CENTRAL ASIA GUIDE



GROUP TOUR · 6 DAYS

Discover Whole Mangystau in 6 Days

Round trip from Aktau · Kazakhstan

Duration 6 days, 5 nights	Start and end Round trip from Aktau	Best time to visit Apr–Oct
Group tour from $1,351 per person	Group size Max 9 travellers	Tour type Hiking, Jeep (4x4), Nature
Difficulty Easy	Departures 14 guaranteed dates	

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

Tour highlights

Explore the wild desert landscapes of Mangystau in western Kazakhstan on this 6-day small-group camping tour from Aktau, which covers the whole region from the Caspian coast to Bozjyra. You see the collapsed cliffs of Zhygylgan, Kapamsay Canyon, the cave mosques of Shakpak-Ata and Karaman-Ata, the giant stone balls of Torysh, the colorful Jurassic clays of Kokala, the lone Sherkala mountain and the castle-like rocks of Airakty.

Further east you walk on the white Tuzbair salt flat and spend a night in a shared yurt at a camp nearby, see the porous walls of Ybyk Gorge, camp by the layered cliffs of Kyzylkup, the "Tiramisu Canyon", and visit the pyramid-shaped Bokty mountain. In Bozjyra you take in the Mars Panorama and the Dragon Crest, camp beneath the famous limestone Fangs and finish at the Middle Fangs viewpoint. The group is small, with a maximum of 9 travelers and an English-speaking guide, and departures are guaranteed from one person.

Difficulty: Easy. Daily drives of about 125–335 km in off-road vehicles, with 38–94 km off-road per day, short walks on uneven desert terrain, four nights in tents and one night in a shared yurt. Not suitable for children under 6, pregnant women or people with disabilities.



Mangistau 7 days fixed tour



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Where you'll stay

Night 1	**Kapamsay Canyon**	Tent Camping
Night 2	**Airakty – Valley of Castles**	Tent Camping
Night 3	**Tuzbair Salt Flat**	Yurt camp near Tuzbair (shared yurt)
Night 4	**Kyzylkup – Tiramisu Canyon**	Tent Camping
Night 5	**Bozjyra (Boszhira)**	Tent camping under the Bozjyra Fangs

Listed accommodation or similar, same category.

Day-by-day itinerary

DAY 1

Aktau – Zhygylgan – Shakpak Ata – Kapamsay Canyon

Your journey begins in Aktau with pick-up from your hotel or the airport at 9:00 AM, followed by a short briefing, and at 10:00 AM the group heads into the Mangystau desert. The day covers 162 km on-road and 61 km off-road.

The first destination is Zhygylgan (Fallen Earth), a vast natural depression near the Caspian coast formed by ancient geological collapse and scattered with house-sized boulders. Here you walk among dramatic cliffs and can look for the fossilized footprints of prehistoric animals preserved in the rock.

In the afternoon, visit the Shakpak-Ata cave mosque on the Tyub-Karagan peninsula, one of the most sacred and historical sites in the region. Carved directly into the chalk rock, this ancient underground mosque reflects centuries of spiritual heritage and offers a unique atmosphere of calm and mystery.

By evening, arrive at Kapamsay Canyon, a peaceful canyon surrounded by tall rock walls and quiet desert scenery, for dinner and camping under the canyon walls and the desert stars.

Overnight	**Kapamsay Canyon** · Tent Camping
Meals	Lunch, Dinner
Travel	Aktau – Kapamsay Canyon (223 km)

DAY 2

Kapamsay – Torysh – Akespe – Kokala – Sherkala – Airakty

The day covers 141 km on-road and 39 km off-road. At Torysh, also known as the Valley of Balls, explore the remarkable spherical rock formations scattered across the steppe, a unique geological phenomenon that continues to fascinate travelers.

Next, Akespe Gorge welcomes visitors with towering limestone cliffs and winding canyon paths, where dramatic rock formations create one of the region’s most impressive natural landscapes.

After lunch at a local café, the journey continues to Kokala, famous for its colorful Jurassic clay formations and layered landscapes shaped over millions of years.

Visit the iconic Sherkala Mountain, often referred to as the “Sphinx of Mangystau” due to its distinctive yurt-like silhouette rising from the desert plains.

In Airakty, walk among striking mountain formations that resemble ancient castles emerging from the desert terrain, and camp for the night in this peaceful, dramatic landscape.

Overnight	**Airakty – Valley of Castles** · Tent Camping
Meals	Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Travel	Kapamsay Canyon – Airakty – Valley of Castles (180 km)

DAY 3

Airakty – Tuzbair – Yurt camp near Tuzbair

The day covers 157 km on-road and 94 km off-road. After breakfast in the desert, travel to the lower part of Tuzbair, where white chalk cliffs rise above a vast salt flat (sor) and striking rock formations. Walk across this surreal landscape of white crusted ground and ancient seabed formations; the silence and scale of the area make it one of the most memorable experiences of the tour.

In the evening, continue to a traditional yurt camp near Tuzbair. Enjoy a local-style dinner and spend the night in a traditional yurt, shared with your group.

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

DAY 4

Karaman-Ata – Ybyk Gorge – Zhanaozen – Kyzylkup (Tiramisu) Panorama

The day covers 240.5 km on-road and 69.6 km off-road. Visit Karaman-Ata, one of Mangystau's most significant underground mosques and necropolises and an important pilgrimage site carved directly into the rock.

Continue to Ybyk Gorge, a limestone canyon with unusual porous walls, coral-like textures, grottos and narrow winding passages that showcase the wild beauty of Mangystau's desert landscapes.

After a stop in Zhanaozen, drive to the Shakpakty panorama above Kyzylkup, the "Tiramisu Canyon", famous for its colorful layered cliffs, and then down to the layered hills themselves. The landscape changes colors depending on the light, and the day ends with sunset and camping near the canyon.

Overnight	**Kyzylkup – Tiramisu Canyon** · Tent Camping
Meals	Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Travel	Tuzbair Salt Flat – Kyzylkup – Tiramisu Canyon (310 km)

DAY 5

Kyzylkup – Bokty Mount – Bozjyra Mars Panorama – Dragon Crest – Under the Fangs

A shorter driving day of 46 km on-road and 78 km off-road. In the morning, continue from the camp near Kyzylkup to Bokty Mountain, an isolated table mountain with bands of colored geological layers rising sharply from the desert like a clay pyramid, one of Mangystau's most iconic landmarks.

After a stop at Naiza mountain and lunch at a local café, the route enters Bozjyra. Start with the Mars Panorama, where white cliffs resemble a surface from another planet, then continue to the Dragon Crest, a dramatic rocky ridge with sweeping views over the chalk formations.

In the evening, descend to the foot of the famous Bozjyra Fangs, the towering limestone pinnacles that are among the most photographed landmarks in Central Asia, and set up camp directly beneath them for a surreal sunset and a night under the desert stars.

Overnight	**Bozjyra (Boszhira)** · Tent camping under the Bozjyra Fangs
Meals	Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Travel	Kyzylkup – Tiramisu Canyon – Bozjyra (Boszhira) (124 km)

DAY
6

Middle Fangs – Senek – Zhanaozen – Return to Aktau (Hotel Drop-off)

After a last sunrise beneath the Fangs and breakfast at camp, drive up to the Middle Fangs, an elevated viewpoint above the Bozjyra Fangs with wide desert panoramas.

After lunch at a local café, begin the return journey of 297 km on-road and 38 km off-road via Senek and Zhanaozen to Aktau. Arrival is around 7:15 PM, with drop-off at your hotel in Aktau, marking the end of the tour.

Overnight	Departure day, no overnight
Meals	Breakfast, Lunch
Travel	Bozjyra (Boszhira) – Aktau (335 km)

What's included

Included

- All transport during the tour in 4x4 off-road vehicles, with pick-up at your hotel or the airport in Aktau on day 1 and drop-off at your hotel in Aktau on day 6
- English-speaking guide throughout the tour
- Three meals per day (local food cooking), except breakfast on day 1 and dinner on day 6
- 4 nights camping (tent, sleeping bag, pillow, bedsheet)
- One night in a traditional yurt at a camp near Tuzbair (shared with your group)
- Storage for your luggage and large bags during the tour
- Accident insurance coverage
- All entrance fees

Not included

- Visa fees
- International and domestic airfare
- Expenses due to unexpected weather (e.g., extra guesthouse or hotel stays)
- Accommodation on arrival and departure days in Aktau
- Breakfast on day 1 and dinner on day 6
- Tips for the guide and drivers

Prices and dates

Valid for 2027 departures

Group tour, per person

Tour	Double / twin room	Single supplement
6 days	**$1,351**	–

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

Guaranteed group departures

2027

Start	End	Weekdays	Status
18 Apr 2027	23 Apr 2027	Sun – Fri	Available
2 May 2027	7 May 2027	Sun – Fri	Available
16 May 2027	21 May 2027	Sun – Fri	Available
30 May 2027	4 Jun 2027	Sun – Fri	Available
13 Jun 2027	18 Jun 2027	Sun – Fri	Available
27 Jun 2027	2 Jul 2027	Sun – Fri	Available
11 Jul 2027	16 Jul 2027	Sun – Fri	Available
25 Jul 2027	30 Jul 2027	Sun – Fri	Available
8 Aug 2027	13 Aug 2027	Sun – Fri	Available
22 Aug 2027	27 Aug 2027	Sun – Fri	Available
5 Sep 2027	10 Sep 2027	Sun – Fri	Available
19 Sep 2027	24 Sep 2027	Sun – Fri	Available
3 Oct 2027	8 Oct 2027	Sun – Fri	Available
17 Oct 2027	22 Oct 2027	Sun – Fri	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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