

JT 1: Short tour for Newcomers (13 days + 3)

Combined Jeep and Trekking tour

Route in short: Dushanbe – Khorog – Wakhan – Murghab – Madian – Yashilkul – trek to Bachor – Khorog – (Jizew) - Dushanbe



Level of difficulty of Trekking part: (of maximum 5)

Daily walking time during trekking part: approx. up to 5 hrs

This nice roundtrip offers a bit of everything – the Pamir Highway along the scenic Panj river and through Ghunt Valley; Khorog, the lively center of Badakhshan; Murghab and the Eastern Pamirs with their stunning fairy tale landscape; the Wakhan corridor with historical traces on every footstep; and optionally the cosy village Jizew (Bartang Valley), which has preserved its traditional life style.

The trip will be done mainly by 4W-drive, but included is also seven days trekking on foot (with optional donkey porters). Smaller walks will be done everyday en route.

In case you travel in July, the visit of cultural festivals with music, dance, folklore and horse games in Khorog and Murghab can be included as well (In this case the itinerary might need to be adapted a bit).

ITINERARY IN DETAIL

1. Day: Arrival in Dushanbe.

Sightseeing Tour in the friendly Tajik Capital, visiting National Museum, Gurminj museum for musical instruments (which can be even tried out) and strolling around in the vast parks and wide alleys with neoclassicist buildings and traditional teahouses.

Accommodation: Homestay, Hostel, Middle Class Hotel or Upper Class Hotel

2. Day Car journey Dushanbe-Khorog by 4WD through Kulyab

Optionally stop at Khulbuk Fortress.

In afternoon, the route follows the Panj river and offers insightful views to “the other side” of the former iron curtain, to Afghan Badakhshan with its traditional villages and footpaths carved into the cliffs.

In late evening arrival in the capital of Gorno-Badakhshan, Khorog.

Accommodation: Middle Class Hotel or homestay in Khorog.

(Alternative: Trip Dushanbe – Kala-i Khumb, staying in hostel, next morning continue road to Khorog. This would take an additional day)

3. Day Jeptour Khorog - Yamchun

Heading towards Wakhan corridor.

En route seeing many places of cultural interest, such as millennia-old castles, petroglyphs, solar calendars, holy shrines, sweet village museums and even a Buddhist stupa. Having a bath in the holy spring of Bibi Fatima.

If it is a Saturday, we can do a stop en route at the Afghan Market in Ishkashim (alternatively, if this is better in accordance with your time table: There are also Afghan markets in Khorog and Vanj we could visit, also held on Saturday)
Accommodation: Homestay.

- 4. Day Jeep tour Yamchun – Langar**
Continuing our sightseeing in Wakhan. Possibility for another hot spring bath in Shirgin. Doing a one-hour walk up to the most famous petroglyphs of the valley in Langar.
Accommodation: Homestay.
- 5. Day Jeep tour Langar over Khargush Pass (4343m) to Murghab**
En route splendid views to the Hindukush, interesting rock formations and, on the second half of the route, the typical Eastern Pamirs landscape of wide plains dotted with occasional (salt-)lakes.
Accommodation: Homestay
- 6. Day Murghab – Madian and back (Jeep and walking)**
Day trip by car to the nice green valley of Madian with the hot spring Elli Su. Doing a small hike, as far as you wish. If we are lucky we may come across some Kyrgyz shepherds with yurts.
Accommodation: Homestay or, if preferred, in tent in Madian.
- 7. Day Jeep tour Murghab – Bulunkul**
In morning, strolling a bit around in the kind of surreal town Murghab, with its Pamirian and Kyrgyz ethnical mix.
Driving back on the Pamir highway in Khorog direction, but this time a bit slower than on 5th day. Stop at the holy lake “White Fish” and dining in the fish restaurant. From Alichur on driving offroad, stopping at a geyser and at splendid viewpoints on Yashilkul and Bulunkul lake
Accommodation: Homestay
- 8. Day Trekking Bulunkul-Marjanoy along the northern shore of Yashilkul Lake, the famous “Green Lake”**
Visiting the shepherds in Marjanoy, if they are there.
Night in tent.
- 9. Day Trekking Marjanoy – Yashilkul natural dam.**
Enjoying nice view on dam and surrounding landscape.
Night in tent.
- 10. Day Trekking Bulunkul dam – Gobin.**
Trekking along upper Ghunt river with nice small forests.
Night in tent.
(Remark: In case of shortage of time, the trekking can also be begun directly on dam, so this trekking takes in total only 2 days instead of 4)
- 11. Day Trekking Gobin – Bachor.**
Night in homestay.
- 12. Day Jeep tour Bachor – Khorog, following Ghunt river.**

In Khorog, optionally visiting museum, botanical garden and bazaar.
Possibility to buy souvenirs.
Accommodation: Middle Class Hotel or Homestay.

13. Day **Car journey Khorog – Dushanbe**

Alternatively:

Khorog – Jizew

With car into the Bartang valley till the crossroad with the Jizew footpath.
Two or three hours walk up to the pristine Pamiri village of Jizev, which has no road connection and is therefore still very traditional. It is situated in a valley with many small forests and marvellous milky-turquoise lakes.

Accommodation in homestay with nice manja (outdoor-bed)

14. Day **Strolling around in Jizew valley**

Walking up Jizew valley to the upper lakes and the pastures of the village, going as far as you wish.

Accommodation: In homestay, or, if you wish, in tent a bit further up the valley.

(Remark: This part can also be extended, spending to or even more days in the upper Jizew valley)

15. Day **Walking down to Bartang Main road, car journey to Kala-i Khumb**

Accommodation: hostel or homestay.

16. Day **Kala-i Khumb- Dushanbe**

Seeing off or adding more days in Dushanbe and surrounding territories