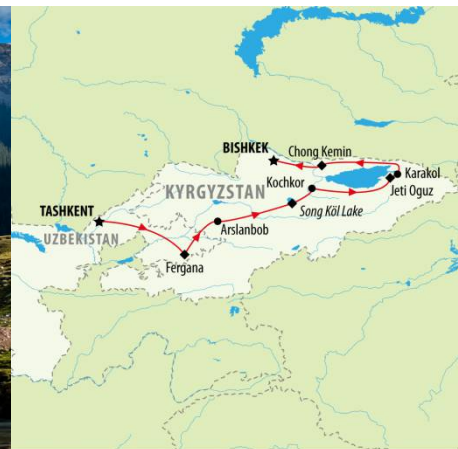


Kyrgyzstan Explorer

16 Days | Tashkent, Uzbekistan to Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan



Take in the highlights of Kyrgyzstan on this 16 day overland group tour which also visits Tashkent and Fergana in Uzbekistan. Stay in a traditional yurt on the shore of Song Kol Lake, overland through the stunning Kyrgyz Fergana Valley and explore the Russian-style town of Karakol. Hike in the Jeti Oguz region, see a demonstration from a local eagle hunter and end your adventure in Kyrgyzstan's bustling capital, Bishkek.

HIGHLIGHTS AND INCLUSIONS

Trip Highlights

- Jeti Oguz - watch a demonstration from a local eagle hunter and hike amongst the red sandstone cliffs of this beautiful region
- Song Kol Lake - camp in traditional felt yurts beside the shimmering lake and meet local nomadic farmers
- Bishkek - browse the Osh Bazaar or explore the central Ala-Too Square as you enjoy free time in Kyrgyzstan's charming capital
- Kyrgyz Fergana Valley - overland for two or three days in the breathtaking valley, stopping for numerous hikes in the region

- Chong Kemin Valley - gaze at the ancient petroglyphs at Cholpon Ata and opt for a thrilling white water rafting excursion
- Kochkor - meet local Kyrgyz families as you stay in family run guesthouses and visit a local women's felt making cooperative
- Tashkent - start your adventure in the modern and clean Soviet-style capital of Uzbekistan
- Fergana - cross the rugged scenery of the Kamchik Pass and stop at Kokand en route to the vibrant Uzbek city of Fergana

What's Included

- 15 breakfasts, 7 lunches and 10 dinners
- 6 nights in hotels and guesthouses
- 7 nights camping without facilities
- 2 nights in a Yurt Camp
- All necessary camping equipment (excluding sleeping bags)
- Transportation in an overland expedition vehicle
- Services of two crew (drivers/tour leaders) and local guides along the way
- Sightseeing as per itinerary
- Demonstration from a local eagle hunter in Jeti Oguz
- Visit to the petroglyphs at Cholpon Ata

What's Not Included

- International flights and visas

- Items of a personal nature, additional meals and drinks
- Tipping - an entirely personal gesture
- Sleeping bag and roll mat - please bring your own for camping

Local Payment

\$420pp, paid in USD

ITINERARY

Day 1: Tashkent



Welcome to Uzbekistan! On arrival there's a pre-departure Welcome Meeting and the rest of today is free to explore Tashkent, the Soviet-style capital of Uzbekistan.

Please note: The following itinerary is subject to change due to the unpredictable conditions in Kyrgyzstan. We have tried and tested alternatives in place to ensure your trip runs smoothly, please see the trip notes for details.

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Overnight - Tashkent

Day 2 : Fergana

Tashkent - Kokand - Fergana. Today we cross over the mountainous Kamchik Pass in local transport to Kokand where we'll visit the Khudayar Khan's Palace and the Margilan Silk Factory. We then continue through striking mountain scenery to Fergana where we'll be joined by our overland truck, which must cross the pass without passengers. **Overnight - Fergana (B)**

Day 3 : Arslanbob

Fergana - Arslanbob (Kyrgyzstan). Today we enter Kyrgyzstan and drive to the village of Arslanbob in the stunning Kyrgyz Fergana Valley. If the border crossing takes a long time then we may stay in the closer town of Jalalabad instead. **Overnight - Arslanbob (B)**

Days 4-6 : Kyrgyz Fergana Valley



Arslanbob - Kyrgyz Fergana Valley. We spend the next three days overlanding through the Kyrgyz Fergana Valley. We'll make frequent stops to hike in the stunning mountain region and will camp in suitable spots on the route.

Please note: If the group prefers, we will spend an extra day in Arslanbob and depart for two days of overlanding in the valley on day 5. In cold weather we will be unable to camp and will stay in guesthouses along the route.

Overnight - Kyrgyz Fergana Valley (B:3, L:3, D:3)

Days 7-8 : Song Kol Lake



Kyrgyz Fergana Valley - Song Kol Lake. On day 7 we drive to shimmering Song Kol Lake, where we base ourselves for the next two nights. We'll stay in traditional yurts and experience the life of rural Kyrgyz people. There's optional hiking and horse-riding in the area.

Please note: In the low season we will be unable to stay at Song Kol Lake due to the adverse weather. Instead we will likely stay in yurts on the southern shore of Lake Issyk Kol.

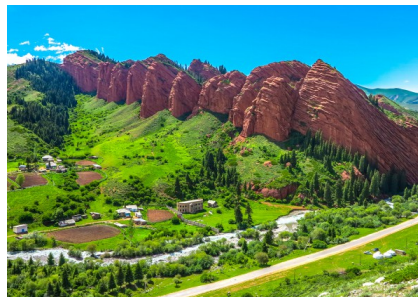
Overnight - Song Kol Lake (B:2, D:2)

Day 9 : Kochkor

Song Kol Lake - Kochkor. Today we drive to the small village of Kochkor. We'll stay in small, family-run guesthouses so you can get to know the local people. We also visit the village museum and a women's felt making cooperative which produces shyrdaks - the felt carpets that Kyrgyzstan is known for. There's also an optional outdoor folk concert and you can learn how to erect a yurt.

Overnight - Kochkor (B, D)

Days 10-11 : Jeti Oguz Valley



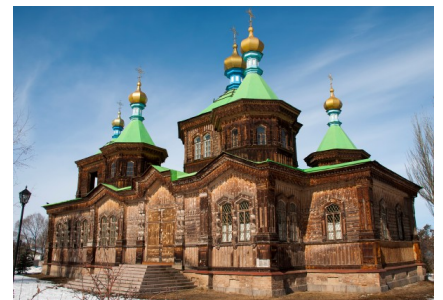
Kochkor - Jety Oguz. On day 10 we have a scenic drive along the southern shore of Lake Issyk Kol and up into the mountains of the Jety Oguz region. We'll make a stop en route

to watch a demonstration from a local eagle hunter, whose well-trained birds are used to catch wild animals for their skins and meat.

The next day is free to explore this picturesque corner of Kyrgyzstan. Hike in the hills and mountains or opt for a horse-riding excursion with some local nomads. We'll camp in the area for these two nights.

Overnight - Jety Oguz (B:2, L:2, D:2)

Day 12 : Karakol



Jety Oguz - Karakol. Today we drive to the Russian-style town of Karakol, where the afternoon is free to explore. Perhaps pay a visit to the beautiful Russian Orthodox Holy Trinity Cathedral. **Overnight - Karakol (B)**

Days 13-14 : Chong Kemin Valley & Cholpon Ata



Karakol - Chong Kemin. Leaving Karakol behind on day 13, we drive to the northern shore of Lake Issyk Kol to admire the ancient petroglyphs at Cholpon Ata. We then continue to the Chong Kemin Valley, our base for the next two nights.

Day 14 is free to hike in the region or join an optional white water rafting excursion. There is also horse-riding available in the area. We plan to camp in Chong Kemin but if it's too

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cold or preferred by the group then we may be able to camp in the grounds of a guesthouse instead, or possibly upgrade to rooms.

Overnight - Chong Kemin (B:2, L:2, D:2)

Day 15 : Bishkek



Chong Kemin - Bishkek. Board our overland truck for the final time today as we complete our journey to Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan's relaxed and charming capital. En route we'll visit the impressive Burana Tower and there's free time to relax or explore Bishkek at leisure. Perhaps head out to the colourful Osh Bazaar or explore Ala-Too Square - the central point of the city. **Overnight - Bishkek** (B)

Day 16 : Bishkek



Our adventure ends today. If you wish, speak to our Sales Team about booking extra accommodation in Bishkek in order to fully explore the city. (B)

PRICES / DATES INFO

Departure dates noted with a 'G' are guaranteed to operate. All other departure dates are guaranteed with a minimum of 4 persons. Prices shown are per person travelling. These overland trips are designed for shared accommodation, whether camping or staying in hotels or hostels, and

therefore do not involve a single supplement. Whilst the crew will do their best to accommodate couples travelling together in twin rooms, all our travellers should expect multi-share accommodation when staying in hostels, homestays or yurts, which may be mixed sex.

PRICES / DATES 2020

Date	Twin Share	Single
03 May	ZAR 22,900	ZAR 22,900
17 May	ZAR 22,900	ZAR 22,900
14 Jun	ZAR 22,900	ZAR 22,900
23 Jul	ZAR 22,900	ZAR 22,900
09 Aug	ZAR 22,900	ZAR 22,900

PRICES / DATES 2021

Date	Twin Share	Single
02 May	ZAR 23,900	ZAR 23,900
18 May	ZAR 23,900	ZAR 23,900
13 Jun	ZAR 23,900	ZAR 23,900
22 Jul	ZAR 23,900	ZAR 23,900
08 Aug	ZAR 23,900	ZAR 23,900

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