



# **Essential Kyrgyzstan 2020**



## **Essential Kyrgyzstan**

### **Nomadic Traditions and Village Culture**

#### **Flexible Essential Trip – Classic Private Journey – 8 Days**

**Your choice of dates, suggested start day: Friday**

*On this journey through the Kyrgyz outback, spend a night with a village family, visit with an eagle hunter and admire dramatic sandstone formations. Begin in Kyrgyzstan's capital, Bishkek, visiting Osh Bazaar and the Statue of Manas, Kyrgyzstan's mythical hero, before driving to out-of-the-way Kochkar to overnight with a Kyrgyz family. Visit high-altitude Lake Issyk-Kul and spend the night at a guesthouse in the traditional village of Chon-Kemin, getting to know the locals before returning to the capital to hear a portion of Epic of Manas recounted by a master.*





## Daily Itinerary

Day 1, Friday	Arrive Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan
Day 2, Saturday	Bishkek
Day 3, Sunday	Bishkek • Kochkor
Day 4, Monday	Kochkor • Jety Oguz • Karakol
Day 5, Tuesday	Karakol
Day 6, Wednesday	Karakol • Chon-Kemin
Day 7, Thursday	Chon-Kemin • Bishkek
Day 8, Friday	Depart Bishkek



## Tour Highlights

Bishkek	Capital of Kyrgyzstan, Ala-Too Square, Ethnographic Museum, Burana Tower, Epic of Manas performance
Kochkor	Kochkor Regional Museum, traditional craft of felt-making, meals with a local family
Issyk-Kul	World's second-highest alpine lake, Fairytale Valley, meeting with Kyrgyz eagle hunters, meal in a private home
Karakol	Jety Oguz Canyon, <i>Dolina Tsvetov</i> ("Valley of Flowers"), Holy Trinity Orthodox Church, Dungan Mosque, Przewalski Museum, One Village One Product Association
Chon-Kemin	Demonstration of Kyrgyz horse games

## Daily Itinerary

### Day One, Friday Arrive Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan

Upon arrival in Bishkek, you are met and transferred to the hotel. The afternoon and evening are free to rest, with an independent dinner at the hotel. **Note:** Common arrival times into Bishkek are early a.m., in which case the hotel is included if you arrive early a.m. of Day 2. Touring on Day 2 will begin around 9:00 a.m. Meals: Independent – Plaza Hotel or similar

### Day Two, Saturday Bishkek

The capital of Kyrgyzstan, **Bishkek** was founded as the Russian garrison of Pishpek. The city is set before a backdrop of the northern edge of the Ala-Too mountain range, and was originally a heavily forested rest stop on the Silk Road. Appropriated by the Russians in 1877, the city was eventually renamed Bishkek when Kyrgyzstan achieved its independence at the break-up of the Soviet Union. Two rivers, the Alamedin and Ala-Archa, run from the mountains through the city into the Chuy River, which also forms the Kazakh border. Bishkek is graced with large boulevards, friendly people and more trees than any other Central Asian city. On clear days, the permanently snow-capped mountains looming over the city provide spectacular views.

The sights, smells and sounds of bazaars are part of the sensory experience of Bishkek, and there are several within the city; the largest is **Osh Bazaar**. Travelers can purchase local crafts, dried fruit, fermented milk, rice, grains, and of course the brightly colored Kyrgyz textiles by haggling with the traders in these markets.



Bishkek's **central square, Ala-Too**, was laid out in 1984 and adorned with a giant statue of Lenin. In 2003, Lenin was replaced by a new statue, called Freedom. This is where the public gathers to celebrate – or to demonstrate.

Near Bishkek's main square, Ala-Too, the **Ethnographic Museum** takes you on a walk through the Kyrgyz people's history and traditions. Admire everyday tools, clothing and artifacts from long ago, with displays of costumes, carpets, tableware, equestrian gear, icons and jewelry.

Dinner tonight is independent before overnight at the hotel.

Meals: B – *Plaza Hotel or similar*

### *Day Three, Sunday* **Bishkek • Kochkor**

Depart Bishkek this morning after breakfast at the hotel, heading for Kochkor. The sprawling village of **Kochkor** is located in the flat plain of a cup-shaped valley shortly off the beaten path between Bishkek and Naryn. Formerly named after the Russian Czarist Prime Minister Stolypin (or, according to local legend, after a particularly tenacious fighting sheep), the town has lost its former German population and today is largely home to working-class Kyrgyz. A visit to the local vegetable market will testify to Kochkor's reputation as an agricultural center.

The **Kochkor Regional Museum** is worth seeing primarily for its exhibitions on local and traditional Kyrgyz crafts. The museum also contains tributes to local celebrities and a comically large stuffed sheep.



Observe **traditional felt-making**, a craft that has survived the centuries. The Kyrgyz people have always used felted wool to cover their yurts and make rugs, bags, slippers and hats. To make an *ala-kyiz* rug, a second layer of felt of one or more colors is pressed into the original piece, creating a rug with a fuzzy pattern. A *shyrdak* is made with the appliqué method, and results in a crisper design.

Meet a **Kyrgyz felt-making family** and **take your meals with them today**, experiencing daily life with a rural family. Overnight in a privately-run guesthouse tonight.  
Meals: B, L, D – *Homestay*

### *Day Four, Monday* **Kochkor • Jetý Oguz • Karakol**

Say goodbye to your host family this morning after breakfast, and set off along the southern shore of Lake Issyk-Kul for Karakol.





The village of Bokonbaevo on the less-populated southern shore of Lake Issyk-kul was once a flourishing place named after a Kyrgyz poet. Today it is a refuge for Kyrgyz people who strive to keep alive their traditions of herding, crafts, and hunting with eagles. Steppe nomads have used birds of prey for hunting for thousands of years. The birds' keen eyesight and ability to survey the grasslands from far above give them an advantage that humans were able to harness to their own ends. Observe a **demonstration of the eagles** that Bokonbaevo's eagle hunters (*berkutchi*) have trained to hunt for them.

Admire the vivid colors and fantastic shapes of the rock formations as you walk through **Fairytale Valley**, a dry, sandy valley punctuated with gullies, sharp outcroppings, striated cliffs and castle-like promontories. Have **lunch here at a yurt camp** before continuing on.

The next stop is **Jety Oguz Canyon** with its red sandstone cliffs, located 25km outside of **Karakol**. On the way, pause at red Broken Heart Hill, where two suitors are fabled to have killed each other in a struggle for a beautiful woman, who then died of a broken heart herself. Farther on, the massive Red Wall of the Seven Bulls soars upwards. A light hike leads to the **Dolina Tsvetov, or "Valley of Flowers,"** aptly named for the masses of wildflowers that bloom in the spring. Visit a **yurt settlement** for fermented mare's milk, *koumiss*, and enjoy an **optional horseback ride**.



Arrive this evening at the eastern tip of **Lake Issyk-Kul**. Here, the **city of Karakol** was founded late in the 19th century as a Russian military outpost, and grew as a refuge for Chinese Muslims fleeing persecution in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Many buildings here are constructed in a Chinese style from wood without the use of metal nails. Arrive tonight and check into the hotel for overnight. Meals: B, L – *Hotel Amir, Green Yard Guesthouse or similar*



## Day Five, Tuesday

### Karakol



Enjoy some touring this morning in Karakol. First visit the **Przewalski Museum**. The Przewalski Museum tells the story of Nikolai Mikhaylovich Przewalski, a 19th century Russian explorer who mapped much of Central Asia and China. He noted species of plants and animals that were previously unknown to the Russians, and consequently had a breed of horse and a breed of gazelle named after him. He died in Karakol, whose name became Przewalsk, or Przhevalsk, in his honor until Kyrgyzstan's independence in 1991.

Next visit the **Holy Trinity Orthodox Church**. This 19th century Russian Orthodox church was – like the rest of the town – constructed of wood without any metal nails, making its size all the more impressive. Though it fell into disuse during the Soviet period, the church is now active again, and its green and gold roof is a recognizable landmark in Karakol.

Continue to the **Dungan Mosque**. The sky-blue wooden minaret of the Dungan Mosque in the center of Karakol is one of the most recognizable features of the city. The mosque resembles a pagoda more than an Islamic house of worship because the Dungan – Muslim Chinese who fled China in the 1880s – retained much of their old country's aesthetic style when they arrived in Kyrgyzstan. The wood is intricately carved with floral motifs, and the presence of Cyrillic alongside Arabic words in the mosque is a testament to the multicultural heritage of the inhabitants of Kyrgyzstan.

Visit the **One Village One Product Association**, opened in 2011 to provide an opportunity for Kyrgyz women to produce high-quality crafts and food products. Take a tour of the office and studio space, and observe as local women demonstrate how they create traditional handmade crafts, in particular felt goods such as slippers, wallets, bags, and toys, all created with locally produced wool and natural dyes.

Dinner tonight will be at the home of a local family, and overnight at the hotel.

Meals: B, D – *Hotel Amir, Green Yard Guesthouse or similar*

## Day Six, Wednesday

### Karakol • Chon-Kemin

Depart for Chon-Kemin with stops en route in Cholpan-Ata. Cholpan-Ata is one of several places in the Kyrgyz Chu Valley where you can see **petroglyphs** thought to have been created by the tribes of the Neolithic period. The images are mainly primitive long-horned ibex, horses, camels and snow leopards. There are several thousand petroglyphs here providing a glimpse into the world of the Iron Age, as well as a small museum.





Located directly on the water, the **Rukh Ordo Museum and Cultural Center** features five small chapels dedicated to each of the five spiritual beliefs that have been important in Kyrgyzstan. The Russian Orthodox (including an icon presented by Boris Yeltsin), Buddhist, Muslim, Jewish and Catholic faiths are represented here.

Continue on to Chon-Kemin tonight, arriving in mid-afternoon or early evening for dinner and overnight at the guesthouse.

Meals: B, D – *Kalmak Ashu Guesthouse or similar*



### *Day Seven, Thursday* **Chon-Kemin • Bishkek**

The beautiful, steep-sided **Chon-Kemin Valley** runs parallel to the border of Kazakhstan between two mountain ranges. The valley's population is mostly Kyrgyz of the Sary Bagysh tribe, and many traditions are still practiced here.

Attend a demonstration of Kyrgyz **horse games**, such as *ulak tartysh*, a type of polo played with a goat carcass, and *kurosh*, which is wrestling on horseback.

Head back to Bishkek, stopping en route at the **Burana Tower**. Built in the 11th century, it is one of the only existing watch towers on the ancient Silk Road that traversed Kyrgyzstan. It is possible to climb up to the platform from inside the tower – while the steps are steep, the view from the top is rewarding. The area was historically a settlement called Balasagun, the birthplace of the poet Jusup Balasagun, whose surviving work consists of a long epic poem called “Kutadgy Bilig” or “the knowledge which brings happiness.” The settlement was an important seat of power and was so celebrated that Genghis Khan's Mongol horde spared the city from destruction when it began to conquer the region in the early 13th century. The Mongols renamed the city Gobalik, meaning “good city.” Visit the small museum and the collection of ancient *bal-bals*, carved stone figures used as monuments.

Return to the capital in the afternoon and rest up before a special dinner and folklore show with a **performance of the UNESCO-listed national poem, “Epic of Manas.”** The Kyrgyz mythical hero,





Manas, fought against the Uighur people in the ninth century. His *Epic of Manas* story is a Kyrgyz epic poem with nearly a half-million verses. Never written down until the 19th century, the poem has been passed down by word of mouth for centuries. A performance of selections from the beloved poem is often given at Kyrgyz festivals, accompanied on the *komuz*, a traditional three-stringed instrument.

Overnight at the hotel after dinner.  
Meals: B, D – *Plaza Hotel or similar*

*Day Eight, Friday*  
**Depart Bishkek**

The trip concludes with transfers to the airport.  
Meals: B

## **Flexible Essential Trip – Classic Private Journey**

Private departures of this land itinerary can begin on the Friday of your choice in 2020. Please note you will need to depart the U.S. one or two days prior to your tour start date due to airline flight schedules.

### **Private Journey Prices**

Three star hotels as shown:  
2 traveler minimum, from \$2,695 per person, twin share  
Single supplement from \$350  
Solo traveler rate, inclusive of single supplement: \$4,195

### **Hotel Upgrade Prices**

Upgrade to the Orion Hotel in Bishkek, or similar, other accommodations as listed in itinerary  
2 traveler minimum, from \$3,495 per person, twin share  
Single supplement from \$750  
Solo traveler rate, inclusive of single supplement: \$5,595

*Flexible Essential trip prices may vary by season and by start day, and are subject to hotel availability for your travel dates. Hotel room category upgrades and additional nights are available on request. Contact us at 1-800-424-7289 for more information.*

## **Your Private Journey Includes**

- Accommodations as noted in itinerary. Please see Important Notes section for more information. See **Hotel Upgrade Prices** above for upgrade information. All room types, even in upgraded properties, are standard entry-level doubles or twins. Please call for room category upgrade pricing and information.
- 7 breakfasts, 2 lunches, 4 dinners, per the itinerary. Some lunches and dinners are left free to allow independent exploration.
- One arrival and one departure airport transfer. (Additional arrival and departure transfers available at additional cost.) MIR will arrange for travelers to be met upon arrival and seen off on departure, whether we make your air arrangements or not.
- Ground transportation throughout itinerary by car, or van (size of vehicle depends on number of travelers in your party).
- Guided sightseeing tours and entrance fees as outlined in itinerary.



- Services of experienced, English-speaking local guides, drivers and other staff.
- Assistance booking your custom flight arrangements (on request; please note that international airfare is not included in the land tour cost).
- Complete pre-departure information including detailed packing list, reading list, *Touring with MIR* handbook with country-specific information, maps, and travel tips.
- Final document packet including luggage tags, final updates and more.

## Not Included

- International airfare or taxes/fuel surcharges.
- Meals not specified as included in the itinerary.
- Items of a personal nature (phone calls, email, laundry, alcohol, excess baggage, etc.).
- Baggage handling.
- Gratuities to local guides and drivers.
- Single supplement charge, if requested or required.
- Visa/passport fees, airport departure fees.
- Expenses incurred as a result of delay, modification or extension of a tour due to causes beyond MIR's control.
- Travel and trip cancellation insurance.

## Interested in travel insurance?

To learn more about all the benefits of purchasing a Travel Guard travel insurance plan, please visit [www.travelguard.com/mircorp](http://www.travelguard.com/mircorp) or contact Travel Guard at 1-877-709-5596.

## Flexible Essential Trips – Classic Private Journeys

Flexible Essential Private Trips are compact, well-designed private tour itineraries – researched and ready to book on the dates you choose. They work perfectly as brief overviews of a country or as effortless extensions to group tours – great for solo travelers, couples, or private parties who prefer to travel independently but appreciate a savvy, pre-designed program.





## Start Planning Next Year Now

### 2021 Flexible Essential Trip – Classic Private Journey – 8 Days

At the time of writing, the land itinerary for this program next year is projected to be generally as depicted for this year. Please call if you're ready to book now.

*Private departures of this land itinerary can begin on the Friday of your choice in 2021. Please note you will need to depart the U.S. at least one day prior to your tour start date due to airline flight schedules.*

### Private Journey Prices – 2021

Three star hotels as shown:

2 traveler minimum, from \$2,795 per person, twin share

Single supplement from \$395

Solo traveler rate, inclusive of single supplement: \$4,295

### Hotel Upgrade Prices

Upgrade to the Orion Hotel in Bishkek, or similar, other accommodations as listed in itinerary

2 traveler minimum, from \$3,595 per person, twin share

Single supplement from \$795

Solo traveler rate, inclusive of single supplement: \$5,695

*Flexible Essential trip prices may vary by season and by start day, and are subject to hotel availability for your travel dates. Hotel room category upgrades and additional nights are available on request. Contact us at 1-800-424-7289 for more information.*

## Important Notes: Is This Trip Right For You?

The accommodations vary from superior tourist class to more basic guesthouses and a homestay, with shared outdoor facilities. It is important to keep in mind that the country of Kyrgyzstan may not be up to the standards North American travelers expect. Services are improving; however, you may encounter problems with bureaucratic service, road conditions, plumbing, unpaved sidewalks, uneven surfaces and steps, variety of locally available foods, and availability and quality of public restrooms. You are traveling in some areas that see few travelers, and the infrastructure is not yet fully developed.

While this program is designed to be the most comfortable possible for travel in this region, it is rated as **rigorous touring** due to the daily walking involved, the length of some overland rides and the overall shortcomings of the tourism infrastructure. This itinerary features a significant amount of touring on foot. Many streets are of packed dirt, and some attractions are only accessible via steep staircases with tall, uneven steps.

Every effort has been made to make the information in this schedule accurate. However, trip itineraries are always subject to change. We do our best to inform you in advance of any changes, but due to the nature of travel in Kyrgyzstan, this may not always be possible. Only those willing to accept these conditions should consider joining this program.



To reap the full rewards of this adventure, travelers must be able to walk at least a mile a day. Flexibility, a sense of humor and a willingness to accept local standards of amenities and services are essential components to the enjoyment of this trip.

## Are You Prepared?

A Travel Guard travel insurance plan can help cover your vacation investment, offset expenses from travel mishaps and provide you with emergency travel assistance. To learn more about all of the benefits of purchasing a Travel Guard travel insurance plan, please visit [www.travelguard.com/mircorp](http://www.travelguard.com/mircorp)

Please read the U.S. State Department's Travel Advisory regarding travel in Kyrgyzstan here: <https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/traveladvisories/traveladvisories/the-kyrgyz-republic-travel-advisory.html>

If you are not already enrolled in STEP, Smart Traveler Enrollment Program, a free service to enroll your trip with the nearest U.S. Embassy or Consulate, please consider enrolling. For more information: <https://step.state.gov/step/>

## Weather

Kyrgyzstan has a dry continental climate. The weather is usually clear except for early spring, and average annual precipitation is low. The spring months of April and May and fall months of September and October are the best time to visit, when the average daytime temperatures in the capital, Bishkek, range from the low 60s to the 70s. Temperatures do fall at nighttime and the average ranges from the low 40s to the 50s during the spring and fall. The summer months of June, July and August are warmer on average and can range from the 60s at night to the upper 80s during the day.

Kyrgyzstan's mountainous terrain encompasses tall peaks, glaciers, high-altitude lakes and mountains that cool the heat of a Central Asian summer. Winter temperatures are more extreme, with lows dropping below freezing. There can be a wide disparity between temperatures at elevation in the mountains and lower-altitude temperatures in the valleys.

Please remember, weather at all times of year has an element of the unpredictable. This information comes from [weatherbase.com](http://weatherbase.com) and is based on data from previous temperatures on record. It is always advisable to check with [weatherbase.com](http://weatherbase.com) closer to your departure date for current conditions and forecasts for the specific region of Kyrgyzstan you will be visiting.

## International Airfare

MIR's in-house, full-service air department is available to assist with your air travel needs. Check with MIR before booking air on your own, as we are happy to research and compare the best fares available through multiple channels. Airfare varies depending on a wide variety of factors, such as dates of travel and seasonality, seat availability, special airline promotions, how restrictive ticket changes are, how long the fares can be held without purchase, routing considerations such as stopovers and more. Tour dates are based on the land tour only. Our preferred carrier for this tour is Turkish Airlines, as they offer convenient itineraries and competitive rates from multiple cities across the U.S. to Kyrgyzstan.

Please call us at 1-800-424-7289 to discuss air options and routings for this program, and to request a quote for your specific plans and dates of travel. We will be happy to put together a no-obligation suggested air itinerary and estimate for you at your request.





## Visas

No Kyrgyz visa is required for U.S. passport holders visiting Kyrgyzstan. However, you may need a visa for any country you fly through prior to joining the tour, such as Turkey. Non-U.S. passport holders may require a Kyrgyz visa. Please contact MIR for further information.

## Also Nearby...

For more tours to Central Asia you may want to check out:

## Flexible Essential Trips – Classic Private Journeys

**Essential Central Asia**, Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan, 13 days. Explore the markets, mosques and minarets of oasis towns on the fringes of the Kyzyl Kum and Kara Kum deserts. Here, spiritual beliefs were the greatest commodities to flow along trade routes, and civilizations blossomed amidst austere natural beauty.

**Essential Tajikistan**, 8 days. Rarely-visited Tajikistan is wreathed in spectacular mountains and colored with the influence of Persia, the Islamic world and Russia. Meet local people at Fergana Valley markets, explore the ruins of ancient Penjikent, and share a meal in a warm Tajik home. Visit the country's capital, Dushanbe, where an airy, light-filled space is home to the modern National Museum of Tajikistan.

**Essential Turkmenistan**, 12 days. From the golden monuments of Ashgabat and the ruins of Parthian Nisa, head into the mountains to visit with a silk weaver in a tribal village home. Visit the Caspian seaport, Turkmenbashi, explore UNESCO-listed Merv, and learn about traditional crafts. Camp at the “Door to Hell” and survey Kunya-Urgench, ancient capital of Khorezm.

**Essential Kazakhstan**, 7 days. Begin in the new city of Astana, capital of Kazakhstan only since 1997. Fly to Chimkent and discover the historic city of Turkistan with its UNESCO-listed mausoleum of a revered Sufi sheikh. Fly to Almaty and explore spectacular Charyn Canyon, with its strange rock formations and colorful strata.

**Essential Uzbekistan**, 10 days. Beginning in the modern capital, Tashkent, roam the great Silk Road oases of Bukhara, Samarkand and Khiva, all of them UNESCO Sites. Admire their mosques, *madrasahs* and minarets clad in ceramic tiles the color of the desert sky.

## Small Group Tours

**The Pamir Highway: From the Tien Shan to the High Pamirs**, 18 days. The Pamir Mountains of Tajikistan are some of the most rugged and beautiful on Earth, soaring upward where the Himalayas, the Tien Shan and the Hindu Kush meet. This adventurous journey over the Pamir Highway is a breathtaking route, in use since the time of the Silk Road.

**Silk Route Odyssey: Caravan Across Uzbekistan**, 15 days. The center of Central Asia, Uzbekistan is home to three of the most renowned of the Silk Road oases – Samarkand, Bukhara and Khiva. Journey through these UNESCO Sites and the lush Fergana Valley, where Central Asia's silk production began with two cocoons hidden in the headdress of a royal Chinese bride.

**Journey Through Central Asia: The Five ‘Stans**, 22 days. More than 2,000 years ago, the great trade routes that linked Europe and China opened Central Asia to foreign cultures, customs and religions.



Join a modern-day caravan on an epic journey to five of these exotic countries – Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan.

## Conditions of Participation

Your participation on a MIR Corporation trip is subject to the conditions contained in the 2020 Tour Reservation Form and Release of Liability and Assumption of Risk Agreement. Please read this document carefully and contact us with any questions.

## Cancellation and Refund Policy

**Payment Terms:** Non-refundable deposits are accepted by check, Visa, MasterCard or American Express. Final land payments may be made by check or credit card for reservations made directly with MIR. If booking through a travel agent, please contact your agent to find out what form of payment they accept. (MIR can accept final payment from travel agents by agency check only.) Airfares are subject to change until ticketed; payment policies vary by carrier.

If you cancel your trip please notify MIR in writing. Upon MIR's receipt of notice the following charges apply to land tours (policies for air tickets, custom group trips vary).

### *Flexible Essential Trips*

Cost of cancellation, if received:

61 or more days prior to departure, deposit due or paid in full of \$750;

31-60 days prior to departure, 50% of land tour cost;

30 days prior to or after trip departure, no refund.

## References

We encourage you to speak directly with satisfied past travelers. Please request a list of references.

## Why MIR?

Regional knowledge is crucial to the success of any trip to our corner of the world. MIR combines detailed information about geography and infrastructure, history and art, language and culture, with the depth of knowledge that comes only from decades of regional experience. You may wonder how we differ from other tour operators...

## Destination Specialization

MIR focuses exclusively on the exceptional region at the crossroads of Europe and Asia. This area has been our overriding passion since 1986; we don't do the rest of the world. Our hard-earned expertise gained over the last three decades can take you from end to end of the largest country in the world – Russia – and to all of its neighbors. We specialize in travel to Siberia, the Silk Route, St. Petersburg & Beyond. Our destinations include: Russia, Ukraine, Belarus, Moldova, the Baltics (Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania), the Balkans (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Kosovo, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia, Slovenia), Central Asia (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan), the South Caucasus (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia), Turkey, Mongolia, China, Tibet, and Central/East Europe (Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Romania, Slovakia).





## 30 Years of Experience

A travel company doesn't last more than 30 years in the business without a solid track record. MIR has helped thousands of individuals achieve their travel goals. Our dedication and experience have earned us their trust and the trust of many well-respected institutions. Today MIR is the preferred tour operator for museum, alumni and special interest organizations across the country.

## Recommended & Respected

MIR has twice been rated one of the "Best Adventure Travel Companies on Earth" by *National Geographic Adventure*. Several of our tours have won awards in top travel publications, such as *Outside* magazine and *National Geographic Traveler*. Our trips have been featured in books such as *Riding the Hula Hula to the Arctic Ocean* and *1,000 Places to See Before You Die*.



## More Questions?


Please feel free to call us with questions at 1-800-424-7289, 8:30am-5:30pm Pacific Time.

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