

No. 102

March 3, 2025

Pearls of Kyrgyz Nature. Sary-Chelek Lake

On March 10, 2025 the Ministry of Digital Development of the Kyrgyz Republic puts into circulation a series of 2024 Kyrgyz Express Post postage stamps: "Pearls of Kyrgyz Nature. Sary-Chelek Lake".

Lake **Sary-Chelek** stands as one of Kyrgyzstan's largest and most picturesque freshwater lakes. It is located 500 kilometers from Bishkek and 300 kilometers from Osh, within the Sary-Chelek State Biosphere Reserve. Established in 1959, the reserve lies in the Arkyt Gorge of the Chatkal Mountains.

Positioned at an elevation of 1,878 meters above sea level, the lake stretches 7.5 kilometers in length and varies in width from 350 to 1,500 meters. Its deepest point reaches 234 meters, making it the second deepest lake in Kyrgyzstan.

The name "Sary-Chelek" translates to "Yellow Dipper." It is widely believed that the lake got its name because in the fall, when all the trees turn yellow, the landscape resembles a ladle filled with honey.

The area surrounding the lake, within the boundaries of the reserve, is home to over 1,000 plant species, around 175 bird species and 34 mammal species.

The KEP stamps feature photographs of Lake Sary-Chelek taken by professional Kyrgyz photographer Vladislav Ushakov. The coupons of the minisheets depict images of animals living in the area around the lake: Turkestan red pika (*Ochotona rutila*), Red deer (*Cervus elaphus*), Red fox (*Vulpes vulpes*), Turkestan lynx (*Lynx lynx isabellinus*), Himalayan brown bear (*Ursus arctos isabellinus*), Gray wolf (*Canis lupus*), Snow leopard (*Panthera uncia*), Indian crested porcupine (*Hystrix indica*) and Wild boar (*Sus scrofa*).

Lake Sary-Chelek is undeniably a pearl of Kyrgyzstan natural heritage. KEP hopes that this issue of postage stamps will contribute to the preservation and promotion of this remarkable natural wonder.

For this series, KEP also issues three postcards, which are used to realize three maximum cards.

No. 229



No. 230



No. 231



Stamps description

No. **229**. 50 KGS. Sary-Chelek in spring

No. **230**. 150 KGS. Sary-Chelek in winter

No. **231**. 300 KGS. Sary-Chelek in summer

Technical specifications

Paper: coated, gummed, 105 g/m².

Printing method: full-color offset lithography.

Stamps perforation: comb 14:14½.

Stamps size: 69 × 27.5 mm.

Stamps are issued in minisheets of 4 stamps with five labels.

Stamps are also issued in a collective minisheet of three stamps (one complete set and five labels). The official Tourism Logo of Kyrgyzstan is depicted on the stamps.

Minisheets size: 181 × 108 mm.

Collective minisheet size: 113 × 138 mm.

Quantity issued: 9 000 pieces each stamp (6 000 in minisheets plus 3 000 in collective minisheets).

Photographer: Vladislav Ushakov. **Designer:** Daria Maier.

Printer House: "Nova Imprim" (Chişinău, Moldova).

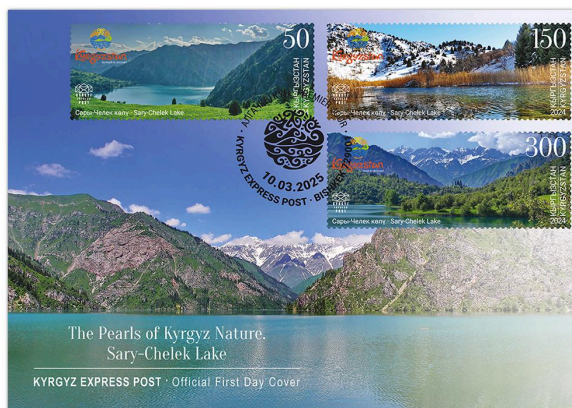


A special cancellation on FDC will be carried out at the Bishkek KEP Office (729001) on the stamps issuing day.

The first day cover, postcards and special postmark are designed by Daria Maier.

Photographer: Vladislav Ushakov.

Cover size: C6 (162 × 114 mm).



Quantity of covers issued: 300 pieces.

Quantity of postcards issued: 300 pieces each.

Endorsing ink color: black.

