



Olympia-Reisen-Sibir tour operator

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

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

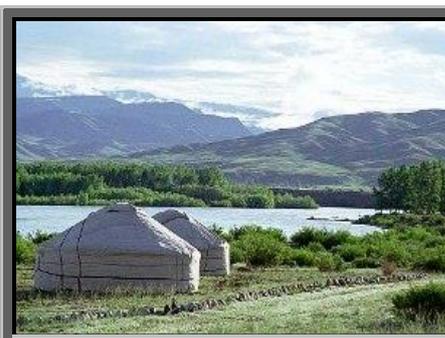
Working hrs Mon-Fri: 12:00 - 21:00 (Tokyo time) / 03:00 - 13:00 (London time)

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



THREE SIBERIAN REPUBLICS: TYVA, KHAKASSIA AND BURYATIA

15 days/14 nights (May-September 2016)



Everything you dreamed to see in Siberia: mysterious Sayan Mountains, rural Khakassia & Buryatia Republics, the wild Tyva Republic and the marvelous Lake Baikal!

Tour Program:

Day 1	<p>Upon tourist's arrival to Krasnoyarsk airport the group is transferred to the city (individual transfer**). Breakfast in a restaurant** and hotel (rooms for a group)**.</p> <p>Meeting with a guide near the hotel Krasnoyarsk, visiting the Regional Museum. The Regional Museum is considered to be among the best historical and ethnographical museums in Siberia. It in particular will provide an excellent prelude to your travel and your first impression of the tour.</p> <p>After lunch the group goes to the national park Stolby. You will have a pleasant walk in the central group of rocks with an experienced guide. The shape of each rock is so unique, that almost all rocks have their own names - Grandfather, First Pole, Pillars, Takmak, Slonic, Pervenets, Predplechye, Lion's Gate, Kapella, Manskaya Baba, Grify, Krepost etc. The tourist-excursion area of Stolby is almost 1,5 thousand hectares. With the help of an experienced guide - rock climbers you will have a walk on a tourist zone, and those who seek for adventures can try to climb up the rock. Coming back to the city, dinner.</p> <p>A sightseeing tour with a visit to a symbol of Krasnoyarsk - the Paraskeva Pyatnitsa chapel situated on the Karaulnaya mountain. In the 17th century the Cossacks who founded the city built a watch tower on this mountain. One can enjoy a picturesque view of the city, of the river Yenisey, of the surrounding mountains and the nature reserve Stolby.</p> <p>22.00 Departure to Abakan, train # 658. *Accommodation in train, lunch, dinner. ** Extra charge</p>
Day 2	<p>Breakfast in train**. Arrival in Abakan, a sightseeing tour. Abakan was founded as a town Ust-Abakan, but in the XX century it became a city. Then the group goes to Minusinsk, where tourists visit N.M.Martjanov's Museum. Lunch. During the excursion you will see Spas Cathedral, market and walk around the city-centre, aged merchant's houses.</p> <p>Then the group goes to Gladenkaya Ski Resort, located near the Sayano-Shushenskaya hydroelectric power station. Accommodation, rest. Free time for walking around and visiting to the Spa-complex**.</p> <p>*Accommodation is in the "Zharki" tourist complex on Gladenkaya Ski Resort. Lunch, dinner.</p>

	<p>**Accommodation in Gladenkaya "Sport hotel"*** The complex is made in the style of a wooden chalet. It has 4 floors built in the shape of a shamrock. Choosing this hotel you get an opportunity to enjoy comfortable rest. The hotel has a swimming pool, a sauna, a restaurant, children playgrounds and other facilities (extra charge).</p>
Day 3	<p>The excursion to the ethnographical museum "Shushenskoe" will bring you to the real Siberian village of XIX-XX centuries. A lot of people go here attracted by ancient Siberian traditions, which are fully preserved in this place. A visit to a real tavern will bring everybody another surprise, you can see handicrafts and go to the shop of a merchant. Here you will be served a cup of tea and traditional dishes in real Siberian izba. The famous festival of ethnic music called "The Sayan ring" is held near the village annually.</p> <p>During this day the group will also get acquainted with another Siberian village. The name of the place is Tanzybei. There are new buildings being built now in the village. The group will visit a local family; taste home cooked cookies and beverages, fruit and vegetables from the garden. After a lunch in a local family in Tanzybei the group continues its way towards Tuva (430 km) across the West Sayan mountains. You will see the host of this territory - Sleeping Sayan warrior if you look attentively at the contours of the mountain. The legend says that one day the khakasian warrior Sayan fell asleep here. He can be seen now lying on the back with folded arms.</p> <p>Closer to the evening group comes to Tuva. It's amazing but as soon as the bus crosses the border between Krasnoyarsk edge and comes to Tuva even the scenery changes. It seems like you are coming to another planet and another age. There are almost no signs of civilisation on the most part of Tuva territory, steppes and sharp mountains are over the hundreds kilometres.</p> <p>The first place to visit in Tuva is a place of archaeological dig of the famous burial mound "Arjaan II". A lot of splendid golden jewellery was found here under layers of ground.</p> <p>The group makes a stop 22 km from the city Kizil, on the bank of the Biy-Khem river (in Tuvan – Big Yenisey), in the yurts' complex*. Accommodation in the real thick felt yurts built by tuvians specially for the tourists.</p> <p>After dinner – the performance with the traditional throat singing – "khoomei". The throat singing - a fantastical capability of the Tuva people (and some other Siberian nationalities) to emit simultaneously two or three sounds of different tone and to sustain the same sound for 25-30 seconds without taking a breath. If you close your eyes it is hard to believe that the sounds are emitted by a person and not by a musical instrument.</p> <p>* Accommodation is in the yurts' complex "Biy-Khem" or in hotel in Kyzyl**. Breakfast, lunch and dinner.</p>
Day 4	<p>The Europeans are still interested in the eastern traditions. The route that covers the Sayan ring lets you visit the heart of Asia. The place of this day is Kyzyl, the capital of Tuva. This city is situated in the place where Biy-Khem (the Big Yenisey) and Ka-Khem (the Small Yenisey) unite their waters and give a life to the great river Yenisey. The first sightseeing to visit here is the Geographical Centre of Asia. Built in 1964, the monument represents a big globe on which the contours of continents are marked, Tuva and Kyzyl are specially indicated.</p> <p>The next place of visiting is the Buddhist temple where you will have a chance to hear a sermon of the lama. Buddhism in Tuva exists in harmony with shaman beliefs. So after the Buddhist temple we will go to the Shaman clinic. There the shamans will tell you about their traditions, rituals and abilities. After that you will get an opportunity to ask them about your future, your health and experience the ritual of purification.</p> <p>Dinner is organized in a local restaurant. After eating the group will visit the Regional Museum of Tuva (exhibition "Scythian gold") and see unique archaeological finds of different epochs**.</p> <p>A supper with traditional dishes of Tuvan cuisine including meat and dairy products will be cooked specially for the guests on returning back to the yurt complex.</p> <p>In the evening you will see a bewitching show: shamans' kamlaniye. Kamlanie is a magical communication between shamans and spirits. During this ritual the shamans dance around fire, sing and beat a drum. Kamlanie will leave a long lasting impression, nobody remains indifferent after this ritual.</p> <p>* Accommodation in the yurts' complex "Biy-Khem". Breakfast, lunch, dinner ** Extra charge</p>
Day 5	<p>Nowadays the tourists can follow exactly the same path that ancient nomads followed. On the 5th day of the journey following this path you will have to cross Tuva from the east to the west and reach Khakasia. The route will go through the mountain pass. Here you can meet places which are considered to be energetically powerful. Before dinner there is a stop near a breathtaking mountain Khairykan - one of the</p>

	<p>most respected places in Tuva. In 1992 it was chosen by Dalai Lama XIV to be an energetically powerful place. Once a year local shamans come here to get energy, strengthen and purify their spirits. Many of the tuvinian people are still nomads. The group will meet a family of real nomads (if possible). The nomads' way of life today has little difference with their life a hundred years ago. Traditionally a yurt, where they live is divided into two halves - a man's half and a woman's half. Guests are received in a special place.</p> <p>Lunch is organized right on the grass, under the "Seven Sisters" - ancient larch trees, growing from one root.</p> <p>Khakasia begins after the Sayan pass, at a height of 2206 metres. The mountains here are covered with fabulous cedar taiga. The tourists will spend the next two days in the taiga camp "Snow Leopard" built on the bank of the river Stoktysh.</p> <p>You can enjoy walking on colourful moss here, breathe pure mountain air, taste traditional taiga cuisine.</p> <p>* Accommodation in the camp "Snow Leopard". Breakfast, lunch, dinner</p>
Day 6	<p>The first day in taiga will amaze you by silence, not usual in big cities. During this day there is no any special program, so you can devote it to walking or horse riding** around taiga. In July and August you can gather gifts of the forest - berries and mushrooms which you don't even need to look for - they are just under your feet. You will also have a chance to eat cedar nuts. A Siberian cedar is a unique tree. Those cedars which you will be surrounded by are the witnesses of several centuries, fed hundreds of generations who lived in taiga.</p> <p>Taiga air makes you healthier, but the real cure for all illnesses is a Russian banya. A steaming Russian banya with brooms made of coniferous twigs, birch and oak twigs. Those who are courageous enough can jump into the cold river right after steaming. But if you are not ready for such an extreme procedure, there is also phytosauna** built on the territory of the camp. Time after the lunch is spent at the fireplace. Cedar taiga, fire, star-spangled sky and silence will make you forget about rush of the cities. All this will make you feel a part of wild nature.</p> <p>After dinner evening at the fireplace. Cedar Taiga*, starry sky and the silence that we forget about in the city surround you and only the crackle of the blazing fire...</p> <p>* Accommodation in the camp "Snow Leopard". Breakfast, lunch, dinner</p>
Day 7	<p>After breakfast - bid farewell to "Snow Leopard" (242 km) and taiga.</p> <p>On the route the group makes a stop at a khakasian village where there is a monument Khurtuyakh tas, where native women bring there gifts if they wish to have a baby.</p> <p>By noon the group arrives to the Kyug valley (in Khakassian "kyug" means "delight") 137 km far from Abakan. Two great mountains chains stand near each other here. The Khakasian people call this valley "delight", archaeologists find a lot of monuments of different cultures. There is a yurt complex "Kyug" situated not far from the nature reserve "Kazanovka". Excursion to the State museum-reserve of Khakassia "Kasanovka". It is hard to believe but you really will see petroglyphs 3-5 thousand years old. Moreover you will be shown how archaeologists make copies from it for study, this pictures you can take with you like rare souvenir. Besides, you'll know the role of vertical stones which stay all around Khakassia and see real archaeological excavations.</p> <p>After dinner - a performance of the khakassian national folklore group.</p> <p>* Accommodation in the yurt complex "Kug"*. Breakfast, lunch, dinner.</p>
Day 8	<p>Departure from the complex and in a couple of hours arrival in Abakan, the capital of Khakassia. A visit to the Republican Regional Museum, where unique collection of stone statues is kept. Some of them are considered to be still powerful. Lunch.</p> <p>From Abakan the group goes to "The Valley of Tsars", there are about 30 burial mounds aged from the IV-III century B.C. The culmination of the trip will be the Great Salbyk Mound which was built on the noble family's grave and excavated by archaeologists in 1954-56. It measured 0,5km in perimeter and 11,5 m high, the weight of stones is up to 60 tonnes. Then back way to Abakan. Dinner.</p> <p>Departure to Krasnoyarsk, train # 124.</p> <p>*Accommodation in train. Breakfast, lunch, dinner.</p>
Day 9	<p>Arrival in Krasnoyarsk at 06.45 local time and free time till the next train # 8, departing at 11:40 local time. Day in train. Journey time = 24h36m</p>
Day 10	<p>Arrival in Ulan-Ude at 13:16 local time. Transfer to the hotel Baikal Plaza***. Today, as in the past, Baikal remains a crossroads of cultures, where native Sayats still herd reindeers and Buryat people keep many of their old traditions. Lunch in city restaurant. City tour: Lenin Head, Hodigitria temple, 3 theatres and panoramic view over the city from Lysaya Gora, Rimpoche Datsan.</p> <p>* Accommodation in the hotel "Baikal Plaza"***. Breakfast, lunch.</p>

<i>Day 11</i>	Breakfast, followed by a visit to Ethnographical Museum, Datsan in Upper-Berezovka, lunch in the restaurant YURTA with traditional Buryat cuisine. Drive to the Buryat village Azagat (60km) to visit Datsan, dinner in family (in case of a small group) or open-air picnic with Buryat folk songs accompaniment. * Accommodation in the hotel "Baikal Plaza"***. Breakfast, lunch, dinner.
<i>Day 12</i>	Breakfast and visit of Ivolginsky Datsan - the main Buddhist Temple of Russia. Lunch in city restaurant. Visit of the Old-believers village with folk concert and dinner. Departure to Irkutsk by train 361 at 22.01 local time. *Accommodation in train. Breakfast, lunch, dinner.
<i>Day 13</i>	Arrival in Irkutsk at 07:30 local time, transfer to the hotel 3* hotel in Irkutsk. Early check-in, breakfast and time for rest. Lunch in city restaurant. City tour with Decembrists Museum. * Accommodation in the hotel 3*. Breakfast, lunch.
<i>Day 14</i>	Breakfast and full day tour to lake Baikal. It is not a place for hustle and bustle. Here you feel like thinking about eternity and the world's harmony. One of the biggest and the most ancient lakes of our planet, situated in the center of Asia, the Baikal is almost a miracle of Siberian nature. Everyone who has ever been to its shores remains impressed and charmed by its grandeur size and its unusual might for a long time. We visit Taltsy Open air museum on the way and St. Nicholas Church in Krestovka village. Lunch in Listvyanka, Museum of Lake Baikal, funicular to Chersky Peak for the view over Baikal and lake Baikal boat trip. * Accommodation in the hotel "Mayak"***. Breakfast, lunch.
<i>Day 15</i>	Breakfast and transfer to Irkutsk airport and departure to Moscow.

Included:

Transportation as per program,
 TWN accommodation as per program
 Full board for Tyva and Khakasia
 Meals as per program for Buryatia and Irkutsk
 Guide services. No guide in the train.
 Excursions
 Folk programs
 Entrance tickets to museums, parks and reserves
 2nd class train tickets Krasnoyarsk-Abakan-Krasnoyarsk (4-bedded coupe, 1st class not available)
 2nd class train tickets Krasnoyarsk-Ulan-Ude (4-bedded coupe)
 2nd class train tickets Ulan-Ude-Irkutsk (4-bedded coupe, 1st class not available)

Not included:

porter services, alcoholic drinks, services not mentioned in the program, meals in train
 surcharge for 1st class Krasnoyarsk-Ulan-Ude tickets: 87 Euro per person (2-bedded coupe)