



## Kyrgyzstan Kel-Suu Tour

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### Kyrgyzstan's Hidden Gems Tour including Kel Suu, Son Kol and Issyk Kul alpine lakes

#### HIGHLIGHTS:

This 8-day tour offers an unforgettable journey through Kyrgyzstan's breathtaking landscapes and rich nomadic culture. This tour is perfect for travelers seeking an active adventure without extreme challenges. It moves at a brisk pace to fit in Kyrgyzstan's main highlights, including some long drives along scenic mountain routes.

**Begin with a classic 2-day horseback adventure to the stunning [Song-Kol Lake](#), where you can stay in [traditional yurts and experience authentic Kyrgyz nomadic life](#). Travel on scenic off-road routes through dramatic mountain terrain to reach the hidden gem of [Kel-Suu Lake](#), known for its turquoise waters and towering cliffs.**

Explore the beautiful shores of [Isyk-Kol Lake](#), the “Pearl of Central Asia,” before enjoying **2 days of easy trekking in the [alpine valley of Altyn-Arashan](#)**, famous for its stunning scenery and relaxing natural hot springs. This tour perfectly blends adventure, culture, and relaxation for an unforgettable experience.

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## **TOUR DETAILS:**

### **Season**

May to October

### **Tour length**

8 days / 7 nights

### **Horse riding**

2 days of horse riding

No prior horse-riding experience is required.

### **Trekking**

The 2-day trek to Altyn Arashan is easy to moderate in difficulty.

Optional: If you prefer not to trek, horseback riding or a 4×4 UAZ vehicle transfer can be arranged for an additional fee.

### **Price**

\$1,173 USD per person

based on a group of 4 people

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# TOUR ITINERARY

## Day 1. Drive to Kyzart Village and horseback to Kilemche



Kick off your Kyrgyzstan adventure tour with a scenic drive to Kyzart Village near Song-Kol Lake, one of Kyrgyzstan’s most beautiful alpine lakes. Enjoy a homemade lunch at a local guesthouse and receive basic horseback riding instructions, perfect for beginners.

In the afternoon, ride along the Chaar-Archa River through wide valleys and peaceful mountain landscapes to reach Kilemche. The smooth trail allows you to connect with your horse while enjoying the stunning scenery.

By evening, arrive at a yurt camp run by a local herder family, where you can explore the hills, experience daily Kyrgyz nomadic life, and breathe in the fresh mountain air.

Item	Details
Transfer	Total: 280 km – 4 h Asphalt: 280 km Dirt road: 0 km

Horse Riding	21 km – 4–5 h
Meals	Lunch: Guesthouse Dinner: Yurt
Overnight	Yurt (2,700 m)
WC	Shared
Shower	No
Internet	No
Notes & Recommendations	No prior horse-riding experience required Leave large bag at guesthouse; take small backpack for essentials; main bag transported by car

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## Day 2. Horse riding to Song-Kol Lake



Today's horseback ride is more demanding but incredibly rewarding. After breakfast at the yurt camp, you'll begin the ascent toward Jalgyz-Karagai Pass

(3,300 m). While the climb is challenging, the breathtaking panoramic views of the surrounding mountains make it well worth the effort. At the top, pause to rest your horses and enjoy your first stunning glimpse of Song-Kol Lake shimmering in the distance.

From there, you'll descend toward the lakeshore, passing traditional nomadic yurts and grazing herds along the way. By midday, you'll arrive at the yurt camp near the lake, where lunch will be served.

The afternoon is free to unwind after the ride take a stroll along the lakeshore, explore the nearby hills, or simply relax and soak in the tranquil atmosphere of Song-Kol. After dinner, step outside to marvel at the clear night sky, illuminated with countless stars.

Item	Details
Transfer	Total: 0 km
Horse Riding	17 km – 4 h
Meals	Breakfast: Yurt Lunch: Yurt Dinner: Yurt
Overnight	Yurt (3,100 m)
WC	Shared
Shower	On request
Internet	Mobile phone
Notes & Recommendations	Horses return to Kyzart Village after reaching Song-Kol Lake Bring warm clothing for chilly evenings



### Day 3. Road trip to Tash-Bashat Village



Today, you'll drive to Tash-Bashat Village, located in the heart of Kyrgyzstan. The journey begins along the scenic [Ysyk-Kol lakeshore](#) before ascending the famous **Terskey-Torpu Pass (3,300 m)**, featuring dramatic zig-zag roads and stunning mountain views.

You'll stop in [Naryn City](#) for a rest and lunch, then continue to Tash-Bashat Village, where you'll stay at a comfortable hotel—an ideal chance to refresh after your night in a yurt in the mountains.

Once settled, take a leisurely walk through the village streets to experience authentic rural Kyrgyz life, or explore the nearby mountains for an active afternoon. In the evening, enjoy a hearty dinner at the hotel, followed by a warm bonfire under the starry sky—a perfect way to end the day.

Item	Details
Transfer	Total: 170 km – 4–5 h Asphalt: 100 km Dirt road: 70 km
Meals	Breakfast at yurt, lunch at restaurant, dinner at

	hotel
Overnight	Hotel
WC	Private WC
Shower	Available
Internet	Wi-Fi

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#### Day 4. Kel-Suu Lake



Start your day early with a rugged drive through the At-Bashy region, crossing Kyndy Pass (3,200 m), the gateway to the vast Arpa Valley, en route to [Kel-Suu Lake](#).

Upon arrival at a guesthouse in Kok-Kiya Valley, enjoy lunch before setting off on a scenic 4-hour trek along the river. The gentle terrain makes for an easy yet breathtaking hike, with towering mountains framing the distant lake.

At Kel-Suu Lake, admire the spectacular scenery and, if desired, take a short boat ride on the pristine waters. After soaking in the beauty, return to the guesthouse for dinner and a comfortable overnight stay.

Item	Details
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
Overnight	Guesthouse (3,200 m)
WC	Shared WC
Shower	On request
Internet	Wi-Fi (paid)
Notes & Recommendations	Trekking is generally easy, with one slightly challenging section near the lake Horseback riding is available as an alternative for an additional fee Yurt accommodation is possible, but guesthouse is recommended due to cold weather

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**Day 5. Radial hike to the foot of Karakol Peak (5,216 m / hiking distance: 16 km / around 6–7 hours)**



Today is the longest driving day of your journey, so start with an early breakfast before retracing the route back to Naryn. Upon arrival, refuel the car and enjoy lunch before continuing toward Ysyk-Kol Lake, passing over Dolon Pass (3,030 m) and through Kochkor Village.

If time permits, make a short stop at the Ak-Say Canyons to admire the striking rock formations with a lake and mountains in the distance.

In the evening, arrive at your guesthouse in Bokonbaev Village on the southern shore of Ysyk-Kol Lake. Take a brief walk to stretch your legs before enjoying a relaxing dinner.

Item	Details
Transfer	Total: 390 km – 7–8 h Asphalt: 260 km Dirt road: 130 km
Meals	Breakfast at hotel, lunch at guesthouse, dinner at guesthouse
Overnight	Guesthouse
WC	Shared / Private
Shower	Available

Internet	Wi-Fi
Notes & Recommendations	The drive is long, so start early with breakfast. Bokonbaev guesthouses are slightly farther from the lake; if you prefer to stay closer, yurt accommodations are available please confirm with us.

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### Day 6. South shore of Ysyk-Kol Lake



Start your day with a fascinating eagle hunting demonstration by a local Kyrgyz eagle hunter, experiencing this unique tradition up close. Then, drive to the [stunning Fairy-Tale Canyons](#) to explore their dramatic rock formations and colorful landscapes. Stop in Tamga Village for lunch at the home of the famous Soviet-era mountaineer.

After lunch, continue to the [impressive Barskoon Waterfalls](#), followed by a visit to the picturesque Jety-Oguz Valley, known for its striking red rock formations.

In the evening, arrive in Karakol, where time permitting, you can take a short city tour before enjoying dinner at a local restaurant.

Item	Details
Transfer	Total: 150 km – 3–4 h Asphalt: 120 km Dirt road: 30 km
Meals	Breakfast at guesthouse, lunch at guesthouse, dinner at restaurant.
Overnight	Hotel
WC	Private
Shower	Available
Internet	Wi-Fi
Notes & Recommendations	The eagle hunting demonstration is staged on animal skins; real hunting on horseback is only in winter The demonstration is optional and can be skipped if preferred

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### Day 7. Trek to Altyn-Arashan Gorge



Begin your day with a drive to Ak-Suu Village near [Karakol](#), then set off on a scenic trek to [Altyn-Arashan Gorge](#), carrying a small backpack. The trail follows a sparkling river through lush alpine forests, offering breathtaking views of surrounding mountains. Pause along the way for a relaxing picnic by the river, soaking in the fresh mountain air and peaceful sounds of nature.

By early evening, arrive at the Altyn-Arashan guesthouse and enjoy the natural hot springs to relax tired muscles. Conclude the day with a hearty dinner and the opportunity to unwind under the stars in this tranquil alpine setting.

*Optional horseback riding or a ride in a classic Soviet 4×4 UAZ is available for those who prefer an easier journey.*

Item	Details
Transfer	Total: 30 km – 30 min Asphalt: 30 km Dirt road: 0 km
Trekking	12 km – 5 h
Meals	Breakfast at hotel, picnic lunch, dinner at guesthouse.
Overnight	Guesthouse
WC	Shared
Shower	Hot springs
Internet	Wi-Fi
Notes & Recommendations	Leave large bag at hotel or in car; take only a backpack with essentials for the 2-day trek Trekking difficulty: easy to medium Optional horseback ride or 4×4 UAZ ride available for additional fee

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## Day 8. Trek back to Ak-Suu Village and drive back to Bishkek



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

Upon arrival at Ak-Suu, drive to Karakol for lunch and a final taste of local cuisine. Continue along the northern shore of Ysyk-Kol Lake, taking in its sparkling waters and the surrounding mountains of this “Pearl of Central Asia.”

Arrive in Bishkek in the evening, marking the conclusion of your 8-day Kyrgyzstan adventure filled with horseback riding, trekking, hidden lakes, and authentic nomadic experiences.

Item	Details
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.
Overnight	–
WC	–
Shower	–

Internet	-
Notes & Recommendations	The drive back to Bishkek is long but mostly on asphalt; depart Alтын-Arashan early Expected arrival in Bishkek: 8–9 PM



## Tour Pricing

Number of People	Total Price (USD)	Price Per Person (USD)
1	\$2,323	\$2,323
2	\$3,082	\$1,541
3	\$3,726	\$1,242
4	\$4,692	\$1,173

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### ✓ What's Include

- 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

### ✗ What's 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 cost:**

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

**Eagle Hunting Demonstration:** 80 USD per group.

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## NOTES

**Tour Overview:**

This tour is ideal for those who want an active experience without anything too difficult. The tour is fast-paced due to limited time but covers many of Kyrgyzstan's highlights. Be prepared for some long drives and scenic mountain roads.

**Horse Riding & Trekking:**

No prior horse-riding experience is needed.

- The 2-day trek to Altyn-Arashan is of easy to moderate difficulty. You can choose to ride a horse or take a ride in the famous Soviet 4×4 UAZ for an extra fee.
- The trek to Kel-Suu Lake can also optionally be done on horseback for an additional cost.

**Meals:**

Meals feature traditional Central Asian cuisine.

Vegetarian options are available; please let your tour manager know about any dietary restrictions or allergies in advance.

**Money & Payments:**

Credit cards are widely accepted in towns, but it's recommended to carry some Kyrgyz Som for small expenses.

About \$10 per day is typically enough for personal spending.

Avoid exchanging USD at the airport, as banks or official exchange offices in Bishkek offer better rates. Your guide can help with currency exchange.

**Communication & Internet:**

Internet is usually available in cities and towns, though coverage may be limited or slower in remote mountain areas.

Purchasing a local SIM card, preferably from MEGACOM, is recommended for better connectivity.

**Electricity:**

Kyrgyzstan uses 220V electricity with Type C and F (European-style round) plugs. Bring the appropriate adapters for your devices.

**Languages:**

The official languages are Kyrgyz and Russian. Basic English is spoken in urban areas, but knowing a few Russian or Kyrgyz phrases can be helpful in rural regions. Your guide will assist with translation when needed.

**Health & Safety:**

Travel insurance that covers medical emergencies and adventure activities is highly recommended.

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## What to pack?

**Clothing:**

- 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 wind

**Horseback Riding & trekking**

- Long pants for riding
- Comfortable trekking pants and shorts
- Riding gloves (optional)
- Comfortable trekking shoes or boots
- Lightweight, breathable clothing
- Trekking poles (optional)
- Small daypack for essentials

**Other Essentials:**

- 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:**

- Binoculars for wildlife spotting
- Light snacks for trekking
- Notebook or travel journal

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## Check visa policy

Find your country from the list and check possible visa requirements for [Kyrgyzstan](#)

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*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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