

**ALMATY-SHIMKENT-TURKISTAN- AKSU JABAGLY RESERVE- ASTANA 6 DAYS**



**Day 1: Airport – Almaty – night train to Shymkent**

Welcome to Kazakhstan! You will arrive at the international airport in Almaty – economical capital of Kazakhstan. Today you will get acquainted with Almaty's history and see the Ascension Cathedral – the second highest wooden building in the world! It was built according to the plan of a famous Russian architect A. Zenkov. The church was one of the few buildings that survived after earthquake in 1911 year. Next to the cathedral there is an alley of spruce trees that were planted by the presidents of different countries. Then you will visit the Square of 28 Panfilov Heroes. It is devoted to General Panfilov, a hero of the Second World War and to the members of his division. You will see there also the Glory Memorial dedicated to the victims of the Civil War and the Second World War!!!



Afterwards you will visit the Museum of Musical Instruments which has a big collection of Kazakh folk musical instruments and musical instruments of different nationalities of the world. After visiting the museum we will drive to the Public Market. It is named a Zelonnyy Bazar – a Green Bazaar. It is a very good example of real oriental market. It still possible to bargain there!



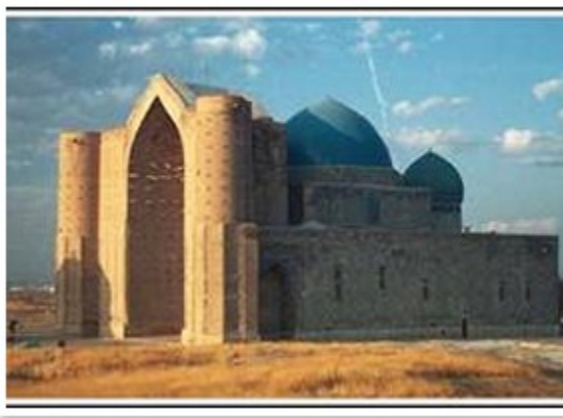
Then you will have an excursion to the main square – the Republic Square. There you can see an Independence Monument and the Golden Man. It is the symbol of the city. Also there are monuments that depict the prominent events of the Kazakh history. After lunch you will have an excursion to Medeu – it is an ice stadium located in a mountain valley of Medeu on the south-eastern outskirts of Almaty. It is an outdoor speed skating rink and one of the most famous ice rinks in the world. Medeo skating-rink has seen over 150 world records on speed-skating contests. Many famous skaters were holding and breaking records here! Also you will see the Medeu Dam, built in the late 1960s, standing next to the skating rink, protecting the city of Almaty from potentially devastating mud flows. From the mud dam you will see the beauty of Medeu and surrounding mountains, panoramic sight of skating-rink.



Afterwards we will drive back to Almaty to have a dinner. On the way we will see Opera and Ballet Theatre and the Parliament House. At 10:10 p.m. you will have a night train to Shymkent (025T). You will sleep there (4 people in 1 room) and in the morning you will arrive to the ancient time of Kazakhstan!

### **Day 2: Shymkent – Turkestan**

You will arrive in Shymkent at 9:25 a.m. After breakfast we will visit a local bazaar to feel the spirit of Asian life! It is a real paradise for people that are fond of making colorful photos! After bazaar we will drive 160 km to Turkestan. Turkistan City attracts people with its historical monuments in the open air and a rich history hidden in its heritage. Today you will have a full day excursion in Turkestan. We will visit Azret-Sultan historical-architectural complex and Khodja Akhmed Yassayu mausoleum. He is the first great Muslim holy man that brought religious glory to the town. The mausoleum in honor of Kozha Akhmed Yasau, was built on a grand scale by Timur in the late 14th century (from 1389 to 1405). Today this is one of the largest, outstanding and best-preserved constructions of the Timurid period, considered to be Kazakhstan's greatest building and the most important site of Muslim pilgrimage in Central Asia. Also we will visit Turkistan town necropolis, oriental baths and underground mosque. It is a small but very interesting town! Overnight is in a hotel.



### **Day 3: Turkestan – Arystan Bab – Aksu Jabagly**

In the morning we will drive to Shymkent. On the way we will visit our famous Arystan Bab mausoleum. The mausoleum was erected over the grave of a famous religious mystic Arystan Bab, who lived in XII century. The first building of the mausoleum belongs to the XIV-XV centuries. Only the carved wooden pillars are left from it. In the XVIII century on the site of an ancient tomb, which was destroyed by an earthquake, was built two domed building with aiwan, supported by two carved wooden columns. The building of XVIII century was destroyed and in 1909 was rebuilt again. It can be seen from the inscription on one of the cartridges frieze. In 1971, due to the high groundwater level, leading her to the emergency condition, the mosque was demolished and rebuilt. The building was built from baked bricks. In the afternoon is arrival in Shymkent. Overnight is in a guesthouse.



### **Day 4: Aksu Jabagly Reserve**

In the morning you will have a full day excursion in Aksu Jabagly Natural Park. This is a famous place of interest of the western Tien-Shan. The total area of it is 74,4 thousand hectares. Founded in 1926 it was the first natural reserve in Kazakhstan and Central Asia. In the reserve there are main altitudinal belts of vegetation – from semi-deserts to glaciers zone. Several kinds of endemic species of plants grow on the territory of the reserve. You will be impressed with the mountain ridges, swift rivers and nature of the amazing beauty. There are several interesting destinations inside the park. The Aksu river canyon is one of the deepest canyons in Asia. You will get acquainted with fascinating wonders of Aksu Jabagly. You will have hiking in the canyon and a picnic in the open air. Dinner and overnight will be in a guesthouse.



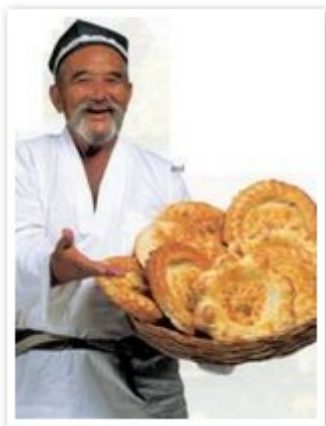
### Day 5: Aksu Jabagly – Shymkent – Astana

In the morning we will drive to Shymkent to have a flight to Astana. Today you will have a city tour. First of all you will visit complex «Astana – Baiterek». The unique construction is a symbol of Astana. The viewing platform is located at the height of 97 meters, and from the height of the bird's flight you can see the panorama of building of a new capital of Kazakhstan. Also after walking around the city you will have time to visit the singing fountains alley. The wide alley cuts the left river-bank into two parts. The object is extremely difficult. The parkway represents a three-level gallery type construction consisting of two pavilions, glass transition-passes, open galleries, green lawns, colorful sidewalks and huge bowls with musical fountains. In the evening you will have a dinner at 7 p.m. Night is in a hotel.



### Day 6: Flight

In the morning we will drive to the airport.



#### Service includes:

- Airport transfers
- Transport for all transfers and excursions
- Double room accommodation+Breakfsat:
- Mineral water during the tour
- Full-time service of your English speaking guide-interpreter
- Entry fees to museums

#### Service does not include:

- Single room accommodation
- Kazakh visa and visa support
- Personal travel insurance