

Lemnos Memorial a Reality

The Anzacs that Remain

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Lemnos, one of the most beautiful island of Aegean. It may be one of the flattest patches in Greece to be found with a few hills around the city itself, but all the fields around grow grain, wheat, tobacco and cotton all supplied with the garish scarecrows, dressed like medieval knights or Hell's Angels which are the tome of the Lemnian agriculture.

Our tour will commence with a short walk of the capital, **Myrina**, where one will see old and modern buildings. A visit to the **Archaeological Museum** of Myrina to see the display of all local finds, mainly from the sanctuary of Hephaestus Kaberoion, which is said to be the oldest Greek sanctuary.

Next we will visit the village of **Kontias** and the very interesting picture-gallery. The works on display are mainly inspired from the island itself and they are the creations of significant artists coming from Greece, Albania, Fyrom, Montenegro, Romania, Serbia and Turkey, sorely tried Balkan countries. The Art Gallery boasts of a unique collection of paintings not only from Lemnos but for Greece as well. Here we see also well-built stone houses, the traditional mansions and the narrow streets. The folk architect absolutely respects the natural environment. Kontias is a traditional settlement of genuine architectural beauty. Its main places of interest are the renovated stone houses, two fully restored windmills and the Gallery, where works of the Balkan painting art are displayed. Leads to Kontias, for many the most beautiful village of Lemnos. The South Bay is near, oblong, tucked deep in the land.



At the entrance of the village we been welcomed from two stone windmills. Preamble to the traditional atmosphere of the village. A strong feeling passing for the first time in front of stone houses, most renovated. Many old mansions belong to wealthy ship owners. Kontias is one of the villages of Lemnos with Byzantine origin. A walk is enough to understand it. Two stone fountains were built in 1910. The small church of St. John the Baptist of the 16th century resembles a fortress. For a few decades operated as a museum. Since August 2007, in a beautiful restored stone building, the Gallery of Contemporary Balkan Art is hosted.

Our next stop **Portianos Military Cemetery**

The hamlet of Portianos is on the west side of Mudros Bay, on the island of Lemnos. The cemetery is on the outskirts of the village, on Anzac Street, adjacent to the local communal cemetery.

The Portianos Military Cemetery was begun in August 1915 and used until August 1920. The cemetery now contains 347 Commonwealth burials of the First World War and five war graves of other nationalities. There are 50 Australians and 29 New Zealanders identified buried at t West Mudros Muslim Cemeteryhis Military Cemetery.



we will depart for the pre historic city of **Poliochni** which is now
between 2700-2000 BC and continued to remain occupied until 1600
public buildings. These splendid examples date back to the fourth

Our tour will continue with a short drive to Moudros. We can find on our way the British Cemetery. **is one of the two most important monuments the island has, of the allied expedition versus Gallipoli.** This WWI Monument was built for the Allies casualties in the war against the Turks in Callipoli. **It Many victims of the 1st World where buried here in clusters depending upon their nationality.**

Two hundred and thirty four Anzac soldiers remain on Lemnos, buried in the islands Commonwealth Military Cemeteries. They are a continuing reminder of the sacrifice made by Australia and New Zealand soldiers as part of the Gallipoli campaign.

Lemnos has two Military Cemeteries - East Mudros and Portiano - as well as a further cemetery at West Mudros - the Muslim Cemetery.

An moving Anzac Day service is held on Lemnos every year.

East Mudros Military Cemetery

The main military cemetery on Lemnos is located at East Mudros. It is situated on rising ground on the north east side of the village of Mudros and is about 1 km out of the village, next to the Greek Civil Cemetery. Mudros is located on the east side of Mudros Bay, on the way to Kaminia village.

The cemetery was begun in April 1915 and used until September 1919. It contains 885 Commonwealth burials of the First World War, 86 of them unidentified, and one Second World War burial. There are also seven non-naval graves and 32 burials of other nationalities in the cemetery, 29 of them Russians who died in the evacuation of Novorossisk in 1921, who are remembered on a memorial plaque set into the boundary wall.



The cemetery also includes separate memorials dedicated to Indian, French and British dead and a memorial erected to sailors of *HMS Agamemnon* who died in service during the Gallipoli campaign. There are 98 Australians and 47 New Zealanders identified and buried in this Military Cemetery.

Lunch time in Moudros. Return in Myrina. End of Tour

SHORE EXCURSION OPERATIONAL INFORMATION

Walking Conditions: Easy to Medium

Wheelchair access: No

Transportation: 49 – 50 seat deluxe motorcoach