



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-Oct

Group tour from
\$480 per person

Group size
Max 9 travellers

Tour type
Jeep (4x4), Nature

Difficulty
Moderate

Departures
2 guaranteed dates

Prices and dates valid for 2026 departures. Issued 12 October 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 – Akespe Chalk Canyon – Torysh – Kokala – Sherkala – Airakty

Total distance: 185 km on-road & 40 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 9:00 AM, the journey officially starts from the local 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 - the Valley of Balls, where visitors can explore the mysterious spherical rock formations that remain one of the area's most fascinating geological features.

The third stop is 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
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Meals	Lunch, Dinner
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Travel	Aktau – Airakty – Valley of Castles (185 km)
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DAY

2

Airakty - Zhanaozen - Kyzylkup (Tiramisu) Canyon - Bokty Mount - Bozjyra Under Fang Formation

Total distance: 210 km on-road & 110 km off-road | Approx. duration: 5.5 hours driving. The day begins with departure from Airakty and continues towards Zhanaozen City, where there is a planned stop for lunch at the Adal 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 Bozjyra – Under the Fang Formations, where camp is set up beneath the towering limestone cliffs. This remote location offers a peaceful atmosphere and unforgettable stargazing opportunities in the desert silence.

Overnight	Bozjyra (Boszhira) · Tent camping
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Meals	Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
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Travel	Airakty – Valley of Castles – Bozjyra (Boszhira) (210 km)
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DAY
3**Bozjyra - Upper Fang Formations - Mars Panorama - Dragon Crest - Return to Aktau**

Total distance: 210 km on road & 40 km off-road | Approx. duration: 4 hours driving. Begin the day in the Bozjyra area (Upper viewpoint / Fang formations), where you'll explore the iconic limestone spires that rise dramatically from the desert landscape—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.

At the end of the tour, return to Aktau City.

Overnight	Departure day, no overnight
Meals	Breakfast, Lunch
Travel	Bozjyra (Boszhira) – Aktau (210 km)

What's included

Included

- 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 2026 departures

Group tour, per person

Tour	Double / twin room	Single supplement
3 days	\$480	–

Same price on all departures. 10% deposit, balance in cash at the start of the tour.

Guaranteed group departures

2026

Start	End	Weekdays	Status
23 Oct 2026	25 Oct 2026	Fri – Sun	Available
31 Oct 2026	2 Nov 2026	Sat – Mon	Available

Availability as of 12 October 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.

Tour page	central-asia.guide/kazakhstan/kazakhstan-tours/unforgettable-3-days-in-mangystau-tour
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