



## Kyrgyzstan Kel-Suu Tour – 8 DAYS

**Duration:** 8 days

**Tour Category:** Combined (Adventure + Cultural)

**Best Time to Travel:** May to October

### **Tour Overview:**

This 8-day tour blends adventure with Kyrgyzstan's dramatic landscapes. You'll enjoy:

- A classic 2-day horseback riding adventure to the stunning [Song-Kol Lake](#).
- Immerse yourself in [traditional yurts](#) and authentic Kyrgyz nomadic life.
- Take scenic off-road drives through dramatic mountain landscapes.
- Visit the breathtaking [Kel-Suu Lake](#), a hidden gem of Kyrgyzstan.
- Explore the beautiful shores of [Ysyk-Kol Lake](#), the "Pearl of Central Asia."
- Enjoy 2 days of easy trekking to the alpine [valley of Altyn Arashan](#), famous for natural hot springs.

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## Itinerary Day by Day

### Day 1 – Drive to Kyzart Village & Horse Riding to Kilemche

- **Morning:** Begin your journey with a scenic drive to **Kyzart Village**, near **Song-Kol Lake**. Enjoy a **homemade lunch** at a local homestay and receive basic horseback riding instructions from your guide.

- **Afternoon:** Start a gentle horseback ride along the **Chaar-Archa River**, passing through wide valleys and peaceful mountain landscapes en route to **Kilemche**. The smooth trails make it easy to gain confidence and bond with your horse.
- **Evening:** Arrive at a **yurt camp** run by a local herder family. Settle in, take a walk in the surrounding hills, enjoy the fresh mountain air, and observe Kyrgyz nomadic life.

**Overnight:** Traditional yurt at 2,700 m

**Transfer Details:**

- Total distance: 280 km – 4 hours
- Asphalt: 280 km
- Dirt road: 0 km

**Horse Riding:** 21 km – 4–5 hours

**Meals:** Lunch at guesthouse, dinner at yurt

**Facilities:**

- WC: Shared
- Internet: No
- Shower: No

**Notes & Recommendations:**

- No prior horse-riding experience is required.
- Leave your large bag at the guesthouse in Kyzart. Bring only a small backpack with essentials for the next two days; your main bag will be delivered by car the following day.

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**Day 2 – Horse Riding to Song-Kol Lake**

- **Morning:** After breakfast at the yurt camp, begin the horseback ride toward **Jalgыз-Karagai Pass (3,300 m)**. The climb is demanding, but panoramic mountain views make it rewarding. Stop at the top to rest the

horses and enjoy the first view of **Song-Kol Lake**.

- **Midday:** Descend toward the lakeshore, passing nomadic yurts and grazing herds. Arrive at the yurt camp near the lake for **lunch**.
- **Afternoon & Evening:** Free time to relax, explore the surrounding hills, or stroll along the lake. After **dinner**, enjoy the crystal-clear starry sky.

**Overnight:** Traditional yurt (3,100 m)

**Transfer:** None

**Horse riding:** 17 km – 4 h

**Meals:** Breakfast, lunch, and dinner at yurt

**Facilities:** Shared WC, Mobile internet, Shower on request

#### **Notes & Recommendations:**

- Horses will return to **Kyzart Village** after reaching Song-Kol Lake.
  - Daytime can be warm, but evenings are chilly—bring warm clothing.
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### **Day 3 – Road Trip to Tash-Bashat Village**

**Morning:** After breakfast at the yurt camp, drive along the scenic lakeshore and ascend the **Terskey-Torpu Pass (3,300 m)**, a dramatic route with zig-zag serpentine roads offering stunning mountain views.

**Midday:** Stop in **Naryn City** for a rest and enjoy **lunch at a local restaurant**. Continue the journey to **Tash-Bashat Village**, where you'll check in at a cozy hotel – a welcome chance to refresh after your night in the mountain yurt.

**Afternoon & Evening:** Take a stroll through the village streets to experience rural Kyrgyz life, or explore nearby mountains for an active afternoon. Enjoy **dinner at the hotel**, followed by a warm bonfire under the starry sky.

**Overnight:** Hotel

**Transfer:** Total 170 km – 4–5 h (Asphalt: 100 km, Dirt road: 70 km)

**Meals:** Breakfast at yurt, Lunch at restaurant, Dinner at hotel

**Facilities:** Private WC, Wi-Fi, Shower available

**Notes & Recommendations:**

- The drive includes both asphalt and dirt roads, so travel can be bumpy in sections.
  - Evening temperatures can be chilly at higher elevations; bring warm clothing.
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**Day 4 – Visit Kel-Suu Lake**

**Morning:** Start your day early for a rugged drive through the charming villages of **At-Bashy region** and over **Kyndy Pass (3,200 m)**, the gateway to the vast **Arpa Valley**. Arrive at a guesthouse in **Kok-Kiya Valley** and enjoy **lunch** before setting off.

**Midday:** Embark on a scenic trek to **Kel-Suu Lake** along the river. The terrain is mostly gentle, offering an **easy yet breathtaking hike** with mountains framing the distance.

**Afternoon & Evening:** At the lake, admire the spectacular views and, if desired, take a short boat ride on the pristine waters. Retrace your steps back to the guesthouse for **dinner** and a comfortable overnight stay, preparing for the next day's journey to **Ysyk-Kol Lake**.

**Overnight:** Guesthouse (3,200 m)

**Transfer:** Total 180 km – 4–5 h (Asphalt: 50 km, Dirt road: 130 km)

**Trekking:** 14 km – 4 h

**Meals:** Breakfast at hotel, Lunch at guesthouse, Dinner at guesthouse

**Facilities:** Shared WC, Wi-Fi (paid), Shower on request

**Notes & Recommendations:**

- The trekking is generally easy, with a slightly challenging section near the lake.

- Horseback riding is available as an alternative to trekking for an additional fee.
  - Yurt accommodation is possible, but the guesthouse is recommended due to cold weather.
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### **Day 5 – Road Trip to Ysyk-Kol Lake**

**Morning:** Start with an early breakfast for the longest driving day of the journey. Retrace the route back toward **Naryn**.

**Midday:** Refuel and enjoy **lunch** in Naryn before continuing the second leg of the drive toward **Ysyk-Kol Lake**, passing over **Dolon Pass (3,030 m)** and through **Kochkor Village**.

**Afternoon & Evening:** If time allows, make a short visit to the **Ak-Say Canyons** to admire unique rock formations framed by the lake and surrounding mountains. Arrive at your guesthouse in **Bokonbaev Village** on the southern shore of Ysyk-Kol Lake. Take a brief walk to stretch your legs before **dinner** and a relaxing evening.

**Overnight:** Guesthouse

**Transfer:** Total 390 km – 7–8 h (Asphalt: 260 km, Dirt road: 130 km)

**Meals:** Breakfast at guesthouse, Lunch at restaurant, Dinner at restaurant

**Facilities:** Shared/Private WC, Wi-Fi, Shower available

#### **Notes & Recommendations:**

- The drive is long, so start early after breakfast.
  - **Bokonbaev** is slightly farther from the lake shore; if you prefer accommodation closer to the lake, yurt options are available—please confirm with your tour manager.
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### **Day 6 – Explore the South Shore of Ysyk-Kol Lake**

**Morning:** Begin the day with a fascinating **eagle hunting demonstration** by a local Kyrgyz eagle hunter, experiencing this unique tradition firsthand. Afterwards, drive to the **Fairy-Tale Canyons** to explore their dramatic rock formations and colorful landscapes.

**Midday:** Stop in **Tamga Village** for **lunch** at the home of the famous Soviet-era mountaineer **Lyubov Danichkina**. Continue to the impressive **Barskoon Waterfalls** before heading to the picturesque **Jetty-Oguz Valley**, known for its striking red rock formations.

**Afternoon & Evening:** Arrive in **Karakol**. If time allows, take a short city tour to explore its charming streets and local sights. Enjoy **dinner at a restaurant**.

**Overnight:** Hotel

**Transfer:** Total 150 km – 3–4 h (Asphalt: 120 km, Dirt road: 30 km)

**Meals:** Breakfast at guesthouse, Lunch at guesthouse, Dinner at restaurant

**Facilities:** Private WC, Wi-Fi, Shower available

#### **Notes & Recommendations:**

- The eagle hunting experience is a **demonstration** on animal skins with explanations; real hunting on horseback is only available in winter.
- The eagle hunting demonstration is **optional**; you may skip it if preferred.

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### **Day 7 – Trekking to Altyn-Arashan Gorge**

**Morning:** Drive to **Ak-Suu Village** near Karakol. Begin your trek to **Altyn-Arashan Gorge**, carrying a backpack with essentials. The trail follows a sparkling river and winds through lush alpine forests, offering stunning views of the surrounding mountains.

**Midday:** Stop for a relaxing **picnic by the river**, enjoying the peaceful sounds of nature and fresh mountain air. Continue along a gentle uphill path toward the gorge.

**Afternoon & Evening:** Arrive at **Altyn-Arashan Gorge** by early evening and check in to the guesthouse. After a full day of trekking, **soak in the natural hot springs**

to relax your muscles. Enjoy **dinner** and unwind under the stars in this tranquil mountain setting.

**Overnight:** Guesthouse

**Transfer:** Total 30 km – 30 min (Asphalt: 30 km, Dirt road: 0 km)

**Trekking:** 12 km – 5 h

**Meals:** Breakfast at hotel, Lunch (picnic), Dinner at guesthouse

**Facilities:** Shared WC, Wi-Fi, Hot springs for shower

#### **Notes & Recommendations:**

- Leave your large bag or suitcase at your hotel in Karakol or in the car; take only a backpack with essentials for the 2-day trek.
- Trekking to Altyn-Arashan is **easy to medium** level. Horseback riding or a ride in a **Soviet 4×4 UAZ** is available for an additional fee.

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### **Day 8 – Trekking Back to Ak-Suu Village & Drive to Bishkek**

**Morning:** After breakfast, begin your trek back to **Ak-Suu Village**, retracing the scenic trail along the river and through alpine forests. Take in the fresh mountain air and enjoy the landscapes one last time.

**Midday:** Upon arrival in Ak-Suu Village, drive to **Karakol** for **lunch** and a final taste of local cuisine. Continue along the **northern shore of Ysyk-Kol Lake**, admiring the sparkling waters and mountain vistas of this famous “Pearl of Central Asia.”

**Afternoon & Evening:** Arrive in **Bishkek** in the evening, marking the conclusion of your 8-day Kyrgyzstan adventure, filled with horseback riding, trekking, hidden lakes, and the warmth of nomadic hospitality.

**Overnight:** Not included (End of tour)

**Transfer:** Total 420 km – 6–7 h (Asphalt: 410 km, Dirt road: 10 km)

**Trekking:** 12 km – 4 h

**Meals:** Breakfast at hotel, Lunch at restaurant

**Facilities:** N/A

## **Notes & Recommendations:**

- The drive back to Bishkek is long but mostly on asphalt roads; depart early from Altyn-Arashan.
  - Expect to arrive in Bishkek around 8–9 PM.
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## **Included**

- Transfer in a 4x4 vehicle with AC
- English-speaking permanent guide
- Accommodation as mentioned in the program
- Full board (set menu)
- Visits mentioned in the program
- Entrance fees
- Horse riding to Song-Kol Lake
- Permission for Kel-Suu Lake

## **Not Included**

- International flights
- Airport transfer
- Personal expenses
- Single room supplement
- Insurance
- Tips for the guide
- Hotel in Bishkek
- Breakfast on day 1 and dinner on the last day
- Water and alcohol drinks
- Services not specifically mentioned as included

## **Additional services:**

Airport Transfer: 25 USD one way per car for 1–4 people.

Eagle Hunting Demonstration: 80 USD per group.