

The Great Trek Part B, Kyrgyzstan

Itinerary

Day 1: Bishkek - Rot Front - Djildizbek's yurta

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 3,016 m 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 five to seven hours and sometimes eight hours, with a stop for lunch on route.



Overnight in Djildizbek's yurta.

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: Djildizbek's yurta

From Djildizbek's yurtas, you witness the local horseback game of Ulak Tartish (or Buzkashi) - this game is played with the headless body of a dead goat and is a real cultural experience.



The remainder of the day will seem to pass quickly as you watch the shepherds milking the cows and mares and making kumiss (fermented mare's milk). They gather horses, sheep, goats and sometimes yaks and also prepare traditional dishes with mainly meat and milky products.

Overnight in Djildizbek's yurta.

Day 3: Son-Kul - Kiz-Art

Finding it difficult to leave the hospitality of Djildizbek's family, you continue the ride through remote valleys to the Djungal river and Kiz-Art village. You cover 25 km 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, 3,600 m, 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 4,500 m.



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 (3,600 m) and continue to the Chuy valley. There are some steep ascents and descents today. You climb 600 m in two hours and descend 1,800 m 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: Rot-Front - Bishkek.

Today you can explore Bishkek and see the sites of the city. Visit the bazaars and museums and you can 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.