

Kazakhstan Nature Highlights

Almaty – Tamgaly-Tas – Altyn-Emel – Aktau Mountains – Katutau Mountains – Charyn Canyon – Saty Village – Kolsay Lake – Kaindy Lake – Issyk Lake – Huns Ethno Village – Almaty

DURATION

9 Days

DESTINATIONS

Kazakhstan

TRAVEL STYLE

Nature

SUPPORT

National parks, canyon routes, mountain lakes & local guesthouses

Overview

Kazakhstan Nature Highlights is a 9-day journey focused on the dramatic natural landscapes around Almaty and the south-eastern part of Kazakhstan. The route combines city sightseeing, national parks, desert scenery, colorful mountains, canyons, alpine lakes and cultural experiences.

The tour begins and ends in Almaty, then continues to Tamgaly-Tas, Altyn-Emel National Park, the Singing Dune, Aktau and Katutau Mountains, Charyn Canyon, Saty village, Kolsay and Kaindy Lakes, Issyk Lake and the Huns Ethno Village.

This program is suitable for travelers who enjoy nature, photography, light hiking, open landscapes and local guesthouse stays. Some days include long drives and remote areas, but the route offers a rich introduction to Kazakhstan's mountain, canyon and steppe scenery.

Tour Highlights



Prices

TRAVELERS	PRICE PER PERSON
Private group quotation	On request

Reference starting price only. Final quotation is confirmed after inquiry.

Itinerary

DAY 01

Arrival in Almaty

Arrive at Almaty International Airport, where you will be met and transferred to your hotel. After check-in, the rest of the day is free to relax after your flight or take a first independent walk around the city. In the evening, you may enjoy dinner at a local restaurant depending on arrival time.

DAY 02

Almaty City Sightseeing

Begin your introduction to Almaty with the city’s main cultural and historical landmarks. Visit Panfilov Park, Zenkov Cathedral, the World War II memorial area with the eternal flame, the Central Mosque, Republic Square and the Green Bazaar, where local products and souvenirs create a lively atmosphere. Later, continue to Kok-Tobe Hill by cable car for panoramic views over Almaty and the surrounding mountains.

DAY 03

Almaty – Tamgaly-Tas – Altyn-Emel

Leave Almaty and travel toward Tamgaly-Tas, a riverside rock-art site on the Ili River known for carved Buddhist images and inscriptions. After time to explore the area and enjoy the landscape, continue toward Baschi village and Altyn-Emel National Park. In the afternoon, visit the Singing Dune, one of the park’s most famous natural landmarks, set between the Big and Small Kalkan Mountains. Overnight in or near the national park area.

DAY 04**Altyn-Emel National Park: Aktau and Katutau Mountains**

Spend the day exploring the unusual landscapes of Altyn-Emel National Park. Visit the Katutau Mountains, shaped by volcanic activity, wind and erosion, then continue to the colorful Aktau Mountains, where layers of white, yellow, red and pink rock create one of Kazakhstan's most photogenic natural areas. Return to your accommodation later in the day.

DAY 05**Altyn-Emel – Charyn Canyon – Saty Village**

After breakfast, depart Altyn-Emel and drive toward Charyn Canyon. On the way, stop near the old ash-tree grove by the Temerlik River when route conditions allow. Continue to the canyon and walk through the famous Valley of Castles, where towers of red rock rise from the canyon floor and form one of Kazakhstan's most impressive natural sights. Later, continue to Saty village for dinner and overnight in a local guesthouse.

DAY 06**Kolsay Lake and Kaindy Lake**

Today is dedicated to the mountain lakes of the Northern Tian Shan. Visit Kolsay Lake, often described as one of the region's most beautiful alpine lake systems, and enjoy time for a short walk near the first lake. After lunch, continue by local off-road vehicle toward Kaindy Lake, famous for its submerged spruce trees rising from the water. Return to Saty village for dinner and overnight.

DAY 07**Saty Village – Issyk Lake – Almaty**

Drive back toward Almaty through mountain and foothill scenery. En route, visit the Issyk area, including the museum connected with the famous Golden Man archaeological discovery, then continue to Issyk Lake and, if timing and conditions allow, the Turgen waterfall area. After time for photos and a picnic-style break near the lake, return to Almaty and check in at the hotel.

DAY 08**Almaty – Huns Ethno Village – Almaty**

Travel outside the city to the Huns Ethno Village, a cultural complex that introduces Kazakh nomadic traditions in a scenic mountain setting. The visit may include a welcome ritual, yurt presentation, felt craft demonstration, traditional music and dances, family rituals, horse games and a boursak cooking master class. Enjoy lunch in a national-style setting before returning to Almaty in the afternoon.

DAY 09**Departure from Almaty**

After breakfast, check out from the hotel according to your flight schedule. Transfer to Almaty International Airport for departure. This concludes your Kazakhstan Nature Highlights tour.

What is Included

- Airport arrival and departure transfers in Almaty
- Transportation throughout the tour according to group size and road conditions
- Accommodation in hotels and local guesthouses based on twin or double sharing, according to the confirmed

- English-speaking guide service according to the itinerary
- Meals listed in the final confirmed program
- Excursions and entrance fees for listed sightseeing places
- National park permissions where required by the route
- Local off-road transfer to Kaindy Lake
- Bottled water during touring days
- Local taxes connected with the confirmed services

Not Included

- International flights before and after the tour
- Early check-in or late check-out at hotels unless confirmed in advance
- Meals not clearly listed in the final itinerary
- Alcoholic drinks and personal restaurant extras
- Personal expenses, optional activities and extra services
- Travel medical insurance
- Tips for guides, drivers and local service staff
- Extra costs caused by weather, road conditions, route changes or personal schedule changes

FAQ

When is the best season for this Kazakhstan nature tour?

The recommended season is usually from May to October, when mountain roads, national park routes and lake areas are more accessible. Weather can still change quickly in mountain regions.

Is this tour physically difficult?

The tour is not designed as a hard trekking program, but travelers should be comfortable with light walking, uneven paths, long drives and some remote nature areas.

What kind of accommodation is used?

The route usually combines city hotels in Almaty with simple but comfortable local guesthouses in remote village or national park areas.

Can the itinerary be customized?

Yes. The route can be adapted for private travelers, different hotel standards, photography focus, additional hiking, horseback riding or extra nights in Almaty.

Do I need warm clothes?

Yes. Even in summer, mountain and lake areas can be cool in the morning or evening. A warm layer, comfortable walking shoes and rain protection are recommended.

Is Kaindy Lake reached by normal vehicle?

The final approach to Kaindy Lake is usually done by local off-road vehicle because of road conditions in the mountain area.



KAZAKHSTAN NATURE HIGHLIGHTS

Plan Your Central Asia Journey

Contact us for updated availability, final price confirmation, visa guidance and custom travel planning.

TOUR ROUTE

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WEBSITE

belettravel.com

EMAIL

info@belettravel.com

WHATSAPP

+99363229627

Belet Travel

Tailor-made journeys across Central Asia