

# Turkmenistan

**Continent:** Asia

**Languages Spoken:** Turkmen (official), Russian, Uzbek

**Population:** 6,200,000

**Currency:** Turkmenistan manat (TMT)

**Area:** 491,210

## Main Landmarks:

- {'name': 'Darvaza Gas Crater', 'writeup': 'A natural gas field collapsed into an underground cavern, creating a fiery crater that has been burning since 1971.'}
- {'name': 'Ruhyyet Palace', 'writeup': 'A grand government building in Ashgabat used for official ceremonies and events.'}
- {'name': 'Nisa', 'writeup': 'Ancient Parthian city ruins near Ashgabat, a UNESCO World Heritage site.'}
- {'name': 'Kunya-Urgench', 'writeup': 'Historic town with medieval monuments, including mausoleums and a minaret.'}
- {'name': 'Ashgabat', 'writeup': 'The capital city known for its white marble buildings and modern architecture.'}

## Head of State / Government:

Serdar Berdimuhamedow (President)

## Main Cultural Events:

- {'name': 'Nowruz', 'writeup': 'Celebration of the Persian New Year marking the arrival of spring with traditional music, dance, and food.'}
- {'name': 'Turkmen Horse Festival', 'writeup': 'Event celebrating the Akhal-Teke horse breed, featuring horse races and cultural performances.'}
- {'name': 'Independence Day', 'writeup': "Commemorates Turkmenistan's independence from the Soviet Union on October 27, 1991."}

## Food & Cuisine:

Turkmen cuisine features hearty dishes such as plov (rice pilaf), shashlyk (grilled meat), and various breads. Meals often include lamb, rice, and fresh vegetables, reflecting Central Asian culinary traditions.

## Brief History:

Turkmenistan was part of various empires including the Achaemenid and Parthian Empires, later incorporated into the Russian Empire and Soviet Union. It gained independence in 1991 and has since developed a centralized government with significant natural gas resources.

## Important People:

- Saparmurat Niyazov - First President of Turkmenistan
- Serdar Berdimuhamedow - Current President
- Mämmetmyrat Nyýazow - Noted Turkmen poet

- Annaguly Deryayev - Prominent Turkmen scientist

**Current Conflicts:**

Turkmenistan maintains a policy of neutrality and is not involved in any active conflicts.

**Youtube Links:**

- Discover Turkmenistan: The Land of the Eternal Fire
- Turkmenistan Travel Guide: Top Places to Visit
- Inside Ashgabat: The Marble City of Turkmenistan
- The Burning Gas Crater of Darvaza: Turkmenistan's Door to Hell
- Turkmen Culture and Traditions Explained