

KYRGYZ ADVENTURE TRAVEL

# 10-DAYS CULTURAL TOUR IN KYRGYZSTAN: FROM THE CAPITAL TO HIGH-ALTITUDE LAKES

| DURATION | STARTING FROM | DESTINATION |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 10 Days | $1940 / person | Kyrgyzstan |

# OVERVIEW

Tour Overview
Embark on an unforgettable 10-day adventure through the heart of Central Asia, journeying from the vibrant capital of Bishkek to the breathtaking alpine landscapes of Kyrgyzstan. This expedition blends ancient Silk Road history with authentic nomadic culture.

You will explore ancient architectural monuments like the Burana Tower and petroglyph sites, hike through stunning red-rock canyons and alpine gorges (Jety-Oguz, Barskoon, and Skazka), and experience genuine nomadic life by sleeping in traditional felt yurts. The journey features thrilling highlights such as an Eagle Show in Bokonbayevo, a traditional Folk Show in Kochkor, and extensive horse or hiking excursions across the high-altitude pastures and crystal-clear shores of Lake Son-Kul (3,016m) and Lake Issyk-Kul.

Designed for active travelers seeking both cultural immersion and wild mountain landscapes, the tour provides full-board meals, comfortable transport (4x4 Jeeps or minibus), an English-speaking driver-guide, and all essential cultural experiences included.

# ITINERARY

1

DAY 1

## BISHKEK (CITY TOUR)

Daily Mileage: Approx. 30–40 km (around the city).

Itinerary & Program:

Morning (09:00 – 12:00): Arrival, hotel check-in, and start of the tour. Visit the Osh Bazaar, the city's most colorful market filled with spices, dried fruits, and national crafts (approx. 2-hour walking tour).

Lunch (12:00 – 14:00): Enjoy traditional Kyrgyz cuisine (such as beshbarmak or lagman) at a local cafe.

Afternoon (14:00 – 17:30): Stroll across the central Ala-Too Square to watch the changing of the guard at the Manas Monument. Continue to Oak Park to see the open-air sculpture museum, followed by a trip to Victory Park in the southern part of the city for a peaceful walk in nature (full park walking tour takes 2–3 hours).

2

DAY 2

## DAY 2: BISHKEK — BURANA TOWER — CHONG-KEMIN VALLEY

Daily Mileage: Approx. 160 km.

Itinerary & Program:

Morning (08:30): Depart Bishkek towards the picturesque Chong-Kemin Valley.

First Stop (approx. 10:30 – 12:30): Stop at the ancient historical and architectural complex of the Burana Tower (10th–11th century minaret) and the field of stone sculptures known as balbals (sightseeing and active walking tour of the complex for about 2 hours).

Lunch (13:00): Lunch at a local guesthouse upon arrival in the Chong-Kemin Valley.

Afternoon (14:30 – 17:30): Check into a cozy mountain guesthouse. Enjoy an afternoon scenic walk or hike right along the foothills and mountain slopes surrounding the valley, breathing in the fresh pine air (active 2–3 hour walking tour). (Note: Horseback riding is also available here as an optional activity if anyone prefers it).

Evening (18:00): Relax, enjoy a hearty dinner, and take in the peaceful nature of the valley.

Overnight: Chong-Kemin (guesthouse).

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DAY 3

## DAY 3: CHONG-KEMIN — CHOLPON-ATA (PETROGLYPHS) — KARAKOL (CITY TOUR)

Daily Mileage: Approx. 220 km.

Itinerary & Program:

Morning (08:30): Depart Chong-Kemin along the scenic northern shore of Lake Issyk-Kul towards Cholpon-Ata.

First Stop (approx. 11:00 – 13:00): Arrive in Cholpon-Ata and explore the famous open-air petroglyph site (vast boulder fields with ancient rock carvings dating back to the Saka-Usun period). Enjoy a 2-hour educational walking tour among the ancient stones with panoramic views of the lake and mountains.

Lunch (13:00 – 14:00): Enjoy lunch at a local cafe in Cholpon-Ata.

Afternoon (14:00 – 16:30): Continue driving along the picturesque lake route from Cholpon-Ata to Karakol.

Late Afternoon & Evening (16:30 – 18:30): Arrive in Karakol and immediately begin your historical city tour:

Visit the unique Dungan Mosque, built in the late 19th/early 20th century (1904–1910) by local Chinese Muslims in the style of a Chinese temple without using a single metal nail.

Visit the historic Holy Trinity Orthodox Church, a magnificent wooden church built and consecrated at the end of the 19th century (1895).

Enjoy a comprehensive 2–3 hour immersive walking tour through the leafy, historic streets of Karakol, observing old Russian-style merchant architecture.

Evening (18:30): Check into your hotel in Karakol, relax, and have dinner.

Overnight: Karakol (hotel).

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DAY 4

## DAY 4: KARAKOL — JETY-OGUZ GORGE (KOK-JAYYK)

Daily Mileage: Approx. 70 km (round trip).

Itinerary & Program:

Morning (09:00): Depart Karakol for one of the most stunning gorges in the Tien Shan mountains — Jety-Oguz ("Seven Bulls").

Daytime (10:00 – 14:00): Stop at the legendary "Broken Heart" rock formation. Begin a trekking hike (or horseback ride) up the gorge to the "Maiden's Braids" waterfall and further up to the scenic Kok-Jayyk alpine plateau (full active walk and trekking tour takes about 3 hours). Enjoy a picnic in nature or lunch in a local yurt.

Afternoon (15:30 – 17:00): Return down the gorge and head back to Karakol.

Overnight: Karakol.

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DAY 5

## DAY 5: KARAKOL — BARSKOON — SKAZKA CANYON — BOKONBAYEVO

aily Mileage: Approx. 200 km.

Itinerary & Program:

Morning (08:30): Depart Karakol along the southern shore of Issyk-Kul.

First Stop (10:00 – 12:30): Barskoon Gorge. Walk through the pine forest to beautiful waterfalls ("Manas Bowl", "Champagne Splashes") and the monument dedicated to Soviet cosmonaut Yuri Gagarin, who used to vacation here (active walking tour of 2–3 hours).

Lunch (13:00): Lunch at a yurt-style cafe.

Second Stop (14:30 – 17:00): Explore the fantastic Skazka (Fairy Tale) Canyon. The colorful clay and sandstone formations resemble Martian landscapes and ancient castles (full exploration hike takes 2–3 hours).

Evening (17:30): Arrive in the village of Bokonbayevo — the center of traditional eagle hunting (Salbuurun).

Overnight: Bokonbayevo (guesthouse or yurt camp).

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DAY 6

## DAY 7: BOKONBAYEVO — HIGH-ALTITUDE LAKE SON-KUL

Daily Mileage: Approx. 180 km.

Itinerary & Program:

Morning (08:30): Depart Bokonbayevo towards the high-altitude alpine lake Son-Kul, traveling through scenic mountain passes and rugged off-road tracks.

Lunch (13:00): Arrive at Lake Son-Kul (altitude 3,016 meters above sea level), check into a traditional nomadic yurt camp, and enjoy a hot lunch.

Afternoon (15:00 – 18:00): First active excursion (on foot or horseback) across the endless syrt (high-altitude pastures) surrounding the lake, observing grazing herds of horses and sheep flocks (2–3 hour ride/walk).

Evening: Sunset over the high-altitude lake and overnight stay in an authentic Kyrgyz yurt.

Overnight: Yurt camp at Son-Kul.

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DAY 7

## DAY 7: IMMERSED IN NOMADIC LIFE AT SON-KUL

Daily Mileage: Radial rides/walks (0 km driving).

Itinerary & Program:

Morning (09:00 – 12:00): A full day dedicated to experiencing the authentic lifestyle of local nomadic herders. Participate in a masterclass on making traditional dairy products (kumis, kurut, kaymak) and observe camp life (engaging cultural program and walk for 2–3 hours).

Lunch (13:00): Traditional lunch inside the yurt.

Afternoon (14:30 – 18:00): A large horseback or hiking excursion to scenic hills or ancient petroglyphs near the lake (full 3-hour outdoor excursion). In the evening, enjoy dinner by the campfire under a starry sky.

Overnight: Yurt camp at Son-Kul.

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DAY 8

## DAY 8: SON-KUL — KYZYL-OY VILLAGE

Daily Mileage: Approx. 160–180 km (mountain off-road and scenic valley roads).

Itinerary & Program:

Morning (08:30): Breakfast at the yurt camp, farewell to Lake Son-Kul, and scenic descent through mountain passes toward the Suusamyr Valley.

Lunch (12:30 – 13:30): Lunch at a local spot along the way.

Afternoon (13:30 – 16:30): Continue the drive to the remote and stunning red-clay village of Kyzyl-Oy, nestled deep in the canyon.

Late Afternoon (16:30 – 18:30): Arrive in Kyzyl-Oy, check into a traditional local guesthouse, and enjoy an active 2–3 hour walking tour along the rushing Kuku-Meren River and the striking red cliffs surrounding the village.

Evening (18:30): Relax, enjoy a hearty homemade dinner hosted by a local family, and experience authentic village hospitality.

Overnight: Kyzyl-Oy (guesthouse).

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DAY 9

## DAY 9: KYZYL-OY — BISHKEK

Daily Mileage: Approx. 140–160 km.

Itinerary & Program:

Morning (08:30): Breakfast at the local guesthouse in Kyzyl-Oy, take a final morning look at the red canyons, and depart for Bishkek.

Transit & Lunch (12:30 – 13:30): Scenic drive through the mountain passes and valleys back toward the capital, stopping for lunch along the way.

Afternoon (14:00 – 17:00): Arrive in Bishkek right after lunch. Head straight to the bustling Osh Bazaar for an immersive 2–3 hour walking tour to buy local souvenirs, handicrafts, dried fruits, mountain honey, and gifts for family and friends.

Late Afternoon & Evening (17:00): Check into your hotel in Bishkek, unpack, relax, and enjoy a farewell dinner in the city.

Overnight: Bishkek (hotel).

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DAY 10

## DAY 10: BISHKEK — AIRPORT (RETURN HOME)

Daily Mileage & Time: Approx. 35 km (about 1 hour drive to the airport).

Itinerary & Program:

Morning: Enjoy a relaxed breakfast at your hotel in Bishkek, pack your bags, and check out.

Transfer (approx. 1 hour / 35 km): Private transfer from your hotel to the Manas International Airport.

Departure: Check in for your flight and depart for home, taking unforgettable memories of your Kyrgyz adventure with you!

# GROUP PRICING

| GROUP SIZE | PRICE PER PERSON |
|---|---|
| 2 | $4000 |
| 3 | $3170 |
| 4 | $2730 |
| 5 | $2440 |
| 6 | $2250 |
| 7 | $2140 |
| 8 | $2050 |
| 9 | $1980 |
| 10+ BEST | $1940 |

# TRIP DETAILS

## INCLUDED

- ✓ What is Included in the Program:
- ✓ Meals: Full-board meals (Breakfast, Lunch, and Dinner - 3 meals a day).
- ✓ Guide & Transport: English-speaking driver-guide throughout the entire tour, with transportation provided either by a minibus (for larger groups) or by 4x4 WD Jeeps (accommodating up to 5 people per jeep).
- ✓ Accommodation: All overnight stays in hotels, guesthouses, and nomadic yurt camps as per the itinerary.
- ✓ Admission Tickets: Entrance tickets to all museums and historical sites mentioned in the program (including the Burana Tower, petroglyph sites, etc.).
- ✓ Cultural Shows & Activities:
- ✓ Eagle Show (traditional eagle hunting demonstration in Bokonbayevo).
- ✓ Folk Show (traditional music and cultural performance in Kochkor).

## NOT INCLUDED

- × What is Not Included in the Program:
- × Flights: International and domestic airfares.
- × Insurance: Travel and medical insurance.
- × Visa: Visa fees and consular charges (if applicable).
- × Alcoholic Beverages: Any alcoholic drinks and personal beverages outside of standard meal services.
- × Personal Expenses: Souvenirs, tips, laundry, and any other items or services not explicitly mentioned in the itinerary.

## WHAT TO TAKE

- Packing List & Personal Gear
- Hiking Shoes: Sturdy, broken-in trekking boots with good ankle support and non-slip soles for walking in gorges, canyons, and mountain trails.
- Hiking Sticks (Trekking Poles): Highly recommended for stability during descents and ascents in the mountain areas (like Jety-Oguz and Son-Kul).
- Drinking Bottles: Reusable water bottles (or a hydration bladder) to keep yourself hydrated throughout the daily excursions and drives.
- Waterproof Jackets: Essential windproof and waterproof outer shells (like a Gore-Tex jacket) to protect against sudden mountain weather changes and rain.
- First Aid Kit (Аптечка): Personal medications, motion sickness pills (useful for winding mountain roads), pain relievers, band-aids, antiseptic wipes, and sunscreen.

## READY FOR YOUR ADVENTURE?

Contact us to book this tour or to plan a custom itinerary.

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