posted 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 Gallipoli Battlefields map.

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.

Kabatepe Village (Kabatepe Köyü)

The small harbour here (Map p178) was probably the object of the Allied landing on 25 April 1915. In the predawn dark it is 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, café and dock for ferries that go to the island of Gökçeada (p192).

The road uphill to Lone Pine (Kanlısirt) and Chunuk Bair begins 750m northwest of the Kabatepe Information Centre and Museum (see p179). Anzac Cove is another three kilometres or so to the north.

Anzac Cove (Anzak Koyu)

Heading northwest from the information centre, it's 3km to **Beach (Hell Spit) Cemetery** (Map p181). Almost opposite, a dirt track cuts inland to **Shrapnel Valley Cemetery** and, further north, to **Plugges's Plateau Cemetery**.

Following the coastal road for another 400m from the turn-off will take you 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 at first gained some ground but later in the day 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 of the same year a major offensive was staged in an attempt to advance beyond the beach up to the ridges of Chunuk

Bair and Sari Bair. It resulted in the battles at Lone Pine and The Nek, the bloodiest of the campaign, but little progress was made.

Another 300m along is the **Arburnu Sahil Anıtı** (Arburnu Coastal Memorial), a very moving Turkish monument with Atatürk's famous words of peace and reconciliation spoken in 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 having lost their lives in this land, they have become our sons as well.

Just beyond the memorial is **Arburnu Cemetery** and, 750m further north, **Canterbury Cemetery**. Between them is the **Anzac Commemorative Site**, where dawn services are held on Anzac Day. Look up and you can easily make out the image in the sandy cliff face nicknamed the Sphinx by young 'diggers' (Aussie infantrymen) who had arrived from Australia via Egypt.

Less than 1km further along the seaside road on the right-hand side are the cemeteries at **No 2 Outpost**, set back inland from the road, and **New Zealand No 2 Outpost**. The **Embarkation Pier Cemetery** is 200m beyond the New Zealand No 2 Outpost on the left.

Lone Pine (Kanlısirt)

Return to the Kabatepe Information Centre and Museum and follow the signs just under 3km up the hill for **Lone Pine** (Kanlısirt; Map p181), perhaps the most moving of all the Anzac cemeteries. It's another 3km uphill to the New Zealand Memorial at Chunuk Bair.

The first monument, **Mehmetçiğe Derin Saygı Anıtı**, on the right-hand side of the road about 1km from the junction, is dedicated to 'Mehmetçik' (Little Mehmet), the Turkish 'tommy' or 'digger'. Another 1200m brings you to the **Kanlısirt Kitabesi** (Bloody Ridge Inscription), 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 afternoon of 6 August. Within just a few days of the assault, 4000 men died here. The trees that shaded the cemetery were swept away by a 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. Today reforestation is once again under way.

The tombstones carry touching epitaphs and the cemetery includes the grave of the youngest soldier to die here, a boy of just 14. The remains of trenches can be seen just behind the parking area.

Johnston's Jolly to Quinn's Post

Progressing up the hill from Lone Pine, the ferocity of the battles becomes much more apparent; at some points the trenches are only a few metres apart. The order to attack meant certain death to those who followed it, and virtually all did as they were ordered on both sides.

At **Johnston's Jolly** (Kırmızı Sirt; Map p181), 200m on the right beyond Lone Pine, at **Courtney's & Steele's Post**, another 300m along, and especially at **Quinn's Post**, 100m uphill, the trenches were separated only by the width of the modern road. On the eastern side, almost opposite Quinn's Post, is the **Yüzbaşı Mehmet Şehitliği** (Captain Mehmet Cemetery).

57 Alay (57th Regiment) Cemetery

Just over 1km uphill from Lone Pine on the eastern side of the road is 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. The **cemetery** (Map p181) has a surprising amount of religious symbolism for a Turkish army site, as historically the republican army has been steadfastly secular. The statue of an old man showing his granddaughter the battle sites is that of 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 **Kesikdere Cemetery** contains the remains of another 1115 Turkish soldiers from the 57th and other regiments.

Sergeant Mehmet Monument (Mehmet Çavuş Anıtı) & The Nek

About 100m uphill past the 57th Regiment Cemetery, a road goes west to the **Sergeant Mehmet Monument** (Mehmet Çavuş Anıtı; Map p181), dedicated to the Turkish sergeant who fought with rocks and his fists after he ran

BÜLENT 'BILL' YILMAZ KORKMAZ

How's things in Oz? I don't know. I've never been to Australia. In fact, I've never been outside Turkey.

But, your accent... I've been working as a tour guide on the peninsula for a dozen years. I'd say 90% of the visitors are from Australia and New Zealand. I guess the accent comes with the territory.

Fair dinkum, so your people are fully appraised of the Anzac legend then. Oh, sure. They've learned all about the Gallipoli campaign in school and are usually well informed. I'd say more than 80% have a very good idea of what's what.

Ever get any know-it-alls? That's not a problem but the British army sometimes sends over groups of historians or medical people or logisticians for three or four days. That's intensive and they can ask some pretty difficult questions.

Is it difficult escorting the former enemy around? I like giving both sides of the story and I think they like hearing it. With a military group, though, I'll take the Turkish side.

Are there any battlefields or cemeteries that people are particularly keen to visit or spots that especially move them? The Australians want to see Lone Pine and, of course, Anzac Cove. The New Zealanders are keen to get to Chunuk Bair. Everyone knows about The Nek – it's the last part of the *Gallipoli* movie. And everyone seems moved by Atatürk's message of reconciliation on the Ariburnu monument.

Has all this time hoofing around battlefields affected the way you view war and peace? When I'm exploring on my own time, I think a lot about a whole generation of young men who were lost simply because a bunch of politicians said go and fight.

On your own time? War and peace, love and marriage... Sounds like you're married to your job. I guess I am. In winter you'll find me roaming the peninsula, following old maps, exploring trenches, reading headstones. And I'm getting married this summer but we've had to postpone the honeymoon till the end of the year.

Which – let me guess – will be somewhere along the Somme, right? It hasn't been decided but one thing's for sure – the place won't include any war sites.

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out of ammunition, and **The Nek**. It was here on the morning of 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 were cut down before they reached the enemy line, an episode immortalised in Peter Weir's film *Gallipoli*.

Baby 700 Cemetery & Mesudiye Topu

About 300m uphill on the right from the access road to The Nek is the **Baby 700 Cemetery** (Map p181) 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 & Talat Göktepe Monuments

Another 1.5km uphill brings you to a monument (Map p181) marking the spot where the Ottoman 10th Regiment held the line. The views of the strait and the surrounding

countryside are superb. About 1km further along from Düztepe is a monument (Map p181) to a more recent casualty of Gallipoli: Talat Göktepe, chief director of the Çanakkale Forestry District, who died fighting the devastating forest fire of 1994.

Chunuk Bair (Conkbayırı)

At the top of the hill, 600m past the Talat Göktepe Monument, is a T-intersection. A right turn takes you east to the **Suyatağı Anıtı** (Watercourse Monument; Map p181) 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. Further south is **Kemalyeri**, 'Kemal's Place' at Scrubby Knoll, his command post, and the road back to the Kabatepe Information Centre and Museum.

A left turn leads to **Chunuk Bair** (Map p181), the first objective of the Allied landing in April 1915, and now the site of the **New Zealand**

Cemetery and Memorial on the western side of the road

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 Anzac forces 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 that blasted wasteland, when bullets, bombs and shrapnel mowed down men as the fighting went on day and night. 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'.

To the east a side road leads to the Turkish **Chunuk Bair Mehmet Memorials** (Conkbayırı Mehmetçik Anıtları) (Map p181), five giant tablets with Turkish inscriptions describing the battle.

SOUTHERN PENINSULA

Fewer people visit the sites of the **southern peninsula** (Map p178), which makes it a good place to come to escape the traffic and tour groups, at least during the low season.

From Kabatepe it's about 12km to the village of **Alçıtepe**, formerly known as Krithia. Close to the village's main intersection is the privately run **Salim Mutlu War Museum** (admission free; ☎ 8am-5pm), which houses shells, camp equipment and other finds from the northern and southern battlefields. Nearby, the much more ambitious **Gallery of the Gallipoli Campaign** (admission TL2; ☎ 8am-noon & 1.30-5pm) takes a more illustrative approach to events; its 12 rooms are filled with mock-ups, dioramas and sound effects. In the village, signs point southwest to the **Twelve Tree Copse** and **Pink Farm Cemeteries**, and north to the Turkish **Sargı Yeri Cemetery** with its enormous statue of 'Mehmet' and the solid **Nuri Yamut Monument**.

Heading south, the road passes the **Redoubt Cemetery** on the right. About 5.5km south of

Alçıtepe, just after the **Skew Bridge Cemetery**, the road divides, the right fork heading for the village of Seddülbahir and several Allied memorials. **Seddülbahir**, around 2km from the intersection, is a sleepy farming village with a few pensions, a post office and the ruins of an Ottoman/Byzantine fortress overlooking a small harbour.

Follow the signs for the **Yahya Çavuş Şehitliği** (Sergeant Yahya Cemetery) to reach the **Cape Helles British Memorial**, 1km beyond Seddülbahir. The initial Allied attack was two-pronged, with the southern landing at the tip of the peninsula on 'V' Beach. Sergeant Yahya was the Turkish officer who led the first resistance to the Allied landing on 25 April 1915, causing heavy casualties. **'V' Beach Cemetery** is visible a half-kilometre downhill. The **Lancashire Landing Cemetery** is off to the northwest of the Cape Helles British Memorial.

From the Cape Helles British Memorial return to where the road divides and then head east following signs for Abide or Çanakkale Şehitleri Anıtı (Çanakkale Martyrs Memorial) at Morto Bay. Along the way you'll pass the **French War Memorial and 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.

The **Çanakkale Şehitleri Anıtı** (Çanakkale Martyrs Memorial), also known as the 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.

Sleeping

There are some excellent accommodation options inside the park itself, including some well-equipped camp sites. But most are around Seddülbahir and can be tricky to get to without your own transport.

Pansiyon Helles Panorama (☎ 862 0035; www.hellespanorama.com; s/d without bathroom TL30/60) Just west of the centre of Seddülbahir, this welcoming guesthouse has seven rooms and a

GALLIPOLI UNDER THREAT

It's a world away from the early 1980s in Gallipoli when Australian film director Peter Weir spent two days scampering over the hills of the peninsula and saw not a living soul. The numbers of visitors have grown by leaps and bounds since then and they're not just foreigners. Since 2004, when 81 students from the 81 provinces in Turkey made the patriotic pilgrimage to where national hero Mustafa Kemal led their nation to victory, *belediye* (town and city councils) from Edirne to Van have been sending their citizens in by the busload. According to Turkish official sources, domestic visitors numbered two million in 2007, up from between 400,000 and 500,000 five years before.

This increased popularity has made site conservation of the national park here particularly 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 bus and coach traffic has become extremely heavy, particularly around the most-visited Turkish cemeteries and monuments. Supposed 'improvements' such as car parks and road-widening schemes have caused considerable damage to some areas, most shockingly at Anzac Cove. The beach there is now little more than a narrow strip of sand.

Still, nothing compares with the crowds that turn up at the dawn Anzac Day memorial service, one of the most popular events in Turkey for foreign visitors and almost a rite of passage for young Australians in particular. In 2005 more than 20,000 people came to mark the 90th anniversary of the Gallipoli landings, overwhelming the peninsula's modest infrastructure. Since then totals have been between 7000 and 10,000 people, including such high-ranking officials as the defence minister of Australia, and New Zealand's foreign minister. Traffic reaches all-day jam proportions the day before, and some people coming in from as close as Çanakkale don't always make it in time.

In 2008 a Victoria University academic made the 'blasphemous' suggestion that Australians stop swamping the peninsula on Anzac Day and mark the occasion on their own shores instead. Indeed, it's easier to appreciate Gallipoli's poignancy and 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. Perhaps the only way to save Gallipoli is to do the 'unpatriotic' thing and stay away, at least on 25 April.

lovely garden. The 'panorama' part of the name refers to the view of the dramatic Çanakkale Şehitleri Anıtı (opposite). Some rooms have mansard ceilings.

Abide Motel (☎ 862 0010; s/d full board TL55/110) This reasonably priced establishment is in a great location at Morto – or Corpse – Bay, northwest of Seddülbahir near the Abide monument and the French Cemetery. The food is highly rated, and the owner, who worked for years at an American military base in the eastern part of the country, speaks excellent English.

our pick Gallipoli Houses (Gelibolu Evleri; ☎ 814 2650; www.gallipoli.com.tr; Kocadere Köyü; s/d half-board €65/80; ☒ ☑ ☐ ♿) As welcome an addition to the park as reinforcements on 25 April 1915 is this newly built guest house, with three rooms in the main stone house and seven more in equally attractive annexes. The rooms are stylishly decorated and fully equipped, with fridges and coffee- and tea-making fa-

cilities. The food is innovative and copious (four courses is the norm at dinner), and the wine served are from the region. We love the views of the battlefields and sights (Chunuk Bair, Kemalyeri) as well as the stars from the rooftop terrace. The Belgian owner is a history buff and can answer just about any question you may have on the campaign.

Getting There & Around

With your own transport, you can easily tour the battlefields to the north in a day. Trying to do both the northern and southern parts of the peninsula is possible, provided you get an early start. Touring by public transport is tricky; *dolmuş* serve only a few sites and villages. The most important group of monuments and cemeteries, from Lone Pine uphill to Chunuk Bair in the northern peninsula, can be toured on foot.

Ferries run from Çanakkale on the east-ern side of the Dardanelles to Eceabat

and Kilitbahir on the peninsula; see p191 for details.

Taxi drivers in Eceabat will run you around the main sites for around TL100, but they take only two to 2½ hours and few of them speak English well enough to provide a decent commentary. An organised tour (p180) is probably a better idea.

ECEBAT

☎ 0286 / pop 5500

Just over the Dardanelles strait from Çanakkale, Eceabat (Maydos) is a small, easy-going waterfront town with the best access to the main Gallipoli battlefields of any main centre. It's especially attractive to those who don't fancy the hustle and bustle of Çanakkale. Ferries dock by the main square, Cumhuriyet Meydanı, which has hotels, restaurants, ATMs, post office, bus company offices, and dolmuş and taxi stands.

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

Sleeping

Hotel Boss I (☎ 814 1464; www.heyboss.com; Cumhuriyet Meydanı 14; s/d/tr TL20/40/60; 🚻) A small, narrow budget hotel right on the main square, this 12-room place with a clapboard facade is as cheap and basic as you'll find in Eceabat. Opt for a corner room or one facing the water (eg room 1) to get a bit more space. Only some rooms are air-conditioned.

Hotel Boss II (☎ 814 2311; Mehmet Akif Sokak 48; 🚻) Charges the same rates as but is bigger than Hotel Boss I, with more accommodation options, including dormitory beds (TL15) and some pleasant wooden bungalows. It's a 15-minute walk southwest from the town centre.

TJs Hotel (☎ 814 2458; www.anzaccgallipolitours.com; Cumhuriyet Meydanı 2a; dm/s/d TL15/50/70; 🚻 📺) Making the most of its commanding central position, what was until recently known as the Eceabat Hotel has rooms to suit every budget, from the basic hostel bunk rooms on the 2nd floor to the smarter hotel rooms with air-con balconies on the 3rd and 4th floors. The roof bar with its Ottoman-style decor and regular live events is fabulous.

Aqua Boss Hotel (☎ 814 2864; www.heyboss.com; İstiklal Caddesi; s/d/tr/q TL45/70/105/120; 🚻 📺) The third part of the Boss trinity, this cavernous,

castle-like building (once a tomato-canning factory – note the glass jars used as lamps) on the waterfront has a touch of quirky style in its 40 rooms and terraced restaurant, though the headache-making carpets are a bit frayed.

our pick Hotel Crowded House (☎ 814 1565; www.crowdedhousegallipoli.com; Huseyin Avni Sokak 4; dm/s/d/tr TL20/35/50/69; 🚻 🚽 📺) Eceabat's newest caravanserai – named after the Antipodean band and not the state of the accommodation – is housed in a spanking-new four-storey building just a hop, skip and a stumble from the ferry. The 24 rooms and three dormitories (each with six bunks) are basic but spick-and-span, with ultramodern bathrooms and nonallergenic parquet floors. There's a laundry service (TL10), book exchange and a wonderful café-bar on the ground and mezzanine floors. Best of all is the welcome and the atmosphere, both warm and chilled.

Eating

Hanımeli (☎ 814 2345; Zübeyde Hanım Meydanı 21; mains TL4-10; ☎ 6am-10pm) This simple little café on the waterfront southwest of the centre serves up breakfast and some of the best home-cooked traditional dishes (eg *mantı*) in town.

Gül Restaurant (☎ 814 3040; Zübeyde Hanım Zübeyde Meydanı 5; mains TL4-13) Just up from the Hanımeli, the 'Rose' is a typical kebab and *pide* (Turkish pizza) canteen, in the middle of the row of shops and cafeterias, and family-friendly.

Liman Restaurant (☎ 814 2755; İstiklal Caddesi 67; mains TL6-15; ☎ 10am-12.30am) At the southern end of the waterfront, the 'Harbour' is generally considered to be the best restaurant for fish in Eceabat and the covered terrace is a delight in all weather. Service is excellent here.

Drinking

Kafe'e (☎ 814 1636; Cumhuriyet Caddesi 72; ☎ 9am-10pm) This new kid on the block, housed in the Eceabat Cultural Centre where Atatürk himself once laid his head, north of the centre, serves breakfast, snacks and light meals but is most notably a lovely glassed-in café with sweeping views of the Dardanelles.

Boomerang Bar (☎ 814 2144; Cumhuriyet Caddesi 102; ☎ 5pm-late) This dive at the far northern end of town near the start of the road to İstanbul is the only option for a late-night drink if you can't be bothered with the ferry-hop to Çanakkale. It's aimed mainly at thirsty young Antipodeans.

Getting There & Away

Long-distance buses pass through Eceabat on the way from Çanakkale to İstanbul (TL30, five hours).

The Çanakkale–Eceabat ferries (TL2, bicycles TL2, cars TL22.50, 25 minutes) run on the hour every hour from 7am to midnight (every 30 minutes in summer), with three services between 2am and 6am from Eceabat to Çanakkale. From Çanakkale to Eceabat the overnight sailings are at 1am, 3am and 5am.

Hourly buses or minibuses run to Gelibolu (TL3.50, one hour). In summer there are several dolmuşes daily to the ferry dock at Kabatepe (TL2, 15 minutes) on the western shore of the peninsula. These can drop you at the Kabatepe Information Centre and Museum, or at the base of the road up to Lone Pine and Chunuk Bair.

Dolmuşes also run down the coast to Kilitbahir (TL1.50, 10 minutes).

KİLİTBAHİR

Just across the Narrows from Çanakkale and easily accessible by small ferry (p191), Kilitbahir (Lock of the Sea) is a tiny fishing harbour dominated by a massive **fortress** (admission TL3; ☎ 8am–noon & 1–7pm Tue–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 up the rail-less staircase onto the walls if your nerves will stand it (people suffering from heart disease, hypertension and vertigo are warned not to do so and you'll soon see why). Check out the **Namazgah Tabyası** (Namazgah Redoubt), a mazelike series of defensive bunkers behind the castle built in 1893–94.

From the ferry, dolmuşes and taxis run to Eceabat and Gelibolu as well as to the Turkish war memorial at Abide, although you may have to wait for them to fill up.

ÇANAKKALE

☎ 0286 / pop 86,600

The liveliest settlement on the Dardanelles, this sprawling harbour town would be worth a visit for its sights, nightlife and overall vibe even if it didn't lie opposite the Gallipoli Peninsula. An added bonus is the sweeping waterfront promenade that heaves in the summer months.

Çanakkale is also a popular base for visiting the ruins at Troy (p197) and has become a very

popular destination for weekendng Turks. If possible plan your visit for midweek.

Orientation

Çanakkale is centred on its harbour, with a PTT booth, half-a-dozen 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 about 1km inland beside a large Carrefour supermarket. Dolmuşes to Troy and the seaside resort town of Güzelyalı, 14km south of Çanakkale, leave from a lot 500m to the south at the foot of the bridge over the Sarı River.

Information

Maxi Internet (☎ 217 7240; Fetvane Sokak 51; per hr TL1.50; ☎ 10am–1am) Internet access in the centre.

Tourist office (☎ 217 1187; Cumhuriyet Meydanı; ☎ 8am–noon & 1–7pm Jun–Sep, to 5pm Oct–May) Some 150m from the ferry pier.

Sights

MILITARY MUSEUM

A park in the military zone at the southern end of the quay houses the **Military Museum** (Askeri Müze; ☎ 213 1730; Çimenlik Sokak; admission TL3; ☎ 9am–noon & 1.30–5pm Tue, Wed & Fri–Sun) and all sorts of military paraphernalia. Confusingly, it is also called the Dardanelles Straits Naval Command Museum (Çanakkale Boğaz Komutanlığı Deniz Müzesi).

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 ammunition was being fired.

Nearby is a replica of the **Nusrat minelayer** (Nusrat Mayın Gemisi), 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** (Meadow Castle) in 1452. The cannons surrounding the stone walls are from French, English and German foundries. Inside are some fine paintings of the battles of Gallipoli.

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Korfmann Library.....11 B5		Hotel Artur.....24 C1	
Military Museum.....12 A5		Hotel Helen.....25 C1	TRANSPORT
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Tifli Mosque.....15 B5		Otel Anafartalar.....28 B4	Dolmuşes to Troy & Güzelyalı.....41 C5
		Yellow Rose Pension.....29 C2	Ferry Ticket Office.....42 B1
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ARCHAEOLOGY MUSEUM

Just over 1.5km south of the otagar on the road to Troy is the **Archaeology Museum** (Arkeoloji Müzesi; ☎ 217 6565; 100-Yıl Caddesi; admission TL5; 🕒 8am-5pm), also called the Çanakkale Museum (Çanakkale Müzesi).

The best exhibits here are those from Troy (p197) and Assos (p204), although the finds from the tumulus at Dardanos, an ancient town some 10km southwest of Çanakkale, are also noteworthy. There's quite a bit on display in the small garden.

Dolmuşes heading down Atatürk Caddesi towards Güzelyalı or Troy will drop you off near the museum for TL1.

OTHER ATTRACTIONS

The landmark five-storey Ottoman **clock tower** (*saat kulesi*) near the harbour was built in 1897. It was paid for by an Italian consul and Çanakkale merchant who left the town 100,000 gold francs in his will for the purpose when he died.

Housed in a 19th-century former school in the old town, the **Korfmann Library** (Korfmann Kütüphanesi; ☎ 213 7212; Tifli Sokak; admission free; 🕒 10am-6pm), just south of the Tifli Mosque in Çarşı Caddesi, was the bequest of the late Manfred Osman Korfmann (1945-2005), archaeological director at Troy from 1988 to 2003. It contains 6000 volumes on history, culture, art and archaeology.

At the **Yalı Hamam** (Çarşı Caddesi 5; 🕒 6am-11.30pm for men, 8am-5pm for women), the full works costs TL25. The women's entrance is round the corner on Hapishane Sokak.

In Cumhuriyet Meydanı stands a **monument** of old WWI cannons. The inscription

reads: 'Mehmets (Turkish soldiers) used these cannons on 18 March 1915 to ensure the impassability of the Çanakkale Strait'. Behind it is an oversized copy of a **Çanakkale pot** – a rather kitsch 19th-century style that is slowly gaining popularity.

Along the waterfront promenade north of the main ferry pier don't be surprised to see a much larger-than-life model of a **Trojan Horse**, as seen in the movie *Troy* (2004). The model of the ancient city and information displays beneath it are better than anything you'll find at Troy.

Festivals & Events

The Turks celebrate what they call the **Çanakkale Naval Victory** (Çanakkale Deniz Zaferi), when Ottoman cannons and mines succeeded in keeping the Allied fleet from passing through the Dardanelles, on 18 March. Australians and New Zealanders come to mark **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 p185).

Sleeping

Çanakkale has hotels to suit all budgets, except on Anzac Day, when rip-offs and price-jacking abound. If you do intend to be in town around 25 April, book well in advance and check prices carefully.

BUDGET

Anzac House Hostel (☎ 213 5969; www.anzachouse.com; Cumhuriyet Meydanı 59-61; dm TL16, s/d/tr without

bathroom TL28/40/54; 🏠) Not to be confused with the three-star Anzac Hotel (below), Anzac House is the first place most backpackers head for – it's central, cheap and the base for Hassle Free Travel Agency (see p180). Its 15 rooms are quite small and the dorms have up to 14 beds each, but there are fans, three showers per floor and computers to check your emails.

Efes Hotel (☎ 217 3256; www.efeshotelcanakkale.com; Aralık Sokak 5; s/d TL30/50; 🏠 🚿 🚿) Near Çanakkale's choicest hotel, the Kervansaray (see below), the Efes is an excellent budget choice, with cheery decor and a very welcoming owner. The largest of the 20 rooms are nicer than the standard singles, with their open showers, and even boast orthopaedic mattresses. The breakfasts are great, and there's a flower-filled little garden with a fountain in back.

Yellow Rose Pension (☎ 217 3343; www.yellowrose.4mg.com; Aslan Abı Sokak 5; dm/s/d/tr TL17/30/55/60; 🏠 🏠) This bright, attractive guest house with 18 rooms has a quiet though still central location and lots of extras, from laundry service (TL15), fully equipped kitchen and back garden to book exchange and video library. It's also the local agent for Trooper Tours (see p180) and Fez Travel.

MIDRANGE

Anzac Hotel (☎ 217 7777; www.anzachel.com; Saat Kulesi Meydanı 8; s/d/tr €30/40/50; 🏠 🏠 🚿) Recent (and very thorough) renovations have added another star to this very central 27-room hotel. The attention to detail here is legendary, from the nonallergenic parquet floors to the Gallipoli campaign mirror images in the mezzanine café. Choose room 401 or 402; they're big and face the sea.

Hotel Helen (☎ 212 1818; www.helenhotel.com; Cumhuriyet Meydanı 57; s/d/tr €25/50/65; 🏠 🏠) Just next to Anzac House Hostel, the Helen aims for the classical in its marble foyer – that's the Trojan lady herself in the lobby. The 44 rooms may never launch a thousand ships, but they have everything you need for a break on your own personal odyssey. It's a very friendly place too.

our pick! Hotel Kervansaray (☎ 217 8192; www.otelkervansaray.com; Fetvane Sokak 13; s/d/tr €35/50/60; 🏠 🚿 🏠) Çanakkale's first and only boutique hotel is as lovely as you could hope for, laying on plenty of Ottoman touches in keeping with the restored house it occupies, once owned by

an early 20th-century *hakim* (judge). The 19 rooms have a dash of character without being overdone. The ones with showers are in the main historical building and the rest (with bathtubs) in a new back annexe sympathetic to the red-brick original. Choose room 103 or 206 overlooking the inviting courtyard and garden.

Otel Anafartalar (☎ 217 4454; otelanafartalar@hotmail.com; İskele Meydanı; s/d/tr €40/55/65; 🏠 🚿 🏠) A big pinkish block with 71 rooms in a prime location near the ferry docks, the Anafartalar has fine views of the strait if you can bag a front room with balcony. The bathrooms and the blue and red wavy carpet could do with an upgrade, though.

Canak Hotel (☎ 214 1582; www.canakhotel.com; Dibe Sokak 1; s/d €35/60; 🏠 🚿 🏠) This is an excellent midrange option tucked just off Cumhuriyet Meydanı, with a stunning roof bar and games room, and a skylit atrium connecting the floors. Some of the 52 smart but low-key rooms have balconies; room 508 is a corner room with wonderful views.

Hotel Artur (☎ 213 2000; www.hotelartur.com; Cumhuriyet Meydanı 28; s/d/tr €45/60/75; 🚿 🏠) This upper-end hotel with 32 rooms has a nicely designed lobby with bar-restaurant and spacious modern rooms. Rooms 501 and 502 lead on to a roof terrace with stunning views but be aware that the lift stops at the 4th floor.

TOP END

Maydos Hotel (☎ 213 5970; www.maydos.com.tr; Yalı Caddesi 12; s/d/tr/q €50/70/90/110; 🚿 🏠) This relatively swish hotel with almost half of its 36 rooms facing the harbour looks a world away from the cramped budget lodgings at its cousin, the Anzac House Hostel. If you must, accept a room overlooking the street (there's double-glazing) but note the ugly internal light shaft. We love the breezy waterfront bar-restaurant.

Hotel Akol (☎ 217 9456; www.hotelakol.com.tr; Kayserili Ahmet Paşa Caddesi; s/d/tr/ste €65/85/105/155; 🚿 🏠 🏠) Near the start of the *kordon* (waterfront promenade), this balcony-studded grey concrete tower is much easier on the eyes from the inside, where you can catch the strait views and admire the slightly overblown classical-themed lobby. Its 135 rooms are mainly occupied by tour groups, so expect the Akol to have plenty of high-capacity facilities to feed and water.

Eating

The whole waterfront is lined with licensed restaurants; for something on the hoof, browse the street stalls along the *kordon* offering corn on the cob, mussels and other simple items. A speciality of the region is *peynir helvaş*, made with soft white village cheese, flour, butter and sugar and served natural or baked.

Köy Evi (☎ 213 4687; Yalı Caddesi 13; menus TL5; 🕒 8am-midnight) Proper home cooking rules in this tiny eatery, where local women make *mantı*, *börek* (filled pastry) and filling *gözleme* (TL1.50).

Doyum (☎ 217 1866; Cumhuriyet Meydanı 13; dishes TL4.50-10) Generally acknowledged to be the best kebab and pide joint in town – a visit to Doyum is worth it for the good cheer alone.

Rihim Restaurant (☎ 217 1770; Eski Balıkhane Sokak 9a; mains TL5-12; 🕒 11am-midnight) One of many waterfront restaurants south of the harbour, the 'Pier' is tried and true and has a varied menu of Turkish and Western cuisine along with dependable fish dishes.

Café Notte (☎ 214 9112; Kayserili Ahmet Paşa Caddesi 40; mains TL4.50-16.50; 🕒 8am-11.30pm) In the heart of the trendier northern waterfront strip, this smart bar-bistro has a cosmopolitan menu and some competent cocktails (TL5 to TL8.50). It also does simpler things like pizzas and sandwiches (TL4 to TL10).

Drinking & Entertainment

Çanakkale has an unusually frenetic bar and club scene, catering to a local student crowd and, in season, marauding young Aussies and Kiwis. Many venues have regular live music, and most of the busiest places are clustered around Fetvane Sokak and Matbaa Sokak running off it. Any admission charge usually includes a drink.

Benzin (☎ 212 2237; Eski Balıkhane Sokak 11; 🕒 8.30am-1am) This waterfront café-bar done out in 1960s decor is a relaxing spot for a drink and a bite (pizzas TL8 to TL12.50) but gets very packed at the weekend.

Han Bar (Fetvane Sokak 26; admission free-TL5; 🕒 9.30pm-4am) Upstairs in the old Yalı Han, this is a very popular music venue where the bands may play anything from Turkish rock to Madonna. The outside gallery overlooks an equally popular courtyard tea garden.

Hayal Kahvesi (☎ 217 0470; Saat Kulesi Meydanı 6; admission free-TL5; 🕒 noon-1am) Facing the clock tower, this dual-identity café-bar (also called TNT Bar) is the most popular bar for live rock

music. There's courtyard seating in back and happy hour is from 4pm to 9pm.

Hedon Club (☎ 212 0552; Yalı Caddesi 41; 🕒 2pm-late) This big venue attempts a spot of lounge sophistication up front (jazz), until you get to the barn-like dance floor, where everything from rock to salsa goes. Admission depends on the night; it's usually around TL10 when there's a band on.

Şişe (Eski Balıkhane Sokak 7a; 🕒 5pm-2am) The 'Bottle', with three distinctly different bars on as many floors (head for the top) is as chilled a spot as you'll find in Çanakkale.

Getting There & Away

AIR

You can fly between Çanakkale and İstanbul on **Atlasjet** (www.atlasjet.com) daily except Saturday from İstanbul and except Sunday from Çanakkale for under TL100. A shuttle bus (TL2) links **Çanakkale airport** (☎ 213 1021; Şehit Gürol Caddesi), 2km to the southeast, with the centre.

BUS & DOLMUŞ

Çanakkale's otogar is 1km east of the ferry docks but most buses pick up and drop off at the bus company offices near the harbour. There are regular services to Ankara (TL40, 11 hours), Ayvalık (TL20, 3½ hours), Bandırma (TL17, 2¼ hours), Bursa (TL25, 4½ hours), Edirne (TL25, 4½ hours), İstanbul (TL30, six hours) and İzmir (TL30, 5½ hours).

Dolmuşes to Troy (TL4, 35 minutes) and Güzelyalı (TL2.50, 20 minutes) leave from a separate dolmuş station at the northern end of the bridge over the Sarı River.

To get to Gelibolu take a bus or minibus from the otogar to Lapseki (TL4, 45 minutes) then the ferry across the Dardanelles. Alternatively, take the ferry to Eceabat or Kilitbahir and then a minibus.

If you're heading for Çanakkale from İstanbul, the quickest way is to hop on a ferry from Yenikapı to Bandırma then take a bus to Çanakkale (TL17, three hours). It's easier than trekking out to İstanbul's otogar for a direct bus.

BOAT

Two car ferries cross the Dardanelles from Çanakkale to the Gallipoli Peninsula. A privately run one goes to Kilitbahir, the public one to Eceabat.

The smaller Çanakkale-Kilitbahir ferry (TL1.50, cars TL17.50, 15 to 20 minutes)

can carry only a few cars and waits until it is full before departing. For information about ferries between Çanakkale and Eceabat, see p187.

For information about getting to Gökçeada island from Çanakkale, see p194.

GÖKÇEADA

☎ 0286 / pop 8600

Just north of the entrance to the Dardanelles, rugged, sparsely populated Gökçeada (Heavenly Island) is one of only two inhabited Aegean islands belonging to Turkey. Measuring 13km from north to south and just under 30km from east to west, it is by far the nation's largest island. Gökçeada is a fascinating place, with some dramatic scenery packed into a small area, and a Greek feel to it throughout. It's a great place to escape to after visiting Gallipoli.

Gökçeada was once a predominantly Greek island called Imbros. During WWI it was an important base for the Gallipoli campaign; indeed, Allied commander General Ian Hamilton stationed himself at the village of Aydıncık (then Kefalos) on the island's southeast coast. Along with its smaller island neighbour to the south, Bozcaada (p200), Gökçeada was retained by the new Turkish Republic in 1923 but was exempted from the population exchange. However, in the 1960s when the Cyprus conflict flared up the Turkish government put pressure on local Greeks, who numbered about 7000, to leave; today only a few hundred pensioners remain.

Gökçeada's inhabitants mostly earn a living through fishing, sheep- and cattle-rearing, farming the narrow belt of fertile land around Gökçeada town, and tourism. Apart from some semideserted Greek villages, olive groves and pine forests, the island boasts fine beaches and craggy hills. It is a rare example of an Aegean island that hasn't been overtaken by mass tourism and, because it is heavily militarised, will no doubt stay that way.

Information

The ferry docks at Kuzulimanı but most things of a practical nature are to be found inland at Gökçeada town, where just under 85% of the island's population lives. These include ATMs, taxis, internet cafés and, in season, a helpful **tourist office** (☎ 887 2800; Cumhuriyet Meydanı; ☎ 10am-8pm Jun-Sep) housed in a kiosk on

the main square. The island's official website is www.gokceada17.net but you may find the private www.gokceada.com more useful.

The island's only petrol station is 2km from the town centre on the road to Kuzulimanı.

Sights

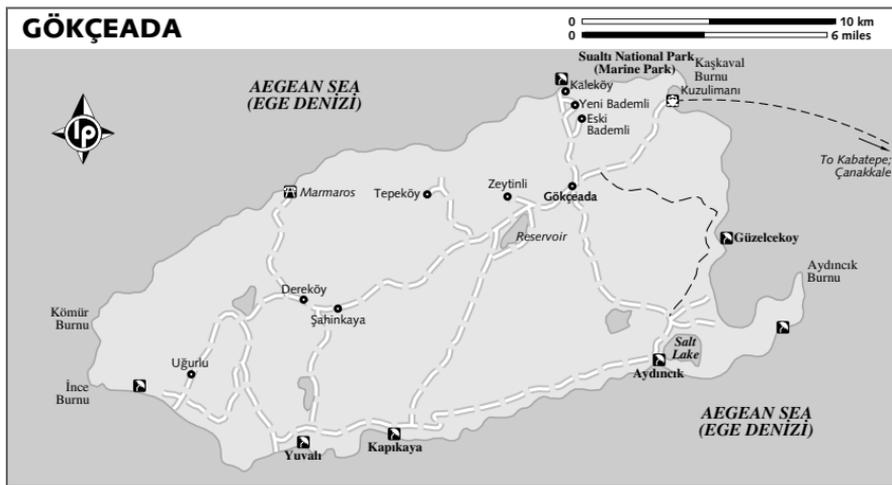
Gökçeada town itself is useful but not particularly inspiring. Most people head straight for **Kaleköy** (formerly Kastro), which has a tiny public beach – the military and the unsightly Gökçeada Resort Hotel take the lion's share of it – a hillside old quarter, a lovely whitewashed former Greek church and the remains of an Ottoman-era castle. But its harbour setting has been blighted by a large yacht marina, which opened in early 2008. The coastline between Kaleköy and Kuzulimanı forms a **national marine park** (*sualtı milli parkı*).

Along the stunningly picturesque southern coast of the island, **Aydıncık** is said to have the best beach on the island and is adjacent to **Tuz Gölü** (Salt Lake), where you can go for some self-administered mud treatments. There are smaller beaches at **Kapıkaya**, **Yuvalı** and **Uğurlu**.

Heading west from the centre you'll skirt the Greek villages of **Zeytinli** (Aya Theodoros), 3km from Gökçeada town, **Tepeköy** (Agridia), another 7km on, and **Dereköy** (Shinudy), another 5km west. All of them were built on hillsides overlooking the island's central valley to avoid pirate raids. Nowadays, many of the houses are deserted and falling into disrepair, particularly at Dereköy, which is reminiscent of the ghost town of Kayaköy (p367) near Fethiye. However, Tepeköy and Zeytinli are both discovering the benefits of small-scale tourism thanks to a couple of inspired accommodation options, and both are worth a visit. Tepeköy is absolutely gorgeous, surrounded by green-grey scree-covered hills, with views over valleys and a large reservoir, plus a dash of Greek heritage in its main square and taverna. The Greek church and its iconostasis is impressive; apparently this is the only settlement in all of Turkey that does not have a mosque.

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* (pension in a private home), which has virtually died out elsewhere, is still alive and kicking on Gökçeada. It's not unusual for locals to approach and offer you a spare room in their house, usually for around TL10 a head including breakfast. A two-room house with kitchen costs from TL50 per couple. Note that single rooms are in short supply, especially in July and August.

GÖKÇEADA TOWN

Otel Taşkın (☎ 887 3266; www.taksinotel.com; Zeytinli Caddesi 3; s/d/tr TL35/60/75; 📺) Pick of the crop of Gökçeada town's handful of central hotels, this establishment has a blue-tiled exterior (including mosaic of a *gület*, a wooden yacht) and 20 spacious, good-value rooms with TV, balcony and lots of light. Rooms 106 and 107 open out to what could only be described as a farm.

Places to eat on or just off the main square include the marvellous **Gökçeadalıçakır'ın Yeri** (☎ 887 2393; Atatürk Caddesi 26; mains TL5-20; 🍷 8.30am-2am), a vine-covered restaurant/café/pub/shop with local honey, jams, herbal soaps and wine, run by 'Gökçeada Blue Eyes' Rifat. Try his five-herb tea and a vegetarian dish. More predictable is **Taylan Aile Lokantası** (☎ 887 2451; Atatürk Caddesi 39; mains TL2-9; 🍷 6am-midnight, to 9pm Oct-May), a 'family restaurant' next to the Pegasus Otel, with a menu of Turkish staples. For excellent snacks and shop-made desserts the **Meydanı Café** (☎ 887 4420; Atatürk Caddesi 35; 🍷 6am-midnight) is big and airy, and attracts a young crowd.

KALEKÖY

Yakamoz Motel (☎ 887 2057; www.gokceadayakamoz.com, in Turkish; s/d/tr TL40/70/90; 📺) Perched on the hill overlooking the harbour in Yukarı Kaleköy (Upper Kaleköy), the multitiered 'Phosphorescence' has 18 bare-bones rooms and – our favourite spot on the island – a pleasant terrace restaurant with million-dollar views over the bay and hills.

Gökçe Motel (☎ 887 2726; www.gokceadarehberi.com/asp/konaklama/kalekoy/motel/kalekoym.htm; r per person TL30) At the foot of the road going up to Yukarı Kaleköy, this quirky place is less a motel than '*mini tatil köyü*' (mini holiday village) with neat little huts (total 15 rooms) around a garden, with solar-powered lights, bright linen and a small kitchen.

Kale Motel (☎ 887 4404; www.kalemotel.com; Barbaros Caddesi 34; r per person TL30-40; 🍷 📺) Arguably the best of the half-dozen hotel-restaurants lining the harbour, the Kale has a wide range of rooms (a total of 25), cool marble corridors and broad shared balconies (eg room 101), some of which are shaded by vines.

ZEYTİNLİ

Zeytindali Hotel (☎ 887 3707; www.zeytindalihotel.com; Zeytinli 168; s €50-60, d €60-70; 🍷 📺) A narrow cobbled street (leave the car behind!) winds its way up through the village to this delightfully stylish 16-room hotel inside a restored stone building. Rooms are imaginatively decorated in a style that mixes old and new, and there's a restaurant on the ground floor. The

hotel closes in winter, when the village goes into hibernation.

TEPEKÖY

Barba Yorgo (☎ 887 4247; www.barbayorgo.com; r per person TL30) Accommodation at this unique establishment run by the eponymous (and gregarious) Greek 'Papa George' is either in one of two rooms above the central taverna or in a lovingly restored four-room village house overlooking the valley 200m away, with wooden floors, sparrows in the rafters and a glowering mountain right out back just begging for a morning scramble. Everything shuts down from mid-September to mid-April (or so).

Mine host also runs the village **tavern restaurant** (mains TL9-15), a film-set eatery where you can sample above-average meze (TL4 to TL10), eat wild boar (a no-no elsewhere in Turkey) and drink the house-made retsina wine (TL17 to TL19 a bottle).

UĞURLU

Mavi Su Resort (☎ 897 6090; www.mavisuresort.com; s/d €45/65; ♿ ♻️) If you really want to get away from it all, the 'Blue Water' with 35 rooms and suites, is for you. It's in Uğurlu, which is about as far as you can get from anything in Gökçeada. Rooms are large, bright and airy (corner room 108 is choice), and the lovely long garden stretches virtually into the sea.

Shopping

Gökçeada is committed to becoming the first community in Turkey to produce only organic foodstuffs; at present its 120,000 trees produce an annual 2000 tonnes of oil, most of which is organic. At the forefront of this endeavour is **Elta-Ada** (☎ 887 4581; www.elta-ada.com.tr), a farm that produces organic olive oil, dairy products (soft white cheeses, yoghurt and butter) and assorted fruits and vegetables. In summer it sells its produce from a **kiosk** (Cumhuriyet Meydanı; ☎ 8am-9pm) opposite the Pegasus Otel. If you happen to visit Gökçeada in June, experience its organic black cherries. You'll think you've died and gone to heaven.

Getting There & Away

There are two boat services to Gökçeada: the main one from Kabatepe on the western side of the Gallipoli Peninsula and a very limited one from Çanakkale on the eastern side of the Dardanelles that runs at weekends in summer only.

Daily ferries (TL2, cars TL20, 1½ hours) leave from Kabatepe at 11am and again at 7pm, returning from Gökçeada at 7am and 5.30pm. From mid-June to about mid-September the frequencies increase to up to six ferries a day between 7am from Gökçeada (from 8am from Kabatepe) to 9pm. Tickets are also valid for the Eceabat-Çanakkale ferry, so you don't have to pay again to cross the strait.

In summer and on Saturday and Sunday only, a ferry runs from Çanakkale to Gökçeada (TL5, cars TL25, 2½ hours), leaving at 7am and returning at 10.30pm.

Getting Around

Ferries dock at Kuzulimanı, where dolmuşes should be waiting to drive you the 6km to Gökçeada town (TL1.50, 15 minutes), or straight through to Kaleköy, 5km further north (TL2.50, 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 TL7 to Kaleköy or Zeytinli, TL10 to Kuzulimanı, TL13 to Tepeköy and TL25 to Uğurlu.

KIYIKÖY

☎ 0288 / pop 2500

One of European Turkey's handful of settlements on the Black Sea, Kıyıköy (formerly Salmidesos) is a popular breakaway for İstanbullular but can be just as easily reached from mainland Thrace. Come here for the long sandy **beaches** on the Black (and very blue) Sea; the 6th-century **Monastery of St Nicholas** (Aya Nikola Manastırı) hewn from solid rock and straight out of an Indiana Jones film; the remains of **Kıyıköy Castle** (Kıyıköy Kalesi) dating from the same period; and the bustling local **market** on Tuesday.

Budget accommodation (TL25 to TL45 for a double) is in pensions scattered throughout the village, including the **Ender Pansiyon** (☎ 388 6057; Nolu Sokak 1) on a side street just after the castle's South Gate; and the motel-like **Midye Pansiyon** (☎ 388 6472; Cumhuriyet Caddesi), with 12 rooms just east of the main square.

our pick **Hotel Endorfina** (☎ 388 6364; www.hotelendorfina.com; Manastır Üstü; r per person TL100-120; ♻️), a boutique hotel on a bluff above the monastery overlooking the sea and just 500m

southwest of the castle's West Gate, is *the* place to stay in these parts – a destination in its own right. It has oodles of charm (ask for corner room 10 or 20), two of the best managers this side of Harvard Business School and an excellent restaurant, where fish, especially *kalkan* (turbot) from the Black Sea, is the speciality. If you're nice, owner/manager Mehmet will take you down to the harbour at night to buy the daily catch from the village fishermen.

Other reliable restaurants include **Yakamoz** (☎ 388 6159; Yakamoz Sokak), in a shed-like building on a cliff high above the sea northwest of the main square, and **Kösk** (☎ 0535-358 2010; Güneş Sokak), with good meze as well as grills and fish. **Kartal** (☎ 0542-634 9956; Sur Sokak), a garden café

near the West Gate, is a wonderful place to recharge the batteries. **Marina** (☎ 388 6058; Akşam Sefası Sokak), perched high above the harbour east of the centre, serves food but is notably a place for the perfect sundowner.

There's one direct bus a day from Istanbul (TL15, three hours) at 4pm year-round, with an additional departure in the morning in summer. They return at 8am and 8pm, respectively. More reliable is the service between İstanbul and Saray (TL11, 2½ hours), 30km to the southwest, which departs every half-hour. In Saray catch one of the mini-buses to Kiyıköy (TL4, half-hour) that run every two hours or, if you've booked ahead, call Hotel Endorfina and someone will come and fetch you.