

Foot of Dukdon Pass (2980m) – Sarytag (2360m)

Distance: 18km

Ascent: 850m

Descent: 1470m

Trail: hard – glacier (crampons are recommended), rough and clear trails

Transport

Sarytag is connected to the road and shared taxis do run from here to the M34, the road between Dushanbe and Khujand/Penjikent. You could also hire a private vehicle.

Accommodation

Sarytag

9 Homestay “Dilovar”, owner Davlatov Dilovar, capacity 17, languages Russian, Tajik

10 Homestay “Shohin”, owner Davlatov Yahyo, capacity 5, languages Russian, Tajik

It’s an exhilarating trek across the Dukdon Pass. It involves trekking on a glacier, though up until now crevasses have not been an issue. Crampons are recommended as a precaution should conditions be icy. The pass itself is a narrow gap between the mountains and plunges down on the other side. The final descent to the Karakul River is probably the most challenging section of this stage, with loose gravel on steep terrain. After that it’s a walk in the park, following the wild Karakul River downstream to the village of Sarytag. For those who choose to camp, you can pitch your tent on the banks of the Karakul River at the big bend, roughly 2.5km before reaching the village.