

Help Sheet to Design a Tour for a Group Interested in Environmental Issues

The basics:

Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan have both suffered from environmental problems stemming from the Soviet period. There is contamination from radiation because of nuclear testing, from carbon dioxide emissions, and from chemicals used in farming. There is also the disaster of the shrinking of the Aral Sea.

How to research the topic:

Look up “environmental issues in Kazakhstan” and “environmental issues in Uzbekistan.”

Planning your itinerary:

It might be interesting to go to the Aral Sea, but other areas of ecological disaster (especially those caused by radioactive contamination) should NOT be on your itinerary! Instead, check out the ecology museum in Karaganda, Kazakhstan, and the Museum of Health Care in Tashkent, Uzbekistan (the latter has a section on hygiene). Also, see what organizations are working for environmental change. Maybe you could visit them....

Travel from place to place:

In planning your itinerary, you can take short regional flights to get to or from big cities that are far apart (e.g. from Nur-Sultan to Almaty or Tashkent). Be sure to check on Kayak.com or some other site to see if there are flights between cities that you want to visit. You don't want to waste time on travel from place to place, so find direct flights. You must somehow strike a balance in your itinerary so that your travelers can see as many places as possible but not so many places that they spend all their time traveling without enough time to see things.