

Darvaza Gas Crater Group Tour from Khiva

2026-2028

Duration: 2 days

You will visit: Kunya-Urgench, Darvaza Gas Crater.

Tour Itinerary:

Day 1: Khiva – Land border – Darvaza Gas Crater

In the morning your driver will meet you near the Ota-Darvaza Gate of Ichon-Kala 08:30 (the driver will be holding a sign "DARWAZA"), and will drive you from Khiva to the Shavat/Dashoguz Turkmenistan border crossing (60 km, 1 hr). While crossing the transit zone basic transport is available (1 USD per person). Your Turkmenistan guide will meet you at the Turkmenistan border to help you obtain your tourist visa. After the border pass and visa formalities drive you to the Darvaza Gas Crater, located in the middle of the Karakum Desert (290 km, 4-5 hrs). Set up camp and enjoy the sunset. Delicious meal cooked over the fire as you lounge near the burning gas crater. Overnight in tents or a shared yurt.

Meals: dinner

Day 2: Darvaza Gas Crater – Kunya Urgench - Land border – Khiva

Wake up early to see the sunrise and continue your Turkmenistan group tour at the 'Gates of Hell', after enjoying a camp-style breakfast. Drive to Kunya Urgench - UNESCO World Heritage Site (280 km, 4-5 hrs) through the Karakum Desert. Lunch and start your sightseeing tour:

- Visit the Tyurabek-Khanym Mausoleum (14th century), burial site of a Mongolian princess and the Sayid Ahmed Mausoleum (14th century), a leader of the Golden Horde.
- Discover the Kutlug Timur Minaret (11th-13th centuries), which at 62m (203ft) is the tallest minaret in Central Asia.
- Travel to the 12th-century Sultan Tekesh Mausoleum of Khorezmshakh.
- Explore Kyrk Molla Hill (Forty Mullahs Hill), a fortress covering three hectares, including the famous Mamun Library (8th-9th centuries), and an ancient cemetery believed to hold present-day healing powers.
- Walk through the Fakhreddin Razi Mausoleum (a.k.a. mausoleum of Arslan II, 12th-13th centuries), a rare survivor of the Mongol invasion and one of the oldest, most unique structures in all of Central Asia.

Drive to Dashoguz/Shavat border crossing into Uzbekistan. Go through border formalities at both checkpoints. Meet your driver in Uzbekistan and continue on to Khiva (60 km, 1 hr). End of Darvaza Gas Crater Group Tour from Khiva

Meals: breakfast, lunch

Price includes:

- All transportation (Uzbekistan - sedan/minivan, Turkmenistan – SUV/4WD);
- Camp style dinner and breakfast at Darvaza Crater, Lunch in Kunya-Urgench;
- Entrance fees to tourist sites as per itinerary;
- Visa support letter for Turkmenistan tourist visa, State Registration and Travel Pass;
- English-speaking tour guide for your entire time in Turkmenistan;
- Utensils and necessary equipment for staying in tents (sleeping bags, sleeping mats, pillows) or shared yurts.