

## 8-Day Kazakhstan Itinerary for Two Couples (Mid-May)

**Destinations:** Almaty, Nur-Sultan (Astana), Turkistan

**Focus:** Culture, history, nature, nomadic heritage, and modern architecture.

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### Day 1-2: Almaty – Mountains & Culture

**Accommodation:** *Shymbulak Resort Hotel* (3-star, ₹2,800/night, mountain views).

#### Day 1:

- **Morning:** Arrive in Almaty. Visit **Panfilov Park** and **Zenkov Cathedral** (one of the tallest wooden buildings globally).
- **Afternoon:** Lunch at **Navat** (try *beshbarmak* – boiled meat with pasta). Explore **Green Bazaar** for local snacks like *baursaks* (fried dough).
- **Evening:** Cable car ride to **Kok-Tobe Hill** for city views. Dinner at **Zheti Kazyna** (Kazakh hospitality cuisine).

#### Day 2:

- **Morning:** Day trip to **Big Almaty Lake** (stunning alpine lake).
  - **Afternoon:** Hike in **Charyn Canyon** (Valley of Castles). Picnic lunch.
  - **Evening:** Return to Almaty. Relax at hotel or stroll around **Republic Square**.
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### Day 3-4: Nur-Sultan (Astana) – Modern Marvels

**Accommodation:** *Best Western Astana* (3-star, ₹3,200/night).

#### Day 3:

- **Morning:** Fly to Nur-Sultan (1.5 hours, ~₹5,000/person). Visit **Baiterek Tower** for panoramic views.
- **Afternoon:** Lunch at **Adal Ata** (try *kazy* – horse meat sausage). Explore **Palace of Peace and Reconciliation**.
- **Evening:** Stroll along **Nurzhol Boulevard**. Dinner at a yurt-themed restaurant for cultural performances.

#### Day 4:

- **Morning:** Visit **National Museum of Kazakhstan** (history exhibits).
  - **Afternoon:** Explore **Khan Shatyr Mall** (indoor beach and shopping).
  - **Evening:** Sunset at **Ishim River Promenade**.
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## Day 5-6: Turkistan – Ancient Silk Road

**Accommodation:** *Turkistan Guesthouse* (3-star, ₹2,500/night).

### Day 5:

- **Morning:** Train to Turkistan (12 hours overnight, ~₹3,000/person).
- **Afternoon:** Visit **Mausoleum of Khoja Ahmed Yasawi** (UNESCO site).
- **Evening:** Explore **Aisha Bibi Mausoleum** and local markets.

### Day 6:

- **Morning:** Day trip to **Otrar Archaeological Site** (ancient ruins).
  - **Afternoon:** Return to Turkistan. Lunch at a local café (*samsa* pastries).
  - **Evening:** Fly back to Almaty (via Shymkent, ~₹6,000/person).
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## Day 7-8: Return to Almaty & Departure

**Accommodation:** *Kazakhstan Express Hotel* (3-star, ₹2,700/night).

### Day 7:

- **Morning:** Visit **Central State Museum** (cultural artifacts).
- **Afternoon:** Relax at **Medeu Skating Rink** or hike in **Ile-Alatau National Park**.
- **Evening:** Farewell dinner at **Alasha** (fusion cuisine).

### Day 8:

- **Morning:** Last-minute shopping at **Arbat Street**.
  - **Afternoon:** Departure to Pune (flight via Delhi/Mumbai, ~₹35,000/person).
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