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Best of Kyrgyzstan: Discover Finest Lakes, Steppe Land & Historic Towns SR-05

Kyrgyzstan, nestled in the heart of Central Asia, boasts breathtaking mountain views, rich shepherd traditions, nomadic lifestyles, and expansive summer pastures known as "jailoos." Among all the Central Asian countries, Kyrgyzstan stands out as the most traveller-friendly destination for Westerners, offering visa-free entry, a well-established network of homestays, and a variety of souvenirs for purchase. The ideal seasons for exploration are spring, summer, and autumn when hiking and road travel are most convenient. This tour includes visits to the capital city, Bishkek, where you can explore museums and savour local cuisine, and it also takes you to the country's most stunning lakes, canyons, and vast steppe landscapes.

DEPARTURE DATES: 21.11.2026; 05.12.2026; 02.01.2027; 16.01.2027; 30.01.2027; 13.02.2027; 20.02.2027; 06.03.2027; 13.03.2027; 20.03.2027; 27.03.2027; 03.04.2027; 10.04.2027; 17.04.2027; 24.04.2027; 01.05.2027; 08.05.2027; 15.05.2027; 22.05.2027; 29.05.2027; 05.06.2027; 12.06.2027; 19.06.2027; 26.06.2027; 03.07.2027; 10.07.2027; 17.07.2027; 24.07.2027; 31.07.2027; 07.08.2027; 14.08.2027; 21.08.2027; 28.08.2027; 04.09.2027; 11.09.2027; 18.09.2027; 25.09.2027; 09.10.2027; 23.10.2027; 06.11.2027; 20.11.2027; 04.12.2027.

ITINERARY

Day 1 - Saturday - Bishkek
Upon your arrival, our guide and driver will be there to welcome you and provide transportation to your hotel. Your Kyrgyz adventure will commence with a visit to Ala Archa Natural Park, which is located 45 kilometers away. Here, you can embark on a picturesque hike alongside the river, immersing yourself in the breathtaking mountain landscapes. Following a delightful picnic in this natural setting, you will return to the city. Along the way, you'll make stops at the Baytik Baatyr mausoleum and explore prominent city attractions such as Ala Too Central Square, the State History Museum, Bishkek's own White House, Parliament House, the Lenin Statue, and witness the Changing of the Guard ceremony. (D)

Day 2 - Sunday - Bishkek - Son Kul Lake
On the second day of your journey, you'll have the opportunity to experience genuine local hospitality and meet the individuals who continue to uphold the traditional nomadic lifestyle. Your route will take you through the picturesque Boom gorge, where you'll pass by the scenic Orto Tokoi water reservoir. Afterward, you'll traverse the Kalmak Ashuu mountain pass, reaching an elevation of 3,445 meters, and then enjoy a delightful lunch with a welcoming Kyrgyz family. The day will culminate with dinner and an overnight stay in a traditional yurt camp, allowing you to immerse yourself in the authentic nomadic culture. The total driving distance for the day will be approximately 360 kilometers (225 miles). (B,L,D)

Day 3 - Monday - Son Kul Lake - Tash Rabat Caravanserai
Today's adventure will take you on a car journey to Naryn, where you'll traverse the majestic Moldo Ashuu mountain pass, reaching a breathtaking elevation of 3,665 meters. Along the way, you'll be treated to awe-inspiring

TOUR INCLUSIONS AND OPTIONAL EXTRAS

Included
International flights
Accommodation
Full board meals
English - speaking guides
Guided tours & entrance fees
Airport transfers

Not included
Personal travel insurance
Optional excursions

Practical information
About Go Russia company

panoramic views of the surrounding landscape. You'll pause for a delightful lunch with a local family in Naryn town, savoring the flavors of Kyrgyz hospitality. Afterward, your journey will continue to Tash Rabat, where you'll explore an ancient Caravanserai. This historical site, dating back to the 15th century, was once a vital inn for merchants and travelers along the Silk Road. It's renowned as one of the best-preserved Silk Road sites globally, offering a captivating glimpse into the past. The day's driving distance will span approximately 280 kilometers (175 miles). (B,L,D)

Day 4 - Tuesday - Tash Rabat Caravanserai - Naryn town - Kochkor village

Your journey will take you to Naryn, a town renowned for its traditional felt-making and the production of 'shyrdak' felt rugs. While in Naryn, you'll have the opportunity to explore the local culture further by visiting the Central mosque, central square, and an art gallery. If you're interested in acquiring shyrdaks, Kyrgyzstan offers a wide variety, with many of them featuring motifs inspired by nature, such as animal horns and mountains. Subsequently, your adventure will continue as you make your way to Kochkor village, crossing over the Dolon pass, which reaches an elevation of 3,030 meters. In Kochkor, you'll have the chance to visit a handicraft museum-shop, where you can appreciate and purchase exquisite handmade crafts. The day's driving distance will cover approximately 230 kilometers (143 miles). (B,L,D)

Day 5 - Wednesday - Kochkor village - Jety Oguz canyon - Karakol town

Today, you will embark on an excursion to the breathtaking Jety-Oguz gorge, a location of scenic beauty. Nestled in a picturesque canyon on the northern slope of the Terskey Ala-Too range, roughly 25 kilometers southwest of Karakol, this gorge boasts an elevation of 2,200 meters. Its unique red sand rock formations make for incredibly photogenic landscapes. Two of the most iconic rock formations in the region, the Broken Heart and Seven Bulls, have come to symbolize the beauty of the Issyk Kul region and are reminiscent of picture postcard-perfect scenes. To enrich your experience, you'll enjoy a traditional dinner with a welcoming local family and spend the night in a guesthouse. The total driving distance for the day will be approximately 270 kilometers (168 miles). (B,L,D)

Day 6 - Thursday - Karakol - Cholpon Ata town

Karakol, the fourth-largest city in Kyrgyzstan, stands as a significant tourist hub. It draws adventurers and nature enthusiasts exploring the high central Tian Shan mountains to the south and east, offering opportunities for hiking, trekking, skiing, and mountaineering. During your visit to Karakol, you will have the chance to explore its diverse cultural and historical sites. This includes the Dungan mosque, a Russian Orthodox cathedral, and the Przhevalskii museum. Additionally, you'll visit some Scythian burial mounds and view ancient petroglyphs, gaining insight into the region's rich history. Lunch will be enjoyed in a local café, offering a taste of Kyrgyz cuisine. Later, you'll have dinner and spend the night in a hotel

located by the lakeshore, with time to relax and visit the beautiful lakeside beach. The total driving distance for the day will be approximately 150 kilometers (93 miles). (B,L,D)

Day 7 - Friday - Cholpon Ata town - Bishkek
On this day, your journey will take you along the northern lakeshore towards Bishkek, the capital city of Kyrgyzstan. Along the way, you'll make a fascinating stop at the Burana archaeological and architectural site. Burana is the historical city of Balasagun, which served as the capital of the Karakhanids State during the 10th to 12th centuries. Today, visitors can explore the remnants of an ancient minaret and the ruins of three mausoleums, providing a glimpse into the city's rich history. Interestingly, Balasagun was of such significance that Genghis Khan's Mongol Horde spared the city from destruction. You'll have the opportunity to savour a local lunch with a welcoming family, enjoying Kyrgyz hospitality. As the day comes to a close, you'll spend the night in a hotel in Bishkek, the final destination of your journey. The total driving distance for the day will be approximately 280 kilometers (175 miles). (B,L,D)

Day 8 - Saturday - Bishkek
After breakfast you will be transferred to the airport for your flight back home. (B)

AVAILABLE PACKAGES

COMFORT PACKAGE

Dates	Excl. flights	Incl. flights*	Single suppl.
21/11/2026 - 28/11/2026	£1395	£2095	£195
05/12/2026 - 12/12/2026	£1395	£2095	£195

ALTERNATIVE TOURS AND TAILOR-MADE ARRANGEMENTS

In addition to organised group tours, we also offer individual trips. This could be an entirely separate holiday arrangement or an extension to a regular "Go Russia" trip. Whether you would like to travel independently, or just with the group of your friends or colleagues, we can help to realise your holiday plans. Depending on your preference for either comfort or budget, we can help you to design the ideal itinerary and provide the optimal value-for-money quote. Please contact us for a quote.

Based on your chosen tour we believe you might be interested in alternative trips listed below:

> Highlights of Uzbekistan: Tashkent, Samarkand, Bukhara, Khiva (SR-04), Price from £1,145, 8 days
> Great Uzbekistan Discovery: from Fergana to Khiva (SR-06), Price from £1,795, 13 days
> Best of Uzbekistan: Tashkent, Chimgan, Samarkand, Shakhrisabz, Bukhara, Khiva (SR-07), Price from £1,445, 10 days
> Bishkek to Almaty: a Journey through Kyrgyzstan & Kazakhstan (SR-09), Price from £1,795, 8 days

INFORMATION ABOUT VISAS

Go Russia provides assistance in processing visas and visa fees are included in the cost of most of our trips as detailed in the tour dossier. The visa application process is very straightforward. We have years of practical experience in dealing with tourist visas, and our in-house visa team provides assistance with completing the forms and checking the documents before consular submission. Please do not worry that your application will be unsuccessful (unless you have had any immigration issues with the relevant authorities in the past). All our tourists get their visas.

All nationalities require a full passport valid for at least six months beyond the intended length of stay. Please also make sure there are enough blank pages in your passport: Russian consulate requires minimum two blank pages.

UK, USA, Germany, France, Spain residents
We have in-house visa teams in the UK, USA, Germany, France and Spain. Upon your booking we will email you detailed

guidance notes how to fill in the visa forms and what additional documents depending on nationality and your immigration status will be required. You will need to post your application pack to our visa processing office including your original passport. Please allow about two - three weeks for each visa application to be processed. The actual visa processing times are published on our website. Please advise us if you require your passport urgently, we can arrange urgent processing for an additional charge.

Non-UK, USA, Germany, France, Spain residents
If you are not resident in the above countries, we will issue official paperwork and email the required documents to you. You will need to apply for your visa at the local consulate. The process is very straightforward and we can assist you with completing the visa forms. You will have to pay the correct visa fee at the consulate in the country of your residence.

You can read more information about visa, processing times and application forms on our website:
www.justgorussia.co.uk/en/visa_services.html

HOW TO BOOK

Step 1 - Choose Your Holiday & Departure Dates

It is important that you choose a trip that is well suited to your interests, capabilities and experience. All our staff has first hand experience of a range of Go Russia holidays and will be happy to talk to you about your chosen trip, enabling you to assess its suitability. We also recommend that you read the descriptions of the relevant region, general information about our services, booking conditions, and trip dossiers carefully. Once you know what tour is right for you, as well as your departure dates, you can start your booking.

Step 2 - Complete the Booking Form

Online: log on to www.justgorussia.co.uk and open the tour you wish to book and click "Book now". To provide you with a more personalised and relevant experience in all your contact with Go Russia, when you book online we ask you to register on our system. Once registered you can retrieve your bookings, brochure requests, update newsletter subscriptions, passenger and emergency contact details, submit special dietary requests, view invoices and receipts, download trip documents.

Email: alternatively, you can book your tour per email - info@justgorussia.co.uk, or

Phone: call us on **+44 (0)20 33 55 77 17**

When booking by email or over the phone please confirm your personal details (full name and address), chosen tour, departure date, package type (hotel / cabin category), and available upgrades.

Step 3 - Confirmation of your booking

On receipt of your booking form, we will make any necessary reservations for you and send you confirmation invoice, including the flight details, and additional information about your destination: advice on visas, vaccinations and what to take. The invoice will also show you the exact due date of the payment.

Step 4 - Payment

Please note, if your departure date is more than 56 days you will need to pay the deposit, which should cover the full cost of the flight (if applicable), plus 10% of the land-only arrangements (minimum £100) per person towards your tour. The outstanding payment must be made 56 days prior to departure. If you book less than 56 days before departure, full payment must be made at the time of your booking. You can make your payment by bank transfer, debit or credit card, cheque, bankers draft or postal order. You will find all relevant payment details in your invoice.

YOUR NOTES

On request we can organise an additional programme for you, please inquire about the price and availability of the optional excursions.

Please find below some space to write down your queries or comments regarding this trip.