

Around the Issyk Kul Lake



Days: 7

Price: 800 USD
International flight not included

Comfort: ★★☆☆☆

Difficult: ★★☆☆☆

Must see Culture
Travel with children

The **Issyk-Kul Lake** is the second largest alpine lake in the world, and is often nicknamed the « Pearl of Kyrgyzstan ». Surrounded by the **Celestial Mountains**, it looks like an inland sea. In the valleys of Issyk Kul, you'll discover **forests, rivers, gorges, canyons and waterfalls**, all while enjoying a splendid view on this mysterious lake. Your tour around the lake will take you to welcoming Kyrgyz families, unveil their culture and immerse you in this exceptional natural environment.

Day 1. Welcome and rest day in the Taty Mountains



Manas airport 📍
🚗 60km - ⌚ 1h 30m
Karabulak 📍

Manas airport - Karabulak

- Your driver will pick you up at the Manas airport upon arrival.

Transfer to Karabulak, a relaxation center nestled in the gorges of **Tatyr** and **Kashka-Suu**.
- We meet at 11h30 a.m. in the lobby and head for a small hike in the surroundings of the camp, to discover the beautiful landscape. After one hour, we stop for a barbecue. After lunch, you are free to rest in this calm environment, or go for a hike.

🍴 Lunch	Barbecue
🏠 Accommodation	Karabulak

Day 2. Towards Central Asia's blue pearl



Karabulak 📍
🚗 90km - ⌚ 1h 40m
Burana's minaret 📍
🚗 95km - ⌚ 1h 30m
Konorchek 📍
🚗 100km - ⌚ 1h 50m
Tamchy 📍

Karabulak - Burana's minaret

- We stop to visit the ruins of the **Burana Minaret**, a Jami mosque destroyed in the 13th century during invasions. The monument is rich in history, archeological findings and legends, and belongs to the Unesco world heritage. We can climb at the top of the tower to get a beautiful view on the valley and the mountains. We'll also visit the museum on site.

Burana's minaret - Konorchek

- Then we'll go for a short hike in the **Konorchek Canyons**, a gorge with towering red, orange and yellow rocks similar to the Grand Canyon. You'll be impressed and intimidated by the heights of the rock formations.

Konorchek - Tamchy

- Finally, we make it to the shores of the **Issyk-Kul Lake** (1609m or 5979ft above sea level), the second largest alpine lake in the world. This is what we call the pearl of Kyrgyzstan. It is surrounded by the **Celestial Mountains**, with snow-capped summits that climb above 5000m, and are reflected in the crystal clear water. Several dozen rivers drop from the mountains into the lake via stunning valleys.

🍴 Lunch	Local restaurant
🍷 Dinner	Guest house
🏠 Accommodation	Guest house

Day 3. Horseback riding in the Grigorievka Valley



Tamchy 📍
 🚗 50km - ⌚ 45m
 Tcholpon-Ata 📍
 🚗 80km - ⌚ 1h 30m
 Grigorievka 📍

Tamchy - Tcholpon-Ata

- In the morning, we visit the **cultural center Ruh-Ordo** in Cholpon-Ata. This center, nestled in a peaceful environment, is dedicated to the harmony between the four main religions, Islam, Judaism, Christianity and Buddhism. There are also spaces dedicated to art exhibits, and to main figures of Greek culture and of Kyrgyzstan.

Tcholpon-Ata - Grigorievka

- North of Grigorievka, we take a small mountain trail to the **Chong Ak-Suu Valley** during approximately 40 minutes. We settle in a family's house and leave for a **horseback riding adventure** in the green valley. We follow the "*great white river*", a strong mountain torrent, and visit a small alpine lake.

☕ Breakfast	Guest house
🍴 Lunch	Homestay
🍷 Dinner	Homestay
🏠 Accommodation	Yurt Homestay

Day 4. The Seven Bulls of Jety Oguz



Grigorievka 📍
 🚗 130km - ⌚ 2h 50m
 Karakol 📍
 🚗 30km - ⌚ 40m
 Jety-öghüz 📍
 🚗 100km - ⌚ 1h 20m
 Bokonbayevo 📍

Grigorievka - Karakol

- We arrive at Karakol, a small town that borders **Issky-Kul**. We take the time to visit its Saint Trinity Cathedral, an orthodox from the 19th century; and its **Chinese mosque** which looks like a Mongol Buddhist temple, built by the Dungan population. Finally, we visit the **** Przewalsky museum ****, where you will learn about local history.

Karakol - Jety-öghüz

- We then drive to the **Jety Orguz Valley**. Covered with fertile vegetation, this gorge is probably one of the prettiest in the country. It stretches over 37 km (23 miles), between the Issyk Kul Lake and the Tian Shan Mountains. Strange rock formations, nicknamed the "seven bulls" and the "broken heart", fill the place with mystical legends. We hike in the valley.

Jety-öghüz - Bokonbayevo

- Before heading towards our guest house, we visit the superb Skazka Canyons, whose name translates as **Fairy Tale Canyons** in Kyrgyz language. Formed from erosion, the rocks tower over the Issyk Kul Lake and offer a great contrast in color. Let your imagination work to make out the shapes of the rocks.

☕ Breakfast	Homestay
🍴 Lunch	Local restaurant
🍷 Dinner	Guest house Emeli
🏠 Accommodation	Guest house Emeli

Day 5. Discovering Eagle Hunting



Bokonbayevo 📍
🚗 35km - ⌚ 30m
Kyzyl-Tuu 📍

- This morning, we attend an **eagle hunting demonstration**. The Kyrgyz hunter, on his horse, will show you the impressive agility of his eagle, who will have to catch small preys like a rabbit.
- We'll then arrive in the small village of Kyzyl-Tuu, famous for its traditional fabrication of yurts. One family in the village will show you **how to build a yurt**, and you'll be welcomed to help them in this task.

☕ Breakfast	Guest house Emeli
🍴 Lunch	Homestay
🍷 Dinner	Homestay
🏠 Accommodation	Homestay

Day 6. Visit Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan's capital



Kyzyl-Tuu 📍
🚗 290km - ⌚ 5h 30m
Bishkek 📍

Kyzyl-Tuu - Bishkek

- This is our last day before getting back to the capital. We leave the mountains of Kyrgyzstan, where we met a generous culture, and go back to Bishkek. Drop-off at your hotel, where you'll be able to relax.
- We visit the **Osh Bazar**, one of the most fascinating markets in Kyrgyzstan. Enjoy the colors and the smells coming from stands of dry fruits and spices. You can also buy a few traditional souvenirs to bring home.
- We walk on the **Ala Too Square** in the center of Bishkek. Meeting place for Bishkek's youth, it comes alive every evening with families and friends who come here to relax. It's also an important historical place, since it hosted several revolutions.

☕ Breakfast	Homestay
🍴 Lunch	Local restaurant
🏠 Accommodation	Hotel 3 star

Day 7. Have a nice trip!



Bishkek 📍
🚗 30km - ⌚ 40m
Manas airport 📍
Departure 📍

Bishkek - Manas airport

- Breakfast at your hotel. We drive you back to the airport at the time of your flight.

☕ Breakfast	Hotel 3 star
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Itinerary map



Individual price per person

2-2	3-3	4-4	5-5	6-6	7-8
1650 USD	1250 USD	1000 USD	950 USD	850 USD	800 USD

You can also privatize this tour for your family or friends at the dates of your choice. The price will then depend on the number of participants. If you choose this option, then the program can be modified to fit all of your desires.

Included

- Airport transfers
- 1 night in a 3-star hotel in Bishkek, breakfast included
- 1 night in a lodge camp
- 2 nights in family stays, including 1 under a yurt
- 2 nights in guest houses
- Mineral water
- All meals during the excursion
- Driver and car, fuel
- English-Speaking Guide
- Local horse guides
- Horse rental
- Entrance fees to parks and museums included in the program

Not included

- International transport
- Passport fees
- Medical insurance
- Travel insurance
- Extra drinks / alcohol
- Meals in Bishkek
- Phone calls
- Any excursion not mentioned in the program
- Extra fees for single room