CENTRAL ASIA GUIDE



GROUP TOUR · 3 DAYS

Unforgettable 3 days in Mangystau Tour

Round trip from Aktau · Kazakhstan

Duration 3 days, 2 nights	Start and end Round trip from Aktau	Best time to visit Mar–Nov
Group tour from $549 per person	Group size Max 9 travellers	Tour type Jeep (4x4), Nature
Difficulty Moderate	Departures 34 guaranteed dates	

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

Tour highlights

A compact 3-day small-group jeep tour from Aktau through the best of the Mangystau region: the white cliffs of Akespe, the stone balls of Torysh, the colourful Jurassic clays of Kokala, the castle-shaped mountains of Airakty, the layered Kyzylkup (Tiramisu) Canyon and the iconic limestone fangs of Bozjyra.

Two nights are spent in tents under the open desert sky, with three meals a day of local food cooked by the team. The tour starts with a pickup at Aktau Airport or your Aktau hotel on the first morning and ends back in Aktau on day 3. Groups are limited to 9 travellers.

Difficulty: Moderate. 4–5.5 hours of driving a day including off-road tracks, short walks on uneven ground and two nights in tents; summer midday heat can reach 45°C.


Mangustay Valley of balls or the devil's balls


Kokala jurassic clay formations in Mangystau

Where you'll stay

Night 1	**Airakty – Valley of Castles**	Tent camping
Night 2	**Bozjyra (Boszhira)**	Tent camping

Listed accommodation or similar, same category.

Day-by-day itinerary

DAY 1

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

Total distance: 198 km on-road & 31 km off-road | Approx. duration: 5 hours driving. The day begins with a pickup at 8:00 AM from Aktau Airport for arriving travelers, while guests staying in hotels will be picked up at 8:30 AM. All participants are transferred to the local office, where payments are completed and a short tour briefing takes place. This is also a chance to rest and prepare before departure.

At 9:30 AM, the journey officially starts from the local office. The first destination is Torysh - the Valley of Balls, where visitors can explore the mysterious spherical rock formations that remain one of the area's most fascinating geological features.

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 tour continues to Kokala - the Jurassic Clays, known for its colorful purple gorge and ancient rock layers that showcase millions of years of geological history.

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

The final destination of the day is Airakty - Valley of Castle-Shaped Mountains, where travelers can walk among unique rock formations resembling ancient fortresses. The day ends with an overnight stay in tent camping under the open desert sky.

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

DAY 2

Airakty – Zhanaozen – Kyzylkup (Tiramisu) Canyon – Bokty Mount – Bozjyra Middle Fangs

Total distance: 281.5 km on-road & 46.5 km off-road | Approx. duration: 5.5 hours driving. The day begins with departure from Airakty and continues via Shetpe towards Zhanaozen City, where there is a planned stop for lunch at a local café. Here, guests can also refuel and visit a local market if needed. During the summer season, an additional one-hour rest is included at the café, allowing time 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 spectacular natural site known for its layered, dessert-like formations. The canyon's vibrant shades of red, yellow, and orange create a striking landscape that is ideal for exploration and photography.

The journey then proceeds to Bokty Mountain, a dramatic and isolated rock formation rising sharply from the surrounding steppe. Its unique, fortress-like shape and changing colors make it one of the most impressive natural landmarks in the region.

In the evening, the group arrives at the Middle Fangs viewpoint in Bozjyra, where camp is set up overlooking the iconic limestone fangs and the surrounding desert. This remote location offers a peaceful atmosphere and unforgettable stargazing opportunities in the desert silence.

Overnight	**Bozjyra (Boszhira)** · Tent camping
Meals	Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Travel	Airakty – Valley of Castles – Bozjyra (Boszhira) (328 km)

DAY
3

Bozjyra – Middle Fangs Top – Mars Panorama – Dragon Crest – Return to Aktau

Total distance: 297.5 km on-road & 22 km off-road | Approx. duration: 4.5 hours driving. Begin the day with the climb to the Middle Fangs Top, an elevated viewpoint above the iconic limestone spires of Bozjyra with wide desert panoramas—one of the most striking natural sights in the Mangystau region.

Next, continue to the Mars Panorama viewpoint, where you can take in sweeping views of Bozjyra's cliffs and terrain, resembling an alien or Martian surface when seen from above.

After that, head to Dragon Crest, a rugged limestone ridge shaped like a dragon's spine. This spot offers a memorable final viewpoint over the unique rock formations.

After lunch at a local café, the group drives back via Zhanaozen and arrives in Aktau in the evening.

Overnight	Departure day, no overnight
Meals	Breakfast, Lunch
Travel	Bozjyra (Boszhira) – Aktau (320 km)

What's included

Included

- Jeep (4x4) transport for the whole tour, with pickup at Aktau Airport or your Aktau hotel on day 1 and return to Aktau on day 3
- English-speaking local guide
- Three meals per day (local food cooking)
- Two nights of tent camping (all tools included)
- Accident insurance coverage
- All entrance fees included
- Complimentary camel milk products

Not included

- Visa fees
- International and domestic airfare
- Expenses due to unexpected weather (e.g., extra hotel stays).
- Accommodation on arrival and departure days in Aktau

Prices and dates

Valid for 2027 departures

Group tour, per person

Tour	Double / twin room	Single supplement
3 days	**$549**	–

Same price on all departures. 6% deposit, balance in cash at the start of the tour.

Guaranteed group departures

2027

Start	End	Weekdays	Status
19 Mar 2027	21 Mar 2027	Fri – Sun	Available
26 Mar 2027	28 Mar 2027	Fri – Sun	Available
2 Apr 2027	4 Apr 2027	Fri – Sun	Available
9 Apr 2027	11 Apr 2027	Fri – Sun	Available
16 Apr 2027	18 Apr 2027	Fri – Sun	Available
23 Apr 2027	25 Apr 2027	Fri – Sun	Available
30 Apr 2027	2 May 2027	Fri – Sun	Available
7 May 2027	9 May 2027	Fri – Sun	Available
14 May 2027	16 May 2027	Fri – Sun	Available
21 May 2027	23 May 2027	Fri – Sun	Available
28 May 2027	30 May 2027	Fri – Sun	Available
4 Jun 2027	6 Jun 2027	Fri – Sun	Available
11 Jun 2027	13 Jun 2027	Fri – Sun	Available
18 Jun 2027	20 Jun 2027	Fri – Sun	Available
25 Jun 2027	27 Jun 2027	Fri – Sun	Available
2 Jul 2027	4 Jul 2027	Fri – Sun	Available

9 Jul 2027	11 Jul 2027	Fri – Sun	Available
16 Jul 2027	18 Jul 2027	Fri – Sun	Available
23 Jul 2027	25 Jul 2027	Fri – Sun	Available
30 Jul 2027	1 Aug 2027	Fri – Sun	Available
6 Aug 2027	8 Aug 2027	Fri – Sun	Available
13 Aug 2027	15 Aug 2027	Fri – Sun	Available
20 Aug 2027	22 Aug 2027	Fri – Sun	Available
27 Aug 2027	29 Aug 2027	Fri – Sun	Available
3 Sep 2027	5 Sep 2027	Fri – Sun	Available
10 Sep 2027	12 Sep 2027	Fri – Sun	Available
17 Sep 2027	19 Sep 2027	Fri – Sun	Available
24 Sep 2027	26 Sep 2027	Fri – Sun	Available
1 Oct 2027	3 Oct 2027	Fri – Sun	Available
8 Oct 2027	10 Oct 2027	Fri – Sun	Available
15 Oct 2027	17 Oct 2027	Fri – Sun	Available
22 Oct 2027	24 Oct 2027	Fri – Sun	Available
29 Oct 2027	31 Oct 2027	Fri – Sun	Available
5 Nov 2027	7 Nov 2027	Fri – Sun	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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