

Explore the heart of country

Trekking

Duration: 18 days

Season: July – September

Itinerary

- Day 1** Arrival to Bishkek. Accommodation in “Asia Mountains” Hotel or similar. After rest a city tour in Bishkek. A visit to Osh bazaar, National Museum, Central Ala-Too square, Oak Park. Lunch and dinner in the local restaurants. Overnight in the Hotel.
- Day 2** After early breakfast leave Bishkek for Shamsly Gorge, 3-hour drive. Meet horseback guides’ team in Shamsly gorge. Picnic lunch. After lunch start tour towards Shamsly pass (3 570 meters). Dinner and overnight stay in the tents.
- Day 3** Continue tour and cross the Shamsly pass. Descend to Sarala-Saz jailoo. The first jailoo Sarala-Saz offer beautiful views of the Kara Moinok and Sandyk mountains to the south. Eat dinner and stay overnight in the tent.
- Day 4** This day you spend crossing wide-open pastures. Eat dinner in Ak-Bel jailoo, then take an evening walk over the hill into the beautiful Kashka-Suu River valley, where you can eat wild rhubarb and watch the alpenglow on the southern mountains. Overnight stay in tents.
- Day 5** After breakfast at Ak-Bel, gear up for a long day through nearly-empty country. Begin by traversing the western end of the Kochkor Valley through scrubby dry terrain. After crossing the fast Karakol River, climb 1000 meters over the Buchuk Pass (3400 m). On the other side, after a brief break for lunch on the trail, descend into the beautiful Sk Valley. Wild onions cover the high cold ridges, while lower down whole hillsides of wildflowers bloom. Eagles soar and marmots cry and scurry about. At day’s end, ford the Sook River and climb the green Kichi Saryk Valley for camp site. Overnight stay in tents.
- Day 6** After breakfast at Sook, detour to the next valley west, the Kum-Bel, for the best approach to the 3600 m Kum-Bel Pass. From the pass, follow a ridge eastward and upward to the peak, 3656 m above sea level, with breathtaking 360 views and sheer drops to the north. Continue east, testing your horseback skills (or walking) down scree-covered hillsides, and eat lunch in a sheltered notch. Descend at last into the Kolduu-Suu valley, and follow it down between dandelion-covered mountains to your place, in Kolduu-Suu jailoo. Overnight stay in tents or yurt.
- Day 7** After breakfast in Kolduu-Suu, head south to the Kochkor-Jumgal road. Follow the road a short ways east to the Kyzart Pass, then strike south again. Within sight of the road, cross Kyzyl-Kiya jailoo, an enormous, relatively flat sea of grass. Continue over the Chaar-Archa Pass (3061 m) into the Chaar-Archa Valley and eat a tasty lunch by the racing river, with views of holy 4400 m Baba-Ata Mountain. Sated, ford the river and follow the trail over verdant hills to Kilemche Jailoo. The name means “like a carpet,” and this swathe of grass covers whole mountain ranges, with shadings as subtle as any shyrdak. Dine and sleep in a tent
- Day 8** After breakfast at Kilemche, spend the morning climbing to Jalgyz Karagai pass (3300 m), over the Song-Kol mountains and into the lake’s basin. The morning climb affords wonderful views of Kilemche jailoo, and the pass itself is rocky and exciting. From the pass, Song-Kol is still distant, but as you traipse down the slopes, it gets larger and larger; the mountains on the other side get higher and higher, until finally the lake fills most of your field of view and the southern mountains tower above it. After lunch at Jaman Echki, follow the lakeshore east to NoviNomad’s yurt camp. Upon arrival meet your host family of Kyrgyz shepherds.
- Day 9** The whole day at the lake. Spend a day-time at the lakeside. Watching and / or participation in everyday life of shepherds, watching the processes of milking mares; making national milk products like kymyz (a fermented mare’s milk) or airan (a sour dense milk product); tending cattle. Overnight in the yurt camp.
- Day 10** After breakfast in the yurt, transfer to Kochkor village. After arrival lunch in Kyrgyz family. A visit to handicraft workshop, where you can buy souvenirs and also take part in producing felt carpets. Dinner and overnight in the Family Run Accommodation.

- Day 11** After breakfast transfer to Tamga, a place situated on the southern shore of Issyk-Kul lake, that is the second largest mountainous lake in the world on the altitude of 1607 meters above the sea level. On the way it is possible to make stops to swim and to make a picnic on the shore of the lake. After arrival to Tamga dinner and accommodation in Guest House.
- Day 12** After breakfast transfer to Svetlaya Polyana, a starting point of the trek. Lunch as a picnic or lunchboxes. A trek to Jety-Oguz gorge, local people tell a lot of legends about this place. After arrival dinner and overnight in the yurt camp.
- Day 13** A whole day in the gorge. You can have a horse riding. You can have a walk to the waterfall or along the river or go to the forest. Overnight in the yurt camp.
- Day 14** After breakfast transfer to Karakol city. A city tour. A visit to Museum of Prjevalsky, a Russian Explorer, a Dungan mosque in Chinese Style, Russian Orthodox Wooden Church. Lunch and dinner in the local restaurants. Accommodation in "Green Yard" Guest House.
- Day 15** After breakfast transfer to Chon-Kemin along the northern shore of Issyk-Kul lake. On the way it is possible to make stops to have a swim in the lake. A visit to Open Air Museum of Petroglyphs. After arrival to Chon-Kemin accommodation in "Ashu" mountainous Guest House. Dinner and overnight.
- Day 16** After breakfast a walk to the nearest gorge. Lunch in the guest house. After lunch transfer to Bishkek On the way a visit to Burana Tower (XI), a place on the Great Silk Road. After arrival to Bishkek accommodation in Hotel. Dinner in the local restaurant. Overnight in the hotel.
- Day 17** After breakfast transfer to Ala-Archa gorge. A trek to Ratsek peak (3430 meters). Lunch as lunch boxes. After returning to Bishkek farewell dinner in the local restaurant. Overnight in the hotel.
- Day 18** Transfer to the airport. Fly home.

Level of difficulty: This tour is recommended for people with hiking experience (hiking time approximately 5-8 hours per day).

Conditions: It is necessary to bring a sleeping bag, warm clothes and trekking boots.