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OFF-ROAD ADVENTURES BY LAND ROVER DEFENDERS IN THE ALTAI MOUNTAINS

(Out of the beaten path trip to the breathtaking and wildest parts of the Altai Mountains)

April – October 2016



A trip by Land Rover Defender cars to the breathtaking and wildest parts of the Altai Mountains: Chulyshman River Valley, Stone Mushrooms and serpentine Katu-Yaryk Pass. This tour will be especially interesting for travelers who love nature and off-road adventures!

Altai is second to none when it comes to the beauty of its landscapes and the diversity of its attractions and is one of the least known, yet most curious corners of Russia. Located at an equal distance away from four oceans, it lies at the crossroads of Mongolian and Turkic worlds, and keeps all the traces of the centuries-old history: overgrown enclosures, nomadic stone idols and burial-mounds, pictures and characters on the weathered rocks, ancient stone statues, the settlements of the "old believers", and the Siberian shamans... The Altai has escaped urbanization, remaining unchanged in the diversity of its landscape - limpid rivers, dense taiga, high-mountain meadows, the icy mountain streams and sparkling glaciers! Isn't it curious that the Altai has the landscapes of almost all the geographical zones of the world?

Days	Brief Program
Day 1:	<p>Morning arrival in Novosibirsk, transfer to hotel and free time. Lunch in Siberian tavern, followed by Novosibirsk city tour that covers all the main attractions of the city: Novosibirsk Railway Station – the biggest station of the Trans-Siberian Railroad, Ascension Cathedral, Krasny Prospect street, Lenin Square - city center with the biggest world's Opera House, old wooden houses on Gorkogo Str. - the oldest part of the city, St.Nicholas Chapel – the geographic center of Russia, river Ob' embankment and colorful Siberian farm-market. Visit of 1 Museum of your choice: the Local Lore (History Museum), featuring the fascinating and mystical history of Siberia/ Museum of Transsib / Birch bark Museum. Dinner and overnight. /L,D/</p> 

Novosibirsk city was founded in 1893 owing to the construction of the Great Trans-Siberian Railroad. It is the geographical center of Russia (the distance to the western Russian border is the same as the distance to the eastern one). The crossroads of the major transport routes proved to be an advantageous location, which promoted rapid growth of the city- which is sometimes called Siberian Chicago, because of its phenomenal growth rate. Among all the big cities, Novosibirsk has the fastest growth rate; it reached a million population mark in less than 70 years (Chicago - in 90 years, New York - in 250, Moscow - in more than 700 years!). Nowadays it's a third largest city of Russia (after Moscow and St. Petersburg) both by population and area and is often called «Uncrowned capital of Siberia».

Day 2:



Novosibirsk /Barnaul/Gorno-Altai/Artybash Village – 624 km by bus.

Early morning depart for Lake Teletskoe. We shall make several short stops en-route: for lunch at Biysk city, in Gorno-Altaysk for visiting Anokhin National Museum to see the new arrival – The Ice Lady of Pazyryk (Pazyryk Princess) world-famous mummy. Proceed to Artybash on the northern bank of Lake Teletskoe. On arrival transfer to a local hotel by the lake. Dinner and overnight at Artybash pension or Zolotoe Ozero pension.

/Land Rovers are driving these 2 days to arrive to the

South bank of Teletskoe to be able to meet the group on Day 3 morning/.B, L, D/

The Teletskoye lake, often called Baikal's younger brother, belongs to the 20 world's deepest lakes (length is 77,7 km, average width is 2-3 km, maximal width is up to 5 km). Its area is not large (223 km²). However, due to its depth (average depth is 175 m, maximum is 325 m) it contains huge amount (40 km³) of excellent fresh water saturated with oxygen, and is transparent to the depth of 12-15 meters. About 70 rivers flow into the lake (the biggest is Chulyshman River), but just one Biya river – flows out, so the lake feeds the largest Russian Ob river to a considerable extent. The mountains up to 2400 m of height surround the lake, making its shores wild and rocky. The water in the lake is cold and clear and has deep blue color with an emerald tint. The nature of this unique place was preserved in its primeval state due to the fact that this is a part of Altaysky State Reserve Area and not only roads are going far away from there, but either no path or trail way goes around the lake.

Day 3:

Artybash Village/Chulyshman – boat ride – 80km by motorboats + 150-200km by jeeps.

Morning boat ride to the southern part of Lake Teletskoe with a stop at Waterfall Korbu – the most picturesque waterfall in the surroundings of the Teletskoye lake, located on the territory of Altai Reserve. On arrival to the South bank, depart by jeeps to Chulyshman with short stops enroute at Altayan villages. The adventurous off-road jeep drive to the curious rock formations – the so called "stone

mushrooms", a unique natural sight. Stone Mushrooms are very interesting natural formations.

There are cones rising above the valley slope with magical rocky plates on their tops. The foundation of the cone is rather friable sandstone. Some "mushrooms" rise above the slope up to 10 or more meters. On arrival we shall camp by the river side./by jeeps/ /B, L, D/



Day 4:



Chulyshman/Ust Ulagan/Kurai – 200 km

In the morning proceed to Kurai, continue via the adventurous Katu-Yaryk Pass – the highlight of this trip - across to Chuya river valley on the other side. The sharp bends are at times quite scary but offer some awe inspiring views of Aktru mountain range. En-route stop at Ust-Ulagan to visit the Pazyryk site of the beautiful mummies. We shall visit kurgans - the burial sites of Scythian aristocracy. Later continue to Kurai and on arrival transfer to Chibit settlement, KOCHEVNIK eco-camping in

wooden chalets (WC on the territory). /by jeeps/ /B, L, D/

The Katu-Yaryk pass is achieved by a deeply serpentine road cut in the mountains. A splendid view to the Chulyshman Valley and the waterfall on the opposite side falling from the height of

	<i>hundreds of meters can be seen from the Pass. The Chulyshman Valley is one of the most beautiful places in whole Altai, included into the UNESCO list.</i>	
Day 5:	<p>Chibit/Gorno Altaisk by Chuysky Tract – 341 km We shall depart very early in the morning for Gorno-Altaisk by the extremely picturesque Chuysky Tract highway, connecting Mongolia with Russia. This drive can be named excursion, as it shows breathtaking landscapes with each turn of the road and allows making several interesting stops en-route (picturesque and serpentine Chiket-Aman Pass 1295m, Seminsky Pass 1739m, panoramic view points and local markets stops). Evening arrival to the pension near Gorno-Altaisk LESOTEL located by the Katun river. /by jeeps/ /B, L, D/</p> <p><i>In ancient times the valley along which Chuysky Tract is now located was the path of Tatar-Mongolian forces led by Chingishan and many nations supposedly migrated along this path. There are now many things left reminding about this: ancient carvings, mysterious tomb stones, and structures built long time ago. There are a lot of interesting places to stop along Chuysky tract: "wild" camp sites, streaming murmuring rivers, hills, rocks with ancient carvings. Almost along the whole way, there are rivers and nice views, making it an attraction for auto tourists.</i></p>	
Day 6:		<p>Gorno-Altaisk/Barnaul/Novosibirsk – 466 km Morning depart for Novosibirsk. Lunch in Barnaul. Evening arrival in Novosibirsk. Dinner and overnight at hotel. /by jeeps/ /B, L, D/</p>
Day 7:	Morning transfer to the airport of Novosibirsk for onward travel.	

Package includes:

- Accommodation in TWN BB: 2 nights in Novosibirsk at chosen hotel, 1 night at Teletskoe lake pension ARTYBASH or ZOLOTUE OZERO, 1 night at camping in Chulyshman, 1 night at eco-camping KOCHEVNIK, 1 night at pension LESOTEL.
- All transfers and excursions as per program by bus (Day 1-2, 7) and by Land Rover Defender Cars (Days 3-6)
- FB meals from Day 1 lunch to Day 7 breakfast (4-course meals + 0.5 water)
- Motor boat ride for crossing Lake Teletskoe.
- English-speaking guide along the whole route.
- Entrance tickets to 2 museums
- Visa support documents for Russian Visa

Package excludes:

- Air tickets to/from Novosibirsk
- Alcoholic drinks