

ESSENTIAL INFORMATION TURKMENISTAN

PASSPORT AND VISA INFORMATION

Your passport needs to be valid for **at least six (6) months** after your journey ends, and should have a minimum of one (1) blank visa page for entry and exit stamps.

A tourist visa is required for U.S. and Canadian passport holders for entry into Turkmenistan and must be obtained prior to departure. A visa stamp in your passport can be obtained either by applying directly to a Turkmenistan consulate or through a visa processing service. While there are additional costs involved in using a visa service, this option is available for guests who prefer additional assistance in the visa process.

A letter of invitation from the Turkmenistan State Migration Service (SMS) must be submitted with your visa application. Buongiorno Travel will assist you in obtaining this invitation letter. In order to begin this process, please email a clear, full-color photograph or scan of your passport showing the full page including the two digital lines at the bottom of the page to Buongiorno Travel at: a.sule@buongiornotravel.com. The SMS requires at least 15 working days to process the certified letter of invitation which will then be forwarded to you by Buongiorno Travel so that you may apply for your tourist visa.

urkmenistan Immigration Card: In addition to a tourist visa, visitors are also required to purchase an immigration card on arrival. The current fee is USD \$14 (subject to change without notice.) The fee must be paid in cash and can be paid in U.S. dollars. Two (2) passport-size photos and photocopy of your passport are also required. You must carry this card with you for the duration of your stay in Turkmenistan, and then return it to customs authorities on departure.

Citizens of other countries should contact the appropriate consular office for entry requirements pertaining to their journey.

VACCINATIONS

There are no required vaccinations to enter Turkmenistan.

CASH & CREDIT CARDS

Turkmenistan has a primarily cash-based economy. Major credit cards are not widely accepted, except at large hotels, shops and restaurants catering to international visitors and costly service charges may apply. ATM access is extremely limited; some machines can be found in Ashgabat, and Vnesheconombank locations.

PLEASE PACK YOUR PATIENCE

Turkmenistan is a developing nation that has experienced significant reforms in their economic and political institutions over the last several decades; however, the country is still in the process of developing its tourist infrastructure.

Buongiorno Travel is known for its practice of using the very best hotels all over the world, but hotels of that premier caliber are rarely found outside the major tourist destinations. Luckily, people who enjoy travelling “off the beaten path” know that its pleasures far outweigh the small inconveniences of more rustic accommodations. Be assured that Buongiorno Travel believes that the hotels featured on your itinerary are the very best accommodations available - clean, comfortable and with a friendly welcome for their guests.

PACKING LIST

TURKMENISTAN

Choose versatile, casual clothing that can be layered if the weather requires. Smart casual attire is appropriate for evenings. Formal clothing is not necessary.

Plan to dress modestly (in clothing that covers knees, shoulders and upper arms) when visiting religious sites.

Clothing

- Casual slacks
- Walking shorts
- Polo shirts, casual short-sleeve shirts or blouses
- Long sleeve shirts or blouses
- Comfortable walking shoes
- Lightweight raincoat
- Sweater or lightweight jacket
- Brimmed hat for sun protection
- Sleepwear (both light and warm)
- Personal garments
- Socks
- Swimwear/cover-up

Other Recommended Items

- Sunglasses
- Sun block
- Simple first-aid kit
- Prescriptions and medications (in their original bottles and/or packaging)
- Extra eyeglasses/contact lenses
- Smartphone
- Charging cables for electronics
- Global travel adapter

Optional Items

- Small LED flashlight
- Foldable walking stick
- Lightweight binoculars
- Small daypack or fanny pack

Laundry service is available at most hotels. Check costs and return times before using these services.

Please use the provided Buongiorno Travel luggage tags, even if your bags already have ID tags. This makes it easier for Buongiorno Travel staff to collect and manage your luggage for you.

TIPPING GUIDELINES TURKMENISTAN

While decisions regarding tipping rest entirely with you, we suggest the following gratuities (noted in U.S. dollars).

	Tailor Made Journeys
Local Guides	\$25 per person, per day (full day)
Drivers	\$15 per person, per day (full day)
Airport Transfer Drivers	\$5 per person, per transfer
Hotel Porters	\$2 per bag
Housekeepers	\$2 per person, per night
Included Meals	Included
Restaurants or Room Service on Own	10-15% unless already added