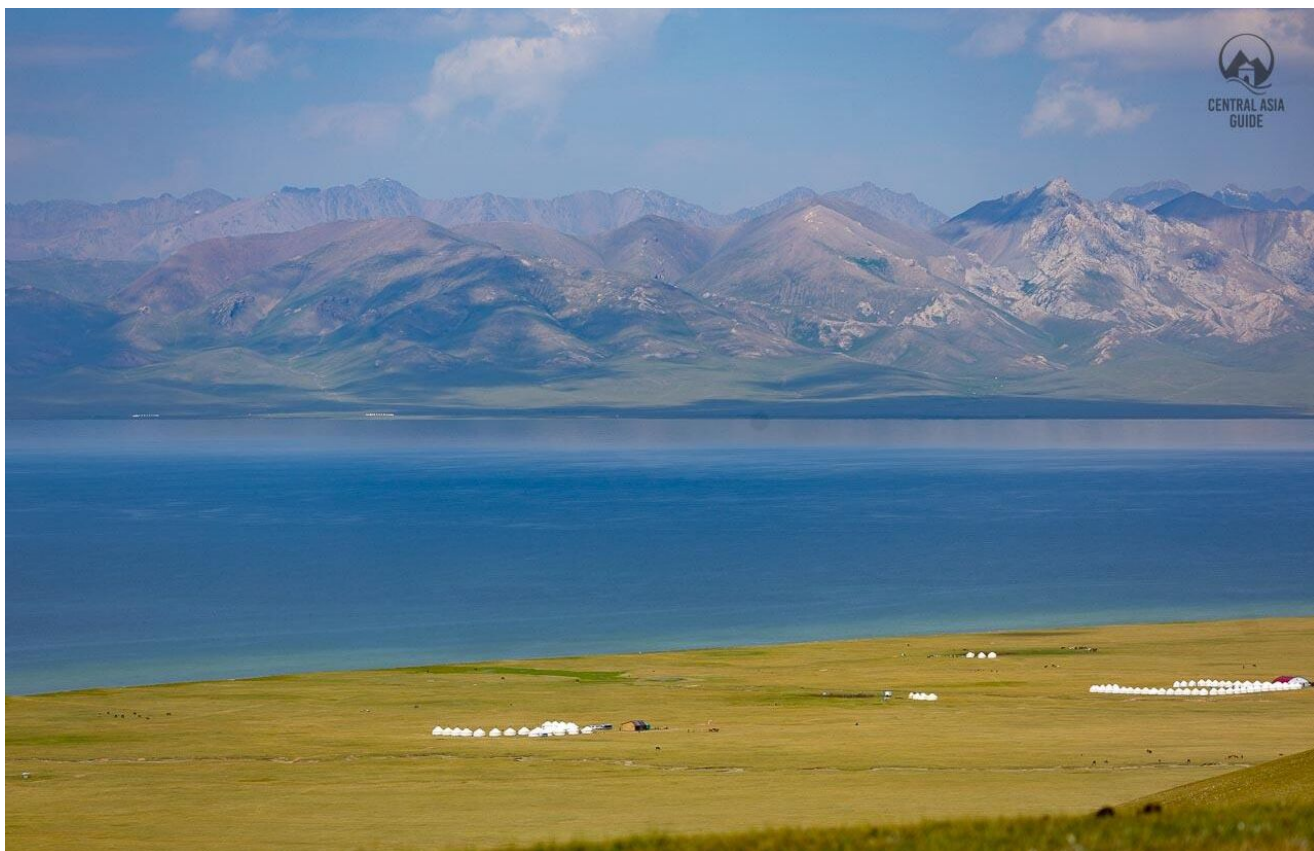




GROUP TOUR • 9 DAYS

The heart of Kyrgyzstan Tour

Round trip from Bishkek • Kyrgyzstan

Duration
9 days, 8 nights

Start and end
Round trip from Bishkek

Best time to visit
May-Sep

Group tour from
\$1,490 per person

Group size
Max 12 travellers

Tour type
Culture, Hiking, Nature, Silk Road

Difficulty
Easy

Departures
15 guaranteed dates

Prices and dates valid for 2027 departures. Issued 25 October 2026.

Tour highlights

This 9-day group tour from Bishkek shows you Kyrgyzstan's best-known destinations and puts the focus on Kyrgyz culture along the way. You start at Issyk-Kul, one of the largest alpine lakes in the world, whose mountain valleys help you adapt to the altitude before you head up to Son-Kul Lake at 3,016 m in the Naryn region.

On the way you visit the Silk Road minaret of Burana Tower, share a lunch with a Dungan family, see the petroglyphs of Cholpon-Ata and walk in the Grigoriev and Semenov gorges. In Karakol you see the wooden Orthodox cathedral and the Dungan mosque, then continue to the red rocks of Jeti-Oguz, the waterfalls of the Barskoon Gorge and the colourful Skazka (Fairy Tale) Canyon.

Nomad culture is at the heart of the tour: you watch an eagle hunter with his golden eagle near Bokonbaevo, learn how yurts are made by hand in Kyzyl-Tuu village, spend a night in a yurt camp at Son-Kul and make your own small felt carpet in Kochkor, before a last night in the green Chon-Kemin Valley and the return to Bishkek.

Difficulty: Easy. Only short, easy walks (about one hour at Jeti-Oguz, walks in the Grigoriev and Semenov gorges). One night in a yurt camp at Son-Kul Lake (3,016 m) after crossing the Kalmak-Ashuu Pass (3,447 m), with outdoor toilets and shower. Drives of 140–300 km a day.



The heart of Kyrgyzstan fixed date tour



10 days fixed tour Kyrgyzstan

Where you'll stay

Night 1	Bishkek	My Hotel or similar
Night 2	Cholpon Ata	Caprice Lakeside Resort or similar
Night 3	Karakol	Hotel 78 or similar
Night 4	Tamga Gorge	Pavel Guest House or similar
Night 5	Kochkor	Traveler Guest House or similar
Night 6	Song-Kul Lake	Baiysh Yurt Camp
Night 7	Chon Kemin	Kemin Guesthouse or similar
Night 8	Bishkek	My Hotel or similar

Listed accommodation or similar, same category.

Day-by-day itinerary

DAY

1

Bishkek

Arrive in Bishkek, the vibrant capital of Kyrgyzstan, where your Central Asian adventure begins. Upon arrival, transfer to your hotel and check in from 14:00. The remainder of the time is at leisure, allowing you to relax after your journey or explore the city at your own pace.

At 14:00, meet your guide and fellow travelers for a warm welcome and an introductory briefing. Learn about the exciting journey ahead, review the itinerary, and get acquainted with the travel plans for the coming days. Discover the charm of Bishkek on an introductory city tour, exploring the capital's highlights and experiencing its unique blend of Soviet heritage, modern city life, and Kyrgyz culture. In the evening, enjoy a special welcome dinner at a traditional Kyrgyz restaurant. Savor authentic national cuisine and experience the rich culinary traditions and warm hospitality of Kyrgyzstan.

Travel tip: We highly recommend booking an additional hotel night before the tour begins, as many international flights to Bishkek arrive late at night or in the early morning. This allows you to rest comfortably and start your journey refreshed.

Overnight	Bishkek · My Hotel or similar
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Meals	Dinner
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DAY

2

Bishkek – Burana – Iskra village – Cholpon Ata

After breakfast at the hotel, begin your journey with a visit to the historic Burana Tower, one of Kyrgyzstan's most significant Silk Road landmarks. Located in the beautiful Chuy Valley, this ancient minaret is one of the last surviving remnants of Balasagyn, a medieval city founded by the Karakhanids in the 9th century. Explore the archaeological site, including ancient mausoleums, burial monuments, and the remains of the old settlement.

Continue to Iskra village for a special lunch with a local Dungan family. Discover the fascinating heritage of the Dungan people, an ethnic group of Chinese Muslims who migrated from China to Central Asia, and enjoy their traditional homemade cuisine and warm hospitality.

After lunch, travel to Issyk-Kul Lake, one of the world's largest and deepest alpine lakes, surrounded by spectacular mountain scenery. Upon arrival, visit the open-air petroglyph museum, where ancient stone carvings, burial sites, and balbals reveal stories of the region's early civilizations. The archaeological treasures date from the 2nd millennium BC to the 4th century AD.

Spend the remainder of the day at leisure. Relax on the lakeshore, enjoy the peaceful mountain views, or take a refreshing swim in the crystal-clear waters. In the evening, enjoy dinner at a local restaurant before settling into your lakeside hotel.

Overnight	Cholpon Ata · Caprice Lakeside Resort or similar
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Meals	Breakfast, Lunch
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Travel	Bishkek – Cholpon Ata (300 km)
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DAY

3

Cholpon Ata – Grigoriev and Semenov gorges – Karakol

After breakfast at the hotel, explore the spectacular Grigoriev and Semenov Gorges, two of the most beautiful natural attractions in the Issyk-Kul region. Enjoy scenic mountain landscapes, fresh alpine air, and peaceful walks surrounded by forests and dramatic peaks. Lunch or a picnic will be arranged along the way.

Continue to Karakol, the administrative centre of the Issyk-Kul region, known for its rich cultural heritage and diverse architecture. Visit the impressive Russian Orthodox Cathedral, a beautiful wooden church, and the unique Dungan Mosque, famous for its colourful Chinese-inspired design.

In the evening, enjoy dinner at a local restaurant before relaxing at your hotel.

Overnight	Karakol · Hotel 78 or similar
Meals	Breakfast, Lunch
Travel	Cholpon Ata – Karakol (200 km)

DAY

4

Karakol – Jeti Oguz – Barskoon – Tamga

After breakfast, depart from Karakol to explore the spectacular Jeti-Oguz Gorge, famous for its dramatic red sandstone cliffs and the iconic Broken Heart rock formation. Enjoy a leisurely one-hour walk surrounded by breathtaking mountain scenery and fresh alpine air.

Continue to Barskoon Gorge, renowned for its beautiful waterfalls and lush natural landscapes. Discover the enchanting Tears of the Snow Leopard waterfall and visit the monument dedicated to Yuri Gagarin, the first human to travel into space, set against the stunning mountain backdrop.

Enjoy a day of unforgettable scenery, local legends, and the natural beauty of Kyrgyzstan.

In the evening, continue to Tamga for dinner and an overnight stay at a guesthouse.

Overnight	Tamga Gorge · Pavel Guest House or similar
Meals	Breakfast, Dinner
Travel	Karakol – Tamga Gorge (160 km)

DAY

5

Tamga – Skazka – Bokonbaevo – Kochkor

After breakfast, travel along the scenic southern shore of Issyk-Kul Lake toward Kochkor village. Along the way, explore the fascinating Skazka Canyons, also known as the Fairy Tale Canyons, where colourful rock formations create extraordinary shapes resembling castles, animals, and towering skyscrapers.

Continue with a memorable encounter with a traditional Kyrgyz eagle hunter. Witness the impressive speed, precision, and agility of the golden eagle, while discovering the ancient hunting traditions passed down through generations of nomadic people.

Enjoy lunch at a local guesthouse or café before visiting Kyzyl-Tuu village, famous for its skilled yurt makers. Meet a local family and learn how these traditional nomadic homes are crafted by hand using techniques preserved across generations.

In the afternoon, continue to Kochkor village, where you will enjoy a traditional dinner and experience the warm hospitality of a local guesthouse.

Overnight	Kochkor · Traveler Guest House or similar
Meals	Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Travel	Tamga Gorge – Kochkor (170 km)

DAY

6

Kochkor – Son Kul Lake

After breakfast, travel through breathtaking mountain landscapes toward Son-Kul Lake, crossing the scenic Kalmak-Ashuu Pass at 3,447 metres above sea level. Enjoy panoramic views of rolling alpine pastures, rugged peaks, and the lake's stunning turquoise waters.

Upon arrival, settle into a traditional yurt camp and experience the authentic lifestyle of Kyrgyz nomads. Discover their centuries-old traditions, warm hospitality, and deep connection to the surrounding highlands.

As evening falls, enjoy a hearty dinner before spending a memorable night in a traditional yurt beneath the star-filled sky.

Note: 4 people per yurt. Toilets, shower and sauna are outside.

Overnight	Song-Kul Lake · Baiysh Yurt Camp
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Meals	Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
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Travel	Kochkor – Song-Kul Lake (140 km)
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DAY

7

Son Kul lake – Kochkor – Chon-Kemin

Spend the morning enjoying the breathtaking scenery of Son-Kul Lake before departing for the beautiful Chon-Kemin Valley. Along the way, stop in Kochkor village to discover Kyrgyzstan's rich heritage of traditional felt making.

Join skilled local artisans for a hands-on workshop and create your own miniature ala-kiyiz, a colourful patterned felt carpet that has been part of Kyrgyz nomadic culture for generations.

Take a leisurely stroll through the village, admire the surrounding mountain views, and experience authentic local life. In the evening, enjoy a freshly prepared traditional dinner before relaxing in the peaceful atmosphere of Chon-Kemin Valley.

Overnight	Chon Kemin · Kemin Guesthouse or similar
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Meals	Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
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Travel	Song-Kul Lake – Chon Kemin (300 km)
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DAY

8

Chon-Kemin – Bishkek

Travel through the picturesque Chuy Valley toward Bishkek, enjoying views of rolling hills and distant mountain peaks along the way.

Upon arrival in the capital, enjoy free time to explore at your own pace. Browse lively local markets, discover charming souvenir shops, and find unique gifts to remember your Kyrgyzstan adventure.

Overnight	Bishkek · My Hotel or similar
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Meals	Breakfast
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Travel	Chon Kemin – Bishkek (200 km)
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DAY

9

Departure from Bishkek

Enjoy a last breakfast at the hotel. Check-out is at 12:00, and you can leave for the airport at any time – the tour ends here.

Airport transfers are not included in the tour price; we can arrange one for 50 USD per person (one way).

Overnight	Departure day, no overnight
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Meals	Breakfast
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What's included

Included

- Transportation for the group throughout the tour
- English-speaking guide
- Accommodation as listed in the itinerary (8 nights)
- Meals as listed in the itinerary: 8 breakfasts, 5 lunches and 5 dinners
- Bishkek city tour: Ala-Too Square, Victory Square, Oak Park and the Central Mosque
- Visit to the historic Burana Tower
- Traditional lunch with a Dungan family in Iskra village
- Visit to the Cholpon-Ata petroglyph open-air museum
- Walks in the Grigoriev and Semenov gorges
- Karakol city tour: the Russian Orthodox Cathedral and the Dungan Mosque
- Jeti-Oguz Gorge and the Seven Bulls rock formation
- Barskoon waterfalls
- Skazka (Fairy Tale) Canyon
- Eagle hunting demonstration
- Yurt-making demonstration in Kyzyl-Tuu village
- Hands-on felt-making workshop in Kochkor
- Visit to Son-Kul Lake with a night in a traditional yurt camp
- Free time in the Chon-Kemin Valley

Not included

- International flights
- Airport transfers (50 USD per person, one way)
- Extra night in Bishkek (120 USD per double/twin room, 90 USD per single room)
- Meals not listed in the itinerary
- Personal expenses
- Travel insurance
- Services not mentioned as included

Prices and dates

Valid for 2027 departures

Group tour, per person

Tour	Double / twin room	Single supplement
9 days	\$1,490	+ \$290

Same price on all departures. 20% deposit, balance 30 days before tour starting date.

Optional extras

- Airport transfer (one way, per person): \$50 per person
- Extra night in Bishkek: double/twin room \$120, single room \$90

Guaranteed group departures

2027

Start	End	Weekdays	Status
20 May 2027	28 May 2027	Thu – Fri	Price on request
27 May 2027	4 Jun 2027	Thu – Fri	Price on request
10 Jun 2027	18 Jun 2027	Thu – Fri	Price on request
17 Jun 2027	25 Jun 2027	Thu – Fri	Price on request
24 Jun 2027	2 Jul 2027	Thu – Fri	Price on request
5 Jul 2027	13 Jul 2027	Mon – Tue	Price on request
8 Jul 2027	16 Jul 2027	Thu – Fri	Price on request
19 Jul 2027	27 Jul 2027	Mon – Tue	Price on request
22 Jul 2027	30 Jul 2027	Thu – Fri	Price on request
2 Aug 2027	10 Aug 2027	Mon – Tue	Price on request
5 Aug 2027	13 Aug 2027	Thu – Fri	Price on request
16 Aug 2027	24 Aug 2027	Mon – Tue	Price on request
6 Sep 2027	14 Sep 2027	Mon – Tue	Price on request
20 Sep 2027	28 Sep 2027	Mon – Tue	Price on request
30 Sep 2027	8 Oct 2027	Thu – Fri	Price on request

Availability as of 25 October 2026. Check current availability on the tour page.

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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