



PRIVATE TOUR · 5 DAYS

Song-Kol and Issyk-Kul 5 Days Horseback Tour

Round trip from Bishkek · Kyrgyzstan

Duration
5 days, 4 nights

Start and end
Round trip from Bishkek

Best time to visit
May-Oct

Private tour from
\$667 per person

Group size
Max 4 travellers

Tour type
Culture, Horseback riding, Nature

Difficulty
Moderate

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

Tour highlights

This 5-day horseback tour from Bishkek rides to Song-Kol Lake and on to the summer pastures above Issyk-Kul's south shore. It is made for travelers who want to experience Kyrgyzstan's mountain landscapes and nomadic culture from the saddle – no previous riding experience is needed, and three of the four nights are spent in traditional yurts with local herder families.

From the village of Kyzart, ride along the Chaar-Archa River to a yurt camp in Kilemche (2,700 m), then climb over the Jalgyz-Karagai Pass (3,300 m) for your first view of Song-Kol Lake and follow the shore to the Tuz-Ashuu pasture (3,100 m). On the third day you ride back to Kyzart over the Tuz-Ashuu Pass and drive to the south shore of Issyk-Kul, with an optional sunset visit to the Fairy-Tale (Skazka) Canyon.

From Bokonbaevo, a fourth riding day crosses the Karaly-Archa Pass (2,800 m), with panoramic views over Issyk-Kul, to a nomad yurt camp in the Boz-Salkyn Valley (2,500 m). The last ride follows a scenic gorge down to Bokonbaevo, where you meet Kyrgyz eagle hunters before the drive back to Bishkek.

Difficulty: Moderate. Five riding days of 21 km (4–5 hours), 23 km (5–6 hours), 20 km (4–5 hours), 23 km (5–6 hours) and 16 km (about 4 hours), over the Jalgyz-Karagai and Tuz-Ashuu passes (3,300 m) and the Karaly-Archa Pass (2,800 m); no previous riding experience needed. Three nights in yurts at 2,500–3,100 m with chilly evenings, and drives of 200–280 km on asphalt roads.



Yurt camp in Son Kul



Kyrgyzstan Horseback riding tour

Where you'll stay

Night 1	Kilemche	Yurt camp in Kilemche
Night 2	Song Kul	Yurt camp at Song Kol
Night 3	Bokonbaevo	Guesthouse in Bokonbaevo or similar
Night 4	Boz-Salkyn	Boz-Salkyn nomad yurt

Listed accommodation or similar, same category.

Day-by-day itinerary

DAY

1

From Bishkek to Kyzart and horse riding to Kilemche

Begin your Kyrgyzstan adventure with a scenic drive to Kyzart Village near Song-Kol Lake. Enjoy a homemade lunch at a local guesthouse before your guide gives you basic riding instructions.

In the afternoon, set off on your first horseback ride along the Chaar-Archa River, through wide valleys and peaceful mountain landscapes, to Kilemche. The smooth trail is ideal for beginners and helps you build a connection with your horse.

In the early evening, arrive at a yurt camp run by a local herder family. Settle in, explore the surrounding hills, breathe in the fresh mountain air and experience traditional Kyrgyz nomadic life before your first night in a yurt.

The drive is about 280 km (about 4 hours, all asphalt) and the ride about 21 km (4–5 hours). No previous riding experience is needed. Leave your large bag at the guesthouse in Kyzart and take a small backpack with essentials for the next three days; you get your bag back when the ride returns to Kyzart on day 3.

Overnight	Kilemche · Yurt camp in Kilemche
Meals	Lunch, Dinner
Travel	Bishkek – Kyzart starting point for Song Kul Tours (280 km) Kyzart starting point for Song Kul Tours – Kilemche (on horseback, 21 km)

DAY

2

Horse riding over the Jalgyz-Karagai Pass to Song-Kol Lake

Today's ride is more challenging but incredibly rewarding. After breakfast, begin the ascent to the Jalgyz-Karagai Pass (3,300 m). The climb can be demanding at times, but the sweeping panoramic views of the surrounding mountains make it unforgettable, and from the pass you catch your first glimpse of Song-Kol Lake shimmering below.

After a rest on the pass, descend toward the lake and arrive at a yurt camp for lunch. In the afternoon, continue riding west along the lakeshore, past nomad yurts, grazing animals and vast highland pastures that show the beauty of Kyrgyz nomadic life.

Your day ends at the Tuz-Ashuu pasture, where you release your horses, settle into a yurt and enjoy dinner in the peaceful atmosphere of Song-Kol.

The ride is about 23 km (5–6 hours). A shower is available on request. Evenings at Song-Kol can be chilly, so bring warm clothing.

Overnight	Song Kul · Yurt camp at Song Kul
Meals	Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Travel	Kilemche – Song Kul (on horseback, 23 km)

DAY

3

Horse riding back to Kyzart and drive to Issyk-Kul

Ride back to Kyzart Village over the scenic Tuz-Ashuu Pass (3,300 m). Say goodbye to your nomad hosts and enjoy a last sweeping view of Song-Kol Lake before descending to the village.

After lunch and a short rest, set off on a road trip to the southern shore of Issyk-Kul Lake, with wide views of the lake and the mountains. Toward evening you can visit the Fairy-Tale (Skazka) Canyon for a stunning sunset over the colorful rocks and the lake. The day ends at a guesthouse in Bokonbaevo Village, where you enjoy dinner and relax after your ride.

The ride is about 20 km (4–5 hours), followed by a drive of about 200 km (3–4 hours, all asphalt). The Fairy-Tale Canyon visit is optional and costs extra. Bokonbaevo lies a little away from the lakeshore; if you prefer to stay closer to the lake, yurt accommodation by the shore can be arranged on request.

Overnight	Bokonbaevo · Guesthouse in Bokonbaevo or similar
Meals	Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Travel	Song Kul – Kyzart starting point for Song Kul Tours (on horseback, 20 km) Kyzart starting point for Song Kul Tours – Bokonbaevo (200 km)

DAY

4

Horse riding over the Karaly-Archa Pass to Boz-Salkyn

Start your day riding toward the nomads' summer pastures in the Boz-Salkyn Valley. The morning ride is gentle, through open fields, meadows and small nomad farms – a perfect way to enjoy the fresh mountain air and watch daily life in the highlands.

Around midday, stop for a picnic by a river before the more challenging climb to the Karaly-Archa Pass (2,800 m). From the top, enjoy panoramic views of Issyk-Kul Lake framed by mountains, canyons and villages. Descend through fragrant forests to a traditional nomad yurt camp in Boz-Salkyn, where you are welcomed with hot tea and a peaceful evening in a yurt.

The ride is about 23 km (5–6 hours). A shower is available on request.

Overnight	Boz-Salkyn · Boz-Salkyn nomad yurt
Meals	Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Travel	Bokonbaevo – Boz-Salkyn (on horseback, 23 km)

DAY

5

Horse riding to Bokonbaevo and return to Bishkek

Wake up in your mountain yurt and set off on the final ride down to Bokonbaevo Village. The downhill trail is easier and winds through a scenic gorge with spectacular mountain views.

In Bokonbaevo, meet Kyrgyz eagle hunters and learn about this ancient tradition and its techniques – a great chance for photos with an eagle perched on horseback. After lunch at a guesthouse, drive back to Bishkek, reflecting on five days of mountains, lakes and nomadic landscapes.

The ride is about 16 km (about 4 hours), followed by a drive of about 270 km (about 4 hours, all asphalt). The eagle hunting demonstration is staged with animal skins – real hunting on horseback takes place only in winter – and taking part is optional.

Overnight	Departure day, no overnight
Meals	Breakfast, Lunch
Travel	Boz-Salkyn – Bokonbaevo (on horseback, 16 km) Bokonbaevo – Bishkek (270 km)

What's included

Included

- All transfers as listed in the itinerary
- Horses for the five riding days
- English-speaking guide for the whole tour (on the riding days an experienced local horseman with basic English)
- Accommodation as listed in the itinerary (4 nights: 3 in yurts, 1 in a guesthouse)
- Full board (set menu) from lunch on day 1 to lunch on day 5, including all meals during the ride
- Visits and entrance fees as listed in the itinerary
- Storage of large luggage at the guesthouse in Kyzart

Not included

- Airport transfers (additional cost)
- Hotel in Bishkek (additional cost)
- Fairy-Tale (Skazka) Canyon visit on day 3 (optional, additional fee)
- Guide with advanced English (available on request)
- Travel insurance
- Water and alcoholic drinks
- Tips for the guide
- Personal expenses

Prices

Valid for 2026 departures

Private tour, per person by group size

Travellers	Price per person
1 traveller	\$1,300
2 travellers	\$817
3 travellers	\$690
4 travellers	\$667

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

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