

Turkmenistan Autumn Tour 27th Oct – 3rd Nov 2026



INTRODUCTION:

Starting this adventure in Ashgabat, the white and gold capital city, famous for its magnificent monuments and wide, empty streets, we'll show you everything that this incredibly unique country has to offer.

From wide empty streets and mammoth marble monuments, to blingy and bizarre shopping centres, to surprising hipster coffee shops and relaxed beer gardens, there is just so much to love about this city!

A highlight for everyone is always the Gates of Hell, but we're also going to do some less famous things outside of Ashgabat. We'll spend a day driving out to the desert to see the yellow and pink striped walls of Yangykala Canyon. We'll stop in obscure little Turkmen towns and villages along the way, swim in an underground cave lake, and see a cemetery where all the graves have goat horns above them.

HIGHLIGHTS:

Explore the glimmering
white and gold
monuments of Ashgabat

Spend the night
mesmerised by the
horrendous but
exhilarating Gates of Hell

Stand on the edge of the
vast and vibrant
Yangykala Canyon

Excited? Come with SAIGA to Turkmenistan!

Travel Saiga, travel differently

www.saigatours.com | tours@saigatours.com | [@saigatoursofficial](https://www.instagram.com/saigatoursofficial)



Tour Details:

DATES: 27th Oct – 3rd Nov 2026

PRICE: US\$1,595 (Twin Share)
Single Supplement US\$350

INCLUSIONS:

- Letter of Invitation
- Accommodation in twin share at roughly 3 star hotels (breakfast included), camping at Gates of Hell
- Transport as per itinerary, beginning and ending in Ashgabat
- Entrance fees to all sites mentioned in the itinerary
- Western and local guides

EXCLUSIONS:

- Visa fee (can be paid on arrival at the airport or land border, or at an embassy beforehand)
- Meals other than breakfast at hotels
- Transport to and from Ashgabat at the beginning and end of the tour
- Accommodation and any other services before or after the tour
- Personal expenses such as souvenirs or any optional activities



Itinerary:

Day 1: Ashgabat — Tuesday 27th October

- We'll spend the day taking in all the main sites of Ashgabat, starting with a driving tour including Independence Park and Monument, the Monument to the Constitution, the Arch of Neutrality, Lenin Park, and the Olympic Complex.
- A highlight will likely be the Alem Centre, home to the Wheel of Enlightenment, the largest indoor ferris wheel.
- Lunch stop at Berkazar Shopping Centre, followed by a visit to the university bookshop for unique Turkmenistan souvenirs. Overnight at the Ak Altyn Hotel.

Day 2: Nisa, Turkmenbashi Mosque, Ashgabat — Wednesday 28th October

- We'll drive to the outskirts of Ashgabat, passing the unfinished "smart" city of Arkadag, to visit Nisa, a UNESCO site and former capital of the Parthian Empire.
- We'll continue to Kipchak to see the Turkmenbashi Mosque and Mausoleum.
- We'll return to Ashgabat with free time in the afternoon before dinner.

Day 3: Ashgabat, Gates of Hell — Thursday 29th October

- Free morning; check out of the hotel (luggage can be left for the overnight).
- Early afternoon departure north to Darvaza, the Gates of Hell, with stops at a salt lake, two craters, and the village of Erbent along the way.
- We'll arrive at Darvaza in time for sunset over the fiery crater, camping near the crater or staying at a nearby yurt camp.

Day 4: Gates of Hell, Ashgabat — Friday 30th October

- We'll wake up at the Gates of Hell and enjoy the crater over breakfast, before driving back to Ashgabat, arriving around lunchtime, then check in with free time in the afternoon.
- Most people head to the Russian Bazaar for cheap local food, souvenir shopping, or a Turkmen carpet.
- Dinner at the Yyldiz Hotel, the newest and most expensive hotel in Turkmenistan, with 360-degree views of the city.

Day 5: Kow Ata, Nokhur, Balkanabat — Saturday 31st October

- We'll check out and head west, stopping at the underground thermal cave lake of Kow Ata for a swim, followed by shashlik nearby.
- We'll continue to the mountain village of Nokhur, visiting Nokhur Cemetery and its goat-horn graves.
- We'll arrive in Balkanabat in the afternoon, checking into a hotel shaped like a giant yurt and visiting the local Turkmenbashy statue.

Day 6: Yangykala Canyon, Turkmenbashy — Sunday 1st November

- We'll stop for snacks before a full day in the desert, including a stop at the Caravan Monument.
- We'll drive over, through, and up the other side of Yangykala Canyon in 4x4s, including the famous "crocodile mouth" formation.
- We'll arrive in Turkmenbashy in the late afternoon, with free time before dinner. Overnight in Turkmenbashy.

Day 7: Turkmenbashy, Ashgabat — Monday 2nd November

- We'll fly back to Ashgabat from Turkmenbashy Airport on Turkmenistan Airlines, with free time on arrival.
- In the afternoon we'll take a public bus through the new part of the city, past the Presidential Palace, the Ashgabat Monument, and the Olympic Complex, ending at Berkarar Shopping Centre.
- Dinner in the evening. Overnight at the Ak Altyn Hotel.

Day 8: Ashgabat, End of Tour — Tuesday 3rd November

- Last day of the tour. Transfers to the airport for your flights, or let us know if you'd like to spend longer in Turkmenistan.

**Visas:**

We provide a Letter of Invitation to support your Turkmenistan visa application. The visa fee can be paid on arrival at the airport or land border, or at an embassy beforehand, and is not included in the tour price.

Food:

Apart from breakfast, meals are not included as part of the trip. In our experience people sometimes want to eat different things in different places at different times. We know some great places and will also happily show you some of our favourite restaurants and cafés. Some are luxurious, some are earthier, but all have character. However, we do not pretend to be the arbiters of good taste and are equally happy for you to go off and find your own favourites.

Accommodation:

We do not and cannot offer a uniform accommodation standard on our itineraries. We consider comfort, location, design, character, historical interest and whether the money we spend will go into the pockets of the local community when we make our choices of where to stay. The accommodation is based on people sharing a twin room.

Transport:

When we choose our vehicles and drivers we take into consideration the road conditions, the length of journey and the competence of the man behind the wheel. Your comfort and enjoyment of the journey is the first priority.

Guides:

On this trip you will be accompanied by a SAIGA Tours guide as well as local guides along the route. This allows for a richer, more authentic experience and means there will always be someone on hand to help or assist.

Security:

Trips like this do create dangers all of their own, and whilst we want you to have as much freedom as possible, the tour leader has the final word with regards to changes in the itinerary for safety reasons. Whilst the route we've chosen passes through areas we consider to be stable, things can change and we may have to alter the route or cancel sections of the trip at short notice. If there is an extra expense incurred due to a change of itinerary, you may be asked to bear part of that cost.