

# Secret 2, Kyrgyzstan

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## Itinerary

### Day 1: Bishkek – Rot Front – Abdel Kader’s yurts

Rot Front, your guides’ home and base camp, is based at the foot of the Ala Too Mountains at an altitude of 1,100 m.

After something to eat and a chance to rest after your flight, you continue by vehicle to Son Kul Lake at 3,016m where you meet the horses and riders who have ridden the first half of The Great Trek. This is a long journey which can take 5 to 7 hours and sometimes 8 hours, with a stop for lunch on route.

Overnight in a yurt.

Please note that the itinerary may change depending on local weather conditions (mainly the condition of the passes) and the riding ability of your group, but always with your best interests in mind. The planned overnights in yurts may not always happen since the nomadic people are, by definition, nomadic.

Your guides will happily answer all your questions, but you do have to ask.

### Day 2: Rest at Abdel Kader’s yurt

The horses (and riders) rest on the shores of Son Kul Lake, which at 3,016m is considered the pearl of Kyrgyz summer pastures. The wide, brilliant, steel coloured expanse of the lake appears quiet and transparent, looking like a bowl of pure mountain air surrounded by hills. Water and sky seem to meet here. At night you can imagine that you can touch the stars.

Spend some time with the herders and fishermen who live here. In the yurt, everybody and everything has its own place.



You may see them milking the cows and the mares, making “kumiss” (fermented mare’s milk), gathering together horses, sheep, goats, sometimes yaks, preparing traditional dishes, mainly with meat and milky products.

You will more than likely witness the local horseback game of Ulak Tartish whilst staying here – this game is played with the headless body of a dead goat and is a real cultural experience.

Overnight in a yurt



### Day 3: Son-Kul – Kiz-Art

Finding it difficult to leave the hospitality of Abdel Kader’s family, you continue the ride through remote valleys to the Djungal river and Kiz-Art village. You cover a distance of 25km and are greeted by another friendly family ready to welcome you.

Overnight in a local house with sauna.

### Day 4: Kiz-Art – Koum Bel valley

Enjoy the relaxation of the sauna this morning with a leisurely breakfast. This gives both you and the horses a chance to rest.

After lunch, mount up and ride along the fields above Kizart. Arrive at the entrance of the Koum Bel valley where you will spend the night.

Overnight in a tented camp.



#### **Day 5: Koum Bel valley – Ceok valley**

Ride through the Koum Bel pass, 3,600m, then along the Ceok valley, dotted with yurts and herds of horses. Some of your ridden horses have come from this valley; they are good mountain horses, sure and brave.

Overnight in a guesthouse.



#### **Day 6: Ceok Valley – Karakol Valley**

Continue over the Sandiks Range, crossing the Buchuk pass at 3,400 m. Here you have magnificent views of the Ala Too range with its peaks up to 4,500m.

Ride along the Karakol river to your camp for the night.

Overnight in a tented camp near the river.



#### **Day 7: Karakol valley – Ai Teke**

Today you cross the Karakol river and ride up to the jailoo of Ai Teke. There are many herding families living here and life seems to have remained the same as it did 100 years ago.

Overnight in a yurt and tents.



#### **Day 8: Ai Teke – Shamsi**

Cross over the Shamshi pass (3,600m) and continue to the Chuy valley. There are some steep ascents and descents today. You climb 600m in two hours and descend 1800m in four hours.

Overnight in tented camp along the riverside.



### Day 9: Shamsi – Rot-Front

A half day ride this morning and by lunch time you are back at the entrance of the Shamsi valley.

After lunch transfer to Yann’s home in Rot Front village.

Overnight in Rot Front.



### Day 10: Bishkek

Today you have the opportunity to explore Bishkek and see the sites of the city. Visit the bazaars and museums and have the opportunity to buy some souvenirs and handicrafts.



Overnight in a local house on the outskirts of Bishkek.



### Day 11

Transfer to Bishkek airport for your flight home.