

Tour of Development Projects

Cultural Tour

Duration: 16 Days

Season: July—middle of September

Itinerary

- Day 1** Arrival in Bishkek early in the morning. Transfer to a hotel “Asia Montains”-2 or similar. Rest. Lunch. Visit Osh bazaar. City tour around Bishkek. Dinner. Overnight stay in the hotel. .
- Day 2** Breakfast. **General presentation of head-office of Helvetas-Kyrgyzstan (1 hour)**. Transfer to Kochkor village (270 km). You have excursion on the way to Burana Tower (11th century) the remains of Karakhanid's empire in Central Asia. Picnic for lunch. Visit the felt carpet workshop, where you can not only buy souvenirs but, produce them yourself. You will test a traditional Kyrgyz food “Besh-Parmak” during the dinner. Family run accommodation.
- Day 3** Breakfast. Presentation of the project **Community Base Tourism from Helvetas (CBT)**. Transfer to Song-Kul lake (150 km). Picnic for lunch. You can visit local shepherds on the way. Dinner and accommodation in the yurta camp .
- Days 4-6** Three days on Song-Kul in the yurta camp. Local people live and graze their livestock on the meadows (jailoo) around the lake, from July till September. You will taste the wilderness and freedom of nomadic life here. Here is possible to do day excursions by walk or horse back riding. Dinner and accommodation in the yurta camp .
- Day 7** Transfer to Jety-Oguz gorge along the Southern shore of Issyk-Kul lake (350 km). Issyk-Kul is the second largest mountain-lake (1,600 m above sea level) after Lake Titikaka in South America. By depth, (668 m) and water volume it is the biggest in the world. The average water temperature during the summer is 19-22°C. Picnic on the way. Accommodation and dinner in the yurta camp .
- Day 8** Free day in Jety-Oguz in the yurta camp. You have different options here like horse back riding or hiking. Accommodation and dinner in the yurta camp .
- Day 9** Breakfast. Transfer to Saru village (40 km). Presentation of the woman group. This group was organized in 1999 by **Kyrgyz-Swiss Agricultural project (KSAP) from Helvetas**. Field trip and lunch with a woman group of KSAP. Transfer to Karakol (50 km). Dinner in a Uigur family (Uigur – it small Muslim nationality, who migrated long time ago from China). Accommodation in a private guesthouse .
- Day 10** Visit central bazaar of Karakol. Lunch. City tour in the afternoon with visiting Prejevalskiy (famous Russian traveler) museum, Russian Orthodox Church, Moslem mosque in Dungan style. Dinner with Uzbek family. Accommodation in the private guesthouse .
- Day 11** Transfer to Karkara valley (90 km). Visiting a cheese factory in Syt-Bulak village. It is a factory which produces cheese by Swiss technology. It was the idea of the **Kyrgyz-Swiss Development project (KSDP) from SDC**, which financed by Swiss government. There is a high demand on its cheeses. Lunch on the factory. Accommodation and dinner in the yurta camp or summer tent’s camp “Khan-Tengry” .
- Day 12** Breakfast. Full day in Karkara. You have next options here—helicopter excursions (1,5 hour) to the glacier Enylcheck and around peaks Khan-Tengry (7010 m) and Pobeda (7439 m). One day walking or horse back riding excursion. Accommodation and dinner in the camp.
- Day 13** Breakfast. Transfer to Cholpon-Ata on the Northern shore of Issyk-Kul lake (200 km). Accommodation in the hotel “Talisman Village” or “Raduga”. Free time in the afternoon for the swimming and relax on the sunny beach. Dinner. Overnight stay in the hotel .
- Day 14** Transfer to Bishkek (250 km). Excursion on the way to an Open Air museum of stone inscription. Picnic for lunch. Farewell dinner with Kyrgyz folklore program. Accommodation in the hotel.
- Day 15** Transfer to the airport early in the morning. Fly home .

Map of tour



Level of difficulty: This tour is suitable for both children and adults.

Conditions: If you have some specific sicknesses you need to bring own first aid kit with necessary medicaments.

Tour combination: This tour can be combined with other tours in Kyrgyzstan offered by NoviNomad