



Olympia-Reisen-Sibir tour operator

630102, Kirova str, 86, Novosibirsk, Siberia, Russia.

Fax. +7 383 2184516, Tel. +7 383 2048888 www.olympia-reisen.ru

Working hrs Mon-Fri: 12:00 - 21:00 (Tokyo time) / 03:00 - 13:00 (London time)

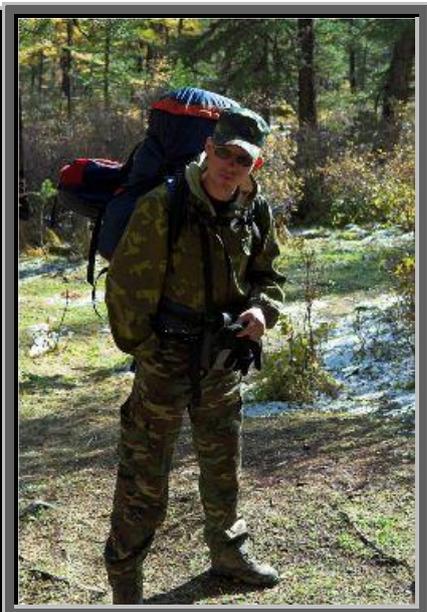
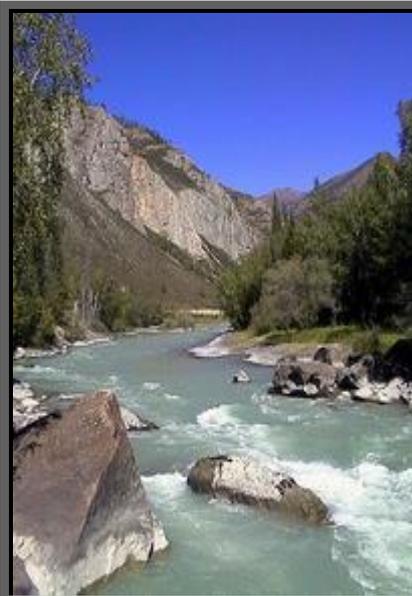
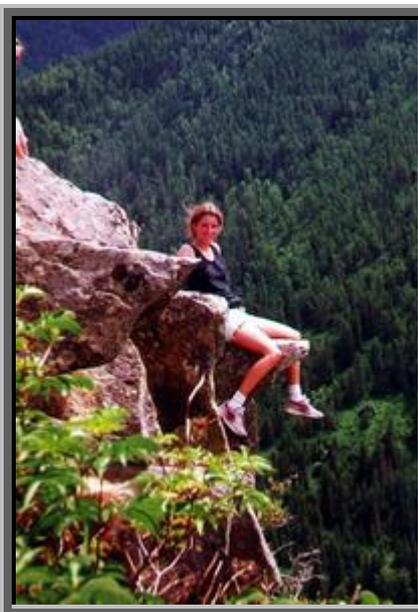
Yulia Gamboeva (ENG) mice@orsib.ru, Anastasia Porotnikova (ENG) siberia@orsib.ru,
Ksenia Biushkina (ENG) incoming@orsib.ru, Aleksandra Belova (DE, CN) russia@orsib.ru,
Olessia Varnavidou (ITA) contact@orsib.ru



BACKPACKING IN THE ALTAI MOUNTAINS-2016

Located at an equal distance away from four oceans, right in the center of the Eurasian continent, Altai Mountains lie on the crossroads of Mongolian and Turkish worlds and keep all the traces of the centuries-old history: overgrown enclosures and burial-mounds, pictures and characters on the weathered rocks, ancient stone statues, nomadic stone idols, Roerich's trails, 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, sparkling glaciers, flowery fragrances of Alpine meadows, medicinal plants and grasses along the icy mountain streams; - all features of a gorgeous, majestic, and imposing land!

Nothing will give you the best understanding of the Altai wilderness than backpacking in the mountains. Be ready to the adventure activities and very basic rustic facilities, and you will definitely appreciate this trip and make friends with people all over the world in your group!



General Information

All these tours are group tours with guaranteed departures.

Groups consist of the tourists from different countries (all-over Russia, USA, Europe).

Instructor speaks just a basic English, but professional guide/translator is available at extra charge 500 EUR per group

These trekking tours are conducted in Russian-style (no sherpas, but it's possible to own a horse for the baggage; tourists participate in camping preparation and fire food preparation).

For visual impression, please see this video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8uR16EadP1Y>

And <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o-ZnpO-XBTQ>

The heart of Asia: Mt. Belukha



Mountain Belukha, the highest peak in Siberia, flies up with two summits: Western Belukha (4440 meters) and Eastern Belukha (4506 meters). The glacier shield of Belukha, which covers the largest part of the mountain ridge, occupies the territory of 70 sq km and is the source of Katun river. The steep peaks of Belukha, sparkling masses of ice, vertical rocky walls charm the travelers from afar and inspire them with awe and excitement. At the mountain's feet among the space mysteries of snow and rocks you become aware that the man is not always the measure of all things. According to one Asian legend Mountain Belukha is a future Northern Shambala a mystical country of spiritual wisdom. This area is associated with the famous Russian artist Nikolay Reikh and attracts hundreds of admirers of his painting every year. In 1995 the government of Altai Republic established the Belukha nature park.

**Tour price: 520 euro trekking in the composition of the Russian-speaking group
+ 500 euro (payment for the services of a professional translator, if needed)**

Region:	Russia, Southern Siberia, Altai	Tour category and dates:	Regular, fixed dates, June-September
Activities	Trekking	Total trekking length:	136km
Tour duration:	12 days	Trekking duration:	8 days
Group size:	5-15 persons	Guides' assistance:	1-2 guides
Difficulty:	Medium to hard.	Air temperature:	day: +12+28 C, night: +5+15 C

D	Itinerary	Mode of travel	Distance	Meals	Accommodation
	Transfer Novosibirsk – Ust-Koksa. Leaving Novosibirsk at 8.00 p.m. Place of departure – 65, Sovetskaya street. Leaving Barnaul at 11.50 p.m. Place of departure – “Centralnaya” hotel. The road goes along the famous Chuysky Tract, once a main route of Russia - China trade. The road goes along Kanskaya steppe and finishes its run in Uymoskaya valley. The change of different landscapes and natural zones provides the traveler with general impression of this unique region of Asia.	Coach or minibus	875 km /640 km	---	
2	Ust-Koksa. Arrival in Ust-Koksa. Dinner. Getting the equipment. Instructing. D.	Coach or minibus		L and D- in cafe	Tents in the tourists

					comple x
3	Early awakening. B. Transfer to Tyungur at 08.00 a.m. Going up the Kucherla river. The Kucherla river (in Altai - Kudzhur-ly, «with saline soils») has a wonderful milky-turquoise water. The total length of the river is about 50 kilometers.	minibus on foot/ pack horses	64 km 20 km	B - in café L and D – on fire	tents
4	Going up the Kucherla river. On the way in a rock cave next to the Kyulu river the ancient people created more than 100 rock paintings. Since the ancient times people have settled down under the shadow of Mysterious Belukha Mountain. More ten paintings are situated on the surrounding rocks not far away from the cave.	on foot/pack horses	18 km	Cookin g on fire	tents
5	Radial excursion to Kucherla lake, that is at the altitude of 1780 meters. The lake is 5220 meters long, 900 meters wide and 55 meters deep. There is fish, which leave the running circles on the lake surface, sometimes disturbs its blue-green waters.	on foot/pack horses	14 km	Cookin g on fire	tents
6	Climbing up the mountain pass of Kara-Tyurek (3060 meters). From the top of the pass the spectacular panoramic view on Belukha Mountain and endless snow peaks of Katun ridge unfolds in front of the traveler. It is a good opportunity to make pictures from the bird's eye view where the presence of eternal outer space is clear and tangible. Overnight at Ak-Kem lake.	on foot/pack horses	12 km	Cookin g on fire	tents
7	Radial excursion to the bottom of Belukha to the realm of scalding ice and icy caves at the feet of the incredibly high vertical wall of the Ak-Kem glacier.	on foot	12 (+12) km	Cookin g on fire	tents
8	Time for rest next to Ak-Kem lake at the altitude of 2000 meters. In a distance the huge icy masses of Ak-Kem glacier is visible. In still weather the Belukha Mountain is reflected in the green-white waters of the lake. After the L there is an excursion to the Yarlug gorge where the entire town is built from stones by the followers of mystical teachings of the famous Russian researcher and painter Nikolay Rerikh	on foot	8 km	Cookin g on fire	tents
9	Going up the speedy Ak-Kem river with milky-white water. The word Ak-Kem means White Water in Turkish language and corresponds with the reality. The river starts in Ak-Kem glacier and carries in its steams the tiny pieces of white limestones from the slopes of Belukha.	on foot with equipment /no horses can be used here/	20 km	Cookin g on fire	tents
10	Climbing up the Kuzuyak mountain pass (1513 meters). Coming back to Ust-Koksa settlement. Relaxation. D.	on foot with equipment /no horses can be used here/ minibus	20 km 64 km	B and L – on fire, D in cafe	Tents in the tourists comple x
11	Time for rest. After the L transfer to Verhniy Uymon village. The village is one of the oldest settlements in the area and was founded by religious group of old-believers more than 300 years ago. There are two museums in Verhniy Uymon village: The Ethnographical museum named after famous artist Rerih and The Museum of old-believers' religious traditions and culture. After excursion departure in Barnaul/Novosibirsk at 05.00 p.m.	Coach or minibus	640 km /875 km	B and L - in cafe	
12	Arrival in Barnaul at 06.00 a.m. Arrival in Novosibirsk at 11.00 a.m.				

Fixed dates of departures-2016

Departure time from Novosibirsk – 08.00 p.m. local time	Arrival time in Novosibirsk – about 11.00 a.m.
Departure time from Barnaul – 11.50 p.m.	Arrival time in Barnaul – about 06.00 a.m.
18 June	29 June
27 June	08 July
06 July	17 July
15 July	26 July
24 July	04 August
02 August	13 August
11 August	22 August
20 August	31 August
29 August	09 September
07 September	18 September

Tour price includes:

- full board (except the meal during the transfer)
- excursions per program with entrance fees (11-th day)
- transfer from Novosibirsk/Barnaul to the starting point of the route and back to Novosibirsk/Barnaul
- guides
- special equipment (tent, sleeping bag, mat, backpack, equipment for camp-fire)
- insurance
- invitation letter for Russian visa
- pack-horses for group equipment (not personal) (from 3-d till 6-th days)

Not included:

- airtickets
- consular fees for visa
- interpreters
- pack-horses rental for himself

For extra payment:

- meeting at the airport
- accommodation in hotels in Novosibirsk or Barnaul
- pack horse for personal baggage Day3-6 (4 days total) = 288 EUR, including a horseman, up to 40 kg per each horse. Using pack horse in the other days is either not needed (radial trekkings from the base camping) or not technically possible for the horses.

To participate in the route we recommend you to take the following personal wear and equipment with you:

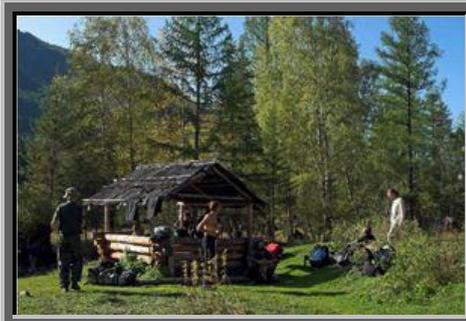
- warm jacket
- rain gear
- trekking boots, trainers and slippers
- track-suit and warm hat
- 2 - 3 T-shirts, shorts
- 4 pairs of simple socks and 2 pairs of warm ones
- cap and sun-glasses
- bathing suit
- flashlight, knife, matches, electric batteries
- personal tableware
- personal hygiene utensils

Attention!

This tour requires a special entry pass to the border region (Ust-Koksinsky district), so foreign citizens should provide the following documents to be able cross this border zone (60 days prior the tour):

- passport scan (1st page)
- home address
- phone number
- working place (company name, address, phone number)

Travel to the country of White Water



The Mountain Altai was the cradle for many nations. Tribes of Scythes, Huns and Turks starting from that area spread around the endless territories of Eurasia. Many archaeological objects were found here and these discoveries on their historical and cultural values occupy an important part in the World Cultural Heritage. Ancient barrows and rock paintings, interesting legends, mountain lakes with clean water, speedy mountain streams and snow peaks are waiting for the traveler on this route. Making acquaintance of the unique cultural traditions of Altai people allows the traveler to get a deep insight into the past to feel the connections between times and to understand the beauty of the presence. The way from Novosibirsk to Verkhiy Uymon village is similar to the route of the Central Asia expedition of Nikolay Rerikh (1925 - 1928)

Tour price: 570 euro (in the composition of the Russian-speaking group)

+ 500 euro (payment for the services of a professional translator, if needed)

Region:	Russia, Southern Siberia, Altai	Total trekking length:	82 km trekking, 0,85 km
Activities	trekking, rafting, speleology		speleology, 35 km rafting
Tour duration:	10 days	Trekking duration:	10 days
Group size:	6-10 persons	Guides' assistance:	1 guides
Difficulty:	Medium to hard.	Air temperature:	day: +12+28 C, night: +5+15 C

Day	Itinerary	Mode of travel	Distance	Meals	Accommodation
	Transfer Novosibirsk / Barnaul - Denisov caves. Departure from Novosibirsk at 08.00 p.m. local time	coach or minibus	620 km / 384 Km	---	
2	Arrival in the base camp next to Denisov caves. The caves are named after a hermit Dennis who lived here in XVIII century. This cave contains the most ancient archeological findings in the region and consists of more than 20 cultural layers from different periods of Human History. The cave is included into the UNESCO World Heritage list. A visit to the "Museum" cave is a good opportunity to get acquainted with the mysterious subterranean world and to see the sculptural masterpieces made of stalactites and stalagmites. The traveler can get a touch of complete darkness and silence and immerse into the great realm of subterranean grottos and enigmatic labyrinths. Overnight in tents.	on foot minibus on foot speleology	3 km 12 km 4 km 0,85 km	cooking on fire	Tents
3	Radial excursion to Shinok waterfall that is a system of several waterfalls ranging from 3 to 60 meters. Pressed into the narrow gorge the Shinok river finds its way through the rocky barriers and rushes down, creating an enchanting sight of stooping streams and sparkling mist of water drops.	minibus on foot on foot	18 km 9 km 15 km	cooking on fire	tents
4	Transfer to Multa-Maralnik village. Visit to the Ust Kan cave on the way. Here an ancient site of a stone age man was found. These archeological findings are kept in the Hermitage museum now. A captivating excursion to the Ethnographical museum in the Mendur-Sokkon village. The travelers learn about the religious and cultural traditions of Altai people. Banya (for	minibus on foot	313 km 1 km	B and L – cooking on fire, D – L box	tents

	extra payment).				
5	Captivating trip through the cedar and lurch forest to extremely beautiful and grand lakes, hidden among the mountains of Katun ridge. The travelers go up the Multa river to the camping site on a river bank. From this point a beautiful view on surrounding snow mountains unfolds before the travelers.	on foot	14 km	Cooking on fire	tents
6	Radial excursion to the mountain lake Kyuguk with milky-white water which like a mirror reflects the surrounding rocky peaks. Relaxation under the centuries-old, grand cedars next to the beautiful and majestic Kyuguk waterfall (25 meters).	on foot	8 km	Cooking on fire	tents
7	Radial excursion to the Multa Lake. The lakes are situated at the altitude of 1710 - 1780 meters and impress the traveler with their still mirror-like surface and clean water. The trail goes over the isthmus, made up of huge stones, between the Low and the Middle lakes. The water rushes through this natural barrier, called "Shummy" (Noises), and calms down on the flat surface of the Low Multa lake. Multa lakes are included into the list of nature wonders of the Altai region.	on foot	14 km	Cooking on fire	tents
8	Coming back to Multa Maralnik village. Transfer to the old village of Verhniy Uymon that was founded by the religious group of old-believers more than 300 years ago. The main sightseeing in the village is its two museums: Ethnographical one and the museum of Old-Believers' traditions. There are three exhibitions in the Ethnographical museum. The first one describes the history of the village, the second one is dedicated to the archeological findings in the area and household utensils of Altai people, the third one tells the travelers about the Altai expedition of Roerich family in 1926.	on foot minibus	14 km 46 km	B and D – cooking on fire, – L in café	tents
9	Rafting down Koksá river. Koksá river surrounded by picturesque mountains, covered by deep forest. They organize not a difficult rafting down Koksá river, so beginners can also participate in them. You will be overcome two breathtaking rapids and then quite simple threshold of the second category of difficulty: Stupenchatiy and Gromotuhinskiy Departure to Barnaul / Novosibirsk at 21.00 p.m.	minibus rafting	35 km 35 km	B and D – in café, L – cooking on fire	tents
10	Arrival in Barnaul / Novosibirsk at 11.00 a.m. / 15 a.m.	Coach or minibus	640 km/ 875 km	-----	

Fixed dates of departures-2016

Departure time from Novosibirsk – 08.00 p.m. local time	Arrival time in Novosibirsk – about 03.00 p.m.
Departure time from Barnaul – 11.50 p.m.	Arrival time in Barnaul – about 11.00 a.m.
04 July	13 July
18 July	27 July
01 August	10 August

Tour price includes:

- full board (except the meal during the transfer)
- excursions per program with entrance fees
- transfer from Novosibirsk/Barnaul to the starting point of the route and back to Novosibirsk/Barnaul
- guides/interpreters
- special equipment (tent, sleeping bag, mat, backpack, equipment for camp-fire)
- insurance
- invitation letter for Russian visa
- pack-horses rental (5-th and 8-th days)

Not included:

- air tickets
- consular fees for visa

For extra payment:

- meeting at the airport
- accommodation in hotels in Novosibirsk or Barnaul
- meeting at the airport
- accommodation in hotels in Novosibirsk

To participate in the route we recommend you to take the following personal wear and equipment with you:

- warm jacket

- rain gear
- trekking boots, trainers and slippers
- track-suit and warm hat
- 2 - 3 T-shirts, shorts
- 4 pairs of simple socks and 2 pairs of warm ones
- cap and sun-glasses
- bathing suit
- flashlight, knife, matches, electric batteries
- personal tableware
- personal hygiene utensils

Attention!

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- home address
- phone number
- working place (company name, address, phone number)

Trekking to Multa lakes



Ust-Koksinsky district with its unique mountain landscapes and bright colors of sub alpine meadows is one of the most wonderful and mysterious areas in the Altai. Leaving behind the vast Uymon Valley, decorated with the chains of picturesque hills, travelers get into the Valley of Multa River. Climbing up the headlong Multa River, they come up to the three majestic Multa lakes. In 1991 the Upper Multa Lake became a part of Katun nature reserve. This tour opens to travelers a world of beautiful lakes and ancient mountains in a remote area of the Altai where the pristine nature still exists.

**Tour price: 460 euro trekking in the composition of the Russian-speaking group
+ 500 euro (payment for the services of a professional translator, if needed)**

Region:	Russia, Southern Siberia, Altai	Tour category and dates:	Regular, fixed dates, June-September
Activities	Trekking	Total trekking length:	118 km
Tour duration:	12 days	Trekking duration:	8 days
Group size:	5-15 persons	Guides' assistance:	1-2 guides
Difficulty:	Medium to hard.	Air temperature:	day: +12+28 C, night: +5+15 C

Day	Itinerary	Mode of travel	Distance	Meals	Accommodation
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1	<p>Transfer Novosibirsk – Ust-Koksa.</p> <p>Leaving Novosibirsk at 8.00 p.m. Place of departure – 65, Sovetskaya street.</p> <p>Leaving Barnaul at 11.50 p.m. Place of departure – “Centralnaya” hotel.</p> <p>The road goes along the famous Chuysky Tract, once a main route of Russia - China trade. The road goes along Kanskaya steppe and finishes its run in Uymoskaya valley. The change of different landscapes and natural zones provides the traveler with general impression of this unique region of Asia.</p>	Coach or minibus	875 km /640 Km	---	
2	<p>Ust-Koksa. Arrival in Ust-Koksa. Dinner. Getting the equipment. Instructing. D.</p>	Coach or minibus		L and D- in cafe	Tents in the tourists complex
3	<p>Multa-Maralnik – Low Multa lake.</p> <p>Early awakening. B at 09.00 a.m. Transfer to Multa-Maralnik at 11.00 a.m.</p> <p>Travelers go up Multa river. There are a lot of mushrooms and berries on the way. They come up to Low Multa lake with extremely clean water and a pebble shore. When the weather is still, the mirror-like surface of the lake reflects clouds drifting in the blue sky and the peaks of surrounding mountains. Situated at the altitude of 1710 meters the Low Multa lake favors the traveler with the clean mountain air, calmness and the touch of nature.</p>	minibus on foot/ pack horses	41 km 13 km	B - in café L and D – cooking on fire	tents
4	<p>Tour to the Upper Multa lake, which hides in the deep rock circus near the glacier at the altitude of 1860 meters. The path goes over the place called “Shummy”. It is a natural isthmus between two lakes that is formed by huge stones; some of them are 20 meters in diameter. Water, running through this dam, produces a loud noise, which makes a sharp contrast with the stillness of two lakes. On the way travelers can see a few small waterfalls on the steep slopes of Katun ridge and the icy and snowy peaks of surrounding mountains.</p>	on foot	30 km	Cooking on fire	tents
5	<p>Relaxation. Excursion to a mountain lake (2270 meters) for those, who wish.</p>	on foot	5 km	Cooking on fire	tents
6	<p>Travelers go up Kuyguk river. The base camp is set up among the majestic Siberian pines next to the wonderful Kuyguk waterfall (25 meters).</p>	on foot /pack horses	9 km	Cooking on fire	tents
7	<p>Ascention on top (2909 meters). From the top the spectacular panoramic view on Belukha Mountain and endless snow peaks of Katun ridge unfolds in front of the traveler. It is a good opportunity to make pictures from the bird’s eye view where the presence of eternal outer space is clear and tangible.</p>	on foot	6 km	Cooking on fire	tents
8	<p>Kuyguk lake – Akchan lake.</p> <p>Climbing up the mountain pass (2520 meters), travelers pass by a mirror-like lake, several murmuring waterfalls and alpine tundra. An exiting view on Kolban mountain and Akchan lake is unfolded in front of a traveler from the top of the pass. The water in Akchan lake has a wonderful turquoise color. Overnight on a high plateau that like a bird soars over the lake.</p>	on foot	18 km	Cooking on fire	tents
9	<p>Akchan lake – Kolban mountain – Kuyguk lake.</p> <p>Climbing up Kolban mountain that is said to be sacred. Indigenous people of the Altai attribute many interesting and romantic stories and legends to this mountain. On its summit the traveler gets a feeling of a flight over the rocky peaks of Katun ridge and can feel the cold breathing of the outer space. Like the drops of a sky dew many lakes sparkle in the sun at the mountain’s feet. Every lake has its unique shape and color. Coming back to the base camp next to the Kuyguk waterfall.</p>	on foot with equipment /no horses can be used here/	21 km	Cooking on fire	tents
10	<p>Travelers come back to Ust-Koksa village.</p> <p>Going down the Multa river. Transfer to Ust-Koksa. D.</p>	on foot with equipment	16 km 41 km	B and L –on fire,	Tents in the

		/no horses can be used here/ minibus		D in cafe	tourist s compl ex
11	Time for rest. After the L transfer to Verhniy Uymon village. The village is one of the oldest settlements in the area and was founded by religious group of old-believers more than 300 years ago. There are two museums in Verhniy Uymon village: Ethnographical museum named after famous artist Rerih and Museum of old-believers' religious traditions and culture. After excursion departure in Barnaul/Novosibirsk at 05.00 p.m.	Coach or minibus	640 km/ 875 km	B and L - in cafe	
12	Arrival in Barnaul at 06.00 a.m. Arrival in Novosibirsk at 11.00 a.m.	Coach or minibus			

Fixed dates of departures-2016

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Departure time from Barnaul – 11.50 p.m.	Arrival time in Barnaul – about 06.00 a.m.
18 June	29 June
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06 July	17 July
15 July	26 July
24 July	04 August
02 August	13 August
11 August	22 August
20 August	31 August
29 August	09 September
07 September	18 September

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- guides/
- special equipment (tent, sleeping bag, mat, backpack, equipment for camp-fire)
- insurance
- invitation letter for Russian visa
- pack-horses rental (not personal) (3-d and 5-th days)

Not included:

- airtickets
- consular fees for visa
- interpreters

For extra payment:

- meeting at the airport
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- pack horse for personal baggage Days 3 and 6 = 92 EUR, including a horseman, up to 40 kg per each horse. Using pack horse in the other days is either not needed (radial trekkings from the base camping) or not technically possible for the horses.

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- 4 pairs of simple socks and 2 pairs of warm ones
- cap and sun-glasses
- bathing suit
- flashlight, knife, matches, electric batteries
- personal tableware

- personal hygiene utensils

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- phone number
- working place (company name, address, phone number)

Altai Republic Helpful facts & information

- Population - 201,6 thousand of people. Square – 92,6 thousand square km.
- Native people - 31% are Altai people, 60,4% are Russian, 5,6% are Kazakhs, and others.
- The capital is Gorno - Altaisk (about 50 thousand population).
- Religion - Orthodoxy and Shamanism
- Time difference with Moscow +3 hours

Altai is a mountainous country at the junction of Russia, Mongolia, Kazakhstan and China. It's one of those places in Siberia that combine warm climate and majestic mountain landscapes. This unique area is distinguished by its soft outlines of blue mountains covered with woods. The bright green colour of the Katun river that starts in high mountain glaciers. Crystal - pure air smells of wild herbs and cedar trees.

Altai Mountains are a paradise for admirers of active rest and ecotourism. There is a big variety of landscapes - steppes, taiga, semi-deserts, alpine zones, glaciers, parts of tundra vegetation, more than 7000 lakes, mountain rivers and very beautiful waterfalls. Water resources are among the most important natural resources of Gorny Altai. Hydrographic network counts more than 20 thousand water courses stretching for more than 60 thousand km and about 7 thousand lakes with the general square of more than 700 square km. The largest rivers are the Katun and the Biya, which junction forms one of the largest Siberian rivers - the Ob River. The biggest lake is the Teletskoe lake the area of its water surface is 230,8 km and maximum depth - 325 m. There are mineral springs known in Altai Mountains considered medicinal.

Native population of Mountain Altai (Altaian and Kazakh) is a bit more than 35%.

Altaians - representatives of Mongolian race, descendants of nomadic tribes. The biggest part of Altai people has settled way of life, but some of them still have semi-nomadic way of life transferring their dwelling in accordance with season and living in yurts in summer. Settled people often keep their yurts out of doors and use them as a kitchen or summerhouse. In distant areas a horse is still the main means of conveyance. The base for agriculture is breeding sheep, goats, horses, yaks, cattle and mares, which horns are aphrodisiac.

Old believers. In the middle of 17th century there was religious schism and supporters of old foundation were called Old Believers. They were cruelly persecuted in the Central Russia and because of it they had to move to the mountains of Altai. They are very hard-working and industrious people that get used to work a lot since childhood. They are keepers of Russian culture, traditions and morality. Developed handicrafts are weaving, carpentry, etc. Even in nowadays communities of old believers live apart from other social groups.

A famous philosopher and painter of Russia Nikolay Rerich believed mountains of Altai were magical and dedicated many works to those places. Every one who was in that wonderful place noted its peculiar energy and magnetic force.

It was not an accident that 5 nature objects of Altai - territories of Altaysky and Katunsky Nature Reserves, Teletskoe lake, mountain Belukha, plateau Ukock - are included in the list of World Human Heritage UNESCO.

It is possible to travel around Altai on foot and on ski, on horseback or on camelback, by helicopter or hand glider and paraglider, by light sporting boats on rapid mountain rivers and by comfortable motor ships on Lake Teletskoe which is also called Altyn Kyol (Golden Lake), on mountain skis upon steep slopes or by cars and bicycles across mountain passes searching for "the heart of Asia"...

Climate and temperature on Altai

The geographical position and complicated relief with altitude fluctuations from 350 to 4500 m, greatly affect climate formation of the Altai. Due to its considerable remoteness from the oceans, the climate of the Altai Republic is temperate continental with cold winters and hot summers. The Altai has temperate continental climate with relatively short and hot summers (June - August) and long, cold and at some places very frosty winters (November - March). The average annual temperatures are about +1°C to -6,7°C. January temperature range is from -9,2°C to -31°C, July - from +11°C to +19°C. The average annual precipitation level varies from 100 up to 1000 mm.

Average temperatures in Altai											
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
10°F	18°F	23°F	36°F	59°F	72°F	73°F	70°F	55°F	43°F	28°F	7°F

-12°C	-8°C	-5°C	2°C	+15°C	+22°C	+23°C	+21°C	+13°C	+6°C	-2°C	-14°C	
Table of distances												
Barnaul	230 km											
Biysk	393 km		163 km									
Gorno - Altaysk	489 km		259 km		96 km							
	Novosibirsk		Barnaul		Biysk							

Natural Wonders of the Altay

Belukha

Mountain Belukha (4506m) is the highest and the most beautiful peak of Siberia. In accordance with one of Asian legend mountain Belukha is Shambala, the paradise that will come after disappearing people. In other legends Shambala is described as a condition of highest power base tension sent by preternatural phenomena and divine beauty of Belukha. That place is connected with Nikolay Rerich and annually attracts hundreds followers of learnings of great philosopher and painter. Notwithstanding that hundreds people climb up the top of Belukha every year mountain is considered interesting and difficult for climbing and attracts mountain climbers from all Russia.

Teletskoe lake

The Teletskoe lake, the biggest and the most beautiful Altay lake, is situated on 434 m above sea level. Lots of descriptions of excited scientists and travelers are devoted to this "Gold Lake". The lake with its mountain surroundings and darkneedled cedar taiga is a Great natural Pearl of Siberia. The Teletskoe lake looks like a narrow blue tape 78 km long squeezed by high mountain ridges of Korbu and Altyntu (up to 2500 m). Its area is not very impressive - 232 sq. km, however due to the depth (up to 325 m) it contains huge quantity of excellent, transparent, fresh water rich in oxygen (40 billion cube). In summer visibility in water is up to 14 m, in winter up to 50m.

The Teletskoe lake is of tectonic origin and fills a cavity processed by an ancient glacier. It is the sixth one in the world according the depth and is as well - known and unique as the Baikal lake, they are frequently compared. About 300 rivers and water-currents run into the Teletskoe lake. The lake gives waters only to the river Biya which at confluence with the river Katun supplies in its turn the river Ob. As the Teletskoe lake is deep and filled with mountain water it remains cold within a year.

The Teletskoe Lake received the prestigious status of the Monument of the World Natural heritage of Mankind of UNESCO.

Katun River

Katun River is the biggest river of Mountain Altay. Possibly, its name came from Altay word "mistress, lady". Katun takes the beginning near southern slope of mountain Belukha, from the glacier Gebler. Thanks to melting glaciers and snow in mountains water of Katun has bright turquoise color, that can't be entangled with any other. Temperature of water rarely climbs up than +7-8C.

Stone Mushrooms

Stone mushrooms" - a unique geological nature sanctuary in the Karasu Canyon. These are huge freakish sculptures from a stone which from thousand years were created with water and a wind.

Waterfall Uchar ("Unapproachable")

The largest cascade fall of Altay having the common height of falling of 160 m. Thousands tons of water are overthrown from huge height, breaking to Chulyshman River. The waterfall was opened only 20 years ago and hadn't even existed about 150 years before on the land.

Cedar Pine (Pinus sibirica) is considered one of the most valuable trees of Altay woods. In Siberia the tree is called Cedar. A lot of legends of Altay epos are connected with the tree. Besides that cedar is valued for its nuts and oil of the nuts. Wood of the tree is very beautiful and has red-gold shade. There are widespread cedar groves in area of Seminsky Pass and Teletskoe Lake.

Maral - breeding farms

Mountain deer, maral, lives in wooden part of Mountain Altay. They are bigger than deer but smaller than elk. It is enough difficult to see a maral, it is very cautious animal. Altaians know importance of antlers of young marals - panty, that use for making medicine (pantokrin) and because of it Altaian breeds marals specially.

Altaian horses are often met in Altay. It is the most widespread kind of transport. For Altaian and Kazakhs horse is a part of culture and life. Altaian horses are undersized and hardy, accustomed to long distance. Native horses cope with moving along steep path very well.

Honey

Altay is best known for its honey. It is delicious and very good for health. Flowers honey is considered the best. It is very easy to by it because there are a lot of bee-gardens in foothills. In winter transparent and malleable honey will remain you about summer trip to Altay.

Highlights of Altay

Pazyryk burial mound

Pazyryk barrows - the world famous burial places of patrimonial leaders VI-II centuries up to AD which have been found out on high-mountainous plateau Ukok. In huge embankments of stones unique archeological finds have been made - funeral the chamber with the world famous mummy of princess of Altay, numerous ornaments, the weapon, carpets, fabrics, Scythian horses in a harness, etc.

Denisova Cave

The Denisova Cave is unique site of primeval culture of Altay. In 1982 archaeologists from Institute of Archaeology and Ethnography explored upper secessions, where were founded many cultural sections, peculiar puff-pastry pie. The most ancient founds of Denisova Cave are about 300 thousand years. The most interesting of them are ceramics, bronze items, ivory tips, bones of cave-bear and fleecy rhinoceros. In general, there are 13 meters of cultural sections that evidenced about living here primeval people. Now there is international archeological complex. In the season of excavations many specialists from different countries come here.

Petroglyphics

Rock paintings of different historical periods often can be met in Altay. Among paintings of Scythian period images of animals (horse, camel, deer) are often found. Special place Scythians give to deer, because, as they thought, deer delivered their souls to the other world. Petroglyphics can be seen on all our trips.

Stone sculptures (kezeres)

Many tracks of numerous tribes and cultures from the oldest time are kept in Altai. Here can be seen figures of warriors - kezer, that concern 7 - 9th centuries of Turkic period. Stone sculptures of ancient Turkis are very individual and look like ancient people. Altaians sculptures never show women and represent only type of ancient warrior. As usual, it is a man with wide cheek-bones, slanting eyes, moustaches and beard. Some sculptures have ear-rings in ears and necklaces on necks.

Museum of N.K.Roerich and Old Church Ceremonies museum

These museums are located in Ujmonskaya steppe near Belukha mountain.

The expedition of N.K.Roerich - the greatest artist, traveler, and philosopher, worked in Ujmonskaya steppe (1926) which he considered one of the most beautiful Russia nooks. Here Roerichs carried out global experiment with a wonder-working black stone. Nowadays these places are the centers of pilgrimage for hundreds of his doctrine's followers and N.K.Roerich's museum is founded.

In Verkhny Uymon there is one of the most interesting museums of Mountain Altay - the museum of Old Church Ceremonies. In 18-19 centuries Old Believes from all ends of Russia tried to escape religious persecutions and searched illusive Belovod'e - land of justice, ran to mountains where secretly lead an ascetic way of life.

Useful information

Hotels, camping's

"Manzherok" tourist centre

v.Manzherok, 60 km away from Gorno-Altai, Russian baths, salt-mine, massage, 2 - storeyed heated cottage and a camping. 25 places.

*"Kiwi-Lodge hotel"****

Gorno - Altai, v.Souzga, 30 km from Gorno-Altai Accommodation, meals, booking of places, rent of summer-house on the island, autoparking, bar, Russian baths, sauna, billiards, rent of business-meetings hall 3 - storeyed cottage. 17 places.

"Tsarskaya Ohota" (Tsar Huntng) - tourist base

The base is located near v.Barangol, 60 km away from Gorno-Altai.

Accommodation, meals, Russian baths, sauna, rafting, sports outfit hire, cloak - room, baby - sitting, autoparking, horses for hire, helicopter excursions, transport delivery from Barnaul.

One - and two - storeyed houses - towers, tents, yurtas, bungalows. 150 places.

"Korona Katuni" (The Katun Crown) - tourist base

Located near v.Barangol, 60 km away from Gorno-Altai.

Accommodation, meals, rafting, excursions, Russian baths, tarzanka (air passage), dancing, shooting - range, children's room. 3 houses - towers, 14 bungalows, 9 winter houses. 44 places.

"Areda-2" - tourist centre

Located near v.Tchemal on the banks of the Kuba River.

Accommodation, meals, sauna, gym, billiards, tennis - court.

5 de luxe - rooms: 2 - rooms, 2 - beds, 4 common rooms.

"Edem" - recreational centre

Centre is situated near the Lake Teletskoye, v.Artybash.

Accommodation, meals, horse-riding, hiking routs, rafting, leisure-time in the mountains, fishing, skiing, excursions.

"Zolotoye Ozero" (The Golden Lake) - tourist base

Located on the bank of the Lake Teletskoye, v.Artybash.

Accommodation, meals, horse-riding, hiking routs, Russian baths.