

## MoveGreen Study Tour:



**The Forgotten Silk Road:  
Landscapes, lifestyles and resilience in the Kyrgyz Republic  
(for university students, aged 18+)  
Two weeks, Kyrgyz Republic, Central Asia  
3-15 September 2017**

### STUDY TOUR ITINERARY\*:

#### **Day 1 (SUNDAY 3.09): Arrival in the Kyrgyz Republic, introduction, and welcome dinner!**

**Early morning:** Arrive by plane very early morning (before breakfast, often 3am or 5am). You will be met at the airport and transferred to the hotel.

**Morning:** Breakfast, resting and relaxing. Optional walking tour around central Bishkek for those who are awake (cost approx. 5€ per person).

**Afternoon:** After lunch, introduction to the study tour! Description of the itinerary, discussion of expectations, and introduction to the study material and reader. Meet facilitators and other participants. There will also be a brief introductory lecture to the Kyrgyz Republic: culture, politics, and history. You will be placed into research groups and have an opportunity to get to know your group members and focus your research questions.

Evening: Welcome dinner with local environmental activists and students, with national cuisine.

#### **Day 2 (MONDAY 4.09): Case study: Climate change, resilience, and adaptation**

**Morning:** Introduction to climate change in Central Asia and the Kyrgyz Republic. What are the climate impacts in Central Asia? How do they affect communities, food security, and livelihoods? Which groups are working in this sphere and what are they doing? What are the challenges for effectively supporting resilience and adaptation in the Kyrgyz Republic? Introductory lecture followed by an interactive workshop on resilience and adaptation issues.

**Afternoon:** After lunch, meet one local and one international NGO working in climate change resilience and adaptation in Central Asia and the Kyrgyz Republic. Hear stories of challenges and barriers to implementing climate change adaptation and resilience projects in Central Asia - for one, is there any reliable data on climatic change in the region? And how can we plan in its absence? Discuss issues with project staff.

**Evening:** After dinner, there is an optional cultural event e.g. a concert of traditional music or an art museum (cost approx. 5€ per person).

### **Day 3 (TUESDAY 5.09): Case study: Energy governance**

**Morning:** After a brief introduction to the day's activities at the hotel, visit a local NGO which is working on energy governance issues in the Kyrgyz Republic. They will provide an introduction to energy in Central Asia and an interactive workshop on energy issues. What is the Central Asian energy exchange? How does the Kyrgyz Republic negotiate with powerful neighbours for wintertime energy supplies whilst maintaining summertime water flows? Did a hike in electricity costs cause the 2010 revolution? And what is it like for local people who can't afford to buy coal in winter to heat their homes?

**Afternoon:** After lunch, take part in a tailored tour by MoveGreen exploring the intriguing world of energy politics in Central Asia, starting from the eternal flame on Victory square, which was almost cut in 2012 when Kazakhstan threatened to stop gas supply to the Kyrgyz Republic due to unpaid bills. The tour will take 2-3 hours and includes visits to view energy production infrastructure and experiences of different kinds of energy use within Bishkek city.

**Evening:** After dinner, return to hotel. Free time.

### **Day 4 (WEDNESDAY 6.09): Case study: Sustainable development**

**Morning:** After breakfast, attend a panel discussion on sustainable development issues. What is the reality versus the practice of sustainable development? And can development really be sustainable? What barriers do corruption and regional political pressure play? Panellists are representatives of government, NGO, and community sectors. After brief introductory lectures, panellists will invite questions and discussion from the audience.

**Afternoon:** After lunch, take part in an interactive workshop on development issues, run by a facilitator with extensive experience in development issues. Work through real-life case studies and role-plays and get a deeper understanding of barriers and challenges in development work.

**Evening:** After dinner, there is an optional cultural event e.g. a concert of traditional music or an art museum (cost approx. 5€ per person).

### **Day 5 (THURSDAY 7.09): Case study: Conservation and biodiversity in Ala-Archa National Park**

**Morning:** After breakfast, drive to the beautiful Ala-Archa national park, located around 30km from Bishkek. After a brief introduction to the park's biodiversity by a local biologist, discuss issues of conservation, hunting, and poaching in the Kyrgyz Republic. Then begin the hike to the waterfall, on the route to Ratsek (approx. 6 hours return).

**Afternoon:** After a picnic lunch at the waterfall, return to the Alplager to rest and discuss more about conservation of biodiversity. Following this, return to Bishkek by minivan.

**Evening:** After dinner, return to hotel.

### **Day 6 (FRIDAY 8.09): Case study: Land management (pastures)**

**Day-time:** After breakfast, attend an all-day workshop on pasture management in the Kyrgyz Republic. How did the Soviet period affect pasture management issues? What are current issues against the background of economic depression in the 1990s and now economic growth? How can a traditional herding lifestyle be balanced with modernity? And how can farmers and herders plan for good years and bad? This interactive workshop will be conducted by a local NGO, which has been working in pasture management issues for many years.

**Evening:** After dinner, there is an optional cultural event e.g. attending a concert of traditional music or visiting an art museum (cost approx. €5 per person).

**Day 7 (SATURDAY 9.09): Field trip day 1 (travel to Koch-kor)**

**Morning:** After breakfast travel to the regional town of Koch-kor. The drive takes around 3 hours, with stops to look at the enormous hydropower dam and scenic places along the way.

**Afternoon:** After arriving, have a short walk around the town and visit the women's *shyrdak* collective (*shyrdaks* are a type of traditional Kyrgyz felt carpet). Free time. It may be possible to see *shyrdak*-making in process (an optional activity).

**Evening:** Introduction to local host family and dinner. Preparation for hike the following day.

**Day 8 (SUNDAY 10.09): Field trip day 2: Hike from Koch-kor to yurt camp at Lake Kol-Ukok**

**Morning:** Introduction to a representative of the local Koch-kor council and discussion of the local area, development and environmental issues. Following this, drive to a small village outside Koch-kor from where the hike begins.

**Afternoon:** Hike to the yurt camp near Kol-Ukok, with a break for a picnic lunch. The group will be accompanied by a local guide and two English-speaking organisers. The hike takes around 4-5 hours and follows a well-trodden but simple path with stones, rocks, and includes a river crossing - (you will get your feet wet!). The final altitude is around 3500m above sea level. You must be able-bodied and have a good level of fitness to hike at this altitude. The route will take you up through a rural village to isolated mountain pastures.

Please note: There are no medical or other facilities at the yurt camp. The fastest way back into town is by a one-hour horse-ride and then a two-hour vehicle ride back to Koch-kor (and from there, to Bishkek).

**Evening:** After arriving at the yurt camp there will be a hot cooked meal provided. Free time. You will overnight in a traditional Kyrgyz yurt (felt house), which is heated with dung bricks (animal manure). The conditions are beautiful but very basic and may not be very clean. There is a communal outdoor toilet and no access to running water (except from the nearby streams and lake), so no showers, baths, etc. The host family will provide all food, drinking water, and blankets necessary to survive and enjoy the chilly nights. The yurts are part of a herding lifestyle and so you should expect to be close by sheep, horses, and cattle. Following the Kyrgyz tradition, guests in yurts are typically expected to sleep on the same floor next to each other under warm blankets (up to six people can lie next to each other, with spacious sleeping space).

**Day 9 (MONDAY 11.09): Field trip day 3: Hike to glacier at Kol-Ukok**

**Morning:** After a hot cooked breakfast and group discussion, you will hike one to two hours to the glacial lake and glacier above Kol-Ukok.

**Afternoon:** After a picnic lunch at the lake, you will return back to the yurt camp (one to two hours walk back). After this, there is free time, and the option for horse riding (approx. €10 per hour).

**Evening:** After group discussion, a hot dinner will be served. Then overnight again in yurt.

**Day 10 (Tuesday 12.09): Field trip day 4: Return hike to Koch-kor and drive back to Bishkek**

**Morning:** After a hot cooked breakfast, pack up stuff and hike 4-5 hours back to the village near Koch-kor, stopping for a picnic lunch on the way.

**Afternoon:** After arrival in Koch-kor, drive back to Bishkek (a drive of around three hours).

**Evening:** After arrival in Bishkek and transferal back to the hotel, dinner and free time.

**Day 11 (Wednesday 13.09): Free day / preparation for seminar / sightseeing**

Breakfast, lunch, and dinner will be provided as usual. You will be free to choose how you spend this day. You may prepare for the seminar on the following day (we will hire a large room in the hotel for participants to use), or you can relax and explore Bishkek. There is the option to go to Osh Bazaar in the afternoon to buy souvenirs.

**Day 12 (Thursday 14.09): Seminar**

**Morning:** After breakfast, take part in the all-day seminar on natural resources governance issues, focusing on the study tour's case studies. This is an opportunity to explore the questions of your research group and to engage other participants in critical and interesting discussion.

**Afternoon:** After lunch, take part in the seminar workshop on natural resources governance issues. After the session, you will be invited to reflect on the study tour and what you have learned, and to provide feedback.

**Evening:** Enjoy the final dinner with local students! A mini awards ceremony and celebration!

**Day 13 (Friday 15.09): Fly out\*\***

A taxi will be arranged for you to transfer to the airport (often flights are very early morning, e.g. 4 or 5 am). For those with later flights, breakfast is provided at the hotel.

\*May be subject to minor changes

\*\*It is possible for participants to arrive slightly earlier or leave slightly after the study tour period. Please feel welcome to discuss this with us.