

3-hour tour around Ashgabat

09:00-10:30 13:00-15:00 15:00-16:30	Visiting modern Ashgabat sightseeing places: Monument of Independence, Ertogrul Gazy Mosque, Arch of Neutrality, "Bagt Koshgi" Wedding Palace, Health Path "Saglyk Yoly" etc.
10:30-12:00 12:00-13:00 16:30-18:00	Excursion to the National Museum of Turkmenistan

Ashgabat is the capital of Independent and Neutral Turkmenistan, located in the middle part of the Kopetdag Mountains' foothills (200m above sea level). The Karakum Channel passes by on the north of Ashgabat and separates the city from the Karakum Desert. In fact, Ashgabat is a man-made oasis. Nowadays Ashgabat is the city, which has old architectural traditions and huge choice of unique city development decisions.

Description of main spots

Ertogrul Gazy Mosque. In 1993 the foundation stone of the mosque was laid in the old center of Ashgabat and 5 years later the mosque with the hall for 5 000 people was opened for visitors. It was called "Ertogrul-Gazy" in memory of Turkmen leader, who had headed the campaign of Seldjuk tribes to the Minor Asia in the 8th century AD. Later their descendants created the Osman Empire there.

Arch of Neutrality is a symbol of neutrality status of Turkmenistan located in a southern part of Ashgabat. The general height of the Monument is 95 meters, including 12-meter sculpture of Saparmurat Niyazov - the first president of Turkmenistan, established on its top. The composition is decorated by the numerous bronze reliefs opening the most important events of forming of Turkmen statehood. Three columns of the monument symbolize "tagan" - support for a boiler for cooking meals. Thus, fireplace is a key element. The fireplace, in turn, should be associated with home, with Motherland. From the top of the construction visitors of the capital can appreciate beauty and grandeur of modern white marble Ashgabat.

The Monument of Independence was built in the shape of traditional Turkmen house –"oy" 60 meters in diameter with 91 meters column, decorated with arrow, stars and the crescent, one of the symbols of Turkmenistan. The sculptures of Turkmen historical leaders and writers are situated around the monument.

"Saglyk Yoly" (Path of Health) is another important landmark of Ashgabat. This paved footpath, 36 km long and a 5 m wide, runs along the slopes of the Kopetdag ridge. The main goal of the health trail's construction is an encouragement to people to become active and do something for their health and fitness.

The National Museum of Turkmenistan, the largest museum complex in the country. It contains a wonderful collection of archaeological findings, ethnography items and nature samples. It is located in the south of Ashgabat, along Archabil highway. The museum was opened in 1998.



Cost of the tour package:

Pax	1	2	3-5	6-10	11-15
Per person	\$85	\$55	\$50	\$40	\$30

The cost includes:

- Transport (A/C): 1-2 pax – sedan (3 seats), 3-5 pax – minivan (5-6 seats), 6-10 pax – minibus (12-14 seats), 11-15 pax – (20-30 seats)
- Guide's services – English-speaking
- Sightseeing sites' entrance
- Water on board

The cost does not include:

- Photo fee at sights:
- National Museum – 20\$
- Nisa – 2\$

Half-day tour around Ashgabat (5 hours)

09:00-10:00 (14:00-15:00)	Excursion to the National Museum of Turkmenistan.
10:00-11:00 (15:00-16:00)	Tour of Nisa – the capital of the ancient Parthian state.
11:00-12:30 (16:00-17:30)	Visit to the Stables.
12:30-13:00 (17:30-18:00)	Visiting the Memorial Complex and Ruhy Mosque.
13:00-14:00 (18:00-19:00)	Ashgabat-city tour (on board).

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Description of main spots

National Museum of History & Ethnography – museum, where a full collection of Turkmenistan's most significant architectural finds - a large number of Ancient Turkmen carpets and rugs, examples of national dress and fabrics, traditional household equipment, musical instruments, weapons, jewelry, medals and historical documents - are displayed.

Historical and archaeological site “Ancient Nisa – the Residence of Parthian Kingdom” became a UNESCO site from 2007. Nisa was situated at the crossroads of important commercial and strategic axes. The archaeological remains vividly illustrate the significant interaction of cultural influences from Central Asia and from the Mediterranean world. The Parthian Empire was one of the most powerful and influential civilizations of the ancient world, and a brilliant rival of Rome which prevented the expansion of the Roman Empire to the east. It was the land conquered by the Parthian kings who turned small Parthia into a huge empire of the ancient world that stretched from Indus to Euphrates.

Famous, “quick like the wind”, **Akhalteke horses** glorified Turkmen country throughout the world. Akhalteke racer is depicted on the state emblem. Turkmens have raised this breed of horses more than 5000 years ago at the foothills of Turkmenistan. Turkmens are innate riders. The love for horses is inculcated in Turkmens since childhood. There is quite a few Turkmen people, who follow their vocation to work with “heavenly” racers and achieve a professional success in this job.

Memorial Complex and Ruhy Mosque in Kypchak – is the biggest mosque in Central Asia. Twenty thousand men and women can pray at the same time. Turkmen praying handmade mats and an enormous eight sided handmade carpet with 1300 kg weight decorates the very centre of the mosque. There is a mausoleum of the first President of Turkmenistan and his family located next to the mosque. At the area of the Complex there is the memorial statute in remembrance of the 1948 earthquake in which thousands of people died.



Cost of the tour package:

Pax	1	2	3-5	6-10	11-15
Per person	\$155	\$105	\$90	\$80	\$70

The cost includes:

- Transport (A/C): 1-2 pax – sedan (3 seats), 3-5 pax – minivan (5-6 seats), 6-10 pax – minibus (12-14 seats), 11-15 pax – (20-30 seats)
- Guide's services – English-speaking
- Sightseeing sites' entrance
- Water on board

The cost does not include:

- Photo fee at sights:
 - National Museum – 20\$
 - Nisa – 2\$

Underground lake “Kov-Ata” (5 hours)

09:00-09:30 (14:00-14:30)
09:30-10:30 (14:30-15:30)
10:30-12:30 (15:30-17:30)
12:30-14:00 (17:30-19:00)

Visiting the Memorial Complex and Ruhy Mosque.
Visiting Saparmurat Hadji Mosque in Geokdepe.
Drive to Kov-Ata underground lake. Visit to the site.
Return to Ashgabat via Geokdere mountain gorge.

Akhal velayat occupies 98 000 km² and is situated in the centre of the southern part of the country. The administrative center is Anau. The velayat is a major manufacturer of natural gas in the country. Here rapidly develop the textile industry and production of construction materials. The soil is rich to Grain, cotton, vegetable and fruits. Cattle breeding and sheep breeding predominate in the livestock sector. The velayat is the native land of the outstanding Akhalkhele horses. Akhal is the land of ancient and medieval settlements, a number of historical monuments just prove this fact.

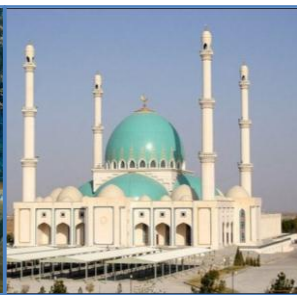
Description of main spots

Memorial Complex and Ruhy Mosque in Kypchak – is the biggest mosque in Central Asia. Twenty thousand men and women can pray at the same time. Turkmen praying handmade mats and an enormous eight sided handmade carpet with 1300 kg weight decorates the very centre of the mosque. There is a mausoleum of the first President of Turkmenistan and his family located next to the mosque. At the area of the Complex there is the memorial statute in remembrance of the 1948 earthquake in which thousands of people died.

The Saparmurat Hajji Mosque is a mosque in Geokdepe, Turkmenistan, erected in memory of the soldiers, defenders of the fortress Geokdepe. The mosque has a capacity for 8000 people. Its main characteristics are the main blue dome which is surrounded by four lower blue half domes. It is a prominent landmark in Geokdepe with its four minarets. The height of each one is 63 meters.

“Kov-Ata” Bakharly underground lake – is a unique production of nature, by right that we can call one of the wonders of the world. There is a lake with curative worm water at the deep of 60 metres from entrance of the Cave of the Kopetdag Mountains and which respire with warm steam. Bathing in this lake beneficially effects to the organism, improves blood circulation, helps to cure diseases like rheumatism, cold, renal and skin diseases, calms the nervous system.

Beauty mountainous spot **Geokdere** is famed with its nature and fresh mountainous air. Children's health camps are organized in winter and summer time; holiday centers are welcoming the guests all over the year. Fairy, somewhere wild, nature of these mountainous places is very attractive for tourists and other people who like to spend active holidays.



Cost of the tour package:

Pax	1	2	3-5	6-10	11-15
Per person	\$170	\$100	\$80	\$60	\$50

The cost includes:

- Transport (A/C): 1-2 pax – sedan (3 seats), 3-5 pax – minivan (5-6 seats), 6-10 pax – minibus (12-14 seats), 11-15 pax – (20-30 seats)
- Guide's services – English-speaking
- Sightseeing sites' entrance
- Water on board

“ASHGABATSIYAKHAT” State Tourist Enterprise

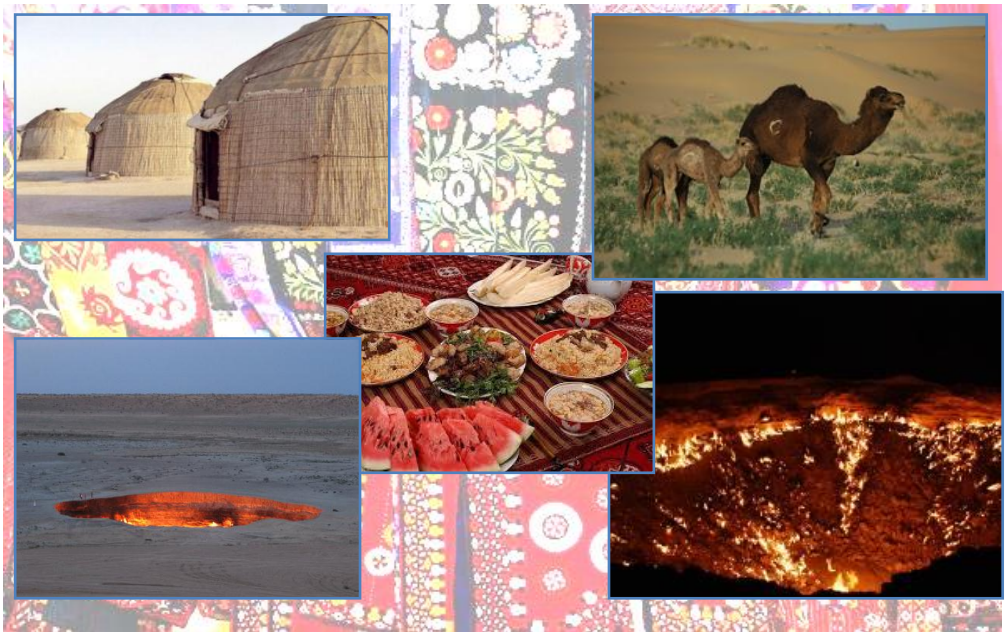
Turkmenistan, 744013 Ashgabat, Garashsyzyk Street, 76 Tel.: +993 12 213247, 210556 /57 /58 Fax: +993 12 210561
Web-site: www.ashgabat-tours.com E-mail: ashgabatdsiyakhath@online.tm

Darvaza – gas crater

11:00-12:30	Drive to Bokurdak village.
12:30-15:00	Getting acquainted with traditional style of life of the Turkmen.
15:00-17:30	Drive to Darvaza.
17:30-20:30	Explore the place and barbeque.
20:30-00:00	Return to Ashgabat.

The road to **Darvaza** is laid through the Karagum desert with its moving sands and sparse vegetation of saksaul. On the way we will stay in the village of **Bokurdak**, located about 100 km from Ashgabat. People here live either in village houses made of unfired brick (excellent for withstanding the extremes of temperature) or in "gara oy" (nomadic tents). We shall visit a local family house, meet with the family members and see traditional activities: embroidery, national cuisine - pichme (traditional bakery), baking a bread. We will then observe the process of milking camels. You will then be offered a cup of tea or fresh camel milk. We shall then have our traditional Turkmen lunch with local family. In the afternoon we will drive further north, to Darvaza - flaming gas crater. **Darvaza, so-called "Gas crater"** located in the very centre of the Karagum Desert was formed in the shape of a huge deep cavity, blowing off the gas. The gas set on fire and the light of the flame is seen many kilometres away from the site.

Stay there till dark, having barbeque (chicken or mutton) with baked vegetables. After dinner we will drive back to Ashgabat.



Cost of the tour package:

Pax	1	2	3
Per person	\$220	\$135	\$100

The cost includes:

- Transport – 4WD, A/C, 3 seats
- Meals (lunch & dinner)
- Water on board

The cost does not include:

- Guide's services – English-speaking

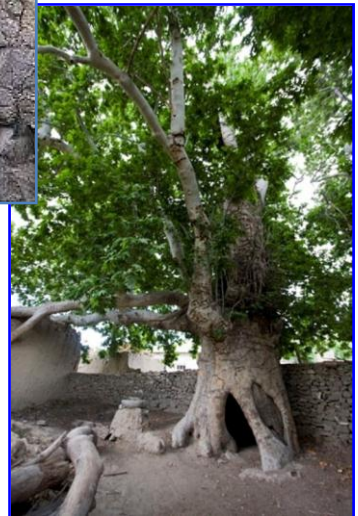
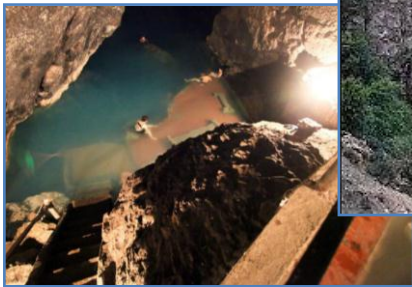
Nohur

08:00-08:30	Visiting the Memorial Complex and Ruhy Mosque.
08:30-10:30	Drive to Kov-Ata underground lake. Visit to the site.
10:30-12:30	Drive to Nohur – the village in highlands.
12:30-18:00	Lunch. Explore the village and suburbs.
18:00-20:00	Return to Ashgabat via Geokdere mountain gorge.

High in the Kopetdag Mountains, **the village of Nohur** and the neighboring settlements occupying the terraced sides of the upland valleys are quite unlike other parts of Turkmenistan. Wedged into the mountains, this village offers a unique opportunity to hike in the hills and soak up some rural life. Life is still very traditional here and people are quite religious.

Nohur has for centuries preserved their unique culture, traditional crafts and architecture. Nohur is in the list of 100 the most romantic places of the world. Picturesque villages Old and New Nohur on the mountain plateau are beauty of two-store houses of unique architecture that are on the mountain cliffs among vines, almond and pomegranate trees.

The people of Nohur dress and act conservatively, and their traditions have been able to survive Turkmenistan's modernization because of the remoteness of their village. Nohurli consider themselves as descendants of Alexander the Great.



Cost of the tour package:

Pax	1	2	3-5	6-10
Per person	\$285	\$165	\$125	\$90

The cost includes:

- Transport (A/C): 1-2 pax – sedan (3 seats), 3-5 pax & 6-10 pax – minibus (12-14 seats)
- Guide's services – English-speaking
- Sightseeing sites' entrance
- Meals (lunch)
- Water on board