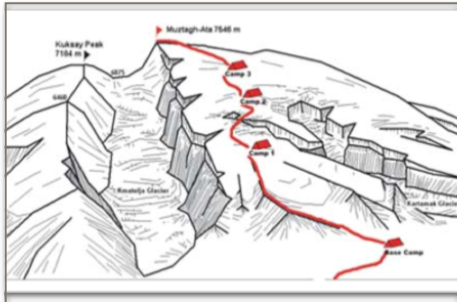


MUZTAGH ATA

7546 M | 22 DAY | SKI TOUR EXPEDITION



Price per person

3200
USD

Price includes

- Transportation
- Camels for cargo
- Meals in BC
- Climbing permit
- Eco fees
- CN Liaison officer
- BC Tents (TWN share)
- Hotel in Bishkek (1 nt)
- Hotel in Kashgar (3 nts)
- Yurt stay in Tash Rabat (2 nts)
- Visa support

Muztagh Ata 7546 m

Coping with high altitude on Peak Communism in Tajikistan and Pobeda in Kyrgyzstan, Muztagh Ata has proved easier than on other mountains of comparable height. The first ascent of Muztagh Ata (The Father of Ice) peak was attempted by Eugene Beletsky and party of other Russians in 1956, by the west slope outlined by Sven Hedin - Swedish geographer who tried to reach the summit in 1894. The route of Beletskiy is now considered classical. It is also possible to ski up and down the peak by classical route. This route is well-explored and under normal conditions is quite safe and does not pose serious technical problems, except for strong winds even during clear skies, changeable weather, and snow conditions.

Itinerary

- 1D: Bishkek - Naryn
 2D: Naryn - Kashgar
 3D: Kashgar - BC (4450m)
 4D: Acclimatisation phase
 5D: BC - C1 (5200m)
 6D: C1 (5200m) - BC (4450m)
 7D: Rest in BC
 8D: BC - C1 (5200m)
 9D: C1 (5200) - C2 (6200m)
 10D: C2 (6200m) - BC (4450m)
 11D: Rest in BC
 12D: Rest in BC
 13D: BC - C1 (5200m)
 14D: C1 (5200) - C2 (6200m)
 15D: C2 (6200m) - C3 (6800m)
 16D: C3 - Summit - C3
 17D: C3 (6800m) - BC (4450m)
 18D: Spare day
 19D: BC - Kashgar
 20D: Kashgar - Naryn
 21D: Naryn - Bishkek
 22D: Airport

Route

The route begins with arrival to Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan. From here its 2 day journey to Kashgar, Xinjiang. Its total 668 km with overnight break in Tash Rabat - a 14cc caravanserai on the ancient silk road right before getting over Torugart pass to china. The next day we continue to Kashgar. Here is a final shopping before setting off to base camp. Next day we will drive down Karakorum highway to Subashi where we load the camels and trek 3-4 hrs to BC placed at 4450 m above sea level. The classical route to the summit goes up along the western slope to the summit. Often there is a lot of snow on the approach and for this reason it is best to go as a larger team. The magnificence of the panoramic view from the summit defies description. There will be time at the end of the trek for sightseeing and shopping in Kashgar's and Bishkek's bazaars, and we will gather together for a banquet on the last night.



Price doesn't include

- Guide services
- High altitude food
- Porters above BC
- High altitude tents
- Personal expenses
- Medical insurance
- Personal clothing
- Personal equipment
- Touring skis and skins
- Medevac charges
- International airfare
- Walkie Taklie
- Single Accommodations



Grade

Classical [Beletskiy (1956)] route by western slope of Muztagh Ata from base camp: Some sections are up to 35 degrees on snow and rock outcroppings along the way. For the most of the way up its generally 25 degrees. The mountain is notorious for its winds even during clear skies.

This route is Alpine Grade D in perfect conditions and usually harder. If weather stays unchanged several days the paths in generally good condition can be found here. Mountain slopes are steep but not technically difficult. Average walking time is around 6-7 hours per day. Daily altitude gain is about 800-1000 m. You must be reasonably fit to attempt this peak.

PLEASE NOTE: IMPORT OF GPS NAVIGATORS, SATELITTE PHONES AND WALKIE TALKIE SETS ARE SUBJECT FOR IMPORT PERMIT FROM CHINESE RESPECTIVE AUTHORITIES AND MUST BE PREARRANGED BEFORE ARRIVAL.

Climbing Muztag Ata

BC - Camp 1

From Base Camp (4450 m) to Camp 1 at 5200 m. Trek along a good path to the edge of a rocky ridge. Often there is a lot of snow on the ridge above 5000m and for this reason it is best to go as a larger team. Behind a small campsite at 4800 m the ascent can be continued on skies in a large snow couloir on the right.

Camp 1 - Camp 2

From Camp 1 at 5200m to Camp 2 at 6200 m. This section is on sloping snow. Go up along a snow field to a small plateau at 5400m. Then turn left to a snow/ice rib. Follow left side of the rib up to the altitude of 5600m. Here there are a lot of large crevasses. This walk can be easy, with snow melted out and crevasses visible, or it can be a hell day of breaking trail and searching for a safe path. It is always wise to use standard glacier travel precautions and rope up on this section as some of the "holes" can reach the center of the earth. Falling to one of them the one will probably melt out only in next millennium or even later. Cross the zone following a big snow gully in its middle part and then continue up to a steep snow slope up to a wide snow ridge on altitude close to 6000m. Turn left and go along the ridge to a small snow trough on 6200m.

Camp 2 - Camp 3

From Camp 2 at 6200m to Camp 3 at 6800 m. Go up by the right slope of the trough and then up a wide, gentle snow fields with several slopes.

Camp 3 - Summit

From Camp 3 at 6800m to the Summit (7546m). The summit day is what it is really all about, all the preparation, the hauling gear, the cold toes, everything comes down to this. It is a really long day from the camp 3 to the summit and often people do not quite make it to the summit. The route is mostly about 40-45 degrees. It goes up by the wide snow slopes.

Take the same route down. In general the route lies right in the middle of being a technical climb and a walk-up. Technical skills are helpful because you can save energy, but none of the sections would pose difficulty if you are in good shape. Being in good condition and giving yourself enough time to acclimatise are the most important factors.

For equipment on this day going as light as possible is the best option, a harness, couple of carabineers, figure 8, perhaps a short section of rope if you are in a group, an ascender, and one ice ax and that is it. The summit day you of course should start early and not stop moving. Down low is the place not to waste time as minutes usually become valuable at the end of the day. So much depends on weather, on how much snow there is, if there is a trail or if you are breaking trail that it is really hard to give an estimate on how long the whole trip takes from pass to summit and return. But an average time would be 12-14 hours for the round trip.

Gear list

1. All climbing hardware, rope, cooking equipment, lightweight tent and the main as well as personal traveler's first aid kit (headaches, diarrhoea, minor cuts, blisters etc).
2. Sleeping bag (expedition or '5 season' quality)
3. Insulated sleeping mat
4. Ski Touring boots with inner boot for cold temperatures + Overboots
5. Thermal underwear, fleece shirt or similar, fleece jacket & pants
6. Extra fleece top or light duvet, Gore tex jacket and salopettes (or pants)
7. Mountain mitts/gloves, hat or balaclava, gaiters
8. Harness, 3 locking carabiners, belay plate or fig. 8, jumar or ascender
9. Long sling (120cm), 3 prussik loops,
10. Headlamp with spare batteries,
11. Backpack (60-80 litre), second sac or kitbag,
12. Sun glasses (cat 3-4), sun protection cream and lip salve, water bottle
13. Mug, bowl, spoon, shorts, sunhat, lightweight trekking boots for BC
14. Skis (min 108 mm underfoot) with touring bindings + ski poles
15. Skins and ski crampons
16. High altitude food: TravelLunch lightweight trekking meals available from us.
17. Gas cartridges: screw type gas cartridges available from us at 8 USD/pc
18. Gas stove*

*For a stove, Coleman or Primus gas stoves are by far the best. Gas cartridges can be found in Bishkek. The petrol in Xinjiang is really bad. Gas stove can be lighted up inside the tent in any time then to light up petrol stove you will need to go outside.



For more detailed information
tours&prices etc

If you are interested in this tour and/or would like to combine this tour with other activities in Kyrgyzstan, or build-in this section in a longer tour of Central Asia please do not hesitate to contact us at info@fantasticasiatravel.com for details. We will be happy to answer all your questions and send you most updated prices. Please mention ID of this tour: MZTG

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