

Tour Product #4: Sary Chelek Trekking Adventure



Destination: Jalal – Abad Oblast, Sary Chelek Nature Reserve

Tour Name: Sary Chelek Trekking Adventure

Duration: 8 days 7 nights

Trekking distance: 65 km

Max Elevation: 2,833 meters

Min Elevation: 1,232 meters

Total Elevation Gain/Loss: 3228m+ / 3865m-

Months Possible: June – early September

Start: Avletim village, **End Point:** Sary Chelek Lake

Difficulty:

Easy	Moderate	Demanding	Difficult	Very difficult

Description:

The Western Tien-Shan mountains are a real treasure of spectacular lakes including the grandiose lake Sary-Chelek.

Meet local herders to experience their traditional way of life and discover this mysterious land where people's lives are shaped by breathtaking sheer peaks, lush valleys and majestic lakes. Explore the lonely beauty of Sary Chelek and Kara Kamysh Lakes located on a ragged mountain plateau with its verdant meadows used by shepherds in the summer months. Looking for an unforgettable experience exploring a remote place of blue lakes and green valleys with high evergreen trees, this is the journey for you!

Days	Activities
Day 1	<p>Osh city to Aflatun village, 6-7 hours</p> <p>Early arrival to Osh city. Meet at the airport. Transfer from Osh to Aflatun settlement - at the confluence of the Aflatun and Utur rivers. Osh, famous for the warmth and hospitality of its townsfolk, is the biggest city in southern Kyrgyzstan. It welcomes the visitors with streets lined by green trees, numerous open-air cozy cafes, bright boisterous bazaar and the main point of interest - Suleiman Mountain that rises in the middle of the city. We head for Aftalun settlement and further to the confluence of Aflatun and Utur rivers where we set up our camp(1300m). Short walk around the area to enjoy nature's beauty.</p> <p>Driving time: 6 - 7 hours Driving Distance: 350 km Campsite (1250 m): N41° 44.165' E71° 51.669'</p>
Day 2	<p>Hike to southern Aflatun river, 5-6 hours</p> <p>We trek up along the southern Aflatun river. The first day always overwhelms with new sensations, fascinating landscaped vistas. Lush multicolored alpine vegetation contrasts the austere grandeur of mountains. The Aflatun valley is covered with the world-famous Tian Shan blue spruce along the fast mountain river following the trail. After 12-km easy ascent, we set up our camp (1700m).</p> <p>Trekking time: 5-6 hours Trekking Distance: 12 km Max Elevation: 1593 m Min Elevation: 1231 m Total Gain/Loss: +536 m / - 174 m Campsite (1589 m): N41° 50.014' E71° 51.594'</p>
Day 3	<p>Hike to Oialma campsite along the Aflatun river</p> <p>After breakfast, we continue the trekking up along the gorge to the confluence of Aflatun and Oialma river. The trail goes on unpaved road along the gushing river. The scenic views of spruce trees covering the mountain is something you enjoy looking at. During the ascent, we will see beekeepers looking after their honeybees, not recommended to come close, you might get stung by a bee. Trekking further upstream, we reach the place where our camp is to be set on the bank of Oialma river (2100m).</p> <p>Trekking time: 5-6 hours Trekking Distance: 7 km Max Elevation: 1860 m Min Elevation: 1580 m Total Gain/Loss: +303 m / - 44 m Campsite (1859 m): N41° 53.015' E71° 51.042'</p>

Day 4	<p>Hike to the northern head of Sary Chelek Lake over the Kuldambes Pass (2750 m)</p> <p>We start the day by ascending the Kuldambes Pass (2750m), 2 hours. Hiking up the pass is not too demanding as the route follows a narrow path with zigzag ascent. The trail pass by the tents of shepherds tending their sheep. From the top of the pass, enjoy the panoramic views of beautiful Chatkal Mountain range surrounded with dense spruce forest. Our path continues over the verdant ridge towards Ashuu pass (2551m) where it descends down to Sary Chelek Lake. Arrival at bank of the lake and rest gazing at the beauty of the nature.</p> <p>Trekking time: 6-7 hours Trekking Distance: 12 km Max Elevation: 2833m Min Elevation: 1849 m Total Gain/Loss: +1080 m / - 1090 m Campsite (1882 m): N41° 55.019' E71° 55.985'</p>
Day 5	<p>To Kyzyl-Suu gorge over Makmal pass (2654m)</p> <p>Hike starts along the Sary Chelek river with scenic views of spruce trees growing around these rocky slopes. After 1 km, the river narrows and turns north. The slopes become steeper. Later the trail will ascend Makmal Pass (2654m) where will get the most scenic view of Mustor Mountains that will never come anymore. Have lunch with this panoramic view. Descent to the Kyzyl-Suu river along the shepherd's camps. Be invited for a tea and try the fresh cream of cow's milk. Arrive at the campsite.</p> <p>Trekking time: 6-7 hours Trekking Distance: 12 km Max Elevation: 2658m Min Elevation: 1879 m Total Gain/Loss: +838 m / - 763 m Campsite (1944 m): N41° 57.468' E71° 58.745'</p>
Day 6	<p>Trekking downstream the Kara-Suu river to Karakamysh Lake</p> <p>We hike down along the Kara-Suu river towards another alpine lake Karakamysh fed by Kara-Suu river. Depending on the light, the lake's water constantly changes its colour. It can be emerald green, turquoise green with reflections of white clouds, light green or dark grey, even black. This turquoise lake is a nice spot even for locals to spend a time. There are quite a few people running accommodation. We camp near their camps. Take a walk to get along with local life of this jailoo (summer camp).</p> <p>Trekking time: 4-5 hours Trekking Distance: 10 km Max Elevation: 1964 m Min Elevation: 1794 m Total Gain/Loss: +215 m / - 334 m Campsite (1819 m): N41° 54.082' E72° 02.080'</p>

Day 7	<p>Trek to Iri Kol Lake over Kotormo pass (2446m)</p> <p>Today we ascent to Kotormo pass (2446m). Slightly demanding but rewarding ascent to the pass: from the pass opens the wide panorama of huge southern head of Sary-Chelek Lake. There are in fact other smaller lakes including this Iri Kol Lake where we camp after descending the pass. One hour's descending brings us to the campsite. Here we set up our camp (1800m). Short walk around to get the full view of the lake.</p> <p>Trekking time: 5-6 hours Trekking Distance: 8 km Max Elevation: 2446 m Min Elevation: 1813 m Total Gain/Loss: +734 m / - 613 m Campsite (1942 m): N41° 51.198' E72° 00.371'</p>
Day 8	<p>Trekking from lake Iri-Kol to the southern part of lake Sary-Chelek</p> <p>Today we explore other smaller lakes following the path that leads through the woodland and across the gushing rivers to the jewel of the lakes Sary Chelek. We will enjoy walking on the shade of various trees including wild apple, cherry and walnut trees. We arrive at the Sary Chelek Lake and marvel at its unique beauty. Here, we say goodbye to this untouched nature and head towards the pickup point and get transferred to Osh city. Spend overnight in a long-awaited comfortable hotel.</p> <p>Trekking time: 2-3 hours Trekking Distance: 5 km Driving time approx: 6 hours Driving Distance: 350 km Max Elevation: 2016 m Min Elevation: 1876 m Total Gain/Loss: +171m / - 226 m</p>