Tales of Two-Stans



DAY 01 : Kuala Lumpur – Almaty (8h flight)

Board an afternoon flight to Almaty, the largest city in Kazakhstan. Arrival in the evening, transfer to city centre, hotel check-in.

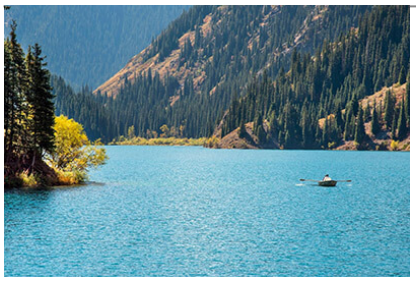
Meal: NIL



DAY 02 : Almaty – Charyn Canyon – Saty (300KM)

Enjoy a slow breakfast at hotel, later journey east towards Charyn Canyon with a lunch (self-pay) stop enroute. Late afternoon arrival at the canyon, trek through the Valley of Castle (round-trip 6KM) lined with red sandstone formations that resemble medieval fortresses. Later, continue the journey to Saty for overnight stay. Dinner at guesthouse.

Meal: B/ D



DAY 03 : Saty – border crossing – Karakol (240KM)

After breakfast, visit nearby Lower Kolsai Lake nestled in the Tian Shan Mountains, stroll by the lake shore. Later, journey to the border crossing between Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan. After checkpoints formalities, change vehicle in Kyrgyzstan and continue the journey to Karakol, check-in to a homestay. Dinner at Dungan family-run kitchen, learn about the minority community’ s history and culture.

Meal: B/ D



DAY 04 : Karakol – Altyn-Arashan Valley (30KM)

Take a converted trailer bus to Altyn-Arashan located at altitude 2435m, known as Little Switzerland. Enjoy the greenery, fresh air, and hot spring bath in the mountains. Overnight in yurt camp, enjoy the serenity of the mountains, and counting stars at night.

Meal: B/ L/ D



DAY 05 : Altyn-Arashan Valley – Karakol (30KM)

After breakfast, one may opt to trek or take the trailer bus again downhill. Back in Karakol city for lunch. Later, visit Dungan Mosque and the century-old Russian Orthodox wooden church. Overnight at Karakol homestay.

Meal: B/ L/ D



DAY 06 : Karakol – Bokonbaevo (180KM)

Early morning visit the weekly Sunday animal bazaar in the outskirt of Karakol. Later, drive to Jeti-Ögüz Gorge (Seven Bulls), named after huge flaming red rocks that resemble the shape of bull. After lunch, head to the southern shore of Issyk-kul, on the way visit Skazka canyons, admire rock formations shaped by wind erosion. Overnight at a yurt camp, after dinner, enjoy a folk music show.

Meal: B/ L/ D



DAY 07 : Bokonbaevo – Kochkor (120KM)

Eagle hunting demonstration in the morning, learn how local hunter trained eagle as partner. After lunch at yurt camp, drive to Kochkor Village, visit a handicraft workshop and learn how Kyrgyz felt carpets are made. Overnight at home stay in Kochkor, enjoy home cooked meal.

Meal: B/ L/ D



DAY 08 : Kochkor – Kilemche Jailoo (Horse riding 4 hours)

Transfer to summer pasture near Kyzart pass, the starting point for 2-day horseback trip to Song Kul. Cross Kyzyl-Kiya jailoo (summer pasture for nomads). Continue over Chaar-Archa Pass (3061m), with views of the holy Baba-Ata Mountain (4400m). Follow the trail to Kilemche Jailoo, dine and sleep in yurt camp.

Meal: B/ L/ D



DAY 09 : Kelimche – Song Kul (Horse riding 4 hours)

Spend the morning climbing to Jalgyz Karagai pass (3400m), enter the lake basin. The trek offers superb views of grassland and mountain ranges. Lunch stop at Jaman Echki, which is also the end-point for horse riding. Later transfer by car to yurt camp by the lake shore for stay.

Meal: B/ L/ D



DAY 10 : Song Kul – Bishkek (330KM)

After breakfast, transfer to Bishkek, on the way visit archaeological site Burana Tower, a 25m tall minaret from the 11th century, climb to the top for sweeping view of Chuy Valley. Also explore the open-air collections of ancient Turkic warriors' figurine tomb stones called balbal. Evening arrival in Kyrgyzstan capital Bishkek, free and easy.

Meal: B/ L



DAY 11 : Bishkek – Almaty (50m flight)

Explore Bishkek city centre and visit the buzzling Osh Bazaar. Late afternoon transfer to the airport, a short flight back to Almaty, Kazakhstan. Arrival in the evening, transfer to a hotel in the city centre.

Meal: B

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DAY 12 : Almaty – Kuala Lumpur (8h flight)

Almaty is known as the Apple City where the fruit originated, explore the city centre on foot, sites of interest include Panfilov Park, Ascension Cathedral, and Green Bazaar. Late afternoon transfer to the airport, board the home-bound flight.

Meal: B

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DAY 13 : Kuala Lumpur

Early morning arrival in Kuala Lumpur, end of tour.

Price Details

Fee includes:

1. Accommodation:
    - Almaty & Bishkek: Hotel (twin-share)
    - Saty: Guesthouse (twin-share)
    - Karakol & Kochkor: Homestay
    - Others: Yurt Camp (multiple sharing, outside bath & toilet)
2. Transports (tourist minibus)
3. Airport transfers (for appointed flights)
4. Partial meals (as specified in itinerary)
5. Altyn-Arashan hot spring fee
6. Entrance fee for tourism sites as per itinerary
7. Cultural programmes as per itinerary (felt carpet making, eagle hunting, folklore music)
8. English-speaking Kyrgyz guide
9. Horse riding 2D (horses rental, horsemen)

Fee excludes:

1. International flights (Round-trip Kuala Lumpur – Almaty by Air Asia + one-way Bishkek-Almaty by Air Astana. Total estimated airfare RM 3,800; once the trip is confirmed, shall notify members the flight schedule for self-purchase online)
2. Meals not listed in itinerary (estimate 80 USD)
3. Expenses during free and easy sessions/ optional activities
4. Tipping (estimate 60 – 70 USD)
5. Additional cost due to unforeseen calamity (acts of god)
6. International travel insurance (Members must self-purchase insurance. LevArt cannot be held responsible for any losses as a result of you being inadequately insured/ without insurance)

Reminders

- Land border crossing between Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan hard to gauge waiting time, require flexibility.
- This is an eco-tourism tour; team members will have up close contacts with the locals, entering their homes and participate in their daily activities. Please respect local culture and make meaningful communication/ cultural exchanges.
- Some days stay at yurt camp, for those used to urban living, the comfort level may seem compromised. Multiple sharing in yurt, some lack shower facility or modern toilet. These are part of the authentic experiences of the reality on the ground; please

face them with open-mindedness and understanding.
- For topography reason, weather in Kyrgyzstan varies from place to place, and the day and night temperature gap is huge; temperature could range from 5 Celsius to 32 Celsius. Mindful to keep warm and apply sun protection.
- Malaysian and Singaporean visa-free

Hardship Level: 3★

- Include soft adventure activities such as short trek in canyons/ mountains, and horse-riding over pasture and high passes.
- Outdoor activities require some stamina, advisable to train your fitness level before departure.
- Some places lack of modern toilet may need to make “bush stops” to answer nature’s call in the wild.
- During horse-riding, mid-way yurt camp (1N) without shower facility.
- The trip involves journeying through some bumpy unpaved road, if raining, vehicle may get stuck in muddy pool.
- Unpredictable weather in mountainous areas, sometimes scorching sun, at times rain or hail, one may experience 4 seasons in a day.