

# Karaköl

## Travel group

**Age:** 22 to 23 years

**Number of participants:** 2

**Education:** Bachelor Environmental Sciences & Bachelor History and Political Sciences

## Expectations for the trip

The trip was made because I was allowed to do an exchange semester in Hong Kong and did not want to travel at least one way by plane. Therefore, the primary function was to get to our destination on time. At the same time, we also wanted to learn a lot, discover new things and enjoy ourselves. The return journey was 5 months later by plane.

## Personal added value of the trip

The train journey gave us the opportunity to experience diversity. The transitions between different cultures and landscapes were much smoother due to the slow movement on the ground than if we had simply flown to a distant country. It was especially important to allow enough time so that spontaneous extensions were possible if we particularly liked a place or got to know people. Something wonderful about this trip was the communication with hands, feet and Google translator with people on trains, buses and shared taxis who wondered about us.

## Impact of the trip on the environment and people

When considering getting to Hong Kong without a plane, the environmental impact was a strong motivator. However, we have to admit that travelling such long distances by other means of transport also leaves a big CO<sub>2</sub> footprint. So we put our need to discover other countries above environmental protection. However, we believe that our way of travelling has a socially sustainable component. Since we used local transport and also stayed in private guesthouses, we did not support big airlines and hotel chains, but smaller anbieter:innen. We also made sure to follow the rules of conduct of the respective companies, for example in terms of clothing style.

**Changes through Shape Your Trip:** Unfortunately, nothing could be changed afterwards. However, I would take more time next time, because thanks to the calculation of MyClimate I now see that train journeys also cause huge CO<sub>2</sub> emissions.

## Motivation for participation

Our trip has already taken place. But I'm taking part because I think it's a great idea to create a pool of ideas with travel suggestions that are as sustainable as possible.

## General conditions

- Duration min. 50 to max. 50 days
- Budget 4500 CHF
- Period: July, August 2019

## Key data of the trip

Duration of trip: 50 days

Total distance: 12460 km

CO<sub>2</sub> emission: 40 kg / person / day

## Route

From	To	Km	Means of transport
Zürich	Moskau	2890	Train
Moskau	Nukus	2680	Train
Nukus	Taschkent	1140	Train
Taschkent	Bischkek	600	Bus
Bischkek	Kaxgar	350	Taxi
Kaxgar	Xian	3000	Train
Xian	Shanghai	1000	Train
Shanghai	Hong Kong	800	Train

## Activities

Depending on the country, we visited museums, went hiking or trekking, enjoyed local food or simply walked through the cities to see markets, buildings and everyday life.

## Accommodation

We mostly stayed in hostels/inns or camped out. We often booked night trains and slept on the train. From time to time we were invited by locals.

