

Best of Kyrgyzstan: Discover Finest Lakes, Steppe Land & Historic Towns - 8 days SR-05



Kyrgyzstan stands at the very core of Central Asia, boasting unparalleled mountain vistas, rich shepherd traditions, nomadic heritage, and expansive summer pastures known as "jailoos." Among all the nations in Central Asia, Kyrgyzstan distinguishes itself as the most accessible for Western travelers, offering visa-free entry, a well-established network of homestays, and a variety of souvenirs for purchase. Spring, summer, and autumn emerge as the ideal seasons for exploration, when hiking and road trips become readily available. This journey encompasses the nation's capital, Bishkek, replete with museums and restaurants, while also venturing into the country's most breathtaking lakes, canyons, and vast steppes.

DEPARTURE DATES:

05.04.2024; 05.11.2024; 05.18.2024; 05.25.2024; 06.01.2024; 06.08.2024; 06.15.2024;
06.22.2024; 06.29.2024; 07.06.2024; 07.13.2024; 07.20.2024; 07.27.2024; 08.03.2024;
08.10.2024; 08.17.2024; 08.24.2024; 08.31.2024; 09.07.2024; 09.14.2024; 09.21.2024;
09.28.2024; 10.05.2024; 10.12.2024; 10.19.2024; 10.26.2024.

ITINERARY

Day 1 - Saturday - Bishkek

Upon your arrival, our guide and driver will be there to greet you and provide transportation to your hotel. Your Kyrgyz adventure will kick off with a visit to Ala Archa Natural Park, which is located just 45 kilometers away. Here, you can take a scenic hike alongside the river, immersing yourself in the stunning mountain landscapes. Following a picnic in this natural setting, you'll return to the city, with stops at the Baytik Baatyr mausoleum. Afterward, you'll explore key city landmarks such as Ala Too Central Square, the State History Museum, Bishkek's own White House, Parliament House, the Lenin Statue, and witness the Changing of the Guard ceremony. (D)

Day 2 - Sunday - Bishkek - Son Kul Lake

On the second day of your journey, you'll have the opportunity to experience genuine local hospitality and meet the people who continue to live by traditional nomadic practices. To reach your destination, you'll travel through the picturesque Boom gorge, passing by the Orto Tokoi water reservoir. Your journey will take you over the Kalmak Ashuu mountain pass, reaching an impressive elevation of 3,445 meters, before stopping for a delightful lunch with a welcoming Kyrgyz family. The day will conclude with dinner and an overnight stay in a traditional yurt camp, allowing you to fully immerse yourself in the authentic nomadic way of life. The total driving distance for the day will be approximately 360 kilometers (225 miles). (B,L,D)

Day 3 - Monday - Son Kul Lake - Tash Rabat Caravanserai

Today, you'll embark on a car journey to Naryn, a town located amid picturesque mountain landscapes. You'll pass over the Moldo Ashuu mountain pass, which stands at a breathtaking elevation of 3,665 meters, providing you with stunning panoramic views of the surrounding terrain. In Naryn town, you'll enjoy lunch with a local family, experiencing their warm hospitality and local cuisine.

TOUR INCLUSIONS AND OPTIONAL EXTRAS

Included

Accommodation
Full board meals
English - speaking guides
Guided tours & entrance fees
Airport transfers

Not included

Personal travel insurance
Optional excursions

Practical information

About Go Russia company
Book with Confidence - Covid FAQs

Following this, your journey will take you to Tash Rabat, where you'll explore an ancient Caravanserai. This remarkable stone structure, dating back to the 15th century, once served as an inn for merchants and travelers along the Silk Road. It is celebrated as one of the best-preserved Silk Road sites globally, offering a captivating glimpse into history. The total driving distance for the day will be approximately 280 kilometers (175 miles). (B,L,D)

Day 4 - Tuesday - Tash Rabat Caravanserai - Naryn town - Kochkor village

Your journey will take you to Naryn, a town renowned for its traditional felt-making and the crafting of 'shyrdak' felt rugs. In Naryn, you'll also have the opportunity to explore the local culture further by visiting the Central mosque, the central square, and an art gallery. If you're interested in acquiring shyrdaks, Kyrgyzstan offers a wide variety of them, many adorned with motifs inspired by nature, such as animal horns and mountains. Following your visit to Naryn, your adventure will continue as you travel to Kochkor village, crossing over the Dolon pass, which reaches an elevation of 3,030 meters. In Kochkor, you'll have the chance to explore a handicraft museum-shop, where you can appreciate and purchase exquisite handmade crafts. The total driving distance for the day will be approximately 230 kilometers (143 miles). (B,L,D)

Day 5 - Wednesday - Kochkor village - Jety Oguz canyon - Karakol town

Today, you will embark on an excursion to the picturesque Jety-Oguz gorge, a natural wonder nestled in a canyon on the northern slope of the Terskey Ala-Too range. Located approximately 25 kilometers southwest of Karakol, this stunning gorge boasts an elevation of 2,200 meters. It is known for its distinctive red sandstone rock formations, which provide a highly photogenic and awe-inspiring backdrop. Two of the most iconic rock formations in the region, the Broken Heart and Seven Bulls, have come to symbolize the beauty of the Issyk Kul region and are reminiscent of picture-postcard-perfect scenery. To further immerse yourself in local culture, you'll enjoy a traditional dinner with a welcoming local family and spend the night in a guesthouse. The total driving distance for the day will be approximately 270 kilometers (168 miles). (B,L,D)

Day 6 - Thursday - Karakol - Cholpon Ata town

Karakol, the fourth-largest city in Kyrgyzstan, is a prominent tourist destination and serves as a central hub for those interested in hiking, trekking, skiing, and mountaineering adventures in the high central Tian Shan region to the south and east.

During your visit to Karakol, you'll have the opportunity to explore its diverse cultural and historical sites. This includes a visit to the Dungan mosque, a Russian Orthodox cathedral, and the Przhivalskii museum. Additionally, you'll have the chance to explore some Scythian burial mounds and view ancient petroglyphs, offering insights into the rich history of the area. Lunch will be enjoyed in a local café, allowing you to savor local cuisine. Later in the day, you'll have dinner and spend the night in a hotel

located by the lakeshore, with time to relax and visit the beautiful lakeside beach. The total driving distance for the day will be approximately 150 kilometers (93 miles). (B,L,D)

Day 7 - Friday - Cholpon Ata town - Bishkek

Today, you will embark on a scenic drive along the northern lakeshore toward Bishkek, the capital of Kyrgyzstan. En route, you'll make a fascinating stop at the Burana archaeological and architectural site. Burana was once the historical city of Balasagun, serving as the capital of the Karakhanids State during the 10th to 12th centuries. Today, you can explore the remnants of an ancient minaret and the ruins of three mausoleums, providing a window into the city's rich history. It's worth noting that Balasagun held such significance that Genghis Khan's Mongol Horde chose to spare the city from destruction. During your journey, you'll enjoy a local lunch with a welcoming family, offering you a taste of Kyrgyz hospitality. As the day comes to a close, you'll spend the night in a hotel in Bishkek, marking the final leg of your journey. The total driving distance for the day will be approximately 280 kilometers (175 miles). (B,L,D)

Day 8 - Saturday - Bishkek

After breakfast you will be transferred to the airport for your flight back home. (B)

AVAILABLE PACKAGES

COMFORT PACKAGE

| Dates | Tour Price | Single suppliment |
|-------------------------|------------|-------------------|
| 05/04/2024 - 05/11/2024 | \$1595 | \$195 |
| 05/11/2024 - 05/18/2024 | \$1595 | \$195 |
| 05/18/2024 - 05/25/2024 | \$1595 | \$195 |
| 05/25/2024 - 06/01/2024 | \$1595 | \$195 |
| 06/01/2024 - 06/08/2024 | \$1595 | \$195 |
| 06/08/2024 - 06/15/2024 | \$1595 | \$195 |
| 06/15/2024 - 06/22/2024 | \$1595 | \$195 |
| 06/22/2024 - 06/29/2024 | \$1595 | \$195 |
| 06/29/2024 - 07/06/2024 | \$1595 | \$195 |
| 07/06/2024 - 07/13/2024 | \$1595 | \$195 |
| 07/13/2024 - 07/20/2024 | \$1595 | \$195 |
| 07/20/2024 - 07/27/2024 | \$1595 | \$195 |
| 07/27/2024 - 08/03/2024 | \$1595 | \$195 |
| 08/03/2024 - 08/10/2024 | \$1595 | \$195 |
| 08/10/2024 - 08/17/2024 | \$1595 | \$195 |
| 08/17/2024 - 08/24/2024 | \$1595 | \$195 |
| 08/24/2024 - 08/31/2024 | \$1595 | \$195 |
| 08/31/2024 - 09/07/2024 | \$1595 | \$195 |
| 09/07/2024 - 09/14/2024 | \$1595 | \$195 |
| 09/14/2024 - 09/21/2024 | \$1595 | \$195 |
| 09/21/2024 - 09/28/2024 | \$1595 | \$195 |
| 09/28/2024 - 10/05/2024 | \$1595 | \$195 |
| 10/05/2024 - 10/12/2024 | \$1595 | \$195 |
| 10/12/2024 - 10/19/2024 | \$1595 | \$195 |
| 10/19/2024 - 10/26/2024 | \$1595 | \$195 |
| 10/26/2024 - 11/02/2024 | \$1595 | \$195 |

ALTERNATIVE TOURS AND TAILOR-MADE ARRANGEMENTS

In addition to organized group tours, we also offer individual trips. This could be an entirely separate holiday

arrangement or an extension to a regular "Go Russia" trip. Whether you would like to travel independently, or just with the group of your friends or colleagues, we can help to realise your holiday plans. Depending on your preference for either comfort or budget, we can help you to design the ideal itinerary and provide the optimal value-for-money quote. Please [contact us for a quote](#).

Based on your chosen tour we believe you might be interested in alternative trips listed below:

- > [Great Uzbekistan Discovery: from Fergana to Khiva \(SR-06\)](#), Price from \$2,095, 13 days
- > [Highlights of Uzbekistan: Tashkent, Samarkand, Bukhara, Khiva \(SR-04\)](#), Price from \$1,145, 8 days
- > [Best of Uzbekistan: Tashkent, Chimgan, Samarkand, Shakhrisabz, Bukhara, Khiva \(SR-07\)](#), Price from \$1,745, 10 days
- > [Best of Mongolia Jeep Tour: Ulan-Bator, Gobi Desert, Karakorum \(MN-03\)](#), Price from \$2,495, 10 days

INFORMATION ABOUT VISAS

Go Russia provides assistance in processing visas and visa fees are included in the cost of most of our trips as detailed in the tour dossier. The visa application process is very straightforward. We have years of practical experience in dealing with tourist visas, and our in-house visa team provides assistance with completing the forms and checking the documents before consular submission. Please do not worry that your application will be unsuccessful (unless you have had any immigration issues with the relevant authorities in the past). All our tourists get their visas.

All nationalities require a full passport valid for at least six months beyond the intended length of stay. Please also make sure there are enough blank pages in your passport: Russian consulate requires minimum two blank pages.

USA, UK, Germany, France, Spain residents

We have in-house visa teams in the US, UK, Germany, France and Spain. Upon your booking we will email you detailed guidance notes how to fill in the visa forms and what additional documents depending on nationality and your immigration status will be required. You will need to post your application pack to our visa processing office including your original passport. Please allow about two weeks for each visa application to be processed. Please advise us if you require your passport urgently, we can arrange urgent processing for an additional charge.

Non-USA, UK, Germany, France, Spain residents

If you are not resident in the USA, UK, Germany, France or Spain, we will issue official paperwork and email the required documents to you. You will need to apply for your visa at the local consulate. The process is very straightforward and we can assist you with completing the visa forms. You will have to pay the correct visa fee at the consulate in the country of your residence.

You can read more information about visa and application forms on our website:

www.justgorussia.com/us/visa_services.html

HOW TO BOOK

Step 1 - Choose Your Holiday & Departure Dates

It is important that you choose a trip that is well suited to your interests, capabilities and experience. All our staff has first hand experience of a range of Go Russia holidays and will be happy to talk to you about your chosen trip, enabling you to assess its suitability. We also recommend that you read the descriptions of the relevant region, general information about our services, booking conditions, and trip dossiers carefully. Once you know what tour is right for you, as well as your departure dates, you can start your booking.

Step 2 - Complete the Booking Form

Online: log on to www.justgorussia.com and open the tour you wish to book and click "Book now". To provide you with a more personalised and relevant experience in all your contact with Go Russia, when you book online we ask you to register on our system. Once registered you can retrieve your bookings, brochure requests, lecture participation, update newsletter subscriptions, passenger and emergency contact details, submit special dietary requests, view invoices and receipts, download trip documents.

Email: alternatively, you can book your tour per email - info@justgorussia.com, or

Phone: call us on +1 (917) 259 13 33

When booking by email or over the phone please confirm your personal details (full name and address), chosen tour,

departure date, package type (hotel / cabin category), and available upgrades.

Step 3 - Confirmation of your booking

On receipt of your booking form, we will make any necessary reservations for you and send you confirmation invoice, including the flight details, and additional information about your destination: advice on visas, vaccinations and what to take. The invoice will also show you the exact due date of the payment.

Step 4 - Payment

Please note, if your departure date is more than 56 days you will need to pay the deposit, which should cover the full cost of the flight (if applicable), plus 10% of the land-only arrangements (minimum \$250) per person towards your tour. The outstanding payment must be made 56 days prior to departure. If you book less than 56 days before departure, full payment must be made at the time of your booking. You can make your payment by bank transfer or credit card (2% surcharge applies for credit card payments). You will find all relevant payment details in your invoice.

