

WINTER PHOTO SAFARI (MARCO POLO TOUR)

The definitive adventure on one of the most remote areas of Kyrgyzstan, close to the Chinese border. An amazing trip to the wildest mountains where you will experience Kyrgyz hospitality, at 3600 m over the sea level, horse riding, track vehicle tours and the professional Photo Hunting experience of the magnificent Marco Polo Argali (*Ovis ammon polii*) & Eurasian Ibex (*Capra sibirica*) in their natural habitats.

Day 1. Arriving. Manas International Airport

Transfer to hotel. Resting time.

City tour. Visit most famous places in Bishkek.

Dinner.

Day 2. Bishkek - Naryn

Early breakfast. From colorful and multi-ethnic Bishkek we drive to Naryn, heart of the Central Tien Shan. A typical post-soviet city with a nice local bazar and some classic key points like Lenin's square and overviews to the Naryn river, Kyrgyzstan largest water way. Overnight in hotel.

Day 3. Naryn - Komur Valley (Profi camp)

- General briefing about place
- Introduction to the fauna

Surrounded by breathtaking mountains, and right in front the Western Kokshaal Range, neighboring mighty China. We will discuss some aspects of our tour and daily activities, plus a juicy introduction to the animals we are about to see and experience. Overnight in winter camp.



Day 4. Komur Valley

- Camp activities (Night at camp)
- Marco Polo photo safari on vehicle (track or 4 x 4)

- Night presentation: Argalis (Tien Shan (*Ovis ammon karellini*, and Marco Polo, *Ovis ammon polii*)

We will jump on our efficient land vehicles and head to the mountains and into remote valleys. Our target: to locate the mighty Marco Polo numerous herds in order to observe their daily behaviors, and most important of all, their mating courtship and displays. At night, after a well-earned dinner, we will explain all these in detail, while we watch some clips, photos and other type of media.



Day 5.

- Camp activities (Night at camp)
- Marco Polo photo safari on horses
- Night presentation: Snow leopards (*Panthera uncia*)

After two adaptation days, we will go footed Kirgiz Mountain by horses. It is the best way to approach the busy Marco Polo herds. Stealth and a well-planned approach, where careful stalking techniques must be applied, are the key to get close to the wary Argalis, which for sure will display all their power in a plethora of clashes, races, mounts and various others, no less interesting, behaviors. At night we will learn everything about the mountain ghost, the silent, agile but shy, snow leopard.



Day 6.

- Camp activities (Night at camp)
- Trek to Dankova peak (5.982 m.) on vehicle (track or 4x4)

Night presentation: Wolves (*Canis lupus*)

Well equipped, and using our efficient way of moving around in the challenging hills and slopes, we will approach the beautiful, and towering, Dankova peak (5.982 m.). There we will get close to its awesome glacier tongues and hefty moraines. The top predator of the area, the wolf, will be the subject of the night presentation.

Day 7.

Camp activities (Night at camp)

Ibex photo safari by vehicles

Night presentation: Eurasian Ibex (*Capra sibirica*)

The special day go to another Kirgiz mountain monarch: The Eurasian, or Siberian, Ibex. A hefty animal capable of developing enormous horns which can grow over a meter and half in length, the largest animals of the world are here, in the Kirgiz mountains. At night have a more information on this species, its behavior, characteristics etc.



Day 8.

Camp activities (Night at camp)

Trek to Kyzyl Asker peak (5.632 m.) on vehicle (track or 4x4)

Night presentation: Eurasian brown bear (*Ursus arctos isabellinus*)

Last day at the wonderful Kokshaal range. Way to the close another mighty giant: The incredible Kyzyl Asker peak (5.632 m.) and its lofty glaciers. We will talk later about bears.



Day 9.

Komur Valley (Profi Hunt camp) - Naryn (night at Naryn hotel)

We have ahead a challenging 4x4 drive via the Komur valley, crossing icy rivers and beautiful scenery.

**Day 10. Naryn - Bishkek**

Transfer to Bishkek. Resting time in hotel.

Day 11. Leaving

Bishkek – Airport – return flight

End the service.

** Our company, and associates, are interested in raising ecological awareness, in both international and local communities, connected to these magnificent animals and to the mountain ecosystems that they depend on for survival. We will support and fund scientific studies and projects related to populations monitoring, Argali counts and responsible wildlife management, that in turn will help to protect and conserve these most unique mountain fauna.*

Package price by request: afatravelkg@gmail.com, office@afatravel.net

THE PRICE INCLUDES:

English-speaking guide, English/Spanish speaking scientific expert, full board, all transfers during the trip including special mountain vehicle (tank), all accommodations in twin rooms, horseback riding with a local guide, border permit.

THE PRICE DOES NOT INCLUDE:

International airfare; visa issues (if needed), insurance, personal expenses, drinks and snacks, single accommodation.

NOTES:**Clothes**

High part:

Ideal 4 layers

- Long sleeve thermal shirt
- Long sleeved shirt or sweater

Polar or similar

- Waterproof or similar feathered jacket
- Ideal colors

Military brown camouflage, brown tones, ocher or earth (avoid blue)

Bottom

Thermal pants

Ski pants or similar double layer (waterproof)

Head:

Sunglasses or ski

Ski mask or balaclava

Fur cap, wool or similar (with visor is also valid for sunny days in the mountains)

Gloves:

Ski or similar

Camera with long-range objective

Binoculars

P.S. There might be some small changes in the program due to weather, road repair, hotel/guest house availability etc.

As the place close to the Chinese border, we have to make the special border permit in advance (10 days before).

We hope for your understanding.