Travel and Accommodation information to AUCA

Dear AAICU Colleagues,

We are expecting to have a great meeting here in Bishkek. To help you plan for it, please let us provide you with some important travel information, as getting here is a bit more complicated than getting to Paris or Budapest. Actually, it is simpler, because there are fewer flights, but it requires a bit of planning. The good news is that for pretty much all of you, you can get here with only one plane change. The bad news is that with the time change and the distance, you will likely need to leave on Wednesday to get here in enough time to make the conference enjoyable.

**Flight arrival information**

For almost all of you, the best way to get here is either to fly through Istanbul or Moscow. Your options are as follows:

To arrive on the 20th:

1. Turkish Air. You can leave Istanbul on Wednesday the 19th of April at either 19:05 (in which case you arrive Bishkek on Thursday morning, April 20 at 3:15) or at 21:35 (in which case you arrive at 5:45 am Bishkek time on the 20th).
2. Aeroflot. You can leave Moscow at 21:55 Moscow time on the 19th and arrive in Bishkek at 5:05 local time on the 20th.

To arrive on the 21st:

1. You can leave Istanbul on the 20th at 18:10 and arrive in Bishkek on Friday morning at 2:15am Bishkek time. If you choose this option, you miss the opening dinner and have to be ready to get going at 8am after arriving at your hotel at around 4am.
2. You could leave Moscow on the morning of the 20th at 8:05 and arrive in the midafternoon of the same day, but to catch that flight you will likely have to overnight at the Moscow airport, which is really not a great option.
3. You could leave Moscow on the 20th at 21:55 and arrive on the 21st at 5:05 and come pretty much straight from the airport to the conference.
4. Finally, for those coming from the Gulf, you can fly from Dubai on the 20th at 22:40 and arrive at 4:40 and also pretty much go straight to the conference. There is, unfortunately, no flight on the 19th.

For a few of you, there might also be the option of a non-stop flight to Almaty, Kazakhstan, but that requires a 4 or 5-hour car trip afterwards to get to Bishkek, so it may not be an attractive choice in the end.

Given the likelihood that you will arrive in blocks, we will arrange airport transfers and meet you at the airport.

**Visas**

The majority of foreigner passport holders can travel visa free to Kyrgyzstan. Some of you will need visa support, however. Specifically, we know the following passport holders will need to contact us as soon as possible so that we can begin the necessary procedures:

1) Mexico -  this is a country whose citizens can get a visa to KG through simplified procedure - it means that AUCA will send a Mexican citizen a letter of invitation and that person can a get a visa when he/she arrives at the Manas airport in Bishkek.

2) Lebanon - required a visa to KG, it is possible only through Consular Department of MFA (MFA will issue a visa support number after consideration)

3) Egypt - required a visa to KG, it is possible only through Consular Department of MFA (MFA will issue a visa support number after consideration)

4) Morocco - required a visa to KG, it is possible only through Consular Department of MFA (MFA will issue a visa support number after consideration)

5) Iraq - required a visa to KG, it is possible only through Consular Department of MFA (MFA will issue a visa support number after consideration)

6) Afghanistan - required a visa to KG, it is possible only through Consular Department of MFA (MFA will issue a visa support number after consideration)

7) Pakistan - required a visa to KG, it is possible only through Consular Department of MFA (MFA will issue a visa support number after consideration)

8) Nigeria - required a visa to KG, it is possible only through Consular Department of MFA (MFA will issue a visa support number after consideration)

If you hold a non-European and non-US passport and you don’t see your country on the list above

, please see the following link to check whether you will need to obtain a visa in advance of your visit: <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Visa_policy_of_Kyrgyzstan>

If you do need to obtain a visa in advance, please let us know and we will provide visa support.

**Accommodation in Bishkek**

We have reserved a block of rooms at a good price at the Golden Tulip Hotel in Bishkek. When you reserve at the Golden Tulip, let them know you are coming through AAICU so that you receive our corporate rate. There is one higher end hotel in Bishkek (the Hyatt Regency). We were not able to make a deal with them on rooms, but if you want to spend more money, you are welcome to stay there. Unfortunately, neither is within walking distance of our campus, but both of them are quite nice.

**Leaving Bishkek**

For those of you who want to leave immediately after the conference the best option is to fly on Saturday the 22nd on Aeroflot leaving Bishkek at 16:20 and arriving in Moscow at 17:55. For many of you, there will be a connecting flight that can get you back home on Sunday night. If there isn’t, then your best option will likely be to fly to Istanbul on Sunday morning. There are two Turkish airlines flights, one at 3:25am and the other at 10:25am. Which one is best depends on your connection from there.

Finally, for those of you who have more time, we propose a two-day trip that will allow you to see more of Kyrgyzstan. Please see the attached information which gives details about the trip as well is pricing information. If you are interested in this tour, please let us know by January 31.