



**KENSINGTON TOURS-SPONSORED EXPEDITION TO AIR ON NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC CHANNEL
ON JULY 16, 2014**

Award-winning tour operator joins renowned explorer on his journey through the "Doorway to Hell"



NEW YORK –July 14, 2014 –[Kensington Tours](#) Explorer-in-Residence, global adventurer and storm chaser [George Kourounis](#)' groundbreaking expedition to Turkmenistan's "Doorway to Hell" is to air on the [National Geographic Channel](#) at **10pm EST on July 16**. Kourounis recently returned from this country long hidden behind the Iron Curtain which remains one of the most closed off and least visited in the world. His expedition sought to study the flaming crater of Darvaza which has been ablaze for over four decades and had never been scientifically documented. The climax of the expedition was Kourounis' attempt to descend to the bottom of the crater to collect samples to determine what type of life, if any could survive and flourish in the fiery environment – in so doing, he became the first person to step foot at the bottom of the pit. The expedition was filmed by [National Geographic](#) with grant money provided by the Expeditions Council and sponsored by Kensington Tours.

The hour-long documentary will showcase George's research on this natural phenomenon and his daring descent into Darvaza's flaming pit – a smoldering hole in the Karakum Desert that has burned continuously following a natural gas drilling error.

"We were excited by the opportunity to support George in his quest to explore such an extreme environment," says Kensington Tours President, Phil Sproul. "We look forward to watching George's expedition on the National Geographic Channel, and hope it inspires adventurers and travelers of every kind to discover the places that fascinate them."

For intrepid travelers looking to walk in George's footsteps, Kensington Tours is launching a "[Turkmenistan Darvaza & Ashgabat Adventure](#)" itinerary to unveil Turkmenistan's secrets, culture, capital city and Darvaza Crater. This exotic country in Central Asia is one of the least visited places in the world and is now made accessible by Kensington Tours' award-winning bespoke itineraries paired with private, experienced, local guides.

Referred to as the “Modern Indian Jones,” George Kourounis has spent years documenting some of Mother Nature's most elusive and dangerous phenomena; he traversed continents to chase tornadoes, giant hail, dust storms, hurricanes, avalanches, volcanoes and lightning - among other things. Last year, Kourounis joined forces with Kensington Tours’ [Explorer-in-Residence](#) Program. In addition to accessing grants for exploration, George has designed and will host an adventure tour to Iceland in December 2014 for Kensington Tours. A land of incredible natural phenomenon, keen travelers are invited to join him on this journey to the realm of ice, fire and northern lights.

Kensington Tours creates customized, bespoke travel experiences all over the world, catering to the most discerning of traveler with unprecedented expertise and access. Their expertise spans over 90 countries worldwide offering travelers a virtually endless portfolio of experiences.

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About Kensington Tours: Kensington Tours offers custom and private guided tours to over 90 countries worldwide. The flexibility of Kensington’s offerings results in tailor-made journeys that are carefully handcrafted to deliver personalized adventures like no other company. Kensington Tours was named to “World’s Best Awards 2011” by Travel + Leisure Magazine and named one of the “Best Adventure Travel Companies on Earth,” by the editors of National Geographic Adventure Magazine.

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