



PRIVATE TOUR · 10 DAYS

# Nomad Games tour 2026

Round trip from Bishkek · Kyrgyzstan

Duration  
10 days, 9 nights

Start and end  
Round trip from Bishkek

Best time to visit  
Sep

Private tour from  
\$1,841 per person

Group size  
Max 10 travellers

Tour type  
Culture, Nature

Difficulty  
Easy

Prices and dates valid for 2026 departures. Issued 13 October 2026.

## Tour highlights

This 10-day tour from Bishkek combines the World Nomad Games 2026 with Kyrgyzstan's mountain scenery and living nomadic traditions. You start with a walk in the alpine valley of Ala-Archa National Park and a city tour of Bishkek with its central square, the monument to the epic hero Manas and a local bazaar, before driving to Issyk-Kul, the second-largest mountain lake in the world.

Two days near Cholpon-Ata belong to the Games: traditional sports such as belt wrestling (alysh), wrestling on horseback and the team game kok-boru, horseback archery, and hunting with golden eagles and taigan dogs at the ethno village in Kyrchyn Gorge, followed by the closing ceremony. You also visit the open-air Museum of Petroglyphs and take a boat trip on the lake.

The second half of the tour leads around the lake to Karakol with its Dungan Mosque and wooden Orthodox church, the red cliffs of Jeti-Oguz, Skazka (Fairy-Tale) Canyon and the waterfalls of Barskoon Gorge, with two nights in a yurt camp on the south shore. Along the way you share a meal with local musicians, cook manty and boorsok bread, meet an eagle hunter near Bokonbaevo and the yurt makers of Kyzyl-Tuu, and spend a night in the green valley of Chon-Kemin before returning to Bishkek via the 11th-century Burana Tower.

**Difficulty: Easy.** Short walks of 30 minutes to 2 hours (Ala-Archa, Jeti-Oguz, Skazka Canyon, Barskoon Gorge, Chon-Kemin) at altitudes of 800–1,700 m, long days on your feet at the Nomad Games venues (no seating), drives of up to 300 km (4–6 hours) a day and two nights in a yurt camp.



Kyrgyz women riding horses with bows during salburun festival



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## Where you'll stay

|            |                      |                                     |
|------------|----------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Nights 1–2 | <b>Bishkek</b>       | Hotel in Bishkek or similar         |
| Nights 3–4 | <b>Cholpon Ata</b>   | Hotel in Cholpon-Ata or similar     |
| Night 5    | <b>Karakol</b>       | Hotel in Karakol or similar         |
| Nights 6–7 | <b>Tamga village</b> | Yurt camp on the shore of Issyk-Kul |
| Night 8    | <b>Chon Kemin</b>    | Guesthouse in Chon-Kemin or similar |
| Night 9    | <b>Bishkek</b>       | Hotel in Bishkek or similar         |

Listed accommodation or similar, same category.

# Day-by-day itinerary

DAY

1

## Arrival in Bishkek

Arrival in Bishkek early in the morning. Your Kyrgyz guide and driver meet you at the airport and take you to the hotel for a rest and a buffet breakfast; early check-in is included.

The rest of the day is free to relax after the flight. Lunch and dinner are served at the hotel or in a restaurant close to the hotel.

Altitude: Bishkek about 800 m.

|           |                                               |
|-----------|-----------------------------------------------|
| Overnight | <b>Bishkek</b> · Hotel in Bishkek or similar  |
| Meals     | Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner                      |
| Travel    | Manas International Airport – Bishkek (45 km) |

DAY

2

## Ala-Archa National Park and Bishkek city tour

After breakfast, drive to Ala-Archa National Park, an alpine park in the Tian Shan mountains just south of Bishkek, for a walk of about 1–2 hours. Then return to Bishkek for lunch.

In the afternoon, a city tour of Bishkek takes you to the central square, a park, the monument to the epic hero Manas and a local bazaar (the bazaar is closed on Mondays).

Dinner in a local restaurant and overnight at the hotel.

Altitude: Bishkek about 800 m, Ala-Archa National Park about 1,600 m.

|           |                                                            |
|-----------|------------------------------------------------------------|
| Overnight | <b>Bishkek</b> · Hotel in Bishkek or similar               |
| Meals     | Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner                                   |
| Travel    | Bishkek – Ala Archa (40 km)<br>Ala Archa – Bishkek (40 km) |

DAY

3

### Bishkek – Cholpon-Ata: World Nomad Games

After breakfast, drive to the northern shore of Issyk-Kul, the second-largest mountain lake in the world after Lake Titicaca in South America, to attend the World Nomad Games. This large cultural and sports event takes place every two years and brings together participants and spectators from all over the world.

During the day you can watch traditional sports such as belt wrestling (alysh), wrestling on horseback (er enish) and kok-boru, an exciting team game on horseback played with the body of a sheep, a little like polo. At the ethnographic site there are also archery demonstrations, including traditional shooting from horseback, and hunting with golden eagles and taigans, the ancient Kyrgyz hunting dogs. Lunch is at the food courts or as a lunch box.

In the afternoon, return to the hotel in Cholpon-Ata for dinner and the night.

The Games take place in the Kyrchyn Gorge. Competitions are held at different venues, and the group can choose which ones to attend. No seating is provided – guests watch the events standing, as is traditional at nomadic festivals. The program of performances can change once the exact events of the day are known.

Altitude: Cholpon-Ata about 1,600 m.

|           |                                                      |
|-----------|------------------------------------------------------|
| Overnight | <b>Cholpon Ata</b> · Hotel in Cholpon-Ata or similar |
|-----------|------------------------------------------------------|

|       |                          |
|-------|--------------------------|
| Meals | Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner |
|-------|--------------------------|

|        |                                |
|--------|--------------------------------|
| Travel | Bishkek – Cholpon Ata (300 km) |
|--------|--------------------------------|

DAY

4

### Cholpon-Ata: Museum of Petroglyphs and closing ceremony

After breakfast, visit the Museum of Petroglyphs. The open-air museum covers 42 hectares dotted with hundreds of boulders carrying ancient rock carvings; the oldest petroglyphs date back to the first millennium BCE.

After lunch, in the evening, attend the closing ceremony of the World Nomad Games.

Dinner and overnight at the hotel.

The program of performances can change once the exact events of the day are known.

Altitude: Cholpon-Ata about 1,600 m.

|           |                                                      |
|-----------|------------------------------------------------------|
| Overnight | <b>Cholpon Ata</b> · Hotel in Cholpon-Ata or similar |
|-----------|------------------------------------------------------|

|       |                          |
|-------|--------------------------|
| Meals | Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner |
|-------|--------------------------|

## DAY

5

### Cholpon-Ata – Karakol

After breakfast, take a boat excursion of about 1 hour on Issyk-Kul. The name means “warm lake”: the salty lake does not freeze in winter. It is about 200 km long and 60 km wide, and its deepest point is about 730 m.

Then drive to Karakol, the largest town in the eastern part of the Issyk-Kul region. The city tour includes the Dungan Mosque, built in Chinese style without a single nail, the Russian Orthodox church made entirely of wood, and the local bazaar.

Lunch in a local restaurant. In the afternoon you can relax at the local hot springs before checking in at the hotel.

Dinner is with a Uyghur family, where you taste lagman, the hand-pulled noodle dish. Overnight at the hotel.

Altitude: Issyk-Kul about 1,600 m, Karakol about 1,700 m.

|           |                                              |
|-----------|----------------------------------------------|
| Overnight | <b>Karakol</b> · Hotel in Karakol or similar |
|-----------|----------------------------------------------|

|       |                          |
|-------|--------------------------|
| Meals | Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner |
|-------|--------------------------|

|        |                                |
|--------|--------------------------------|
| Travel | Cholpon Ata – Karakol (160 km) |
|--------|--------------------------------|

## DAY

6

### Karakol – Jeti-Oguz – yurt camp near Tamga

If it is a Sunday, visit the Karakol animal market before breakfast; it is held every Sunday morning from as early as 4 am until about 10 am.

After breakfast, drive along the southern shore of Issyk-Kul towards the village of Tamga. On the way, visit the Jeti-Oguz Gorge, famous for its red sandstone cliffs, including the “Broken Heart” rock and the “Seven Bulls”. An easy walk of about 1 hour in the gorge leads to a beautiful view of the Seven Bulls. Lunch.

Continue to the yurt camp, check in and enjoy some free time before dinner. Dinner and overnight in the yurt camp.

Altitude: Karakol about 1,700 m, Tamga about 1,650 m.

|           |                                                            |
|-----------|------------------------------------------------------------|
| Overnight | <b>Tamga village</b> · Yurt camp on the shore of Issyk-Kul |
|-----------|------------------------------------------------------------|

|       |                          |
|-------|--------------------------|
| Meals | Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner |
|-------|--------------------------|

|        |                                  |
|--------|----------------------------------|
| Travel | Karakol – Tamga village (120 km) |
|--------|----------------------------------|

## DAY

7

### Skazka Canyon, Kadji-Sai and Barskoon Gorge

After breakfast, drive to Skazka (Fairy-Tale) Canyon for a walk of about 1–2 hours among its bizarre red rock formations.

In the village of Kadji-Sai, have lunch with a family of local musicians and enjoy their folklore show; afterwards there is time to talk with them and hear their life stories.

After lunch, visit the Barskoon Gorge. Its slopes are covered with thick vegetation and shrubs, and there are three waterfalls in the gorge. The most famous one, “The Tears of the Snow Leopard”, is a state natural monument where the water falls from a height of about 100 m. The walk to the first viewpoint takes about 30–40 minutes one way.

Back at the yurt camp, join the camp’s chef for a manty cooking class before dinner. Dinner and overnight in the yurt camp.

Altitude: Tamga about 1,650 m.

|           |                                                            |
|-----------|------------------------------------------------------------|
| Overnight | <b>Tamga village</b> · Yurt camp on the shore of Issyk-Kul |
|-----------|------------------------------------------------------------|

|       |                          |
|-------|--------------------------|
| Meals | Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner |
|-------|--------------------------|

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|--------|----------------------------------------|
| Travel | Tamga village – Tamga village (100 km) |
|--------|----------------------------------------|

DAY

8

### Bokonbaevo – Kyzyl-Tuu – Chon-Kemin

After breakfast in the yurt camp, drive towards the Chon-Kemin Nature Park.

On the way, meet an eagle hunter near Bokonbaevo who shows how the eagles are trained. Then stop in the village of Kyzyl-Tuu, famous for its skilled artisans who make the wooden parts of yurts; a local family shows you how a yurt frame is made, and lunch is with the family.

Continue to Chon-Kemin and check in at the guesthouse. Dinner and overnight at the guesthouse.

Altitude: Tamga about 1,650 m, Chon-Kemin about 1,400 m.

|           |                                                         |
|-----------|---------------------------------------------------------|
| Overnight | <b>Chon Kemin</b> · Guesthouse in Chon-Kemin or similar |
|-----------|---------------------------------------------------------|

|       |                          |
|-------|--------------------------|
| Meals | Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner |
|-------|--------------------------|

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|--------|-------------------------------------|
| Travel | Tamga village – Chon Kemin (250 km) |
|--------|-------------------------------------|

DAY

9

### Chon-Kemin – Burana Tower – Bishkek

After breakfast, take a walk of about 2 hours in the nature park to a panoramic viewpoint. Back at the guesthouse, join a cooking class for boorsok, the traditional Kyrgyz fried bread, and enjoy it fresh at lunch.

On the way to Bishkek, stop at the Burana Tower. This minaret was built in the 11th century in the medieval city of Balasagun, capital of the mighty Karakhanid Empire. You can climb its winding staircase for a wide view of the Chuy Valley. The open-air museum next to it has a collection of balbals, ancient carved stone figures often found near burial mounds.

Farewell dinner in a local restaurant in Bishkek and overnight at the hotel.

Altitude: Chon-Kemin about 1,400 m, Bishkek about 800 m.

|           |                                              |
|-----------|----------------------------------------------|
| Overnight | <b>Bishkek</b> · Hotel in Bishkek or similar |
|-----------|----------------------------------------------|

|       |                          |
|-------|--------------------------|
| Meals | Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner |
|-------|--------------------------|

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|--------|-------------------------------|
| Travel | Chon Kemin – Bishkek (150 km) |
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DAY

10

### Departure

Breakfast and transfer to the airport.

|           |                             |
|-----------|-----------------------------|
| Overnight | Departure day, no overnight |
|-----------|-----------------------------|

|       |           |
|-------|-----------|
| Meals | Breakfast |
|-------|-----------|

|        |                                               |
|--------|-----------------------------------------------|
| Travel | Bishkek – Manas International Airport (45 km) |
|--------|-----------------------------------------------|

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# What's included

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## Included

- Accommodation in double/twin rooms in hotels and guesthouses as listed in the itinerary (early check-in on the arrival morning included)
- 2 nights in a yurt camp on the south shore of Issyk-Kul (2 people per yurt; the camp has only 6 yurts)
- Transport as per the program: 4x4 car for 2 people, minivan for 3–4 people, 14-seat Mercedes Sprinter for 5–9 people, 17-seat Mercedes Sprinter plus a luggage car for 10 people
- English-speaking guide
- Full board (breakfast, lunch and dinner) as listed in the itinerary
- Mineral water (1 liter per day)
- Entrance fees to museums and nature parks as per the program
- Boat excursion on Issyk-Kul Lake
- Yurt-making show in Kyzyl-Tuu
- Eagle hunting demonstration
- Folklore show in Kadji-Sai
- Manty cooking class
- Boorsok cooking class
- Hot springs visit

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## Not included

- International flights
- Single room supplement (277 USD)
- World Nomad Games entry tickets (about 30 USD per person, subject to change)
- Ticket for the World Nomad Games closing ceremony (about 30 USD per person, subject to change)
- Coffee from coffee machines, soft drinks and alcoholic drinks
- Changes and extra visits during the tour
- Video and photo fees during excursions
- Personal expenses
- Tips for the guide and driver
- Other services not mentioned as included

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# Prices

Valid for 2026 departures

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## Private tour, per person by group size

| Travellers     | Price per person |
|----------------|------------------|
| 2 travellers   | \$3,339          |
| 3 travellers   | \$2,660          |
| 4–6 travellers | \$2,315          |
| 7–9 travellers | \$1,872          |
| 10 travellers  | \$1,841          |

Private tours start on any date you choose. Prices per person in a double or twin room. Single room supplement per person: \$277.

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## Optional extras

- World Nomad Games entry ticket (about 30 USD per person, subject to change): \$30 per room
- World Nomad Games closing ceremony ticket (about 30 USD per person, subject to change): \$30 per room

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## 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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|           |                                                                                                                                                                 |
|-----------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Tour page | <a href="https://central-asia.guide/kyrgyzstan/kyrgyzstan-tours/nomad-games-tour-2026">central-asia.guide/kyrgyzstan/kyrgyzstan-tours/nomad-games-tour-2026</a> |
|-----------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

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|       |                                                                      |
|-------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Email | <a href="mailto:info@central-asia.guide">info@central-asia.guide</a> |
|-------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|

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|--------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|
| Phone and WhatsApp | <a href="https://wa.me/358408124448">+358 40 812 4448</a> |
|--------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|

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|          |                                                         |
|----------|---------------------------------------------------------|
| Telegram | <a href="https://t.me/zhetigenova">t.me/zhetigenova</a> |
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|-----------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Messenger | <a href="https://m.me/Centralasiaguidefb">m.me/Centralasiaguidefb</a> |
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