



## Tour program: wonderful places in Almaty region

### 1<sup>st</sup> day Almaty – Altyn Emel.

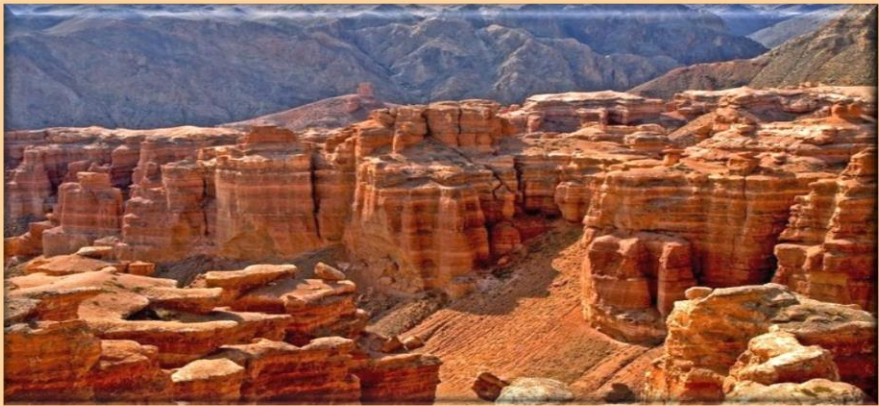
07.00	11.00	Departure from Almaty. Arrival to National Park "Altyn Emel".
11.00	18.00	<p><b>Singing Barkhan</b></p> <p>This monument of nature is famous for the fact that in dry weather the sands emit sounds similar to the melody of the organ. From the top of the barkhan you can enjoy a beautiful view of the surrounding countryside. It is a popular tourist attraction. This sand-dune was formed as a result of blowing sand from the banks of the Ili River. The barkhan does not roam the plain, despite the unsteadiness of the sand and strong winds, but remains in place for several millennia. The reason for the sound is the friction of grains of sand when it moves (wind, walking on it, etc.). In 1962, the Leningrad physicist V. Arabadji conducted a number of observations. The more moving mass of sand is, the more expressive sound can be heard – from a weak squeak to an organ melody and even a rumble. Since ancient times, singing sands caused a lot of folk superstitions. In the legends that have survived to this day, the song of the sand is explained by the activity of the spirits of the desert, fantastic animals, the sounding of the bells of the buried towns, powerful rivers raging under the earth and a lot of other unusual causes.</p> 
18:00	21:00	Departure to village Basshy. Check-in. Dinner, night at the hotel.

### 2<sup>nd</sup> day. Altyn Emel

07.00	08.30	Breakfast at 07:30 o'clock
08.30	19.00	<p>Departure to Aktau and Katatau mountains.</p> <p>These colorful chalky hills, formed from bluish-gray sandstone and red clay, interspersed with yellow and pink cornelian, jasper and white quartz, reminiscent of a layer cake. Whimsical form of canyons and cliffs turns Aktau Mountains into a maze. Such an unusual relief is the result of weathering and erosion that occurred over millions of years. Aktau Mountains is one of the world's largest paleontological deposits.</p>


		
19:00	21:00	Picnic at the foot of the Aktau mountain. Returning to Basshi village. Dinner and night at the hotel.

### 3<sup>rd</sup> day.


07.00	08.30	Breakfast. Departure. Route Altyn Emel – Charyn – Kolsay. Distance 320 km.
08.30	14.00	<p>Arrival to Charyn Canyon. Sightseeing from the top platform.</p> <p>The Charyn Canyon is located in the Charyn National Park about 215km east of Almaty and approximately a 3 hour drive via the A 351 and A 352. The Canyon has been described as the Grand Canyon's little brother. This is not to detract from the sheer splendor of the canyon itself. The vista of dramatic erosion made by the river Charyn below and the elements has created a dramatic and impressive landscape. The Canyon itself is approximately 150 km long, and, in places up to 300 meters deep. One area of particular interest, is an area of 2km called the Valley of Castles, due to the pillars and rock formations forming imposing, almost man made structures.</p> 
15:00	17:00	Arrival to Saty village. Dinner/free time.

### 4<sup>th</sup> day. Kolsay lakes.

08.00	09.00	Breakfast. Departure to Kolsay lakes
09.30	17.00	Kolsay Lakes is one of the most beautiful places of Kazakh nature. They are also called a blue necklace of Northern Tien Shan. And it is quite understandable – such beauty cannot be found anywhere! In the Kazakh language “Kolsay” means “a lake in the valley”, indeed, all three lakes are situated in the eastern part of the picturesque Kungei

		<p>Tau gorge, 300 km from Almaty.</p> <p>The lakes are located at 1,800m, 2,250m and 2,700m above sea level. The Kolsay River originates from glaciers, located in the Kungei Alatau mountain ridges, and falls, in turn, to each of the three lakes: Verkhneye, Mynzholki and Nizhneye. The water in the lakes is fresh. Kolsay Lakes are very deep. For example, the deepest place of the first lake is 80 m, while in the second – about 50 m. The bottom in some places is shallow without crags.</p> <p>Kolsay Lakes are a favorite place for mountain tourism. Trekking routes to Kolsay Lakes are very easy and fit even for amateurs. Furthermore, Kolsay is a wonderful place for picnics, horse riding and mountain biking. A suitable period for camping is from April to late September.</p> 
17:00	18:00	Returning to Saty village. Dinner/free time.

<b>5<sup>th</sup> day. Kaiyndy lake - Almaty</b>		
08.00	09.00	Breakfast. Departure to Kaiyndy.
10.00	12.00	<p>Created by a major earthquake in 1912, this deep, cerulean lake is fed by a glacial river and is notable for its forest of drowned spruces, the branches below the water so beautifully preserved by the cold water that local enthusiasts sometimes go diving here. There's a nice little beach for bathing, and a short trail through spruce forest to the end of the lake. You need a 4WD to drive here, 10km south of the village of Saty.</p> <p>Technically, Kaiyndy is part of the Kolsai Lakes National Park, but you have to pay the entrance fee here separately, and its location is in a completely separate valley.</p>

		
13:00	14:00	Returning to Saty village, lunch. Departure to Almaty

The cost includes: transportation during the trip, accommodation in «Алтын Эмель» and Saty village guest houses, environmental charges, tour guide, half board.

**Transport services are carried out on comfortable vehicles:**

Up to 4 people – comfortable sedan cars with air-conditioning.

5-6 people – comfortable vehicles with off-road capability with air-conditioning.

Groups of 15 to 17 people – minibus Mercedes Sprinter with air-conditioning.

**The Cost depending on number of participants in the group:**

4 people group – 125 000 tenge per person (380 \$ per person)

6 people group – 107 000 tenge per person (330 \$ per person)

Groups of 15 to 17 people – 87 000 tenge per person (270 \$ per person)

**The cost may vary depending on number of participants.**