



ISSYK-KOL LAKE ROAD TRIP – 3 DAYS

Highlights

- Step back in time at the historic Burana Tower, a key landmark of the ancient Silk Road.
 - Experience the wide-open landscapes of Kyrchyn Valley, once the stage for the World Nomad Games.
 - Explore Issyk-Kol's stunning south shore, including Jety-Oguz Gorge, Barskoon Valley, and the Fairy-Tale Canyons.
 - Spend a memorable night in a traditional Kyrgyz yurt on high mountain pastures.
 - Choose an optional horseback ride or hike to the breathtaking Shatyly viewpoint overlooking Issyk-Kol Lake.
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Day 1: Bishkek – Karakol

Your adventure begins early with a drive east from Bishkek. The first stop is the Burana Tower near Tokmok, an 11th-century minaret that once marked the flourishing Silk Road city of Balasagun. Walk among ancient ruins, see stone balbals, and climb the tower for sweeping views of the surrounding valley.

Continue to Iskra village, home to the Dungan ethnic community. Here, enjoy a homemade lunch with a local family while learning about Dungan traditions and sampling a distinctive fusion of Chinese and Central Asian flavors.

After lunch, follow the scenic road along the northern shore of Issyk-Kol Lake toward the lush Kyrchyn Gorge, famous for hosting the World Nomad Games. By evening, arrive in Karakol, where you'll have dinner at a local restaurant and settle into your hotel for the night.

Transfer: 430 km | 6–7 hours

- Asphalt: 410 km
- Dirt road: 20 km

Meals: Lunch at guesthouse, dinner at restaurant

Overnight: Hotel

Facilities: Private WC, Wi-Fi, shower available

Day 2: South Shore of Issyk-Kol

After breakfast, enjoy a short sightseeing tour of Karakol to learn more about its history and cultural mix. Then begin your journey along the picturesque south shore of Issyk-Kol Lake.

Your first stop is Jety-Oguz Gorge, known for its dramatic red sandstone cliffs. Continue to Tamga village for lunch at a welcoming guesthouse, once home to a renowned Soviet-era alpinist, where you'll enjoy traditional Russian dishes and warm hospitality.

In the afternoon, visit Barskoon Gorge for a gentle walk to its beautiful waterfalls, followed by an exploration of the Fairy-Tale Canyons with their surreal, wind-shaped rock formations.

By evening, ascend to the alpine meadows of Boz-Salkyn Pasture. Immerse yourself in nomadic life, enjoy dinner, and spend the night in a traditional yurt surrounded by mountain silence and stars.

Transfer: 150 km | 3–4 hours

- Asphalt: 120 km
- Dirt road: 30 km

Meals: Breakfast at hotel, lunch at guesthouse, dinner at yurt

Overnight: Traditional yurt

Facilities: Shared WC, no internet, no shower

Note:

The yurt camp belongs to a local nomadic family and offers an authentic experience. More comfortable yurt stays near Issyk-Kol Lake can be arranged upon request.

Day 3: Shatyly Viewpoint –Bishkek

Wake up in the fresh mountain air of Boz-Salkyn Pasture. Today begins with a half-day trek or optional horseback ride to the stunning Shatyly Panorama. The trail winds through rolling hills, alpine forests, and open meadows, giving you a genuine taste of traditional nomadic travel.

From the viewpoint, take in unforgettable panoramic views of Issyk-Kol Lake, surrounding gorges, and distant villages. On the opposite horizon, admire the snow-capped peaks of the Kungey Ala-Too Range. After time to relax and take photos, return from the ride and drive toward Bokonbaev village.

Near Bokonbaev, watch a traditional Kyrgyz eagle hunting demonstration and learn about this ancient art. Enjoy lunch at a local guesthouse before continuing the drive back to Bishkek, marking the end of your Issyk-Kol adventure.

Transfer: 280 km | 4 hours

- Asphalt: 260 km
- Dirt road: 20 km

Meals: Breakfast at guesthouse, lunch at restaurant

Notes:

- Eagle hunting is a demonstration with explanations; real hunting takes place only in winter.
- The eagle hunting experience is optional and can be skipped.
- Horse riding can be replaced with trekking, or you may skip the activity and return directly to Bishkek for a guided city tour.

Included

- **Transportation:** All transfers during the program.
- A permanent English-speaking guide.
- **Accommodation:** Stays as specified in the itinerary.
- **Meals:** Full board (breakfast, lunch, and dinner) via a set menu. Except meals in Bishkek
- **Activities:** Entrance fees and scheduled visits.

NOT Included

- **Travel:** International flights and insurance.

- **Local Logistics:** Airport transfers (unless paid as an add-on) and your hotel in Bishkek.
- **Personal:** Tips for the guide, alcohol/bottled water, and personal expenses.
- **Specific Meals:** Breakfast on Day 1 and dinner on the final day.

Additional services

- **Airport Transfer:** 20 USD per car (one way, fits 1–4 people).
- **Eagle Hunting Demo:** 70 USD total for the whole group.
- **Horseback Riding:** 30 USD per person at Boz-Salkyn Pasture.