



Salbuurun Festival Tour

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

The Sulburun Festival Tour immerses you in the rich nomadic traditions of Kyrgyzstan, offering thrilling experiences such as [eagle hunting](#) demonstrations with golden eagles, archery performances, and traditional hunting with [Taigan dogs](#). Set against the stunning backdrop of [Issyk-Kul Lake](#) and the towering peaks of the Tian Shan, the tour blends cultural discovery with adventure.

You will explore the vibrant festival atmosphere, watch skilled berkutchi showcase their hunting techniques, and enjoy exhibitions of Kyrgyz greyhounds, [traditional crafts](#), and local music and dance. Guests also have the chance to participate in hands-on activities, savor authentic [Kyrgyz cuisine](#), and spend nights in traditional yurts, experiencing the warmth of local hospitality while surrounded by breathtaking alpine landscapes. This journey offers a perfect combination of history, culture, and nature, providing a deep insight into Kyrgyz nomadic life.

FIXED TOUR DATES IN 2026

Start Date	End Date	Status
28 July 2026	3 August 2026	Available

Salbuurun Festival Tour Itinerary

Day 1 (28.07.2026)

Bishkek – Chon-Kemin (180 km, 2-3 hours of driving + time for all stops on the way)

In the morning, meet your guide at the hotel at 09:00 and transfer to **Chon-Kemin Nature Park**. The **Chon-Kemin River** originates from the Kungey Ala-Too and Iliysky Ala-Too ranges and flows 116 km through forested gorges and seven lakes before joining the Chu River. The surrounding area is protected within the **Chon-Kemin State Nature Park**, which covers 5,000 hectares and preserves unique flora and fauna such as the Tolai hare, pheasants, and fir trees. The park's river basin remains largely untouched, offering a rich and diverse natural habitat.

In the afternoon, the journey continues along the scenic Chui Valley with a stop at the historic **Burana Tower**, a landmark of the Great Silk Road dating back to the 11th century. Upon arrival at the mountain guesthouse, enjoy lunch, followed by a 2–3 hour walking excursion to a panoramic viewpoint. For those interested, horse riding is available at an additional cost. Dinner and overnight stay will be at the guesthouse.

Meals: – / – / D

Altitude: 800 m (Bishkek) → 1,700 m (Chon-Kemin)

Day 2 (29.07.2026)

Chon Kemin – Karakol (300 km, around 4 hours+ time for all stops on the way)

Transfer to Karakol along the north shore of Issyk-Kul Lake. In this day you will have an excursion to the Open-Air Museum of Petroglyphs.

Later you will have a picturesque trip from Grigorevskoe gorge over small pass (2360 meters) to Semenovskoe gorge. Stop on the top of this small pass, you can make hiking around 1 to 2 hours with a distance from 3 to 6 km depending of people's wish.

Traditional dinner in the Uighur family (a small nation emigrated from china). Accommodation at the hotel.

Meals: B/-/D

Altitude during the day: 1800 m in Karakol

Day 3 (30.07.2026)

Karakol – Jergalan – Karakol (60 km, around 1 hour 20 minutes, in one way)

In the morning, breakfast at the hotel. Transfer to Jergalan gorge 60 km. Trekking in Jergalan gorge is about 4-5 hours. It will be a nice view to the gorge from the top of the mountain on Turnaly Kol. Optionally, on the back way visit hot spring in Jergalan. Transfer back to Karakol. Dinner in a local restaurant. Accommodation at the hotel.

Meals: B/-/D

Altitude during the day: 1700 m in Karakol, start point of trek 2300 m, highest point of trek 2850 m, end of the day 1700 m in Karakol.

Day 4 (31.07.2026)

Karakol – Yurt camp close to Tamga (90 km, around 2.5 hours + time for all stops on the way)

After breakfast, enjoy a city tour of **Karakol**, visiting the **Russian Orthodox Church** and the **Dungan-style Muslim Mosque**, a unique example of

Chinese-influenced architecture. Later, transfer to **Jety-Oguz Valley**, which means “Seven Bulls” in Kyrgyz. This picturesque gorge is famous for its striking red sandstone formations covered with forests of Tian-Shan spruces. A 30-minute walk (both ways) will take you to the best viewpoint of the iconic “Seven Bulls” rock formations.

In the afternoon, visit **Barskoon Gorge**, located on the southern shore of Issyk-Kul Lake, 90 km from Karakol. The gorge is renowned for its lush slopes, thick vegetation, and three waterfalls, including the famous “**Tears of the Snow Leopard**”, which plunges approximately 100 meters. A 30–40 minute walk one way leads to the first scenic viewpoint. Afterward, continue to the **yurt camp** on Issyk-Kul Lake, where you can swim and relax. Dinner and overnight stay will be at the yurt camp.

Meals: B / – / D

Altitude during the day: 1,600 m (yurt camp on Issyk-Kul Lake)

Day 5 (01.08.2026) Salbuurun Festival!

Yurt camp close to Tamga – Festival – Kochkor (170 km, around 2 hours 30 minutes + time for all stops on the way)

After breakfast, visit **Skazka Canyon**, famous for its surreal rocky landscape shaped over the years by wind into extraordinary sculptures and formations. The rocks display striking colors and unusual shapes, creating a magical and otherworldly atmosphere.

Following the canyon visit, transfer to the festival to enjoy exciting performances, including hunters with birds of prey, arrow-shooting demonstrations, folklore music concerts, and hands-on master classes by local craftsmen.

In the afternoon, savor a traditional lunch featuring authentic national cuisine. Afterward, transfer to **Kochkor** for dinner and overnight stay at the hotel.

Meals: B / – / D

Altitude during the day: 1,700 m (Kochkor)

Day 6 (02.08.2026)

Kochkor – Son-Kul (150 km, around 3 hours+ time for all stops on the way)

Transfer to **Son-Kul Lake**, the highest lake in Kyrgyzstan, situated at an altitude of 3,016 meters above sea level. This freshwater lake is home to various fish species and is surrounded by majestic mountains. The area is popular among local nomads, who bring their families and livestock to graze on the rich pastures and stay in traditional Kyrgyz yurts.

In the afternoon, enjoy a scenic walk of about 8 km along the north shore of the lake. During the walk, visit local nomads and taste **Kymyz**, a traditional drink made from mare's milk. Dinner and overnight stay will be in a yurt camp, offering an authentic nomadic experience.

Meals: B / – / D

Altitude during the day: 3,100 m (Son-Kul Lake)

Day 7 (03.08.2026)

Transfer to Bishkek: Son-Kul – Bishkek (350 km, around 5–6 hours, plus time for stops on the way)

Breakfast. Transfer to Bishkek. Arrival in Bishkek. End of the service.

Meals: B/-/-

Altitude during the day: 800 m in Bishkek

Tour Pricing

Price is in USD per person, valid in 2026 - 1490 USD per person
(minimum size of the group is 2 pax, maximum is 9 pax)

Airport transfer:

- 50 USD per car for 1-3 pax
 - 70 USD per car for 4-9 pax
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✓ What's Include

- Transport for transfers and excursions (good condition car with A/C) for Kyrgyzstan • 2 - 3 pax – English-speaking driver, Jeep 4x4 (Toyota Prado, Sequoia, Pajero or similar);
- 4-9 pax - Mercedes Sprinter (14 seats);
- Double/twin room accommodation in hotel, guest houses;
- Two people accommodate in one yurt;
- Meal based on Half Board: breakfast 6, dinner 6
- Mineral water during the tour (one liter a day per person);
- Italian speaking tour guide for the group from 4-9 pax;
- Entry fees to museums.

✗ What's Not Included

- Accommodation and food in Bishkek;
- Airport transfer;
- International and domestic flight tickets;
- Alcohol and soft drinks;
- Camera and video fee where applicable;
- Trip cancellation, medical and accident insurance;
- Single room supplement;
- Tips for guides & drivers & porters at hotels;
- Horse riding in Chon Kemin, Son-Kul.

Accommodation

- Chon Kemin: Kok-Archa guest house or similar
- Karakol: Amir Hotel 3* or similar guest house
- South shore of Issyk-Kul lake Nomad Lodge Yurt camp or similar
- Son-Kul – Nomad Lodge Yurt Camp or similar

We may occasionally adjust the order of visits and activities (museums and sites) if required due to weather conditions or other unforeseen circumstances. Any changes will be made with your comfort and overall experience in mind.



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