



Dear Distinguished IADI Members and Guests!

Welcome to Bishkek! Your Handy Guide for a Great Trip in June 2026

We're so glad you're planning to visit Bishkek on 2-4 June 2026 for the IADI Eurasia Regional Committee Annual Meeting and Workshop.

To help you have a safe, fun, and memorable trip, here's a quick rundown of what you need to know.

☀ Weather

Expect warm, sunny days around 28°C (82°F) and cool evenings at 15°C (59°F).

Pack a light jacket for the night and maybe an umbrella for a possible shower.

The weather is fantastic for exploring, and you'll find a fascinating mix of modern city life and breathtaking natural beauty.

You can expect beautiful, warm early summer weather, perfect for both city strolls and mountain hikes.

Sunrise/Sunset: The sun rises around 5:25 AM and sets near 8:35 PM, giving you very long days to pack in your sightseeing.

🏛 Top Places to Visit

Bishkek is a city of wide boulevards, green parks, and shopping centres, all with a stunning mountain backdrop.

- **Ala-Too Square:** The city's central square is a must-see. It's the site for official ceremonies and features the changing of the guard at the monument to Manas, the national hero.
- **State Historical Museum:** Located on Ala-Too Square, this large building is a great place to learn about Kyrgyzstan's journey from ancient times through to independence.
- **Oak Park:** A tranquil park in the city center, known for its shady trees and an open-air sculpture garden featuring works of artists.
- **Shopping centres, modern and classic department stores in the heart of Bishkek.** It's a large, traditional shopping venue that has been serving the city for decades (TZUM, Dordoi Plaza, GUM, Old Bishkek, Bishkek Park, AsiaMall)
- **Imam Sarakhsi Central Mosque:** This is currently the main, large, and beautiful central mosque, famous for its stunning Turkish architecture, intricate tile work, and large dome.
- **Osh Bazaar:** This is the heart of the city's local life. It's a vibrant, chaotic, and colorful market where you can buy everything from fresh spices and dried fruits to traditional souvenirs.

🍴 Where to Eat

Bishkek's food scene ranges from local Kyrgyz eateries to excellent international options.

- **Local Cuisine:** For an authentic experience, look for laghman (noodle soup), manti (steamed dumplings), and shashlik (grilled meat skewers). Bukhara, Faiza are a well-regarded local restaurant chain serving traditional Kyrgyz food.
- You may find a good restaurant, café and coffee shops - all within a short walk. The area around Erkindik Boulevard is quite rich in some excellent dining options like NavigatorCafé, Bellagio Coffee, Ant's Café, Turkish, Japanese, and Italian restaurants.

🚗 Getting Around

- **On Foot:** The city center is very flat and walkable, making it easy to explore the main squares, parks, and museums.
- **Yandex Go:** This is the essential app for getting around. It works just like Uber, and is very reliable to ensure fair pricing and safety. It's used for both taxis and food delivery.
- **Public Transport:** * Buses: Modern and affordable; most accept contactless card payments /QR payments via mobile apps.

💡 Essential Safety Tips

While Bishkek is generally safe for tourists, it's wise to be cautious with your belongings in crowded places like markets and on public transport to avoid pickpocketing and theft.

- **Emergency Numbers:** Dial 112 for general emergencies, 102 for Police, and 103 for Ambulance.
- **Electricity:** Uses Type C and F (standard European) sockets with a standard voltage of 220V.

🏥 Medical Care in Bishkek

- **Quality of Care:** The best medical facilities and clinics with English-speaking staff are concentrated in Bishkek.
- **Pack a small, basic first-aid kit.** If you take prescription medication, bring enough for your entire trip, along with a copy of your prescription translated into English or Russian.

👍 Final Tips for a Smooth Trip

- **Download Key Apps:** Before you arrive, download Yandex Go (taxis), Google Translate (with Russian/Kyrgyz downloaded offline), and a mapping app like 2GIS (which works very well offline in Kyrgyzstan).
- **SIM Card:** You can easily buy a local SIM card upon arrival at the Manas airport or at the TSUM shopping center in the city to have affordable data.
- **Card/QR payments:** QR payment system is highly accessible, with most consumers just needing a smartphone camera to scan the code. In many places, especially markets, restaurants and hotels accept cards, QR payments and operate on cash.
- **The national currency of Kyrgyz Republic is the Kyrgyz Som (KGS).** You can exchange currency at banks and official exchange offices, which are plentiful in the city center
The Som was introduced on May 10, 1993.
You will encounter banknotes in denominations of 20, 50, 100, 200, 500, 1,000, 2,000, and 5,000 Som.
The banknotes feature notable Kyrgyz historical figures and important cultural symbols. Circulation coins are issued in values of 1, 3, 5, and 10 Som.
The design on the reverse of the 1, 3, 5, and 10 Som coins features a kookor, a traditional leather vessel for making kumys (fermented mare's milk).

Beyond the Capital: Top Destinations

- **Issyk-Kul Lake:** The world's second-largest alpine lake. The north shore (Cholpon-Ata) is great for resorts, while the south shore offers rugged beauty and yurt camps.
- **Burana Tower:** An 11th-century minaret and UNESCO heritage site on the way to Issyk-Kul, marking the ancient city of Balasagyn.
- **Karakol:** The gateway for high-altitude trekking and home to the unique Dungan Mosque and Holy Trinity Cathedral.

Networking event

4th June 2026

Ala-Archa National Park is the perfect place to experience Kyrgyzstan's stunning mountain scenery, located only about an hour's drive from the center of Bishkek.

It's a favorite escape for both locals and visitors, offering everything from easy riverside walks to challenging glacier treks.

Location: Approximately 40 km south of Bishkek .

Area: 200 square kilometers within the Tian Shan mountain range .

Established: 1976 .

Known for: Stunning alpine landscapes, diverse wildlife, and its accessibility from the capital .

Best time to visit for hiking: June to September

The temperature at the top is much colder than at the bottom.

We advise you to bring a light jacket, comfortable shoes, a hat, and sunglasses.

Enjoy your trip to this incredible natural wonder!