

Help Sheet to Design a Tour for a Group Interested in Nature

The basics:

Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan are both beautiful places with a lot of geographic diversity. Kazakhstan has open steppes (near Nur-Sultan), a glacier reachable by a series of cable cars, the Aral Sea, and breathtaking vistas. Uzbekistan has some desert regions as well as some lovely valleys amid stunning mountains.

How to research your topic:

Research “what to see in Kazakhstan,” “nature in Kazakhstan,” “what to see in Uzbekistan,” and “nature in Uzbekistan,” focusing on the natural, rather than manmade environment. Also look up eagle hunting in Kazakhstan. (You can arrange a demonstration on the plains outside of Nour-Sultan.) Plot some interesting places on the map, and figure out how to include the most enjoyable ones – and the greatest diversity – within one trip.

Planning the itinerary:

Be sure to pick the right time of year since you will be planning some outdoor activities. (You don’t want to see the Kazakh steppes when it’s 20 degrees below zero, and you don’t want to take a camel ride through the desert regions of Uzbekistan in July when it’s over 100 degrees!) Look up the temperature for some of the places you want to go at different times of year.

Tour Group 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.