

**FIVE STANS ADVENTURE**  
The easiest way to explore Central Asia

**TURKMENISTAN, GAS CRATERS 9 DAYS**



**In Brief:** If you are pondering to do something more than just visiting the historical places of Turkmenistan, we have developed a program that includes an adventure in one of the most unusual places to see - the Natural Gas Craters – or more popularly known as the “Gates of Hell”. Gas is the leading source of income of the country and this is evident in the wonders of this crater. On the way, you will enjoy the chance to meet local Turkmens and get to see their way of life in a small mountain village called Nokhur. This is a very popular itinerary that covers most of the highlights of the country. The political system has turned Turkmenistan into a reclusive and enigmatic country in many ways. By visiting the capital, Ashgabat, you will quickly notice that it is one of the most beautiful and fastest growing capitals anywhere in the world. Every building and every corner is made from the highest quality white marble and adorned with golden domes, but simultaneously it will make you feel being in the most unpopulated and empty places you have ever been. The country has a rich history, and our highly trained guides will provide you with fascinating information about the country’s history by taking you to Merv & Mary to witness the fascinating, historical sites which are recognized by UNESCO as World Heritage Sites. Also, this is a great opportunity to combine this program with Uzbekistan as you will be visiting the ancient Silk Road cities of Dashoguz and Koneurgench and to see the capital of Khorezmshahs (3000 – 500 B.C) which has been inscribed into the World Heritage Sites of UNESCO.

### **Day 1**

#### **Ashgabat**

As soon as you arrive at the Ashgabat International Airport, our outstanding support staff will meet you and whose duty is to help you with all border formalities and collect your baggage. Their help is most essential, especially if you are traveling with your family or with a large group since airport logistics and procedures can be a challenge.

Once you have cleared customs, you will be met by a representative of our company who will welcome you to Turkmenistan and escort you to your hotel. Of course, they are there to assist you with your hotel accommodations and answer any questions you have. Depending on your flight arrival time you can have a rest or take a short city tour with your guide.

### **Day 2**

#### **Ashgabat**

Today you will have a full day to explore one of the most developed and fascinating capitals in Central Asia. We will visit Turkmenbashi Ruhy Mosque (The biggest mosque in Central Asia), the Mausoleum of Turkmenbashi, Old Nissa (UNESCO World Heritage Site), Museum of Turkmen Carpets, various city monuments, a local mosque, parks, and other fascinating locations. In the evening, you will return to your hotel for a good night’s rest.



### Day 3

#### Mary & Merv

After breakfast, you will fly to Mary for a full day of sightseeing in Mary and Old Merv.(UNESCO World Heritage Site). Also we will visit the Mary Velayat United Museum. Once this leg of the tour has been completed, we will return to the airport for the return flight to Ashgabat.



### Day 4

#### Nokhur Mountain Village

**We start our day by driving 120 km (approx. 2 hours) to a nice village in a comfortable 4WD vehicle. Two popular places to visit en route are the Saparmyrat Khadji Mosque (inside the Geokdepe Fortress) and the Kow Ata Underground Lake. As soon as we arrive in Nokhur, we will visit some of the attractions, including a breathtaking waterfall, a pilgrimage site, and the great tree. In the evening, we will learn about the silk textile hand weaving process. Accommodations in Nokhur.**



## Day 5

### Derweze via Garagum Desert - The desert of black sand

Today we will drive 400 km across the famous Garagum Desert (black desert) of Turkmenistan which is 70% of the land area of the entire county. We shall visit a local home, meet with the family members, and witness their traditional activities: embroidery, pichme (traditional bakery), baking bread and cooking ishlekli (meat pies). We will then observe how felt is made and the process of milking camels (March-April & October-November). You will then be offered a cup of tea or fresh camel milk and learn the significance of the amulets and protective Alaja strings used in the everyday life of Turkmen semi-nomads. Then, we'll have the opportunity to enjoy a traditional Turkmen lunch with our local family. In the afternoon, we will drive further north to see the Darvaza flaming crater, en-route we shall visit two other craters to witness the mud and water bubbling with gas as it is emitted from underground and spend an exciting night in a nomad's tent next to the flaming crater.

**Gas Crater in the middle of the Gara Gum desert (Central Turkmenistan) is also called as "Gates of Hell" by western tourists**



## Day 6

### Dashoguz

In the morning, we will travel 300 km across the desert in a comfortable 4WD to **Dashoguz**. En route we will visit the ruins of ancient fortresses and popular pilgrimage sites that most people never see. Upon our arrival in Dashoguz we will take you to your accommodations for rest and relaxation.

## Day 7

### Koneurgench

In the morning, we will drive of to Koneurgench (100 km) and the ancient capital of Khorezmshahs (III-XVI cc), which is inscribed into the World Heritage Book of UNESCO. Also we will visit the local museum in Koneurgench. In the evening, we will go to the airport for your return flight to Ashgabat.



### Day 8

Today, we will have a short, morning sightseeing tour around Ashgabat and visit the famous local market, Tolkuchka. The rest of the day can be used at your discretion, whether you would like to relax, or prefer to shop for the world-famous Turkmen carpets.

### Day 9

#### Ashgabat-Home

Transfer to the Ashgabat International Airport for the flight back home.  
End of Service.

#### Service includes:

- Airport transfers
- Transport for all transfers and excursions
- Double room accommodation + breakfast
- Mineral water during the tour
- Lunches and dinners
- Full-time service of your English speaking guide-interpreter
- Local flights
- Entry fees to museums

#### Service does not include:

- Single room accommodation
- International flight tickets
- Personal travel insurance