

## Unknown Kyrgyzstan – the canyons of Kok- Kyja River

**Dates:** 11th July to 2nd August 2016

**Activity:** Research expedition

**Duration:** 23 days



**Day 1. (11th July)** Depart the UK on international flight to Istanbul and onward

**Day 2 (12th July)** Arrival to Bishkek, meeting at the airport, transfer to the town.

Accommodation is “Asia Mountains” hotel \*\*\*.

Excursion around the town (B/L/D).

**Day 3. (13th July)** Transfer to Naryn (330 km), accommodation in guest house “Celestial Mountains”. The biggest river of Kyrgyzstan flows through Naryn town called Naryn river and giving the start to the second biggest river in Central Asia Syrdarya which flows into Aral sea (B/L/D).

**Day 4. (14th July)** Stay in Naryn help the orphanage for children with disabilities.

**Day 5. (15th July)** Stay in Naryn help the orphanage for children with disabilities.

**Day 6. (16th July)** Transfer to valley of Ak-Say river. At first we will ascend Kyzyl-Bel pass and then go down to a wide At-Bashi valley. To the south you will see a great At-Basji summit sparkling on the sun. We will ascend Kyndy pass (3398 m) where the customs is going to be as we are going into the border zone. From the pass we will go down to the Valley of Ak-Say River which is one of the biggest alpine valley on the territory of Kyrgyzstan. The bottom height of the valley varies from 3000 up to 3900 m above the sea level and is a desert area covered by short-grassy meadows which is an ideal habitat for a popular Marco Polo sheep. Our first camp will be on the height of 3375 m above the sea level not far from the mouth of Ken-Suu river (B/L/D).



**Day 7 (17th July)** On the first day of an active part of our expedition we will go 20 km along the Mudurum river. Be prepared to ford many streams and rivers which will be on our way. There are beautiful views of wide meadow with the snow summits on the background. The hike is not difficult. Our next camp will be on the bank of Kashka-Suu river on the height of 3230 m (B/L/D)

**Day 8. (18th July)** On the next day we will continue our hike along Mudurum river but we will have to ascend about 300m up onto the plateau. From here there are picturesque views of Ak-Say valley and on the Mudurum river flowing on its bottom. Then there is a smooth descent to Balyk-Suu river. The camp will be not far from the merger of Balyk-Suu and Mudurum. (20 km, 3100 m), (B/L/D)

**Day 9. (19th July)** On the third day we will move away from the river and cross the Ak-Say valley going south-west. We will have to ford two rivers today: Ak-Say and Kok-Kiya. Both of them are pretty wide and strong. They are separated by the ridge with the height of about 300m. which we will have to go over. Though after we ford the second river our camp will already wait for us there (13 km, 3050 m), (B/L/D)



**Day 10. (20th July)** This day you may have a walk to the place where Kok-Kiya flows into the Mudurum river. Going along the curvy river banks to the merger you will enjoy the amazing views of the steep rocks and the watercourse running through them. The Kok-Kiya inflow place is even more interesting where the green water of Kok-Kiya mixes with the muddy-grey waters of Mudurum river. Come back to the camp (18 km), (B/L/D).

**Day 11. (21st July)** One more walk in south direction. The distance is not big but the ascent is pretty high about 800m which can be compared with a small climbing. We will have to go up onto Min-Teke plateau where the headwater of Karator river which takes its waters from the Kok-Kiya glaciers is seen. Their snowy and icy summits go up to 4900 m above the sea level. Come back to the camp (10-11 km), (B/L/D).

**Day 12. (22nd July)** Other places are waiting for us, let's finally leave this camp and find something better. Today we will cross Kok-Kiya river and ascend onto the plateau separating the watercourses of Ak-Say and Kok-Kiya and continue our way to the west along Kok-Kiya river. We will see the amazing meanders done by the river in thousands of years by its devastating forces (12-14 km, 3250 m), (B/L/D).



**Day 13. (23rd July)** On the seventh day of our trek we will go down to Kok-Kiya watercourse and go along its left bank. During our hike we will be surrounded by rocky steep walls. The wide blue ribbon of the river make the view absolutely unique. After some kilometers the canyon starts to widen and we come into a valley. The river flow here is wide too with many small streams. On one of the green river terraces we will make our next camp. On the way we will have a chance to visit one of nomads yurts and get acquainted with their way of life. (12 km, 3330 m), (B/L/D).



**Day 14. (24th July)** On the next day we will continue our journey. At first we will come to the houses of locals then we will have to cross the biggest left inflow of Kok-Kiya, Kol-Suu river originating from the same named lake. We will go along the kok-Kiya river bank, skirt the Kol-Tau mountains then ascend a little bit along the left bank of the river having no name on the bank of which we will put our camp. (12 km, 3530 m), (B/L/D)

**Day 15. (25th July)** Today we will have a walk to the shore of Kol-Suu lake. For that we will ascend the pass (3971 m) from where this amazing lake is clearly seen located on the height of 3500 m above the sea level surrounded by vertical rocks. The color of the lake changes with the weather from turquoise to deep blue. Kurumduk river flows into the lake over here from the south. From the pass we will have a chance to go by the edge onto the closest elevation or to descend to the lake shore. You choose. Coming back to the camp. (10-11 km), (B/L/D)

**Day 16. (26th July)** This day we will be transferred a little bit back and continue our lake neighborhood research. We will ascend an easy pass (3560 m) and go to Kol-Suu river. After we reach the river we will go along its shore to the place of our camp. Here among the big boulders we will put our camp. 3 nights are planned to be spent over here. (8 km, 3400 m), (B/L/D).



**Days 17-18 (27th & 28th July)** These two days we will devote for the neighborhood research, see the northern shore of the Kol-Suu lake, will visit the cave not far from the lake, ascend the panorama spot from where you may make great pictures of the lake surrounding rocks. If you wish we may have a little climbing on the summit nearby the camp and enjoy the view of the mountains surrounding the blue surface of the lake clenched by the rocky gorge from its top. Those who want to have some rest these days may do it though the desire to devote yourself for some research is really big. Overnight in the camp on the bank of the beautiful river. (B/L/D).

**Day 19 (29th July)** It's time for us to leave our hospitable lake and proceed to the next gorge. This day we will go over two passes: One without a name (3575 m) and Chon-Sary-Beles (3590 m), we will finally get into the head of Chon-Kuldja-Bashi gorge where our camp will be placed on the bank of the stream (10-11 km, 3430 m), (B/L/D).

**Day 20. (30th July)** This day we will try to climb on one of the closest mountains. The day will be long and intense, but the climbing worth it. From its top there is a marvelous view of the surrounding mountains and only some of them are higher than the one we will be on. We will be on the height of 4300 m above the sea level. The view is stunning. (15-17 km). For those who doesn't want to climb the summit we may suggest to walk around the camp and see a big grotto and just enjoy the life. (B/L/D).



**Day 21. (31st July)** We leave these places today and drive to Naryn town. On the way we will cross the border again. Accommodation in a guest house. (B.L.D).

**Day 22. (1st Aug.)** Transfer to Bishkek (330 km). Accommodation in the guest house. Farewell dinner (B/L/D).

**Day 23. (2nd Aug.)** Transfer to the airport. Departure. And return to UK

#### **Equipment:**

- Toiletries
- Sun cream (20pf. and more), chapstick
- Water container
- Trekking boots
- Sun glasses of a good protection level
- Backpack with the holding capacity of 45 liters or an expeditionary trunk
- Backpack with the holding capacity of 25litres for personal stuff for a day trek
- Sleeping bag (temperature range -10C -15C)
- Mat for a sleeping bag
- Trekking sticks
- Headlamp with extra batteries.

#### **Clothes:**

- The clothes for a warm climate in valleys
- Shoes for easy treks and town (sneakers/sandals)
- Shoes for river fording (sandals)
- Trekking pants – thin thermal underwear or any other for sleeping in tents
- Windcheater or any other thin jacket
- Waterproof jacket (preferable Gore-Tex) with the hood or a slicker
- Waterproof pants (preferable Gore-Tex)
- T-shirts – 2 each
- Shorts
- Long sleeve T-shirt
- Fleece (polar) jacket (for the nights in tent), cotton socks – 3 pairs
- Wool or fleece hat
- Hat with a visor
- Fleece or any other gloves for the nights in tent
- Down jacket (preferable)