



14 days Mangistau Photo Tour

Mangystau Photo Tour Tour Highlights

Get ready for the breathtaking photography adventure through Kazakhstan's most stunning landscapes, capturing 31 incredible sights at your own pace. Every stop offers a unique perspective from the eerie Zhigalgan Fallen Earth and ancient Khanga Baba Necropolis to the surreal formations of Torysh – the Valley of Balls and the dramatic Kyzylkup (Tiramisu Canyon).

Explore the Ustyurt Plateau, Kapamsay Canyon, and the mystical Shakpak Ata Cave Mosque. Marvel at the Bozjyra panoramas, camp beneath the iconic Fangs, and trek through Sherkala, Karamaya, and the Airakty Castle-like mountains. With no rush, flexible rest periods, and a hotel stay on the fifth night, this journey is designed for photographers and adventurers of all levels.

Detailed Day-by-Day Itinerary


Day 1: From Aktau to the North


Pick-up: Start from your hotel in Aktau at 9 am or from the airport at 10 am or Airport Hotel (for PLUS and DELUXE packages).

Khanga Baba Necropolis: Explore historical sites and delve into the rich cultural and architectural heritage of the region.

Cape Zhigylgan Fallen Earth: Walk down to Cape Zhigylgan and marvel at the geological wonder of the fallen earth. Observe the fascinating sabre-toothed tiger footprints embedded in the landscape, a testament to ancient times.

Kozdikara Lake: Visit Kozdikara Lake, a heart-shaped salty lake, and enjoy its unique natural beauty. Capture memorable photos and soak in the tranquil atmosphere.

 **Accommodation:** Tent camping for an immersive outdoor experience under the stars

 **Meals:** Breakfast: excluded- Lunch: picnic - Dinner: hot meal

Day 2: Underground mosque and Stunning Canyons

Kenty Baba Necropolis: Begin your journey with a visit to Kenty Baba Necropolis, exploring its ancient historical sites and cultural significance.


Kapamsay Canyon: Experience the rugged beauty of Kapamsay Canyon, marvelling at its dramatic rock formations and stunning vistas.

Shakpak Ata Cave Mosque: Visit the Shakpak Ata Cave Mosque, an architectural marvel dating back a thousand years. Explore its intricate designs and historical significance.

Taushyk Town: Stop at Taushyk Town to refuel and prepare for the day's adventures.

Torysh - Valley of Balls: Discover the ancient giant ball-shaped ammonites, a unique geological formation at Torysh - Valley of Balls.

 **Accommodation:** Overnight camping

 **Meals:** Breakfast: excluded - Lunch: picnic - Dinner: hot meal

Day 3: Diverse Landscapes and Ancient Sites

Morning photography session at Tosrysh.

Kokala - Jurassic Clays (Scaly): Begin your day marveling at the unique purple-colored gorge and the distinctive burned mount formations at Kokala. Capture stunning photos of this geological wonder.

Sherkala Mount: Next, visit Sherkala Mount, famous for its giant sphinx-shaped appearance and panoramic yurt-shaped views. Take in the breathtaking scenery from the top.

Kyzyl Kala - Remnants Of The City: Explore the remnants of Kyzyl Kala, an ancient Silk Road city, and uncover its rich history and architectural remnants.

Airakty - Valley Of Castle Shaped Mounts: Conclude your day at Airakty, where you'll explore the Valley Of Castle Shaped Mounts. Marvel at the unique rock formations resembling castles dotting the landscape.

 **Accommodation:** Overnight camping

 **Meals:** Breakfast: field - Lunch: picnic - Dinner: hot meal

Day 4: Exploring Tuzbair Upper Panorama, Nature Sphinx-shaped Rock, and White Canyons

Tuzbair Upper Panorama View to the Salt Marsh: Start your day with a breathtaking view of the salt marsh from the upper vantage point. Take in the expansive landscape and natural beauty.


Nature Sphinx-shaped Rock: Marvel at the impressive natural formation resembling a sphinx as you explore the area.

Tuzbair Lower - Salt Marsh: Enjoy a leisurely picnic lunch amidst the tranquil surroundings of the salt marsh. Take a refreshing walk to the nearby white arch.

Tuzbair Lower - White Arch: Embark on a walk to discover the picturesque white arch, capturing stunning photos along the way.

Tuzbair Lower - White Canyons: Explore the striking white canyons on foot, admiring their unique geological features and pristine beauty.

 **Accommodation:** Overnight camping



 **Meals:** Breakfast: field - Lunch: picnic - Dinner: hot meal

Day 5: Road Syndy

Tuzbair Road Syndy - Unfinished Chalky Canyons: Begin your day exploring the unique Unfinished Chalky Canyons at Tuzbair Road Syndy. Marvel at the surreal landscapes and geological formations that make this area so distinctive.

Janaozen Oil City: Later in the day, journey to Janaozen Oil City.

Accommodation: Overnight stay at the hotel
Breakfast: field - Lunch: picnic - Dinner: hot meal

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 **Meals:** Breakfast: field - Lunch: picnic - Dinner: hot meal

Day 6: Janaozen, Ustyurt Plateau, and Karynzharyk

Janaozen Oil City: Start your day in Janaozen Oil City by refueling and exploring the local market. Take some time to enjoy a cup of coffee and immerse yourself in the local atmosphere.

Ustyurt Plateau: Embark on an adventurous off-road drive around Ustyurt Plateau, taking in the vast, rugged landscapes and unique geological features.



Onere Water Source: Arrive at Onere Water Source by late lunchtime. Relax with a swim in the refreshing waters and enjoy a picnic lunch amidst the natural beauty.

Karynzharyk Depression: After lunch, head to Karynzharyk Depression and admire the upper panorama of this stunning geological formation. Capture breathtaking views of the expansive depression.

Karamaya - Three Brothers Mount: Experience the mesmerizing night view of the Three Brothers Mount, located on salt formations. Witness the unique landscape illuminated by the moonlight.

Kendirli Salt Marsh: Take a leisurely walk inside Kendirli Salt Marsh, marveling at the salt formations and unique ecosystem of the area.

Accommodation: Overnight camping
Breakfast: field - Lunch: picnic - Dinner: hot meal

 **Accommodation:** Overnight camping
 **Meals:** Breakfast: field - Lunch: picnic - Dinner: hot meal

Day 7: Kyzylkup


Start your day with a peaceful **Sunrise walk at Karynzharyk Depression**. Witness the morning light illuminating the expansive depression, offering stunning views and a serene atmosphere.

Back to Janaozen Oil City: Return to Janaozen Oil City to refuel and visit the local market. Take some time to explore and soak in the local culture before continuing your journey.

Kyzylkup - Tiramisu Canyon: Visit Kyzylkup - Tiramisu Canyon, known for its colorful ferum-limestone mountain formations. Explore this unique geological wonder and capture memorable photos.

High Peak Shakpakty: In the evening, head to High Peak Shakpakty to enjoy a spectacular sunset view. Witness the changing hues of the sky over the Mangystau landscape from this vantage point.

 **Accommodation:** Overnight camping in Kyzylkup


 **Meals:** Breakfast: field - Lunch: picnic - Dinner: hot meal

Day 8: Bokty mount

Begin your day with a stunning sunrise walk amidst the vibrant ferum-limestone mountains of Kyzylkup - Tiramisu Canyon. Enjoy the colors of dawn illuminating the unique geological formations.

Bokty - Mounts: Explore the historic Bokty - Mounts, which are featured on local currency. Take a leisurely stroll around these iconic mounts, appreciating their cultural and natural significance.

 **Accommodation:** Overnight camping

 **Meals:** Breakfast: field - Lunch: picnic - Dinner: hot meal

Day 9: Entering Bozjyra valley

Baisary Valley: Start your day with a scenic stop at Baisary Valley, enjoying the natural beauty of the surroundings.

Bozjyra - Under Crest: Discover the fascinating rock formations at Bozjyra - Under Crest. Witness the geological wonders and prepare for a **sunset** experience.

Bozjyra - Under Fangs: Continue exploring at Bozjyra - Under Fangs, where you'll encounter unique rock structures and another captivating **sunset** opportunity.

 **Accommodation:** Overnight camping under Fangs

 **Meals:** Breakfast: field - Lunch: picnic - Dinner: hot meal

Day 10: Bozjyra's Rock Formations and Canyon


Bozjyra - Under Crest: Begin your day by exploring the impressive rock formations of Bozjyra - Under Crest at sunrise. Marvel at the natural beauty illuminated by the morning light.

Bozjyra - Under Fangs: Continue your exploration at Bozjyra - Under Fangs, discovering the unique rock formations under the fangs during sunrise.

Bozjyra - Canyon: Walk inside Bozjyra - Canyon, immersing yourself in its rugged beauty and geological wonders.

Bozjyra - Cliff: Drive along the extreme road of Bozjyra - Cliff, enjoying breathtaking views of the plateau and surrounding landscapes.

Bozjyra - Fangs Upper Plateau: Climb to Bozjyra - Fangs Upper Plateau for stunning sunset views. Capture the changing colors of the sky as the **sun sets** over Mangystau.

 **Accommodation:** Camp overnight in Bozjyra middle area, embraced by the natural splendor of Mangystau.

 **Meals:** Breakfast: field - Lunch: picnic - Dinner: hot meal

Day 11: Bozjyra Upper Plateau

Bozjyra - Fangs Upper Plateau: Begin your day with a sunrise climb to Bozjyra - Fangs Upper Plateau. Experience the serene beauty of the morning as you ascend to this elevated viewpoint.


Bozjyra - Mars Panorama: Enjoy a picnic lunch at Bozjyra - Mars Panorama, where you can indulge in panoramic views of the surrounding landscapes and geological formations.

Bozjyra - Middle Panorama: Relax and take in the expansive views from Bozjyra - Middle Panorama, situated on the upper plateau of the area.

Bozjyra - Dragon Crest Panorama: Admire the distinctive rock formations at Bozjyra - Dragon Crest Panorama, offering a stunning view of the dragon-ridge rock.

Camping at Upper Panorama: End your day with a memorable camping experience at Upper Panorama. Enjoy stargazing under the clear night sky, unwind with a picnic dinner amidst the tranquil surroundings, and settle in for an overnight stay.

 **Accommodation:** Overnight camping at Upper Panorama

 **Meals:** Breakfast: field - Lunch: picnic - Dinner: hot meal

Day 12: Yurt experience with Camels and exotic Dunes

Camel Farm: Visiting the local Camel Farm, where you can witness the camel milking process and sample camel delicacies such as the fermented drink known as shubat.

Sand Dunes Senek: Continue your desert adventure at Senek Dunes, exploring and walking on the Sahara velvet sand dunes.

Yurt Village Kogez: In the evening, arrive at Yurt Village Kogez for an authentic Kazakh experience. Overnight in traditional Kazakh Yurt accommodations, immersing yourself in the local culture and hospitality.

 **Accommodation:** Kazakh Yurt gear stay (with shower), shared max. 5 occupancy.

 **Meals:** Breakfast: field - Lunch: picnic - Dinner: hot meal

***Note:** For the [extra cost], yurts are shared accommodations with a hostel-style setup, hosting up to 5 travellers, including guests not associated with your group. If you prefer a private yurt, it can be arranged for an additional charge upon request.*

Day 13: Natural marvels - Porous Gorge and Deep Hollow

Karaman Ata underground mosque: The largest underground mosque of Mangystau dating back to the 11th century. Explore its historical significance and architectural marvels.

Ybyk - Porous Gorge: Continue your journey to Ybyk - Porous Gorge, where you can immerse yourself in the unique geological formations and natural beauty of the gorge.

Karagiya Hollow: Stop at Karagiya Hollow, the third deepest hollow in the world. Take in the impressive geological features and stunning landscapes.

Return to Aktau City: In the late afternoon, return to Aktau City and check-in at a comfortable 3-4 star hotel. Relax and unwind after a day of exploration.

 **Accommodation:** Hotel in Aktau

 **Meals:** Breakfast: field - Lunch: picnic - Dinner: hot mea

Day 14: City tour of Caspian Pearl - Aktau

Morning:

- **Drive Around the City to Explore:** After breakfast you will a drive around Aktau City to get acquainted with its layout and mixed architecture.
- **Visit a Sturgeon Farm or Aquarium:** Learning about the Caspian Sea's marine life and conservation efforts.
- **Explore the Local Bazaar (Market):** Immerse yourself in the vibrant atmosphere of Aktau's local bazaar. Discover traditional Kazakh goods, crafts, and local produce.
- **Lunch at a Kazakh Traditional Foods Restaurant:** Enjoy a delightful lunch at a Kazakh traditional foods restaurant, savoring authentic dishes like Beshbarmak, Plov, or Kuyrdak.


Afternoon:

- **Attend a Felt Product Workshop:** Participate in a felt product workshop, where you can learn about the traditional Kazakh art of felt-making and create your own souvenir.
- **Evening Seaside Walk at Promenade Rock Path:** Relax with an evening seaside walk along the Promenade Rock Path. Enjoy the fresh breeze and scenic views of the Caspian Sea.
- **View War Hero Murals on Buildings:** As the sun sets, take a moment to admire the War Hero murals on buildings throughout Aktau City, honoring local history and heroes.

Drop-off:

- **Return to Hotel or Airport:** Conclude your day by being dropped off at your hotel or the airport, reflecting on your cultural exploration and experiences in Aktau City.

 **Accommodation:** Not included (end of trip)

 **Meals:** Breakfast: hotel breakfast- Lunch: restaurant- Dinner: excluded

[Book this tour](#)

What's Included

- 4x4 comfortable jeep
- Pickup from hotel (Aktau city only)
- English-speaking local guide
- Mandatory insurance
- Entrance tickets
- Full board meal (except first-day breakfast and dinner on last day)
- Comfortable camping gear and 1-night yurt accommodation

✘ What's Not Included

- Personal expenses
- Airport pick up and drop off (additional cost)
- Accommodation in Aktau
- International flight tickets

We may occasionally adjust the order of visits and activities (museums and sites) if required due to weather conditions or other unforeseen circumstances. Any changes will be made with your comfort and overall experience in mind.



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