

Zimtud (1590m) – Artush Hut (2170m)

Distance: 12km

Ascent: 1190m

Descent: 610m

Trail: easy/moderate – clear trail and dirt road

Transport

It is possible to use the Artush Hut as an escape route back to Penjikent as cars can reach it. You would have to arrange private transport or walk down 10km to catch a 5am shared taxi from Artush village.

Accommodation

Guitan

6 Homestay “Guitan”, owner Odinaev Hassan, capacity 10, languages Russian, Tajik

Artush

7 Artush Hut (or Alplager) capacity >50 plus good camp spots, languages Russian, Tajik, some English

Despite the climb it's a fairly easy day across the 2640m high Igrok Pass. After roughly 5km you pass the village of Guitan (that has a lovely homestay as well). The hike along the fields towards the Igrok Pass is pleasant, with lots of flowers and fertile land. After the Igrok Pass you will pass some shepherd camps. Beware of the shepherd dogs and keep your distance until somebody controls the dogs. After a flat section the trail plunges towards the beautiful Chukurak Lake. Camping is possible here. Half an hour further down is the Artush Hut, a big Soviet era hut that sells drinks and meals.