

## **Boroldai necropolis**

One of the largest cemeteries is Boroldai burial mound, which occupies part of the high plateau Boroldai, located in north-western part of Almaty. Tens of burial mounds, among which is the largest up to 20 m and a diameter of 150 m on a background of mountains with white caps peaks are quite fantastic picture, especially in spring, when around the green mounds spilled scarlet sea of poppies.

The length of the cemetery — 3 km, width — 800 m. Most of the cemetery remained. There are no modern buildings. This is a rare case of preservation. Boroldai burial was lucky; he is surrounded by ravines and canyon river Big Almatinka.

Scientists have found that barrows Boroldai as well as mounds of Issyk, Talgar, Kegen were constructed by tribes of Saki (occupied Zhetysu in VIII-III centuries B.C.), and Usun (people who lived in the III B.C. — III century A.D.). And both were ancestors of the Kazakhs.

Each large burial mounds is an architectural construction, each mound is a unique architectural ensemble. Mounds themselves with their complex device of mounds and tombs, circular stone masonry from vertical stones-menhirs and stone rings around the mounds, place funeral — religious feasts, and the altars are its parts. The entire territory of the necropolis — are “old picture” ideas about the universe, a place in it a person, place of rituals and religious ceremonies connected with the cult of ancestors and calendar cycles, Nowruz celebrations, autumn, summer and winter festivals. This is open-air museum.

For years, scientists and the public of Almaty periodically raised the question of giving the mounds of Boroldai status of a monument of history and culture with organization in its territory the archaeological conservation park in the open.

Despite the acute shortage of available land in Almaty, March 28, 2006 adopted a resolution to withdraw from the city's land fund of the territorial massif of 430 hectares for the organization of the museum “Boroldai Saki mounds.” With complete justification we can say that museumification of Boroldai mounds is an extraordinary project. Implementation will be the embodiment of the idea of historical tourism infrastructure in Almaty.

Archaeological Park is the best form of preservation of natural, historical and cultural heritage, a qualitatively new phenomenon in relation to other types of open-air museum.

Organization of three zones expected in the archaeological park. The first of these will consist of most of the necropolis, including two or three mounds, which are supposed to investigate. Mounds will be carefully excavated and then turned into a museum. Musefication will involve documentary reconstruction not only the cultural landscape, the external appearance of mounds and burial complex devices. Recovered archaeological sites will be formally incorporated into the natural environment.

In the second zone is planned to place ethnopark, which is supposed to show the genesis of the Kazakh yurt — a nomadic shelter, permanent housing, and wintering village.

In the third zone surrounding the cemetery and turned into a museum objects from the south and south-east is supposed to create a garden and park facilities, which will be located the main objects of tourist services, including gift shops, centers of traditional technologies, and recreational areas. It is generally assumed not only the restoration of natural and cultural landscape, creating an archaeological park on an archaeological site with the full reconstruction

of both ground and burial facilities, but also the organization of the relevant museum and tourist infrastructure.

Similar archaeological reserve museums in the open air, similar to the visual and conceptual content Boroldai museum is in the Republic of Hungary, near Budapest and in the Republic of Korea, in the city of Gyeongju. In Korea, the National Archaeological Museum “Timuli Park” — it is an object of world importance, which has 20 royal burial mounds of ancient Korean state Silla (IX cent.). In 1974 archaeologists found the so-called “Tomb of the Heavenly Horse” (Chhonnachhon), where they found more than 10 thousands of ancient relics, including a crown and a girdle from gold, which are now stored in the historical museum in Gyeongju.

The park Timuli still is being excavations. The flow of tourists to Gyeongju from all over the country and the world is inexhaustible. Timuli Park has tremendous spiritual and educational potential. It purposefully seeks to instill of love and interest to national history, the desire to know her deeper.

The first cycle of works on creation of Boroldai museum has already begun. The construction of the input complex is already underway, the project has been developed.

These structures represent the ancient architecture of ancient building traditions, including Saki. Fencing of the mound will be restored (on the perimeter is more than 11 km), the site for buses will be built and transport facilities will be built.

Archaeological Park will fit into the existing tourist destinations and provide a central organizing element of a developed modern tourist infrastructure. An important factor is that the territory of proposed archaeological park is an area of active construction of residential complexes where there are no objects of cultural and recreation and leisure.

The organization of the archaeological park and the development of tourism infrastructure will promote educational, cultural and economic development of the city, stimulating economic recovery through development of the service sector, as well as the creation of research capacity to study the historical, cultural and natural heritage of the region Zhetysu and Almaty.

Taking into account wealth of the region’s natural resources, numerous historic monuments, well-preserved cultural folk traditions, the archaeological park and museum-tourist complex can be considered as a basis for the development of scientific and exploratory work in the field of archeology, ethnography, protection and use of historical and cultural heritage.

**K. M. Baipakov, “*Saki of Zhetysu-Semirechye*”**