

KAZAKHSTAN RUSSIAN MEDICAL UNIVERSITY

**TRAVLLING.SIGHTSEEINGS IN
KAZAKHSTAN AND THE UK.**

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▣ **Kazakhstan - The Land of Wonders**

- ▣ Kazakhstan is a unique region in the world because of its history, geographical position, and size. Being the world's 9th largest country and located in the centre of Eurasia, it is also the largest landlocked country in the world. These factors have resulted in the country's particular climate and nature, which seem to absorb the brightest examples of the landscape of both continents. In addition, the complicated history of the Kazakh people and the constant interaction of nomadic lifestyle with settled people in South Kazakhstanian ancient cities have led to Kazakhstan's unique and authentic culture.



- These peculiarities have created an opportunity to develop diverse offers in Kazakhstan's travel and tourism industry, to include authentic cultural tourism; nature-based activities, including ecotourism and birdwatching in national parks and protected areas; skiing or trekking in the mountains; water sports, sunbathing, and swimming in the many lakes and rivers of Kazakhstan; and many others.

- The diversity of Kazakhstan's natural areas has contributed to its rich flora and fauna. The country is a habitat for about 122 mammal species, 500 bird species, and 107 fish species; in addition, over six thousand species of plants grow in the region. In order to preserve such a rich world of plants and wildlife, a network of national parks and nature reserves was established in the country. Recently, these protected areas have become accessible to visitors.



- The most famous of them among tourists include Aksu Zhabagly Nature Reserve, which is home to snow leopards and other rare animals, and is also known as the "Kingdom of Tulips", as it is believed that tulips originated here, long before they were introduced in Holland; also, Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve is famous for its pink flamingos and other rare species of wildlife and is popular among bird-watchers; Altyn Emel National Park is interesting for its mystery of Singing Dune; and Katon-Karagay National Park is a habitat of marals (red deer), unossified antlers of which are used as a precious medicine.



▣ Mountains: Trekking and winter sports

- ▣ A series of mountain ranges of various sizes – such as the Tien Shan, Altay, Ulytau, and Kazygurt – are naturally beautiful and attract tourists from all over the world. The Tien Shan Mountains are the highest among them (with the highest peak being about 7,500 metres [24,500 feet]), and Almaty, the largest city of Kazakhstan, is located at its base. Thus, tourists interested in trekking and winter sports can easily access marvelous landscapes directly from the city of Almaty.



- Most popular climbing routes are located in the Small Almaty Valley and Bogdanovich Glacier. Attractions in these places include Pogrebetsky Glacier (4,231 meters [13,881 feet]), Tuyuc Su (4,100 m [13,451 ft]), and Ordzhonikidze (3,980 m [13,058 ft]), among others. In addition, Kazakhstan's high mountains are ideal for winter sports. It's no wonder that Kazakhstan hosted the Asian Winter Games in 2011 – one of the priorities of the country has been to promulgate winter sports.

- A unique sport complex Medeu (sometimes spelled as Medew or Medeo), with a skating rink popular among tourists, was built in the 1950s, at 1,691 metres (5,548 feet) above sea level, which makes it the highest skating rink in the world. A sophisticated artificial refrigeration system enables it to keep high-quality ice coverage for 8 months of the year. Another major winter sport attraction of Kazakhstan is Shymbulak (Chimbulak) ski resort, also located not far from Almaty. Snow can be found there from November till May; however, sunny weather is also registered there more than three hundred days a year. The resort hotel can accommodate up to 114 tourists.



- ❑ Lakes and rivers: water sports, sunbathing and health resorts
- ❑ Kazakhstan is more than its steppes and mountains; it is also a country of rivers and lakes. A lake among the steppes can be like an oasis among empty deserts.
- ❑ Kazakhstan's coastline along the largest lake in the world, the Caspian Sea, is perfect for sunbathing, swimming, and fishing. The largest number of reservoirs is concentrated in the southeast part of the country, in the region symbolically named Zhetysu - "Seven Rivers". Almost all the rivers of Zhetysu belong to the basin of Lake Balkhash, which is also a popular tourist destination for its health centres and recreation camps. Besides health resorts, the lakes offer serene boating and sailing, and extreme tourists can find rafting opportunities in mountain rivers.

