



Celestial Mountains Tour Company

CULTURAL TOURS

Kazakhstan's Silk Route

DAY 1 Arrival in Almaty. Overnight at a hotel.

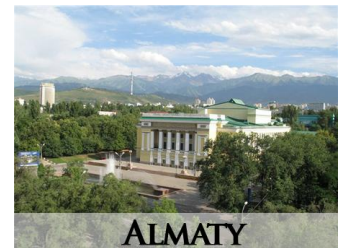
Almaty was the capital of Kazakhstan from 1929 to 1998. Despite losing its status as the capital, it remains one of the country's main cities and is considered "the southern capital" of the republic. It is a tourist's, social, cultural, economical and educational center.



DAY 2 City tour of Almaty. Visit the Zenkov Cathedral, Museum of national musical instruments and Medeo gorge. Overnight at a hotel.

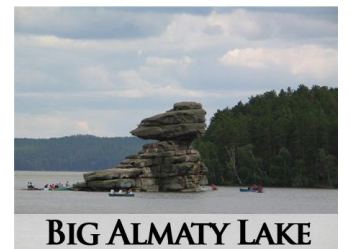
Zenkov Cathedral is one of the world's tallest wooden buildings.

Medeo is a large high mountain winter sport complex. Medeo rink was built in 1972 and many champion Soviet sportsmen have trained here.



DAY 3 A trip to Big Almaty lake. Walking at environs of the lake. Back to Almaty. Overnight at a hotel.

Big Almaty Lake is 1,6 km long, at an altitude of 2500 m. It is well known as a good site for bird-watching.

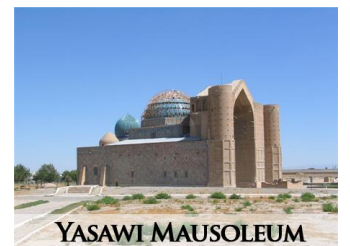


DAY 4 Drive to Taraz. Overnight at a hotel.

Taraz is one of Kazakhstan's oldest towns, and it flourished as a stop along the Silk Road until it was destroyed by Mongol armies in the 13th century. A new town was established on the site by the emirs of Kokand.

DAY 5 Morning city sightseeing of Taraz. After drive to Chimkent. Visit Aisha-Bibi and Babadzh-Khatun Mausoleums on the way. Overnight at a hotel.

Chimkent has existed since the 12th century. The area around Chimkent is well known for its mineral springs as well as for a unique national park which has been declared a biosphere reserve. The Aisha-Bibi and Babadzh-Khatun mausileums date from the Karakhanid dynasty of the 11th and 12th centuries. They are listed as world architectural rarities by UNESCO.



DAY 6 Visit Sairam settlement. Drive to Turkestan. Excursion to Akhmed Yassawi Complex. Overnight at a hotel.

Turkestan was an ancient center of the caravan trade. It was known as Shavgar and later as Yasi. It became a religious center because of Ahmed Yesevi, whose 14th-century mausoleum is the city's chief monument, which is notable example of Timurid architecture. The mausoleum was included into World Heritage List by UNESKO



DAY 7 Drive to Chimkent. On the way visit to Otrar ruins and Arstan Baba Mausoleum. Transfer to Cherniaevka (Kazak-Uzbek border) and after that to Tashkent. Overnight at a hotel

Otrar is a Central Asian "ghost" town located along the Silk Road. The city was an important town in the history of Central Asia, situated on the borders of settled and agricultural civilizations.

DAY 8 Departure from Tashkent.