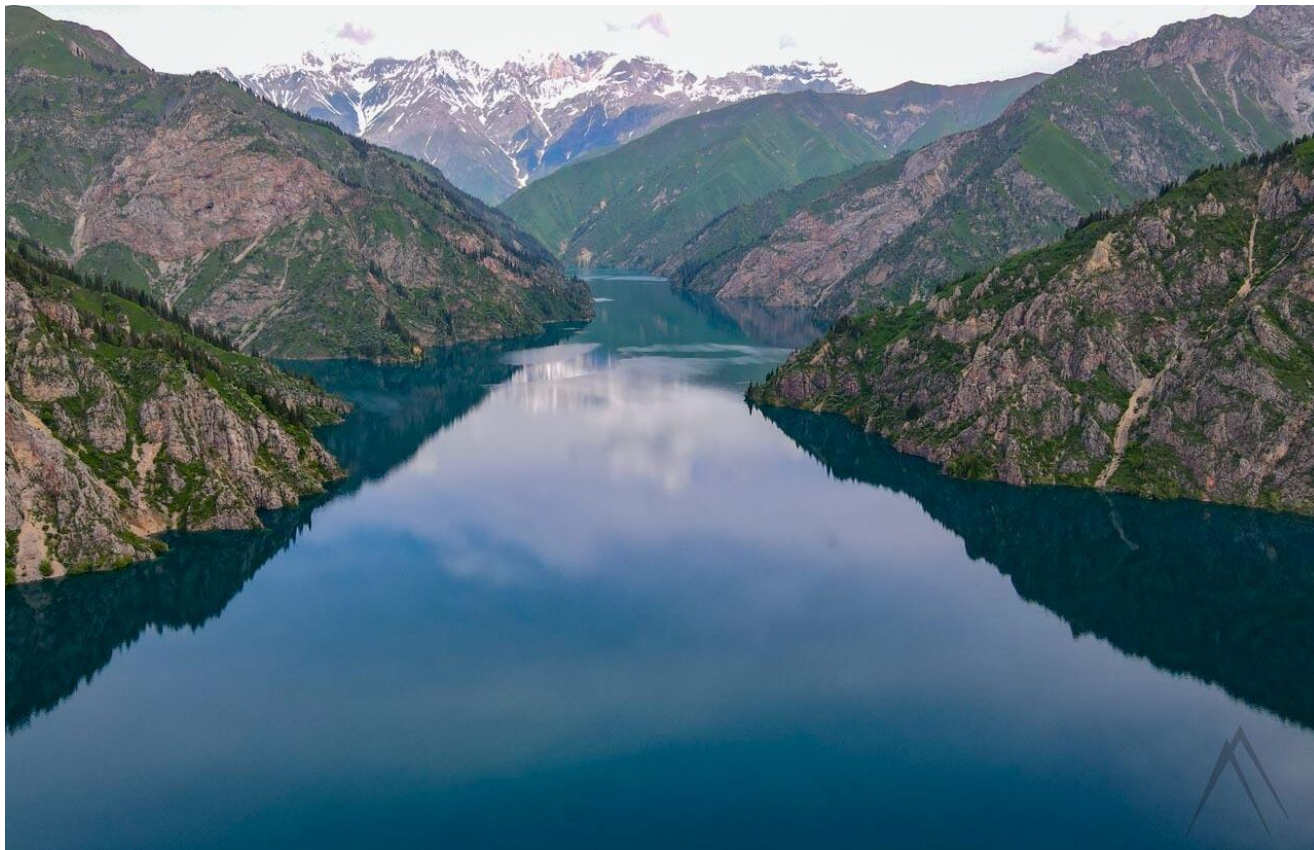




PRIVATE TOUR · 9 DAYS

Sary-Chelek Horseback Tour

Round trip from Osh · Kyrgyzstan

Duration
9 days, 8 nights

Start and end
Round trip from Osh

Best time to visit
May-Sep

Private tour from
\$1,104 per person

Group size
Max 9 travellers

Tour type
Horseback riding, Nature

Difficulty
Moderate

Prices and dates valid for 2026 departures. Issued 12 October 2026.

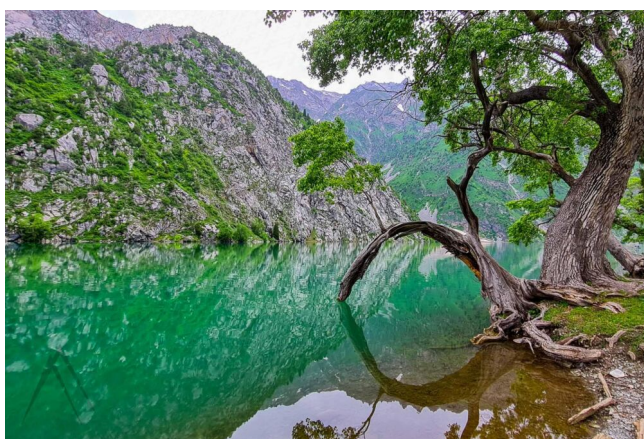
Tour highlights

This 9-day horseback tour starts and ends in Osh and takes you deep into the Sary-Chelek Nature Reserve, a UNESCO biosphere reserve in the western Tien Shan famous for its alpine landscapes, dense forests and sparkling mountain lakes. On the way in you explore the 12th-century minaret and Karakhanid-era mausoleums of Uzgen and visit a local rice farm before reaching Arkit, the gateway village of the reserve.

Six riding days of 8–20 km lead over the Kyzkorgon, Kuldambes (2,750 m), Ashuu, Makmal and Kuturma passes, through peaceful valleys and meadows, past emerald-green Semenov firs and blue Tien Shan spruces, to the shores of Sary-Chelek Lake. One of the highlights is Kara-Kamysh (Kara-Suu) Lake, a deep, clear alpine lake in a dramatic gorge with the Min-Teke range mirrored in its waters. You camp in tents along the way, meet herders and their flocks on the summer pastures and finish the ride through a walnut forest from the small Iri-Kol Lake to the village of Kyzyl-Kel.

Back in Osh, a city tour takes you up Sulaiman-Too, the sacred mountain and UNESCO World Heritage Site, with the Museum of Spiritual Culture inside a natural cave. Combining adventure, culture and breathtaking scenery, the tour suits nature and riding enthusiasts with a moderate level of fitness.

Difficulty: Moderate. Six riding days of 8–20 km a day (about 92 km in total) over passes of up to 2,750 m (Kuldambes), five nights in tents at about 1,800–2,100 m and altitudes between 900 and 2,750 m. The first and eighth days are long drives of about 320–330 km between Osh and the reserve.



Kara-Kamysh lake



9 days Horse riding tour to Sary Chelek Lake

Where you'll stay

Night 1	Arkit	Guesthouse U Musy or similar
Night 4	Sary Chelek	Tent camp at Sary-Chelek Lake
Night 5	Kara-Suu Lake (Sary-Chelek)	Tent camp at Kara-Kamysh Lake
Night 6	Iri-Kol Lake	Tent camp at Iri-Kol Lake
Night 7	Arkit	Guesthouse U Bazarkul or similar
Night 8	Osh	Sunrise Hotel or similar

Listed accommodation or similar, same category.

Day-by-day itinerary

DAY

1

Osh – Uzgen – Arkit

Arrive at Osh Airport and enjoy breakfast upon arrival. Travel to the historic town of Uzgen and explore its 12th-century architectural complex, including the minaret and mausoleums from the Karakhanid era.

Visit a local rice farm along the way, then continue to Arkit Village at the gateway of the Sary-Chelek Nature Reserve. Enjoy lunch en route, followed by dinner and an overnight stay in a guesthouse, experiencing the warmth of local hospitality.

The drive is about 330 km.

Overnight	Arkit · Guesthouse U Musy or similar
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Meals	Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
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Travel	Osh – Arkit (330 km)
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DAY

2

Arkit – Kyzkorgon Pass – Aristanbuka Camp

After breakfast, meet your guide and horses and set off on horseback along the western side of the Kyzkorgon Pass (2,400 m), with breathtaking mountain scenery and panoramic views.

Enjoy lunch during a scenic break along the way. In the evening, settle in for dinner and an overnight stay in tents at Aristanbuka Camp (1,800 m), surrounded by the beauty of the mountain landscape.

Today's ride is about 8 km.

Meals	Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
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DAY

3

Horse riding along the South Aflatun River

Today, ride along the South Aflatun River on a good dirt road through a scenic canyon lined with Tien Shan spruce trees.

Stop for lunch during a break along the way. After lunch, continue up the gorge of the South Aflatun River to its confluence with the Uyalma River (2,100 m), where you camp for the night.

Today's ride is about 20 km.

Meals	Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
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DAY

4

Over Kuldambes and Ashuu passes to Sary-Chelek Lake

Today, cross Kuldambes Pass (2,750 m) and continue toward Sary-Chelek Lake via Ashuu Pass (2,551 m). From the saddle of Kuldambes Pass, enjoy a stunning panoramic view of the Uyalma Valley with the Chatkal Range rising above it.

The route then continues to Ashuu Pass, which offers a breathtaking first view of Sary-Chelek Lake. Descend from the pass into the valley of Sary-Chelek Lake, where you camp for the night.

Today's ride is about 10 km.

Overnight	Sary Chelek · Tent camp at Sary-Chelek Lake
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Meals	Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
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DAY

5

Sary-Chelek Lake – Makmal Pass – Kara-Kamysh Lake

Leave the shores of Sary-Chelek Lake and follow the river upstream to its confluence with the Makmal River. A narrow trail winds along the river, first through alpine meadows and then up to the wide saddle of Makmal Pass (2,654 m). From here, descend along the Kurumdu River into the Kara-Suu Valley (2,000 m) to the beautiful Kara-Kamysh Lake.

Along the way, experience the traditional nomadic lifestyle and learn about local customs from the herders on the summer pastures.

Today's ride is about 20 km. Instead of the tent, you can stay overnight in a traditional yurt (optional).

Overnight	Kara-Suu Lake (Sary-Chelek) · Tent camp at Kara-Kamysh Lake
Meals	Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Travel	Sary Chelek – Kara-Suu Lake (Sary-Chelek) (on horseback, 20 km)

DAY

6

Kara-Suu Lake – Kuturma Pass – Sary-Chelek lakes

After a walk along Kara-Suu Lake, begin a gentle ascent to the saddle of Kuturma Pass (2,446 m). The trail follows a scenic path between juniper trees and rocky outcrops. From the pass, enjoy a stunning panoramic view of the southern end of Sary-Chelek Lake.

Descend from the pass and stop for lunch. In the afternoon, enjoy a leisurely walk around the smaller lakes of Sary-Chelek, surrounded by pristine mountain scenery. Dinner and overnight stay in tents on the shore of Iri-Kol Lake.

Today's ride is about 16 km.

Overnight	Iri-Kol Lake · Tent camp at Iri-Kol Lake
Meals	Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Travel	Kara-Suu Lake (Sary-Chelek) – Iri-Kol Lake (on horseback, 16 km)

DAY

7

Iri-Kol Lake – Kyzyl-Kel Village

From Iri-Kol Lake, follow a good trail heading south. Along the way, pass through a walnut forest, one of the region's natural treasures. In the evening, arrive in Kyzyl-Kel Village, where you enjoy dinner and an overnight stay in a local guesthouse.

Today's ride is about 18 km.

Overnight	Arkit · Guesthouse U Bazarkul or similar
Meals	Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Travel	Iri-Kol Lake – Arkit (on horseback, 18 km)

DAY

8

Kyzyl-Kel – Osh, city tour

Transfer to Osh. Upon arrival, enjoy a city tour including Sulaiman-Too Sacred Mountain, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, and the Museum of Spiritual Culture, located inside a natural cave on the mountain.

Overnight at a hotel in Osh.

The drive is about 320 km.

Overnight	Osh · Sunrise Hotel or similar
Meals	Breakfast, Lunch
Travel	Arkit – Osh (320 km)

DAY

9

Osh, departure

Breakfast and transfer to Osh Airport for your departure.

Overnight	Departure day, no overnight
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Meals	Breakfast
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What's included

Included

- Transfers in a Toyota Land Cruiser (2–4 travelers) or a minibus (5–9 travelers) throughout the tour
- Tour escort / guide for the entire trip
- Horses for the riding days (days 2–7)
- Accommodation as per the program in double occupancy: guesthouses in Arkit and Kyzyl-Kel, tents on the trail (5 nights), Sunrise Hotel in Osh
- All meals as listed in the itinerary
- Drinking water: 1 liter per person per day
- Guided tour in Uzgen and city tour in Osh
- Entrance fees in Uzgen and Osh

Not included

- Sleeping bag with foam mat and helmet (can be rented during the tour)
- Visa support
- Medical insurance and related expenses
- Single room in Osh (15 USD per person)
- Optional: inflatable boat rides on Kara-Kamysh Lake
- Optional: traditional sports games at Kara-Kamysh Lake

Prices

Valid for 2026 departures

Private tour, per person by group size

Travellers	Price per person
2 travellers	\$1,921
3 travellers	\$1,472
4 travellers	\$1,369
5 travellers	\$1,277
6 travellers	\$1,242
7 travellers	\$1,185
8 travellers	\$1,150
9 travellers	\$1,104

Private tours start on any date you choose. Prices per person in a double or twin room.

Optional extras

- Single room in Osh (1 night, per person): \$15 per room

Book or ask a question

Choose a date or ask us anything about this tour. We usually reply within one working day.

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Email	info@central-asia.guide
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Phone and WhatsApp	+358 40 812 4448
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