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4 Nights – Almaty with Charyn Canyon

HIGHLIGHTS

Shymbulak with cable car/ Kok Tobe with cable car/ Big Almaty Lake/ City tour / Shopping tour / Charyn Canyon/ Private transportation / English speaking guides / daily meals / Visa

Day 01

WELCOME TO ALMATY

15:50 Hrs

Welcome to Almaty!! After clearing custom & immigration procedures followed by baggage collection, you will be met by our English speaking office staff in the arrivals hall.

16:50 Hrs

Our team will escort the group to their vehicle. Proceed to your hotel. Upon arrival at the hotel group will check-in to their respective rooms.

20:00 Hrs

Enjoy dinner at Indian restaurant.

Day 02

FUN IN SHYMBULAK | SHOPPING TOUR

07:00 – 10:00 Hrs

Breakfast at the hotel.

10:00 Hrs

VISIT TO SHYMBULAK SKI RESORT

Proceed on an excursion to the beautiful mountain resort of Shymbulak Ski resort including Gondola tickets to level 3 and services of our English speaking guide.

“Shymbulak Ski Resort” is located in the beautiful Zailiyskiy Alatau mountain at 2260 m above sea level. It is 25 Km from the city centre of Almaty city and has an average temperature of +25C in the summer & -7C in the winter months. The average snowfall is

around 1.5M. It is usually very sunny as the average number of sunny days a year can reach 90%. Ski season is normally begins in December and can run into April.

The ski slopes are served by Gondola cars from “Medeu” to the base of Shymbulak, 2260 m above sea level. This Gondola is the world’s third-longest Gondola with a length of 4.5 KM. The Gondola has 114 comfortable cabins for all guests of the resort and has the capacity of 2,000 people per hour. The Ski resort has six lifts that service the mountains. Two combination lifts (Combi1 & Combi2) that have both quad-chairs and 8 passenger cabins, two quad-chair lifts. The lift system will take you to Talgar pass where you are 3180 m above sea level. A vertical rise of 920 m. The majestic mountain view with snowy slopes and evergreen Tien Shan are spectacular and must be seen.

Located in the resort is a hotel, restaurants, café and coffee shop with a variety of cuisine to suit all taste.

Time at leisure.

14:00 Hrs Lunch at Indian restaurant.

15:00 Hrs **Shopping Tour**
Almaty is great for shopping. Your tour guide will take you to visit various modern shopping malls around the city. Some of the well known malls are Mega Mall, Dostyk Plaza, Villa boutiques.

Later Return to the hotel for relaxation & free time.

20:00 Hrs Dinner at Indian restaurant.

Day 03 **BIG ALMATY LAKE | CITY TOUR | KOK TOBE TOUR**

07:00 – 10:00 Hrs Breakfast at the hotel.

10:00 Hrs **VISIT TO BIG ALMATY LAKE**
Lake located at an altitude of 2500 meters above sea level. The inhabitants call it Zhasylkol which means "Green Lake" in Kazakh language. You will spend a few hours enjoying the pristine natural beauty of the glaciers, the harsh peaks and pine forests. On the return back to the city, the group will make a quick halt to visit The First President Park. The total area of the park is 73 hectares. The main idea of the creation the park is a combination of the unique natural landscape of Almaty and scientific achievements of the twentieth century.

14:00 Hrs Lunch at Indian restaurant.

15:00 Hrs **PANFILOV PARK & ZENKOV CATHEDRAL**
Its Almaty’s most popular strolling and picnic places for people of all ages. The Park is named and dedicated to the Panfilov Heroes who were 28 soliders of an Almaty Infantry. Their memories are etched at the fearsome war memorial east of the Zenkov Cathedral which depict soliders from all 15 soviet republics on the map of USSR. The Park is lush green area and it’s a good place to sit, rest, relax and see the bustling sights of the city.

‘**ZenkovCathedral**’,is one of the most beautiful, magnificent and architectural monument of the city of Almaty with the height of 56 meters and is located in the green Panfilov Park of Almaty. A. Zenkov had supervised the construction of this cathedral in the early 19th century and legend goes that it was built without a single nail. But unfortunately, it’s not true. Although the design is remarkably unique but it’s because of the advanced

technological expertise of that time. They used the construction concept of Semi ruche which meant using of reinforced concrete, timber preservation and ventilation.

17:00 Hrs

VISIT TO KOK TOBE HILL

Kok Tobe is the highest point in the city of Almaty standing on a 1100 m hill at the south-east edge of the city. It is worth a visit to KokTobe because of its panoramic view of the city from all directions. To reach the KokTobe hill, one should take a cable car ride which starts near Hotel Kazakhstan and goes over some of the oldest parts of Almaty and the magnificent fruit growing gardens. Once you reach the KokTobe hill, you would see the famous 372 m high TV Tower which is visible from far and offers great views of the mountains and the city plus many attractions at the top including many restaurants serving cuisines from across the globe.

20:00 Hrs

Dinner at Indian restaurant.

Day 04

VISIT TO CHARYN CANYON

07:00 – 10:00 Hrs

Breakfast at the hotel.

09:30 Hrs

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. The story of the Canyon is that it was formed about 3 million years ago as the land around the canyon started to rise. A very large lake existed in the area around the top of the canyon and it started to empty. Over the next million years the canyon was formed by the Charyn river. Approximately 2 million years ago a large earthquake disturbed the flow of the river by blocking it with a land-slip. The visitor part of the canyon then has suffered from the elements forming the rock sculptures. The Charyn River still flows at the bottom of the canyon forming the next great canyon. Because the area used to be a large inland sea, the deposits revealed on the sides of the canyon are relatively soft and are a geologists dream, revealing hundreds of millions of years of the earth's history at this location.

14:00 Hrs

Packed lunch.

20:00 Hrs

Dinner at Indian restaurant.

Day 05

RETURN HOME

04:30 – 05:00 Hrs

Packed breakfast to go.

05:00 Hrs

It's time to say good-bye to this beautiful city. Our driver will pick you up from the hotel and transfer you to the airport for your flight home or to an onward destination