

The Silk Road and Rural Kyrgyzstan (10 Days, 9 Nights)

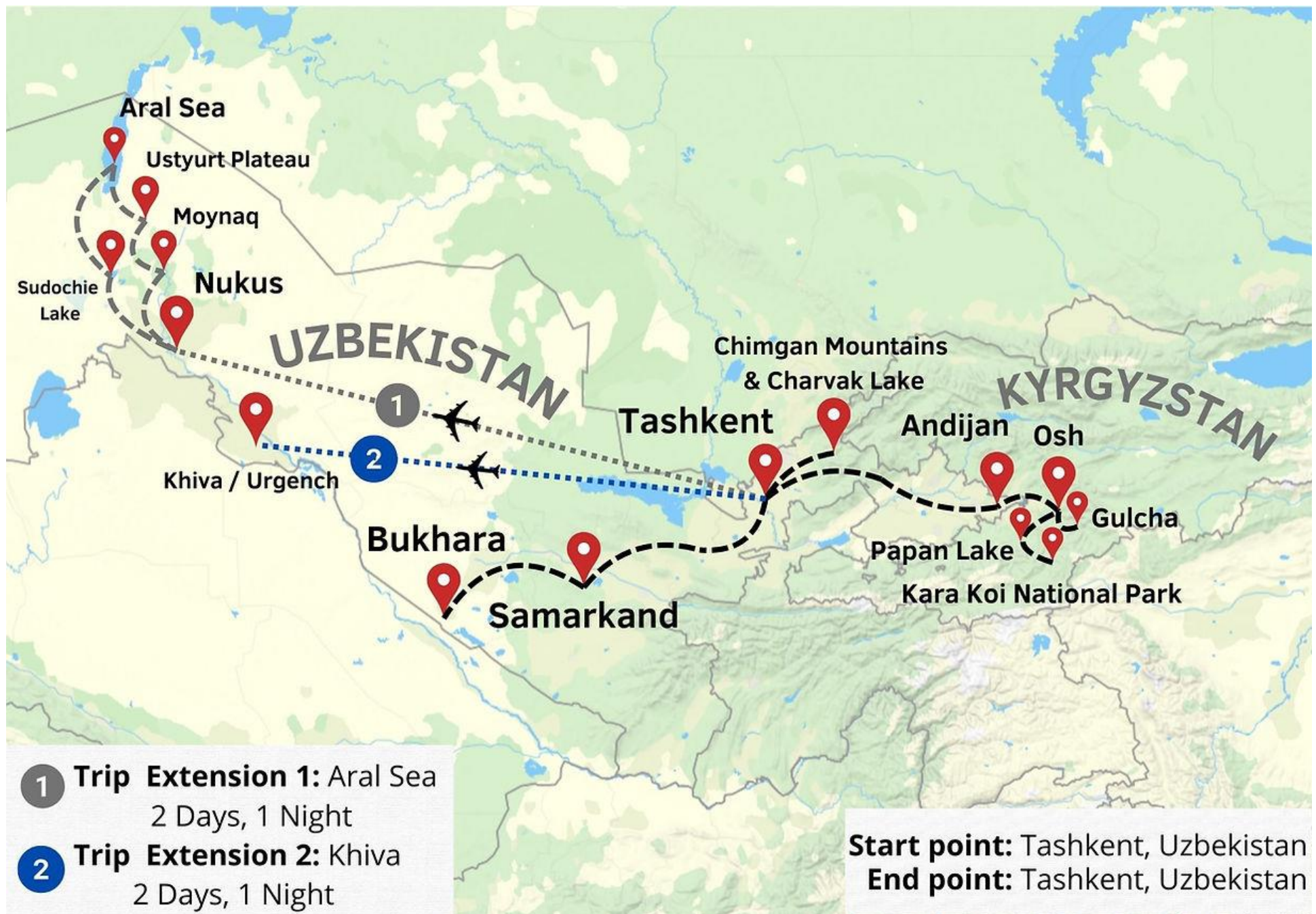
Uzbekistan & Kyrgyzstan

Itinerary

Page 2: Winter Schedule Itinerary(October – March)

Page 3: Summer Schedule Itinerary (April – September)

Pages 4 - 9: Expanded and Detailed summary



10 days, 9 nights (The Silk Road and Rural Kyrgyzstan) WINTER SCHEDULE (OCTOBER – MARCH)						
Day	Starting Place	Day plan	Afternoon plan	Evening plan	Ending place	Accommodation
1	Tashkent Uzbekistan	8am – Start of tour		Travel to Samarkand by train (4 hours) Arrive in Samarkand	Samarkand Uzbekistan	Guesthouse
		TASHKENT WALKING TOUR Visit Chorsu Bazar, the largest bazaar in Tashkent. Have lunch at the food bazaar where a huge variety of local food are sold. Visit the Khast Imam Library to see one of the world’s oldest Quran, the Samarkand Kufic Quran. Ride the Tashkent Metro, the biggest metro system in Central Asia and one of the most beautiful in the World. Visit to Hotel Uzbekistan and Amir Timur Statue.				
2	Samarkand Uzbekistan	SAMARKAND WALKING TOUR Visit to Bibi Khanum Mosque and Siab Bazaar Visit to Shah-i-Zinda Necropolis and cemetery, and Mausoleum of Islam Karimov Visit to the Registan Mosque and Madrasah Complex			Samarkand Uzbekistan	Guesthouse
3	Samarkand Uzbekistan	Travel to Bukhara by train (3 hours) Arriva in Bukhara	BUKHARA WALKING TOUR Visit to Bukhara Synagogue, one of the last traces of Bukhara’s once-thriving Jewish community.	Walk the streets and alleyways of the Silk Road city of Bukhara. OVERNIGHT IN A 18 th CENTURY CARAVANSERAI Overnight in a traditional 18 th century Silk Road era inn that was used as as rest stop by traders of the ancient Silk Road.	Bukhara Uzbekistan	Caravanserai
		BUKHARA WALKING TOUR Visit to Chor Minor Madrasah and abandoned madrasahs located nearby. Visit to Ark of Bukhara, Bukhara’s oldest building dating back to the 5 th Century Visit to Kalyan Mosque, 15 th -century mosque – one of the largest in Central Asia. Visit to Bolo Hauz Mosque, an 18 th century wooden mosque. Visit to Mir-I-Arab Madrasah, an centuries-old religious school that is still in operation		Travel to Tashkent by Sleeper Train (7 hours)	TRAIN Uzbekistan	TRAIN
5	TRAIN Uzbekistan	Morning arrival in Tashkent Travel to Chimgan Mountains by private-hire vehicle (2 hours) Arrival at the Chimgan Mountains	Hike along Lake Charvak (1 hour) Ride to the summit of the Chimgan Mountains Ride All-Terrain Vehicle (Optional US\$ 20) Return to Tashkent by private-hire vehicle (2 hours)	TASHKENT WALKING TOUR Dinner at the Central Asian Plov Centre, Visit to Magic City amusement park.	Tashkent Uzbekistan	Guesthouse
6	Tashkent Uzbekistan	Travel to Andijan by train (6 hours)	Arrival in Andijan Visit to Bogishamol Amusement Park, a Soviet-era theme park. Travel from Andijan to Gulcha by private-hire van via the Uzbek-Kyrgyz border at Dostuk (3 hours)	Arrival in Gulcha village HOMESTAY IN GULCHA VILLAGE	Gulcha Kyrgyzstan	Homestay
7	Gulcha Kyrgyzstan	HOMESTAY IN GULCHA VILLAGE Explore nearby canyons, waterfalls, rivers, and mountains. Visits to schools, farms, bazaars, and local villages. Watch nomadic games (Kok Boru) and boxing matches (if in season) Learn how to prepare local food, such as Plov and Mantiy. Horse riding (optional US\$15)			Gulcha Kyrgyzstan	Homestay
8	Gulcha Kyrgyzstan				Gulcha Kyrgyzstan	Homestay
9	Gulcha Kyrgyzstan	HOMESTAY IN GULCHA VILLAGE Travel to Kara Koi National Park (3 hours)	Arrival in Kara Koi National Park Hiking at Kara Koi National Park (5 kilometres, 2 hours)	OVERNIGHT AT YURT STAY	Kara Koi Kyrgyzstan	Yurt Stay
10	Kara Koi Kyrgyzstan	Travel to Andijan by private-hire van via the Uzbek-Kyrgyz border at Dostuk (3 hours)	Travel from Andijan to Tashkent by train (6 hours)	Arrive in Tashkent 9:30pm – tour ends	Tashkent Uzbekistan	

We will make every effort to keep itineraries as described and to find suitable replacements if needed. However, we reserve the right to make changes to the itinerary without prior notice in response to unforeseeable events and safety concerns. We also reserve the right to make changes to the itinerary should we deem that a certain activity is beyond the capability of any of our travelers

UZBEKISTAN	KYRGYZSTAN
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10 days, 9 nights (The Silk Road and Rural Kyrgyzstan) SUMMER SCHEDULE (APRIL – SEPTEMBER)							
Day	Starting Place	Day plan	Afternoon plan	Evening plan	Ending place	Accommodation	
1	Tashkent Uzbekistan	8am – Start of tour TASHKENT WALKING TOUR Visit Chorsu Bazar, the largest bazaar in Tashkent. Have lunch at the food bazaar where a huge variety of local food are sold. Visit the Khast Imam Library to see one of the world's oldest Quran, the Samarkand Kufic Quran. Ride the Tashkent Metro, the biggest metro system in Central Asia and one of the most beautiful in the World. Visit to Hotel Uzbekistan and Amir Timur Statue.		Travel to Samarkand by train (4 hours) Arrive in Samarkand	Samarkand Uzbekistan	Guesthouse	
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8	Gulcha Kyrgyzstan					Papan Lake Kyrgyzstan	Camping
9	Papan Lake Kyrgyzstan	HOMESTAY IN GULCHA VILLAGE Travel to Kara Koi National Park (3 hours)	Arrival in Kara Koi National Park Hiking at Kara Koi National Park (5 kilometres, 2 hours)	OVERNIGHT AT YURT STAY	Kara Koi Kyrgyzstan	Yurt Stay	
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*Camping is weather dependent. We may change the day on which camping is held, or even entirely the camping activity if the weather is bad

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The Silk Road and Rural Kyrgyzstan Itinerary

Day 1: Tashkent, Uzbekistan

Walking tour of Tashkent, to get up and close with the sights of the city, as well as get a glimpse of life in the Uzbek Capital.

Day Activities:

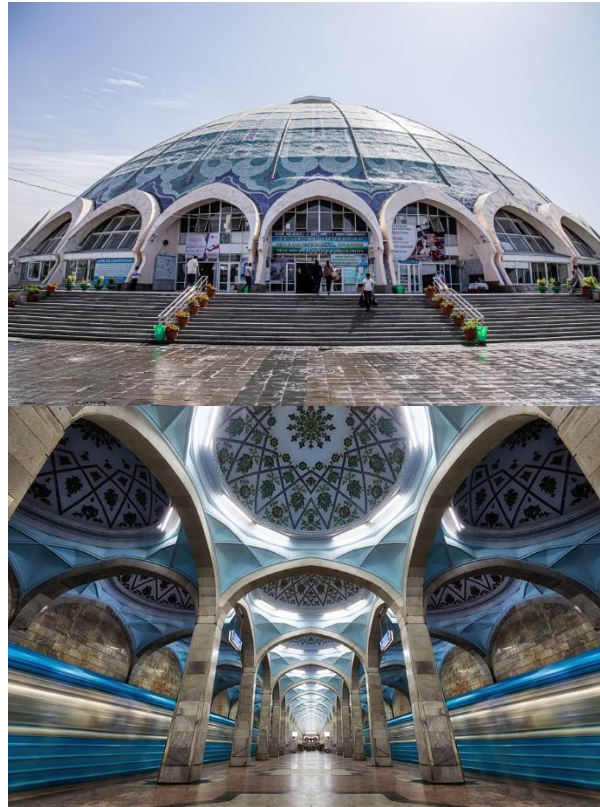
- Ride the **Tashkent Metro**, as well as other forms of public transportation in Tashkent.
- Visit **Chorsu Bazaar**, the largest bazaar in Tashkent.
- Have lunch at the **Chorsu Food Bazaar** with a variety of local foods.
- Visit the **Khast Imam Library** to see one of the world's oldest Qurans, the Samarkand Kufic Quran.

Evening:

Travel to Samarkand by train (4 hours).

Transportation: Metro, Bus, Taxi, Train

Accommodation: Guesthouse in Samarkand.



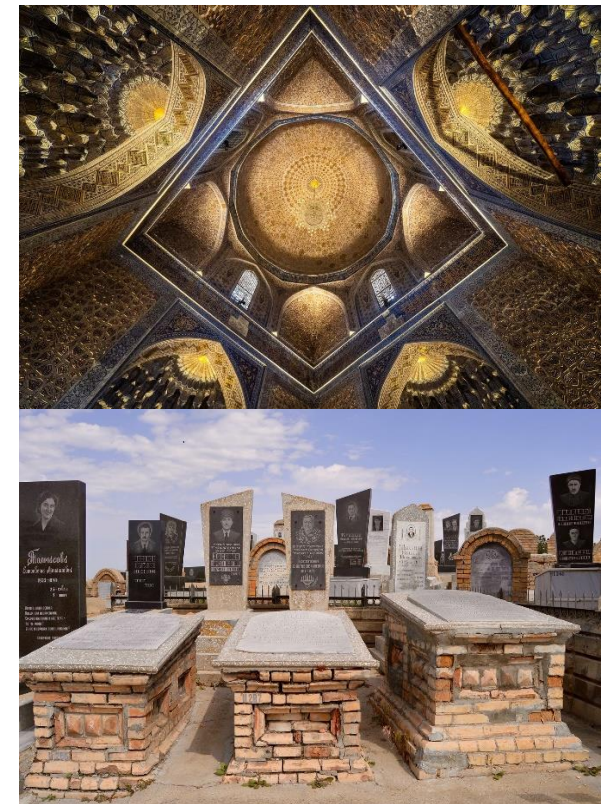
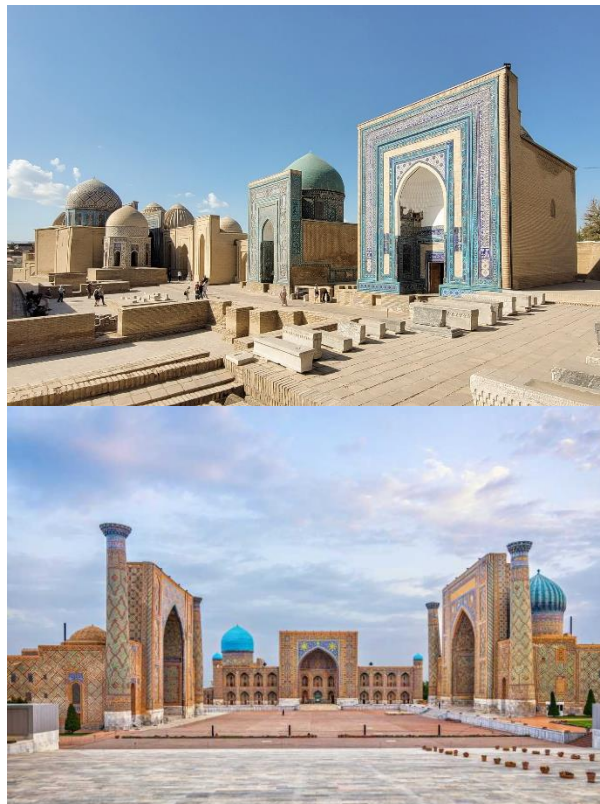
Day 2: Samarkand, Uzbekistan

Walking tour of Samarkand, the ancient capital of the Timuride Empire. A city filled with ancient Silk Road-era monuments awaits you.

Activities:

- Samarkand Walking Tour.
- Visit to the 15th-century **Bibi Khanum Mosque & Mausoleum of Amir Temur**.
- Visit to and lunch at the **Siab Bazaar**.
- Visit to UNESCO World Heritage site of **Shah-i-Zinda Necropolis & Cemetery**, and the **Mausoleum of Islam Karimov**, the late Uzbek leader.
- Visit to **Registan Mosque and Madrasah Complex**.

Accommodation: Guesthouse in Samarkand.



Day 3: Samarkand to Bukhara, Uzbekistan

We'll travel to Bukhara in the morning from Samarkand. A train ride that slashes through miles and miles of the picturesque Uzbek landscape. Once, in Bukhara, we'll visit some of the cities centuries-old jewels.

Morning:

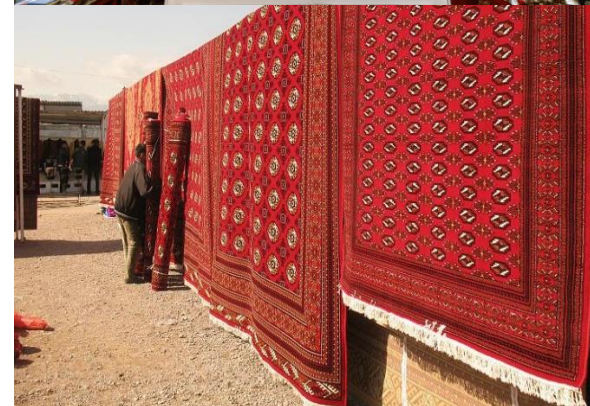
Travel to Bukhara by train (3 hours)

Activities:

- Walking tour of the tight alleyways of the ancient Silk Road city of Bukhara.
- Visit **the Bukhara Synagogue**, the centre of the once-thriving Uzbek Jewish community.
- Overnight at a **caravanserai**, a centuries-old inn that was operational during the days of the ancient Silk Road and served as a rest stop to traders.

Transportation: Train, Taxi

Accommodation: Caravanserai in Bukhara.



Day 4: Bukhara, Uzbekistan

Discover Bukhara's downtown core, home to numerous centuries-old monuments dating back to the Silk Road. End the day with an overnight train journey back to Tashkent.

Day Activities:

- Bukhara Walking Tour.
- Visit **Chor Minor Madrasah** and nearby abandoned madrasahs.
- Visit **Ark of Bukhara**, Bukhara's oldest building dating back to the 5th Century.
- Visit **Kalyan Mosque**, a 15th-century mosque, one of the largest in Central Asia.

Evening:

Travel to Tashkent by Sleeper Train (7 hours).

Transportation: Train

Accommodation: Guesthouse in Samarkand.



Day 5: Chimgan Mountains, Uzbekistan

Escape the urban buzz of Tashkent and venture into the stunning natural landscapes of the Lake Charvak and Chimgan Mountains region.

Morning:

Arrival in Tashkent by Sleeper Train

Travel by private vehicle to Lake Charvak (2 hours)

Activities:

- Hike along the shores of **Lake Charvak**, a striking turquoise reservoir surrounded by lush hills and peaks.
- Ride the cable car up to the **summit of Chimgan Mountains**. Enjoy the surrounding panoramic views.
- Ride an **All-Terrain Vehicle (ATV)** on the rugged landscape. (Optional US\$ 20)

Evening:

Return to Tashkent by private vehicle (2 hours)

Transportation: Train, Private-hire vehicle

Accommodation: Guesthouse in Bukhara.



Day 6: Tashkent to Gulcha, Kyrgyzstan

Travel to Andijan for a glimpse of Soviet-era entertainment before crossing into Kyrgyzstan. Experience local life in Gulcha village, a village in the fertile Ferghana Valley, with a homestay.

Morning:

Travel to Andijan by train (6 hours).

Afternoon:

- Visit Bogishamol Amusement Park, a Soviet-era theme park.

Travel from Andijan to Gulcha by private-hire van via the Uzbek-Kyrgyz border at Dostuk (3 hours).

Transportation: Taxi, Train, Private-hire Van

Accommodation: Homestay in Gulcha village.



Days 7 & 8: Gulcha, Kyrgyzstan

Immerse yourself in Kyrgyz culture while staying in a local Kyrgyz village and with visits to local schools, farms, and bazaars.

Activities:

- **Homestay experience** with a local family of farmers and bakers in Gulcha village.
- Explore **canyons, valleys, hills, lakes** and other beautiful geographical formations of the region.
- Explore places of local life, like **villages, bazaars, cattle markets, communal banya and schools**.
- Partake in **local events**, such as **nomadic games (Kok Boru, boxing matches)** and **celebrations (weddings, religious events)** – if available.
- **Horse riding** (2 hours) to a scenic viewpoint.

Transportation: Private-hire van

Accommodation: Homestay in Gulcha village.



Day 9: Kara Koi National Park, Kyrgyzstan

Experience an authentic yurt stay nestled deep in the Kyrgyz high mountains, where you'll be surrounded by the majestic landscape of towering peaks and sweeping valleys. The yurt, deeply connected to Kyrgyz culture, offers a unique and immersive experience into the local way of life.

Activities:

- **Short hike (1-2 hours) at Kara Koi National Park** in Southern Kyrgyzstan.
- Visit to **live shooting range** and try shooting real rifles and ammunations with Soviet weapons dating back to World War II.
- Travel through valleys home to shepherds and grazing livestock.
- **Yurt stay experience** in a traditional Kyrgyz nomadic yurt.

Transportation: Taxi, Train, Private-hire Van

Accommodation: Yurt Stay in Kara Koi National Park.



Summer Trip: Papan Lake, Kyrgyzstan

A warm summer day filled with outdoor activities, ending with serene lake camping, creating memories that last forever.

Afternoon:

Travel to Papan Lake (2 hours)

Activities:

- Savor a delicious outdoor dinner by Papan Lake, featuring freshly grilled Shashlik kebabs on skewers.
- Gather around a cozy bonfire under a stunning night sky illuminated by the Milky Way.
- Set up your tent and drift off to sleep, immersed in nature's tranquility.

Transportation: Private-hire van

Accommodation: Camping by Papan Lake



Day 10:

Gulcha, Kyrgyzstan to Tashkent, Uzbekistan

The last day begins with a peaceful morning in Gulcha, followed by a scenic journey back to Tashkent, marking the tour's end.

Morning:

Travel from Gulcha to Osh. (2 hours)

Activities:

- Short tour of Osh, Kyrgyzstan's second largest city, and visit to the **Suleiman Too cave complex**.

Afternoon & Evening

Travel to Andijan, Uzbekistan via Dostuk border crossing (2 hours)

Travel to Tashkent, Uzbekistan by train (6 hours)

Trip ends in Tashkent, Uzbekistan at 10pm.

Transportation: Private-hire Van, train, taxi

