CENTRAL ASIA GUIDE

PRIVATE TOUR · 4 DAYS

Song-Kol Lake 4 Days Horseback Loop

Round trip from Bishkek · Kyrgyzstan

Duration 4 days, 3 nights	Start and end Round trip from Bishkek	Best time to visit Jun–Sep
Private tour from $378 per person	Group size Max 4 travellers	Tour type Culture, Horseback riding, Nature
Difficulty Moderate		

Prices and dates valid for 2026 departures. Issued 9 November 2026.

Tour highlights

This 4-day horseback tour from Bishkek follows Kyrgyzstan's most popular riding route – from the village of Kyzart over the mountains to Song-Kol Lake and back. It is made for travelers who want to experience a true nomadic lifestyle combined with the thrill of horse riding: the pace is moderate, and every turn of the trail brings views of alpine meadows, wildflowers and crystal-clear streams.

After a riding briefing in Kyzart, follow the Chaar-Archa River to the Kilemche pasture and spend the first night with a local shepherd family. Cross the Jalgyz-Karagai Pass (3,326 m) with panoramic views over Song-Kol, where a herder family welcomes you with kymyz, the traditional fermented mare's milk, at the Tuz-Ashuu pasture. A smooth ride along the lakeshore – with the chance to gallop across the open pastures – and the return over the Kara-Kiya Pass (about 3,320 m) to Kyzart complete the loop. All three nights are spent in traditional Kyrgyz yurts, with hearty home-cooked meals and brilliant starry skies.

Difficulty: Moderate. Four riding days of 22 km (6–7 hours), 18 km (6–7 hours), 21 km (6 hours) and 22 km (5 hours), crossing the Jalgyz-Karagai Pass (3,326 m) and the Kara-Kiya Pass (about 3,320 m); the descent from Kara-Kiya is moderately challenging. Three nights in yurts at the high-altitude Song-Kol pastures with chilly evenings, and a drive of about 280 km (4–5 hours) each way between Bishkek and Kyzart.

horseback riding tour

Horseback riding tour in Kyrgyzstan 4 days

Where you'll stay

Night 1	**Kilemche**	Yurt camp in Kilemche
Night 2	**Song-Kul Lake**	Yurt camp at Song Kol
Night 3	**Song-Kul Lake**	Yurt camp at Song Kol

Listed accommodation or similar, same category.

Day-by-day itinerary

DAY 1

From Bishkek to Kyzart and horse riding to the Kilemche pasture

In the morning you are picked up from your hotel in Bishkek and driven to Kyzart Village. On arrival, your guide-instructor gives you a briefing and an introduction to horse riding before you start your horseback adventure along the Chaar-Archa River toward the stunning Kilemche pasture.

Ride through breathtaking mountain landscapes and immerse yourself in traditional Kyrgyz nomadic life. You spend the night with a local shepherd family, who welcome you with a cup of tea and let you discover their daily routines. Hiking enthusiasts can explore the surrounding mountains and valleys for incredible views.

As evening falls, enjoy a traditional dinner under the stars, then settle in for your first night in a classic Kyrgyz yurt, experiencing authentic life on the steppe.

The ride is about 22 km (6–7 hours).

Overnight	**Kilemche** · Yurt camp in Kilemche
Meals	Dinner
Travel	Bishkek – Kyzart (280 km) Kyzart – Kilemche (on horseback, 22 km)

DAY 2

Horse riding from Kilemche to Song-Kol Lake

After breakfast in Kilemche, continue your horseback journey toward the Jalgyz-Karagai Pass (3,326 m), en route to the breathtaking Song-Kol Lake. From the pass, enjoy stunning panoramic views of both Song-Kol Lake and the Kilemche Valley. After a short rest for riders and horses, the trail winds across grassy hills dotted with grazing sheep, goats, horses and cattle – a true taste of Kyrgyz pastoral life.

During the warm summer months you may see nomadic families doing their daily chores, such as milking cows and mares. Arrive at a yurt camp by the lake for a hearty lunch before continuing along the lakeside trails. After about two more hours on horseback, you reach the Tuz-Ashuu pasture, where a local shepherd family welcomes you with kymyz, the traditional Kyrgyz drink made from fermented mare's milk.

Spend the rest of the day immersed in nomadic life and observing the family's daily routines. Hiking enthusiasts can explore the surrounding mountains and valleys and enjoy the tranquil, wild beauty of the region.

The ride is about 18 km (6–7 hours).

Overnight	**Song-Kul Lake** · Yurt camp at Song Kol
Meals	Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Travel	Kilemche – Song-Kul Lake (on horseback, 18 km)

DAY 3

Smooth ride along the lakeshore

Start your day with a leisurely breakfast in your yurt before mounting your horse for another scenic ride. Today's route follows the eastern shore of Song-Kol Lake; the ride is smooth and easy, with spectacular views of the lake and the surrounding mountains at every turn.

Midway, stop for a hearty lunch at a local shepherd's yurt and experience the warmth of traditional Kyrgyz hospitality. In the afternoon, as your confidence on horseback grows, enjoy the thrill of a gallop along the lakeshore, where the open pastures give the horses plenty of room to run.

By evening, arrive on the western side of Song-Kol Lake, where a delicious dinner awaits. Before settling into your yurt for the night, gaze at the brilliant starry sky, which shines exceptionally bright over this remote, pristine landscape.

The ride is about 21 km (6 hours).

Overnight	**Song-Kul Lake** · Yurt camp at Song Kol
Meals	Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Travel	Song-Kul Lake – Song-Kul Lake (on horseback, 21 km)

DAY 4

Horse riding from Song-Kol Lake to Kyzart and drive to Bishkek

Begin your day by soaking in the scenery of Song-Kol Lake in the morning sunlight, framed by the surrounding mountains. Then mount your horse and follow the upper trail, with panoramic views of the lake, toward the Kara-Kiya Pass (about 3,320 m).

The ride down from the pass is moderately challenging, with a gradual descent toward the village followed by a few hours of smooth riding through picturesque valleys. On arrival in Kyzart, enjoy a delicious lunch at a local guesthouse before the drive back to Bishkek, carrying unforgettable memories of your Kyrgyz horseback adventure.

The ride is about 22 km (5 hours), followed by the transfer of about 280 km (4–5 hours) to Bishkek.

Overnight	Departure day, no overnight
Meals	Breakfast, Lunch
Travel	Song-Kul Lake – Kyzart (on horseback, 22 km) Kyzart – Bishkek (280 km)

What's included

Included

- English-speaking guide-driver
- Transport from Bishkek to Kyzart and back
- Horse for the 4 riding days
- Accommodation in traditional yurts (3 nights)
- Meals during the tour

Not included

- Hotel and meals in Bishkek
- Last dinner in Bishkek
- Water

Prices

Valid for 2026 departures

Private tour, per person by group size

Travellers	Price per person
1 traveller	$667
2 travellers	$455
3 travellers	$378
4 travellers	$391

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

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