



**Guided group tour
to the northeast of Kyrgyzstan**



Botanical Paradise

I.S.U. Excursion 2018

Botanizing in the mountains of Kyrgyzstan (11 days guided group tour)

19 JUNE - 29 JUNE 2018

(Please note that you have to leave on 18th of June, in order to arrive in Bishkek on the 19th)

At approximately 5.00 h. in the morning of June 19th, the program starts after arriving in Manas Airport.

General information and program (below)

Participation: 12 - 16 persons

Trip under the guidance of English/Dutch/German/Russian/Kyrgyz speaking guide/interpreter Meerim Kozhoshova and Dutch botanist Brian Kabbes (English/Dutch/German).

Price: **1.450,00 € p.p.**, excluding flight. (The flight from Europe is approximately. 400 - 500 €, depending on the time of booking and the chosen airline carrier. This flight you have to book yourself, but we will advice you which flight has the best connection.)

Payment of **55 € down payment** is to be made by credit card to the International Hardy Plant Union in advance after confirming. The **remaining 1395,00 € is payable cash** (euro or US dollar) arrival in the guesthouse in Bishkek. You will receive a specified invoice (English - Russian) from the local tour operator in Kyrgyzstan in euro and the local currency (Som). Because giro payment trough banks in Kyrgyzstan is very unreliable, it is not possible to use this service. It is also possible to pay in cash US dollars.

INCLUDED:

All transportation in Kyrgyzstan, as described in the program, including the transportation from and to the Manas airport. We will use our own minibus(es) and skilled driver(s).

Accommodation in guesthouses, but if possible also a few nights in traditional Kyrgyz felt yurts.

Full board is provided by us. In the guesthouses, restaurants and yurt camps we will have our meals together. Underway (by car, horse or foot) we will serve a picnic lunch. Water and tea will be provided. Other bottled and alcoholic drinks are not included. We will try to serve as many different cuisines as possible. So we will have among others Kyrgyz, Oigur, Uzbek, Dungan, Chinese and Slavic meals.

Local guides.

Interpreter.

Local admissions to visit National Parks and museums, as described in the program.

Method of payment

We do not ask for a down payment in advance. Instead we ask you to pay the full sum in **cash euros** to the tour operator upon arrival in the guesthouse (and after some rest) in Bishkek. The tour operator will give you a specified invoice in euro's and in the local currency (Som).

Because giro payment through banks in Kyrgyzstan is very unreliable, it is not possible to use this service. It is also possible to pay in **cash US dollars**.

As **volunteers** (to promote Community Based Tourism (tourism that benefits the local communities, not the tour operator) we (Meerim and Brian) are connected to the Kyrgyz tour operator and take care of all the communication between the guests and all the local parties. For all your questions, wishes or remarks you can come to us. The program was compiled by us.

SUMMARY:

We will care for you from arrival until your departure in Kyrgyzstan. For expenses of personal nature like souvenirs, alcoholic beverages etc. you will need some money (circa 50 to 150 euro).

**In case of unforeseen circumstances it is possible that
minor changes in the program will be made.**

Description Botanical Tour

Kyrgyzstan has a very rich and abundant flora. In this country there are more native species than there are in the whole of Europe! Some of them are only to be found in Kyrgyzstan.

We organize under the guidance of Brian Kabbes, a Dutch botanist, a tour to the country's east. Little study is made on the flora of Kyrgyzstan, the trip will have the characteristics of an exploration. Brian has been studying the Kyrgyz flora and is fluent in English and German. You will visit a series of different landscapes and a huge diversity of vegetation types. Apart from the flora, nature in general as well as geology and culture will be regarded. This trip will give you the opportunity to get acquainted with a wide range of habitats and the corresponding flora and fauna. Kyrgyzstan is next to that also a very photogenic country, (nature)photographers will have ample opportunities to make wonderful pictures.

The trip is completely provided for. You will spend the nights in guesthouses or yurts.

Transportation will be by minibus. Except from the Dutch botanist, guide/interpreter Meerim Kozhoshova will take care of the extra information and the communication with the local people.

Are you next to flora also interested in other cultures, do you have an adventurous nature and aren't you looking for luxury and western comfort in the first place, then this will be a trip you will remember with pleasure.

Everything is included in the price, except flight, bottled drinks and personal expenses.

The price of the flight depends on the carrier, place of departure and time of booking. The costs will be somewhere around 400 - 600 euro. Non stop flights are not possible. Stopovers are in Moscow or in Istanbul, depending on the carrier. You are advised to fly with Pegasus or Aeroflot. They are the cheapest and provide the best service.

Description of northern and eastern Kyrgyzstan

Steppes and deserts are characteristic for Central Asia. As a green oasis in this barren lands you will find the Issyk Kul lake, surrounded by the mountain ranges of the Tien Shan (Celestial Mountains). Lake Issyk-Kul (180 km long, 60 km wide, and maximal 668 meter deep) is the second largest mountain lake in the world. It lies at 1600 meter altitude, enclosed by high mountain peaks reaching until 7400 meter. The depth of the lake and the volcanic activity, together with its salinity make this lake never to freeze in winter. After a drive by car for just a few hours, you will be able to visit a vast variety of landscapes. From deserts and

steppes through fields, pastures and woodlands to the alpine meadows, snowfields and glaciers. Here at these altitudes live nearly extinct animals like the Snow leopard and the Marco Polo Sheep.

In this part of Kyrgyzstan many (perennial) plant species are to be found. During our excursions in the field we will encounter many different habitats and will explore the natural diversity thoroughly.

The traditional way of life of the proud Kyrgyz people appears to maintain in these fast changing times. Even today some of them go to the pastures high up in the mountains. And live there in yurts, with their herds, far away from the modern world, just like their ancestors did thousand years ago.

↓ **PROGRAM BELOW** ↓

Program Botanical Trip Kyrgyzstan 2018

(11 days guided group tour)

19 JUNE - 29 JUNE 2018

(Please note that you have to leave on 18th of June, in order to arrive in Bishkek on the 19th)

| Day | Date | Route | Short description |
|-----|-------|-------------------------------------|--|
| 1 | 19.06 | Arrival Bishkek | <i>At approximately 5.00h. in the morning the program starts upon arriving in Manas Airport. Accommodation in the guesthouse, later that day city tour</i> |
| 2 | 20.06 | Bishkek - Chong Kemin National Park | <i>Stay in a local guesthouse. After lunch walk and botanizing in the fields</i> |
| 3 | 21.06 | Chong Kemin National Park | <i>Botanical walk in the Annie Djok valley</i> |
| 4 | 22.06 | Chong Kemin - Bokonbaev | <i>Botanizing in the gorge of the Chong Say, further on to Bokonbaev</i> |
| 5 | 23.06 | Bokonbaev - Temir Kanat - Bokonbaev | <i>Botanizing in the mountains and steppes of Temir Kanat</i> |
| 6 | 24.06 | Bokonbaev - Skazka - Kochkor | <i>Walk through the Skazka valley, swimming in lake Issyk Kul. Visit to the Felt workshop in Kochkor</i> |
| 7 | 25.06 | Kochkor - Kara Kuzhur - Kochkor | <i>Exploring the vegetation in the Kara Kuzhur Gorge</i> |
| 8 | 26.06 | Kochkor - Burana - Bishkek | <i>Back to Bishkek, stop at Burana to visit the archeological site and have a short botanical survey</i> |
| 9 | 27.06 | Bishkek | <i>City tour, visiting interesting shops, visit</i> |

| | | | |
|----|-------|------------------------------|--|
| | | | <i>to the famous Osh bazaar, souvenir shopping</i> |
| 10 | 28.06 | Bishkek - Alamedin - Bishkek | <i>Botanizing in the Gorge of the Alamedin National Park</i> |
| 11 | 29.06 | Departure from Bishkek | <i>Transport to Manas airport</i> |

DESCRIPTION OF THE PROGRAM

Day 1 19 June 2018

Arrival. *35 km – approximately 45 minutes*

We meet you at Manas Airport and bring you to the guesthouse in Bishkek. After breakfast and some sleep we make a city tour through Bishkek. We will visit the National square (Ala Too) and the National Museum, among others. Dinner in a typical Kyrgyz restaurant.

Accommodation: guesthouse



Ala Too Square in Bishkek

Day 2 20 June 2018

Bishkek - Chong Kemin National Park. *125 km – approximately 2½ hours*

We drive from Bishkek to Chong Kemin National Park in Chong Kemin valley.

Chong Kemin lies within the Tian Shan mountain range separating Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan. This spectacular valley is famed for its natural beauty, abundant wildlife and rich, varied flora. This is the reason why Chong Kemin National Park was founded in 1977.

In the afternoon we will have the opportunity to walk in the surrounding steppes and fields and see different species of plants in the National Park.

Accommodation : local guesthouse

Day 3 21 June 2018

Chong Kemin National Park.

After breakfast we will be walking into the Annie Djok Valley, where we will see typical steppe vegetation and many plant species that are typical for this part of Kyrgyzstan.

Accommodation: local guesthouse



Steppe vegetation at Annie Djok

Day 4 22 June 2018

Chong Kemin National Park - Bokonbaev. 180 km – approximately 3 hours

We drive to the Chong Say Valley (25 km) and have a walk in this botanically rich and very interesting area. We will see many endemic species, among them the spectacular Desert Candles (*Eremurus tianschanicus*). After the walk we will continue to Bokonbaev where we will stay in guesthouses or possibly in a yurtcamp.

Accommodation: guesthouses/ yurtcamp

Day 5 23 June 2018

Bokonbaev - Temir Kanaat - Bokonbaev 2 x 40 km – approximately 2 hours in total

Today we will explore the mountains and steppes of the Tian Shan south of Bokonbaev. Here in Temir Kanaat it is possible to see many alpines as well as more robust herbaceous perennials with garden potential. We have all day to explore this majestic landscape and all the beautiful plants in it.

Accommodation: guesthouses/ yurtcamp



Steppe vegetation at Temir Kanaat

Day 6 24 June 2018

Bokonbaev - Skazka - Kochkor 152 km – approximately 3 hours

On the way to Kochkor, we first stop at Skazka and explore this dry, but colorful valley. The rocks have interesting variation in color, from yellow to red and orange sand. There is very little vegetation in this landscape, only specialists can survive here. Among them the impressive and colorful stands of *Perovskia scrophulariifolia*.

After lunch we will look for a nice private beach and have a swim in the crystal clear water of lake Issyk Kul at 1600 meters, surrounded by mountains that reach 4800 meters.

In Kochkor we visit the handicraft museum and felt shop. We will find the best quality in felt products in the cozy store.

Accommodation: guesthouses

Day 7 25 June 2018

Kochkor - Kara Kuzhur - Kochkor 110 km – approximately 2 hours

The gorge of Kara Kuzhur is known for its abundant perennial plant vegetations. Today we have the opportunity to explore this botanically rich area and study the plants and vegetation in detail.

Accommodation: guesthouses



Kara Kuzhur

Day 8 26 June 2018

Kochkor - Burana - Bishkek 228 km – approximately 3½ hours

On the way back to Biskek we stop at the Burana tower and visit the archeological site that dates back to the days of the Silk Road. Here we can climb the remaining watchtower and have a spectacular view on the mountains of the Tien Shan. In the fields surrounding the site many perennial plants are to be found, such as *Alcea nudiflora*, *Salvia stepposa*, *Achillea filipendulina*, and the rare yellow flowering *Delphinium semibarbatum*.

Accommodation: guesthouses

Day 9 27 June 2018

Bishkek 228 km – approximately 3½ hours

Walking in the city, visiting the museum of Fine Art, felt shops and the colorful Osh bazar for souvenirs.

In the evening we have dinner in a nice restaurant.

Accommodation: guesthouse

Day 10 28 June 2018

Day trip to Alamedin Gorge. 2 x 30 km - approximately 2 x 1 hour

The Alamedin valley is one of the most striking features of the Kyrgyz Kirebet, just South of Bishkek.

Ten kilometers further on is the Tyoplie Klyuchi Sanatorium. At a height of 1800 meters a.s.l. there is a bathhouse with naturally, radon, heated water and a complex of cottages further up the road, which was opened in 1984 by the then Ministry of Power.

We will have a botanical walk in this magnificent landscape and see interesting plants like *Allium caeruleum* and *Aconitum karakolicum* among many others.

Accommodation: guesthouse



Alamedin National park

Day 11 29 June 2018

Departure.

We take you to Manas Airport and say goodbye to beautiful Kyrgyzstan.

Due to unforeseen events it is possible that we have to make some adjustments to the program.



Burana Tower



Osh Bazaar

For more information:

Brian Kabbes

Jelke Sjoerdslaan 4

9262 SL Suameer (Frl.)

www.kabbes.nl

suameer@xs4all.nl

Pictures of all the trips you can find on our Facebook page. (After registration viewable for everybody). <https://www.facebook.com/brian.kabbes.5>



**Return application form
by Mail, Fax or Post to:**
International Hardy Plant Union
Godesberger Allee 142-148
D- 53175 Bonn
Fax: +49 (0) 228 8100277
info@isu-perennials.org

**Contact for more information
and tour details:**
Brian Kabbes
Jelke Sjoerdslaan 4
9262 SL Suameer (Frl.)
suameer@xs-4all.nl
www.kabbes.nl

APPLICATON FORM

ISU Excursion 19 JUNE - 29 JUNE 2018:
Botanical tour to the Tien Shan Mountains of Kyrgyzstan

(Please note that you have to leave on 18th of June, in order to arrive in Bishkek on the 19th)

At approximately 5.00 h. in the morning of June 18th, the program starts after arriving in Manas Airport, Kyrgyzstan.

Participant 1

Title: Ms Mr

Name/first name: -----

Address: -----

Town/Postcode/Country: -----

Tel./Email: -----

Date of birth: -----

Health Problems: -----

We like to hear from our guests any health problem that is of consequence to the trip. Like diabetes, heart problems, (food) allergies etc.

Payment

1.450,00 € p.p., excluding flight. (The flight is approximately. 400 - 500 €, depending on the time of booking and the chosen airline carrier. This flight you have to book yourself, but we will advice you which flight has the best connection.)

Payment of 55 € is to be made by credit card in advance after confirming. The remaining 1395,00 € is payable cash (euro or US dollar) arrival in the guesthouse in Bishkek. You will receive a specified invoice (English - Russian) from the local tour operator in Kyrgyzstan in euro and the local currency (Som). Because giro payment trough banks in Kyrgyzstan is very unreliable, it is not possible to use this service. It is also possible to pay in cash US dollars.



Invoicing/Payment

Card number: ---- ---- ---- ----

Valid until: --/--

Name: -----

Card type O Visa O Master Card

General information

Participation

12 - 16 persons. Trip under the guidance of English/Dutch/German/Russian/Kyrgyz speaking guide/interpreter Meerim Kozhoshova and Dutch botanist Brian Kabbes (English/Dutch/German).

In price included:

All transportation in Kyrgyzstan, as described in the program, including the transportation from and to the Manas airport. We will use our own minibus(es) and skilled driver(s).

Accommodation in guesthouses based on double room service. Unfortunately no single rooms are available.

Full board is provided by us. In the guesthouses, restaurants or yurt camps we will have our meals together. Underway (by car or foot) we will serve a picnic lunch. Water and tea will be provided. Other bottled and alcoholic drinks are not included. We will try to serve as many different cuisines as possible. So we will have among others Kyrgyz, Oigur, Uzbek, Dungan, Chinese and Slavic meals.

Also included:

- Local guides
- Interpreter.
- Local admissions to visit National Parks and museums, as described in the program.

Confirmation will be made in chronological order of incoming bookings. If more than 16 participants are interested we will have a waiting list for maybe cancelled applications. We highly recommend taking out a travel insurance policy.

Summary

You are taken care of from your arrival until your departure in Kyrgyzstan. For expenses of personal nature like souvenirs, alcoholic beverages etc. you will need some extra money (circa 50 to 150 euro).

Place, date

**Legally binding signature
and company stamp**