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Nomadic Life Experience

Culture Tour

During the tour, we work with local communities and the resources available to them. Many of our local service providers are working towards a more sustainable future of local tourism through efforts to reduce/recycle plastic waste, compost in yurts and homes, and use locally produced materials. You have the opportunity to contribute to a more sustainable future by bringing a reusable water bottle with you, reducing waste when possible, and properly disposing of items when they run out.

Dates of the tour: 12.06 – 19.06.2024

17.07 – 24.07.2024

31.07 – 07.08.2024

Route: Bishkek 🚗 Jaichy 🚗 Tamga 🚗 Svetlaya Polyana 🚶 Jety-Oguz 🚗 Karakol 🚗 Kochkor 🚗 Son-Kul 🚗 Chon-Kemin 🚗 Bishkek

Highlights of the tour:

- Enjoy the quiet charms and warm hospitality of Kyrgyzstan;
- Visit Issyk Kul, the lake known as “The Pearl of Kyrgyzstan”;
- Experience nomadic life sleeping in a yurt beside the alpine lake of Song Kul;
- Soak up the hustle and bustle of oriental bazaars;
- Explore Kyrgyzstan’s green, modern capital, Bishkek;
- Take part in workshops of Felt and Yurt production, learn how to cook Kyrgyz cuisine;



Itinerary

Day 1 Bishkek – Jaichy (320 km, 5-6 hours of driving)

Local driver and guide will meet with you at 10:00 AM at the lobby of the hotel. Transfer to southern shore of Issyk-Kul. On the way visit the old town of Balasagun and Burana Tower. Its construction dated from the 10th to the 11th century. Lunch in road side cafes, where it is possible to taste local bread called “Kattama”, guide will help with arrangements. Stop in Kyzyl-Tuu, where the local masters make the wooden parts of the yurts. The local artisan will show you how to make wooden parts of Yurt by your own hands. Dinner and overnight at the yurt camp in Jaichy Gorge, experience overnight in yurts as nomads. (Meal: D)

Day 2 Jaichy – Tamga

Breakfast in the yurt camp. Later you will learn more about Eagle Hunting in the country. Berkutchi, the hunter, will talk about the process of breeding and training Eagles. After, hike for about 3 hours to Boz-Salkyn Panorama viewpoint and back. Those who don't want to do hike, can explore nomad's life in the camp, with driver support. Lunch will be arranged as a picnic. In the afternoon continue trip to Tamga village (about 1,5 hours of driving). It is possible to have a swim in the lake. Here is a wild beach. Dinner and overnight in the yurt camp. (Meal: B/L-B/D)

Day 3 Svetlaya Polyana – Jety-Oguz

Breakfast in the yurt camp. Start the hiking from Svetlaya Polyana to Jety-Oguz. It is a 3-4 hours hike. Lunch as a picnic on the way. Dinner and overnight in the yurt camp. (B/L-B/D)

Day 4 Jety-Oguz – Karakol (40 km, 1 hours of driving)

Breakfast. Have morning hike in the surrounded gorge. Transfer to Karakol. Visit famous red rock formation and Dungan Museum in Yrdyk village. Learn more about Dungan ethnicity. Lunch with Dungan Family. Upon arrival to Karakol, city tour. Start the city tour in Karakol with visiting Russian Orthodox Church, Muslim Mosque and Museum of Przhevalsky. Dinner in Uighur family, together with the host experience to cook local dish called “Lagman”. Overnight in the family guesthouse. (Meal: B/L/D)

Day 5 Karakol – Kochkor (290 km, 5-6 hours of driving)

Early morning visit of Sunday Animal market, in case this day is Sunday. Experience local trading culture. Breakfast. Continue trip to Kochkor village, along the northern shore of Issyk-Kul. Issyk-Kul lake is the second largest mountain lake in the world at an altitude of 1607 meters above sea level. The lake does not freeze in winter (hence the name), even though it is surrounded by mountains. In Cholpon-Ata 1 hour boat excursion in Issyk-Kul Lake. Upon arrival to Kochkor accommodation in the family guesthouse. Visit the women's cooperation called “Altyn Kol” (Golden Hand). You can take part in the felt production master class and buy beautiful felt art handicrafts from local artists. Dinner and overnight at the guesthouse in Kochkor. (Meal: B/L/D)

Day 6 Kochkor – Song-Kul (150 km, about 3-4 hours of driving)

Breakfast. Trip to Song-Kul. Here you can go on a day hike in the mountains, meet local shepherds, observe the shepherd's way of life: taste bread and Kymyz (the Kyrgyz national drink made from mare's milk). You can see how mare is milked, how the nomads live. There are various options for hiking in Song-Kul. If you would like to experience horse riding during the day, we can organize this service for you. It will be possible for additional payment. For riding we will arrange a local stableman for your escort. For extra payment, it is possible to watch Horse Games competitions. Overnight and dinner in the yurt camp. (B/L/D)

Day 7 Song-Kul – Chon-Kemin (270 km, 4-5 hours of driving)

After breakfast free time for a walk. After lunch transfer to Chon-Kemin Nature Park. Upon arrival accommodation in the family guesthouse. Dinner in the guesthouse. (Meal: B/L/D)

Day 8 Chon-Kemin – Bishkek (160 km, 2-3 hours of driving)

Breakfast. Learn to cook local bread – “Boorsok”, you can take part in the process. Breakfast with freshly made bread and jam. Continue trip to Bishkek. City tour with visiting of Historical Museum, Ala-Too central square and other centrally located sightseeing's. After the city tour, end of service. (Meal: B)

****To get detailed day-by-day itinerary, please contact us by mail: novinomad@elcat.kg***

Price for the tour: is **1497 USD** per person (minimum size of the group is 2 pax, maximum is 10 pax)

Services included:

- Transport for transfers and excursions during the tour (car in good condition with air conditioning);
- Twin / double room accommodation;
- Four-person accommodation in the yurts
- Meal as indicated in each day of the program
- Entree fees to cultural places and nature parks
- Mineral water during the tour (1 liter per person)
- Tour guide
- Yurt Production Show
- Eagle Hunting show
- Lagman Cooking class
- Felt Show
- Boorsok Bread-baking masterclass
- Shared Boat Cruise

Services not included:

- Early check-in on day 1
- Alcohol and soft drinks
- Costs for Kyrgyz visa if necessary;
- Porter service in hotels and at the airport
- International and domestic flight tickets
- Personal expenses of customers
- Any division from the program
- Airport pick-ups and drop offs
- Accommodation in Bishkek
- Horse riding in Son- Kul or Chon- Kemin
- Horse Games show in Son- Kul
- Full Board

Supplements:

- Supplement for horse riding in Son-Kul or Chon-Kemin 20 USD per person (2-3 hours of riding) (for the service of escorting stableman - 25 USD per group of 3-4 people);
- Supplement for the Horse Games show - 250 USD for the group;
- Supplement for airport pick – up / drop off – 40 USD (car for 1-3 pax);
- Supplement for full board (2 lunches and 1 dinner) – 40 USD per person;

Accommodation during the tour:

Place	Hotel / Guesthouse / Yurt Camp	Conditions:
Jaichy	Yurt Camp	4 people accommodations in a yurt, shared outside European style toilet and shower cabins
Tamga	Yurt Camp	4 people accommodations in a yurt, shared outside European style toilet and shower cabins
Jety-Oguz	Yurt camp	4 people accommodations in a yurt, shared outside European style toilet and shared shower cabins
Karakol	Family guesthouse	Twin room, private facilities
Kochkor	Nomad Lodge guesthouse or similar	Twin room accommodation, private facilities in each room
Song-Kul	Yurt Camp	4 people accommodations in a yurt, shared outside European style toilet and shower cabins
Chon-Kemin	Family Guesthouse	Twin room, private facilities

*For additional payment, we can book accommodation in Bishkek or make upgrade where it is possible.

Additional information:

Level of difficulty: There are no difficulties on the route, but tourists should be ready for long transfers by mountain roads.

Conditions: It is necessary to bring warm clothes, walking shoes, rain coat and etc. Weight of personal things is not limited.

Health: If you have any specific sicknesses, you need to bring own first aid kit with necessary medicaments.

General map of the tour

