

HE HAERENGA WHAKAMAUMAHARA A JOURNEY OF REMEMBRANCE



8 APRIL - 3 MAY 2027



FOLLOW IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF THE MĀORI PIONEERS AND
THE 28TH MĀORI BATTALION IN APRIL 2027 AS WE TRAVEL
NOT SIMPLY AS TOURISTS, BUT AS WHĀNAU.



EPICJOURNEYS.CO.NZ

APRIL/MAY
2027

HE HAERENGA - WHAKAMAUMAHARA A JOURNEY OF REMEMBRANCE

JOIN US

This journey takes us to Turkey, Italy, Crete and Egypt — across the very landscapes where the Māori Pioneers and the men of the 28th Māori Battalion stood, fought, sacrificed, and forged a legacy of courage that is still spoken of with deep respect around the world.

Alongside experienced local historians and hosts from Aotearoa, we will explore the battlefields in depth, ensuring the stories of the Battalion are told with context, dignity and pride.

This is also a journey of life. We will cruise the Bosphorus between Europe and Asia, wander the art-filled streets of Florence, ride gondolas in Venice, explore ancient Troy, stand before the Pyramids of Giza, and share meals, laughter, and kōrero together.

We will return home not only having remembered those who served, but having honoured their legacy through connection, joy and shared experience — affirming that their story remains part of our whakapapa and our future.

PACKAGE INCLUSIONS

Escorted by hosts from Aotearoa New Zealand and back to Aotearoa New Zealand plus the services of an Epic Journeys tour guide throughout

Local English-speaking tour guides and local war historians used in all 4 countries.

All flights as detailed but specifically Auckland/Istanbul/Bologna//Rome/Chania /Cairo/Auckland Private visits to 358 Maori Battalion war graves across 9 War Cemeteries and Memorials.

4 star hotel accommodation with full breakfast daily

Bosphorus cruise with dinner in Istanbul.

Nile cruise with dinner in Cairo

Luxury coaches throughout with WiFi access and toilet where possible.

All transfers and tours, with all entrance fees as detailed in the itinerary.

All flight taxes, accommodation taxes and service fees throughout the tour.

Other meals as detailed in the itinerary including group lunches and dinners.



ISTANBUL - Where there are that many places to see in this fascinating city, but we'll have a 4 hour Coach tour (9am – 1pm) just covering 3 of the main attractions including the Blue Mosque, Topkapi Palace and the Basilica Cistern. As well as a free day to wander the markets and explore we also have a 3 hour dinner cruise (with drinks) and entertainment on the iconic Bosphorus Straits which effectively splits Asia and Europe and is the main waterway from the Black Sea to the Mediterranean.



GALLIPOLI PENINSULA - where we have local guides with in-depth knowledge with specific reference to the Maori Battalion.

During the day we will be visiting Beach Cemetery, ANZAC Cove, Ariburnu Cemetery and battle site, the ANZAC Commemorative Site, Mehmetcik Statue, Lone Pine Australian Memorial, Johnston's Jolly (Turkish and Allied trenches and tunnels), Turkish 57th Infantry Regiment Cemetery, The Nek battle sites and, of course, Chunuk Bair New Zealand Memorial.

TROY - is the setting for Homer's "Iliad" and the mythical Trojan War. The site contains nine distinct archaeological layers representing over 4,000 years of history, from the Bronze Age to the Roman period. During our time together we will see the ancient city walls and the replica of the famous Trojan Horse.



FLORENCE - We have a fully guided tour of the Uffizi Gallery, a former Renaissance palace, which is one of the most visited art galleries in the world. We will explore the rooms and uncover the stories behind masterpieces such as Botticelli's The Birth of Venus, Leonardo da Vinci's The Annunciation, and Michelangelo's The Holy Family. We also visit the Galleria dell' Accademia di Firenze home of Michelangelo's sculpture David. which was created between 1501 and 1504. It is a 17.0 ft (5.17m) marble statue depicting the Biblical hero David, represented as a standing male nude.

FAENZA - a full day coach tour to view the Faenza (21 Maori Battalion graves) and Forli (33 Maori Battalion graves) war cemeteries.

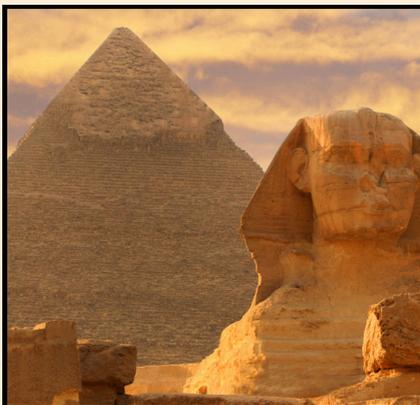
We will be accompanied by a local English speaking guide and war historian who will talk about the battlefields and the cemeteries – specifically as they pertain to the Maori Battalion.



VENICE - An absolutely fascinating day featuring a return trip by train to Venice. The group will break into smaller groups and we will have a walking tour of San Marco and gondola rides on the Grand Canal for all.

ROME - featuring tours including the Vatican City, the Spanish Steps, the Trevi Fountain, The Parthenon and the Roman Forum including the Colosseum. We also have a full day tour to Cassino War Cemetery (69 Maori Battalion graves) and Memorial (1 Maori Battalion soldier) and MONTE CASSINO with full battlefield and historian analysis.

CRETE -we will see the Tavronitis Bridge located in Maleme which still has visible bullet holes from intense fighting during the 1941 Battle of Crete. Nearby is the Maleme Airfield - the largest airfield on the island that was captured by the German paratroopers from the New Zealand 22nd battalion who were stationed at Hill 107 that overlooks the airstrip. We've received permission to get to the summit of Hill 107 to get a better perspective and context. We will also visit Allied War Souda Bay cemetery (25 Maori Battalion war graves) located at the Souda Bay Harbour.



CAIRO - we have a guided tour to see the Pyramids and Sphinx as well as the brand new Grand Egyptian Museum – all at Giza.

There will be an included Group dinner cruise (food and drinks) on the Nile.

EL ALAMEIN - visit the battlefields, the war museum and visit the Commonwealth War Cemetery (where 151 Maori Battalion are buried and remembered) and memorial.

ISTANBUL - TURKEY

Fri 9 April - Mon 12 April

3 nights Istanbul

Central City Hotel Istanbul Near Istiklal Ave in Beyoglu

Non-smoking room includes free Wi-Fi

Full breakfast included

CANNAKLE - TURKEY

Mon 12th April - Thurs 15th April

3 nights Cannakle

Canakkale Central Hotel

Non-smoking room includes free Wi-Fi

Full breakfast included

FLORENCE - ITALY

Thurs 15 April - Wed 21 April

6 nights Florence

Florence Central Hotel

Non-smoking room includes free Wi-Fi

Full breakfast included

ROME - ITALY

Wed 21st April - Sat 24th April

3 nights Rome

Rome Central Hotel

Non-smoking room includes free Wi-Fi

Full breakfast included

CRETE - GREECE

Chania Old Town Hotel

Sat 24th April - Wed 28th April

4 nights Crete

Non-smoking room includes free Wi-Fi

Full breakfast included

CAIRO - EGYPT

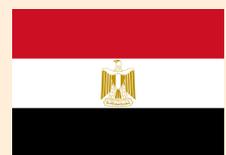
Cairo Central Hotel

Wed 28th April - Sun 2nd May

4 nights Cairo

Non-smoking room includes free Wi-Fi

Full breakfast included



THURSDAY 8TH APRIL 2027

Departs Auckland: approximately 10pm
Arrives Istanbul: 12 noon (Friday 9 April)
On arrival at Istanbul Airport, we will be met and transferred to our central City Istanbul Hotel for the next 3 nights. Arrival into the hotel should be around 3pm so perfect to go straight to our rooms for a freshen up and at 5pm we will have nibbles and drinks in the hotel from 5pm until 6.30pm where we'll give out maps and advice about the local area. If you're exhausted and have fallen asleep, we'll have the relevant information also available at breakfast tomorrow morning.

SATURDAY 10TH APRIL

4 hour Coach tour (9am – 1pm) just covering 3 of the main attractions including the Blue Mosque, Topkapi Palace and the Basilica Cistern.
FREE AFTERNOON

SUNDAY 11TH APRIL

FREE DAY
The day itself is free to catch up on attractions missed yesterday or go to the huge markets across the bridge. Alternatively wander around the main avenue of Istiklal with its world class shopping and take the tram down to the magnificent Galata Tower.

At 6pm we'll have a Coach take us down to the harbour and we'll have a 3 hour dinner (with drinks) and entertainment cruise on the iconic Bosphorus Straits which effectively splits Asia and Europe and is the main waterway from the Black Sea to the Mediterranean. We'll have a coach return us to our tour hotel around 10pm.

MONDAY 12TH APRIL

A 9.30am departure and an absolutely lovely day as our coach takes the scenic route from Istanbul to Canakkale crossing over the spectacular 1915 bridge before stopping in Canakkale, a city on the south side of the Dardanelles looking straight across the straits to the Gallipoli Peninsula. We should arrive at our centrally located hotel around 3pm after stopping enroute for a sandwich and the evening is our own to explore.

TUESDAY 13TH APRIL

It's a full day tour for the group and we'll all cross on the ferry from Canakkale to Kilitbahir (just a 15 minute crossing) where we'll be met by our hosts who have all the Gallipoli Peninsula in-depth knowledge with specific reference to the Maori Battalion.

WEDNESDAY 14TH April

Today we take a tour to ancient Troy. The site contains nine distinct archaeological layers representing over 4,000 years of history, from the Bronze Age to the Roman period. During our time together we will see the ancient city walls and the replica of the famous Trojan Horse.

THURSDAY 15TH APRIL

It's a big travelling day as we travel to Italy. Our flight will be arriving in Bologna at 2.30pm where we'll be met and driven to our hotel in central Florence (arriving around 5pm). We will have an included group dinner this evening with beautiful Italian food and inclusive of local wines, beers, water and soft drinks.



FRIDAY 16TH APRIL

It's our first day proper in Florence and we'll have a walking English speaking guided tour of the main sights of this beautiful city from 9am to 12 noon. After sitting down and stopping for a sandwich and a glass of something we will spend the afternoon visiting 2 of the most iconic galleries on the planet.

SATURDAY 17TH APRIL

We will be departing the hotel at 9am for a full day coach tour to view the Faenza and Forli war cemeteries. Lunch will be a sandwich and a glass of something.

SUNDAY 18TH APRIL

A relatively casual Sunday but after lunch we'll explore the Florence War Cemetery (25 Maori graves), again with a local guide and war historian.

MONDAY 19TH APRIL

An absolutely fascinating day as we'll have a return trip by train to Venice with the train departing Florence around 10am and returning departing Venice around 7pm. Includes a walking tour of San Marco and gondola rides on the Grand Canal.

TUESDAY 20TH APRIL

For those who want a break then take the day off and wander around this beautiful city of Florence but a complimentary return train trip to Pisa will be offered for anyone wishing to go.

WEDNESDAY 21ST APRIL

We depart our Florence hotel at 9am and drive to Rome stopping in Siena for 90 minutes for coffee and morning tea and we should arrive into Rome around 3pm.

THURSDAY 22ND APRIL

We have a full day tour of Rome (9am until 5pm) We'll stop for a bite to eat and a drink of something on our journey.

FRIDAY 23RD APRIL

A full day tour to Monte Cassino and War Cemetery. The day will be 9am to 5pm with lunch in Cassino included.

SATURDAY 24TH APRIL

It's a big travelling day but we'll be heading to the Greek Island of Crete today. Our flight will be arriving in Chania around at 2.30pm where we'll be met and driven to our hotel in Old Town Chania.

SUNDAY 25TH APRIL

After a busy few days we have a free day and time to explore this beautiful city which is one of the most beautiful places in all of Europe with its Venetian Harbour, Sunday markets and the neighbouring beach and fishing port of Nea Chora, there's plenty for everyone to see.

MONDAY 26TH APRIL

A full day tour exploring key sites from the famous Battle of Crete. Including Tavronitis Bridge, Maleme Airfield, Hill 107 and the Allied War Souda Bay cemetery.



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ITINERARY & PRICING

TUESDAY 27TH APRIL

The day is again free to look at new sights or return to some of the places we visited yesterday in more private times.

WEDNESDAY 28TH APRIL

Today we travel to Egypt - arriving in Cairo at 3.30pm where we'll be met and driven to our hotel in central Cairo. This evening there will be an included Group dinner cruise (food and drinks) on the Nile with return transfers.

TUESDAY 29TH APRIL

It's an exciting day ahead as we have a guided tour, to see the Pyramids and Sphinx as well as the brand new Grand Egyptian Museum. Lunch included.

FRIDAY 30TH APRIL

A full day tour 8am – 6pm where we go to El Alamein, visit the battlefields, the war museum and visit the Commonwealth War Cemetery.

SATURDAY 1ST MAY

It's a free day in one of the great cities of the world but we'll be on hand with ideas and to assist you. Consider visiting the Egyptian museum (established 1902) which holds the Royal Mummy room, the King Tut gallery as well as 170,000 artefacts.

SUNDAY 2ND MAY

We leave our hotel by 8.45am and head out to Cairo Airport to check-in for our flights home. Departs Cairo: approximately 12 noon Arrives Auckland: 7.30pm (Monday 3 May)

Escorted by hosts to and from Aotearoa New Zealand.

Services of an Epic Journeys tour guide throughout.

Local English-speaking tour guides and local war historians used in all 4 countries.

All flights as detailed but specifically Auckland/Istanbul/Bologna//Rome/Chania/Cairo/Auckland.

Private visits to 358 Maori Battalion war graves across 9 War Cemeteries and Memorials.

4 star hotel accommodation with full breakfast daily.

Bosphorus cruise with dinner in Istanbul.

Nile cruise with dinner in Cairo.

Luxury coaches throughout with WiFi access and toilet where possible.

All transfers and tours, with all entrance fees as detailed in the itinerary.

All flight taxes, accommodation taxes and service fees throughout the tour.

Other meals as detailed in the itinerary – group lunches and dinners.

COST: NZ\$18,490 per person**

Single Supplement: NZ\$6,480**

TOUR COST/DEPOSITS/PAYMENTS

**The quoted tour prices are based on Currency Exchange rates as of 15 February 2026 and are subject to alteration (up or down) in the event of marked currency fluctuations.

A deposit of NZ\$7,500 per person is required to confirm your place on the tour.

A 2nd instalment of NZ\$5,000 pp is required by 30 September 2026 and the final balance by 31 December 2026.

