

## Oriental Fairy Tale

### Cultural tour

**Duration:** 14 Days

**Season:** July - September



*Great Silk Road Tour is an opportunity for you to return to the period of caravans, caravanserais and Trans-Asian trade. You will have opportunity to explore 2 completely different countries: Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan. The start of the tour is in Almaty, the former capital of Kazakhstan which is the most developed city of Central Asia, as a contradiction to the city you will visit National Reserve Aksu Jabagly, that is very beautiful. What is the most valuable in Kyrgyzstan it's untouched nature that you will see in Son-Kul and Jety Oguz, you will experience the staying in the yurt and horse riding .*

### Itinerary

- Day 1** Arrival in Almaty. Meeting at the airport. Transfer to the hotel Otrar\*\*\*\*. Overnight in the Hotel
- Day 2** Half a day excursion to Medeo gorge. Lunch. City tour around the centre of Almaty with visiting Zelenyi (Green) bazaar, Panfilov park, museum of musical instruments and State Kazah museum. Dinner in the local restaurant.
- Day 3** Transfer to the Karkara gorge. The road goes over the Kegen pass. Lunch on the way. Transfer to the camping place on Karkara river (about 30 km from the border). Dinner. Family run accommodation (in the local community) or stay in yurts .
- Day 4** Half a day walking or horse riding excursion in Chimyndy-Say gorge (3-4 hours). Lunch. Transfer to Karakol (90 km). Accommodation in the hotel Amir\*\*\* or Green yard. Visiting Russian Orthodox Church and Moslem mosque in Dungan style. Traditional dinner in Uigur family (Uigur – it small Muslim nationality, who migrated long time ago from North of China). Overnight in at the hotel Amir or Green Yard .
- Day 5** Transfer to Jety-Oguz Valley (40 km). Shepherds tell a lot of legends about the beautiful, famous, red rocks known as “Seven Bulls” and “Broken Heart”. Lunch in the yurta camp. Optionally hiking or horse riding on surroundings. Accommodation and dinner in the yurta camp (2250 m above sea level).
- Day 6** Transfer from Jety-Oguz to Song-Kul Lake (400 km) along the southern shore of Issyk-Kul Lake the second-largest mountain lake in the world - 1609 m above sea level. Lunch in Kochkor on the way. Stay on the shore of Song-Kul in the yurtas of local shepherds. Accommodation in a yurta, the traditional home of the nomadic shepherds (3030 m above sea level) .
- Day 7** Stay by Song-Kul in the yurtas of local shepherds, who pass their summer on the jailoo (summer meadows) to graze their cattle. You can see herds of horses and sheep. Accommodation in a yurta (this is the traditional home of the nomadic shepherds). Taste kymyz (mare's milk) and observe the shepherd's wife preparing bread and cheese. At night, gaze at the skies like an astronomer - the nearness of the stars will take your breath away. Optionally hiking or horse riding on surrounding hills (3030 m above sea level) .
- Day 8** Hiking to the village Kyzart (4-5 hours). From the top of Kyzart Pass will open a nice view to Jumgal valley. Picnic for lunch. Transfer to Chaek (40 km). Dinner. Family run accommodation **OR** For those who prefer to drive by car. Drive to Chaek via Kochkor village. Visit a felt carpet workshop in the afternoon where it is possible to produce your own felt carpet and buy carpets or souvenirs. Meeting with the rest group in Kyz-Art. Transfer to Chaek, dinner and accommodation in the family in Chaek .
- Day 9** Transfer to Talas, a place of birth of the famous Kyrgyz writer Chinghiz Aitmatov. (350 km). Lunch is on the way as a picnic. On the way a visit to Manas Complex. After arrival to Talas dinner and overnight in the family run accommodation .

#### Cultural tours in Kyrgyzstan

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**Day 10** After breakfast transfer to Zhabagly village via Taraz (200 km). Visa and border formalities at the check point in Chaldovar. Picnic for lunch on the way. Arrival in Zhabagly. Dinner and overnight in the guest house.

**Day 11** After breakfast transfer to Aksu Jabagly Nature reserve. Optionally you can go horse riding or just walk with the local guide. Overnight in the guesthouse .

**Day 12** After breakfast a visit to cattle market on Sunday morning and transfer to Shymkent. Lunch After lunch transfer to Turkestan. Dinner and accommodation in the private guest house. Overnight in the Hotel .

**Day 13** Breakfast. City tour around centre of town. Lunch. Drive to train station. Take Moscow train to Almaty at 15.50 PM .

**Day 14** Arrival to Almaty at 9.45 AM. Transfer to the hotel. Free time. Diner in the restaurant. Accommodation in the hotel .

**Day 15** Transfer to the Airport. Flight home

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.