



GROUP TOUR · 6 DAYS

Kyrgyzstan Manas Heritage Tour

Round trip from Bishkek · Kyrgyzstan

Duration
6 days, 5 nights

Start and end
Round trip from Bishkek

Best time to visit
All year

Group tour from
\$960 per person

Tour type
Culture, Nature

Difficulty
Easy

Departures
4 guaranteed dates

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

Tour highlights

This 6-day group tour around Issyk-Kul brings the Epic of Manas and Kyrgyz nomad traditions to life. Starting from Bishkek, you trace the footsteps of the legendary hero Manas and experience Kyrgyz culture up close: ancient crafts, horse games, eagle hunting and the stories of the epic – on fixed departures all year round.

The journey begins at the Silk Road minaret of Burana Tower with its collection of ancient stone balbals and a demonstration of Kok Boru, one of the traditional Kyrgyz games, before the first night in a yurt camp in the green Chon-Kemin Valley. Along the northern shore of the lake you visit the Semenov Gorge and spend two nights in a yurt camp in the Karkyra Valley, where you help bake boorsok bread, try nomad games such as Ordo and learn about life on the summer pastures.

In Karakol you see the Dungan Mosque, built without a single nail, the Russian Orthodox church and the Przhevalsky memorial, take a boat trip on the lake and spend an evening with a Manaschi, a storyteller who keeps the epic alive. On the south shore you explore the red rocks of Jeti-Oguz and the colorful Skazka (Fairy Tale) Canyon, try archery and watch eagle hunting. On the last day you learn how shyrdak felt carpets are made in Bokonbaevo and how yurt frames are crafted in Kyzyl-Tuu before returning to Bishkek.

Difficulty: Easy. Sightseeing and cultural activities with short walks only (optional hiking at the Karkyra camp). Drives of 120–370 km a day, the longest on day 2 (6–7 hours); one day without driving. Four of the five nights are in yurt camps (night 1 in a yurt camp or guesthouse), one in a 3* hotel in Karakol.



Issyk-Kul lake cover



Manas companions surrounding his statue in Manas Ordo in Talas

Where you'll stay

Night 1	Chon Kemin	Guesthouse in Chon-Kemin
Nights 2–3	Karkara base camp	Karkara base camp
Night 4	Karakol	Green Yard Hotel or similar
Night 5	Skazka Canyon	Yurt camp on the shore of Issyk-Kul

Listed accommodation or similar, same category.

Day-by-day itinerary

DAY

1

Bishkek – Burana Tower – Chon-Kemin Valley

The tour starts in Bishkek at 10 am with an introduction to the legendary Epic of Manas. In the morning you drive to the UNESCO-listed Burana Tower on the Silk Road, where a small museum shows finds from the excavations and a fascinating collection of ancient stone balbals.

Next, you watch a demonstration of Kok Boru, the national horseback game. For groups of 5 or more travelers the horseback games are organized; groups of 1 to 4 travelers can ride a horse and watch a video of the games instead (a live demonstration for up to 4 people can be arranged for an extra charge).

In the afternoon you continue to the Chon-Kemin Valley for dinner and the night in a traditional Kyrgyz yurt camp.

Drive: about 170 km, 3 hours.

Overnight	Chon Kemin · Guesthouse in Chon-Kemin
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Meals	Dinner
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Travel	Bishkek – Burana Tower (75 km) Burana Tower – Chon Kemin (95 km)
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DAY

2

Chon-Kemin Valley – Semenov Gorge – Karkyra Valley

After breakfast you travel along the northern shore of Lake Issyk-Kul with stunning mountain views. You visit the Semenov Gorge and continue to the Karkyra Valley, where you can join the preparation of boorsok, the traditional Kyrgyz fried bread.

Dinner and overnight in a traditional Kyrgyz yurt camp.

Drive: about 370 km, 6–7 hours – the longest road day of the tour.

Overnight	Karkara base camp · Karkara base camp
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Meals	Breakfast, Dinner
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Travel	Chon Kemin – Semenov Gorge (235 km) Semenov Gorge – Karkara base camp (135 km)
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DAY

3

Karkyra Valley

After breakfast you spend the morning experiencing nomadic culture: you try traditional Kyrgyz games such as Ordo and learn about life on the jailoo, the summer pastures.

After lunch you can enjoy the camp at your leisure – hiking, the sauna and steam bath, swings and movie screenings at the bar. Horseback riding is available for an extra fee.

Dinner and overnight in the yurt camp.

Overnight	Karkara base camp · Karkara base camp
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Meals	Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
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DAY

4

Karkyra Valley – Karakol

After breakfast you transfer to Karakol, where you visit the unique Dungan Mosque, built entirely without a single nail, the Russian Orthodox church and the Przhevalsky Memorial Complex.

Afterwards you head to the bay of Lake Issyk-Kul for a boat trip (weather permitting).

In the evening, back in Karakol, you meet a Manaschi – a storyteller and guardian of the Epic of Manas – who shares this legendary tale in a captivating way. Overnight at a hotel.

Drive: about 120 km, 2 hours, plus about 14 km each way to the bay.

Overnight	Karakol · Green Yard Hotel or similar
Meals	Breakfast
Travel	Karkara base camp – Karakol (120 km) Karakol – Przhevalsky Museum (14 km) Przhevalsky Museum – Karakol (14 km)

DAY

5

Karakol – Jeti-Oguz – Skazka Canyon – south shore of Issyk-Kul

After breakfast you drive to the south shore of Lake Issyk-Kul, with excursions to the picturesque Jeti-Oguz Gorge and the colorful Skazka (Fairy Tale) Canyon.

You also test your archery skills and watch a demonstration of hunting with an eagle. Dinner and overnight in a traditional Kyrgyz yurt camp.

Drive: about 160 km, 3 hours.

Overnight	Skazka Canyon · Yurt camp on the shore of Issyk-Kul
Meals	Breakfast, Dinner
Travel	Karakol – Jeti Oguz (30 km) Jeti Oguz – Skazka Canyon (130 km)

DAY

6

South shore of Issyk-Kul – Bokonbaevo – Kyzyl-Tuu – Bishkek

After breakfast you transfer to Bokonbaevo village to discover the art of making shyrdaks – traditional felt carpets for yurts. In Kyzyl-Tuu you continue with yurt frame crafting.

After this intense experience you return to Bishkek, where the tour ends.

Drive: about 270 km, 5 hours.

Overnight	Departure day, no overnight
Meals	Breakfast
Travel	Skazka Canyon – Bokonbaevo (30 km) Bokonbaevo – Kyzyl-Tuu village (25 km) Kyzyl-Tuu village – Bishkek (215 km)

What's included

Included

- Accommodation for 5 nights: yurt camps (a yurt camp or guesthouse in Chon-Kemin) and a 3* hotel in Karakol
- Meals as per the itinerary: 5 breakfasts, 1 lunch and 4 dinners
- Transportation as per the itinerary (jeep for 1–3 travelers, Sprinter minibus for 4 or more)
- English- or Russian-speaking guide
- Horseback games near Burana Tower (Kok Boru demonstration for groups of 5 or more; horse ride and video of the games for groups of 1–4)
- Boorsok cooking master class
- Boat trip on Issyk-Kul (weather permitting)
- Archery
- Eagle hunting demonstration
- Meeting with a Manaschi, a storyteller of the Epic of Manas
- Yurt setting-up demonstration
- Shyrdak show in Bokonbaevo village
- Mineral water (1 liter per person per day)
- Entrance tickets and ecological fees as per the itinerary

Not included

- Single supplement (65 USD per person)
- Live Kok Boru demonstration for groups of 1–4 travelers (extra charge, on request)
- Horseback riding at the Karkyra camp (extra fee)
- Meals not listed in the itinerary
- International flights
- Tips for guide and driver
- Photo/video fees at museums
- Alcoholic drinks
- Personal expenses

Prices and dates

Valid for 2026 departures

Group tour, per person

Tour	Double / twin room	Single supplement
6 days	\$960	+ \$65

Same price on all departures.

Guaranteed group departures

2026

Start	End	Weekdays	Status
7 Nov 2026	12 Nov 2026	Sat – Thu	Available
21 Nov 2026	26 Nov 2026	Sat – Thu	Available
5 Dec 2026	10 Dec 2026	Sat – Thu	Available
19 Dec 2026	24 Dec 2026	Sat – Thu	Available

Availability as of 12 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.

Tour page	central-asia.guide/kyrgyzstan/kyrgyzstan-tours/kyrgyzstan-manas-heritage-tour
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