



PRIVATE TOUR · 6 DAYS

Turkmenistan Nature and Culture Tour

Round trip from Ashgabat · Turkmenistan

Duration
6 days, 5 nights

Start and end
Round trip from Ashgabat

Best time to visit
Apr-Oct

Private tour from
\$1,012 per person

Group size
Max 10 travellers

Tour type
Culture, Nature, Silk Road

Difficulty
Moderate

Flight
A flight included

Prices and dates valid for 2026 departures. Issued 14 October 2026.

Tour highlights

Six days of Turkmenistan's contrasts, from white-marble Ashgabat to the colorful Yangykala Canyons and the burning Darvaza Gas Crater. In Ashgabat you see iconic landmarks like the Arch of Neutrality and the Wedding Palace, and at the Turkmen Carpet Museum you discover the intricate art of Turkmen carpet weaving, a craft passed down for generations.

A short flight takes you to Turkmenbashi on the Caspian Sea and on to the Yangykala Canyons, the "fire fortress" whose white, ochre, purple and red cliffs look like stone castles. After a night in Balkanabat you cross the lunar landscapes of Moon Mountain in the Syunt-Khasardag Nature Reserve and visit the remote mountain village of Nokhur, steeped in tradition, with its sacred wish tree and a cemetery of graves topped with mountain goat horns. A night in a yurt camp at the Darvaza Gas Crater in the Karakum Desert is followed by the Parthian fortress of Nisa, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, and a horse farm with the legendary Akhal-Teke horses.

Difficulty: Moderate. Easy walking at the sights, but long road days: about 365 km on day 2 after an early-morning flight, about 564 km on day 3 (Balkanabat – Moon Mountain – Nokhur – Ashgabat) and about 276 km each way between Ashgabat and the Darvaza Gas Crater, partly by 4x4 where the terrain requires. One night in a yurt or tent camp in the desert.



5 days tour Turkmenistan



Turkmenistan 5 day tour

Where you'll stay

Night 1	Ashgabat	AkAltyn Hotel or Sport Hotel or similar
Night 2	Balkanabat	Nebitchi Hotel or similar
Night 3	Ashgabat	AkAltyn Hotel or Sport Hotel or similar
Night 4	Darvaza Gas Crater	Darvaza yurt camp
Night 5	Ashgabat	AkAltyn Hotel or Sport Hotel or similar

Listed accommodation or similar, same category.

Day-by-day itinerary

DAY

1

Arrival in Ashgabat – city tour of the white-marble capital

Arrive at Ashgabat International Airport, where our representative meets you and takes you to your hotel for an early check-in. Enjoy some free time to rest and settle in.

In the afternoon, set out on a comprehensive city tour of Ashgabat and its most iconic landmarks: the elegant Wedding Palace, the modern Yyldyz Hotel, the Ashgabat Ferris Wheel, the Constitution Monument, the Arch of Neutrality, the Independence Monument and Park, the Ertuğrul Gazi Mosque, the Olympic Stadium and the Halk Hakydasy Memorial Complex. Discover the blend of modern white-marble architecture and cultural heritage that makes Ashgabat unique.

Overnight at the hotel in Ashgabat.

Overnight	Ashgabat · AkAltyn Hotel or Sport Hotel or similar
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Travel	Ashgabat International Airport – Ashgabat (15 km)
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DAY

2

Flight to Turkmenbashi – Yangykala Canyons – Balkanabat

Early in the morning, transfer to Ashgabat International Airport for the flight to Turkmenbashi (scheduled at 06:20; flight times may change), with a breakfast box for the early start. On arrival, meet your driver for a short city tour of Turkmenbashi on the Caspian Sea, then drive to the Yangykala Canyons (180 km, about 3 hours), one of Turkmenistan's most striking natural wonders.

The name Yangykala means "fire fortress" in Turkmen: the dramatic cliffs, in shades of white, yellow, ochre, purple and red, have been sculpted by wind and rain into shapes that look like fantastic stone castles. Explore the canyons and their unusual formations, then continue to Balkanabat (185 km, about 3 hours).

Overnight at the hotel in Balkanabat.

Overnight	Balkanabat · Nebitchi Hotel or similar
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Meals	Breakfast
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Travel	Ashgabat – Ashgabat International Airport (15 km) Ashgabat International Airport – Turkmenbashi (flight) Turkmenbashi – Yangykala Canyon (180 km) Yangykala Canyon – Balkanabat (185 km)
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DAY

3

Balkanabat – Moon Mountain – Nokhur village – Ashgabat

In the morning, drive to Karakala (Magtymguly) (278 km, about 4 hours), passing through the Syunt-Khasardag Nature Reserve to visit Moon Mountain, where the landscapes look like the surface of the Moon.

Afterwards, continue to Nokhur (129 km, about 2 hours), a mountain village in a small valley of the Kopet Dag range. Its narrow streets, flanked by high stone retaining walls, barely fit a car. The Nokhurli people who live here are distinct from other Turkmen tribes, and local legend says that Noah's Ark came to rest here, releasing the animals and planting the seeds that gave the area its unique character.

Explore the village's highlights: a majestic old tree, the wish tree Kyz Bibi, where visitors make sacred wishes, and an unusual, isolated cemetery where nearly every grave is marked with a wooden post topped with mountain goat horns. After sightseeing, drive back to Ashgabat (157 km, about 2 hours).

Overnight at the hotel in Ashgabat.

Overnight	Ashgabat · AkAltyn Hotel or Sport Hotel or similar
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Meals	Breakfast
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Travel	Balkanabat – Magtymguly (Karakala) (278 km) Magtymguly (Karakala) – Nokhur (129 km) Nokhur – Ashgabat (157 km)
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DAY

4

Turkmen Carpet Museum – Darvaza Gas Crater

After breakfast, visit the Turkmen Carpet Museum in Ashgabat, one of the finest carpet museums in Central Asia. Its around 2,000 exhibits show the designs of the Tekke, Yamud, Sarik and Chodor tribes, including rare historic carpets, the smallest carpet – made to hold keys – and the world's largest hand-woven carpet, covering 301 m², which entered the Guinness Book of Records in 2003.

In the afternoon, set off on an unforgettable journey into the heart of the Karakum Desert to the Darvaza Gas Crater, which has been burning continuously for more than 50 years and fills the desert night with its glow. Explore the nearby water and mud craters, enjoy the fresh desert air and get a taste of traditional nomadic life. Dinner is a barbecue under the light of the burning crater – a truly unique experience.

Overnight in a Turkmen yurt or a private tent at the camp near the crater.

Overnight	Darvaza Gas Crater · Darvaza yurt camp
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Meals	Breakfast, Dinner
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Travel	Ashgabat – Darvaza Gas Crater (276 km)
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DAY

5

Darvaza – Ashgabat – Old Nisa and Akhal-Teke horses

Start the day with a picnic-style breakfast at Darvaza before driving back to Ashgabat (about 5 hours). In the afternoon, visit the historic Nisa Fortress, also known as the Sanctuary of the Parthian Kings, 18 km from Ashgabat near Bagyr village. A UNESCO World Heritage Site since 2007, Nisa is considered one of the earliest capitals of the Parthian Empire. Founded by Arsaces I (c. 250–211 BC), it is believed to have served either as a royal residence or as a necropolis for the Parthian kings.

Next, visit a Turkmen horse farm to see the legendary Akhal-Teke horses, the national pride of Turkmenistan. Bred for more than 5,000 years, they remain a pure and unique breed admired worldwide – famous figures such as Alexander the Great and Darius I coveted them. The farm is home to more than 35 Akhal-Teke horses, and local tradition holds that anyone who touches one of them will recover from illness. Return to Ashgabat.

Overnight at the hotel in Ashgabat.

Overnight	Ashgabat · AkAltyn Hotel or Sport Hotel or similar
Meals	Breakfast
Travel	Darvaza Gas Crater – Ashgabat (276 km) Ashgabat – Nisa (18 km) Nisa – Ashgabat (18 km)

DAY

6

Departure from Ashgabat

After breakfast, transfer to Ashgabat International Airport for your departure flight.

Overnight	Departure day, no overnight
Meals	Breakfast
Travel	Ashgabat – Ashgabat International Airport (15 km)

What's included

Included

- Letter of invitation for the Turkmen visa (state registration and travel pass)
- Accommodation in double/twin rooms with breakfast in 3* or 4* hotels (as per the chosen option) – 4 nights: 3 in Ashgabat, 1 in Balkanabat
- Yurt camp at Darvaza – 1 night (Turkmen yurt or private tent, with sleeping mats, sleeping bags, pillows and light)
- English-speaking escort guide
- Transport as per the program in air-conditioned vehicles, with 4x4 vehicles where the terrain requires
- Flight ticket Ashgabat – Turkmenbashi
- Entrance fees as per the program
- Meals: breakfast at the hotels (a breakfast box for very early departures), barbecue dinner and picnic-style breakfast at Darvaza
- 5 litres of drinking water per person per day
- Travel tax

Not included

- International flights
- Turkmen visa and border fees (70 – 100 USD)
- PCR test
- Fees for taking photos and videos
- Lunches and dinners (except the barbecue dinner at Darvaza)
- Single room supplement (98 USD with 3* hotels, 190 USD with 4* hotels)
- Tips for the guide and driver
- Medical insurance
- Services not shown in the program

Prices

Valid for 2026 departures

Private tour, per person by group size

Travellers	3-star	4-star
1 traveller	\$1,955	\$2,145
2 travellers	\$1,363	\$1,489
3 travellers	\$1,334	\$1,461
4 travellers	\$1,139	\$1,236
5 travellers	\$1,081	\$1,190
6–7 travellers	\$1,046	\$1,139
8–9 travellers	\$1,018	\$1,109
10 travellers	\$1,012	\$1,104

Private tours start on any date you choose. Prices per person in a double or twin room. Single room supplement per person: 3-star: \$98; 4-star: \$190.

Book or ask a question

Choose a date or ask us anything about this tour. We usually reply within one working day.

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Email	info@central-asia.guide
Phone and WhatsApp	+358 40 812 4448
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