



## Information for 2024 CAMCA Regional Forum Participants

The following document includes general information about the 2024 CAMCA Regional Forum. For the most up-to-date information, we encourage you to visit [www.camcaforum.org](http://www.camcaforum.org) and follow our social media pages on: [Facebook](#) at @CAMCAForum and [Instagram](#) at @camca2024bishkek.

### Travel to the Kyrgyz Republic:

#### Visa and Entry Information

- United States and Canadian visitors to the Kyrgyz Republic are currently allowed to enter the country and stay for up to 60 days without obtaining a visa. Rules apply regardless of land or air entry. Visit the website of the Embassy of the Kyrgyz Republic in the United States and Canada for further travel information, import regulations and consular services: [Embassy of the Kyrgyz Republic to the USA and Canada](#).
- If you are traveling to the Kyrgyz Republic from a different country, please refer to the [Visa Guide](#) website to confirm the needs for your specific circumstance.
- The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kyrgyz Republic has launched an online e-Visa tool to determine if you need a visa depending on your passport-issuing country. If required, you may also apply for a short-term e-Visa through the following service: [https://www.evisa.e-gov.kg/get\\_information.php?lng=en](https://www.evisa.e-gov.kg/get_information.php?lng=en).
- If you plan to spend more than 60 days in the Kyrgyz Republic, you must obtain a visa from the Kyrgyz Embassy to the United States or apply for an e-Visa online.
- In some cases, visas upon arrival can be arranged for Forum participants. If you have any issues with obtaining a visa and require assistance, please contact [info@camcaforum.org](mailto:info@camcaforum.org).
- Travelers who overstay the 60-day visa-free period may be required to pay an administrative fine of 10,000 Kyrgyz som (KGS) before they can receive an exit visa prior to departure.
- U.S. passport holders must have a valid passport six months from the date of entry.
- Please note that immigration questions are the purview of the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic, and the CAMCA Group is not permitted to intervene on matters related to entering the country. Such matters should be directed to the Embassy of the Kyrgyz Republic in the United States, or, if applicable, your employer.

### **Airport Transportation:**

Forum attendees are responsible for their own airport transportation unless communicated otherwise.

### **Taxi:**

Taxi Manas is the official taxi service of Manas Airport, distinguished by its white cars. The Taxi Desk is located before baggage collection. Taxis to downtown Bishkek typically cost between 800 KGS and 1000 KGS and should not exceed 1500 KGS. Services are available 24/7. To avoid overpriced fares, visitors can also order a taxi through Yandex, a popular local taxi app. You can connect your credit card with the app, so you do not need to pay cash in local currency.

Yandex Taxi -

Apple App: [Download Here](#)

Android App: [Download Here](#)

### **Accommodations:**

There is a room block with a special discount for Forum guests available at the Sheraton Bishkek, where the Forum sessions will be held. More information on how to request a room reservation within our discounted block can be found at [www.camcaforum.org](http://www.camcaforum.org). Please request your [room reservation at this link](#) by May 24<sup>th</sup>.

Address: 148B, Kievskaya Str. 720001 Bishkek/Kyrgyzstan

Phone number: +996 312-312 111

Hotel check-in is at 14:00 and check-out is at 12:00.

Breakfast is included for one person in each hotel room. Extra Person Supplement is \$20 USD per person for breakfast including 12% VAT and 2% Sales Tax.

If you need recommendations from the local team on other options, feel free to contact Whatsapp Chat: +996 427 844, or use Booking.com to search around this event venue.

### **Forum Meals:**

Refreshments and lunch will be provided throughout the Forum at [Sheraton Hotel](#) on June 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>. There will also be an evening Welcoming Reception at [Mountain View Resort](#) on Tuesday, June 11<sup>th</sup> and a Closing Dinner at [Bellagio Banquet Hall](#) on Thursday, June 13<sup>th</sup>.

### **Forum and Traveler Dress Code:**

The Forum dress code is business attire. The Welcoming Reception will partially take place outdoors, so a jacket is suggested.

Travelers in the Kyrgyz Republic are not subject to a specific dress code and local people welcome cultural diversity.

For those interested in traveling to Lake Issyk Kul after the Forum, warm weather wear for evenings and swimwear is suggested.

## **Forum Transportation:**

For Forum reception and dinner attendees, buses will be provided to and from the evening events. Departure times will be communicated to participants and buses will depart from the Sheraton Bishkek. Please note, if you miss the bus departures to and/or from the evening events, you are responsible for your own transportation.

## **General Information:**

- Weather: Bishkek has a continental climate. Summers are hot, dry and mostly clear. June temperatures typically reach 86°F in the day before cooling to 61°F at night.
- Time Zone: The time zone in Bishkek is GMT+6.
- Currency: The Kyrgyz national currency is the som and the international code is KGS. Banknote denominations are 20, 50, 100, 200, 500, 1000 and 5000 soms, with coins in denominations of 1, 3, 5 and 10 soms. Manas International Airport has a currency exchange bureau in the arrival's hall and around a dozen ATMs are available 24/7 throughout the airport. Located in the city center, Mossoviet is Bishkek's busiest currency exchange district. Credit cards are accepted in some of the major hotels, restaurants, cafes and shops although the economy is mainly cash-based. Visitors should contact their credit card company for merchant acceptability and services.
- Local mobile phone options: The main network operators are Beeline, Megacom and O! All three providers have desks selling sim cards and plans at Manas Airport. The country has one of the cheapest internet tariffs in the world.
- Gratuity: In general, most restaurants include a 10-15% service charge and tipping is not required or expected. In larger international hotels in Bishkek, tipping is more frequent, but discretionary.
- Below are some options and tips for getting around Bishkek:
  - Taxis: Visitors can order taxis through local taxi service apps such as Namba, Yandex or Udacha. Yandex is a popular app for its robust English interface and navigation services.
  - Marshrutkas: Marshrutka minibuses are the most common and cheapest public transport in Bishkek. Each marshrutka has a fixed route as determined by windshield indicators, but no fixed stops. Visitors can flag down a marshrutka anywhere along its route and exit by telling the driver to stop at a bus stop or intersection. Marshrutkas can become overcrowded during rush hours.

## **U.S. Embassy:**

For U.S. citizens, please find information below on the [U.S. Embassy in Bishkek](#):

Address: 171 Chingiz Aitmatov Avenue, Bishkek 720016 Kyrgyzstan

Phone: +996 312 597 000

Emergency After-Hours Phone: +996 312 597 733

Email: [ConsularBishkek@state.gov](mailto:ConsularBishkek@state.gov)

Enroll in the [Smart Traveler Enrollment Program \(STEP\)](#) to receive security messages and connect with the U.S. State Department in an emergency.

## **Emergency Medical Assistance:**

- City Trauma Unit – 41 Manas (intersection Toktogul/Manas)
  - Reception telephone: +996 312 318922
  - Provides 24-hour first aid for minor traumas. No inpatient facilities.

- National Center of Traumatology and Orthopedics – 206, Krivonosova Street
  - Admitting department telephone: +996 312 211778
  - Point of contact is Sabirbek Artisbekovich Jumabekov, professor and director. Telephone: +996 312 211669
  - Almazbek Anarbekovich Kubatbekov, clinical chief. Telephone: +996 312 211730, +996 557 507507
  
- National Republican Hospital – 1 Togolok Moldo St. (Intersection of Togolok Moldo and Moskovskaya St.)
  - Central Admitting department: Telephone: +996 312 620987
  - Neurotrauma admitting department: Telephone: +996 312 620964
  - Angio neurology Telephone: +996 312 666403
  - Cosmetic surgery department Telephone: +996 312 660619
  - Eye department #1 Telephone: +996 312 663256
  - Point of contact is Maanaev Toktobay Israilovich, chief. Office Telephone: +996 312 621014, +996 312 661008.
  - Hours: Open 24 Hours

In case of an emergency, use the emergency numbers below:

- Fire: 101
- Police: 102
- Ambulance: 103

### **Tourism Information:**

Located along the Silk Road, the Kyrgyz Republic is a mountainous country bordered by Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan and China. Situated at the foot of the Ala-Too Mountain range, Bishkek is the nation's capital as well as country's preeminent cultural center and financial hub. Bishkek is known for its lush parks, bustling markets, Soviet architecture and rich cultural life.

### **Bishkek:**

- **Ala Too Square** is Bishkek's central square. Located adjacent to the National History Museum, the square is popular for its flower beds and fountains and frequently used for local events and celebrations. The 10-meter-tall Statue of Manas, a tribute to the Kyrgyz literary hero, holds a commanding presence over the square.
- **[The National History Museum](#)** houses more than 90,000 exhibits dedicated to the country's prehistory, the Silk Road and the nation's more recent Soviet and post-Soviet eras. Visitors have an opportunity to immerse themselves in Kyrgyz clothing, art, embroidery, woodwork and more. Most exhibits and artifacts include English labels, making the museum highly accessible to non-Kyrgyz and Russian speakers.
- **[Erkindik Boulevard](#)** is a large and beautiful street resembling a park. Local people often come here to walk on hot summer days. There are many benches where you can sit and enjoy ice cream.
- **Panfilov Park**, known as Bishkek's Green Lung, is a centrally located star-shaped park dedicated to Soviet war hero Ivan Panfilov. Visitors can observe Soviet-era monuments or pass time at an amusement park complete with a ferris wheel, bumper cars, rollercoasters and ice cream.
- Outside Bishkek, the **[Supara Ethno Complex](#)** allows visitors to engage with the history, culture and daily life of the ancient Kyrgyz. Featuring yurt-shaped houses alongside the Ala-Too mountains, the

complex offers hiking and horseback riding, as well as dining and cultural and educational opportunities.

- **Dordoy Bazaar** is considered one of the largest public marketplaces in Central Asia, representing a focal point of commerce between Europe, Central Asia and China. Opened in 1992, the market sells retail goods ranging from clothing and shoes to toys and furniture. Today, the market employs tens of thousands of people, representing one of the major economic drivers of the city.
- An idyllic getaway, [Ala-Archa National Park](#) is about 40 km south of Bishkek. The park's namesake, *ala archa*, refers to the colorful juniper trees traditionally revered for dispersing evil spirits. With the park covering over 16,000 hectares, visitors can hike trails, observe wildlife and enjoy picnics within the sprawling alpine valley.
- **Souvenir shopping mall "TSUM"** is in the city center and open from 10:00-22:00. Visitors can find a wide range of national souvenirs at reasonable prices on the 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> floor.

For more information, visit the [Department of Tourism under the Ministry of Economy and Commerce of the Kyrgyz Republic website](#). If you are interested in an organized excursion to Lake Issyk Kul on Friday, June 14<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> – [more details here](#) – please reach out to Dari Event Agency, contact info below.

### **Forum Contacts:**

If you have any general questions leading up to the Forum, please send them to [info@camcaforum.org](mailto:info@camcaforum.org). During the Forum, if you have any immediate questions or concerns, please reach out to the following points of contact via email:

- Hotel/Guest Inquiries and Event Registration - Lydia DeAngelo: [lydia@webstergroupinc.com](mailto:lydia@webstergroupinc.com)
- Additional Assistance - David Soumbadze: [dsoumbadze@yahoo.com](mailto:dsoumbadze@yahoo.com)
- Managing Director, CAMCA Regional Forum - Tamuna Kekenade: [director@camcaforum.org](mailto:director@camcaforum.org)
- Local Host Point of Contact and Head of Kyrgyz Organizing Team - Jenny Jenish kyzy, CAMCA Network Board Chair: [jenishkyzy.jenny@gmail.com](mailto:jenishkyzy.jenny@gmail.com)
- Local partner: Issyk Kul Lake Excursions - Muna: [munarzhan.aitbekova2018@gmail.com](mailto:munarzhan.aitbekova2018@gmail.com)
- Forum Media Contact - Gerel Orgil: [gerel.orgil@gmail.com](mailto:gerel.orgil@gmail.com)
- Forum Expo Contact - Julia Bushman: [julia@webstergroupinc.com](mailto:julia@webstergroupinc.com)

### **Social Media:**

Follow the Forum on **Facebook** (@CAMCAForum), **Twitter** (@CAMCAforum) and **Instagram** (@camca2024bishkek) and use the hashtag #CAMCA2024Bishkek to join the online conversation!

***We look forward to seeing you soon in Bishkek!***

The CAMCA Regional Forum Organizers

