

# 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. A&K 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 A&K at: [operations@abercrombiekent.com](mailto:operations@abercrombiekent.com). The SMS requires at least 15 working days to process the certified letter of invitation which will then be forwarded to you by A&K so that you may apply for your tourist visa.

**Turkmenistan 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.

If you are asked to provide contact information for your local tour operator, please use:

### **ABERCROMBIE & KENT EUROPE**

St. George's House  
Ambrose St.  
Cheltenham  
Gloucestershire GL50 3LG  
United Kingdom  
Telephone: 011 44 1242 547 900

Our partner VisaCentral offers easy, efficient passport and visa processing. Visit them online at [visacentral.com/abercrombiekent](http://visacentral.com/abercrombiekent) or call 844 823 1224 and reference A&K's account number 73001. Service fees apply.

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

## COVID-19 COUNTRY ENTRY REQUIREMENTS & TRAVEL ADVISORIES

Turkmenistan currently has no COVID-19 vaccination or pre-arrival testing requirements for U.S. and Canadian residents. However, all travellers must complete a Health Declaration form on arrival and take a government-administered COVID-19 PCR test (approximately USD \$45 payable on site). Guests who tests positive for COVID-19, will be subject to mandatory quarantine in a government facility for three to seven days.

## 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.

Abercrombie & Kent 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 A&K 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

Please use the provided A&K luggage tags, even if your bags already have ID tags. This makes it easier for A&K staff to find and manage your luggage for you.

### Clothing

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.

- 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

- Face masks and hand sanitizer
- Sun block and lip balm
- Sunglasses
- Prescriptions and medications (in their original bottles and/or packaging)
- Simple first-aid kit
- 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.

#### TIPPING GUIDELINES

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

|                                    | <b>Tailor Made Journeys</b>         |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 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         |