

EXOTIC EXPEDITIONS



Experiential journeys for the exploring traveller

OFFBEAT KAZAKHSTAN EXPLORER

MAY 18TH - 24TH

**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 67500/- per person

Country: Kazakhstan

Start: Almaty

End: Almaty

Start Date: 18th May' 2026

End Date: 24th May' 2026

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



Day 1 : May 18

ALMATY ARRIVAL - CITY TOUR

Arrive in Almaty and transfer to the hotel. **Hotel check in time - 2 p.m.**

Almaty, Kazakhstan's largest city and former capital, sits at the foothills of the Trans-Ili Alatau mountains. A cultural and economic hub, it blends modern buildings with leafy boulevards, bustling bazaars like Zelenyy Bazaar, theaters, museums, universities, and nearby ski resorts such as Shymbulak. Its continental climate brings hot summers and cold, snowy winters

Rest and later in the evening you have the option to explore Kok Tobe, Green Bazaar and Arbat street, the most popular nightlife district of Almaty.

Overnight in Almaty.



Day 2 : May 19

ALTYN EMEL - 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. In the Parks 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 echos of the singing dunes and to see the mesmerizing topography of the region. Later enjoy traditional Kazak dishes at our Homestay and take part in the national Kazakh game "Asyki".

Overnight in Basshi village.



Day 3 : May 20

AK TAU - ZHARKENT - SATY
370 KMS / 7 HRS

Today we explore the **Katu-Tau and Aktau mountains**. Katu-Tau is known for its unique volcanic formations, featuring unusual shapes like holes, grooves, and structures resembling shelves or thrones. Aktau's colorful slopes—red, green, pink, and pale blue—make it equally striking, and the area is known for dinosaur fossils and rare wildlife sightings.

After lunch, visit a **Chinese-style mosque and a Russian Orthodox Church**, both around 150 years old, in the small town of **Zharkent**. By evening, arrive at Saty village near the Kyrgyzstan border for an overnight stay.

Overnight is Saty Village



Day 4 : May 21

**SATY VILLAGE - KAINDY LAKE
- KOLSAI LAKE**

After breakfast at **Saty village**, begin the day with a scenic drive to **Kaindy Lake**, famous for its submerged forest and striking turquoise waters. Surrounded by dramatic mountain landscapes, the lake offers a peaceful and unique setting for exploration and photography.

Return to Saty village for lunch before heading out again to the stunning **Kolsai Lake**. Known as the “Pearls of the Northern Tien Shan,” Kolsai enchants visitors with its crystal-clear waters, lush forests, and alpine beauty. Enjoy a relaxed walk around the lake or simply soak in the serene surroundings.

Overnight in Saty village.



Day 5 : May 22

**CHERYN CANYON - ALMATY
(280 KMS / 4.5 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.

After lunch we leave for Almaty and reach by late afternoon / evening.

Evening free to explore Almaty.

Overnight in Saty village.



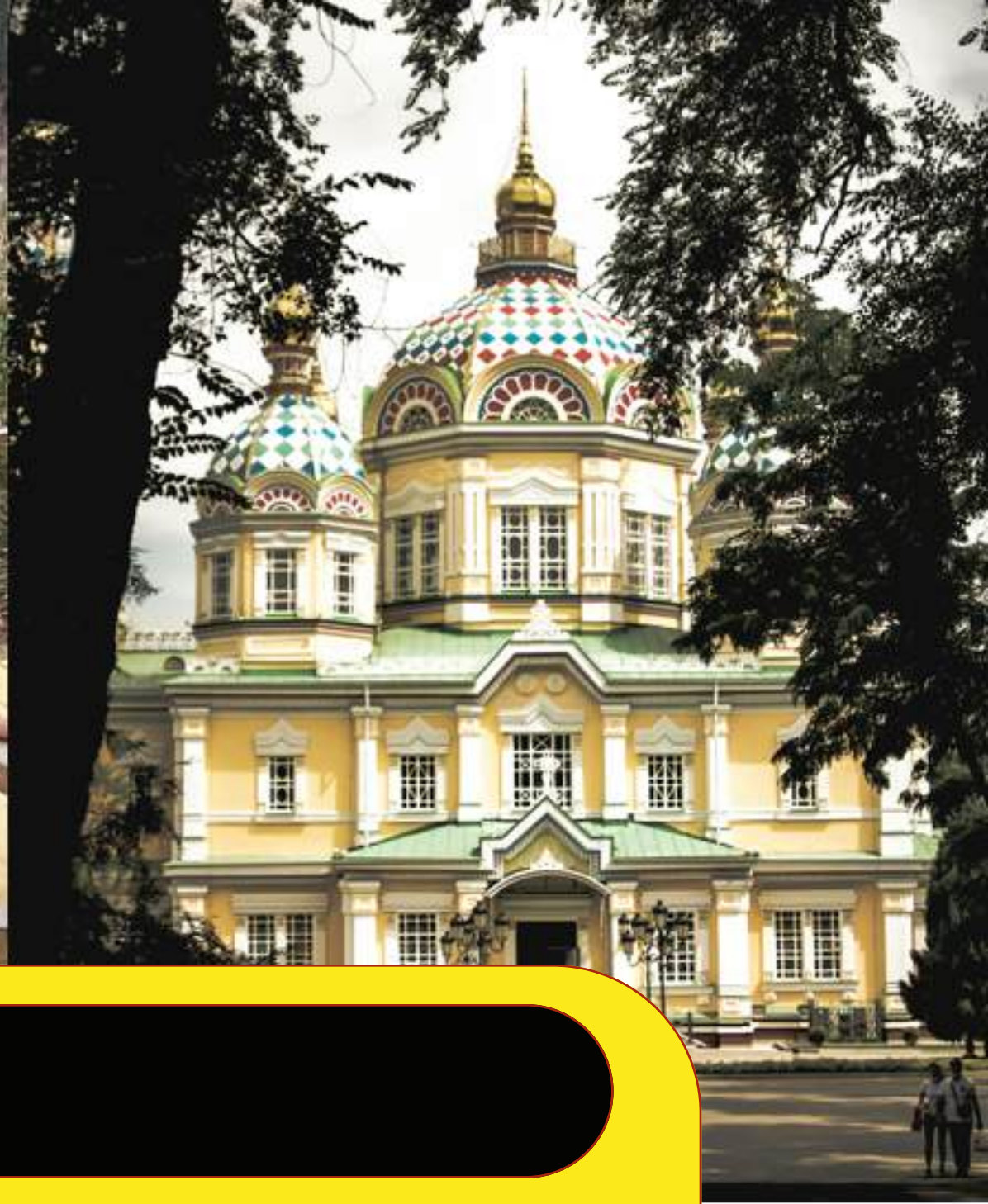
Day 6 : May 23

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 (Green) Bazaar** and experience the vibrant market scene before returning to the hotel. Afternoon is free to visit Big Almaty lake or shop or rest.

Overnight in Almaty.

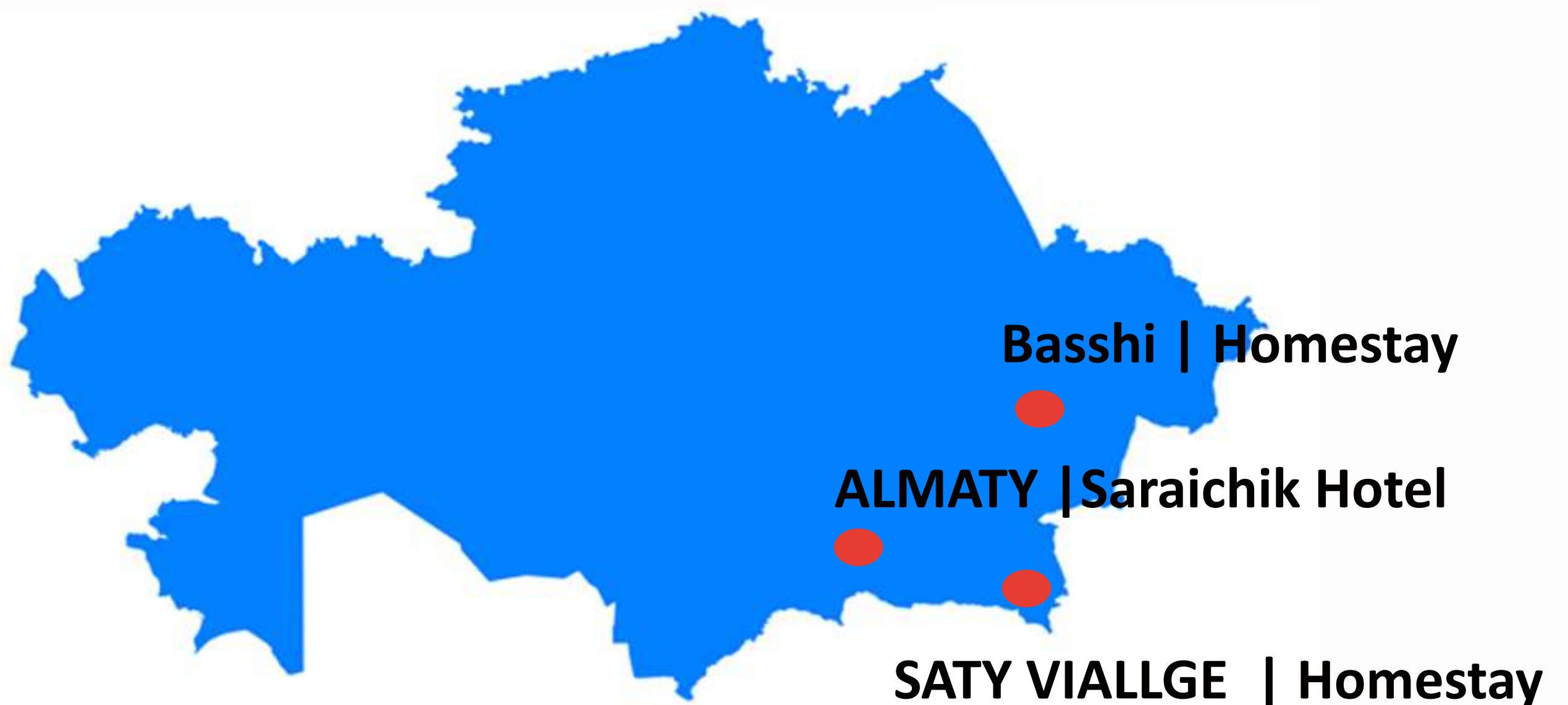


Day 7 : May 24

**ALMATY
DEPARTURE**

This day marks the end of our Kazakhstan adventure. Go back with beautiful memories, stories and new friendships that you have made on the journey.


You will be dropped to the airport as per your individual flight timings.



*** OR SIMILAR**

HOTELS

what people say about us

←  **shruthi venkatesh**
Local Guide · 18 reviews

★★★★★ a year ago

Arunachal Pradesh, November 2024. I travelled to Arunachal Pradesh with Santhosh aka Exotic Expedition. One of the best trips filled with exhilarating and fascinating experiences. I usually travel solo and this was my first organized tour experience. Now I would like to explore many such possibilities. EE not covers all the important and famous sites but ensures that you experience the local culture and cuisine. You get to stay in some amazing homes stays and heritage homes. Each day is exciting and the flexibility element makes it more special. The stay, food and the evenings spent with fellow travellers makes the tour memorable and incredible. Each day is well planned and

 **XO**
2 reviews · 10 photos

★★★★★ 2 years ago

3 trips with them ... Meghalaya, Vietnam & recently Nagaland !
Each one simple , perfect & memorable. It's about an experience of the lifestyle and culture which is perfectly curated ... [More](#)



100% recommend (82 reviews) ⓘ


 **Divya Mehta Suri** recommends
Exotic Expeditions.
29 Jun 2024 · 🌐

Two things aptly define Exotic Expedition - affordable and safe

I did four trips with Santosh so far-Nagaland, Leh Ladakh, Vietnam and Cambodia Nagaland was on my list for a long time but due to its remote location I was hesitant to attempt it. But he made it memorable for us by adding the interior, non touristy and unexplored locations along with the World famous Hornbill festival in the itinerary.... See more

 **Tarini Mukherji** recommends
Exotic Expeditions.
18 Dec 2023 · 🌐

I recently embarked on a mesmerizing journey with exotic expeditions to Nagaland, and it was an adventure like no other. The tour seamlessly blended cultural immersion with breathtaking landscapes, offering an authentic glimpse into Nagaland's rich heritage. Santosh navigated us through vibrant local markets, where we indulged in delicious Naga cuisine and interacted with warm, welcoming locals. The highlight was the Hornbill Festival, a kaleidoscope of traditional dances, indigenous crafts, and the vibrant N... See more

←  **Sandhya Pulaskar**
Local Guide · 40 reviews · 63 photos


★★★★★ a year ago

We booked our Bali trip for 10 days with Exotic Expeditions. The service and itinerary was designed as per our needs. Hotels and cab was booked by Santosh. The hotels were good, close to the beautiful landscapes, In Ubud, he booked a stay in between rice fields, in Amed, we had a beach front place. Loved all the stays! The itinerary was off beat and covered some of the best locations. We could not have discovered these hidden gems had we not chosen Exotic Expeditions. Thanks for making our Bali trip and the overall experience memorable! Looking forward to visit Ladhak with you guys

←  **Devesh Arora**
Local Guide · 22 reviews

★★★★★ 6 years ago


First things first, I love solo travelling! I never thought that group travelling can be as much fun as travelling by yourself, I was wrong. First time I traveled with Exotic Expeditions was in late 2016 (to Bhutan), since then I have done 6-7 trips (Bali, Andaman, Vietnam, Cambodia, North-East, Sri Lanka) with Santosh (Yes, he is the guy), and every trip has been an Experience! The places Santosh try to cover in his trips you will not find with any other tour company/guide. If I can try to sum-up travelling with E-E in one line, Exotic Expeditions is for real travelers, and may be for some tourists also, only if you know the difference ;) Cheers - Devesh

←  **Jaclyn Desouza**
Local Guide · 15 reviews · 10 photos

★★★★★ a day ago **New**


I had an absolutely fantastic experience travelling with Exotic Expeditions to Western Arunachal, Nagaland, Uzbekistan and Bali. If you're someone who prefers meaningful, offbeat journeys over crowded tourist checklists, Exotic Expeditions truly delivers.

What stood out for me the most was how thoughtfully the itinerary was designed – unique locations, authentic local experiences, and hidden gems I would never have discovered on my own. Every detail from Home-stays in the north east to scenic routes in Bali to interactions with local communities in Uzbekistan made the trips feel personal and

 **Vijay Pravin Iyer**
Local Guide · 6 reviews · 26 photos

★★★★★ Edited 7 months ago

Santosh Nair's remarkable endeavor in orchestrating the exotic Nagaland expedition deserves the greatest encomium. Exploring the resplendent locales and immersing ourselves in the vibrant cultural milieu has been nothing short of ... [More](#)





COST - Rs 67500/- per person

INCLUSIONS

- 3 nights stay each in Almaty, 1 Night stay in Basshi village and 2 night stay in Saty village
- Breakfast on all days (6 Breakfast)
- All airport transfers during the tour in Suv / Van
- Day 2 to Day 5 tour in Suv / Van
- Half day guided tour of Almaty in Suv / Van
- Service charges
- Taxes

EXOTIC EXPEDITIONS



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

STAYS

ALMATY - Sicharik Hotel

BASSHI - Village Homestay

SATY - Homestay

*** OR SIMILAR**



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