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Turkmenistan: The Bradt Travel Guide



Synopsis

Turkmenistan is one of the few countries of any size left on the globe which is not the subject of a dedicated travel guide in English (major competitors cover Central Asia as a region). Yet, lying as it does at the heart of the Silk Road route, it is a historically and culturally rich land. Travelers can gain insight into the heritage with the clear itineraries supplied of the major archaeological sites of Merv and Konye Urgench and coverage of Turkmen pilgrimage shrines. For travelers looking to explore further afield, this guide spans the whole country comprehensively, including little-known sites such as the Yangakala canyon and the flaming crater at Darvaza. Turkmenistan is currently one of the safest countries in the Central Asia region, particularly where personal safety is concerned. Features include:>Information catering to all travelers: businesspeople, volunteer workers, archaeologists, and intrepid adventurers>Silk Road archaeological treasures, ex-Soviet era relics, and post-independence monuments>Horse trekking, how to buy Turkmen carpets, and other activities>Paperwork, visas, and how to surmount red tape

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Customer Reviews

"Paul Brummell's comprehensive guide contains practical details for every sort of traveller. You'll learn how to make the most of a journey down the Silk Road as well as how to spot quality Turkmen carpet." Traveller magazine

Turkmenistan has transformed. Since its independence from the former Soviet Union in 1991, it has

developed from a little-known desert republic in central Asia into the destination for pioneer travellers. It combines sites of stunning natural beauty with ancient Silk Road cities, and offers up crumbling relics of its Soviet past. Â The first English guidebook of its kind, Bradt's Turkmenistan explores a country knee-deep in curiosities--from a flaming crater and a revolving golden statue of the president to dinosaur footprints and a national holiday devoted to melons.Â *History and cultural considerations*Accommodation, food and drink*Cutting through red tape--getting there and around*In-depth coverage of the glittering modern capital, Ashgabat*Essential Turkmen words and phrases, including basic grammar

Not much out there for travel to Turkmenistan. But this seems pretty good....if you have permission to travel to the locations listed in this book. Some information is already out dated though, but general stuff is great.

Although the book was published in 2005, I used it in 2015 and absolutely loved it! Paul Brummell has probably traveled in Turkmenistan more extensively than any foreigner. His writing was thorough, interesting, and clear as he described this fascinating country. I also carried Lonely Planet Central Asia which was more recently published, but very scanty in its info compared to the Bradt guide. I had an amazing time in Turkmenistan and I thank Paul Brummell's book for being a major factor.

This guide is getting old. The country was still ruled by a president for life calling himself "Turkmenbasha" - leader of the Turkmen people and hanging posters of himself all over the capital. Now with a new president the country may be a bit less colorful, but is still quite wild and not much has changed (the vote of 2006 was not considered fair by international observers). Still the chapters on politics are out of date. But the great style of writing more than makes up for this and the book is a great insight into a country which at the time of writing was truly unique and now is just a little less unique...

Mr. Brummell's travelguide to Turkmenistan provides not only accurate practical information, but also interesting and extensive background information. His observations and comments are witty and very funny. The guidebook is an indispensable companion for travellers to this fascinating country, but definitely also makes interesting reading for arm-chair travellers.

True, this book may be a bit out of date, but if you want information on the sites worth visiting and their histories, it's still the best by far. I'd buy this one for sure, and then get another one for hotel prices and restaurant suggestions.

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