DARVAZA

NEW YEAR DARVAZA ESCAPE

2026–2027 | 2 DAYS

31 DECEMBER 2026 — 1 JANUARY 2027

Shavat • Dashoguz • Darvaza • Shavat

CELEBRATE 2027 AT THE GATES OF HELL

Organized by Darvaza Tour

31 DECEMBER 2026 — 1 JANUARY 2027

Two Days. One Extraordinary New Year.

Celebrate 2027 with a two-day New Year escape from Khiva via Shavat Border to the legendary Darvaza Gas Crater.

This special two-day journey is designed for travelers who want the full New Year atmosphere without a long multi-day itinerary. From the moment you enter Turkmenistan, Darvaza Tour takes care of the experience: professional border assistance, a festive lunch with Turkmen folklore in Dashoguz, a desert road journey, Master Class & Master Chef activities, camel moments, a New Year feast, music, karaoke, competitions, midnight countdown and a warm traditional yurt night.

On 31 December, travel from Shavat through Dashoguz into the Karakum Desert and join the main Darvaza New Year celebration together with our four-day group. Wake up on 1 January in the desert, enjoy breakfast in a heated yurt, take your final crater photos and return to Shavat Border.

DATES	ROUTE
31 December 2026 – 1 January 2027	**Shavat – Dashoguz – Darvaza – Shavat**
DESERT NIGHT	**START / FINISH**
1 night in a heated traditional Turkmen yurt	**Shavat Border / Shavat Border**

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- Professional border meeting and visa-process guidance at Shavat.
- Festive lunch at Bay Town Restaurant in Dashoguz with Turkmen folklore and national dance performances.
- Karakum Desert journey with a refreshment stop and camel photo opportunities when available.
- Turkmen Cooking Master Class & Master Chef of Karakum experience at Darvaza.
- Camel experience, open-air New Year feast, music, karaoke, competitions, prizes and midnight countdown.
- Warm traditional Turkmen yurt overnight with heating, bedding and camp facilities.
- New Year breakfast in the yurts and return to Shavat Border on 1 January.

31 DECEMBER 2026

DAY 1 — Shavat • Dashoguz • Darvaza — The Main New Year Celebration

10:00 — Welcome at Shavat Border

Your New Year adventure begins the moment you enter Turkmenistan. A professional English-speaking Darvaza Tour guide, together with an assistant, welcomes the group on the Turkmen side of Shavat Border. The team explains each step of the arrival and visa procedure, shows guests where to go and which window to use, and stays nearby until the group completes the official border formalities and is ready to begin the tour.

Festive Lunch & Turkmen Folklore at Bay Town, Dashoguz

After the border, continue to Dashoguz for a special welcome lunch at Bay Town Restaurant. While the group enjoys local dishes, Darvaza Tour presents a Turkmen folklore program with national music and dance performances. It is the first cultural moment of the tour — good food, festive energy and an introduction to Turkmen traditions before the journey into the desert.

Journey through the Karakum Desert

After lunch, leave Dashoguz and begin the approximately 300 km journey toward Darvaza. The drive normally takes around 4 to 4.5 hours. A short roadside stop is planned for coffee and refreshments, and when conditions allow the group can stop for photos with camels and the desert landscape. Some road sections are rough and uneven — part of the real Karakum adventure.

Arrival at Darvaza Gas Crater — The Final Sunset of 2026

Arrive at Darvaza as the light begins to change. The burning crater becomes more dramatic with every minute as sunset turns into night. Here the two-day group joins the main Darvaza Tour New Year celebration and the four-day tour group, bringing everyone together for one unforgettable evening in the desert.

The final sunset of 2026 at the Darvaza Gas Crater

31 DECEMBER 2026

DAY 1 — Master Chef, Camel Experience & Darvaza New Year Celebration

The main New Year program begins at Darvaza. Guests from the two-day and four-day tours celebrate together as one Darvaza Tour group, with food, culture, music and the burning crater creating the atmosphere for the final evening of 2026.

TURKMEN COOKING MASTER CLASS & MASTER CHEF OF KARAKUM

Before the evening celebration, Turkmen chefs demonstrate how traditional plov and grilled meat are prepared over an open fire. Guests can watch, participate and cook alongside the chefs. A friendly Master Chef of Karakum competition brings both tour groups together, with Darvaza Tour souvenirs, T-shirts and special New Year prizes for the winners.

CAMEL EXPERIENCE & DESERT PHOTOS

Guests also have time for a camel experience and memorable photographs in the Karakum Desert. The combination of camels, dunes and the glowing crater creates one of the most distinctive moments of the journey.

OPEN-AIR NEW YEAR CELEBRATION AREA

A long festive table is prepared in the approved visitor area near the crater, decorated with warm lighting and Darvaza Tour styling. Service staff take care of food and drinks throughout the evening so guests can focus on the celebration.

NEW YEAR FEAST

- Turkmen plov
- Shashlik and grilled meat
- Fresh bread and salads
- Fruit and traditional sweets
- Tea and soft drinks
- Beer and wine for adult guests

MUSIC, KARAOKE, COMPETITIONS & PRIZES

A sound system fills the desert with New Year music, international hits and Turkmen songs. Guests can sing karaoke, dance and join light-hearted competitions organized by Darvaza Tour coordinators before midnight.

- Darvaza Tour T-shirts
- Turkmen souvenirs
- Traditional gifts
- Special New Year prizes

THE FINAL COUNTDOWN

23:30 — Preparation for New Year

23:45 — Group gathers for the celebration

23:55 — Final countdown begins

00:00 — HAPPY NEW YEAR 2027!

“Happy New Year from Darvaza Tour! We wish you happiness, health, success and unforgettable journeys. May all your dreams and wishes come true in 2027!”

The celebration continues with music, dancing and time together beneath the stars of the Karakum Desert.

OVERNIGHT — After the celebration, return to warm traditional Turkmen yurts near Darvaza. The yurts are heated, carpeted and prepared for winter conditions, with bedding and camp facilities for a comfortable night in the Karakum Desert.

New Year’s Eve — Visual Highlights

New Year celebration beside Darvaza

Warm yurt camp in the Karakum Desert

Celebrate under the stars, then return to the warmth of a traditional Turkmen yurt.

1 JANUARY 2027

DAY 2 — New Year Morning at Darvaza & Journey to Shavat

07:30 — New Year Breakfast in the Yurts

The first morning of 2027 begins in the heart of the Karakum Desert. Because winter mornings can be cold, breakfast is served inside the warm yurts. Hot tea, fresh bread, eggs, fruit and other breakfast dishes are prepared for the group. Darvaza Tour coordinators help each group and make sure everything runs smoothly.

09:00 — Free Time at Darvaza

Enjoy the peaceful atmosphere of the first morning of the year. Take final photographs of the crater, walk through the desert surroundings and enjoy the silence of the Karakum.

10:30 — Group Meeting

Luggage check, final preparations and comfort stop before departure.

11:00 — Departure toward Dashoguz and Shavat

The group begins the journey north toward the Uzbekistan border. Music accompanies the drive, with a short coffee and refreshment stop planned along the way.

16:00 — Arrival at Shavat Border

Before saying goodbye, the group takes one final photograph together with the Darvaza Tour team. After celebrating New Year together in the Karakum Desert, it is time to exchange contacts, say goodbye to new friends and continue the journey into Uzbekistan.

Two days. One desert. One unforgettable New Year at the Gates of Hell.

A final New Year memory from Darvaza

BORDER-TO-BORDER SERVICE

What Your Tour Includes

DARVAZA TOUR — ALL ESSENTIAL SERVICES

The following services are included in the two-day New Year tour package:

SERVICE	DETAILS
Visa support	Full Turkmenistan e-Visa support and foreigner registration.
Yurt night stay at Darvaza	Overnight in a heated traditional yurt near the Darvaza Gas Crater, including dinner, breakfast, bed linen and camp facilities.
Transport	Comfortable air-conditioned vehicle(s) with experienced driver(s) throughout the route.
Transfers	Shavat border pick-up and drop-off, Dashoguz transfers and Darvaza transfers.
Meals	Day 1 welcome lunch at Bay Town Restaurant, New Year festive dinner at Darvaza, Day 2 breakfast in the yurts and refreshments according to the program.
Guide	Professional English-speaking guide throughout the route, with border-arrival assistance and on-tour coordination.
New Year program	Turkmen folklore at Bay Town, Master Class & Master Chef, camel experience, open-air celebration, music, karaoke, competitions, prizes and midnight countdown at Darvaza.
Medical insurance	Insurance coverage up to USD 67,000 per guest.
Driver and guide expenses	Gasoline, meals, accommodation and route-related expenses for the driver and guide are included.
Taxes and organization	All road fees, taxes and organizational expenses are included.
Border-to-border service	The tour starts at the Turkmenistan border and ends at the Turkmenistan border.
Flexible program	The schedule can be adjusted depending on border timing, road conditions, weather, logistics and local conditions.
Folklore experience	National Turkmen folklore and dance program during the Day 1 welcome lunch in Dashoguz.
Master Class & Master Chef	Interactive Turkmen cooking experience and friendly Master Chef of Karakum competition at Darvaza.
Camel experience	Camel ride/photo experience in the Karakum Desert, subject to local conditions and availability.

NOT INCLUDED

- Visa and border fees — about US$90 per person (e-Visa about US$40 + COVID test US$49 on arrival).
- Personal expenses — souvenirs, additional alcoholic drinks, SIM cards and other personal purchases.
- Tips — optional and always welcomed.

IMPORTANT — Visa support and arrival assistance are included in the tour service. The actual visa and border fees are paid separately by the guest.

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The Karakum Desert.

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