

# Kazakhstan Kyrgyzstan

## *Cultural tour*

8 days / 7 nights (FRIDAY, SUNDAY)

- **Almaty – 3 nights**
- **Bishkek - 2 nights**
- **Son Kul - 1 night**
- **Issyk-Kul - 1 night**

**Season:** The end of June – the end of September

### Itinerary ...

#### **Day 1: Almaty /D/**

Arrival to Almaty, transfer to the hotel «*Kazzhol*» 3\*. Free time.

**City tour.** During the excursion, you will get acquainted with Almaty's history and see the *Ascension Cathedral, Glory Memorial* dedicated to the heroes of the Civil War and World War II, old center of the former capital historically formed in the 30s-50s of the 20th century, which includes the *Opera and Ballet Theatre, Parliament*, and a number of ministries. You will see the architectural ensemble of Kazakhstan, Main Square - the *Republic Square, Independence Monument*, and monuments erected in honor of the prominent Kazakh enlighteners. You will pass along the most popular avenues - *Abai, Dostyk*, and *Abylai Khan Avenues*, and visit Almaty's trade, sports and cultural centers.

**Overnight in the hotel (Almaty)**

#### **Day 2: Almaty- Tamgaly /B-D/**

In the morning drive to **Tamgaly**. Located to the northwest of Almaty, near *Karabastau Village*, in the midst of small *Anrakhai Mountains*, is a unique ancient sanctuary containing petroglyphs. 4,500 petroglyphs show different animals, hunting scenes, everyday life, and solar deities. The rock paintings are 4,000-4,500 years old.

This is a bus tour.

**Length: 170 km.**

**Duration : 10 hours.**

**Overnight in the hotel (Almaty)**

#### **Day 3: Almaty- Sheber Aul /B-D/**

After breakfast drive to *Sheber Aul (Artisans and Painters Village)*

At Trans - Ili Alatau foothills you can visit Shaber Aul, a village of artisans and painters, located 9 km away from the city, where you can watch the creative work of the folk masters. Nearby, in the *Alma-Arasan Gorge*, there functions the *Sunkar Nursery* breeding nearly all kinds of hunting birds, such as golden eagles, falcons, etc. The nursery also breeds dogs of traditional races (Kazakh borzoi - tazy, wolfhound - tobet).

**Duration: 3 hours**

**Overnight in the hotel (Almaty)**

#### **Day 4: Almaty – Bishkek /B/**

Early departure by bus to Bishkek, accommodation in Guest House.

After lunch «Sightseeing tour»: *Oak Park , Ala -Too Square, Philharmonic hall, Statue of Manas, Victory Square .*

**Overnight in the hotel (Bishkek).**

#### **Day 5: Bishkek –Son Kul /B/**

In the morning drive to *Son-Kul Lake* ( 360 km ). Lunch in *Kochkor village* on the way.

Arriving in Son Kul in the afternoon. This is a remote mountain lake situated on a treeless, high

mountain plateau ( 3016 m ) where shepherds bring the livestock in the summertime, establish a camp where they will live – setting up their yurts. In this magnificent place you can see hundreds of herds and a lot of different yurts, where you for sure will be invited to have kymyz, the national drink made of fermented mare's milk with a traditional bread, try other diary products and home made jam.

***Dinner and overnight in yurts (Son Kul).***

**Day 6: Son Kul– Issyk-Kul /B/**

In the morning transfer to ***Issyk-Kul Lake***. On the way is an excursion in open-air ***art gallery of stone***, said to date from 500 BC – 100 AD, they depict wolves, long-horned ibex, goats, horses, snow leopards, sacrifices and some hunting scenes. Arrival to the north shore of Issyk-Kul, accommodation in a hotel on the North Shore of Issyk-Kul Lake.

***Overnight in the hotel or Guest House (Issyk-Kul Lake)***

**Day 7: Issyk-Kul –Bishkek /B/**

After breakfast start driving to Bishkek. On the way stop to see ***Burana tower***, which is left from ***ancient city Balasagyn (XI - XIII)***. Afternoon is free.

***Overnight in a hotel or guest house (Bishkek).***

**Day 8: Bishkek – Airport /B/**

Transfer to the airport (30 km ), departure.

**Prices valid until 01/12/2009**

***Based on 2 persons 1 407 US\$ p. person***

***Based on 4 persons 1002 US\$ p. person***

***Based on 6 persons 1047 US\$ p. person***

***Based on 8 persons 1003 US\$ p. person***

***Single supplement 332 US \$***

**Tour price includes:**

- Accommodation in twin or double bed room 3 star hotels
- Meals plan as indicated (B-breakfast & D-dinner). In Bishkek Meals – for the groups of 2-5 people – only breakfast included. For the groups of 6-10 people –full board
- Arrival and departure transfers
- All sightseeing as per the itinerary
- Entrance fees to monuments and cultural events
- All over land transportation by transport with air condition
- Escort touring guide for whole tour itinerary
  - **Available:** English and Russian speaking guides.

**Tour price excludes:**

- Visa support to Kazakhstan (DEPENDS ON NATIONALITY)
- Visa support to Kyrgyzstan (DEPENDS ON NATIONALITY)
- Visa cost
- Personal spending money
- Luggage in excess of 20 kg (44lbs)
- Travel insurance
- Tips for driver and local guide
- Video & photo camera charges during sightseeing.