



Country Profile: Turkmenistan

Turkmenistan is a Central Asian nation roughly the size of California. It shares borders with Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Afghanistan, and Iran. Turkmenistan gained its independence in 1991 during the dissolution of the Soviet Union. Primarily a desert country, it has a population of around six million people. Tourist facilities, especially outside of the capital city of Ashgabat, are not highly developed. Many of the goods and services taken for granted in North American and Western European countries are not yet available. Travel within the country can be difficult due to limited infrastructure and government-imposed internal travel restrictions. Read the Department of State [Background Notes](#) on Turkmenistan for additional information.

COUNTRY OVERVIEW



Country Name:	Turkmenistan
Continent:	Asia
Capital City:	Ashgabat
Boundary Countries:	Afghanistan 744 km, Iran 992 km, Kazakhstan 379 km, Uzbekistan 1,621 km
Recommended Hospitals in Capital:	None at this time
Main Cities:	Ashgabat, Mary, Gusgy, Turkmenbasy, Dasoguz, Balkanabat, Gyzylarbat, Turkmenabat, Atamyrat
Country Size:	488,100 sq km
Population:	5,179,571

COUNTRY GENERAL INFORMATION

Language:	Turkmen 72%, Russian 12%, Uzbek 9%, other 7%
Currency:	Turkmen Manat (TMM)
Predominant Religions:	Muslim 89%, Eastern Orthodox 9%, unknown 2%
National Holidays:	Independence day, 27 October (1991)
Economic Status:	Turkmenistan is largely a desert country with intensive agriculture in irrigated oases and large gas and oil resources. One-half of its irrigated land is planted in cotton; formerly it was the world's 10th-largest producer. Poor harvests in recent years have led to an almost 50% decline in cotton exports. With an authoritarian ex-Communist regime in power and a tribally based social structure, Turkmenistan has taken a cautious approach to economic reform, hoping to use gas and cotton sales to sustain its inefficient economy. Privatization goals remain limited.
Security:	Ground Forces, Navy, Air and Air Defense Forces
US Presence:	United States Embassy Ashgabat 9 1984 Street (formerly Pushkin Street) Ashgabat, Turkmenistan Telephone: (993-12) 35-00-45 Consular Information Line: (993-12) 35-00-49 Facsimile: (993-12) 39-26-14

Major Airports:	Airports: 28, Airports w/paved runways: 22 Ashkhabad Airport (ASB/UTAA) Ashkhabad Airport, Turkmenistan, Petrozavodskaya Street, 744000 Ashkhabad, TURKMENISTAN <i>Tel:</i> +993 1 225-60-64, +993 1 229-39-64, +993 1 225-44-02 <i>Fax:</i> +993 1 225-44-02
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