



## **SONG-KOL LAKE ON HORSEBACK – 3 DAYS**

Enjoy a classic 3-day horseback adventure from Kyzart Village to the stunning shores of [Song-Kol Lake](#). This unforgettable journey takes you deep into the heart of Kyrgyzstan's untouched highlands, where nature and tradition exist in perfect harmony.

Ride through the scenic Kilemche Valley, surrounded by rolling green pastures, wide-open skies, and dramatic mountain panoramas. Along the way, you will experience the authentic nomadic lifestyle, stay in traditional yurts, and connect with local shepherd families and [stay in traditional yurts](#).

This adventure offers not only breathtaking landscapes but also a genuine cultural immersion, allowing you to slow down, embrace the rhythm of nature, and create memories that will last a lifetime.

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## **Tour Details**

**Month:**

May, June, July, August, September, October

**Start/End:** Bishkek

**Duration:** 3 days

**Tour Pace:** Moderately paced, enjoy a relaxed ride with time to stop and take in the scenery

**Accommodations:** 2 nights in traditional yurts

**Activities:** Horseback riding – 3 full days through the stunning Kilemche Valley and around Song-Kol Lake

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## **Itinerary Day by Day**

### **Day 1. Bishkek to Kyzart and Horse Riding to Kilemche**

The driver will pick you up from the hotel in Bishkek and drive to Kyzart village. On arrival a brief horse-riding instruction from your guide, you'll begin a gentle ride along the scenic Chaar-Archa River, passing through wide valleys and peaceful mountain landscapes on your way to Kilemche. The trail is smooth, making it perfect for gaining confidence and building a strong connection with your horse.

Midway, you'll stop for a picnic lunch by the river, giving the horses a well-deserved break while you relax and enjoy the surroundings. In the afternoon, continue your ride until you arrive at a yurt camp run by a local herder family.

After settling in, take time to explore the surrounding hills, breathe in the fresh mountain air, and observe the daily life of Kyrgyz nomads. End your day with a warm dinner in the yurt, sharing stories of your first horse-riding adventure.

**Total driving distance:** 260 km

**Horse riding:** 21 km (approx. 4–5 hours)

**Meals:** Picnic lunch, dinner at yurt

**Overnight:** Yurt (2700 m)

**WC:** Shared

**Internet:** No

**Shower:** No

### **Notes & Recommendations:**

- No prior horse-riding experience is required.

- Leave your large bag at the guesthouse in Kyzart and carry only a small backpack with essentials and clothing for the next three days
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## **Day 2. Horse Riding to Song-Kol Lake**

Today's ride will be more challenging and adventurous. After breakfast, you'll begin your ascent toward Jalgyz-Karagai Pass (3,300 m). The climb can be steep at times, but the panoramic mountain views make every step worthwhile. At the top, you'll be rewarded with your first breathtaking view of Song-Kol Lake, shimmering below in the highland valley.

After a rest on the pass, you'll descend toward the lake and arrive at a yurt camp for a well-deserved lunch. In the afternoon, continue riding west along the lakeshore, passing traditional nomadic yurts, grazing animals, and the wide-open pastures that define this stunning highland landscape.

Your destination for the night is the Tuz-Ashuu pasture, beautifully situated by the lake. Once there, release the horses, settle into your yurt, and enjoy a relaxing dinner surrounded by the peaceful atmosphere of Song-Kol.

**Horse riding:** 23 km (approx. 5–6 hours)

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

**Overnight:** Yurt (3,100 m)

**WC:** Shared

**Internet:** Mobile coverage

**Shower:** On request

**Notes & Recommendations:** While daytime temperatures can be warm at Song-Kol Lake, evenings may be chilly, so be sure to bring warm clothing.

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### **Day 3. Horse Riding Back to Kyzart Village – Road Trip to Issyk-Kul Lake**

Today, you'll begin your return to Kyzart Village via the scenic Tuz-Ashuu Pass. After saying farewell to the welcoming nomadic family at Song-Kol, you'll set off on horseback, gradually ascending to the pass at 3,300 m. From the top, enjoy final sweeping views of Song-Kol Lake, framed by wide-open pastures and dramatic mountain landscapes.

- You'll then descend along a picturesque trail that leads back toward Kyzart Village, soaking in the highland scenery one last time.
- Upon arrival in Kyzart, enjoy a well-deserved lunch and take time to rest and refresh after the morning ride. From here, you may choose to stay overnight in Kyzart or continue your journey to Issyk-Kul Lake, depending on your travel plans.

**Transfer:** 260 km

**Horse riding:** ~15 km (approx. 3–4 hours)

**Meals:** Breakfast at yurt, lunch at Kyzart, dinner on your own in Bishkek

**Internet:** Mobile coverage

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

- Dress in layers for variable mountain temperatures.
- Bring a small backpack with essentials for the road trip.

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#### **Inclusions**

- ✓ Transfers from Bishkek to Kyzart and back
  - ✓ Horse riding guide
  - ✓ Overnights in yurt
  - ✓ Meals
  - ✓ Horses
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## **Exclusions**

- × Hotels and airport transfers in Bishkek
  - × Personal expenses
  - × Travel insurance
  - × Water
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## **Practical Information – Horseback tour**

### What to Pack for Your Horseback Adventure

#### **Clothing**

Weather in the highlands can change quickly, so layering is essential.

- Warm layers (fleece or down jacket) for chilly mornings and evenings
- Lightweight clothes for daytime (T-shirts, long-sleeve shirts)
- Waterproof and windproof jacket
- Hat or cap for sun protection
- Gloves and warm socks
- Scarf or buff for windy conditions

#### **Horseback Riding Essentials**

For a safe and comfortable ride:

- Long pants suitable for riding
- Comfortable trekking pants and/or shorts
- Lightweight, breathable clothing
- Riding gloves (optional but recommended for better grip)

#### **Other Essentials**

- Small daypack for daily necessities
- Sunglasses and sunscreen
- Reusable water bottle
- Personal toiletries and towel

- Basic first aid kit and any personal medications
- Camera or smartphone for photos
- Power bank and charging cables
- Passport, ID, and copies of travel documents

### **Optional Items**

- Binoculars for wildlife spotting
  - Light snacks for trekking
  - Notebook or travel journal to capture your memories
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### **Additional Information**

Please note that yurt accommodation is limited, and you may need to share a yurt with other travelers. If you prefer a private yurt, kindly inform the tour manager in advance.

Your guide will be an experienced local horseman with basic English skills. If you would prefer a guide with advanced English, please let us know ahead of time.

This tour is suitable for beginners. The horses are well-trained and easy to handle. To ensure the best experience, please share your riding experience so we can assign the most suitable horse for you.

We have an option to start the tour from Kyzart village. If arriving by car, you may park at the guesthouse in Kyzart Village. We recommend leaving large luggage there and bringing only a small bag with essentials. Your belongings will be safely stored in saddle bags during the ride.

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### **Meals**

Meals provided during the tour are traditional Central Asian cuisine.

Vegetarian options are available — please inform your tour manager in advance about any dietary restrictions or allergies.

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## **Money & Payments**

If you wish to purchase items from local vendors, please bring cash in **Kyrgyz Som**.

We recommend avoiding currency exchange at the airport, as rates are usually better at banks or official exchange offices in Bishkek. Your guide can assist you with exchanging money if needed.

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## **Communication & Internet**

Stable internet connection is generally available only at the top of the mountain passes. There is no signal in the Kilemche Valley. At Song-Kol Lake, the MEGA mobile operator works, but the connection may not always be reliable.

For better coverage, consider purchasing a local SIM card. The recommended mobile operator is MEGA.

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## **Electricity**

Kyrgyzstan uses **220V electricity** with **Type C and Type F plugs** (European-style round plugs). Please bring the appropriate adapter for your devices.

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## **Health & Safety**

We strongly recommend travel insurance that covers medical emergencies and outdoor activities such as horseback riding.

If you have any medical conditions, allergies, or concerns, please inform us in advance so we can ensure your safety and comfort throughout the journey.

We look forward to welcoming you to the Kyrgyz highlands for an unforgettable experience!