

## The Mausoleum & the Spiritual Mosque of Turkmenbashy



The Spiritual Mosque of Turkmenbashy is the largest mosque in Central Asia. Twenty thousand men and women can pray at the same time. The mosque was named after the first president of Turkmenistan Saparmurat Niyazov (known also as Turkmenbashy – the Leader of Turkmen). Construction of the mosque was completed in 2004. The floor of the mosque is covered by handmade Turkmen praying mats and an enormous eight-sided carpet decorates the very centre of the mosque. It consists of two floors – on the first floor men pray on the second women. It has four

minarets and golden dome located in the central upper part of the mosque. The height of each minaret is 91m and the dome is 50m covered with the gold. The mosque is surrounded with big beautiful fountains and gardens. The total area of this complex is 36 hectares. There are held all the state sadaka - sacrificial meals in honor of holidays and celebrations traditional for the Muslim religion. In 2004 it was given the status of the main mosque in Turkmenistan.

There is a mausoleum of the first President of Turkmenistan Saparmurat Niyazov (Turkmenbashy) and his family located next to the mosque. At the opposite of the entrance to the mausoleum one can notice the memorial statute symbolizing the Ashgabat earthquake when in 1948 thousands of people died. In the centre of the mausoleum the tomb of Saparmyrat Turkmenbashy surrounded by his father who died in the World War II and his mother and two brothers died in 1948 earthquake in Ashgabat.



Nowadays, different aged people and guests come to see the mausoleum of Turkmenistan Saparmyrat Turkmenbashy.