



PRIVATE TOUR • 7 DAYS

Kyrgyzstan Nomad Games Tour

Round trip from Bishkek • Kyrgyzstan

Duration
7 days, 6 nights

Start and end
Round trip from Bishkek

Best time to visit
Aug–Sep

Private tour from
\$1,160 per person

Group size
Max 4 travellers

Tour type
Culture, Nature

Difficulty
Easy

Prices and dates valid for 2026 departures. Issued 20 October 2026.

Tour highlights

This 7-day tour combines the World Nomad Games with Kyrgyzstan's mountain lakes, Silk Road history and living nomadic traditions. It starts in Bishkek with a city tour and the grand opening ceremony of the Games, a show of traditional costumes, horseback performances, ethnic music and dance.

On the way into the mountains you visit the 11th-century Burana Tower, a minaret of the old Silk Road city of Balasagun, and the red rock formations of Kok-Moinok Canyon. At 3,016 m, Song-Kol Lake is the summer home of shepherd families: you spend a night in a yurt camp and can ride a horse along the shore before driving on to Kochkor.

Two days belong to the Games near Cholpon-Ata on Issyk-Kul, the "Pearl of Central Asia": traditional horse games such as kok-boru and kyz kuumai, eagle hunting and horseback archery. On the last day you explore the ethno village in Kyrchyn Gorge, where yurts from many nomadic nations stand side by side, before returning to Bishkek through the Boom Gorge.

Difficulty: Easy. Sightseeing and long days on your feet at the Games venues, an optional 3-hour horse ride at Song-Kol, one night in a yurt camp at about 3,016 m and long drives on day 3 (about 320 km) and day 7.



Aytys or Aytys is a song competition held between two aqyns



Kok Boru horse game

Where you'll stay

Nights 1–2	Bishkek	Hotel in Bishkek or similar
Night 3	Song-Kul Lake	Yurt camp at Song Kol
Night 4	Kochkor	Family guesthouse in Kochkor or similar
Nights 5–6	Cholpon Ata	Guesthouse in Cholpon-Ata or similar

Listed accommodation or similar, same category.

Day-by-day itinerary

DAY

1

Arrival in Bishkek – city tour

Arrival in Bishkek, the vibrant capital of Kyrgyzstan, surrounded by the majestic Tien Shan mountains. You are met at the airport and taken to your hotel.

After check-in, enjoy a relaxed city tour of Bishkek: Ala-Too Square, Victory Square, the Philharmonic Hall, local bazaars and parks. Bishkek is known for its wide boulevards, green parks and Soviet-era architecture blended with modern Central Asian culture.

Overnight in a hotel in Bishkek.

Overnight	Bishkek · Hotel in Bishkek or similar
Travel	Manas International Airport – Bishkek (30 km)

DAY

2

Grand opening of the World Nomad Games

Today is a historic and unforgettable day: at the Bishkek Arena stadium you watch the grand opening ceremony of the World Nomad Games, with athletes and guests from many countries.

The World Nomad Games celebrate the ancient heritage of nomadic civilizations. They revive traditional sports, warrior skills, eagle hunting, horse culture and the philosophy of nomadic life. The opening ceremony features traditional nomadic costumes, horseback performances, ethnic music and dance, and cultural shows of the Turkic and other nomadic peoples.

After the ceremony, return to the hotel. Overnight in Bishkek.

Overnight	Bishkek · Hotel in Bishkek or similar
Meals	Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY

3

Bishkek – Burana Tower – Kok-Moinok Canyon – Song-Kol Lake

Today you begin your journey into the heart of nomadic Kyrgyzstan.

First stop is Burana Tower, an 11th-century minaret that belonged to the old Silk Road city of Balasagun – here you feel the deep history of Central Asia. Next, the Kok-Moinok Canyon, a stunning red rock canyon with dramatic formations shaped by wind and time.

In the afternoon you reach Song-Kol, a breathtaking alpine lake at 3,016 m above sea level and the true kingdom of nomads. Shepherd families live here in yurts during the summer, grazing their livestock on the vast jailoo (pastures). You experience authentic nomadic life, traditional food and warm hospitality.

Overnight in a yurt camp. Driving distance: about 320 km.

Overnight	Song-Kul Lake · Yurt camp at Song Kol
Meals	Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Travel	Bishkek – Burana Tower (80 km) Burana Tower – Kok-Moinok Canyon (70 km) Kok-Moinok Canyon – Song-Kul Lake (170 km)

DAY

4

Song-Kol – horse riding – Kochkor

Morning at Song-Kol Lake. Enjoy a 3-hour horse ride along the lake shore, or spend the time admiring the silence, the mountains and the crystal-clear water.

Horse culture is the soul of nomadic civilization: for centuries the Kyrgyz people depended on horses for transport, warfare, hunting and survival.

After lunch, drive to Kochkor village. Overnight in a guesthouse. Driving distance: about 140 km.

Overnight	Kochkor · Family guesthouse in Kochkor or similar
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Meals	Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
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Travel	Song-Kul Lake – Kochkor (140 km)
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DAY

5

Nomad Games competitions – Kochkor – Cholpon-Ata

Today you watch traditional Kyrgyz games and the competitions of the World Nomad Games:

Kok-boru – a powerful horseback game in which riders compete to place a goat carcass into the opponent's goal, a test of strength, strategy and courage.

Kyz kuumai – a traditional horse game between a young man and a young woman, symbolizing love and speed.

Eagle hunting (berkut salmai) – the ancient hunting tradition in which trained golden eagles hunt foxes and small animals.

Horseback archery – warrior-style shooting while riding at full speed.

And many other ethnic competitions that reflect the nomadic warrior heritage. Drive on to Cholpon-Ata on the shore of Issyk-Kul Lake.

Overnight in Cholpon-Ata. Driving distance: about 120 km.

Overnight	Cholpon Ata · Guesthouse in Cholpon-Ata or similar
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Meals	Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
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Travel	Kochkor – Cholpon Ata (120 km)
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DAY

6

World Nomad Games at Issyk-Kul

Another exciting day at the World Nomad Games competitions near Issyk-Kul Lake.

Issyk-Kul, known as the "Pearl of Central Asia", is the second-largest alpine lake in the world. Surrounded by snow-capped mountains, it creates a magical atmosphere for the Games. Today you feel the warrior spirit of the Central Asian tribes, the unity of nomadic cultures and their philosophy of freedom and harmony with nature.

Overnight in Cholpon-Ata. Driving distance: 20–40 km (local drives).

Overnight	Cholpon Ata · Guesthouse in Cholpon-Ata or similar
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Meals	Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
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Travel	Cholpon Ata – Cholpon Ata (30 km)
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DAY

7

Kyrchyn Gorge – Bishkek

Visit the Kyrchyn Gorge, the main ethno village area of the Nomad Games, where traditional yurts from many countries are set up – a true festival zone of nomadic culture.

For thousands of years the nomads of Central Asia moved with their livestock from pasture to pasture and developed a strong horse culture, eagle hunting, the portable yurt, epic poetry such as Manas and a deep respect for nature. The World Nomad Games are not just sports: they are a revival of this ancient identity, a meeting of Turkic and other nomadic nations and a celebration of their cultural heritage.

After exploring, drive back to Bishkek through the Boom Gorge. The tour ends in Bishkek in the evening; stay overnight in Bishkek (hotel not included) or continue to the airport. Driving distance: about 360 km.

Overnight	Departure day, no overnight
Meals	Breakfast, Lunch
Travel	Cholpon Ata – Kyrchyn Gorge (50 km) Kyrchyn Gorge – Bishkek (310 km)

What's included

Included

- Professional English-speaking guide for the whole tour
- Transport in a comfortable 4x4 vehicle (Lexus SUV)
- Airport transfer on arrival
- Ticket for the opening ceremony of the World Nomad Games in Bishkek (day 2)
- All tickets for the World Nomad Games (2 full days)
- Hotel in Bishkek (2 nights)
- Yurt camp at Song-Kol Lake (1 night)
- Guesthouse in Kochkor (1 night)
- Guesthouse in Cholpon-Ata (2 nights)
- 3-hour horse ride at Song-Kol Lake
- Full board (breakfast, lunch and dinner) from day 2
- 1 liter of water per person per day

Not included

- International flights
- Medical insurance
- Hotel in Bishkek on the last night
- Meals on the arrival day (day 1)
- Dinner on the last day
- Airport transfer on departure
- Personal expenses
- Services not mentioned as included

Prices

Valid for 2026 departures

Private tour, per person by group size

Travellers	Price per person
1 traveller	\$2,300
2 travellers	\$1,625
3 travellers	\$1,277
4 travellers	\$1,160

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