



## «Vastness of the Volga» Draft tour (4 days / 3 nights)

### Day 1

#### Coach hire and tour guide for 6,5 hour

**09:45** Arrival at the airport in Kazan. Meeting with tour guide.



**10:15**

Bus and walking sightseeing **“Legends and Mysteries of the Millennium-old Kazan”** by bus. Enjoy the original beauty of Kazan, see the bright colors of its streets and squares with your own eyes, learn where teeming treasures of Khans of Kazan are kept and where water boiled in a cauldron with no fire by taking the sightseeing tour. The sites of the millennium-old city combine the culture of the West and traditions of the East: Old Tatar Settlement where Tatar residents lived from the 16th

century, Textiles Settlement originating as a result of industrial reforms by Peter I, fountain squares, Kaban lake with its mysteries and legends, a simulated Tatar village Tugan Avylym (My Native Village), a new building of the Puppet Show, Kazan Federal University, Liberty Square as a cultural and administrative center of Kazan. During the sightseeing tour, you will see a variety of minarets and cupolas, crescents and crosses, which is a proof of a good neighborliness of the two native peoples – Tatars and Russians.

**12:30** Lunch in a restaurant.

**OPTION  
(EXTRA  
FEE)**



Folklore program **“Yakyn Duslar”** will immerse you in the world of the ancient culture of the Tatar people. Each people of the world is unique, and its soul, hidden in spiritual creativity - folklore, is unique. All tourists have the opportunity from the first minute of their stay in Kazan to touch the age-old culture of the Tatar people.

**14:00**



A walking tour **“White-stone Fortress”**. The Kazan Kremlin is the main sight of the city; it is a UNESCO world heritage site. The Kremlin is an official residence of the President of the Republic of Tatarstan and a state museum-preserve attended by thousands of tourists every year. The white-stone Kremlin is the heart of the ancient city that incorporates the culture of the East and West. Minarets of the main mosque of the city – Qul Sharif – shoot up into the sky, and cupolas of the Annunciation Cathedral, oldest one in Kazan, shine with gold.

Inside the fortress, there is one of the symbols of Kazan – the famous “leaning” tower of Tsarina Suyumbike.





OPTION  
(EXTRA  
FEE)



Master-class **"The Art of Arabic Calligraphy"**. Under the guidance of a skillful master you will get to know the art of Arabic calligraphy, learn: what is kalami and how to use it, what is the Arabic alphabet, the correctness of writing Arabic letters, words, etc. Taking the Kalami (pen) in hands, on beautiful postcards you will be taught to write your names with Arabic script.

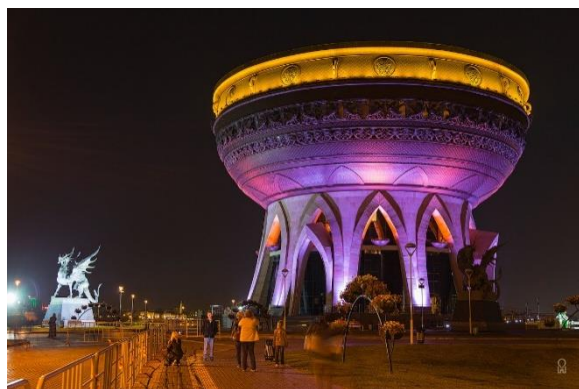
**National Museum of the Republic of Tatarstan.** The museum occupies the building of the former Gostiny Dvor, which is a monument of architecture and history of the Russian Federation and the Republic of Tatarstan. The museum's funds were formed throughout its more than 120-year history with the participation of scientists from Kazan University and the Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Tatarstan, Kazan collectors. The museum collection numbers more than 850 thousand exhibits and reflects the history, culture and traditions of the peoples of the Volga region and Russia, Western and Eastern world cultures. The exhibits are presented in the expositions "The Ancient History of Tatarstan" and "Kazan Province in the XVIII Century".

15:00

16:30

Check-in at a hotel. Leisure time.

OPTION  
(EXTRA  
FEE)



the night city.

Night city tour **"The Lights of Kazan"**

Do you know how streets of Kazan were lit before the electricity? You don't? If you are still full of vigor after an extensive sightseeing program and want to see a different Kazan, to hear about a different Kazan, then you are invited to immerse yourselves into the fairy-tale-like image of the capital. Kazan will show itself to you quiet and peaceful, but still full of lights from back-lit historical and modern buildings. The tour will take place in the brightest sights of

## Day 2

### Coach hire and tour guide for 7,5 hour

**C 07:00** Breakfast at the hotel.

Meeting at the hotel lobby. Departure for the sightseeing program.

09:00

Kazan  Sviyazhsk (~1.5 hour, 70km)







A walking tour **"The Island Town of Sviyazhsk"**. Sviyazhsk is a historical and cultural gem of the Republic of Tatarstan. At present, the place where an ancient fortress used to be is surrounded with waters of Volga river. In the past, the fortress served as a military outpost in the Volga region and a place to prepare troops for an assault against an unassailable fortress of Kazan. In the course of time, as its value as a military facility diminished, Sviyazhsk became a spiritual center of the Middle Volga. The

sightseeing tour in Sviyazhsk comprises unique monuments of history: the Cathedral of the Joy for All Who Grieve, one of the oldest wooden temples of Russia – the Holy Trinity Church, an operating Assumption Monastery featuring an architectural ensemble of the 16-17 centuries, Stable Yard, workshops.

Departure for Kazan.

Lunch in a restaurant.

A walking tour **"Streets of Kazan"** will acquaint you with the central city streets - st.

Bauman and st. The Kremlin. Bauman Street is one of the most favorite places to walk for both residents and guests of Kazan, a meeting point for people in love. During the tour, make a lot of amazing discoveries: jets of fountains, belfry and Epiphany church where Fyodor Shalyapin was baptized, a monument to Shalyapin himself, a building of the National Bank, zero milestone. Meet Su Anasy and learn the story of the Cat of Kazan whose monument always attracts crowds. Beyond competition is a replica of a luxury horse carriage

used by Catherine II to move around Kazan during her visit in 1767. Shiny windows of numerous souvenir shops are so luring. Being in Kazan and missing a walk in Bauman Street – one of the oldest streets in the city – is the same as missing something most important. The Kremlin street is 1050 historical meters of the Kremlin street is an encyclopedia of the Kazan life of many centuries. The Kremlin is a business street: it has very solid institutions, post office, city hall. The buildings of this street are the embodiment of the creativity of different styles, epochs and countries. The street ends with a complex of Kazan Federal University campus buildings.





OPTION  
(EXTRA  
FEE)



**Ushkova's house** - amazing in beauty building. It was built in the early XX century, opposite the main building of the university. Alexei Ushkov married the daughter of university professor Zinaida Vysotskaya and presented her with a house as a wedding present. Wanting to impress his wife's imagination, Alexei planned to make an extraordinary house in which all the styles and directions of architecture and art would unite. The rooms are designed in the style of Baroque, Rococo, Gothic. The house was preserved almost in its original form thanks to N.K. Krupskaya. Since 1919 the building contains the

richest collection of the National Library of the Republic of Tatarstan. Here are a lot of students, a mansion for tourists is also open.

OPTION  
(EXTRA  
FEE)



Visiting the exhibition and entertainment complex **"City Panorama"** - a place of vivid impressions, where the past and present meet the future. Expositions dedicated to Kazan, its architecture, history and stages of development are waiting for you. You will travel through the labyrinths of the streets of the Old-Tatar settlement, on the 360-degree

circular video panorama, ancient photos from the life of Kazan revive. You can feel like a passenger of an old tram of the beginning of the 20th century, look at the city from a bird's eye view. On the unique models will appear Kazan of the 16th century, Kazan of the era of emperors and modern Kazan. Each building is made according to a separate project with an individual facade drawing. All house models are an exact copy of their originals.

16:30 Return to the hotel. Leisure time.

OPTION  
(EXTRA  
FEE)



**Tasting session in a signature shop of "Arysh Meye"**. Each guest becomes a member of an exciting tour through the shop accompanied by a guide and tastes the signature alcoholic drinks. The gem of the collection by Tatspiritprom is "Khanskaya" vodka. The divine drink will give you the feeling of exaltation! A tasting session for four more drinks is arranged in a special tasting room. The guests are offered horse-meat sausage kyzylky, crackers, olives, cheese, pickling cucumbers, lemon as

refreshments.

After the tasting session, the tourists can buy exclusive products by the company: bitters, aperitifs, vermouths, cognacs and cognac-based drinks, whiskey, table wines, dessert wines, sparkling wines, and, of course, Khanskaya vodka, as well as famous balms "Bugulma" and "Tatarstan".







## Day 3

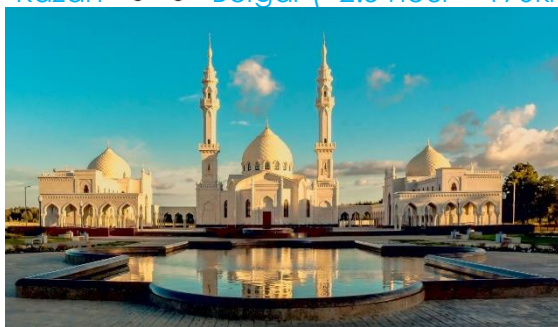
### Coach hire and tour guide for 10 hour

**C 07:00** Breakfast at the hotel.

**09:00** Meeting at the hotel lobby. Departure for the sightseeing program.

Kazan  Bolgar (~2.5 hour = 190km)

**11:30**



You can get acquainted with new sites in Bolgar. See one of the most significant structures added to the contemporary collections of the architectural heritage of Tatarstan – **Ak Mechet** (the White Mosque).

**12:00**

Lunch in a restaurant.

A walking sightseeing tour **“Mecca of the North”** in the town of Bolgar. More than 700 years ago, in the place of the present-day town of Bolgar, there was an ancient city, the capital of Volga Bulgaria – an early-feudal state located in the interfluvium of Volga and Kama rivers.

**13:00**



The historical and archaeological site of Bolgar was included in the UNESCO List of World Heritage Sites. During the tour, one can walk along remains of white-stone walls of ancient buildings to imagine the life thriving there many centuries ago... See all the landmarks remaining in the territory of the ancient town site: Congregational Mosque, East and North Mausoleums, Khans' Mausoleum, Minor Minaret, Black Chamber, White Chamber, Khans' Bathing House, Khans' Palace.

Mausoleum, Minor Minaret, Black Chamber, White Chamber, Khans' Bathing House, Khans' Palace.

Visit the **Literacy Museum** at the embankment of Volga, the **Memorial Sign** built to commemorate the official adoption of Islam by the ancient Bolgars, where the world-biggest printed Quran is kept.

**16:30**

Departure for Kazan.

**19:00**

Return to the hotel. Leisure time.

## Day 4

### Coach hire and tour guide for 9 hour

**C 07:00** Breakfast at the hotel.

**09:00** Meeting at the hotel lobby. Check-Out. Departure for the sightseeing program with the luggage.





10:00



### "The Blue lakes"

Only 20 km from Kazan there are amazing places, famous for the beauty of nature, the cleanest air and, the most diverse flora, and fauna. Unique blue water. It is a whole chain of unusually beautiful lakes of really blue color, surrounded by a dense forest. The water temperature in them does not rise above + 6 ° C. That's why lakes do not freeze in winter. Flowing from one to another, they form in one place a small waterfall and flow into the river Kazanka. You will find an ecological excursion in a magnificent corner of nature.

13:00

Lunch in a cafe.

14:00

Departure for Raifa Virgin Monastery

15:00



Excursion **"The Land of Legends"** to Raifa Virgin Monastery locate 30 Km from Kazan in a sanctuary forest, on a bank of an enchantingly beautiful lake. The monastery was founded in the 17<sup>th</sup> century. Its architectural ensemble, one of the most magnificent in the Middle Volga, was shaped for centuries. The main relic of the monastery is a wonderworking Georgian image of the Most Holy Virgin (17<sup>th</sup> cen.). In the monastery, there is a spring of water consecrated by the Patriarch of Moscow and Russia.

16:30

Transfer to the airport.

18:00

Arrival to the airport of Kazan. End of the tour.

