



PRIVATE TOUR · 3 DAYS

3 days trip around Issyk Kul

Round trip from Bishkek · Kyrgyzstan

Duration
3 days, 2 nights

Start and end
Round trip from Bishkek

Best time to visit
Apr–Oct

Private tour from
\$380 per person

Group size
Max 4 travellers

Tour type
Culture, Nature, Silk Road

Difficulty
Easy

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

Tour highlights

Experience three unforgettable days around Issyk-Kul Lake, the “Pearl of the Tien Shan”. On the way from Bishkek you visit the 11th-century Burana Tower and enjoy a homemade lunch with a Dungan family in Iskra village, before following the lake shore to the charming town of Karakol.

Along the south shore you take in the red sandstone cliffs of Jeti-Oguz, walk to the waterfalls of Barskoon Gorge and wander through the surreal rock formations of Skazka Canyon. Spend a night under the stars in a traditional yurt on the Boz-Salkyn high pasture, hike or ride to the sweeping Shatly viewpoint above the lake and witness the ancient art of eagle hunting near Bokonbaevo, an authentic taste of Kyrgyz nomadic heritage.

Difficulty: Easy. Sightseeing tour with short walks (Barskoon waterfalls, Skazka Canyon) and a half-day hike to the Shatly viewpoint (or an optional horse ride). Long drives of 430 km (6–7 hours) on day 1 and 280 km on day 3, partly on dirt roads, and one night in a simple nomad yurt on a high pasture with shared WC and no shower.



Issyk Kul beach



Skazka fairy tale valley near Issyk Kul from drone

Where you'll stay

Night 1	Karakol	Hotel in Karakol or similar
Night 2	Boz-Salkyn	Boz-Salkyn nomad yurt

Listed accommodation or similar, same category.

Day-by-day itinerary

DAY

1

Bishkek – Burana Tower – Iskra – Kyrchyn Gorge – Karakol (430 km, 6–7 hrs)

Begin your journey early in the morning with departure from Bishkek. Your first stop is the Burana Tower near Tokmok, an 11th-century minaret and an important monument of the ancient Silk Road city of Balasagun. Explore the surrounding ruins, climb the tower for panoramic views and see the historic stone balbals nearby.

Continue to Iskra village, home to a Dungan community. Enjoy a homemade lunch with a local family while learning about Dungan culture and tasting a unique blend of Chinese and Central Asian cuisine.

After lunch, travel east along the scenic shores of Issyk-Kul Lake toward Kyrchyn Gorge, the former venue of the World Nomad Games, known for its vast green meadows and traditional yurts. Continue onward to Karakol, where you enjoy dinner and settle into a comfortable hotel for the night.

Total distance: 430 km, about 6–7 hours (410 km asphalt, 20 km dirt road).

Overnight	Karakol · Hotel in Karakol or similar
-----------	--

Meals	Lunch, Dinner
-------	---------------

Travel	Bishkek – Karakol (430 km)
--------	----------------------------

DAY

2

Karakol – Jeti-Oguz – Barskoon Gorge – Skazka Canyon – Boz-Salkyn pasture (150 km, 3–4 hrs)

Begin your day with a short city tour of Karakol, discovering its history and local culture. Then drive along the scenic southern shore of Issyk-Kul Lake, stopping at the striking red sandstone cliffs of Jeti-Oguz Gorge. Continue to Tamga village for a traditional Russian lunch at the home of renowned Soviet alpinist Lyubov Danichkina, where you can enjoy warm hospitality and homemade dishes.

Later, visit Barskoon Gorge for a leisurely walk to its picturesque waterfalls, set against stunning alpine scenery. In the afternoon, explore the unique rock formations of the Fairy-Tale Canyon (Skazka).

By early evening, journey to the high mountain pastures of Boz-Salkyn to experience authentic nomadic life. Breathe the fresh mountain air, soak in the peaceful surroundings and spend the night in a traditional yurt under the stars.

The yurt in Boz-Salkyn belongs to a nomadic family and offers a more authentic experience (shared WC, no shower, no internet). Alternatively, you can stay in more comfortable yurt accommodation by Issyk-Kul Lake.

Total distance: 150 km, about 3–4 hours (120 km asphalt, 30 km dirt road).

Overnight	Boz-Salkyn · Boz-Salkyn nomad yurt
-----------	---

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

Travel	Karakol – Boz-Salkyn (150 km)
--------	-------------------------------

DAY

3

Boz-Salkyn – Shatyly viewpoint – Bokonbaevo – Bishkek (280 km, about 4 hrs)

Wake up in a traditional yurt at the high-altitude Boz-Salkyn pasture and begin a half-day hike to the scenic Shatyly Panorama (or ride there on horseback as an optional extra). The picturesque route passes through alpine forests, rolling hills and wide open meadows, offering a true taste of nomadic life.

From the viewpoint, enjoy breathtaking panoramic views of Issyk-Kul Lake, framed by dramatic mountains, deep canyons and small lakeside villages. On the opposite side, admire the snow-capped peaks of the Kungey Ala-Too Range rising above the horizon. After time to relax and take photos, return to the trailhead and continue by vehicle to Bokonbaevo village.

Near the village, meet traditional Kyrgyz eagle hunters (optional) and enjoy an impressive eagle hunting demonstration. After lunch at a local guesthouse, drive back to Bishkek, concluding your journey.

The eagle hunting experience is a demonstration with explanations and staged hunting on animal skins; real hunting on horseback is available only in winter. The demonstration is optional and can be skipped. The hike is included and horse riding is an optional extra; you may also skip the outdoor activities altogether and travel directly to Bishkek for a guided city tour.

Total distance: 280 km, about 4 hours (260 km asphalt, 20 km dirt road).

Overnight	Departure day, no overnight
Meals	Breakfast, Lunch
Travel	Boz-Salkyn – Bishkek (280 km)

What's included

Included

- All transfers during the program
 - A permanent English-speaking guide
 - All accommodation (hotel in Karakol, nomad yurt at Boz-Salkyn pasture)
 - All meals as per program, full board (breakfast, lunch and dinner) on a set menu
 - Entrance fees and scheduled visits
-

Not included

- International flights and travel insurance
- Airport transfers (optional add-on: 20 USD per car one way, 1-4 people)
- Your hotel in Bishkek
- Breakfast on day 1 and dinner on the last day
- Tips for the guide, alcohol, bottled water and personal expenses
- Optional eagle hunting demonstration: 70 USD in total for the whole group
- Optional horseback riding at Boz-Salkyn pasture: 30 USD per person

Prices

Valid for 2026 departures

Private tour, per person by group size

Travellers	Price per person
1 traveller	\$805
2 travellers	\$541
3 travellers	\$426
4 travellers	\$380

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

Optional extras

- Airport transfer (one way, per car up to 4 people): \$20 per room
- Eagle hunting demonstration: \$70 per room
- Horse riding at Boz-Salkyn: \$30 per room

Book or ask a question

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

Tour page	central-asia.guide/kyrgyzstan/kyrgyzstan-tours/3-day-trip-around-issyk-kul
-----------	---

Email	info@central-asia.guide
-------	--

Phone and WhatsApp	+358 40 812 4448
--------------------	---

Telegram	t.me/zhetigenova
----------	---

Messenger	m.me/Centralasiaguidefb
-----------	---

Central Asia Guide KG · Yusup Abdrakhmanova 252, Bishkek · ID 33842079 · Copyright © 2020 – 2026