

Kazakhstan Alpine Discovery: Almaty Mountains, Shymbulak & Charyn Canyon

Kazakhstan | 4 days / 3 nights | From AED 2,199 per person

The southern capital of the Great Steppe: snow-capped Tian Shan peaks, world-record high-altitude ice rinks, and dramatic red sandstone canyon gorges.

ROUTE

Almaty > Medeu > Shymbulak > Kok Tobe > Charyn Canyon

HIGHLIGHTS

- Ride the cable car to Kok Tobe hill for sunset views across Almaty skyline
- Ascend into the snow-capped Zailiyskiy Alatau mountains on the Shymbulak alpine gondola
- Visit Medeu, the world's highest Olympic outdoor ice skating stadium at 1,691m
- Full-day expedition to Charyn Canyon and the 'Valley of Castles' red rock formations
- Explore Panfilov Park, the wooden Zenkov Cathedral (built without nails), and Green Bazaar
- 3 Nights in 4-star central Almaty hotel with daily breakfast buffet
- Visa-free entry for UAE citizens & resident e-Visa support

DAY BY DAY (4 DAYS)

Day 1: Arrive in Almaty & Kok Tobe Hill Cable Car

Direct flight from Dubai, private transfer, cable car to scenic hill overlook.

- Direct flight from Dubai DXB to Almaty International Airport (ALA).
- Private transfer to 4 central hotel.
- Board the cable car to Kok Tobe viewpoint: panoramic skyline views, Ferris wheel, and traditional Kazakh dinner.

Meals: Dinner included

Transport: Private Airport Transfer & Cable Car

Day 2: Medeu High-Altitude Gorge & Shymbulak Alpine Resort

Glacial valleys, world-famous ice speed skating rink, and alpine cable car to 3,200m peak.

- Drive to Medeu gorge and view the colossal Olympic high-altitude sports complex.
- Board the 3-stage gondola cable car to Shymbulak Mountain Resort at Talgar Pass (3,200 meters above sea level).
- Free time for snow activities (winter) or alpine hiking and mountain coffee (summer).
- Return to Almaty; explore pedestrian Arbat street street performers and cafes.

Meals: Breakfast included

Transport: Private Touring Car & Gondola

Day 3: Full-Day Expedition to Charyn Canyon Valley of Castles

Journey across the steppe to the 80-million-year-old red sandstone canyon gorge.

- Morning drive through scenic Kazakh steppe towards the Chinese border.
- Arrive at Charyn Canyon; hike 2 km through the dramatic 'Valley of Castles' between towering red stone spires.
- Reach the rushing turquoise Charyn River; picnic lunch in a traditional yurt by the water.
- Return to Almaty in the evening.

Meals: Breakfast & Steppe Picnic Lunch

Transport: Private 4x4 / Touring Coach

Day 4: Green Bazaar Gastronomy & Return to Dubai

Sample dried apples, mountain honey, and horse-meat delicacies before flight.

- Visit the colorful Green Bazaar to taste dried mountain fruit, nuts, honey, and local cheese.
- Stroll through Panfilov Park and view the pastel-colored Holy Ascension Zenkov Cathedral.
- Private transfer to Almaty Airport (ALA) for direct flight back to Dubai DXB.

Meals: Breakfast included

Transport: Private Airport Transfer

INCLUDED

- 3 Nights in 4 central Almaty hotel
- Daily international breakfast buffet and 1 traditional Kazakh welcome dinner
- Private dedicated air-conditioned touring vehicle with English-speaking chauffeur-guide
- Medeu and Shymbulak 3-stage gondola cable car roundtrip tickets
- Kok Tobe cable car passes
- Full-day guided excursion to Charyn Canyon National Park with entrance fees
- All private airport and hotel transfers

NOT INCLUDED

- International flights Dubai-Almaty-Dubai
- Ski equipment rental or mountain snow activities
- Lunches and dinners not listed
- Driver and guide gratuities
- Travel insurance

FLIGHTS, AND CHANGING ANYTHING ON THIS ITINERARY

Flights are quoted on request. We hold IATA accreditation and can ticket any airline from Dubai alongside this itinerary.

Every itinerary here is a starting point. We rebuild any of it around your own dates, hotels, pace and budget, for couples, families or groups.

Prices are a lead-in fare and move with the season, the airline and the hotel chosen. Tell us your dates and we will confirm a firm quotation.

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