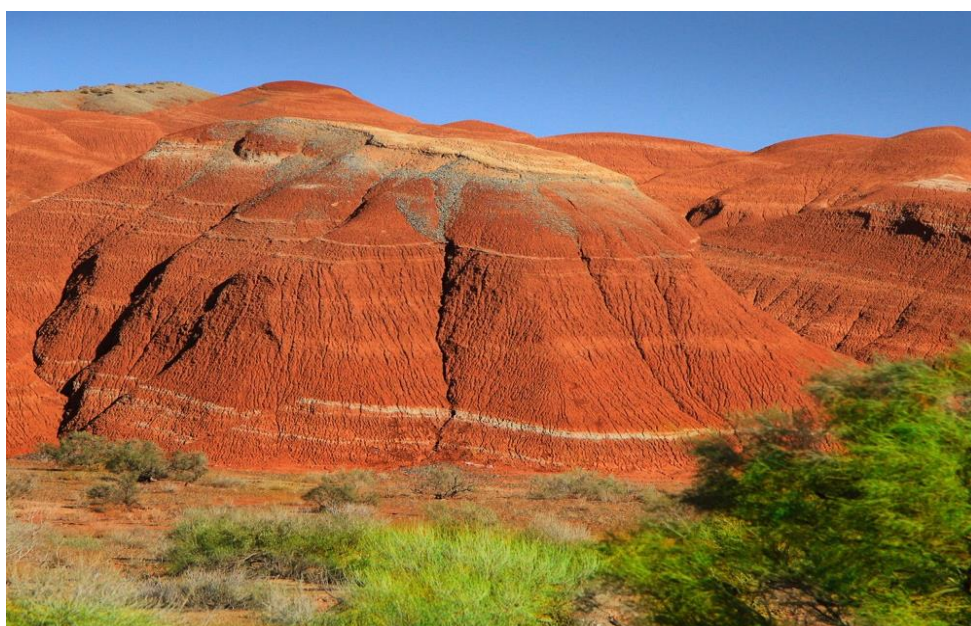


“Altyn - Emel”

Kazakhstan State National Natural Park “Altyn -Emel” is the largest among the southern spurs of the ridge Jungar Alatau area of 520 hectares Kazakhstan State. The park boundary in the south is on the fairway of the Ili River and Kapshagai reservoir in the west – through the mountains Sholak, Matai, Degeres, in the north –the mountains of Altyn-Emel, Koyandytau and to the east – on the eastern tip of the mountains Katutau to the Ili River. Park covers an area Kerbulak and Panfilov district. In the Altyn-Emel there are unique natural features and monuments of ancient culture, objects of modern eco-tourism in Kazakhstan. One of them is called “Singing Dunes”. It is very rare, phenomenal landscape monument. “Singing Dunes” is located on the east and west, between two mountains Big and Small Kalkan on the right bank, or in 182 kilometers from Almaty. It is between the mountains because of the unique situation of the terrain and proximity to rivers or formed draft, dry wind carries sand from the river shallows. Over the centuries piled up a huge sand hill height of 100 100 meters, a width of 500 meters and a length of about 3 kilometers. Outwardly, he has a sharp, sandy ridge at the top and very steep slope.



“Singing” sand found only in a few places at the Riga coast, in some African countries, in the Hawaiian Islands and in America, but they just crackled and

rustled when walking on them. This mountain is making a sound, its strength is equal to hum the plane, and it sounds like organ music. This usually happens when driving on sand dune surface, usually in dry weather and when the west wind. Such a rare phenomenon, it was decided to preserve in perpetuity. Therefore, this portion of the desert became a nature reserve.

Another attraction of the park is burial mounds Besshatyr (five tents). Barrows, occupying a total area of two square kilometers, a chain of 45 stone walls with carved on them figures of animals, are also included in the protected zone. Remains of settlements, numerous rock paintings of animals and hunting scenes – all this is protected by the state.

The pristine, completely uninhabited areas can be found in Altyn-Emel: the unprecedented beauty of the area of Aktau (White Mountains), amazing colors of ancient benthic marine sediments of the former here once the Tethys Ocean. Among these waterless expanse in the oasis, where according to legend there lived groups of wild (snow) men, and also carved into the rock cave on the floor, which cut out a cross, apparently – Asylym hermit – Christian (Nestorian Christians traces can be found throughout Central Asia, Mongolia, China).

The park was founded in April 1996 in order to preserve the natural form of a unique natural complex (landscapes, geological formations of flora and fauna, soil, hydrological regime of water bodies), the ancient archaeological and historical sites, rare and endangered most valuable species of flora and fauna, biological diversity and ecological tourism. Today it is the largest park in Kazakhstan.

The park territory is inhabited by a rich fauna. Alone vertebrates are home to more than 260 species of 31,2% of the total number of all vertebrate fauna of Kazakhstan, accounting migratory and wintering birds of more than 400 species, about 40 species of whom are in the Red Book of Kazakhstan. Gazelle, argali, Siberian ibex, the Turkmen kulan, snow leopards, stone marten, golden eagle, Pallas' cat, black stork, the saker falcon, peregrine falcon, bearded serpent and others are major types of mammals living in the national park and the Red data Book of Kazakhstan.

Flora includes about 1800 species of higher plants, among which 21 species are included in Red Data Book of Kazakhstan. In addition, the park grows 60 species of endemic and rare plants.

Another attraction of the park is the mountains Tumbaloo tas, Ungir-Tas and Oshak-tas.

Altyn-Emel is a mysterious, beautiful land with an ancient, rich history and unique nature. Chine Aktau (White Mountains) is a museum of the distant past of the Earth. Bizarre nature of sculpture, the rebels from the bottom of the ancient sea, painted in all colors of the rainbow, from blue “lunar landscape” to “red mountains”. Their age is up to 400 million years, the length is 30 km, depth is 1,5-2km.

The park is a unique combination of a variety of natural landscapes –from hygrophilous to extremely arid, from lowland to highland, which accounts for the richness of its flora and fauna. Special color landscapes of the National Park “Altyn-Emel” give the relic ironwood trees (frame Caucasian) tugai thickets (original Semirechensk jungle) and black Haloxylon.

Flora of higher plants includes 634 species, of which 41 species belong to the rare and 29 species are endemic. In the wilderness, there are areas of the forest of black crowfoot, and on the slopes of the “Singing Dunes” – thickets of white crowfoot.

A variety of wildlife affects. This is one of the few places in the country where free walking gazelle, argali, ibex tau-teke, and, of course wild kulans. These horses lived in the steppe region of Kulan-tau for many centuries, but were completely destroyed in the 70s of XX century.



Only in 1978, 23 kulans were brought by plane from the island of Barsa-Kelmes. Today the National Park grazing about 700 of these rare animals found only in three countries.

Thanks to the staff's efforts, the diverse of animate and inanimate nature is remained, research is conducted on various topics, and the chronicle of nature is lead in the National Park.

List of used sources:

- 1) "Reserves and National Parks of Kazakhstan" by A.A.Ivashchenko

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