

## THE MARVELOUS WINTER KYRGYZSTAN

**Itinerary: Bishkek – Chon-Kemin Valley – Karakol – Karkara Valley – Sary Oi – Bishkek**

**Duration: 7 days, 7 nights**

**Fixed date: 09– 15 February 2020**

**Minimum group size: 4 pax**



**Day 1. (09/02) Arrival in Kyrgyzstan. Bishkek city – Ala-Archa National Park – Bishkek city. (30 km /30-40 min / 80 km – 1.5-2 hours)**

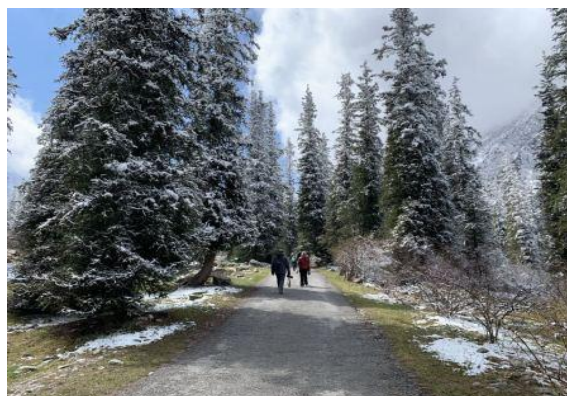
Upon arrival at the International airport in Bishkek, transfer to the city, **early check in to the hotel.**

Then we will have one hour drive to **Ala Archa Natural park** located in a picturesque gorge of Ala Archa 40 km off from Bishkek. *It is a popular place for hiking, skiing and mountaineering including trips to more than 20 glaciers.*

Upon return to Bishkek, there is **late lunch (around 03:00 p.m)** and after that we will have **Bishkek sightseeing tour**. It is a walking tour around **Ala Too Square**, main governmental buildings, and finish at the Old Square with Parliament House and the only survived in Central Asia Lenin's Monument.

Overnight in hotel.

**(B – hotel, L – cafe)**



**Day 2. (10/02) Bishkek city – Chon Kemin valley via Issyk-Ata gorge and Burana tower (190 km / 3 hours)**

After breakfast we will go through the procedure of delivery-acceptance of the jeeps. It takes about 1 hour.

**PLEASE NOTE: 500 USD Deposit must be paid upon the transfer of the vehicle to the participants and examination of it by them. Deposit is paid back in full to the clients if no damage to the vehicle is done**



We start a drive to **Issyk Ata Gorge**, which is 77 km or 1.5-hour drive from Bishkek city. The hot springs at Issyk-Ata is well known for healing properties of the water and considered to be a place of pilgrimage. After that we will have a **lunch at local family in Tokmok city**.

We continue our day and head to **Burana tower** – *historical complex, (UNESCO site). That minaret was constructed in Balasagun town, one of the capitals of Karakhanid State existed in 11-12 centuries AD. Explore ruins of that important trading point at the Great Silk Road and visit a little local museum telling about that civilization. Also watch a collection of **Balbals**, Turkic ancient gravestones.*



After excursion we drive to **Chon Kemin valley** (another 2 hours). Accommodation in **“Ashu”** guest house. Dinner and overnight in a guest house.  
(B –hotel, L –local family, D –guest house)

### Day 3. (11/02) Chon Kemin valley – Karakol via Skazka Canyons and Barskoon Gorge (350 km / 6-7 hours)

Today we drive to Karakol town along the southern shore of Issyk Kul lake. *Issyk Kul Lake has a tectonic origin. It is a second largest alpine lake in the world after Titicaca located in South America. Its length reaches 182 km, and width is 58 km, maximum depth is up to 668 m. During the summer period the water reaches up to 20-25°C.*

En route we visit **Skazka Canyon** which is one of the most stunning places in Kyrgyzstan, a canyon filled with fantastical sandstone shapes that give the spot its name, which means fairytale in Russian.



After that we drive to **Barskoon gorge** which runs the highway that connects the pass Barskoon (3754 m), the Issyk Kul basin and mountainous area of the Inner Tien-Shan.

Continue drive to Karakol town. Accommodation in hotel. When having a **meal at dungan family** in Karakol town, we can watch a housewife cooking traditional food. She teaches how to make noodles for lagman. At the end we try the lagman altogether.

Overnight in hotel.

(B –guest house, L –lunch box, D –Dunghan Family)

### Day 4. (12/02) Karakol – Jety Oguz gorge – Karkara (190 km / 4.5 – 5 hours)

After the breakfast we drive to Djety Oguz gorge.

**Djety Oguz** in Kyrgyz means “Seven Bulls”. *This picturesque gorge is named so because of the red rocky sand formations covered with forests of Tien Shan spruces.*

Return to Karakol for lunch after hike.

In the afternoon we will go to Karkara valley. The road is



covered with deep snow, be prepared to digging your road with shovels.

Base Karkara is located in 120 kilometers from Karakol. There are good areas for ski touring and/or snowmobiling (with driver). You can go on snowmobiles through passes and along valleys. The level of snow cover is from 60 to 120 cm.

Dinner in BC "Karkara".

You can also enjoy sauna in the camp (extra, paid on spot).

Overnight in cottages/yurts.

**(B – guest house, L – cafe, D – BC Karkara)**



#### **Day 5. (13/02) Karkara – Issyk Kul Lake via Semenovskoe gorge (270 km / 3 – 3.5 hours)**

After the breakfast we take some time for snowmobiling (with driver).

In the afternoon we will leave Karkara and drive along the Northern shore of Issyk Kul Lake.

We drive to **Semenovskoe** gorge (called after a great Russian explorer of Tien Shan Mountains Semenov-Tienschanskii who was here in the 50-60s of the 19th century in expeditions). Once we reach the end of the gorge we go over a mountain pass and then we end up in the next gorge **Grigorievskoe**.

Continue to Sary Oi, accommodation in hotel.

Dinner and overnight in hotel.

**(B – BC Karkara, L – BC Karkara, D – hotel)**



#### **Day 6. (14/02) Issyk Kul Lake – Bishkek (260 km / 4-5hours)**

After the breakfast we will take another beautiful drive on to Bishkek city.

When we are coming back to Bishkek, we will make a stop for car washing. Upon return to Bishkek, cars are returned back to the company. The Lessee shall return the vehicle in full complete stated in the Delivery-Acceptance report. The Lessee shall return the vehicle with the same quantity of fuel as at the moment of receipt. The deposit is paid back in full if no damage to the vehicle is done.

Accommodation in hotel.

Dinner in café **with folklore show**. Specially for you musicians will play national melodies of Kyrgyz people and show you musical instruments. You will listen to a singing and enjoy the charming melodies of our ancestors.

Overnight at a hotel.

**(B – hotel, D – cafe)**



#### **Day 7. (15/02) Bishkek city – airport. (35 km/ 40-45 min)**

Early breakfast.

Today in Bishkek your trip concludes.

**(B – hotel)**



Travelling with Ak Sai Travel you help:

- To support local people. We provide 40498 working days for locals every year.
  - To support ecological campaigns. For the past 2 years we have transported 15678 of waste from glaciers and mountain gorges of Kyrgyzstan.
  - To find their way for the 849 kids and teenagers from orphanages and boarding schools with the help of Travel Discover Help project.
- Find more information about us at [www.ak-sai.com](http://www.ak-sai.com)

## END OF SERVICE

### The trip cost for 2020 per person in USD

**Cost per person on double/twin base – 1350 US dollars**

**Cost per person on single base only in hotels – 1470 US dollars**

**The single supplement does not include individual accommodation in yurts of BC Karkara.**

**Extra payment per person for SGL accommodation in yurt - 60 USD (if yurts are available)**

<b>TRANSPORT FOR TRANSFERS:</b>	Toyota Sequoia 4WD with A/C
<b>TOUR ESCORT:</b>	English speaking
<b>VISA INVITATION AND VISA SUPPORT:</b>	Not included
<b>MEALS:</b>	As per program (B - 7, L - 5, D - 5)

INCLUDES:	
* Accommodation on twin base in hotels – 7 N	* Mineral water (1l/day/pax)
* Meals – as per program (B - 7, L - 5, D - 5)	* Tour escort guide (English speaking)
* Transport from arrival till departure	* Entrance and ecological fees during all the tour
* Lagman show	* Folklore show in Bishkek
* Jeeps for rent	* Petrol for jeeps
* Mechanic day 2-day 6	
EXCLUDES :	
* Single supplement	* Airfares
* All personal expenses	* Alcohol and soft drinks
* Tips for guide and driver	* Porter fee
* Photo/video fees at museums	* Sauna in BC Karkara

CITY	HOTEL	NIGHTS
Bishkek	B Hotel 3*, My Hotel, Bridges hotel or similar	3
Chon Kemin	Ahuu guest house	1
Karakol	Green Yard, Tagaytay, Amir	1
Karkara	Yurt/cottage or similar	1
Sary Oi	Raduga 3*	1
<b>Total:</b>		<b>7</b>

### NOTES:



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- On the way back there will be a stop for car wash. The Lessee shall return the vehicle in full complete stated in the Delivery-Acceptance report. The Lessee shall return the vehicle with the same quantity of fuel as at the moment of receipt. The deposit is paid back in full if no damage to the vehicle is done.
- **There may be changes in the route due to weather, instructions of the local authorities, road conditions or the decision of the guide in the field for the benefit of the travelers and the conduct of the trip.**

### **Clothes and equipment:**

You can take all necessary things. Please take into consideration that in winter time the temperature in Bishkek city is about +5°C and can go down to -5°C and in the mountains the temperature decreases to -5 or -10°C, average is 0 or +5°C. Be prepared for unexpected changes of the weather.

### **Recommended:**

- ❖ Winter-coat
- ❖ Sweater/fleece
- ❖ Wind-stopper
- ❖ Enough t-shirts and other underwear
- ❖ Hat
- ❖ Sun-screen cream (30 or higher)
- ❖ Good trekking boots for easy hikes in the mountains.
- ❖ Walking shoes (don't need heavy ones) for the city walks
- ❖ Personal first aid kit (most likely problems: blisters, sunburns, allergy, diarrhoea, sore muscles after hikes. Take painkillers, anti-histaminic, antibiotics of general action, and anything you need for your usual medical conditions).
- ❖ Personal hygiene kit (disinfection gel is highly recommended) + some toilet paper.
- ❖ A small towel
- ❖ Sunglasses
- ❖ Photo camera
- ❖ Notepad and a pen to make notes as you travel
- ❖ A smaller backpack, except for your normal suitcase.
- ❖ Flash light (torch)
  
- ❖ Money exchange - if you plan to exchange dollars /euro / to KGS, we recommend to take the notes of 50, 100 USD without stamps, inscriptions and other any damage, because damaged banknotes are not accepted by banks and exchange offices.