

# EXOTIC EXPEDITIONS



Experiential journeys for the exploring traveller

# OFFBEAT KAZAKHSTAN EXPLORER

APRIL 6 - APRIL 12

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7 D

ALMATY - BASSHI  
CHARYN CANYON  
ALTYN EMEL RESERVE

# OVERVIEW

Thanks to abundant natural resources Kazakhstan is probably the best developed of the “stans”. You’re more likely to get a good coffee on the leafy streets of Almaty than anywhere else on the Central Asian steppe, and the country’s new capital, Astana, is a 21st-century showcase of modern architecture and futuristic design. Not what you’d expect from a country where few travellers have yet to venture. Whatever your expectations are, leave them in the arrivals lounge. Kazakhstan defies them all.

On our journey we explore vibrant Almaty and Southern Kazakhstan, a place truly off the beaten track that sees few travellers, especially outside Astana and Almaty. For much of this trip, you’ll truly feel the remoteness of Central Asia. Explore its rugged mountain and semi desert topography with canyons, lakes and forests and understand the Kazak way of life, their culture and food in this truly offbeat adventure.



# ESSENTIAL INFO

**Cost:** Rs 65000/- per person

**Country:** Kazakhstan

**Start:** Almaty

**End:** Almaty

**Start Date:** 6th April' 2025

**End Date:** 12th April' 2025

**Duration:** 7 Days

**Group Size :** Min 5 / Max 10

**Theme:** Culture, Adventure



# HIGHLIGHTS



Visit the singing dunes in Altyn Emel National Park



Try traditional Kazakh cuisines like Lagman, Beshmarmak and Kurt



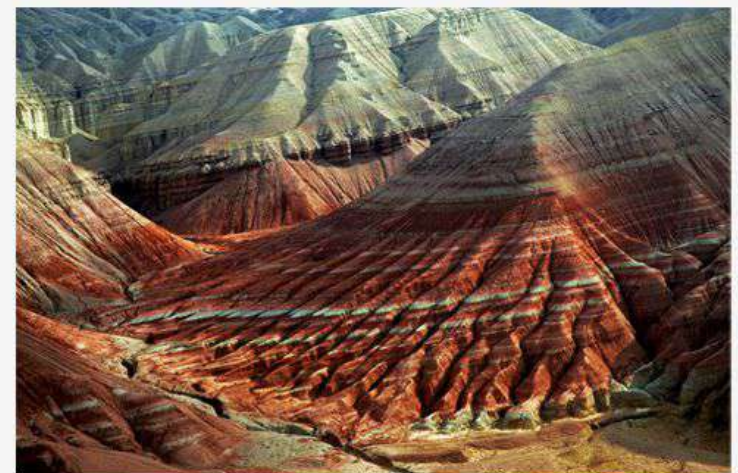
Admire the beauty of the spectacular Charyn Canyon



Walk around the beautiful Kolasi and Kiandy lakes



Try the famous Oporto apples at the green bazaar



See the surreal landscape of Ak tau and Katu tau mountains

# ITINERARY

## Day 1: ALMATY

Arrive in Almaty and transfer to the hotel. Rest and later in the evening you have the option to explore Arbat street, the most popular nightlife district of Almaty. Overnight at Almaty.

## Day 2: ALMATY - ALTYN EMEL NATIONAL PARK - BASSHI ( 270 KMS / 4 HRS )

After breakfast we leave for Altyn-Emel National Park, about 300 km from Almaty. After reaching Basshi and having lunch we explore the park. Be ready to be mesmerized by the surreal topography, the different types of red rock formations, colourful mountains, stunning views of canyons and singing sand dunes. Altyn-Emel is a national natural park located in the Ili river valley in Kazakhstan. The Park was founded in 1996 with the purpose of preserving the unique natural complex, archeological, historical and cultural monuments, rare and endangered species of animals and plants. In the Park's territory of 4600 sq kms, one can find various kinds of desert and mountain landscapes.

Late afternoon we visit the Singing Dunes ( Singing Barkhan ) inside the park to hear the sounds and echoes of the singing dunes and to see the mesmerizing topography of the region. Later enjoy traditional Kazakh dishes at our Homestay and take part in the national Kazakh game "Asyki".

Overnight at Basshi village.



# ITINERARY

## Day 3: **BASSHI - KATU TAU AND AK TAU MOUNTAINS - ZHARKENT ( 120 KMS / 2 HRS )**

Toady we visit Katu-tau and Aktau mountains. The former is famous for its unique appearance, which was probably created by small volcanoes, erupted and immediately cooled down several thousand years ago. Today's unique shapes are well preserved and remain the same. These shapes include holes of all shapes and sizes, grooves, cracks, gyrus, which sometimes resemble shelves, sometimes cups or royal throne, just let your imagination guide you. Aktau canyons and mountains could surprise you by its red, green, pink or even pale blue colored stony slopes. Archaeologists have discovered dinosaur bones in the mountains of Aktau, and remains of other species are being found even today. Its also possible to see some rare and indigenous wildlife of the region today including the Argali ( mountain goat ), Mongolian Khulan ( wild ass ), Stone Marten, Bactrian Deer, Persian Gazelle and Przewalski horse.

After lunch we head to Zharkent town and visit the Zharkent mosque and museum and Orthodox Church. We will also visit the local market and you can try one of the most popular lagman in Kazakhstan or "Beshbarmak", the national dish of Kazakhstan. Overnight at Zharkent.



# ITINERARY

## Day 4: ZHARKENT - CHARYN CANYON - KAINDY LAKE - SATY ( 250 kms / 4 hrs )

After breakfast we drive to Charyn Canyon one of the most visited attractions in Kazakhstan. With spectacular rock formations rising up 370 meters from the valley floor. Visitors can walk a well maintained path some three kilometers along the base of the canyon, known as the "Valley of Castles." There are a number of fascinating rock formations along the way. The path ends at the Charyn River, in an area with shade trees perfect for picnicking. Later arrive in Saty village and after lunch we visit Kaindy Lake. Evening back to Saty village. After dinner and tasting traditional Kazakh bread "boursaki" and traditional Kazakh cheese "kurt" we sit by the fire with a cup of hot tea. Overnight at Saty village.



# ITINERARY

## Day 5: SATY - KOLSAI LAKE - ALMATY ( 280 kms / 4 hrs )

After breakfast we visit Kolsay Lake in the Kolsai Lake National Park. The lakes were formed after an 1887 earthquake caused landslides that dammed the stream. The view of the lake is spectacular and you can go horse riding here , hiking , boat ride etc. around the lake. After lunch we leave from Kolsai Lake and reach Almaty by late afternoon / evening. On the way we stop at a vinery to see the vinery and wine tasting. Overnight at Almaty





# ITINERARY

## Day 6: ALMATY

Today, you'll take a half day city tour of Almaty with a local guide. This former capital of Kazakhstan now has a completely different vibrancy to Astana, with its wide tree-lined streets, numerous parks and the view of the snow-capped mountains. Visit Central Square and the colourful Zenkoff Cathedral in Panfilov Park, dedicated to the 28 guardsmen who died defending Moscow against German tanks in WWII. Check out the fascinating Museum of Kazakh Musical Instruments, which features a great collection of ancient relics. Finally, visit Zelenyi Bazaar and experience the vibrant market scene before returning to the hotel. Afternoon free to visit Big Almaty lake or shopping or rest. Overnight at Almaty.

## Day 7: ALMATY - DEPARTURE

After breakfast transfer to airport. End of tour.





**Rs 65000/-  
per person**

## **INCLUSIONS**

- 3 nights stay each in Almaty, 1 Night stay in Basshi village, 1 night stay in Saty village AND 1 night stay in Zharkent town ( Double / Twin sharing )
- Breakfast on all days
- All airport transfers during tour in Suv / Van
- Day 2 to 5 tour in Suv / Van
- Half day guided tour of Almaty
- Service charges
- Taxes

## **EXCLUSIONS**

- Flight Charges ( Your city to Almaty and back )
- Visa ( 14 days visa free entry for Indian nationals )
- Entry tickets and camera charges ( wherever applicable )
- Dinner & Lunch
- Other than those mentioned



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