

TURKMENISTAN ADVENTURE

Darvaza Gas Crater & Ashgabat Tour

Experience the Gates of Hell & The White Marble City

A Journey to Turkmenistan's Most Extraordinary Destinations

TraVel TM

TOUR OVERVIEW

Your Extraordinary Journey Awaits

The Gates of Hell

Witness the **Darvaza Gas Crater**, a burning pit that has been ablaze for over 50 years since a Soviet drilling accident in 1971. This 70-meter-wide inferno in the Karakum Desert is one of Earth's most surreal sights.

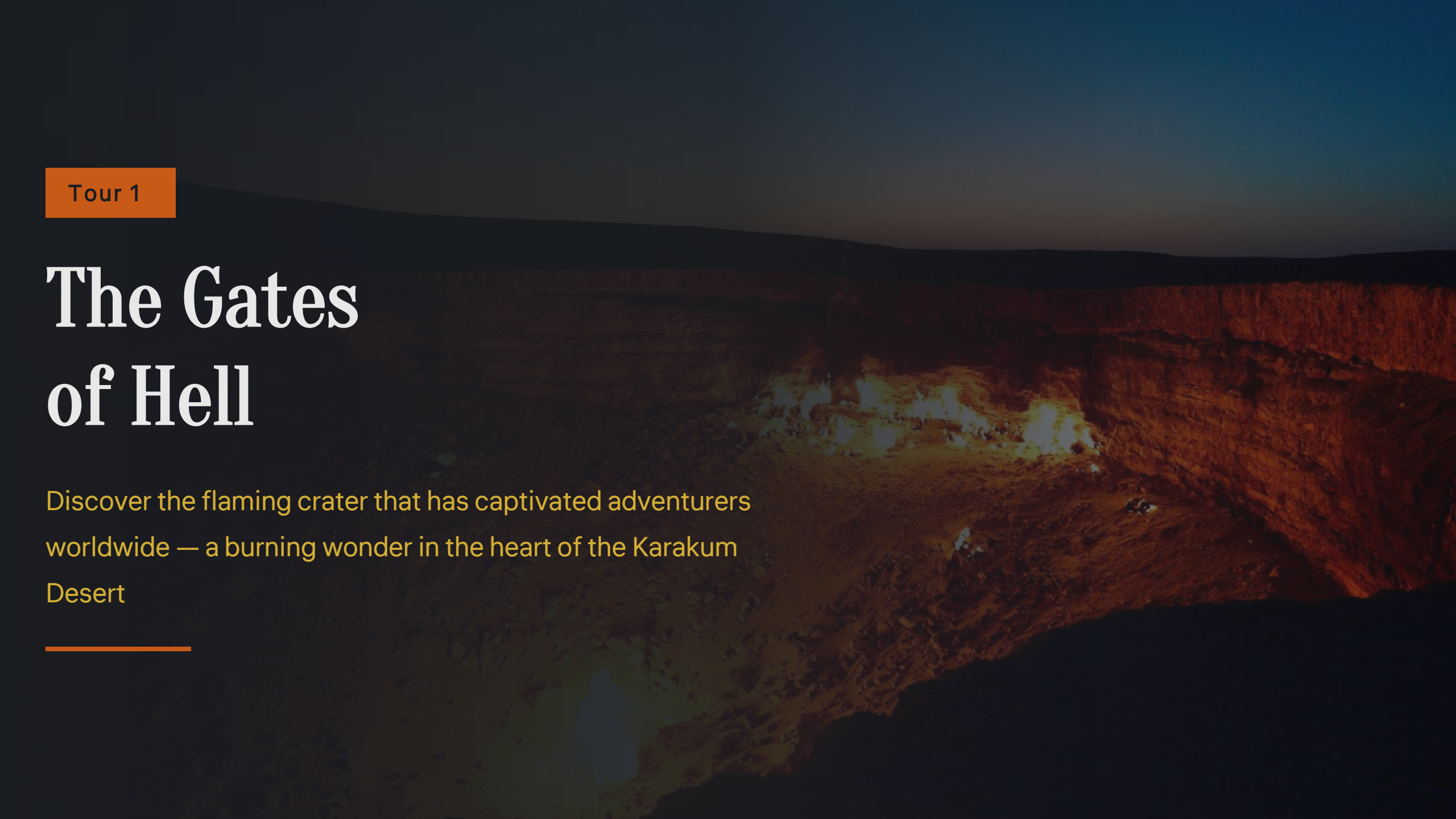


The White Marble City

Explore **Ashgabat**, Turkmenistan's futuristic capital built almost entirely of white marble. This gleaming metropolis features grandiose monuments, Guinness World Record structures, and surreal architecture unlike anywhere else.



One of the World's Least-Visited Countries — Turkmenistan receives fewer than 10,000 tourists annually, making this a truly exclusive adventure.



Tour 1

The Gates of Hell

Discover the flaming crater that has captivated adventurers worldwide — a burning wonder in the heart of the Karakum Desert

DARVAZA GAS CRATER

The Legend of Darvaza – A Burning Wonder



The Story Behind the Flames

In **1971**, Soviet engineers were drilling for natural gas in the Karakum Desert when their rig collapsed into an underground cavern, creating a massive sinkhole. To prevent poisonous methane gas from spreading to nearby villages, they set it on fire, expecting it to burn out in a few weeks.

Over 50 years later, it's still burning!

70m	30m
Width	Depth
50+	**260km**
Years Burning	From Ashgabat

> The name "Darvaza" means "gate" in Turkmen, giving rise to its famous nickname: **"The Gates of Hell"** or **"Door to Hell"**

THE CRATER EXPERIENCE

Day & Night at the Crater – Two Different Worlds



Daytime View

During daylight, the crater reveals its **vast scale** — a gaping hole in the desert floor with small fires flickering around the edges and across the bottom. You can see pools of liquid fuel oozing from cracks in the ground.

- Feel the intense heat radiating from the flames, even from a safe distance
- Witness the smoke and gas — those with sensitive eyes may experience slight irritation
- The crater's steep walls drop dramatically into the burning pit below



Nighttime Spectacle

As darkness falls, the crater **transforms into a blazing inferno**. The flames grow larger and more intense, casting an eerie orange glow across the desert that can be seen from miles away.

- The flames appear to double in size, creating a mesmerizing, otherworldly display
- Hear the roar of flames and the hissing sound of escaping gas — like the underworld calling
- The contrast between the dark desert sky and the glowing crater creates an unforgettable scene

Pro Tip: The crater is truly at its most magnificent at night — this is why we recommend overnight camping!

OVERNIGHT EXPERIENCE

Desert Camping Experience – Under the Stars

Traditional Yurt Camp

Stay in **authentic Turkmen yurts** — traditional portable round tents used by nomads for centuries. Our camp is located within walking distance of the crater, allowing you to experience the magic throughout the night.

Comfortable bedding & blankets

BBQ dinner & breakfast



Authentic Turkmen Cuisine

Enjoy a **hearty BBQ dinner** prepared over an open fire, featuring traditional Turkmen dishes:

- ✓ **Plov** — rice pilaf with meat
- ✓ **Kebabs** — grilled meat skewers
- ✓ **Shurpa** — meat & vegetable soup
- ✓ **Flatbread** — fresh Central Asian non

Vegetarian options available upon request

Other Craters to Explore

The area around Darvaza features **three collapsed gas craters**:

Fire Crater (Main)
The famous burning pit — the highlight of the tour

Water Crater
Filled with bubbling water — see gas bubbles rising

Mud Crater
Bubbling mud with small fires — a surreal sight



PART 2

Ashgabat
The White Marble City

Explore one of the world's most unique capitals — a gleaming metropolis of futuristic architecture and grand monuments

ASHGABAT OVERVIEW

Ashgabat – A City Like No Other

The White Marble Capital

Ashgabat, the capital of Turkmenistan, is unlike any city on Earth. Known as the **"White Marble City"**, it features buildings constructed almost entirely of gleaming white marble, creating a surreal, futuristic atmosphere that feels like stepping into another world.

The city's wide boulevards, grandiose monuments, and meticulously manicured gardens create an impression of immense wealth and ambition — yet with a relatively small population, it often feels like a gleaming ghost town.

A City Reborn from Ruins

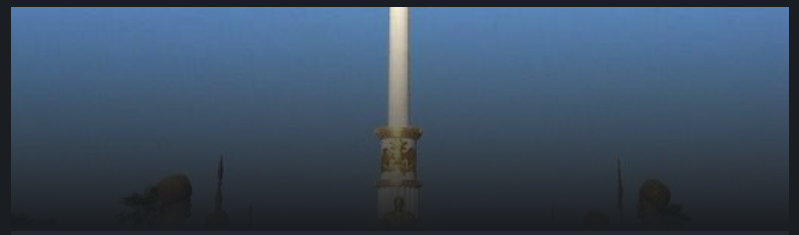
Most of Ashgabat's current architecture was built after the **devastating 1948 earthquake** that destroyed over 90% of the city and killed more than 100,000 people. The modern city rose from these ashes as a symbol of Turkmen resilience and national pride.

1M+	540K	5x
Population	Marble Buildings	Guinness Records



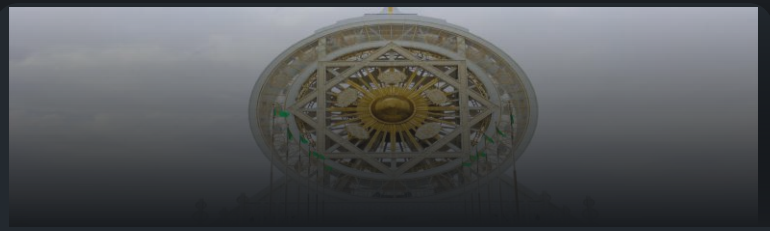
CITY HIGHLIGHTS

Must-See Ashgabat Attractions



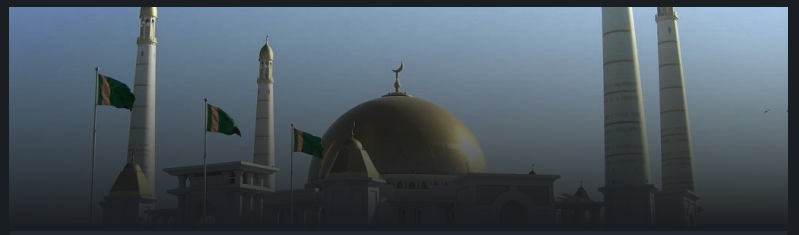
Independence Monument

A **118-meter column** topped with a crescent and five stars, symbolizing Turkmenistan's independence and the five tribes. Features an ethnographic museum at its base.



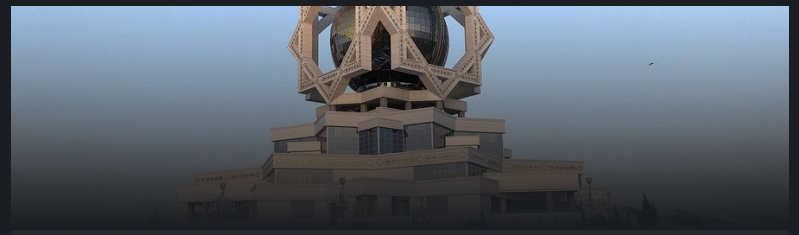
Alem Cultural Center

Home to the **world's largest indoor Ferris wheel** (Guinness World Record). This stunning white marble structure features a 57-meter diameter ferris wheel with 24 cabins.



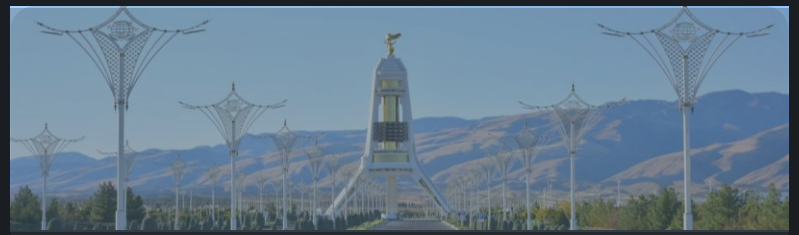
Turkmenbashi Ruhy Mosque

Central Asia's largest mosque with a **55-meter golden dome** and four 91-meter minarets. Its white marble façade can accommodate 10,000 worshippers.



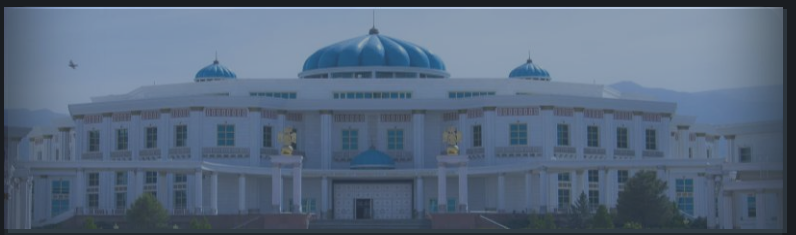
Wedding Palace (Bagt Koshgi)

The "Palace of Happiness" features a unique design with a **32-meter sphere** encased in an eight-pointed star frame. Offers panoramic city views from its hilltop location.



Arch of Neutrality

A **95-meter tripod structure** topped with a 12-meter golden statue of Turkmenbashi. Take the funicular to the viewing platform for sweeping city views.



National Museum

Houses over **130,000 artifacts** showcasing Turkmenistan's rich history, from ancient civilizations to modern independence. Features archaeological treasures from Nisa.

UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE SITE

Ancient Heritage – Old Nisa



The Parthian Fortress of Nisa

Located just **18 km west of Ashgabat**, **Old Nisa** is a UNESCO World Heritage Site and one of the most important archaeological sites in Central Asia. This ancient fortress was once a major city of the **Parthian Empire**, one of the most powerful civilizations of the ancient world.

Dating back over **2,000 years**, Nisa served as an imperial capital and royal residence. The site covers 14 hectares and features a unique pentagonal layout with impressive defensive walls.

Archaeological Treasures

Excavations at Old Nisa have uncovered remarkable artifacts that reveal the wealth and sophistication of the Parthian civilization:

- **Rhytons** — ceremonial wine vessels carved from ivory and horns
- **Hellenistic statues** — showcasing Greek artistic influence
- **Ancient jewelry** — intricate pieces demonstrating fine craftsmanship
- **Column bases & capitals** — remnants of grand palace halls

Setting: The fortress sits dramatically on a hillside at the foot of the Kopet-Dag Mountains, offering stunning views of the surrounding landscape.

PLAN YOUR JOURNEY

Tour Itinerary & Practical Information

1 Day 1: Arrival & Ashgabat City Tour

Arrive in Ashgabat, transfer to your hotel. Afternoon city tour visiting Independence Monument, Arch of Neutrality, Alem Cultural Center, Turkmenbashi Mosque, and the Wedding Palace. Evening at leisure to explore the city's illuminated marble buildings.

2 Day 2: Darvaza Gas Crater Adventure

Early morning departure for Darvaza (4-5 hour drive in 4WD). Visit the mud crater and water crater en route. Arrive at the fire crater for sunset viewing. Enjoy BBQ dinner at the yurt camp and experience the crater's magical nighttime transformation. Overnight in traditional yurts.

3 Day 3: Return & Old Nisa

Morning at the crater for final photos. Return to Ashgabat with a stop at Old Nisa UNESCO site. Visit the National Museum. Transfer to airport for departure or continue your journey.

Practical Info

Best Time to Visit
March-May & September-October

Visa Requirements
Letter of Invitation required; guided tours mandatory

Currency
Turkmenistan Manat (TMT); USD/EURO for exchange

Language
Turkmen & Russian & Turkish; English-speaking guides provided

Electricity
220V, 50Hz; European plugs (Type C & F)

Safety: Turkmenistan is very safe for tourists with low crime rates and tight government security.

TRAVEL ESSENTIALS

What to Bring & Travel Tips

Essential Packing List

Layered Clothing
Warm layers for cold desert nights; light breathable clothes for daytime heat

Sturdy Shoes
Good walking shoes for rocky, uneven terrain at the crater

Sun Protection
Hat, sunglasses, and high-SPF sunscreen essential

Flashlight/Headlamp
Essential for navigating the camp at night

Camera Equipment
Camera with good low-light capabilities; extra batteries; power bank charger & memory cards

Water & Snacks
Plenty of water for the desert; snacks for the long drive

Important Travel Tips

- **Bumpy Ride:** The 4WD journey to Darvaza is rough with potholes and sand tracks. Bring motion sickness medication if needed.
- **Safety at Crater:** No safety barriers — exercise extreme caution near the edge. The ground can be unstable.
- **Gas Sensitivity:** The sulfur smell and gas may irritate sensitive eyes. Consider bringing eye drops.
- **No Connectivity:** No phone signal or internet at the crater — embrace the digital detox!
- **Limited Facilities:** Basic toilet facilities only; no showers at the yurt camp.

Remember: This is an adventure to a remote location. Embrace the rustic experience and the incredible memories you'll create!

BOOK YOUR ADVENTURE

Tour Package & Booking

What's Included

Airport Transfers
Meet & greet, all ground transportation

Accommodation
Luxury hotel in Ashgabat + yurt camping

All Meals
Breakfast, lunch, dinner & BBQ at crater

Professional Guide
English-speaking expert guide throughout

4WD Transportation
Comfortable 4x4 vehicles for desert journey

Entrance Fees
All monument & museum entrance fees

Camping Equipment
Yurt accommodation with bedding & blankets

Permits & LOI
Letter of Invitation & all required permits

Note: Turkmenistan requires all visitors to be on guided tours. We handle all paperwork, permits, and logistics for a seamless experience.

Book Your Adventure

Email Us
info@traveltm.co

Call Us
+99363886662

Website
www.traveltm.co

Advance Booking Required

We recommend booking at least 4-6 weeks in advance to secure your Letter of Invitation and arrange all permits.

Why Choose Us?

- 6+ years experience in Turkmenistan
- Licensed & certified tour operator
- Small group sizes (max 8 people)
- Expert local guides
- 24/7 support during your trip



YOUR ADVENTURE AWAITS

Begin Your Journey to the Gates of Hell

An unforgettable adventure awaits — witness the eternal flames of Darvaza and marvel at the white marble wonders of Ashgabat

Darvaza Gas Crater
The Burning Wonder

Ashgabat City
The White Marble Capital

Old Nisa
Ancient Heritage

Book Your Turkmenistan Adventure Today!

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