

Two K's – KAZAKHSTAN/KYRGYSTAN 28th APRIL – 14th MAY 2024

(Almaty, Singing Dunes, Altyn Emel NP, Kara Dala Hot Spring, Charyn Canyon, Saty, Jyrgalan, Altyn Arashan NP, Karakol, Bokonbayevo, Kochkor, Bishek)

Cost: RM10,600/pax (group of 14pax) Based on 1USD = RM 4.76 on 13th FEB 2024

Final adjustment on the cost is based on the exchange rate at time of final collection

EXCLUDING INTERNATIONAL FLIGHTS BELOW PRICED RM1572** ON 13TH FEB 2024

28APR24 AIRASIA X KUL-ALA 1300-1740

14MAY24 AIRASIA X ALA-KUL 1900-0610(+1)

**This is a STEAL if one moves fast enough!!! :p

TRAVEL STYLE: Soft adventure, light hiking, cultural immersion, landscapes appreciation, all stays in hotels and guest houses with attached baths except for one night in a Yurt with clean shared baths.

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 neighboring 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.

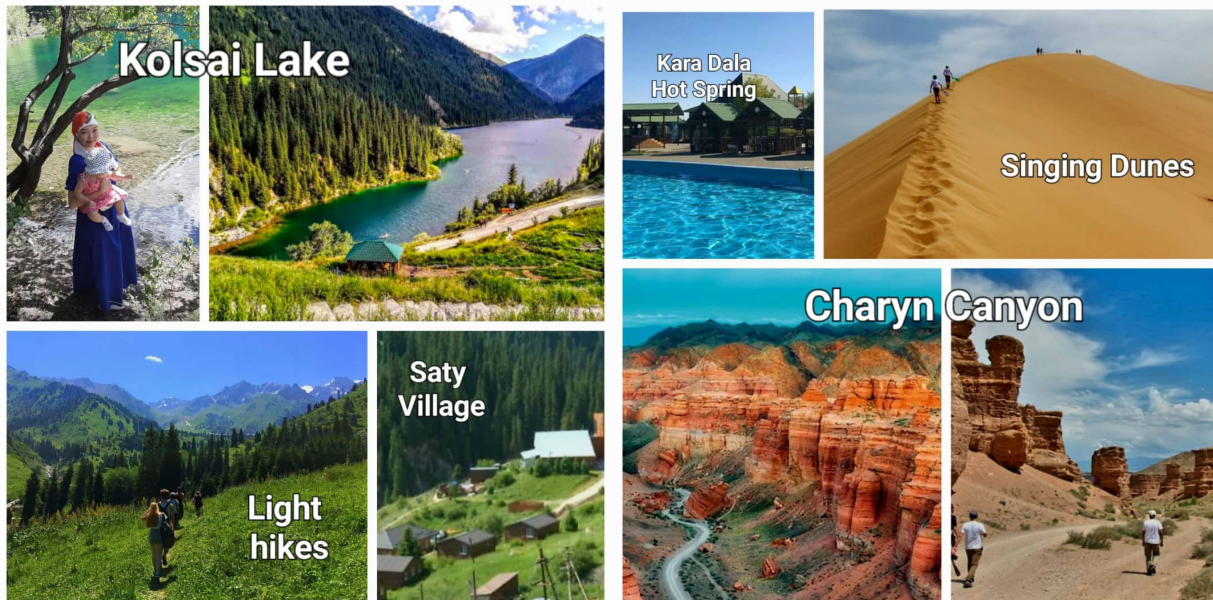
DAY 1 KLIA-ALMATY – CULINARY DELIGHTS AND RESTFUL REPOSE Gather **KLIA T2** at 10am for our flight to Almaty (1300-1740) Upon landing at Almaty International Airport, your journey through the cultural and culinary tapestry of Kazakhstan begins. Greeted by the crisp air and the promise of adventure, you will be welcomed by your local guide, ready to facilitate a seamless transfer to hotel. Overnight Almaty (D)

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, and wander through the bustling Green Bazaar, a sensory delight filled with local produce and crafts. In the afternoon, ascend via cable car to Kok Tobe, a picturesque hill resort to enjoy breathtaking overviews of Almaty and environs. End the evening with a delightful dinner at a local restaurant. Overnight Almaty (B,L,D)



DAY 3: ALPINE SPLENDOR AND CULTURAL RICHES 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. Savor a delightful lunch at a local venue, and in the afternoon, delve into the history of Kazakhstan at the Kazakhstan Museum of Independence. Gain insights into the nation's journey to sovereignty, exploring exhibits that showcase its rich cultural heritage, struggles, and triumphs. Dinner at a restaurant in Almaty. Overnight Almaty (B,L,D)

DAY 04: BIG ALMATY LAKE Today holds the promise of awe-inspiring natural beauty as we venture to the enchanting Big Almaty Lake, nestled amidst the majestic Zailiyskiy Alatau mountain range. Our journey takes us breathtaking vistas that Kazakhstan is renowned for. The turquoise hues of the lake against the backdrop of rugged mountains create a picture-perfect scene. The afternoon offers leisure time, providing you with the flexibility to explore Almaty at your own pace. Whether you choose to stroll through the city's parks, visit cultural landmarks, or engage in some shopping, Almaty has something to offer for every preference. Overnight Almaty (B,L,D)



DAY 5: EXPEDITION TO SINGING DUNE AND TRANQUIL NIGHT IN BASSI VILLAGE Today's adventurous journey is to the mystical Singing Dune and a peaceful night in Bassi Village. Embark on a scenic road trip from Almaty to the Singing Dune, a natural wonder nestled in the expansive Charyn Canyon area. Arrive at the Singing Dune, an awe-inspiring desert phenomenon that produces melodic sounds when touched by the wind. Bid farewell to the Singing Dune and embark on the road to Bassi Village, a tranquil haven nestled in the foothills of the Charyn Canyon. Enjoy a traditional Kazakh dinner. Overnight Bassi Village (B,L,D)

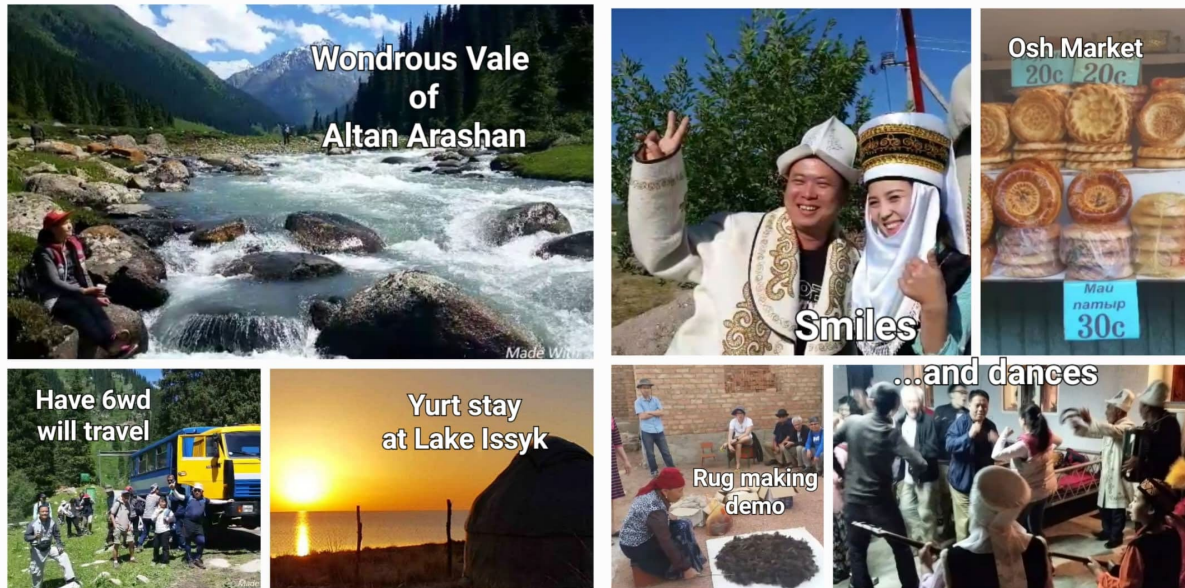
DAY 6: WHITE MOUNTAINS, THERMAL OASIS ADVENTURE-AKTAU-KARA DALA HOT SPRINGS We have a short morning excursion to the Aktau White Mountains of Altyn Emel NP, to see multi-colored massive geological formations before continuing our scenic drive to Kara Dala Hot Springs. Traverse through varying terrains, 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, before dinner. Overnight Kara Dala Hot Springs (B,L,D)

DAY 7: EXPLORING CHARYN CANYON - NATURE'S GRANDEUR AND VILLAGE HOSPITALITY 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. Enjoy a picnic lunch amidst the picturesque backdrop of Charyn Canyon. Continue your 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,L,D)



DAY 8: LOWER KOL SAI LIGHT HIKE, CROSS-BORDER ADVENTURE, AND ARRIVAL IN JYRGALAN, KYRYZSTAN 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. Lunch in Kol Sai, before we cross the 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: JYRGALAN EXPLORATION, KARAKOL VISIT, AND CITY TOUR. 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 10: ALTYN ARASHAN ADVENTURE Its high mountain adventure today as we enjoy a bumpy but exhilarating ride in an ex-Soviet Army 6WD truck to Altyn Arashan, a stunning alpine valley known for its natural hot springs and breathtaking scenery. Arrive in Altyn 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 Altyn Arashan. We return to Karakol around mid-afternoon. Overnight Karakol (B,L,D)

DAY 11: CULTURAL IMMERSION IN KARAKOL - PRZHEVALSKY MUSEUM, DUNGAN FAMILY LUNCH, AND MARKET EXPLORATION 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. 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. Overnight Karakol (B,L,D)

DAY 12: UNVEILING NATURE'S SCULPTURES - SEVEN BULLS AND FAIRYTALE CANYON IN BOKONBAYEVO VILLAGE. After breakfast drive to the Seven Bulls rock formation, a natural wonder shaped by the forces of wind and time. Continue to the nearby Fairytale Canyon, renowned for its vibrant red and orange sandstone formations. Embark on a leisurely walk through the narrow passages, discovering whimsical shapes and enjoying the play of light on the canyon walls. Let your imagination run wild as you explore this enchanting landscape. 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,L,D)

DAY 13: EAGLE SHOW, KOCHKOR EXPLORATION, AND SHYRDAK SHOW 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. Afternoon arrival in Kochkor, a town renowned for its crafts and cultural heritage. Enjoy a delicious lunch at a local venue. Afternoon is Shyrdak Show and Kochkor Exploration Engage in a Shyrdak show, where local artisans showcase the intricate art of traditional Kyrgyz felt rug making. Witness the meticulous process of creating Shyrdaks, characterized by vibrant colors and symbolic designs. Overnight Kochkor (B,L,D)



DAY 14: KONORCHEK CANYONS, BURANA TOWER, AND ARRIVAL IN BISHKEK We journey on to Konorchek Canyons, a hidden gem in 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. After lunch continue 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. Late Afternoon drive to Bishkek, Overnight Bishkek (B,L,D)

DAY 15: BISHKEK CITY TOUR, NATIONAL MUSEUM, CHUNKURCHAK SKI RESORT, OSH BAZAAR AND DINNER FOLKLORE SHOW

Today we explore Bishkek, the vibrant capital of Kyrgyzstan. Our first stop is Ala Too Square, and the National Museum, a treasure trove of artifacts and exhibits that showcase the country's heritage. After the museum, we take a short drive to Chunkurchak Ski Resort, a trekking haven after winter and enjoy a good mountain lunch. Bustling Osh market is our last stop for shopping etc. After recharging, our journey continues to the breathtaking Ala Archa National Park, a natural oasis located just outside the city for more overviews of Bishkek. We end the day with a captivating Folk show, providing insights into Kyrgyzstan's rich cultural traditions.

Overnight Bishkek (B,L,D)

DAY 16: 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,L,D)

DAY 17: FREE AND EASY BEFORE NIGHT FLIGHT TO KL It's a free and easy day today 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 (B)



TERMS & CONDITIONS:

1. INCLUSIONS:

- a. Twin-sharing accommodation, guide, driver and transportation airport to airport
- b. Meals are inclusive if stated in the itinerary as (B=Breakfast, L=Lunch, D=Dinner)

2. EXCLUSIONS Flight tickets & Tipping

3. DEPOSIT of **RM4000** is payable to confirm the place

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