CENTRAL ASIA GUIDE



GROUP TOUR · 8 DAYS

# Kazakhstan – Kyrgyzstan Group Tour

Almaty – Bishkek · Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Duration<br>8 days, 7 nights | Start and end<br>Almaty – Bishkek | Best time to visit<br>Apr–Oct |
| Group tour from<br>$1,575 per person | Tour type<br>Culture, Hiking, Multi-country, Nature | Difficulty<br>Easy |
| Departures<br>6 guaranteed dates | | |

Prices and dates valid for 2027 departures. Issued 16 November 2026.

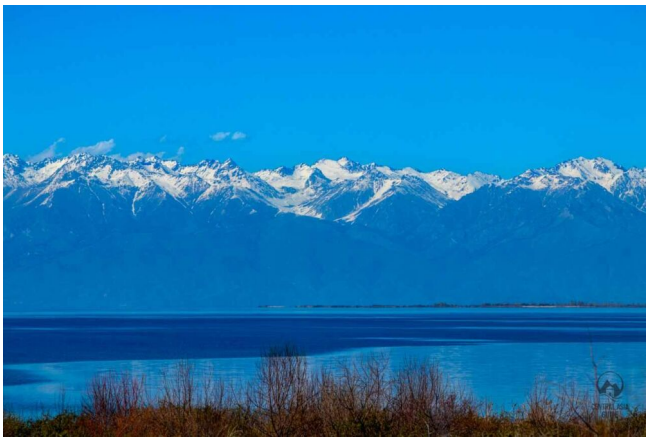
# Tour highlights

This 8-day small-group tour combines the natural and cultural highlights of Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan, from the modern city of Almaty to the mountain valleys around Lake Issyk-Kul and the Kyrgyz capital Bishkek. In Almaty you visit the Green Bazaar, Panfilov Park with the wooden Zenkov Cathedral and Kok-Tobe Hill, then continue to the Medeu skating rink and ride the cable car up to Shymbulak at 3,200 m. Heading east, you walk down into the Valley of Castles in Charyn Canyon, spend a night in a guesthouse at the Kolsay Lakes and see the sunken spruce forest of Kaindy Lake before crossing the Kegen border into Kyrgyzstan. In Karakol you discover the wooden Dungan Mosque, the Holy Trinity Cathedral and the Przhevalsky museum, and admire the red cliffs of Jety-Oguz Gorge. Along the south shore of Issyk-Kul you explore the colorful Skazka (Fairytale) Canyon, watch an eagle hunting demonstration in Bokonbaevo with lunch at a hunter's family and join a felt-making master class in Kochkor. The tour ends in Bishkek with a free afternoon at the Osh Bazaar and a city tour to Ala-Too Square, the Changing of the Guard, Oak Park and Victory Square. You stay in 3-star hotels and a guesthouse at the Kolsay Lakes; the tour is also available as a private tour with 3-star or 4-star hotels.

**Difficulty: Easy.** Sightseeing tour with short walks: about 40 minutes down into Charyn Canyon to the river (and back up), a walk down the slope to Kaindy Lake and a short walk in Skazka Canyon. Long road days of 200–440 km, one land border crossing (Kegen) and the cable car up to Shymbulak at about 3,200 m.



Kazakhstan - Kyrgyzstan Group Tour



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## Where you'll stay

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Night 1 | **Almaty** | Grand Sapphire Hotel or similar |
| Night 2 | **Kolsai Lakes** | Alban Guesthouse or Taushelek Guesthouse or similar |
| Nights 3–4 | **Karakol** | Green Yard Hotel or similar |
| Night 5 | **Kochkor** | Nomad Lodge Hotel or Bagysh Hotel or similar |
| Nights 6–7 | **Bishkek** | Bishkek Boutique Hotel or similar |

Listed accommodation or similar, same category.

# Day-by-day itinerary

DAY 1

## Almaty, arrival

We arrive in Almaty early in the morning and transfer to the hotel for rest after the flight. Later we begin a full-day discovery of Kazakhstan's largest city, set against the backdrop of the snowy Tien Shan mountains. Our first stop is the colorful Green Bazaar, followed by a stroll through Panfilov Park, home to the striking wooden Zenkov Cathedral and the moving Memorial of Glory and Eternal Flame.

Next, we ride up to Kok Tobe Hill, crowned by the city's TV tower, where sweeping views over Almaty open before us. We descend by the famous cableway and continue into the mountains. At Medeo, the world's highest skating rink, we pause before ascending by cable car to Shymbulak Ski Resort, reaching 3,200 meters for breathtaking alpine panoramas. Return to the hotel in the evening. Overnight in Almaty.

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| Overnight | **Almaty** · Grand Sapphire Hotel or similar |
| Meals | Breakfast |

DAY 2

## Almaty – Charyn Canyon – Kolsay Lakes

After breakfast, we set out eastward toward one of Kazakhstan's most breathtaking natural wonders, Charyn Canyon. Often called the "little brother" of the Grand Canyon, this spectacular gorge stretches for more than 150 km. Within two hours, we reach the famous Valley of Castles, where centuries of wind and rain have sculpted the sandstone cliffs into shapes resembling ancient fortresses. We'll walk down into the canyon for about 40 minutes until we reach the Charyn River, surrounded by vivid red and orange walls — a perfect spot for photos and quiet admiration.

Lunch will be served at a cozy café near the canyon, offering a chance to relax before we continue our journey to the Kolsay Lakes — a pristine mountain paradise nestled in the northern Tien Shan range. On arrival in the late afternoon, you'll be greeted by fresh mountain air and serene alpine scenery. Check into a welcoming guesthouse, enjoy a home-style dinner, and rest after a day filled with adventure and stunning landscapes.

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| Overnight | **Kolsai Lakes** · Alban Guesthouse or Taushelek Guesthouse or similar |
| Meals | Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner |
| Travel | Almaty – Kolsai Lakes (440 km) |

DAY 3

## Kolsay Lakes – Kaindy Lake – Kegen border – Karakol

After breakfast, we check out and set off to Kaindy Lake, a mystical place formed after a powerful earthquake in 1911. A landslide created a natural dam, flooding a spruce forest whose ghostly trunks still rise from the turquoise water. This hauntingly beautiful "sunken forest" must be seen to be believed.

We walk from the slope down to the lake for breathtaking views, or, alternatively, ride on horseback (optional, arranged by locals). On the way back, we stop at a village home for a hearty, homemade lunch. In the afternoon we continue to the Kegen border. After crossing into Kyrgyzstan and completing formalities, we drive to Karakol, a charming town at the foot of the Tien Shan mountains. Overnight at the hotel.

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| Overnight | **Karakol** · Green Yard Hotel or similar |
| Meals | Breakfast, Lunch |
| Travel | Kolsai Lakes – Karakol (250 km) |

DAY 4

## Karakol & Jety-Oguz Gorge

This morning we discover Karakol's cultural gems. We start at the colorful Dungan Mosque, built entirely of wood without a single nail, then step into the wooden Russian Orthodox Cathedral of the Holy Trinity. Our final stop is the museum of Nikolay Przhevalsky, the Russian explorer who mapped much of Central Asia.

Later we drive into the mountains to the famous Jety-Oguz Gorge ("Seven Bulls"), where dramatic red cliffs rise above the lush spruce forests. Here we admire the striking rock formations known as the "Seven Bulls" and the "Broken Heart." The vivid contrast of red sandstone and dark green woods makes this one of the most beautiful places in Kyrgyzstan. Return to Karakol for hotel check-in and rest.

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| Overnight | **Karakol** · Green Yard Hotel or similar |
| Meals | Breakfast |
| Travel | Karakol – Jeti Oguz<br>Jeti Oguz – Karakol |

DAY 5

## Karakol – Skazka Canyon – Bokonbaevo – Kochkor

After breakfast, we follow the southern shore of Lake Issyk-Kul toward the Skazka ("Fairytale") Canyon. Shaped by wind and water over millions of years, the red and yellow clay has been sculpted into towers, castles, and ridges — some resembling the Great Wall of China. A short walk here feels like stepping into another world.

Continuing to Bokonbaevo village, we meet local eagle hunters and watch a traditional falconry demonstration, an ancient practice that has been passed down for generations. Lunch with a hunter's family offers a taste of rural hospitality.

In the evening, we reach Kochkor, a village famous for its felt handicrafts and warm welcomes. Dinner and overnight in Kochkor.

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| Overnight | **Kochkor** · Nomad Lodge Hotel or Bagysh Hotel or similar |
| Meals | Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner |
| Travel | Karakol – Kochkor (250 km) |

DAY 6

## Kochkor – Bishkek

This morning we immerse ourselves in Kyrgyz traditions with a felt-making master class in Kochkor. Skilled artisans demonstrate how colorful shyrdaks (felt carpets) are crafted, and we join in to learn about the symbolism behind their intricate designs.

Afterward, we return to Bishkek, arriving in the afternoon. The rest of the day is free: a perfect chance to explore the lively Osh Bazaar, where stalls overflow with fragrant spices, dried fruits, textiles, and handicrafts. It's the ideal place to experience the rhythm of local life and perhaps pick up some souvenirs. Overnight in Bishkek.

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| Overnight | **Bishkek** · Bishkek Boutique Hotel or similar |
| Meals | Breakfast |
| Travel | Kochkor – Bishkek (200 km) |

DAY 7

## Bishkek

After breakfast we set off on a guided city tour of Bishkek. We'll begin with the Monument to Manas, the legendary hero of Kyrgyz epics, then head to Ala-Too Square to watch the solemn Changing of the Guard. At the State Historical Museum we trace the story of Kyrgyzstan, while statues of Kurmanjan-Datka and Lenin remind us of the country's contrasting past. A walk through leafy Oak Park, dotted with sculptures and the Fine Arts Gallery, offers a pleasant pause. Our tour ends at Victory Square, a moving memorial to World War II.

Free afternoon. Overnight in Bishkek.

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| Overnight | **Bishkek** · Bishkek Boutique Hotel or similar |
| Meals | Breakfast |

DAY 8

## Bishkek, departure

Breakfast at the hotel and check-out before 12:00. Transfer to the international airport for your onward flight — carrying with you warm memories and vivid impressions of your unforgettable journey through Central Asia.

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| Overnight | Departure day, no overnight |
| Meals | Breakfast |

# What's included

## Included

- Accommodation at the listed hotels or similar properties of the same category, in double/twin rooms with breakfast; early check-in on day 1 in Almaty included (check-in at the other hotels at 14:00, check-out at 12:00)
- Guesthouse at the Kolsay Lakes (twin rooms)
- Meals: daily breakfasts, 3 lunches and 2 dinners as per the program
- Entrance fees to the monuments and museums mentioned in the itinerary
- Falconry (eagle hunting) demonstration and felt-making master class in Kyrgyzstan
- English-speaking local guides for sightseeing
- Comfortable air-conditioned transportation throughout the tour, including all airport–hotel–airport transfers

## Not included

- International flights
- Single room supplement
- Meals not mentioned above
- Medical expenses and travel insurance
- Porterage at hotels and airports
- Tips for guides and drivers

# Prices and dates

**Valid for 2027 departures**

## Group tour, per person

| Tour | Double / twin room | Single supplement |
|---|---|---|
| **8 days** | **$1,575** | + $270 |

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

## Guaranteed group departures

### 2027

| Start | End | Weekdays | Status |
|---|---|---|---|
| **10 Apr 2027** | 17 Apr 2027 | Sat – Sat | Available |
| **8 May 2027** | 15 May 2027 | Sat – Sat | Available |
| **29 May 2027** | 5 Jun 2027 | Sat – Sat | Available |
| **21 Aug 2027** | 28 Aug 2027 | Sat – Sat | Available |
| **18 Sep 2027** | 25 Sep 2027 | Sat – Sat | Available |
| **9 Oct 2027** | 16 Oct 2027 | Sat – Sat | Available |

Availability as of 16 November 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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|---|---|
| Tour page | central-asia.guide/central-asia-tours/kazakhstan-kyrgyzstan-group-tour |
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