

Two K's – KAZAKHSTAN/KYRGYSTAN 26th OCT - 10th NOV 2024 (16D15N)
 (Almaty, Basshi, Aktau-Katutau, Singing Dunes, Kolsai Lake, Kara Dala Hot Spring, Charyn Canyon, Saty, Jyrgalan, Altyn Arashan NP, Karakol, Bokonbayevo Bishek)

Cost: RM10,500/pax (min 8 PAX) Based on 1USD = RM 4.71 on 21st JUNE 2024
 Final adjustment on the cost is based on the exchange rate at time of final collection

EXCLUDING INTERNATIONAL FLIGHTS BELOW PRICED AT RM2376 (priced at 21st JUNE 2024)

26OCT24 TUE AIRASIA X KUL-ALA 1300-1740
10NOV24 WED AIRASIA X ALA-KUL 1900-0610(+1)

NOTE: Please do not book flight ticket until advised by us! Contact trip handler Lee Keng +60123158353 for further details

TRAVEL STYLE: Soft adventure, light hiking, cultural immersion, landscapes appreciation, all stays in hotels and guest houses, some with attached baths and some clean shared baths. Room is based on twin sharing, but some guesthouse with limited rooms, may need us to be triple or quodraple sharing.

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, fuss-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!

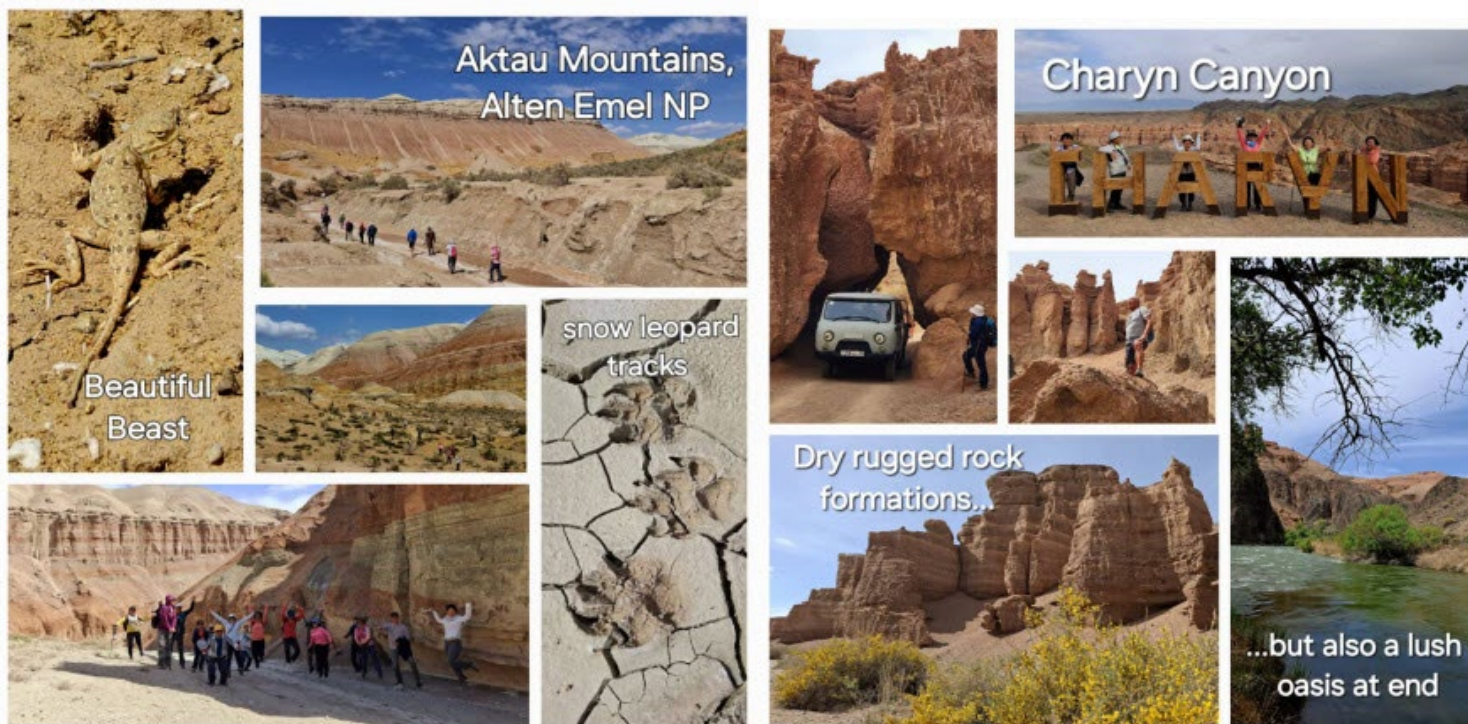
Kazakhstan is undoubtedly the most prosperous and cosmopolitan of the "5 Stans". Kyrgyzstan on the other hand is the most "oriental" of the "5 Stans" and one of the least developed. Explore these two contrasting, yet so similar countries neighbouring each other with us, and unveil a world where the echoes of the Silk Road reverberate through ancient landscapes, where nomadic traditions breathe life into the present, and where the embrace of nature is both humbling and awe-inspiring. As travelers venture into the heart of Central Asia, they are greeted by a kaleidoscope of experiences that transcend time and cultural boundaries, leaving an indelible mark on those who explore the hidden treasures of Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan.



DAY 1 KLIA-ALMATY Gather **KLIA T2 26 OCT 2024** at **10am** for our flight to Almaty **(1300-1740)** Upon landing at Almaty International Airport, your journey through the cultural and culinary tapestry of Kazakhstan begins. Greeted by the crisp air and the

promise of adventure, you will be welcomed by your local guide, ready to facilitate a seamless transfer to hotel. **Overnight Almaty**
DAY 2 ALMATY CITY EXPLORATION AND KOK TOBE HEIGHTS After breakfast visit Zenkov Cathedral in Panfilov Park, an architectural gem with its intricate wooden design. Explore the Central State Museum of Kazakhstan, offering insights into the nation's past. In the afternoon, ascend via cable car to Kok Tobe, a picturesque hill resort to enjoy breathtaking overviews of Almaty and its environs. **Overnight Almaty (B)**

DAY 3 MEDEU SHYMBULAK-BASSI Embark on a scenic drive to Medeu, home to one of the world's highest and most picturesque skating rinks. Nestled amidst the stunning Tien Shan Mountains, Medeu offers breathtaking views. In the evening, we will continue our journey to Basshi. **Overnight Basshi Village (B)**



DAY 4 AKTAU-KATUTAU-SINGING DUNES After breakfast, we will visit the chalk mountain Aktau, a truly mesmerizing sight with the towering peaks and vibrant colors. Katutau Mountains are shaped by volcanic activity that occurred thousands of years ago. These mountains boast a unique landscape composed of bomb-ash and lava flows, creating a bizarre and stunningly beautiful environment. In the afternoon, we are going to "Akkum-Kalkan", translated as the mysterious singing dunes. When the wind starts, or if something touches the sand, it starts to fall, and the dune begins its song. Old legend say that the sounds are the bells of a buried city.

Overnight Basshi Village (B)

DAY 5 CHUNZHA-KARA DALA HOT SPRINGS We will leave the tranquil Bassi Village, traversing through varying terrains, witnessing the beauty of the steppe and the distant outlines of the majestic mountains. Reach Kara Dala Hot Springs, an oasis of relaxation surrounded by nature by mid-afternoon, in time to enjoy a hot soak amidst tranquility **Overnight Kara Dala Hot Springs (B)**

DAY 6 CHARYN CANYON-SATY VILLAGE We continue our journey to the stunning landscapes of Charyn Canyon. As you approach Charyn Canyon, the views transform into a dramatic canyon setting, showcasing nature's grandeur. Explore the Valley of Castles, renowned for its towering rock formations resembling ancient fortifications. Continue the journey to Saty Village, a charming settlement nestled near Charyn Canyon. Upon reaching Saty Village, check-in to your accommodation and unwind. **Overnight Saty Village (B,D)**

DAY 7 KOLSAI LAKE Our trip today takes us to Lower Kol Sai Lakes. Traverse through scenic landscapes, surrounded by lush greenery and crystal-clear lakes. Capture the breathtaking views of the Lower Kol Sai Lakes, reflecting the splendor of the Tien Shan Mountains. You can easily spend a few hours walking around the lake and mesmerized by the beauty of nature. Free and easy evening. **Overnight Saty Village (B,D)**

DAY 8 KAINDY LAKE-JYRGALAN After breakfast, we will leave Saty Village to our first stop, Kaindy Lake. The lake was formed after an earthquake in 1911, which caused a major landslide, effectively creating a natural dam. Successively, rainwater filled the valley and created the lake. We will continue our journey today, crossing land border from Kazakhstan to Kyrgyzstan. Pass through the border zone at Kegen, experiencing the seamless transition between the two Central Asian nations. Enjoy the changing landscapes as you enter Kyrgyzstan, characterized by its mountainous terrain. Continue your drive to Jyrgalan, a hidden gem nestled in the Kyrgyz mountains. **Overnight Jyrgalan (B,L,D)**



DAY 9 KOK BEL WATERFALL HIKE Today we will do one of the easy hike. Set off from Jyrgalan to the east, past pasturing flocks of sheep and bands of horses across the mountain jailoo (high pasture). The journey continues through a narrow canyon, on to the 20-meter Kok-Bel Waterfall and completes the 12km loop with fine views of Jyrgalan village. Free and easy evening. **Overnight Jyrgalan (B,L,D)**

DAY 10 JYRGALAN-KARAKOL Jyrgalan Valley is renowned for its stunning landscapes and nomadic traditions and we will have a morning to experience both before continuing travel to the historic town of Karakol. Upon reaching Karakol, delve into the town's rich history with a comprehensive city tour. Visit the iconic Karakol Dungan Mosque, admired for its intricate wooden architecture. Explore the Russian Orthodox Holy Trinity Cathedral, a testament to Karakol's diverse cultural heritage. **Overnight Karakol (B,L,D)**

DAY 11 ALTYN ARASHAN ADVENTURE Its high mountain adventure today as we enjoy a bumpy but exhilarating ride in an ex-Soviet Army 6WD truck to Altn Arashan, a stunning alpine valley known for its natural hot springs and breathtaking scenery. Arrive in Altn Arashan and commence a trek through the pristine landscapes. Hike along scenic trails, surrounded by lush greenery and towering peaks. Reach the natural hot springs, where you can unwind in the soothing thermal waters amidst the beauty of the mountains. Enjoy a picnic lunch in this idyllic setting, immersing yourself in the serenity of Altn Arashan. We return to Karakol around mid-afternoon. **Overnight Karakol (B,L,D)**

DAY 12 KARAKOL-BOKONBAYEVO After breakfast visit to the Przhevalskii Museum, dedicated to the renowned Russian explorer and naturalist, Nikolai Przhevalsky. Explore exhibits showcasing his expeditions and contributions to Central Asian geography and wildlife. Delight in a unique culinary experience with lunch at a Dungan family home (own cost). Taste traditional Dungan dishes, characterized by a blend of Chinese and Central Asian flavors. Engage with the hospitable hosts, learning about their culture, traditions, and the art of preparing authentic Dungan cuisine. Visit Karakol's unique animal market, where local herders gather to buy and sell livestock. Witness the vibrant tapestry of rural life in Kyrgyzstan and capture the bustling scenes of the market. Drive to the village of Bokonbayevo. We will stay in a Yurt just beside Lake Issyk, and try best to arrange a mobile sauna, and campfire amidst serene surroundings after a day of natural wonders. **Overnight Bokonbayevo (B)**



DAY 13 EAGLE SHOW-KONORCHEK CANYONS-CHON KEMIN NATIONAL PARK Witness the majesty of Kyrgyz hunting traditions with an eagle show in Bokonbayevo. Experience the skill and grace of these magnificent birds of prey, guided by skilled eagle hunters. Learn about the cultural significance of falconry in Kyrgyzstan. We journey on to Konorchek Canyons, a hidden gem known for its spectacular red rock formations. Explore the winding canyons, marveling at the striking landscapes shaped by natural forces over the centuries. Capture the beauty of the vibrant colors and unique rock shapes as you traverse this geological wonder. Chon Kemin valley will be our last stop for today, we can do optional activities (own cost) such as horseriding, or just relaxing evening enjoying the nature. **Overnight Chon Kemin (B)**

DAY 14 BURANA TOWER-CHUNKURCHAK-BISHKEK After breakfast, we will continue our journey to the historic site of Burana Tower, an ancient minaret that stands as a testament to the region's rich history. Explore the archaeological complex, which includes remnants of a medieval city. Climb the steps of Burana Tower for panoramic views of the surrounding landscapes. We will take a short drive to Chunkurchak Ski Resort, a trekking haven after winter and enjoy a good mountain lunch before continue to Bishkek and visiting the bustling Osh market for shopping etc. We end the day with a captivating Folk show, providing insights into Kyrgyzstan's rich cultural traditions. **Overnight Bishkek (B)**

DAY 15 BISHKEK-KORDAI BORDER CROSSING-ALMATY Our adventure continues as we bid farewell to Bishkek and embark on a journey to Almaty, Kazakhstan. The day begins with an early departure, and our first point of interest is the Kordai border crossing. After border formalities, we take in the scenic landscapes that mark the transition between Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan. As we arrive in Almaty early afternoon, we'll have the time and opportunity to explore the city's highlights, and do some last-minute shopping. **O/n Almaty (B)** **DAY 16 FREE AND EASY BEFORE NIGHT FLIGHT TO KUL** It's a free and easy day today to visit the Green Bazaar etc for shopping, strolling, sightseeing etc, before our 1600 transfer to the airport to catch the **1900** flight to KL, and arriving 0610 the following day



TERMS & CONDITIONS:

- Ground cost includes accomodation and private transport to travel to the destinations mentioned above. Entrance fees and meals are covered if only mentioned in the itinerary.
- Accomodations will be a mix of hotels, guesthouses and one night in yurt. **Some private and some shared bathroom/toilet. Ranging from 2-4 pax sharing rooms.**
- The cost **NOT COVER** for optional activities, if mentioned in the itinerary above as (optional,own cost)
- The cost **NOT COVER** flights tickets and travel insurance.
- A deposit of **RM4000** is payable to secure your place.

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