

2 to 18 July 2023 (17-days) Kyrgyzstan Culture, Nature & Adventure

**Trip Ground Cost Rm 8,800 (per pax for group of 14-16pax), Rm 8,300 (per pax for group of 17-19pax)
Based on USD1.00 = Rm4.50 Cost will be adjusted accordingly depending on rate in May 2023**

Update 27 Jan 2023 Please take note of Emirates group flight timings for departure from Bishkek to KUL. We are currently finalising the group fares at RM3420 plus taxes about RM339.

Update 13 Jan 2023 Thank you for the good response and we managed to secure additional spaces to accommodate for the larger response.

Update 14 Nov 2022 We have added on additional cultural activities for this journey - Day6 folklore concert, Day 7 visit to Kyzyl-Tuu for yurt-marking demonstration, Day11 bread making with local family and Uzbek plov cooking class & dinner.

Update 12 Nov 2022 Trip ground cost will include most meals and entrance fees. Not included is return Emirates flight ticket - online fare is about Rm4,100 today. Do take note that Kyrgyzstan is a mountainous country and we will be passing through some high passes with max at **3,500m above sea level**.

IMPORTANT NOTICE: This is meant to be a "free and easy" adventure trip. Participants should be relatively fit, with a good sense of humor, and above all, have the right attitude for close travel with others through possibly some trying times. Most definitely, this is not a trip for prudes, whiners, fussy-pots, and other similarly assorted types! We had a couple of those before and it wasn't pleasant for us or them. Although every effort will be made to stick to the given itinerary, ground conditions may change and cause some disruption and/or deviation from the norm. Otherwise, have fun !



Hiking inside Altyn Arashan valley / Yurt camps at Song Kul lake

A Central Asian country located along the Great Silk Road, **Kyrgyzstan** is a melting pot of cultures with 40 ethnic groups – with many still practising their nomadic lifestyles. Having 95% of the country covered by mountains, the country also offers travellers plenty of beautiful landscape that includes snow-capped mountains, lakes and rivers. Come and experience the untouched country as it slowly emerges from its past Soviet governance as part of USSR. July is wonderful month to visit as it is the start of summer and welcomes visitors with variety of wild flowers and seasonal fruits.

Please take note that we have several nights staying in **homestays with shared toilets** and **yurts** - traditional homes by the nomadic people with **outdoor shared toilets and showers** facilities where available. **Shared toilets 10nights out of total 15 nights.**

B = Breakfast, L= Lunch, D=Dinner

Day 0 Airport: Assemble in KLIA by **1130PM SAT 1 July 2023** for Emirates flight early next morning.

Day 1 Bishkek: Emirates flight **EK343** departing **2:40AM**. Fly 6hr 50min towards Dubai, arriving 5:30AM for transit 1.5hr. Reconnect on **EK2377** departing 7:05AM. Fly about 4hr towards Bishkek to land at **1:00PM**. Meet our local guide at airport and check in. Rest of afternoon free & easy in Bishkek, capital city of Kyrgyzstan of about 1 million people. Overnight (O/N) hotel Bishkek. Own meals today

Day 2 Chon Kemin (B/L/D): After breakfast, we have walking tour around Bishkek to visit some of the places of interests around this capital city. Our chartered transport then brings us east towards national nature reserve of Chon Kemin valley. Along journey, visit Burana Tower (minaret of 11th century). Arrive Chon Kemin for lunch. Free time afternoon to explore around this quiet valley. O/N in homestay **shared toilets** with dinner provided

Day 3 Karakol (B/D): After breakfast, our chartered transport drives us eastwards towards Karakol 140km away.. Along the way, we stop at Cholpon-Ata to view an open air petro-glyphs (rock painting) gallery. Our journey towards Karakol brings us pass the northern shore of **Issyk-Kul Lake**. It is the 2nd largest alpine lake in the world, after Lake Titicaca in South America.. Own lunch in cafe enroute included. When we arrive at Karakol, we proceed to visit the Dungan mosque - built in Chinese style without using a single metal nail and a wooden Orthodox Church. Dinner with Dungan family, who are Chinese Muslim. O/N in local guesthouse.

Day 4 Altyn Arashan (B/L/D): Morning transfer to **Altyn Arashan** gorge by Russian military 4WD vehicle. Altyn Arashan ("Golden Spa") gorge is one of the most famous gorges in Karakol. Here one will see wonderful fir tree forests and thermal springs along the whole gorge. Upon arriving to Altyn Arashan, we will have time for our lunch, hike and soak in thermal waters. O/N in **yurt camp or mountain hut with basic shared toilets**. *Walking distance = 15km one way. Elevation gain about 700m*

Day 5 Karakol (B/L/D): After breakfast, trek 3-4hr back to Ak-Suu village to meet our transport. Enjoy the panoramic mountainscape around us. O/N guesthouse with dinner provided. *Walking distance = 15km one way. Elevation drop 700m*



Hiking inside Altyn Arashan / Russian 4WD military ride into Altyn Arashan

Day 6 Bokonbaevo (B/L/D): After breakfast, we drive to **Jeti-Oguz** Gorge. Its name in Kyrgyz language means "Seven bulls". The name is symbolic, because there is a 35 km long wall of seven huge red-brown cliffs resembling furious bulls standing together. We also visit **Kök-Jaik** area (Valley of Flowers). Lunch included with local Kyrgyz family. Another stop at **Skazka** canyons (Fairy Tale canyons), before our transport takes us towards Bokonbaevo for our overnight yurt stay. Bokonbaevo town is located along the southern shore of Issyk-Kul lake. Dinner accompanied by folklore concert included. O/N **yurt camp with shared toilets**, showers available.

Day 7 Kochkor (B/L/D): Afternoon, transfer westwards towards Kochkor. Along the way, we have a stop to watch eagle-hunting, one of the ancient traditions of Kyrgyz people. Drive further towards Kyzyl-Tuu village famed for their yurt-making residents. Experience how the Kyrgyz members set up yurts and lunch provided here. Afternoon, we continue on towards Kochkor. O/N homestay with **shared toilets**, dinner provided.

Day 8 Song Kul (B/L/D): After breakfast, we drive 3hr southwest towards the second largest lake in Kyrgyzstan - **Song Kul Lake**. Upon arrival at Song Kul lake located at **3,013m** above sea level, we will have free time to relax from the long drive. Song Kul is the best place to experience the nomadic lifestyle of the Kyrgyz people who bring their herds here during summer time. This is also wonderful place to gaze at the stars because of minimal light pollution. O/N **Yurt Camp with outdoor shared toilets & showers** for next 2 nights. Lunch & dinner at yurt camp.

Day 9 Song Kul (B/L/D): Today is our active day to experience the shepherd lifestyle. We trek towards the Jalgyz-Karagai Pass 3,440m high one way up about 6km. Optional for **horse-riding** on this section at USD15/pax. If opportunity arise, we can watch and participate in the everyday life of the shepherds which include milking mares, making traditional Kyrgyz milk products such as *kymyz* (fermented mare's milk) or *airan* (a sour, dense milk product). O/N **Yurt Camp with outdoor shared toilets & showers** with lunch & dinner provided. *Walking/horse-riding distance 6km up & 6km down = total 12km. Elevation difference about 370m.*



Horses at Song kul lake / Horse riding at Song Kul

Day 10 Kazarman (B/L/D): After breakfast, we drive south west towards Kazarman about 6hrs away via Moldo Ashoo Mountain Pass. Today is a long drive, but we will have few photo stops to enjoy the scenic views along the journey. Upon arrival in Kazarman, we will explore this tough mining town which used to be a bustling from its gold mining activity. O/N Kazarman in guesthouse with **shared toilets**, dinner provided.

Day 11 Jalalabad (B/L): We continue our drive southwest towards Jalalabad 150km away. Along the way, stop at Kara-Alma village for lunch. Experience how the locals make their bread. Upon arrival in Jalalabad, we have a short city tour. Late

afternoon, we drive towards a local Uzbek family where we learn how to make plov - rice with meat and carrots and enjoy for dinner included. O/N guesthouse with **shared toilets**.

Day 12 Osh (B): After breakfast, we travel southwards towards **Osh**. Upon arrival in the afternoon, we go for sightseeing tour around Osh, which is the 2nd largest city in Kyrgyzstan. Legends said Osh was founded by King Solomon ages ago and had an important position on trading routes of the Great Silk Road. We walk up sacred Sulaiman Too Mountain, its Museum and Osh Bazaar – this market still operates from the same place since the heydays of Great Silk Road. This is one of Central Asia's largest open air market. O/N in hotel. Today meals on our own to enjoy the local food.

Day 13 Arslanbob (B/L/D): We drive 4hr back north towards **Arslanbob**. Along the way, we stop at Uzgen to visit a historic mausoleum & minaret. Uzgen town was one of the capitals of the Karakhanid State in the 11th and 12th centuries. By afternoon, we reach the small village of Arslanbob populated mainly by more conservative Uzbek ethnic people. Enjoy walking around this quiet village. O/N family run accommodation with **shared toilets**, dinner provided.

Day 14 Toktogul (B/D): Today another long drive 5-6 hours heading north towards **Toktogul**. It is the biggest water reservoir in Central Asia that funnels the gorgeous Naryn River into a hydroelectric station. Own lunch in cafe along journey. O/N Home-stay with **shared toilets**, dinner provided.

Day 15 Bishkek (B): After breakfast, we drive 5-6hr north east back towards Bishkek to complete our journey through Kyrgyzstan. Along the way, we will pass through scenic Suusamyr Valley and Chychkan Gorge. Suusamyr valley is a popular place where shepherds bring their sheeps and horses to graze during the summer. O/N in hotel. Own meals today to enjoy the local food.

Day 16 PLANE: Rest of morning free & easy before our afternoon Emirates flight out. Depart on **EK2378** leaving **2:00PM**, arriving Dubai 4:40PM (flying time 4hr 20min). Transit in Dubai for 4hr 55min. Reconnect on **EK344** departing 9:15PM (flying time 7hr 25min), arriving next morning

Day 17 HOME: Arriving KLIA at **8:40AM 18 JULY 2023 TUESDAY**.



Mausoleum at Uzgen / One of the many colourful vendors at Osh Bazaar

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

1. Trip Ground Cost includes accommodation, entrance fees, meals and travelling to sites mentioned above.
2. Accommodations will be in twins/doubles for guesthouses and hotels. For yurts stay, accommodation is shared accommodation ranging from 4pax to 6pax with outdoor toilets with showers available, except at Altyn-Arashan where members can use the hot springs..
3. Not covered are Emirates flight fare and airport taxes and fuel surcharges, lunches (USD17 x 6 meals = USD102), optional activities like Horse-riding USD15/pax at Son Kul Lake.
4. Cost is subject to change depending on fluctuations in exchange rates and/or airfares. Ground costs calculated based on USD1.00 = MYR4.50
5. A deposit of **Rm3,000** will be payable to confirm your place.
6. We may quickly call in more deposits to buy lower PROMO fares either online or through ticketing agent.

Email wveyim@gmail.com or yongqo123@gmail.com

Phone Wye Yim 012 233 4717

Phone Lee Min 016-220 9033 or 603-4031 6225

Address No 19 Lorong Air Bersih Tiga, Air Panas, 53200 Kuala Lumpur