

Karatag River (2150m) – Payron Valley (2670m)

Distance: 19km

Ascent: 970m

Descent: 450m

Trail: easy/moderate – clear trails

Accommodation

Camping

The walk down the Karatag Valley is very pleasant with juniper woodland. Stay on the left bank for a couple of kilometres. After the first confluence, find the bridge to cross to the other side and cross it back again after another kilometre. Be careful at some parts of the trail where erosion has washed away the path. Walk towards the bridge but don't cross it. The clear trail heads upstream on the true right river bank. 4km from the bridge you find the Payron Lake, a great spot for a break and a swim (albeit a little chilly). Stay on this side of the valley, and continue for another 7.5km. The views of the glaciated peaks further up the valley are incredible! Pitch your tent around 2700m where there's some flat spots.