



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
Mar–Oct

Group tour from
\$645 per person

Group size
Max 9 travellers

Tour type
Jeep (4x4), Nature

Difficulty
Moderate

Prices and dates valid for 2026 departures. Issued 12 October 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 through the white cliffs of Akespe Chalk Canyon to the stone balls of Torysh, 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 upper and lower parts of the Tuzbair salt flat and its White Arch, then spend the night in a yurt at a traditional ethno camp. Day 3 leads via Zhanaozen to the layered Kyzylkup "Tiramisu Canyon" and the isolated Bokty mountain, with a night in tents beneath the limestone Fangs of Bozjyra. On the last morning you see the Fangs from above, the Mars Panorama and the Dragon Crest 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 4.5–5.5 hours in off-road vehicles, with 40–110 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.



Boszhira Tract in Mangystau



Mangustay Valley of balls or the devil's balls

Where you'll stay

Night 1	Airakty – Valley of Castles	Tent Camping
Night 2	Kogez Ethno Village	Yurt Ethno Camp
Night 3	Bozjyra (Boszhira)	Tent Camping

Listed accommodation or similar, same category.

Day-by-day itinerary

DAY

1

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

The day begins with airport pickup at 8:00 AM for arriving guests, followed by hotel pickups at 8:30 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 9:00 AM, the tour officially starts from the office. The first destination is Akespe Chalk Canyon, famous for its striking white cliffs and dramatic chalk formations, creating one of the most unique landscapes in the Mangystau region.

Next, the route continues to Torysh – Valley of Balls, a fascinating geological site known for its mysterious spherical rock formations scattered across the desert.

The journey then 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
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Meals	Lunch, Dinner
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Travel	Aktau – Airakty – Valley of Castles (225 km)
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DAY

2

Tuzbair (Upper, Lower and White Arch) – Yurt Ethno Camp

The day begins with a journey towards Tuzbair, one of the most striking natural landscapes in the region. Here, guests explore the vast salt flats and dramatic chalk formations across the upper and lower areas of Tuzbair. A highlight of the visit is the White Arch, a naturally formed rock structure that stands as one of the area’s most unique geological wonders.

After exploring Tuzbair, the journey continues to a traditional Yurt Ethno Camp. 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	Kogez Ethno Village · Yurt Ethno Camp
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Meals	Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
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Travel	Airakty – Valley of Castles – Kogez Ethno Village (265 km)
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DAY
3

Zhanaozen – Kyzylkup (Tiramisu) Canyon – Bokty Mount – Bozjyra Under the Fang Formations

The day begins with a drive towards Zhanaozen City, where there is a stop for lunch at Adal 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 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.

In the evening, the group arrives at Bozjyra – Under the Fang Formations, where camp is set beneath towering limestone cliffs. 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	Kogez Ethno Village – Bozjyra (Boszhira) (320 km)

DAY
4

Bozjyra Middle Part: Upper View of the Fang Formations – Mars Panorama – Dragon Crest Panorama – Aktau

The final day begins in the Bozjyra Middle Area, where guests explore the upper viewpoints of the famous Fang Formations. 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.

The journey continues to 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. This viewpoint provides one of the most memorable panoramas of the entire region and serves as a final highlight of the journey.

After the exploration, the group begins the return drive 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 (304 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

Valid for 2026 departures

Group tour, per person

Tour	Double / twin room	Single supplement
4 days	\$645	–

Same price on all departures. \$39 deposit, balance one month before tour starting date.

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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