CENTRAL ASIA GUIDE



GROUP TOUR · 4 DAYS

Mangystau 4 day group tour

Round trip from Aktau · Kazakhstan

Duration 4 days, 3 nights	Start and end Round trip from Aktau	Best time to visit Apr–Nov
Group tour from $778 per person	Group size Max 9 travellers	Tour type Jeep (4x4), Nature
Difficulty Moderate	Departures 30 guaranteed dates	

Prices and dates valid for 2027 departures. Issued 23 November 2026.

Tour highlights

See the best of Mangystau in western Kazakhstan on this 4-day small-group camping tour from Aktau. On the first day you drive to the stone balls of Torysh and the white cliffs of Akespe Chalk Canyon, then on to the colorful Jurassic clays of Kokala and the yurt-shaped Sherkala mountain, and camp among the castle-like rocks of Airakty. On day 2 you explore the white cliffs and salt flat of lower Tuzbair, then spend the night in a yurt at a traditional camp nearby. Day 3 leads via Zhanaozen to the Mars Panorama and the Dragon Crest of Bozjyra, with a night in tents beneath its limestone Fangs. On the last day you see the Fangs from the Middle Fangs viewpoint, the layered Kyzylkup "Tiramisu Canyon" and the isolated Bokty mountain before returning to Aktau. The group is small, with a maximum of 9 travelers, and departures are guaranteed from one person.

Difficulty: Moderate. Daily drives of about 230–330 km in off-road vehicles, with 30–95 km off-road per day, short walks on uneven desert terrain, two nights in tents and one night in a yurt; summer midday heat can reach 45°C. Not suitable for children under 6, pregnant women or people with disabilities.



Sherkala mountain in Mangystau



Boszhira Tract in Mangystau

Where you'll stay

Night 1	**Airakty – Valley of Castles**	Tent Camping
Night 2	**Tuzbair Salt Flat**	Yurt camp near Tuzbair
Night 3	**Bozjyra (Boszhira)**	Tent Camping

Listed accommodation or similar, same category.

Day-by-day itinerary

DAY 1

Aktau – Torysh – Akespe Chalk Canyon – Kokala – Sherkala – Airakty

The day begins with airport pickup at 8:00 AM for arriving guests, followed by hotel pickups at 8:30–9:00 AM. All participants are then transferred to the local office for payment processing and a short tour briefing. This is also an opportunity to relax and prepare for the journey ahead.

At 9:30 AM, the tour officially starts from the office. The first destination is Torysh – Valley of Balls, a fascinating geological site known for its mysterious spherical rock formations scattered across the desert.

Next, the route continues to Akespe Chalk Canyon, famous for its striking white cliffs and dramatic chalk formations, creating one of the most unique landscapes in the Mangystau region.

After lunch at a local café, the journey proceeds to Kokala – Jurassic Clays, where visitors can admire colorful cliffs and ancient geological layers shaped over millions of years.

Afterwards, the tour continues to Sherkala Mountain, often called the “Sphinx of Mangystau,” admired for its distinctive yurt-like shape and panoramic views.

The final stop of the day is Airakty – Valley of Castle-Shaped Mountains, where guests explore surreal rock formations resembling ancient fortresses. The day ends with camping under the stars in this remote desert landscape.

Overnight	**Airakty – Valley of Castles** · Tent Camping
Meals	Lunch, Dinner
Travel	Aktau – Airakty – Valley of Castles (229 km)

DAY 2

Airakty – Tuzbair – Yurt camp near Tuzbair

The day begins with a journey towards Tuzbair, one of the most striking natural landscapes in the region. Here, guests explore the lower part of Tuzbair, with its white chalk cliffs, a vast salt flat (sor) and striking rock formations in the open desert.

After exploring Tuzbair, the journey continues to a traditional yurt camp near Tuzbair. Upon arrival, guests experience authentic nomadic hospitality and gain insight into the traditional lifestyle of the Kazakh people, surrounded by the peaceful steppe environment.

The evening is spent at the camp, offering a cultural and immersive experience under the open sky.

Overnight	**Tuzbair Salt Flat** · Yurt camp near Tuzbair
Meals	Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Travel	Airakty – Valley of Castles – Tuzbair Salt Flat (251 km)

DAY 3

Zhanaozen – Bozjyra Mars Panorama – Dragon Crest – Under the Fang Formations

The day begins with a drive towards Zhanaozen City, where there is a stop for lunch at a local café. This break also allows time for refueling and a visit to a local market if needed. During the summer season, an additional one-hour rest is included at the café, giving guests a chance to relax with cold drinks and Wi-Fi before continuing the journey in the cooler part of the day, as midday temperatures can reach up to 45°C.

After the break, the route continues into Bozjyra. The first stop is the Mars Panorama, offering sweeping views of surreal cliffs and landscapes that resemble the surface of another planet when seen from above.

Next, the tour proceeds to Dragon Crest, a striking jagged limestone ridge that resembles the spine of a mythical dragon and provides one of the most memorable panoramas of the region.

In the evening, the group arrives at Bozjyra – Under the Fang Formations, where camp is set beneath towering limestone pinnacles. This remote location offers a peaceful atmosphere, with an unforgettable night under the stars in the desert.

Overnight	**Bozjyra (Boszhira)** · Tent Camping
Meals	Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Travel	Tuzbair Salt Flat – Bozjyra (Boszhira) (318 km)

DAY 4

Bozjyra Middle Fangs – Kyzylkup (Tiramisu) Canyon – Bokty Mount – Aktau

The final day begins at the Middle Fangs, a panoramic viewpoint overlooking the famous Fang Formations of Bozjyra. These towering limestone structures dominate the landscape and represent one of the most iconic natural landmarks in Mangystau. Visitors have time to walk around and take in the dramatic scenery.

After lunch at a local café, the route continues to Kyzylkup (Tiramisu) Canyon, a breathtaking natural site known for its layered rock formations that resemble a dessert. The canyon's vibrant shades of red, yellow and orange create a striking and photogenic landscape.

The journey then proceeds to Bokty Mountain, a dramatic, isolated formation rising from the steppe. Its fortress-like shape and unique coloring make it one of the most remarkable landmarks in the region and a final highlight of the journey.

Afterwards, the group begins the return drive via Zhanaozen to Aktau City, marking the end of the tour through Mangystau's most remarkable landscapes.

Overnight	Departure day, no overnight
Meals	Breakfast, Lunch
Travel	Bozjyra (Boszhira) – Aktau (330 km)

What's included

Included

- English-speaking local guide
- All transport during the tour, with pick-up at Aktau Airport or your hotel in Aktau on day 1 and drop-off in Aktau on day 4
- Three meals per day (local food cooking), except breakfast on day 1 and dinner on day 4
- 2 nights tent camping (all equipment included)
- One night in a yurt at the ethno camp
- Storage for your luggage and large bags during the tour
- Accident insurance coverage
- All entrance fees
- Complimentary camel milk products

Not included

- Visa fees
- International and domestic airfare
- Breakfast on day 1 and dinner on day 4
- Accommodation on arrival and departure days in Aktau
- Expenses due to unexpected weather (e.g., an extra guesthouse stay)

Prices and dates

Valid for 2027 departures

Group tour, per person

Tour	Double / twin room	Single supplement
4 days	**$778**	–

Same price on all departures. 6% deposit, balance 30 days before tour starting date.

Guaranteed group departures

2027

Start	End	Weekdays	Status
12 Apr 2027	15 Apr 2027	Mon – Thu	Available
19 Apr 2027	22 Apr 2027	Mon – Thu	Available
26 Apr 2027	29 Apr 2027	Mon – Thu	Available
3 May 2027	6 May 2027	Mon – Thu	Available
10 May 2027	13 May 2027	Mon – Thu	Available
17 May 2027	20 May 2027	Mon – Thu	Available
24 May 2027	27 May 2027	Mon – Thu	Available
31 May 2027	3 Jun 2027	Mon – Thu	Available
7 Jun 2027	10 Jun 2027	Mon – Thu	Available
14 Jun 2027	17 Jun 2027	Mon – Thu	Available
21 Jun 2027	24 Jun 2027	Mon – Thu	Available
28 Jun 2027	1 Jul 2027	Mon – Thu	Available
5 Jul 2027	8 Jul 2027	Mon – Thu	Available
12 Jul 2027	15 Jul 2027	Mon – Thu	Available
19 Jul 2027	22 Jul 2027	Mon – Thu	Available
26 Jul 2027	29 Jul 2027	Mon – Thu	Available

2 Aug 2027	5 Aug 2027	Mon – Thu	Available
9 Aug 2027	12 Aug 2027	Mon – Thu	Available
16 Aug 2027	19 Aug 2027	Mon – Thu	Available
23 Aug 2027	26 Aug 2027	Mon – Thu	Available
30 Aug 2027	2 Sep 2027	Mon – Thu	Available
6 Sep 2027	9 Sep 2027	Mon – Thu	Available
13 Sep 2027	16 Sep 2027	Mon – Thu	Available
20 Sep 2027	23 Sep 2027	Mon – Thu	Available
27 Sep 2027	30 Sep 2027	Mon – Thu	Available
4 Oct 2027	7 Oct 2027	Mon – Thu	Available
11 Oct 2027	14 Oct 2027	Mon – Thu	Available
18 Oct 2027	21 Oct 2027	Mon – Thu	Available
25 Oct 2027	28 Oct 2027	Mon – Thu	Available
1 Nov 2027	4 Nov 2027	Mon – Thu	Available

Availability as of 23 November 2026. Check current availability on the tour page.

Book or ask a question

Choose a date or ask us anything about this tour. We usually reply within one working day.

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