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Day 1: Farap – Mary

Our representative will meet you at the Turkmen/Uzbek border “Alat” at 9:00. Transfer to Merv (253km, 5h) to meet the group.

Optional: Arrive at Ashgabat International Airport. Transfer to Mary to meet the group.

Start to explore **ancient Merv** – “Queen of the world”, was one of the most important capitals of Islam, along with Baghdad, Cairo and Damascus. Sightseeing of ancient **Merv includes Greater Kyz Gala & Lesser Kyz Gala (VI-VII), Complex of Askhabs (VIII-XIV), Erk Gala (VI BC), Gyaurla (IV BC), Hoja Yusup Hamadani complex, Sultan Sanjar mausoleum, Muhamed Ibn Zeid mausoleum.** After sightseeing, drive to Mary. Then you will see all the major buildings of Mary the downtown. If time permits, you will also visit Mary Bazaar to see a variety of local products and the Russian Orthodox church (one of the oldest in Turkmenistan). Overnight in Mary.



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Day 2: Mary – Ashgabat (4h, 360km)

Breakfast at the hotel. After breakfast, drive to Ashgabat. Upon arrival, visit to **Horse Stable** to see the national pride of Turkmen people – Akhalteke horses, the nicest horses in the world. 5000 years ago, Turkmen began to breed Akhalteke horses. The World’s unique breed was never mixed with other breeds. Such illustrious Emperors like Alexander the Great and Darius I desired to own Akhalteke horses. There are beautiful horses on the farm. Per superstition, every sick person who touches an Akhalteke horse will get well soon.

Afternoon, you will have an Ashgabat city tour. In 2013, the Guinness Book of Records named Ashgabat a “white marbled city” – here you can see the biggest number of structures in the world made out of white marble. You will see the **Wedding Palace, the modern “Yildyz” Hotel, the Ferris Wheel, the Constitution Monument, the Arch of Neutrality, the Monument and Park of Independence, Ertogrul Gazi Mosque, and Ashgabat Sports and Housing facilities.** Overnight at the Hotel.



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Day 3: Ashgabat – Darvaza

Breakfast at the hotel. Free time till noon.

Afternoon, drive to **Darvaza Burning Gas Crater** (276km, 4h). The Crater is also called “The Door to Hell”. The area is rich in natural gas. While drilling in 1971, Soviet geologists tapped into a cavern filled with natural gas. The ground beneath the drilling rig collapsed, leaving a large hole with a diameter of 60 m and 20 m. To avoid



poisonous gas discharge, it was decided to burn it off. Geologists had hoped the fire would use all the fuel in a matter of days, but the gas is still burning today. In the evening, watch the spectacular and fascinating view of the gas crater. BBQ dinner at Gas Crater.



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Day 4: Darvaza – Dashoguz

Picnic-style breakfast. After breakfast, drive to the Turkmen/Uzbek Border Checkpoint to cross into Uzbekistan.

Optional: Drive back to Ashgabat. Transfer to Ashgabat International Airport or to the hotel for an additional night.

Service includes:	Service does not include:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Letter of Invitation (State Registration, Travel Pass) • Accommodation in DBL/Twin room: • Sport hotel – 1 night • Mary Hotel – 1 night • Stantrips Yurt camp (Tent/Yurt) stay – 1 night (incl sleeping mats, sleeping bags, pillows, light) • Escort guide services • Transportation as per program per AC regular road vehicles and 4x4, where terrain requires • Entrance fee: per program • Meals: Breakfast at the hotel, BBQ dinner at Darvaza • 1.5 L water per person per day • Travel tax 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • International flights • Cost of Turkmen visa and border fees (70 – 100 USD) • PCR test (33-35 USD) • Payment for photo and video • Meals: L & D • Tips for the guide and driver • Medical insurance • Services not shown in the program • Single Supplement – 65 USD p/p

Tour price: 490 USD

Please be aware that we pair individuals of the same gender in shared rooms, and a Single Supplement fee will apply if we cannot find a suitable roommate.



Notes:

1. *Due to the changing conditions of some roads & traffic, it might take slightly more or less time to drive than the mentioned driving time in the program*
2. *Flight times are subject to change by Turkmenistan Airlines. Hand luggage 5kg, and baggage 20kg per person. If the baggage is overweight, you pay between 2-3\$ per kg.*
3. *If the traveller stays more than 3 working days in Turkmenistan, the travel agency will register and stamp your passport on the local Tourist Board.*
4. *An express PCR test for COVID-19 will be taken upon arrival. It costs between 33-35 USD.*
5. *Breakfast box in case of very early morning departures.*

