

"The Great Loop": Around Kyrgyzstan



Days: 20
Price: 2700 USD
International flight not included
Comfort: ★★★★★
Difficult: ★★★☆☆
Must see Adventure
Off the beaten track Culture
Mountains Horse riding Hiking

Come for a great adventure on the Kyrgyz roads. You'll get to visit all of the best sights of the country. Let yourself be amazed by the **alpine lakes**, the **snowy mountains** and the breath-taking landscapes on your way.

Day 1. Welcome and relax in Chunkurchak mountains



Manas airport
30km - 40m
Bishkek

- Your guide will meet you in the hotel lobby at 11H30 and take you to a valley near Bishkek, **Chunkurchak**, where you'll enjoy a barbecue.
- You'll then have a relaxing afternoon, with a small hike in this calm environment. Back to Bishkek in the evening.

Lunch	Barbecue
Accommodation	Hotel 3 star

Day 2. Osh, and its rich history



Bishkek
60km - 1h 30m
Manas airport
Bishkek
630km - 40m
Osh

Bishkek - Osh

- We take a domestic flight from Bishkek to **Osh**. Enjoy the view on the high summits from the plane.
- Then, we visit the sacred mountain of **Sulaiman-Too**, also known as the **Throne of Salomon**. This is an important pilgrimage sight for local Muslims, rich in mystical legends. In 2009, it was added to the UNESCO world heritage list.

We visit the **historical museum**, carved into a nearby cliff.

Breakfast	Hotel 3 star
Lunch	Local restaurant
Dinner	Local restaurant
Accommodation	Sunrise 2 Osh

Day 3-4. Arslanbob's waterfalls



Osh - Jalal-abad

- In the morning, we'll visit the historical **bazar** of Osh city, which has always been an important commercial place. Enjoy the smell and colors of the spices, the dry fruits, the samsa and the textiles. You might also be able to find some local souvenirs.
- We leave for Jalal-Abad, the third biggest city in Kyrgyzstan. On the road, we'll visit the historical sight of Uzgen, where you'll be able to see three mausoleums and one minaret from the **11th century**.

Osh

110km - 1h 40m
Jalal-abad

85km - 1h 30m
Arslanbob

Jalal-abad - Arslanbob

- After driving on a dirt road, we finally reach the picturesque Uzbek village of Arslanbob. Nestled in the mountains at an altitude of 1600m, besides one of the world's largest **walnut forests**, this village, which looks like no other in Kyrgyzstan, is a paradise for hikers.

Day 4

- Today, we go for a hike in the ****walnut forest****, where we'll be able to glance at two splendid waterfalls. We'll take our lunch in this relaxing and stunning environment.

4-5 hours hike

Breakfast	<p>3 Sunrise 2 Osh</p> <p>4 Guest house</p>
Lunch	<p>3 Local restaurant</p> <p>4 Guest house</p>
Dinner	Guest house
Accommodation	Guest house

Day 5-6. The turquoise waters of Sary Chelek



Arslanbob - Arkit village

- We get back on the road for **Sary-Chelek**. We cross mountainous landscapes, with their bright contrasting colors. Lunch on the road.

Day 6

- This morning, we go **horseback riding** to discover this little lake at 1837m (6027 ft) altitude.

We can rest by the lake, and even go for a short swim in its clear water.

Arslanbob

240km - 5h
Arkit village

15km - 2h 30m
Sary-Chelek lake

Arkit village

Breakfast	<p>5 Guest house</p> <p>6 Guest house</p>
Lunch	<p>5 Prepared by your team</p> <p>6 Guest house</p>
Dinner	Guest house
Accommodation	Guest house

Day 7. The Toktogul dam



Arkit village 📍
 🚗 260km - ⌚ 5h
 Toktogoul Lake 📍
 Toktogoul 📍

Arkit village - Toktogoul Lake

- We take the road towards **Toktogul**, a large artificial lake of 284km².

The landscape is breath-taking, with mountains and cliffs of all colors. We go through the magnificent Low-Naryn gorge, and follow a river of the same name. The turquoise water only adds to the beauty of the scenery.

☕ Breakfast	Guest house
🍴 Lunch	Local restaurant
🍽️ Dinner	Guest house
🏠 Accommodation	Guest house

Day 8. Along the Kekemerren River



Toktogul 📍
 🚗 150km - ⌚ 2h
 Suusamyryn valley 📍
 🚗 45km - ⌚ 1h
 Kyzyl-Oi 📍

Toktogul - Suusamyryn valley

- Finally, we arrive in the **Suusamyryn Valley**, and are amazed by its superb landscape – one that you could easily find on a postal card of Kyrgyzstan.

Suusamyryn valley - Kyzyl-Oi

- We continue our trip to Kyzyl Oi, which translates as "the red bowl".

This little village, located at 1800m altitude (5905ft), gets its name from the surrounding red mountains. The road is a little harsh, but this new landscape will astonish you.

☕ Breakfast	Guest house
🍴 Lunch	Local restaurant
🍽️ Dinner	Guest house
🏠 Accommodation	Guest house

Day 9-10. Horseback riding at Son Kul Lake



Kyzyl-Oi 📍
 🚗 140km - ⌚ 4h
 Son Kul lake 📍

Kyzyl-Oi - Son Kul lake

- We arrive on the shores of **Son Kul Lake**. This huge alpine lake is an important water reserve in Kyrgyzstan. Nestled in the celestial mountains, it is located at 3016 m (9895 ft) above sea level. Its crystal clear water changes colors depending on the weather, which can change every hour. The lake takes on blue, turquoise and sometimes even orange colors. It hosts nomadic shepherds and their herds in the warm months of summer.

Day 9

- You can enjoy the day, relax, and discover the daily life of our host family. You might be lucky enough to attend the production of Kumys, the local mare milk, or see how shepherds gather their herds.

Day 10

- We leave after breakfast to discover the lake on a horse.

☕ Breakfast	9 Guest house
	10 Homestay

🍴 Lunch	Homestay
🍷 Dinner	Homestay
🏠 Accommodation	Yurt Homestay

Day 11-12. On the Silk Road



Son-Kul lake 📍
 🚗 150km - ⌚ 3h 30m
 Naryn 📍
 🚗 115km - ⌚ 2h 30m
 Tash Rabat 📍

Son-Kul lake - Naryn

- We get back in our car to continue our adventure. We go through the Teskei-Torpok (3133 m) pass and take a road called the **33 parrots** due to its 33 curves. We get to see splendid landscape in the valley of Korgo, before getting back on the main road to **Naryn**.
- We arrive in the city of Naryn, Kyrgyzstan's highest city, nestled in beautifully-colored mountains and crossed by the Naryn River. We have lunch there, before getting on with our adventure.

Naryn - Tash Rabat

- We travel in time with our visit of the **Tash Rabat caravanserai**. Located on the road to Khasgar, China, this **stone hotel** is one of the best preserved monuments of the **Silk Road**. You'll be able to feel the original atmosphere of this merchant spot when exploring the caravanserai. In the 15th century, it had many rooms to host the traveling merchants, and sometimes their animals.

Day 12

- Today, we'll hike toward the Tash Rabat pass, from which we'll have a splendid panoramic view on the **Chatyr-Kul Lake**, which translates as the "celestial lake". It is nestled between the At Bashy and Torugart-Too mountain range, at 3530 m (11581 ft), by the Chinese border. Chatyr-Kul is the third largest lake in the country.

☕ Breakfast	11 Homestay 12 camp
🍴 Lunch	11 Local restaurant 12 Prepared by your team
🍷 Dinner	camp
🏠 Accommodation	camp

Day 13. Kochkor, a cultural town



Tash Rabat 📍
 🚗 240km - ⌚ 4h 30m
 Kochkor 📍

Tash Rabat - Kochkor

- We go back on the main road, this time towards the village of Kochkor, known for its local development initiatives. We then visit a felt fabric held by an association of women. Discover the **Kyrgyz felt rug**, shyrdak, and other handmade handicrafts.
- In the evening, you'll be charmed by a concert of **traditional Kyrgyz music**. The program includes extracts of the Manas epos, traditional songs and instruments.

☕ Breakfast	camp
🍴 Lunch	Local restaurant
🍷 Dinner	Homestay
🏠 Accommodation	Homestay

Day 14. The enchanting Skazka canyons



Kotchkor 📍
🚗 90km - ⌚ 1h 20m
Kyzyl-Tuu 📍
🚗 35km - ⌚ 30m
Bokonbayevo 📍

Kotchkor - Kyzyl-Tuu

- We 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.

Kyzyl-Tuu - Bokonbayevo

- Then, we attend an **eagle hunting demonstration** near the village of Bokonbayevo. 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.
- 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 and volcanic eruptions, 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	Homestay
🍷 Dinner	Homestay
🏠 Accommodation	Yurt Homestay

Day 15. The Seven Bulls of Jety-Oguz



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

Bokonbayevo - Jety-öghüz

- We arrive at 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 - Karakol

- Finally, we make it to Karakol, a small town that borders **Issyk-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. We also visit the Przewalsky museum, where you will learn about local history.

☕ Breakfast	Homestay
🍴 Lunch	Prepared by your team
🍷 Dinner	Local restaurant
🏠 Accommodation	2 stars hotel

Day 16. The Golden Spa of Altyn Arashan



Karakol - Altyn-Arashan

- We hike towards the **Golden spa** of Altyn Arashan, located at around 3000m (9842ft) altitude. To reach the **hot springs**, we take a small trail near the Arashan river and gradually climb up. At the summit, we'll have an incredible view on the surrounding mountains, including the Palatka ("tent") Peak.

Car assistance.

Karakol 📍
12km - 🕒 4h
Altyn-Arachan 📍

- After this hike, we get to relax in the famous **natural hot springs** of the valley, known for their curative properties.
- Tonight, enjoy an original evening in Karakol. You'll be welcomed by a **Dungan family**, and get to taste their culinary specialties, different from what you've been able to try so far.

🍳 Breakfast	2 stars hotel
🍴 Lunch	Prepared by your team
🍷 Dinner	Own
🏠 Accommodation	2 stars hotel

Day 17. The Chon Suu River



Karakol 📍
🚗 25km - 🕒 30m
Ak-Suu valley 📍
🚗 120km - 🕒 1h 50m
Grigorievka 📍

Karakol - Ak-Suu valley

- We go to the splendid Ak-Suu Gorge, located around 15 km (9.3 miles) east of Karakol. We take this opportunity to bathe in the **hot mineral sources**.

Ak-Suu valley - 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.

We follow the "*great white river*", a strong mountain torrent.

You can rent kayaks near our camp to discover the surroundings (optional)

🍳 Breakfast	2 stars hotel
🍴 Lunch	camp
🍷 Dinner	camp
🏠 Accommodation	camp

Day 18. Rafting in the Chuy River



Grigorievka 📍
🚗 161km - 🕒 3h
Chon-Kemin National Park 📍

Grigorievka - Chon-Kemin National Park

- We arrive in the green Chon Kemin Valley, a stunning natural reserve with landscapes varying from large forests, glaciers, gorges and semi-desertic planes. We'll go for a **walk** in the surroundings.
- Let's go for an adventure before ending our trip. This afternoon, we go **rafting** in the Chuy River for a few hours. There are no particular difficulties. Enjoy the view you get on the Chon Kemin Valley.

🍳 Breakfast	camp
🍴 Lunch	Prepared by your team
🍷 Dinner	Guest house
🏠 Accommodation	Guest house

Day 19. Visite de Bishkek, la capitale des Kirghizes



Chon-Kemin National Park 📍
🚗 145km - ⌚ 2h
Bishkek 📍

Chon-Kemin National Park - 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.
- 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.
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☕ Breakfast	Guest house
🍴 Lunch	Local restaurant
🏠 Accommodation	Rich Hotel

Day 20. 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	Rich Hotel
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Itinerary map



Individual price per person

3-3	4-4	5-8
3900 USD	3200 USD	2700 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
- Flight Bishkek – Osh
- 2 nights in a 3* hotel in Bishkek, breakfast included
- 1 night in a 2* hotel in Osh, breakfast included
- 7 nights in guest houses
- 3 nights in yurt camps
- 3 nights with a family under a yurt
- 2 nights in village hotels
- 1 night in a family stay
- All meals during our trip
- Mineral bottled water
- Car, driver and fuel
- English-speaking guide
- Horseback riding on days 6, 10 and 11
- Rafting
- Local guides for our hikes
- Entrance fees for parks and museums
- Traditional show
- Cooking equipment (table and chairs)
- Sleeping bag

Not included

- International transport
- Passport fees and visa
- Medical insurance
- Travel insurance
- Extra drinks / alcohol
- Meals in Bishkek
- Phone calls
- Any activity not mentioned in the program
- Extra luggage fee if you have more than 23 kg (15 kg check-in, 8kg carry-on). Count around 10USD for 5kg.
- Extra fee for a single room