

# tourism&leisure in **RUSSIA**

THE  
PUBLICATION  
"NATIONAL  
TOURIST  
ROUTES OF  
RUSSIA"  
ISSUE 1(2) 2018

## THE RICHES OF MOSCOW REGION

SERGIYEV POSAD •  
ISTRA • ODINTSOVO  
• KOLOMNA

## SAKHALIN

Islands of  
Attraction

## KAMCHATKA

In the Land of  
active Volcanoes

## FOOTBALL CAPITAL

*Russia has welcomed  
hundreds of thousands  
of fans from all over  
the world*

# 7

POPULAR  
EVENTS  
IN SAINT  
PETERSBURG





# FLOTILLA RADISSON ROYAL:

## MORE OPPORTUNITIES

ADVERTISING

FINE DINING



UNFORGETTABLE DATE



PARTY ON BOARD



CHILDREN'S ACTIVITY



ROMANTIC ADVENTURE



**Flotilla Radisson Royal - 10 icebreaking yachts** with full catering service on board. Every day throughout the year all the yachts make excursion and entertainment cruises along the Moskva River. Enjoy the most remarkable sights of Moscow during 2,5 hour cruises. Favourable timetable and accessibility allow you to explore more than 30 architectural buildings which you sail by during the cruise. High quality catering and services with delicious food prepared straight on board is a great opportunity to relax after a busy day, arrange a date with a special someone, enjoy a trip through the historical city centre, or gather with family.



**Pier Ukraina Hotel**  
Nab. Tarasa Shevchenko  
Subway station: Kievskaya



**Pier Gorky Park**  
Gorky Central Park of Culture and Leisure  
Pushkinskaya nab.  
Subway stations: Park Kultury, Oktyabrskaya



# GASTRONOMIC MOSCOW RIVER CRUISES

## MORE UNFORGETTABLE MOMENTS

FIRST-CLASS SALON



ASIAN SPECIALTIES



WINTER CRUISES



ERWIN.REKA



ROYAL-CLASS YACHT "MONTANA"



### MOSCOW RIVER CRUISES:

A Journey through History with the Taste of Fine Cuisine

**Welcome on board** Flotilla Radisson Royal snow-white yachts. Enjoy urban landscape and architectural sights from an alternative perspective. Taste gourmet cuisine prepared under the direction of our chefs - Sergey Maslov and Nikolay Bakunov. Try seafood specialties on board ERWIN Reka yacht. Forget the hustle and bustle of the city and enjoy wonderful sights, a comfortable atmosphere, and taste fine cuisine on board Radisson Royal yachts. **Discover your Moscow!**

+7-495-228-55-55  
[www.radisson-cruise.ru](http://www.radisson-cruise.ru)

#DISCOVERYOURMOSCOW

#RADISSONCRUISE

**Flotilla**  
**Radisson**  
ROYAL MOSCOW



General Director ANTON SEMENOV

Editor-in-Chief ALEXANDER KRESTNIKOV

Editor, English Edition KATHLEEN ZABELINA

Managing Editor DMITRY FILIPCHENKO

Deputy Chief Editor OLEG ZLOBIN

Art Director ARNOLD PEPOV

Prepress NADEZHDA ROMASHKINA

Advertising Director NELLY KLYAGINA

Advertising Manager SERGEY GRIGORYEV

Director for Distribution SERGEI SOLOVYOV

Proofreader GALINA KRIKUNOVA

Assistant DENIS KUZNETSOV

Translation APRIORI LTD

# tourism&leisure in RUSSIA

THE  
PUBLICATION  
"NATIONAL  
TOURIST  
ROUTES OF  
RUSSIA"

## PARTNERS AND DISTRIBUTION LOCATIONS

### Austria

Russisches Kultur Institut in  
Wien  
Brahmsplatz 8, 1040 Wien  
Österreich

### Argentina

Casa de Rusia  
Av. Rivadavia 4266 Buenos  
Aires, CF, Argentina

### Belgium

Centre Culturel et  
Scientifique de Russie 21,  
rue du Meridien - 1210  
Bruxelles

### Brazil

Alameda dos Jurupis, 900,  
Varanda dos Bosques, apto.  
173 Indianapolis / CEP  
04088-002 / Sao Paulo / SP  
Avenida das Nacoes, SES  
Q.801, Lote A, Brasilia-DF

### Great Britain

Representation of  
Rossotrudnichestvo  
37 Kensington High St,  
Kensington, London W8  
5ED, Great Britain

### Hungary

OroszKulturálisKözpont  
Hungary1062, Budapest,  
Andrassy út 120

### Germany

Russisches Haus der  
Wissenschaft und Kultur  
101117, Berlin,  
Friedrichstraße 176-179

### Greece

Οδ.Τζαβέλλα 7, Χαλάνδρι,  
15231, Αθήνα, Ελλάδα  
Tzavella str.7, Chalandri,  
Athens, Greece

### Denmark

Vester Voldgade 11,1552  
København V, Denmark

### Israel

38 Gula St., Tel Aviv, Israel  
63304

### India

The Russian Centre of  
Science and Culture  
24, Ferozeshah Road, New  
Delhi 110 001  
The Russian Centre of  
Science and Culture  
31-A, Dr. Gopalrao

Deshmukh Marg,  
Mumbai – 400 026.  
Maharashtra

### Indonesia

Russian Center for Science  
and Culture  
Jl. Diponegoro, Menteng,  
Jakarta Pusat 10310

### Jordan

The Russian Centre of  
Science and Culture  
P.O.Box 2187, Amman  
11181, Jordan, 7 Shahed  
Ismail St., First Circl

### Iran

The Embassy of the Russian  
Federation in Iran, 39,  
Nofel Loshato (Neauphle Le  
Château) St, Tehran, Iran

### Spain

Centros de ciencia y cultura  
Calle Atocha, 34, 28012,  
Madrid

### Italy

Il Centro russo di scienza e  
cultura  
Italia, Piazza Benedetto  
Cairolì, 6 - 00186 Roma

### Canada

The Embassy of the Russian  
Federation in Canada, 285  
Charlotte Street, Ottawa  
ON, K1N 8L5

### Cyprus

Russian Centre of Science  
and Culture  
Alasias 16, Nicosia 1301,  
P.O. Box 24561, Cyprus  
Alasia 16, T.K. 24561, 1301  
Λευκωσία, Κύπρος

### China

PRC, Beijing, Dongcheng  
district, Dongzhimennei str.,  
9 (NAGA), building 2. Zip  
code: 100007

### Luxembourg

Centre culturel .S.Pouchkine  
32, rue Goethe / 5,  
rue C.M.Spo, L-2546,  
Luxembourg

### Malaysia

Russian Center for Science  
and Culture,  
205, Lorong Ampang 2, Off  
Jalan Ampang,

50450 Kuala Lumpur,  
Malaysia

### Mexico

Embajada de la Federacion  
de Rusia  
Av.José Vasconcelos 204,  
Col.Hipodromo Condesa,  
Del. Cauhtémoc, C.P.  
06140, Mexico D.F.

### U.A.E

Abu Dhabi, P.O. box 8211,  
Khalifa street., East Plots  
65/67, building of the  
Russian Embassy

### Poland

Rosyjskie Centrum Nauki i  
Kultury w Warszawie  
00-761 Warszawa, ul.  
Belwederska 25

Rosyjskie Centrum Nauki i  
Kultury w Gdansk  
80-827 Gdansk ul. Długa 35

### Portugal

Representação de  
Rossotrudnichestvo na  
República Portuguesa  
Av. Dugue de Avila 185,  
6C, 1050-082 Lisboa

### Republic of Korea

Embassy of the Russian  
Federation in Korea, 34-16  
Chong-dong, Chung-gu,  
Seoul, 100-120, Republic  
of Korea

### Slovakia

Ruské centrum vedy  
a kultúry v Bratislave  
Slovakia, 81105 Bratislava,  
Frana Kral'a 2

### Slovenia

Ruski center znanosti in  
kulture  
Ciril Metodov trg 1,  
Ljubljana 1000, Slovenia

### United States of America

Mission of  
Rossotrudnichestvo in the  
United States of America  
Consulate general of Russia  
in New York,  
9 East 91 Street, N.Y. 10128,  
USA  
Russian Center for Science  
and Culture,  
1825 Phelps Place, N.W.

Washington DC 20008,  
USA

### Turkey

Rossotrudnichestvo'nun  
Türkiye Cumhuriyeti  
Temsilciligi  
Yıldızevler mahallezi, Çankaya  
konakları, Blok F, 17/17

### Finland

Venäjän tiede- ja  
kulttuurikeskus (VTKK)  
Helsingissä  
Nordenskiöldinkatu 1,  
00250 Helsinki, Suomi

### France

Le Centre de Russie pour la  
science et la culture  
61, rue Boissière, 75116  
Paris, France

### Croatia

Hrvatska, 10000 Zagreb

### Montenegro

8100, 1 Veliše Mugoše  
Podgorica  
Czech Republic  
Ruské středisko vědy a  
kultury v Praze  
160 00 Praha 6 - Bubeneč  
Na Zatořce 16

### Chile

Centro de Ciencia y Cultura  
de Rusia  
Ejército Libertador 57,  
Santiago Centre, Santiago  
de Chile

### Switzerland

Die Vertretung der  
Rossotrudnichestvo  
in der Schweizerische  
Eidgenossenschaft  
Brunnradernrain 37,  
CH-3006 Bern, Schweiz

### Sri Lanka

Russian Centre for Science  
and Culture  
Sri Lanka, Colombo-7,  
Independence Avenue 10

### South Africa

South Africa, Pretoria; 316  
Brooks Street, Menlo Park

### Japan

Japan, Minatoku, Tokyo,  
106-0041, Azabu-Dai 2-1-1  
Embassy of the Russian  
Federation in Japan



## ON THE COVER

Mexican fans who came to the FIFA World Cup have astounded everyone with their passion for the game and their boisterous support for their team. A group of friends brought an image of their friend cut out of cardboard, his T-shirt emblazoned with the words: "My old lady wouldn't let me go," and they carried it with them to all the cities where their team played. Mexican fans had the biggest national fan zone—8.500 square meters in Gostiny Dvor right in the centre of Moscow. Between matches, guests were entertained by a band's virtuosos performances of mariachi music.

Photo by Alexey Malgavko

### Address of the editorial office:

127006, Moscow, Tverskaya Street,  
18/1, Office 820.  
Tel: +7 (495) 650-02-83, 650-28-26,  
650-36-63, 650-26-30.  
E-mail: info@rustur.ru  
tlrussia.com

Publisher Otdyh Media Ltd.

### Printed in the "Deviz" Printing Complex.

195027, St. Petersburg, Yakornaya  
Street, 10, block 2, letter A, room 44.  
Tel. +7 (812) 335-18-30.  
Order No. TД-4048

"TOURISM AND LEISURE IN RUSSIA" IS PUBLISHED ONCE A YEAR AND CIRCULATED VIA THE OFFICES OF "INTOURIST-THOMAS COOK" INTERNATIONAL TOUR OPERATOR and other major tour operators, as well as Visit Russia offices, Russian embassies and cultural centres, and missions of The Federal Agency for the Commonwealth of Independent States Affairs, Compatriots Living Abroad, and International Humanitarian Cooperation (Rossotrudnichestvo) abroad, as well as at major foreign travel exhibitions where Russia is represented (CIBTM in Beijing, IBTM World in Barcelona, IMEX in Frankfurt, etc.), at international travel exhibitions in Russia (INTOURMARKET and OTDYKH LEISURE in Moscow, INWETEX in St. Petersburg, SIFT in Sochi, etc.), at the St. Petersburg International Economic Forum, and at the Eastern Economic Forum in Vladivostok. The magazine is also available in airport VIP lounges and at hotels.

© Otdykh Media Ltd., 2018.



# BELMOND GRAND HOTEL EUROPE

ST PETERSBURG

*Museums, opera, ballet... St Petersburg's most iconic hotel stands amidst a dazzling display of culture. Gilded cathedral domes glimmer against the whitest snow. Truly magnificent!*



BELMOND

HOTELS | TRAINS | RIVER CRUISES | JOURNEYS  
BELMOND.COM





## *World Cup Test*

“Russians are a people that desperately want to have friends,” wrote Gabriel Garcia Marquez after visiting the USSR. The FIFA World Cup in Russia seems to have proven the famous writer’s statement to be true.

The World Cup has, of course, also brought to light the pluses and minuses of the Russian tourism industry. In some way, it was a test not only for hoteliers, restaurateurs, and law enforcement officers, but also for ordinary residents of the eleven cities where the World Cup matches took place.

Certainly, the hosts did not excel at everything. However, I think they did get some things right: they were friendly and sincerely wished to help their foreign guests. Just as the Russian team, lacking in playing skills, compensated with huge enthusiasm and dedication and won the game against Spain, so the “players” of the Russian tourism industry had their many small victories, leaving their foreign guests

with a positive attitude towards their not-always-perfect service, and demonstrating genuine hospitality.

One way or another, many of the stereotypes, created by politicians and the Western media about our country fell apart before the eyes of our foreign guests. Those who have now been to Russia won’t be afraid to come here again. The Russian proverb: “What is good for a Russian is poison for a German,” lost its relevance for the tourists who came from the banks of the Rhein. Except for the German team, of course ...

All of us have realized that the East and the West have a lot in common, and that we should be meeting each other as often as possible to discover new things, to learn from each other, and just to be friends.

So, perhaps it’s time for a holiday in Russia...

**Alexander Krestnikov,**  
*Editor-in-Chief*



# RUSSIA

*open to the world*

> 7 500

professional  
companies

> 12 500

meetings

> 3 400

venues

RUSSIACB.COM  
+7 (495) 777 16 45



Convention  
Bureau

# Contents

ISSUE 1(2) / 2018

76

Ergaki

## 20 **Meet the Northern Palmyra**

It's no coincidence that St. Petersburg was called the "Northern Palmyra" by our ancestors. The image of the richest ancient city in the Syrian desert evoked comparisons with St. Petersburg among Russian writers and poets.

## 26 **Welcoming Waters**

The Passenger Port of St. Petersburg is the first and only port of its type in Russia's North-West Region.

## 28 **Get to know the capital**

We have put together an itinerary for those with only one

free day in Moscow. Our itinerary covers the most iconic and popular places. You'll need to gather your energy for long walks between the main sights!

## 32 **Treasures of Moscow Region**

For tourists, Moscow Region offers a never-ending array of wonders, extraordinary discoveries, and enigmas.

## 42 **Territory of Attraction**

Sakhalin is the only region of Russia that consists entirely of islands. Its rivers, waterfalls, bamboo groves, thermal springs, varied

Sergiyev  
Posad

35

fauna, extraordinary landscapes, and majestic volcanoes attract travellers from all over the world.

## 46 **The Mystique of Primorye**

Stone statues have been standing amidst the Primorye taiga for hundreds of years. No one—neither tourists nor scientists, can guess their origin. According to legend, in ancient times, sacrificial offerings were made here.

## 54 **The Island Reserve**

Furugelm Island is the southernmost island not just in Primorye, but in the whole of Russia.

## 60 **In the Land of Volcanoes**

In January, I was lucky enough to visit Kamchatka for the first time in my life. Neither the nine-hour flight, nor advice to "pack every piece of warm clothing you have" could deter me.

St. Petersburg

24





# CHECK INTO THE MOSCOW LEGEND!

*Metropol Hotel presents  
new Art Deco Rooms*



The Metropol is a legendary historic hotel with unique architecture, built on the initiative of the renowned patron Savva Mamontov in 1905. The building is an outstanding example of Moscow Art Nouveau.

## RECENTLY METROPOL HOTEL PROUDLY ANNOUNCED THE OPENING OF RENOVATED ROOMS.

New luxurious rooms are a perfect combination of historical decor elements, all modern conveniences and a very personalized service. New rooms are available with great bathrooms and

all modern technology, allowing guests to enjoy the historic atmosphere with very up to date facilities in great comfort.

Now hotel guests can choose between classic suites with authentic interiors of the early XX century and any of the new rooms in the categories Grand Superior, Deluxe, Deluxe Suite, Metropol Suite, Premier Suite, or Ambassador Suite.

We invite you to immerse yourself in the experience of the brand new Metropol Hotel!

2 Teatralny Proezd, Moscow, Russia, 109012  
+7 499 501 78 00 · [res@metmos.ru](mailto:res@metmos.ru)  
[www.metropol-moscow.ru](http://www.metropol-moscow.ru)

  
**METROPOL**  
SINCE 1905



# Contents

ISSUE 1(2) / 2018



17

Moscow

- 70 **The Real Taiga**  
Russia can boast a vast number of truly beautiful places, one of which is Ergaki Nature Park in the Western Sayan Mountains, a special conservation zone in Krasnoyarsk Territory.
- 78 **Siberian riches**  
Novosibirsk Region is Siberia in miniature. Here you find rich scenery, fast rivers, thousands of salt and fresh water lakes, mineral springs and therapeutic mud.
- 82 **Imperial tour**  
A new itinerary bearing the "imperial" brand has appeared in the year marking the 100th year anniversary of the Russian Revolution, which brought an end to the monarchy.
- 84 **Game fit for a Tsar**  
Hunting east of the Urals can provide even the least experienced trackers with impressive bird and animal trophies.
- 86 **Reaching your peak**  
There are a great number of destinations in Russia suitable for mountaineering beginners to go trekking. Popular treks run through the "small moun-

ains" – the Khibiny, the Urals, the Sayan, or in Kamchatka – or through the foothills of the "big mountains" – the Caucasus and Altai.

- 94 **Wild Beauty**  
Deep forests, cliff faces, mountain lakes, and waterfalls – Adygea has managed to preserve its primeval attractions.
- 100 **On Foot Through the Southern Capital**  
If it's your first time in Rostov-on-Don, a city also referred to as the southern capital of Russia, make sure you're equipped with a camera and a good mood, and head out for a walk.
- 102 **Expanding borders**  
Russian Convention Bureau, a trade association for the MICE industry, has for the first time represented Russia at IMEX 2018, Europe's largest international event industry exhibition in Frankfurt.
- 104 **Swan people**  
In the foothills of Altai there is a lake that never freezes

over, even in the most savage cold. There, each winter a miracle happens. On the open waters of the lake, shrouded in thick fog, dozens of swans flock together. This lake is held in reverence above all others by one of the local indigenous peoples – the Kumandins.

- 110 **Calendar of Events**  
What are the Russian regions famous for? Some are famous for their watermelons, others for their dumplings, and yet others—for being the coldest places in the world.



Novosibirsk

79

There are more than 400 exhibits in the Museum of Siberian Birchbark.

Sakhalin

43



Kamchatka

68







HOTEL NATIONAL  
MOSCOW

THE  
LUXURY  
COLLECTION



©2015 Starwood Hotels & Resorts Worldwide, Inc. and its affiliates. Starwood, Preferred Guest, SPG, The Luxury Collection and their logos are trademarks of Starwood Hotels & Resorts Worldwide, Inc. or its affiliates.

## HOTELS THAT DEFINE THE DESTINATION™

Discover the rich heritage of Russia at Hotel National, a Luxury Collection Hotel, and a historical monument right in the heart of Moscow.

Experience the true essence of each destination at The Luxury Collection, a curated ensemble of the world's most iconic hotels.

EXPLORE THE DESTINATION AT [THELUXURYCOLLECTION.COM/NATIONAL](http://THELUXURYCOLLECTION.COM/NATIONAL)

spg.  
Starwood  
Preferred  
Guest



# RUSSIA IS LIKE A BEAUTIFUL GIRL

WHAT PARTICIPANTS AND GUESTS AT THE  
2018 FIFA WORLD CUP ARE SAYING:



**Brazil**

**NEYMAR**

*Captain of Brazilian national team, 2016 Olympic champion*

"About the girls, that's another story entirely. They are very beautiful in Russia, and I think that will give more motivation to the Russian team. With such beautiful fans in the stands, you simply have to win."



**Italy**

**GIANNI INFANTINO**

*FIFA President*

"The World Cup is going fabulously. Russia is a very welcoming country. The tournament changes the perception of Russia, especially in the West. This festival in Russia became a festival for the whole world. Anyone can come to Moscow or another city and enjoy the football atmosphere."



**Japan**

**HISAKO TAKAMADO**

*Princess of Japan*

"Everything is at the highest level. I am warmly accepted here. I am very comfortable, and people are very kind and friendly. It is wonderful that the championship is taking place in such a hospitable country. I put on a pink kimono today on purpose. It is something between the color of the Japanese and Russian flags."

*On May 24, residents of Russia and other countries celebrated the 1155th anniversary of Slavic writing.*



**Perm**

## IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF VITUS BERING

An extensive tourist route is being created in Russia, following the footsteps of the 18th century Kamchatka expeditions led by the well-known Russian explorer and seafarer Vitus Bering. The route includes 39 Russian regions and eight countries. In the Urals, the route passes through the Perm, Sverdlovsk and Tyumen regions. In the Perm region, the route is already being used by tourists, including foreign guests. The government of Denmark, where Vitus Bering was born, is also ready to support the project.

## TAX FREE IN ACTION

In April, a tax free system of VAT refunds for purchases made by foreign nationals, was launched in a test mode in Russia. Citizens of foreign country that are not part of the Eurasian Economic Union are entitled to receive a tax refund. In order to receive a refund, you have to purchase goods in one day that exceed the amount of 10,000 rubles (about \$160.) Foreign nationals can save up to 18 percent on certain goods - including clothing, electronics and jewelry, and 10 percent on other items purchased - including food, medicine and books.



**Vladivostok**

## FREE VISA

Fourteen thousand foreign nationals visited Primorye with electronic visas issued on the territory of the Free Port of Vladivostok. The majority of visitors came from the People's Republic of China, Japan, Singapore, Saudi Arabia, Mexico, Turkey, United Arab Emirates, and other countries. From August 2017, citizens of 18 foreign countries may receive an e-visa to enter Russia. Visa issuance takes no more than four calendar days. No invitation is needed. Just fill in the application on the website. Electronic visas are issued free of charge.





## ZARYADYE SETS A RECORD

**MOSCOW.** ALMOST SEVEN MILLION PEOPLE have visited the new landscape park, Zaryadye, since it opened in September 2017. The park recreates every climatic zone of Russia: forest, steppe, floodplains and the landscape of the North. The most popular places are the Floating Bridge and a large amphitheater under the so-called glass bark. When the weather is good, more than 100,000 people can visit the park daily. Zaryadye was short-listed for the World Architecture Festival (WAF) award, the Oscar of architecture. ■







## HALF A CENTURY LEGEND

St. Petersburg. Over a million people attended the Alye Parusa (Scarlet Sails) festival for high school graduates. The festival, which marks its 50th anniversary this year, has become world-famous as one of the symbols of Russia's northern capital. A large-scale multimedia show, a concert and a dazzling fireworks show were organized on the Neva. The festival culminated in the appearance of a brigantine under scarlet sails. According to tradition, a Swedish sail-boat, *Tre Kronor*, played the part of the boat in Alexander Grin's novella *The Scarlet Sails*. ■





## VACATIONING IN COMFORT

ORGANIZERS FROM THE FIFA WORLD CUP'S RUSSIAN HOST CITIES HAVE PROVIDED FIRST-RATE HOTELS. PREVIOUSLY, MANY OF THESE CITIES COULDN'T EVEN DREAM OF SUCH TOP-NOTCH AMENITIES AND THE CHANCE TO RECEIVE GUESTS AT THE HIGHEST LEVEL. FOR EXAMPLE, ONE OF THE WORLD'S BEST SOCCER PLAYERS, CRISTIANO RONALDO, STAYED AT THE NEW MERCURE HOTEL IN THE SMALL TOWN OF SARANSK.



St. Petersburg

### LOTTE HOTEL ST. PETERSBURG

Located on St. Isaac's Square, with an enviable view of the city's famous cathedral.

[lottehotel.com/  
saintpetersburg](http://lottehotel.com/saintpetersburg)



N. Novgorod

### SHERATON NIZHNY NOVGOROD KREMLIN

The first 5 star, internationally branded hotel exclusively located in the historical part of the city, steps away from the Nizhny

[Novgorod Kremlin  
starwoodhotels.com](http://NovgorodKremlin.starwoodhotels.com)



Ekaterinburg

### HYATT REGENCY EKATERINBURG

The Hyatt Regency Ekaterinburg is a luxury hotel in Ekaterinburg, developed as part of the new Ekaterinburg City district, including an extended commercial space and offices.

[hyatt.com](http://hyatt.com)



## HALLO MOSKAU!

A German pensioner, Hubert Wirth, arrived at the World Cup driving a 1936 Lanz Bulldog tractor. He had covered 2,500 kilometers in one month. Hubert says that he drove on good roads that were equal in quality to German roads. He hooked up a trailer shaped like a beer barrel to the tractor, and adorned it with a sign, "Hallo Moskau!" (Hello, Moscow!).



## MILLIONS FROM FANS

**MONEY.** OVER THE FIRST FIVE DAYS OF THE FIFA WORLD CUP 2018, FOREIGN FANS spent more than \$40 million on their VISA cards. The most generous of them were fans from the United States, China and Mexico. Tourists from the Kingdom of Tonga spent less than others. Most of the money was spent on hotels, stylish clothes, restaurants and cafes. The average tab was \$58. It was recorded that people spent the most in the first days of the competition in Moscow, \$27.4 million. In St. Petersburg, credit card holders spent more than \$8 million, and in Sochi, \$1.7 million. Kazan followed with a grand total of \$1.1 million spent on purchases, and Yekaterinburg, \$700,000. ■



Sochi

## LOVE FOR RUSSIAN ROLLER-COASTERS

About 800 foreign tourists visited the Sochi Theme Park during the World Cup daily. The park's extreme rides were the most popular ones. Foreign tourists frequently asked why roller-coasters are called "American hills" when the rest of the world calls them "Russian hills"? According to a married couple from Peru, "Russian hills" turned out to be scarier than expected, but they enjoyed it just as much as they enjoyed a football match. They proclaimed the Russian roller-coaster "real Russian extreme".



Rostov-On-Don

### RADISSON BLU HOTEL

Overlooking the main river promenade, the hotel provides immediate access to shops, clubs and businesses in the city center.  
[radissonblu.com/ru/hotels/russia/rostov-on-don](http://radissonblu.com/ru/hotels/russia/rostov-on-don)



Kaliningrad

### LANGENDORF

Castle Estate "Langendorf" is a unique resort positioned on the bank of the Pregol river, the main water artery of the region that connects the city of Kaliningrad and the Curonian Bay of the Baltic Sea.  
[langendorf.su](http://langendorf.su)



Moscow

## A TATTOO WITH A ZABIVAKA

Foreign tourists took home tattoos with the symbol of the World Cup. It turns out, it wasn't enough for fans to buy a traditional *ushanka* (fur hat with ear-flaps) as a souvenir, or a *matryoshka*, or the figurine of the World Cup mascot Zabivaka, or a magnet. The latest trend is to take home memories by putting the symbol of the championship on your skin. Owners of tattoo salons on Arbat Street were pleased to see three or four foreign customers a day.









PHOTOS: VISUALIRIAN

## GREAT MATCHES FOR THE FANS

**THE RUSSIAN TEAM HAD THE TOURNAMENT'S BEST DEFENSE, ACCORDING TO THE RESULTS OF 60 MATCHES OUT OF 64.** This FIFA ranking is cited on the official World Cup website, and is based on the following figure: 259 clearances, dispossessions and saves. Russia's Denis Cheryshev, who scored four goals, took third place among top scorers according to the "goal+pass" system. The Brazilian team was recognized best in offence, with 292 attacks. Spain was best in assists (3,120), and the most effective team was Belgium, with 14 scored goals. "The tournament has been very successful, the stadiums are fabulous, the atmosphere in the stands is very good. But, most importantly, there are so many beautiful matches," said the French World champion and European champion Laurent Blanc. ■





Arkhangelsk

## THE NORTHERN NOVOTEL

The first four-star hotel has opened in Arkhangelsk, the capital of Pomorye. Novotel-Arkhangelsk hotel, with its 89 rooms, is the first project of the Accor group in a city with under one million residents. It is located on the bank of the Northern Dvina river. Guests may enjoy the river views thanks to panoramic windows. The hotel's infrastructure includes two conference rooms, the biggest restaurant in town seating 400 people, a fitness centre with a pool, and a business area.



Crimea

## CONNECTING THE SHORES

The Crimea bridge was opened on May 16. With a length of 19 km, it is the longest bridge in Russia. It connects continental Russia with the Crimean peninsula. Since March 2014, after the reunification of Crimea with Russia, the main transportation route across the Kerch strait was by ferry. The cost of construction was \$3.7 billion. The opening of the bridge rapidly increased the flow of tourists to the peninsula. Over just the first six days, more than 276 cars with tourists drove over the bridge.

## AROUND THE WORLD Ulan-Ude

The American operator TCS World Travel has organized a round-the-world tour with stops in Russia for 85 affluent travellers. After starting in Seattle, tourists will see Kamchatka, Vladivostok, Khabarovsk, Buryatia and Lake Baikal, Ulan-Bator and the Gobi desert, Reykjavik, Greenland, and finish their trip in Boston. The tour will take almost a month.

The special aircraft features 85 handcrafted leather armchairs, equipped with multimedia systems. The seats unfold into full-size beds. Tourists are also offered dishes cooked by master chefs. The cost of the tour starts from \$105,000.



# JOURNEY TO THE POLE

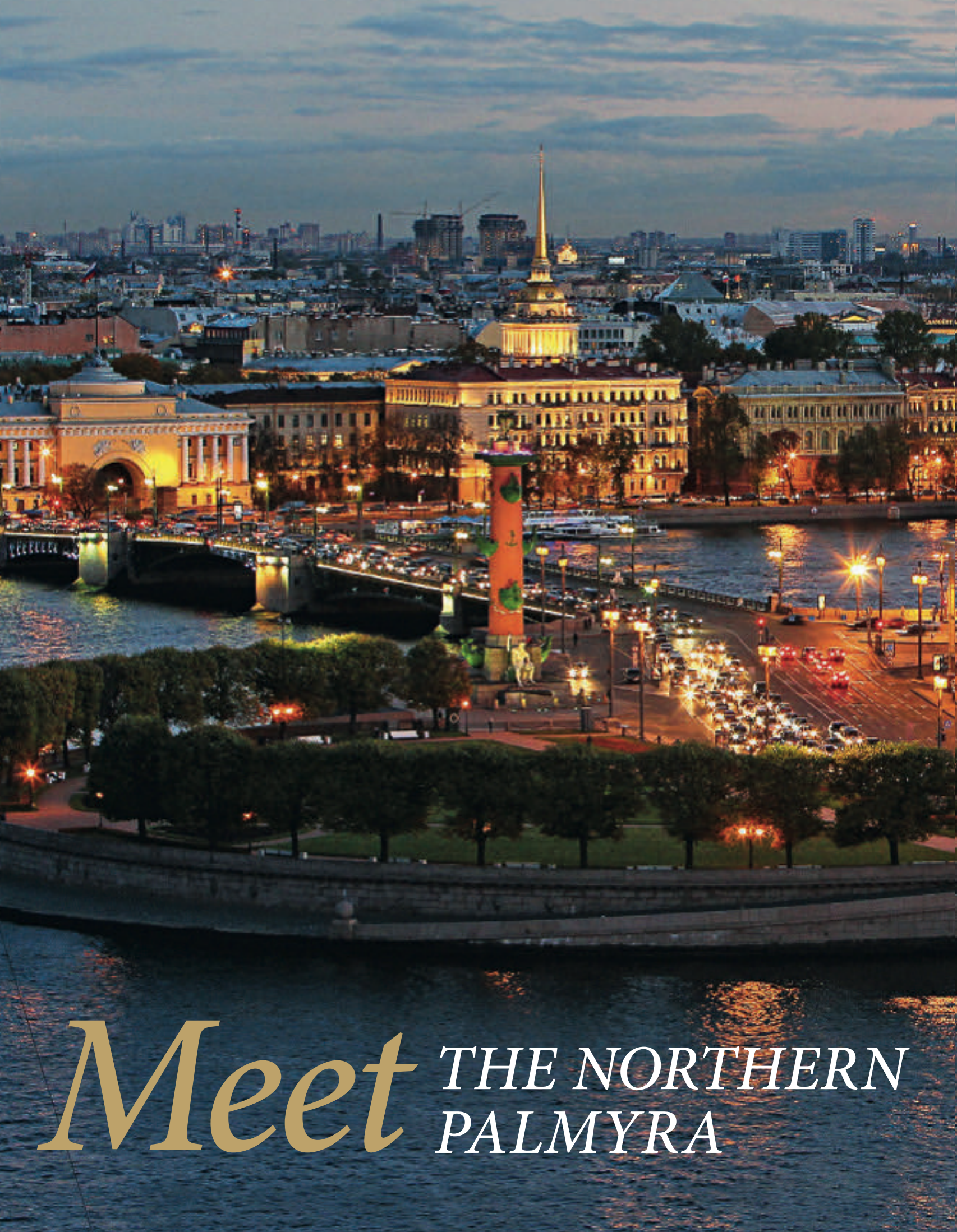
**MURMANSK. THE ATOMIC ICEBREAKER 50 LET POBEDY MADE A JOURNEY TO THE NORTH POLE WITH 121 PASSENGERS ON BOARD.**

The tourists came from North America, Asia, Europe and the Middle East. The trip lasted 11 days. The ship travelled from Murmansk, near the Frantz Joseph archipelago, to the North Pole and back. This year, Atomflot will conduct five such cruises to the Pole. With tickets in high demand, the main customers are foreign tourists from Europe and Asia. Even though the cheapest tickets cost over \$16,000, they are sold out a year in advance. ■









*Meet* THE NORTHERN  
PALMYRA





IT'S NO COINCIDENCE THAT ST. PETERSBURG WAS CALLED THE "NORTHERN PALMYRA" BY OUR ANCESTORS. THE IMAGE OF THE RICHEST ANCIENT CITY IN THE SYRIAN DESERT EVOKED COMPARISONS WITH ST. PETERSBURG AMONG RUSSIAN WRITERS AND POETS. THE CITY THAT APPEARED AMONG THE MARSHES LIKE AN OASIS, IMBUED WITH THE SPIRIT OF FREEDOM AND GREATNESS, ASTOUNDS VISITORS FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD.





**Dear Friends,**

In May, St. Petersburg celebrated its 315th anniversary. Relatively young by historical standards, this megapolis continues to develop and become more beautiful.

The city has done a tremendous job preparing for the much-anticipated 2018 FIFA World Cup—building a state-of-the-art 68 000-seat stadium, as well as a new pedestrian access bridge to it across the Neva river. Two new metro stations have been constructed, comfortable buses and subway trains have been purchased, parks and squares have been renovated, and new hotels have been built.

A modern sea port capable of receiving ocean liners facilitates cruise tourism and strengthens St. Petersburg's position as one of the most visited cities of the Baltic.

We are delighted to see the number of visitors to our city increase each year. It is not a coincidence that three years in a row St. Petersburg has been awarded prestigious international World Travel Awards in various categories.

St. Petersburg is a leading venue for open international dialogue. Each year the St. Petersburg International Economic Forum gathers the elite of international politics and business, and in 2019, the UN General Assembly of the World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) will take place for the first time in our city. Then, in 2020, the Northern capital will host the congress of the World Association of Chefs' Societies.

I wish all our guests the most pleasant and memorable experiences in our wonderful city!

*Georgy Poltavchenko,  
Governor of St. Petersburg*

Text By Ivan Demidov

# Main Events

**EACH YEAR THE NORTHERN CAPITAL HOLDS A MULTITUDE OF BEAUTIFUL FESTIVALS AND EVENTS. IT'S ATTRACTING TOURISTS FROM ALL THE WORLD.**

## Stars of the White Nights

The Stars of the White Nights, an international festival of the Mariinsky Theater, is one of the top ten festivals in the world. From May through June, the festival hosts over 160 performances and concerts featuring world-renowned opera and ballet stars.

## Singing Bridges

One of St. Petersburg's most impressive spectacles, the opening of the city's moving bridges, is enhanced even further by the enchanting and memorable show "Singing Bridges". From June to September, everybody can enjoy popular classic music while watching the raising of Palace Bridge—one of the most recognizable landmarks of the city on the Neva.

## Navy Day

On the last Sunday of July each year, St. Petersburg becomes the capital of Russia's Navy Day celebration. The waters of the Neva and Kronshtadt Port are home to a grand parade of Navy ships and Naval aviation. Anyone who wishes to can climb aboard a real combat vessel! In the evening, Palace Square hosts a grand celebratory concert, culminating in a massive firework display over the Neva.



**Forty naval vessels will come out onto the waters of the Neva River on Russia's Navy Day.**



A scene from the ballet *Carmen Suite* by Georges Bizet and Rodion Shchedrin at the Stars of the White Nights music festival in the Mariinsky Theatre Concert Hall.



### Opera for Everyone

The international festival "Opera for Everyone" acquaints the public with masterpieces of international and Russian opera in the open air. Throughout July, the city's residents and visitors have the opportunity to watch the world's most popular operas absolutely free. The festival's organizers bring in the finest orchestras, choirs, and soloists from St. Petersburg, Moscow and throughout Europe.

### Maritime Assembly

The St. Petersburg Maritime Assembly brings together a range of sea and river events in a single week in June. The Assembly's program includes

## EVENTS St. Petersburg

St. Petersburg Cultural Forum brings together leading luminaries from the world of art and culture.



The Harley Days bike festival draws 90,000 participants and guests from 25 different countries.



The St. Petersburg Maritime Assembly brings together a range of sea and river events.

The international festival Opera for Everyone is an open-air event.



One of St. Petersburg's most impressive spectacles, the opening of the city's moving bridges, is enhanced by the memorable show "Singing Bridges".

the Waltz of Tugboats, a parade of sail boats and yachts on the Neva, a parade of passenger boats, a SUP-surfing festival, a colorful water show called "the Ballet of Sails", exhibitions and interactive programs on famous sail boats.

Other events and attractions include the CRAZY WHEELS parade of unusual vehicles, a major trade fair, a children's playground, and a fitness zone.

### St. Petersburg International Cultural Forum

The St. Petersburg International Cultural Forum is an international cultural event and forum for discussion that attracts thousands of experts from around the world each year. Among them are stars of dramatic theatre, opera and ballet, outstanding directors and musicians, community leaders, government and business representatives, and members of the academic community. The forum's many cultural events are complemented by an extensive business program. **TLR**

### St. Petersburg Harley® Days

Part of Harley-Davidson's official calendar of events, St. Petersburg Harley Days is Russia's biggest bike festival. Each year, the event draws about 90,000 visitors from 25 countries to the heart of the city. The festival program includes a grand motorcycle parade on Palace Square, a night-time illuminated bike parade, an entertainment and music programme, test rides, a custom-bike competition, a stunt-riding show, and the Miss St. Petersburg Harley Days beauty contest.





TEXT: VLADIMIR SERGACHEV

# OFF THE BEATEN TRACK

THE HERMITAGE AND TSAR-SKOYE SELO. THE RUSSIAN MUSEUM AND PETERHOF. THESE AND MANY OTHER PETERSBURG ATTRACTIONS HAVE LONG BEEN "MUST-SEES" FOR ALL VISITORS TO THE CITY. HOWEVER, THERE ARE OTHER PLACES THAT VERY FEW TOURISTS KNOW ABOUT.

## The Seven Bridges

A place that is in many ways a symbol of this city sliced every which way by rivers and canals. Standing at the center of Pikalov Bridge with St. Nicholas Cathedral to your left, turn slowly around clockwise and you'll be able from one point to see seven different bridges.

*Address: 133A, Naberezhnaya Kanala Griboedova.*

## The Petersburg Angel

This unobtrusive statue by the sculptor Roman Shustov is the embodiment of St. Petersburg's intelligentsia. An umbrella, an old overcoat, a tattered scarf, an open book, and two wings protruding behind – the figure is the symbolic representation of a citizen who has had a hard life, but has managed to retain a spirit of tenderness, optimism, and love.

*Address: Izmaylovsky Garden, 114, Naberezhnaya Reki Fontanki.*

## Rasputin's House

This building, with its unusual architecture, has always attracted those with an interest in the occult. Thanks to the notoriety of Rasputin, this is a sought-after destination for those who believe in mysticism.

*Address: 57, Gorokhovaya Ulitsa.*

## Russia in Miniature

Ever wanted to see all of Russia in one go? In St. Petersburg, there's a place where you can visit Moscow, Sochi, Vladivostok, and Murmansk. Moreover, this scale model bubbles with life – the time

of year and the time of day are constantly changing, the highways blaze with light, trains race along rails, and the tiny inhabitants are all busily occupied.

*Address: 16, Tsvetochhnaya Ulitsa*

## Museum of Street Art

Situated on the territory of an industrial facility, this museum encompasses a wide variety of street art, including a permanent graffiti collection, by the best Russian and international street artists. The museum also hosts a wide range of festivals, concerts, and screenings.

*Address: 84, Shosse Revolyutsii.*

## Five Corners

This unique road junction has become a Petersburg attraction, thanks to the unusual form and attractive architecture of the main building located there. The location is also notable as the end of Ulitsa Rubinshteina, which has a reputation as one of St. Petersburg's main party streets.

*Address: 11, Zagorodny Prospekt.*

## Eliseev Store

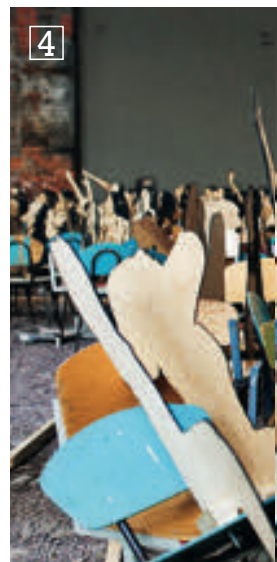
A "gastronomic paradise", to which a visit in Soviet times was like a sightseeing tour to view the culinary delights on sale. The Eliseev family's store was opened in 1903, and boasts a stunning Art Nouveau building, where the sumptuous decorations blend seamlessly into the luxury goodies on display.

*Address: 56/8, Nevsky Prospekt.*

## The street that doesn't exist

You won't find John Lennon Street on any map of St. Petersburg, but it does exist in the Pushkinskaya 10 Art Center. If you're looking for a little taste of Beatlemania, it's worth a visit to see the murals featuring the members of the group, a yellow submarine, and much more.

*Address: 10, Pushkinskaya Ulitsa (entrance from 53, Ligovsky Prospekt)*







PHOTOS: ANORMA.RU / ETOVIDEL.NET / FOTOLOOOP.RU  
/ MAPIONET / PETERSAD / PETROGAZETA.RU

**1.** Seven Bridges, as seen from the center of Pikalov Bridge **2.** Rasputin's House on Gorokhovaya Ulitsa **3.** The Petersburg Angel by sculptor Roman Shustov **4.** Graffiti Artists' Gallery and the Museum of Street Art **5.** The Art Nouveau Eliseev Store **6.** Five Corners, the landmark building at the corner of Ulitsa Rubinshteyna **7.** The whole country in full view at Grand Maquette Rossiya **8.** John Lennon Street, not marked on any map.



The maximum number of vessels in the Passenger Port. A view from the water.

TEXT: CHELNOKOVA IRINA

# Welcoming Waters

THE PASSENGER PORT OF ST. PETERSBURG IS THE FIRST AND ONLY PORT OF ITS TYPE IN RUSSIA'S NORTH-WEST REGION. **ONE OF THE BIGGEST SEA PORTS IN EUROPE**, IT WAS BUILT IN 2008 ON RECLAIMED LAND ON VASILIEVSKY ISLAND.

Construction on 33 hectares of land began in 2005, and only three years later the first ship with passengers on board was welcomed in the port. The port's operating company is Passenger Port of Saint Petersburg "Marine Façade" PLC.

The general plan and design of the port were created by the American company Bermello Ajamil & Partners Inc. (B&A), world-renowned in the fields of architecture, engineering, planning, and construction. During the planning process, the decision was taken to adopt a vibrant, functional design, with the clear, precise lines of the terminal buildings accentuating the grace and elegance of the snow-white cruise ships docked next to them.

The port's infrastructure includes seven modern berths with an overall length of 2171m. The port has the capacity to welcome ocean vessels up to 340m in length, and two of the berths are also equipped for ferries.

The port's facilities extend to three cruise terminals and one combined cruise and ferry terminal, ensuring the comfort and convenience of passengers. Guests with limited mobility are also provided with all necessary amenities.

To ensure passengers are processed quickly and comfortably, the port has 116 passport control booths, meaning that the time required for clearance is kept to a minimum. There are duty free shops and souvenir stalls offering traditional Russian handicrafts and delicacies, alongside ATMs, a post office, and a taxi rank. Throughout the cruise season, welcoming port staff in uniformed white waistcoats are always on hand to offer assistance or answer questions.

Separate car parks next to the terminals make meeting inbound passengers simple, with 411 spaces reserved for cars and 304 for coaches.

There are three cruise terminals and one cruise and ferry terminal at the port.



Norwegian Getaway offers 10-day cruises from Copenhagen with a stop in St. Petersburg.





## PASSENGER PORT Saint Petersburg



**Celebrity Eclipse by a cruise terminal. Bus parking is nearby.**

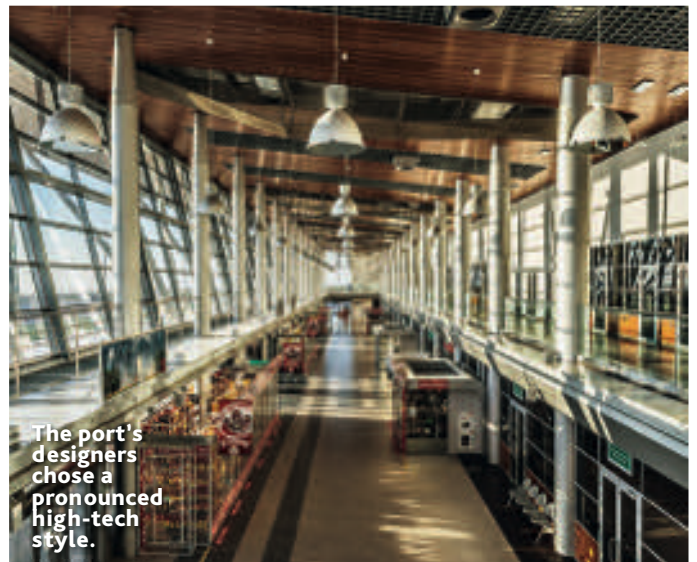
In recent years, the port's management has worked enthusiastically to expand the scope of cruising. In the last year alone, it has signed memorandums of cooperation with the operating companies of the ports of Turku (Finland), Hamburg (Germany), and Busan (South Korea), adding to an impressive list of previously signed international agreements.

Even outside the cruise season, Marine Façade keeps busy, hosting trade fairs, festivals, sports events, and business forums.

The Passenger Port of St. Petersburg invites everyone to visit Russia's Northern Capital, to take advantage of the 72-hour visa-free regime for cruise passengers, and to enjoy first-class service on board and on shore. **TLR**  
[portspb.ru](http://portspb.ru)



**The opening of the 2017 Season. All passengers receive souvenirs.**



**The port's designers chose a pronounced high-tech style.**

The convenience of the port's infrastructure is praised by cruise vessel captains and passengers alike. In 2009, the Passenger Port of St. Petersburg was named Transit Port of the Year by the Seatrade Insider magazine, and in 2010 the port was awarded by Dream World Cruise Destinations for Most Improved Port Facilities.

The volume of passenger flow to St. Petersburg has doubled since the port's opening, with more than 2000 ship calls in nine years and a total passenger flow of more than four million people.

Last year, the port reached its designed passenger capacity of 18000 passengers per day for the first time: on June 8, 2017, there were six cruise liners in port with a total of 17911 tourists.

To date, the port has concluded contracts with all the world's leading cruise companies, including Carnival Corporation, Royal Caribbean Cruises LTD, MSC Cruises, and Norwegian Cruise Line Holdings.

The Passenger Port of St. Petersburg is a member of several professional associations, including the Association of Commercial Seaports, CLIA, and Cruise Europe. The port also plays an active part in the international cruise market, annually attending international exhibitions such as Seatrade Cruise Global, Seatrade Europe, FITUR, and Neva, amongst others. In 2018, for the first time in Russia, the port hosted the Cruise Europe Conference, welcoming more than 120 participants from 30 countries.

*The volume of passenger flow to St. Petersburg has doubled since the port's opening, with more than 2000 ship calls in nine years and a total passenger flow of more than four million people.*



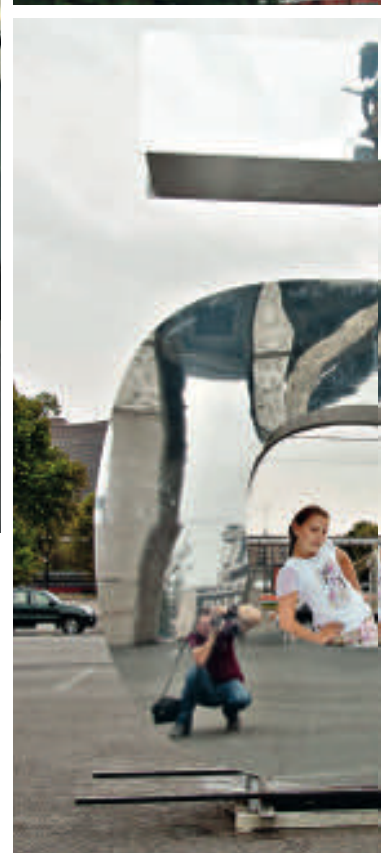
**The splendid Regal Princess can accommodate up to 4,272 passengers.**



Moscow City has a viewing platform on the 56th floor, that is popular among tourists.



The remarkable St. Basil's is probably the most famous cathedral in Russia.



TEXT: **ALINA ODOEVA**

# Get to know the capital

WHEN YOU FIRST ARRIVE IN THE RUSSIAN CAPITAL, YOU HAVE AN EMBARRASSMENT OF RICHES BEFORE YOU. YOU WANT TO SEE EVERYTHING AT ONCE. BUT WHAT IF YOU HAVE LIMITED TIME? WE HAVE PUT TOGETHER AN ITINERARY FOR THOSE WITH ONLY ONE FREE DAY.





**O**ur itinerary covers the most iconic and popular places. It's easy on the budget, but you'll need to gather your energy for long walks between the main sights. Are you ready for this long stroll through Moscow?

Let's begin our journey with the most important places in Moscow: the Kremlin and Red Square.

The nearest metro stops are Okhotny Ryad, Teatrnaya, and Ploshchad Revolutsii, the latter two of which are considered to be amongst the Moscow underground's most beautiful stations.

Just before you reach Red Square, you'll cross Manezh Square, one of Moscow's most popular spots for young people. The square is home to the Okhotnyi Ryad shopping centre, with its many boutiques and cafés, and the historic Manezh building, originally a riding school, where you can always find a variety of themed art exhibitions.

Leaving Manezh Square for the cobblestones of Red Square, you'll see perhaps the most famous and unforgettable of all Russian cathedrals—St. Basil's. Here too is the Lenin Mausoleum, the venerable GUM shopping mall, and the Kremlin itself in the form of its main gate tower, the Saviour Tower, with its famous chiming clock. When the Lenin Mausoleum is open to visitors—which is relatively rarely—you can even go inside. Usually a long line forms on such days. Bags are not permitted inside, but you can check them for a fee at the nearby lockers.

You have to purchase tickets to visit the Kremlin museums.

Check in advance at [kreml.ru](http://kreml.ru) to make sure they are open on the day of your planned visit. You can also use the website to buy your tickets. During high tourist season, it is better to purchase them several days in advance.

Manezh Square also leads into the Alexander Garden. There, in front of the Eternal Flame, the changing of the guard

*From Arbat, you can walk toward Kropotkinskaya metro station. The capital's main church is located here — the famous Cathedral of Christ the Savior.*

Located in the Moscow Kremlin, the Tsar Bell was cast in the 18th century and weighs 202 tons.



takes place each hour. After a stroll in the garden, where you can take beautiful pictures, head toward that world-famous opera and ballet venue—the Bolshoi Theater. From there, walk on to the Lubyanka metro station, where you'll find the Central Children's Department Store, with a vast range of goods for the little ones. On its roof is a large viewing platform with a wonderful view of Moscow's historic center.

Our next stop is the new Zaryadye Park, the path to which runs through the central streets of Kitay-Gorod. The park is divided into four parts: northern landscape, steppe, mixed forest, and floodplains. The underground walkway under the Moscow River Embankment has become an archaeological museum. The park's main and most popular attraction is the Hovering Bridge above the Moskva River.

Further along the Kremlin Embankment, across Znamenka Street, you'll reach Old Arbat Street. Once here, take a look at the famous Pashkov House located at 3/5 Vozdvizhenka Street.

According to one theory, this is where Ivan the Terrible's library was hidden. Take a stroll along Old Arbat, and then cross over to New Arbat. There you can enjoy a ride on the swings and have a →



VDNKh celebrates its 75th anniversary as a Moscow architectural landmark.



## ONE DAY **Moscow**

Zaryadye Park is divided into four sections, by geographical landscapes: the North, steppe, mixed forest, and floodplains.

The Evolution Tower in Moscow City is a multi-functional centre 54 floors tall.

The palace of Tsar Alexei Mikhailovich in Kolomenskoye is a recreated monument of 17th century Russian wooden architecture.

The cuisine in many city restaurants and cafes is generally European.

"Lady on a Bicycle" is a bike parade for women, where all the participants look beautiful and elegant.







found at [velobike.ru](http://velobike.ru). Velobike stands in the city center are located close enough to each other to make it easy to alternate between strolling and cycling.

From Arbat, you can walk along Gogolevsky Boulevard toward Kropotkinskaya metro station. The capital's main church and the world's largest Russian Orthodox cathedral is located here—the famous Cathedral of Christ the Savior.

From Kropotkinskaya, you can head to the Vorobyevy Hills station, the first metro station to be built on a bridge over the river. Don't be in a rush to get back outside, because there are museum artifacts on display right in the station's lobby. Stroll through the park to the viewing platform with an enchanting panorama of the Moskva River and Luzhniki Stadium. A new 700-meter cable lift connects the viewing platform with the stadium. The main building of Moscow State University is also here, one of the famous "Seven Sisters" skyscrapers from the Stalin era.

Having returned to the metro, you can change to the MCC (Moscow Central Circle) and take a train in the direction of Kutuzovskaya metro station. If you are tired, you can simply ride the full circle. A beautiful view opens up between the Luzhniki and Delovoy Tsentral stations. If you are ready to continue sightseeing, however, head to the Moscow City station. There is also a viewing platform there, which can be enjoyed for a fee. This part of your trip takes about three hours.

There are several more iconic places in the capital for you to visit. You can adjust your itinerary in accordance with your stamina. You need to choose what you want to see most of all: VDNKh, Izmailovo Kremlin, Tsaritsyno, or Kolomenskoe.

The Exhibition of Economic Achievements, or VDNKh, built in the Soviet era, is the largest expo complex in the world and one of the most popular recreation areas in the capital. VDNKh boasts fountains of amazing beauty, many pavilions and exhibitions, and a huge oceanarium.

Izmailovo Kremlin was opened fairly recently, in 2003, with the purpose of reviving Russian traditions. You can visit the tallest wooden church in Russia, learn an ancient craft, buy souvenirs, and browse in the antique and flea markets.

Tsaritsyno, a beautiful and cozy park-museum, was once upon a time supposed to become a country retreat for Empress Catherine II ("Catherine the Great").

However, she did not find it to her tastes. Here you can spread out on the lawn and have a picnic, visit the museum, or just sit in a café, and in the evening enjoy an incredible view of the singing and dancing fountains.

Kolomenskoe is another former royal residence, where visitors can enjoy horseback riding, take part in ancient Russian amusements, or pose for photos wearing traditional costumes. **TLR**

bite to eat. This part of our itinerary takes approximately five hours of walking.

If you like biking, you can rent a bicycle right on the street. Velobike bicycle rental is the most convenient of all. You can even rent an electric bike. The rental terms and conditions can be

## WHERE TO EAT IN MOSCOW

### VARENICHNAYA NO. 1



17, Ulitsa Novy Arbat

The menu includes 17 types of *vareniki* – dumplings with potato and other non-meat fillings—as well as other authentic Ukrainian and Russian dishes like *blini* (pancakes) with various fillings, *smalets* (lard), borscht with fritters, *golubtsy* (cabbage rolls), *zrazy* (meat pies stuffed with rice, buckwheat, mashed potatoes, etc.), *pelmeni* (like *vareniki*, but with meat), pork with home-style potatoes, and beetroot salad with herring. Average bill –

**\$12**

[varenichnaya.ru](http://varenichnaya.ru)

### BRATYA KARAVAEVY



4, Ulitsa Solyanka, Building 4

This is a popular Moscow chain of bakeries with café service. Take a seat at a small table near the counter and enjoy a cup of tea or coffee accompanied by a large selection of sweet and savoury baked goods. Apart from pies and pastries, the menu also offers simple traditional Russian cuisine such as beetroot and herring salad, fluffy *olady* (wheat fritters), stuffed peppers, and much more. Average bill –

**\$8**

[karavaevi.ru](http://karavaevi.ru)

### CAFÉ PUSHKIN



26a, Tverskoy Bulvar

Café Pushkin is one of the most popular Moscow eateries among foreign visitors. The restaurant consists of several rooms. In the Chemist's, for example, you'll find classic Russian cuisine served around an antique chemist's counter. In the Library, you can flick through antiquarian books, while in the Orangery you can enjoy views of Tverskoy Bulvar through large windows.

Average bill –

**\$50**

[cafe-pushkin.ru](http://cafe-pushkin.ru)

### CHERDAK CAFÉ-BAR-CLUB



7, Ulitsa Kuznetiskiy Most

Cherdak ("the attic") serves European cuisine on the upper floor of a historic mansion. The eatery is part of the group managed by renowned Moscow restaurateur Arkady Novikov. Every item here—whether its furniture brought from Arkhangelsk Region, vintage lamp shades, or an old red Soviet television set—has found a new lease of life in these eclectic environs. Average bill –

**\$35**

[novikovgroup.ru/restaurants/cherdak](http://novikovgroup.ru/restaurants/cherdak)





The Resurrection (Voskresensky) male monastery in New Jerusalem was founded in 1656 by Patriarch Nikon, who envisioned a replica of the Church of the Holy Sepulchre outside Moscow.





Text: **Anna Ivanova**

# TREASURES OF MOSCOW REGION

For tourists, Moscow Region offers a truly inexhaustible array of wonders, extraordinary discoveries, and enigmas. Monasteries and churches, nature reserves, historic sites, ancient ruins, and contemporary museums — all this wealth and more awaits the curious eye, the roving camera, and the deserved attention of visitors.

**R**ussia became the host country of the FIFA World Cup for the first time this summer, and Moscow Region thoroughly prepared for this major event, creating new tour itineraries especially for foreign soccer fans. These tours comprise not only visits to museums, but also a variety of interactive programmes. In Moscow Region, you can fly in a hot-air balloon or skim across a reservoir in a sailboat. You can hear music in the open air, and even play curling in summer. You can admire the golden cupolas of the churches, and feed camels. You can try delicious Kolomna pastilles and make a Christmas tree decoration with your own hands at the factory.

You can also see Gzhel ceramics being created, discover mysterious waterfalls outside Moscow, and visit the hometown of the famous Lukhovitsy cucumber. Even in the long-awaited heat of summer, you can try downhill skiing on real snow in Krasnogorsk. The Moscow region is always home to an abundance of festivals, concerts and performances, where you can discover Russian beauties in kokoshniki (traditional headdresses), or historical re-enactments of battles. You'll hear the sounds of accordions, jazz, and the boisterous whistles of the Cossacks.

Come to the Moscow region, discover its wonders and secret treasures, and take home a piece of the place you've come to love with you! **TLR**

PHOTOS: VISUALRIAN







# The home of Rublev's masterpieces

**THE TOWN OF SERGIYEV POSAD** is one of the gems of Russia's Golden Ring, the circle of beautiful medieval towns north-east of Moscow and a major tourist route. It is the site of Russia's most important Orthodox monastery, the Trinity Lavra of St. Sergius, which boasts centuries of history and is a UNESCO World Heritage Site.



**The Trinity Lavra was founded by St. Sergius of Radonezh in the 14th century, and grew to form a whole complex of churches, towers, monks' cells, workshops, and hotels.**

**The bells in the Trinity Lavra were recreated after the year 2000. They were cast to replace the biggest bells that had been lost: "Godunov", "Kornoukhov", and the "Tsar Bell".**

**T**he Trinity Lavra was founded by St. Sergius of Radonezh in the 14th century, and grew to form a whole complex of churches, towers, monks' cells, workshops, and hotels. The monastery is also the final resting place of many Moscow noble houses: Godunov, Belskiy, Vorotynskiy, Glinskiy, Obolenskiy, and Odoyevskiy families among them. It was also where the great icon painter Andrey Rublev spent most of his creative life. The treasures of the Trinity Lavra include rare icons, ancient books and manuscripts, gold and silverware, traditional embroidery, and gifts bestowed by Russia's grand dukes, tsars, and emperors. The chimes of the 72-tonne Tsar Bell resonates far beyond the monastery walls. For tourists and pilgrims, the Lavra also offers hotels, refectories serving traditional Russian cuisine, and stalls selling religious ornaments and souvenirs.

On the way to the Lavra you can find museums of Russian wooden toys, Russian ethnography, and bell ringing. Sergiyev Posad is a popular destination with both adults and children.



**The Trinity Lavra of St. Sergius has an arbour with a stone chalice and a cross. You can collect holy water here.**

**A wonderful view of Sergiev Posad opens up from the Lavra's bell tower.**

**The Museum of Peasant Life and the Museum of Toys.**

**This interactive open-air museum immerses visitors into the culture, lifestyle, and traditions of Russia's nomadic peoples.**



**The internal space of the Holy Trinity Cathedral is remarkable for its architectural integrity. A soft diffused light comes from the 10 narrow windows (instead of the usual eight) of the drum-dome, allowing for thoughtful and unhurried contemplation of the holy images on the five-tier iconostasis, in the icon cases on the pillars and walls, and in the frescoes.**

In the nearby town of Khotkovo there is an attraction unusual for Central Russia, the Kochevnik ("nomadic") Ethno-Park. This interactive open-air museum is an immersion into the culture, lifestyle, and traditions of Russia's nomad peoples. In the park you can find traditional tent homes of various ethnic groups: Turkic and Mongolian yurts, the Chukchi aranga, and the Nenets chum among them. Inside you can taste traditional dishes such as buuz (steamed dumplings), khuushuur (mongolian-style meat dumplings), sharbin (flat plain cakes with minced lamb), tsuivan (noodle stew), shoolen (Buryat-style noodle soup). You can also try on national costumes, and learn traditional folk dances. The park also has a petting zoo with Kalmyk camels, Mongolian yaks, donkey, sheep, goats, geese, and sled dogs.

#### **Getting there:**

*There are commuter trains from Yaroslavsky Railway Terminal in Moscow to Sergiyev Posad. To reach Kochevnik Ethno-Park, you can take either Sergiyev Posad or Aleksandrovo trains, which stop at Khotkovo station, from where you can take a taxi. **TLR***



# New Jerusalem in Istra

Tourists go to Istra to take advantage of the open waters of the Istra Reservoir. Here, in the depths of the forest, numerous hotels, health resorts, and holiday camps can be found. The town of Istra is home to the famous New Jerusalem Monastery, as well as a huge museum complex.

The history of the New Jerusalem Resurrection Monastery is tightly interwoven with the life of its founder, the 17th century primate and prominent reformer His Holiness Patriarch Nikon. Nikon expended considerable effort to create an exact copy of the Jerusalem Church of the Holy Sepulchre in the Moscow Region. The site was chosen for its resemblance to the Holy Land, and this is reflected in the local topography. The

monastery stands on a hill called Zion, to the east of which there is a chapel on the Mount of Olives, and to the north Mount Tabor, while this stretch of the Istra River is called the Jordan.

Istra is particularly proud of its museums. The Lenino-Snegiryovskiy Museum of Military History has a remarkable collection of authentic tanks, heavy guns, and other historic military equipment. The private Museum of Russian Military History in Padikovo,



The New Jerusalem museum and exhibition complex is one of the largest modern regional museums.



## ROUTES **Moscow Region**

The Gateway Church of the Lord's Entrance (Vkhodoierusalimskaya) of the New Jerusalem monas-

tery was built in 1694-1697.

In spite of its impressive size, the monastery seems elegant and cozy.



*Istra's main museum is the New Jerusalem Museum and Exhibition Complex. The collection includes paintings, icons, ceramics, and a wide range of archaeological and ethnographic artifacts.*

meanwhile, focuses on the events of the Second World War. The Sergey Kazantsev Sculpture Park offers the chance to see marble statues against the unusual backdrop of Russian birches.

Istra's main museum, however, is the New Jerusalem Museum and Exhibition Complex. This futuristic building almost concealed by green banks holds more than 183 000 exhibits, with displays capable of surprising even the most devoted of art lovers. The



**The Night of the Arts in the New Jerusalem Museum took place "under the banner of October". There were lectures and excursions for schoolchildren.**

**World War II tanks stand at the Lenin-Snegiryov Military-Historical Museum.**

collection includes paintings, icons, ceramics, ancient Russian embroidery, and a wide range of archaeological and ethnographic artifacts.

### **Getting there:**

Take a commuter train from Rizhsky Railway Terminal in Moscow to "Novoiyerusalimskaya." From there, follow the recently opened Pilgrim's Path to the monastery and museum. **TLR**





# In the footsteps of Pushkin

The estates of Zakharovo and Vyazemy in Odintsovo District are considered Alexander Pushkin's poetic home. Pay a visit to the area, and you can stroll through these historic parks along the pathways that the great poet himself once walked.

Pushkin spent his childhood at Zakharovo, while at Vyazemy—the former estate of the Grand Dukes Golitsyn, also visited by Boris Godunov, Field Marshal Mikhail Kutuzov, and Napoleon — the poet first met his future wife Natalie. The nearby village of Dunino was home to the Russian and Soviet novelist and travel writer Mikhail Prishvin. His house has been turned into a museum full of his personal effects, and even his vintage Moskvich car has been preserved.

The fierce, forbidding romanticism of war is celebrated in Patriot Park near the town of Kubinka. This vast park, covering a territory of 54km<sup>2</sup>, comprises a display of military hardware, a “partisan village” with real dugout dwellings, and numerous other surprises. If you wish to, you can also join a basic military training course or fire small arms on a shooting range.

The unusual landscape on the outskirts of Odintsovo can be appreciated in the Lazutinka Park of Sport and Leisure, which also boasts recently laid roller ski paths. And that's not the only way to stretch your muscles here—there are also tracks for running

(including over rough terrain), Nordic walking, and mountain biking with elements of dirt jumping.

## Getting there:

Take a commuter train from Moscow's Belorussky Railway Terminal to Golitsyno. From there catch a bus or fixed-route taxi to the “Institut” stop for Vyazemy, or the “Zakharovo” stop for Zakharovo and Patriot Park. **TLR**



At the Zakharovo estate, where the poet Alexander Pushkin spent his childhood, an open-air museum has been created.

The largest fitness area in the athletic park named after Lazutina in Odintsovo.

“Patriot”, a military-patriotic park, has everything from tanks to spacecraft.

The House-Museum of the writer Mikhail Prishvin is located in a picturesque place in Dunino, near Zvenigorod.



Visiting the Museum of Russian Marshmallow is a delicious and educational pastime.



## Sweet Kolomna

The entire town of Kolomna is an open-air museum where everything – the churches and monasteries, the cozy wooden houses, the cobbled streets and the steep riverbanks – breathes history.

**A**t the centre of historic Kolomna is a kremlin built in the early 16th century, one of the biggest and best defended fortresses of its era. The walls of the kremlin are up to 21m high in places, while the towers (of which seven remain) measure 31m in height. The Kolomna Kremlin covers a substantial area of 24 hectares, and it can take several hours to tour the whole site. Every part of the kremlin is fully accessible, and can be touched, photographed, and even climbed over.

Kolomna boasts a large number of small museums, including collections of samovars, gramophones, trams, and favourite toys, as well as the workshops of blacksmiths, confectioners, needle workers and other traditional crafts.

On a visit to Kolomna, it's difficult to resist the temptation to try the local sweets. The town has seen the revival of the local pastille, made to original historic recipes and once again commercially produced. The pastille is a natural delicacy, with the main ingredient being whipped apple puree made from local late varieties.

A visit to one of Kolomna's pastille museums is a unique interactive quest—you will come across merchants, violinists, heartsick students, and ladies in crinoline who will serve you tea made with herbs from the apothecary gardens.



Another culinary treat for which Kolomna is famous is the local kalach. It is baked right in front of you.

Another culinary treat for which Kolomna is famous is the local kalach (a circular bread roll). Visit the local kalach bakery, and you can see an astonishing show that demonstrates the way the kalach's unique asymmetrical shape is formed to give the roll a "handle", and that illustrates the many Russian idioms that originate from the baking and eating of this true Kolomna miracle.

### Getting there:


From Moscow, take a commuter train from Kazansky Railway Terminal to Kolomna. **TLR**



Visitors can take a carriage ride inside the Kolomna kremlin.

PHOTOS: GAZONY.COM / MYLOVE.RU / SOSEDI.ORG / TOUR-CLASSICA.RU / MAX KOZLOFF





Paramushir Island is one of the northernmost of the Kuril Islands. When warm streams melt large deposits of snow, beautiful tunnels are formed, large enough for a person to walk through.

# *A Pacific* FAIRYTALE

**THE KURIL ISLANDS ARE A UNIQUE WORLD** with fire-breathing volcanoes and icy ocean depths, hot mineral springs and chilly mountain rivers, thickets of mountain pine and Kuril bamboo... Everyone from European Russia dreams of visiting at least one of the regions of the Russian Far East to see with their own eyes the other-worldly landscapes and wealth of flora and fauna, and to try the local delicacies.

*Photo: Kirill Voloshin*





PHOTO: NEWS.LRU

## EXPERT OPINIONS



**VLADISLAV SHULAEV,**  
*Territorial Promotion Director of the AGT Communications Agency:*

The Far Eastern Federal District, which is about the same size as Australia, also resembles that country in the diversity of its natural wonders. The district's territory is home to four nature reserves on the UNESCO World Heritage list: the Volcanoes of Kamchatka, the Lena Pillars in Yakutia, the Bikin River Valley in Primorye, and Wrangel Island in the north of Chukotka.

The federal district holds a number of world records: the famous "Pole of Cold" in Yakutia; Klyuchevskaya Sopka, which is the highest active volcano in Eurasia; and the Trans-Siberian Railway, the longest railway in the world. For Europeans, the railway journey begins in Moscow, and for Asia-Pacific residents—in Vladivostok, which, by the way, was included in National Geographic's Top 10 Oceanfront Cities worldwide.

Every region has its own traditional holidays, culinary festivals, and fabulous hunting and fishing opportunities. In the past decade, almost all of the Far East territories have acquired their own first-class ski resorts: Gorny Vozdukh ["Mountain Air"] in Sakhalin, Kholdomi in Khabarovsk Territory, Aldan in Yakutia, Gora Moroznaya ["Frost Mountain"] in Kamchatka, and Snegorka in Magadan Region. Finally, the Far East has preserved perhaps the largest areas of pristine wilderness, comprising millions of square metres of natural beauty.

In Khabarovsk Territory and Primorye, you can see colonies of birds and breeding grounds of sea animals all along the coast, and watch lotus flowers bloom. Vladivostok's huge oceanarium, and Orto Doidu Zoo, the Bisonarium and the Living Gems of Yakutia nature reserve in the Sakha Republic. Seals, fur seals, and Stella sea lions will accompany tour boats in Avacha Bay in Kamchatka. An incredible opportunity to photograph bears from just three meters away awaits visitors as they fish for sockeye salmon at Kurilskoye Lake. All these wonders are brought together in a single grand tour itinerary entitled the Eastern Ring of Russia.





# Territory of attraction

SAKHALIN IS THE ONLY REGION OF RUSSIA THAT CONSISTS ENTIRELY OF ISLANDS. ITS RIVERS, WATERFALLS, BAMBOO GROVES, THERMAL SPRINGS, VARIED FAUNA, EXTRAORDINARY LANDSCAPES, AND MAJESTIC VOLCANOES ATTRACT TRAVELLERS FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD.

TEXT: ARTYOM SVETLOV

**T**his sparsely populated eastern region, with only 490 000 inhabitants, is near the top of the list for production of oil and gas, and for its yield of fish and seafood. Several major international corporations have operations here, and the total volume of foreign investment has already reached over \$55 billion. One of the priorities for the regional economy now is the development of tourism.

Travel to Sakhalin is becoming easier and more affordable, and the number of Russian and foreign tourists to the region grows year on year. Anyone who enjoys ethnographic, gastronomic, extreme, or health tourism will

be able to find something of interest here. Awaiting you is pristine natural wilderness—around 2 000 species of plants grow on the island, which is also home to bears, reindeer, wolverines, sables, Siberian musk deer, otters, and minks. More than 200 species of bird nest on Sakhalin, and the island's rivers are richly stocked with the highly prized humpback salmon.

The mild Sakhalin winters draw tourists to the slopes of the modern Gorny Vozdukh ("Mountain Air") ski resort. Today, Gorny Vozdukh is widely acknowledged as the best downhill ski resort in Russia. On the slopes of Mount Bolshevik, there are 16 pistes covering all levels of difficulty, with snow cover

**Iturup, the largest of the Kuril Islands. It has 20 volcanoes, nine of which are active. There are also many waterfalls, including Ilya Muromets, the highest waterfall in Russia, as well as lakes, hot springs, and mineral springs.**

**Cape White Stone is a marble cliff jutting out of the water. From afar, it resembles a white sail. Clear water and pure white sands entice tourists.**

maintained to very high standards. The favourable climatic conditions make it possible to ski and snowboard from the beginning of December until the middle of April, and allow the resort to host international-level competitions such as the FAR EAST CUP.

The Kuril Islands spread like a string of pearls from the southern tip of the Kamchatka peninsula to the Japanese island of Hokkaido, and are home to 36 active volcanoes. The view of Tyatya volcano is one of the most stunning in the Kuril chain, while visitors head to Kunashir Island to see the Mendelev volcano and the extraordinary cliff formations. Among the weeds on the seabed around the islands a number of wrecked ships can be found that have long served as dwellings for a variety of underwater creatures. On the island of Iturup one of Russia's tallest waterfalls, Ilya Muromets, can be found, with water falling from heights of up to 141m.

The fishermen on Sakhalin and the Kuril Islands catch salmon, flounder, halibut, cod, and taimen, the Siberian giant trout. As for seafood, there are rich stocks of crab, prawns, and sea urchins. **TLR** [gosakhalin.ru](http://gosakhalin.ru)





## Getting **THERE**

### **How to get there**

There are regular flights between Khomutovo (Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk) Airport and Moscow, Vladivostok, Khabarovsk, Blagoveshchensk, Novosibirsk, and other Russian cities. There are also regular direct flights to cities in Japan, China, and South Korea. By sea, the main route to Sakhalin is the year-round Vanino-Kholmsk ferry connection. In summer, there are

also ferries between Korsakov on Sakhalin and Wakkanai on Hokkaido (Japan).

### **Where to stay**

Your tour of Sakhalin will begin in the regional capital, Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk. This is a city of 199 000 people, with 42 comfortable hotels, and more than 350 cafés, restaurants, and bars.

### **Where to eat**

The geographical position of Sakhalin and its rich maritime resources make the

island a culinary mecca for lovers of sushi, sashimi, spicy rolls, and hundreds of other Japanese dishes. Hoe, pyanse, kimchi, haemultang, japchae, and many other Korean dishes are regular features on the menus of local cafés and restaurants.

### **What to buy**

Fish and seafood at local fish markets—whelks, scallops, prawns, halibut, crab, octopus, squid, sea cucumber, and fresh, smoked, and cured red fish.

**Today, Gorny Vozdukh ski resort is widely acknowledged as the best downhill ski resort in Russia.**

**Lake Moneron has one of the biggest breeding grounds of the appealing Stella sea lions.**

**Sakhalin is famous for its caviar.**

**Zhdanko Range, according to scientists, was formed by frozen lava flows.**

**BamBoo Japanese restaurant at Mega Palace Hotel in Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk.**







**1.** Frog Butte ("Lyagushka") is a 20 million-year-old rock formation.

**2.** Lake Busse is famous for its oysters.

**3(7).** Cape Giant ("Velikan") consists of an emerald green wall and colossal rocks.

**4.** Chertov Bridge, a unique railroad construction.

**5.** Pacific Cove ("Tikhaya") is a stunningly beautiful place.

**6.** Cape Evstafy is 51 meters tall.

**8.** Aniva Lighthouse was built by the Japanese in 1939.



PHOTOS: MIKKA-LIVE/JOURNAL.COM / PHOTOSIGHT.RU / TRAVEL-DROM.RU / ZASTAVKI.COM / VLADIMIR KUVSHINOV / FODOR POVOLKOVICH / SAKHALIN TOURIST INFORMATION CENTER





7

# The pearls of Sakhalin

**ACCORDING TO STATISTICS FROM LAST YEAR'S** summer season, the list of the most popular Sakhalin sights for tourists included Aniva Lighthouse, Giant Cape, Pacific Bay, the Devil's Bridge, Frog Butte, Busse Lake, and Eustace Cape.



8

## Aniva Lighthouse

One of the most exciting excursions on Sakhalin is to the Aniva Lighthouse, located in the Aniva Bay on the southern edge of the island.

The lighthouse was built in 1939 by the Japanese on the small Sivuchya Cliff, beside the rugged, inaccessible Aniva Cape. The area is beset with rip tides, frequent fog, and rocky underwater sandbanks. The lighthouse tower is 31m high, while the light

itself reaches 40m above sea level. The tower consists of nine storeys. The lighthouse itself is no longer in use.

Weather permitting, tour groups arrive at the lighthouse and are given a tour inside, with time for photos.

## Giant Cape

On the southern shores of the Sea of Okhotsk, there is a genuine natural open-air museum. Giant Cape is home to stone leviathans, and an emerald-green wall that cuts through the surface of the sea with its rocky sides. The "exhibits" at this museum are the lagoons and caves standing right in the sea, and arches and columns of stone, carved out by the wind and the waves. At the heart of the exhibition is the visitor himself and his sense of being as insignificant as a grain of sand before these stone giants. From July to August here you can see one of the most extraordinary phenomena nature has to offer—the spawning run of the Pacific salmon.

## Pacific Bay

At a distance of 130km from Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk lies Pacific Bay, is an extraordinarily beautiful piece of coastline sheltered from the cold winds. Located on the west coast of Sakhalin in the Gulf of Patience, "Pacific" Bay was given its name by the great Russian explorer Adam Johann von Krusenstern.

It is home to rare plants including sea roses, golden banners, spikenards, and mertensia. Sand can only be found along the shoreline of the bay, which for the most part consists of dark brown cliffs and large rocks jutting out of the sandstone. Another sight of interest is Zametnyi Island, with its flat peak and broad base. There is no way for people to reach the rock, so instead it is always covered with a crowd of noisy gulls.

## The Devil's Bridge

This mysteriously named bridge is a unique piece of railway engineering that attracts thousands of tourists from all over the globe. It was originally built in the 1920s by the Japanese. Trains first travelled through a tunnel before emerging at the top of the hill to cross the bridge at a height of 38m above sea level. From the bridge, visitors get spectacular panoramic views of the island scenery.

The tunnel that the Japanese carved into the cliff is almost 900m long, and makes a complete circle inside the rock. The upper part of the tunnel exits the cliff directly above the entrance. This unique feat of engineering was achieved long before the introduction of GPS or other modern position-finding technologies.

## Frog Butte

The Vestochka district is considered Sakhalin's energetic centre. Frog Butte is a wonder of nature over 20 million years old, and a place with an extraordinary energy. The massif is located 3km to the north-east of the village of Vestochka on the southern slope of Mount Gorbunov, and covers a total area of 12ha. The outline of the battered cliffs resembles a frog sitting on a hillock.

Locals say that this is the exact energetic centre of Sakhalin. Whether that is true or not, according to Aynu legend the cliff was considered a temple of wisdom. It is also said that if you touch the Frog Butte and make a wish, it is guaranteed to come true.

## Eustace Cape

On the east coast of the island, almost at its furthest tip, stands one of the most extraordinarily beautiful places, the Cape of St. Eustace. This rocky cape, surrounded by crystal-clear water, is only 51m high, but from it, spectacular panoramic views stretch out to the south, reaching Pavlovich Cape and Aniva Cape. Standing on the cape and breathing the delicious sea air, you have the real sensation of flight.

## Busse Lake

Busse is a lagoon-like lake, where the focus of interest is a small island of oysters—the whole mass consists of nothing but oyster shells. Here you can feast on these seafood delicacies at the very best "nature restaurant". **TLR**  
[gosakhalin.ru](http://gosakhalin.ru)





One of the gems of Primorye is its marine biosphere reserve. This is the only nature reserve in Russia that is 95 percent composed of water. Over 5,000 types of plants and animals inhabit the Primorye Reserve.



# THE MYSTIQUE OF *PRIMORYE*

STONE STATUES HAVE BEEN STANDING AMIDST THE PRIMORYE TAIGA FOR HUNDREDS OF YEARS. NOBODY, NEITHER TOURISTS NOR SCIENTISTS, CAN GUESS THEIR ORIGIN. THEY SAY THAT, IN ANCIENT TIMES, SACRIFICIAL OFFERINGS WERE MADE HERE. HOW MANY MORE MYSTERIES AND LEGENDS DOES PRIMORYE STILL HOLD?

*Photos:* **Vitaly Berkov**





Dawn at picturesque Cape Sosnovy (Pine Tree) on the Gamov Peninsula in the Khasansky district. The cape is an iconic feature of the marine nature reserve. It has one of the biggest Largha seal rookeries in Peter the Great Bay.







IN FOCUS **Primorye**








The White City rock formation is located in the Sinegorye waterfalls in the Lazovsky district. It is an amazingly beautiful place, shrouded in many legends. According to one legend, it was an ancient place of worship and sacrifice.



IN FOCUS **Primorye**







The Krabbe Peninsula in the Khasansky district. The deep night sky is studded with a myriad of bright stars. Such beauty can be observed along the whole coast of the Sea of Japan, far from any city.



MAP LOCATION **Furugelm Island**

# THE ISLAND RESERVE

Furugelm Island is the southernmost island not just in Primorye, but in the whole of Russia. It stands in the south-west of Peter the Great Gulf, not far from the border with China and 110 kilometers from Vladivostok.

Text: Vasiliy Avchenko, Alexander Syrtsov





PHOTOS: SEA KAYAKRU / MIERU / VITALY BERKOV / ALEXANDER KHOLYANOV / ALEXANDER KORETSKY / YEVGENY KONOVALOV

**When it comes to mysticism, Furugelm Island probably takes a well-earned second place behind the legendary Petrov Island in Lazovsky Nature Reserve. Dotted with stone columns, the landscape of this south-western outpost of Russia can rival for beauty the Similan Islands in the Andaman Sea off the coast of Thailand – a dream destination for many tourists from the Russian Far East.**

**F**

irst mention of the island can be traced back to 1854 and the crew of the Pallada, the frigate from which Admiral Yevfimi Putyatin and the great Russian novelist Ivan Goncharov surveyed the coasts of the Far East. The island was named after one of the expedition's participants – Johan Furuholm, who would subsequently rise to the rank of admiral and serve as the military governor of Primorskaya Oblast and Russia's American territories, one of the biggest names among the Finns of the Far East alongside merchant Otto Lindholm and captain Fridolf Höök.

From the 1930s to the 1960s, there was a garrison stationed on the island that numbered up to 600 men. On the island's peak the remains of Artillery Squadron 250 of the Khasansk Sector Coastal Defense can be found, including four 130mm gun turrets. They were mounted here immediately after Japanese incursions onto Soviet territory in 1938 that culminated nearby at the Battle of Lake Khasan. The guns "secured" an area with a radius of 30km, from Gamov's Cape and Posyet Bay to Khasan. This artillery post was the only one of the military installations scattered across the peaks and capes of southern Primorye that was ever used in battle.

Today, the overgrown ruins of the barrack houses seem like the remains of some ancient civilization. Here and there jut out a chimney stack, the crumbling walls of the officers' mess, or the mound of a munitions bunker. Rumor has it that ghosts can be seen here at night. Among the sights is the tomb of →



MAP LOCATION **Furugelm Island**







The island has the largest colony of black-tailed gulls in the world and, as July turns to August, the fledgling black-tails can be seen over the flowering bluffs, learning to maneuver and find their own food.



MAP LOCATION **Furugelm Island**







**Nature – the artist, has sculpted extraordinary vistas for tourists.**

**From the peaks of Furugelm, you have a clear view of not only the adjacent Russian coastline, but also of the shores of North Korea, and the mountains of China.**

**The beach in the West bay, which marks the boundary of the nature reserve, is notable for its remarkably white sand.**

**Granite cliffs near Bochkov's Cape.**



Red Army soldier Nikolay Yedintsov, who died here in 1939.

When it comes to mysticism, Furugelm Island probably takes a well-earned second place behind the legendary Petrov Island in Lazovsky Nature Reserve. Dotted with stone columns, the landscape of this south-eastern outpost of Russia can rival for beauty the Similan Islands in the Andaman Sea off the coast of Thailand – a dream destination for many tourists from the Russian Far East. And this island off the Khasan Coast is no stranger to tsunamis, either. According to the recollections of Valentina Grigoryevna Belyaeva, wife of artillery commander Fyodor Belyaev, there was a time in the 1950s when a wave swept away 12 artillery rounds and all the garrison's coal stores – 180 tonnes.

However, it's only memories that remain from that era. Now the silent, rusting barrels are a perch for sea-gulls. The island has the largest colony of black-tailed gulls in the world and, as July turns to August, the fledgling black-tails can be seen over the flower-strewn bluffs, learning to maneuver and find their own food.



Among the other birds on the island are cormorants, rhinoceros auklets, and spectacled guillemots. Furugelm is the only place in Russia where black-faced spoonbills and Chinese egrets nest, and the island is also a resting post for migrating petrels and sea eagles. The calls and squabbles of these myriad birds form a constant soundtrack on the island.

From the peaks of Furugelm, you have a clear view of not only the adjacent Russian coastline, but also of the shores of North Korea and the mountains of China. The beach in the West bay, which marks the boundary of the nature reserve, is notable for its remarkably white sand, which gives a soft pale-green tone to the coastal waters. Furugelm boasts a wealth of flora: vines, oaks, Amur cork tress and Amur barberries, cherry trees and “soothing” wormwood. Here, in these sub-tropical southern climes, every plant has a story to tell.

Due to the thick, genuinely tropical undergrowth, this tiny island – 2.5 by 1.5 kilometers – is not easy to get around. Only the traces of the former military paths have survived, and these are now used by tour groups. The only way to reach this frontier of the Russian world is through the Far Eastern Sea Reserve, and tours only last for a few hours. **TLR**

*Primorsky Kray Tourist Information Center  
tour.primorsky.ru*



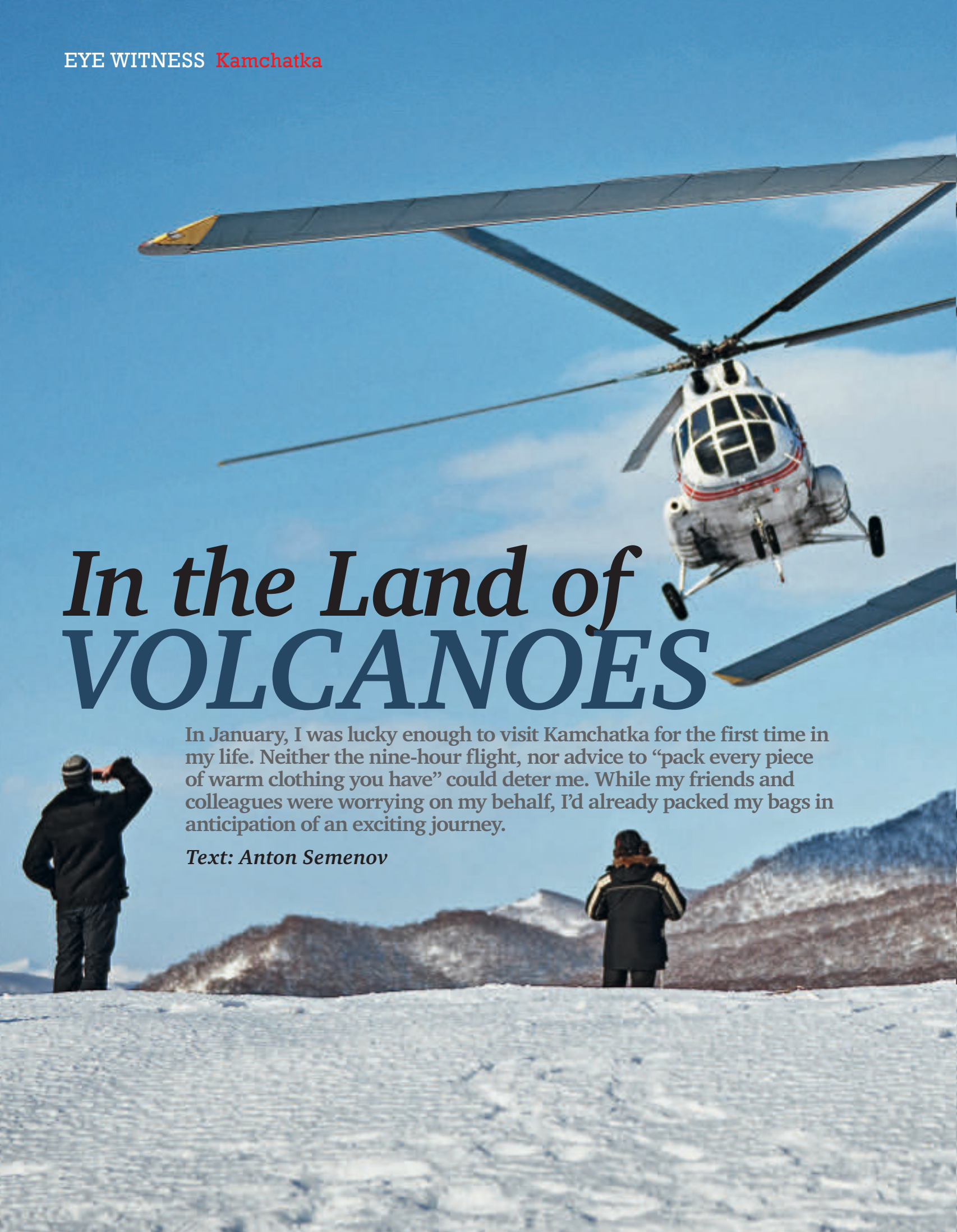


EYE WITNESS **Kamchatka**

# *In the Land of* **VOLCANOES**

In January, I was lucky enough to visit Kamchatka for the first time in my life. Neither the nine-hour flight, nor advice to “pack every piece of warm clothing you have” could deter me. While my friends and colleagues were worrying on my behalf, I’d already packed my bags in anticipation of an exciting journey.

*Text: Anton Semenov*







Vityaz-Aero has a monopoly on helicopter flights on the peninsula, with 30 Mi-8 helicopters and its own heliport.





**The symbol of Avacha Bay, the guardians of the port towns, and an officially protected natural monument. The Three Brothers cliffs are one of Kamchatka's most distinctive landmarks. Located right at the entrance to the bay, they have been a famous sight since the 18th century, and were first marked on a map of Avachinsky Gulf in 1737.**

I had excellent company. The group of over 60 people consisted of managers and staff from the major tour operator TUI Russia, other travel agents, and officials from government tourism agencies. Our visit had been carefully prepared, with the support and active involvement of the regional government and Kamchatka's tour operators, who together had organized this business tour with the title "Kamchatka – Winter Adventures".

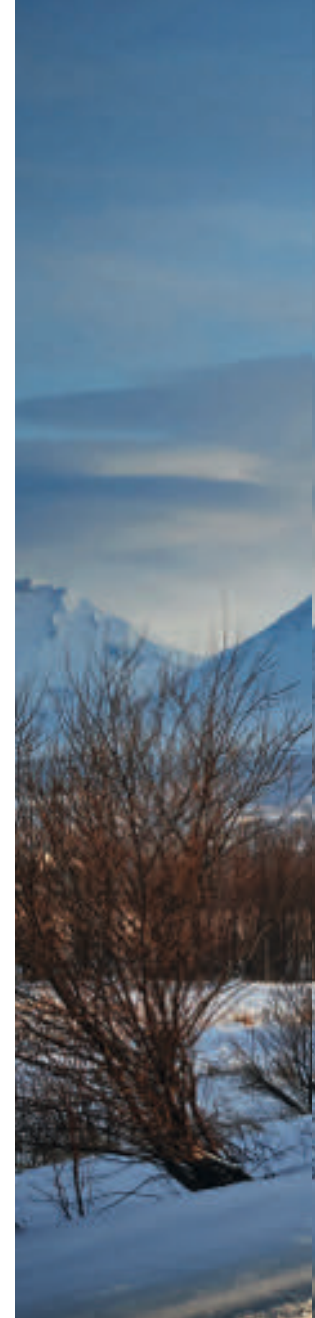
We stayed in Bel-Kam-Tour Hotel, in the resort and spa district of the village of Paratunka, 40 minutes' drive from the regional capital. For guests from Central Russia, the most unusual feature of the hotel were the four outdoor pools with thermal waters at a temperature of 36-37°C. The water flows into the pools from the hotel's own 1600m borehole. When it's -5°C outside, with snow lying all around, you can float in the pools and gaze at the starry sky above you – it's fantastic! Rooms at the hotel start from \$110 for double occupancy per night, and there are also separate bungalows. Rates are roughly the same at the Avacha Hotel in the center of Petropavlovsk-Kamchatsky, where we spent the two final nights of the trip.

Another peculiarity of a trip to Kamchatka is the jet lag. Due to the change in time zones, we were all waking up regular as clockwork at 4am. For me, this continued to be the case when I got back to Moscow. For about a week afterwards, I woke up at the same time and couldn't get back to sleep again.

On the next day, we were taken to the Avachinsky Volcano, which is situated just 30km from Petropavlovsk-Kamchatsky and is the most popular of the peninsula's volcanoes with tourists. The roads to the volcano aren't passable by car, so we were transported in snowcats – big trucks on caterpillar tracks. Most of the group then transferred to snowmobiles pulling narty (long sleds). This was where the need for warm clothing became apparent – on the open slopes the wind whips straight through your coat, and we had to cover our faces with ski masks and goggles.

Frequent changes in weather on the peninsula make exact planning impossible, as was proved that day when a storm blew up that stopped us from reaching the peak of the volcano. We did, however, manage to get to the base owned by Alpika and Kamchatintour, where there was a delicious hot lunch awaiting us. →

**W**ater flows into the pools from a 1600m borehole. With snow lying all around, you can float in the pools and gaze at the starry sky above you.







The active Avachinsky Volcano is located 30km from Peter-pavlovsk-Kamchatsky, and is climbed every year by thousands of tourists, thanks to its accessibility and relatively simple ascent. The base of the mountain can be reached by all-terrain vehicle.

A helicopter flight over the volcanoes is one of the most memorable Kamchatka experiences.





We reached the base of Avachinsky Volcano on snowmobiles towing narrow sleds, or narty as they are known in the local language.

That day we managed to reach the Alpika and Kamchatin-tour base, where a delicious hot lunch was awaiting us.

Huskies are the most common sled dogs on the peninsula, and a ride with a dog team is one of the most popular tourist activities.







The guest houses where travelers sleep summer and winter are very basic – rooms for 4-6 people with bunk beds and toilets in the yard. The electricity comes from a generator, and there are no roads. Tour managers are confident that if the government

can get utilities out there, the conditions for tourists will be a little less spartan. Businesses are eager to develop the site.

On that note, Kamchatka really has a lot of snow. The depth of snow cover in the mountains reaches as much as 20 meters, and it stays till July, so there's a lot to offer downhill skiers.

On the following day, we had a helicopter tour. Take-off was delayed by an hour due to the weather. At the heliport we found ourselves alongside travelers waiting since morning for flights to the north of the peninsula, which can't be reached any other way. The company Vityaz-Aero, the only operator in the area, boasts a fleet of 30 Mi-8 helicopters with experienced pilots, and built the heliport and terminal itself. Helicopter tours are organized by Vityaz-Travel, and an hour-long flight around the volcanoes costs roughly \$320.

During the day, we got a bird's-eye view of the Avachinsky, Koryaksky, and Zhupanovsky volcanoes, as well as the famous Three Brothers cliffs – a landmark of Avacha Bay, where we made a landing on the beautiful shores of the Pacific Ocean and got the chance to take loads of stunning photos.

Yet another adventure came with our boat trip on the Almaz motor vessel. Due to ice swept into Avacha Bay by the wind, the boat couldn't get out to sea on its own. A tug had to be found to clear a path and guide the Almaz out of the bay. Even so, we were still unable to reach our final destination, but we did get the chance to have an excellent meal – the menu included caviar, fresh seafood, and an exceptional 'ukha' fish soup. Heading out onto deck, we were able to enjoy extraordinary views of the ocean shackled in ice and a dimming sun setting through the clouds. Perched on the ridges of ice were endangered sea eagles, while right on the deck we were serenaded by a Stellar sea lion we christened Vasya. He jumped straight out of the water with a fearsome roar to beg us for fish. Eagles and sea lions can only be seen this close on winter sea cruises. In summer, the sea lions move hundreds of kilometers from human habitation, while the eagles perch on their nests – which they rarely leave, and can therefore only →

PHOTOS: ANTON SEMENOV / ZAUR KARMAZOV

***P***erched on the ridges of ice were endangered sea eagles, while right on the deck we were serenaded by Vasya the sea lion, who jumped out of the water.







**A**t the Kaynyran ethno-village, we were taken dog-sledding and fed shurpa with herbal tea.



be seen with powerful binoculars. Interestingly, when we flew out, the bay was clear again without a single piece of ice. That goes to show you how quickly weather can change in Kamchatka.

Our third day proved no less interesting. We visited the Kaynyran ethno-village (in the Koryak language, the name means “bear corner”), where there’s a kennel for sled dogs. Here they keep more than a hundred dogs, both huskies and the local Kamchatkan sled dogs. We went sledding with dog teams and were fed shurpa with hot tea made from Kamchatkan herbs in a traditional yaranga – a reindeer-hide tent. A Koryak ensemble performed a vibrant mix of songs and dances for us. In their tradition, they represent different animals and birds in their dancing, while the favored musical instrument is a shamanic drum.

Two other groups from our party were introduced to the traditions and lifestyle of the indigenous peoples of the peninsula at the Children of the North community project, before visiting the Snow Dogs and Kamchadal sled-dog kennels.

One more place that can be thoroughly recommended for travelers is the Volcanarium interactive museum of volcanoes in Petropavlovsk-Kamchatsky. There you’ll learn just how interesting volcanoes can be, with explanations of what you’d see if you found yourself inside a real crater, you’ll take a tour through a lava cave and witness live experiments with fire and crystals. As a souvenir, you can take home a little piece of volcanic lava. **TLR**

**Anna Prokopyeva from TUI Russia helped organize our group, and stoically suffered the frost, wind, and other discomforts alongside us.**

**At the Bel-Kam-Tour Hotel we were met by an orchestra from the Kamchatka Philharmonic. The sight of the musicians with a large stuffed bear behind them made a lasting impression.**

**A Koryak ensemble performing traditional songs and dances. In their tradition, they represent different animals and birds in their dancing.**

## Getting **THERE**



### How to get there

The only way to reach Kamchatka is by air to the regional capital, Petropavlovsk-Kamchatsky. Yeliso Airport is situated 30km from the city.



### What to see

The main attractions of Kamchatka are its volcanoes, geysers, hot springs, and wonderful nature reserves. The Paratunka thermal springs are situated an hour’s drive from the regional capital. The Valley of Geysers is one of the biggest geyser fields in the world, located within the Kronotsky Nature Reserve, which is only accessible by helicopter. If you want to see bears in their natural habitat, head

for the South-Kamchatka Wildlife Sanctuary around Kurilskoye and Dvukhyurotochnoye Lakes.



### What to eat

Among the culinary highlights are: Kamchatkan *ukha* (fish soup) made with fresh-caught fish; fish-cakes stuffed with mashed potatoes, onion and spices; reindeer meat; and the *yukola* snack (dry-cured fish). The cuisine of the indigenous peoples can be quite unusual for European tastes.



### What to buy

A local market is an essential stop for all visitors, to buy fresh red caviar from Atlantic or Chinook salmon, and mouthwatering smoked fish – sockeye, chum, Coho, and Chinook salmon. A kilogram of Chinook salmon caviar costs \$58, while the fish itself goes for around \$17. Another popular local delicacy is Kamchatka king crab.



You can watch and photograph the Kamchatka bears at very close range.



## RUSSIA STARTS HERE!

**KAMCHATKA** WAS DISCOVERED BY THE RUSSIAN COSSACKS MORE THAN THREE CENTURIES AGO, BUT EVEN TODAY MOST PEOPLE DON'T KNOW MUCH ABOUT IT. THE MYSTERIOUS PENINSULA USED TO BE ONE OF THE SO-CALLED "CLOSED" TERRITORIES IN THE USSR: THE FIRST FOREIGNER ONLY SET FOOT THERE IN 1990, AND EVEN RUSSIANS NEEDED A SPECIAL PASS.

TEXT: **MAXIM KOVALYOV,**  
**IRINA MARKELENKOVA**

**T**oday Kamchatka is open to travellers, the number of whom grows each year. They all recognize the land's extraordinary spirit and the warm hospitality of local residents.

The Kamchatka Peninsula is the largest in Eurasia, with a sea coast, lakes and rivers, forests and, of course, volcanoes. Mountains occupy three quarters of the peninsula, with as many as 36 active volcanoes.

Volcanoes are an iconic feature of Kamchatka - no wonder that they are included in the UNESCO World Heritage

list. You can see them first even from the plane. The so-called "domestic" volcanoes are lined up in a slender chain just 25 kilometres from the region's capital, Petropavlovsk-Kamchatsky. There are five of

**The acid lake of Gorely Volcano. The lake is not always visible: from time to time, it evaporates due to increasing temperatures in its bed.**



them: Aag (2,310 metres above sea level), Arik (2,156 metres), Koryaksky (3,456 metres), Avachinsky (2,751 metres) and Kozelsky (2,189 metres). Two of those giants are active: the locals affectionately call them "Koryaka" and "Avacha". Downhill skiers and snowboarders come in the winter, spring and even summer, while mountain climbers conquer their steep slopes all year round.

The beautiful Klyuchevskaya Sopka Volcano (4,750 metres above sea level) is the pride of the region, the highest active volcano in Eurasia. This giant erupts regularly every 4-6 years, with the last eruption complete with lava recorded in 2017.





The last eruption of Tolbachik Volcano was recorded in 2013.



A tourist takes pictures of a well in the top of the lava tube of Flat Tolbachik Volcano.



A deep canyon with waterfall, from the top of which can be seen Mutnovsky Volcano.



The red fox: there are five to six thousands specimens of the species in Kamchatka today.

## Getting THERE



### How to get there

The distance from Moscow to Yelizovo airport in Petropavlovsk-Kamchatsky is 6,773 km or 8.5 hours by air. There are regular flights to Kamchatka from Moscow, St. Petersburg, Yekaterinburg, Samara, Novosibirsk, Magadan, Krasnoyarsk, Vladivostok, Khabarovsk, Irkutsk and Anadyr, as well as charter flights from the United States and Japan.



### Where to stay

Petropavlovsk-Kamchatsky has many hotels, from economy to luxury, as well as guest houses, mini-hotels and hostels. They welcome guests all year round. During high-summer season, it is better to book a room in advance.



### What to buy

As for souvenirs, it's worth looking at wooden figures of traditional Kamchatkan talismans – peleben the jolly man, and kutkh, the embodiment of the spirit of the raven.

Many tourists, mountaineers and fans of extreme sports flock to its foothills and try to reach its summit.

Anyone who steps into this magical land is overwhelmed by its pristine nature. You can see all kinds of animals here: bears and foxes, wolves and hares, sheep and deer. Kamchatka is also famous for its marine resources and is justly called the "Salmon Paradise".

You can come here at any time of year. The mountain summits are snow-covered virtually all year long, giving sportsmen and tourists the opportunity for year-round skiing, heli-skiing and snowmobiling.

Kamchatka residents celebrate Volcano Day every year. It takes place in the middle of August, when Kamchatka's nature frees itself from the shackles of winter and lets travellers

**Eight active volcanoes, thermal lakes, waterfalls and the famous Valley of Geysers are all to be found at the Kronotsky Nature Reserve.**

reach its most secluded nooks and crannies untouched by civilization. The celebration's key event is the climb of the Avachinsky Volcano. On Kozelsky Volcano, among ranges and snow-covered ridges, creative and extreme workshops, master classes and demonstration lessons take place.

You can reach these "domestic" volcanoes by all-terrain transportation either on your own or as part of a tourist group. It is easy to choose a travel company: the Travel and External Affairs Agency of Kamchatskiy Krai's website ([agtur.kamgov.ru/reestr-turoperatorov](http://agtur.kamgov.ru/reestr-turoperatorov)) offers a list of travel agents. **TLR** [visitkamchatka.ru](http://visitkamchatka.ru)







# *The Real* TAIGA

Russia can boast a vast number of truly beautiful places, one of which is Ergaki Nature Park in the Western Sayan Mountains, a special conservation zone in Krasnoyarsk Territory. Although the park was only officially established in 2005, it is now visited by more than 85,000 tourists annually.

PHOTOS AND TEXT: **SERGEY KARPUKHIN**





The Lake of Artists is probably the most popular site in the inner part of Ergaki. In summer, you can always see tents and the smoke of campfires along the shore. The vast majority of visitors include the lake in their itinerary.



## JOURNEY Krasnoyarsk Territory

# W

What's most impressive about Ergaki is its landscapes – the expressive, inimitable lines of the mountain tops, with their ridges, separate peaks, and rocky outcrops. Add to that the real taiga, with cedars, firs, and spruces, and a plethora of mountain lakes with exceptionally clean water.

In summertime, the area is filled with tourists, and at times it can be difficult to find a spot for your tent. This applies in particular to the areas within a day's walk of the leisure camps that line the highway. It's thanks to the highway, in fact, that Ergaki has been able to become a relatively accessible site. It was built not so long ago, and with it came a great influx of visitors. In one day it's quite possible to reach Svetloye, Karovoye or Raduzhnoye Lakes, to climb to the Hanging Stone, and to get back to your comfortable camp by the highway.

The most beautiful places, however, are not so easy to reach. To get to them, you need to go through some quite challenging passes, some of which require mountaineering equipment. There are less challenging passes, but even these require a certain amount of fitness, stamina, and courage. Plus, you'll need to carry a tent, sleeping bag, food, and other essentials with you. On the other hand, on the other side of those passes is the real Ergaki. That's where you find the Lake of Artists, the Lake of Mountain Spirits, the famous Parabola, a double granite peak with a very distinctive shape, and much more. But even in these hard-to-reach areas, in summertime you'll find the parking lots crowded with tents. Go further still, and there are some places far from the beaten track where it really is possible not to see another human being in a day's walk. →







The two peaks with their unusual geometry that tower over the Lake of Artists have long been known as the Parabola.

Above Svetloye Lake rises Zvyozdnyy ("Star") Peak, at the foot of which are several granite pillars. Their distinctive form has earned the site the name "Elephant Massif".

The Hanging Stone is one of the main attractions of the outer part of Ergaki.

The Lake of Mountain Spirits, which lies directly the Ptitsa ("Bird") Pass, and which is a rich source of legend.

Paths lead into Ergaki straight from the highway. If you come here after months sitting in an office, even these small inclines can be a considerable challenge.









The Lake of Artists is beautiful and photogenic in almost any condition, and there's a particular charm here whatever the weather. The lake is especially romantic in the fog – and even a little mystical.



## JOURNEY **Krasnoyarsk Territory**

These hard-to-access areas have become popular thanks to professional photographers, huge numbers of whom have visited here in the last two decades. However, this newfound popularity has a darker side – the anthropogenic impact on the environment has reached critical levels. There are even some conflicts with the animal kingdom. For example, dangerous encounters with bears have been known to occur. Bears are, after all, the masters of the Taiga. There are several signs dotted around with instructions for how to behave in the park, including what to do should you run into a bear.

Of course, for real adventure-seekers, that type of risk is unlikely to be much of a deterrent. And just think how many other extraordinary places there are in Russia that nobody yet knows about, but that in time will become as popular as Ergaki. **TLR**

### Getting **THERE**



#### **How to get there**

From Krasnoyarsk or Abakan, it's easiest to reach the park with your own car, but there are also daily scheduled buses that pass through the park on the Krasnoyarsk-Kyzyl and Abakan-Kyzyl routes, tickets for which can be bought at the bus stations in either city. The territory of the park is split from north to south by the M54 Yenisey Federal Highway. All the leisure camps are located along the highway between the 605km and 640km markers. Most of the tourist walking routes start from the highway, too.



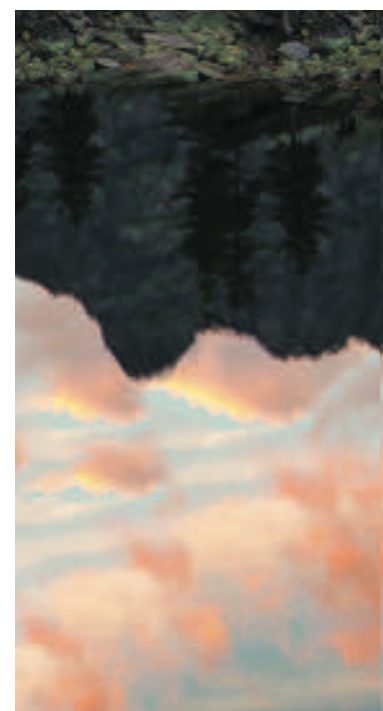
#### **Where to stay**

There are several holiday camps within the park, offering tourists accommodation, food, guided tours, and equipment hire. In the summer period there are also commercial campsites at Uyutnoye and Svetloye Lakes.



#### **Visitor Center**

The park's Visitor Center is open year-round, and you are encouraged to drop in to register your visit and receive a short introductory drill. You can also order guided environmental tours, and buy souvenirs, guidebooks, and walking maps.







The Hanging Stone against a starry sky is a popular subject for photographers in these parts.

A mountain pass is always a kind of border. At times, as you slowly struggle to attain each upward centimeter with a heavy load on your back, it can seem utterly unachievable, but then comes the joy when you reach the top and realize that ahead of you it's all downhill.

Shooting photos at night with a torch against the backdrop of the Milky Way has become a hugely popular technique with photographers here.



The Western Sayan is a fairly severe mountain range, and even in August it's easy to find leftover snow in the narrow valleys.

The Lake of Artists is so called not because of its extraordinary beauty, but because in the middle of the last century it was discovered by artists from Krasnoyarsk, and consequently named in their honour. It was through their paintings that the public learned of the existence of this magical place, and it remains a popular destination for artists looking for inspiration from the wonders of nature.



# SIBERIAN RICHES



Novosibirsk Region is **SIBERIA IN MINI-ATURE**. Here you find rich scenery, fast rivers, thousands of salt and fresh water lakes, mineral springs and therapeutic mud. At any time of year, you'll find something to enjoy, whether it's hunting, fishing, downhill skiing, or white-water rafting.

**Text by Lyubov Romanova**

**N**ovosibirsk is the third most populous city in Russia, with more than 1.6 million permanent residents. It is the cultural, spiritual, business and scientific centre of Siberia. To this day, it remains the fastest growing city in the world. To reach a population of one million residents, it took Moscow 700 years, Tokyo 400, New York 250, and Chicago 85. But it took Novosibirsk just 70 years to get there. This rapid growth even won Novosibirsk a place in the Guinness Book of World Records.

The city has an abundance of interesting sights that locals and guests alike love to visit.

**The Siberian Colosseum**  
Novosibirsk Academic Opera and Ballet Theatre is one of Russia's leading theatres, and

the largest opera theatre in the country. Thanks to its size, it is called the Siberian Colosseum. Moscow's Bolshoi Theatre could easily fit under its roof.

The building's main feature is a large dome 60 metres in diameter and 35 metres tall. It is the biggest single-piece dome in the world. The dome's average thickness is 8 centimetres, making the ratio of thickness to radius less than that of a chicken's egg. The dome is covered with a multitude of silvery metal scales.

This building holds many a mystery. Rumor has it that there is a whole underground city beneath the theatre, where the treasures of the Tretyakov Gallery, the Hermitage, and other famous museums were preserved during the Second World War.

**From leopards to dolphins**  
Have you ever seen a Persian leopard? If not, be sure to visit

**City residents and visitors love to go to the Novosibirsk Opera and Ballet Theater. Olga Obukhova in the role of the Duchess in the opera "The Queen of Spades".**





the Novosibirsk Zoo, one of the biggest zoos in Russia. You won't be able to meet this animal in any other park in the whole world. The Zoo boasts one of the world's best collections of felines and mustelids, among which the Liger—a unique lion-tiger hybrid—deserves a special mention. It looks like a gigantic lion with blurred stripes. They aren't found in the wild nowadays, and there are no more than twenty of them still in existence.

Although Novosibirsk is located far from seas or oceans, it has a modern centre of oceanography and marine biology called Delphinia. You can see more than 300 types of fish, eels, sharks, and other sea creatures in the aquarium that boasts the longest underwater tunnel east of the Ural mountains. Pacific bottle-nosed dolphins, white beluga wales, South American sea lions, Northern sea lions,

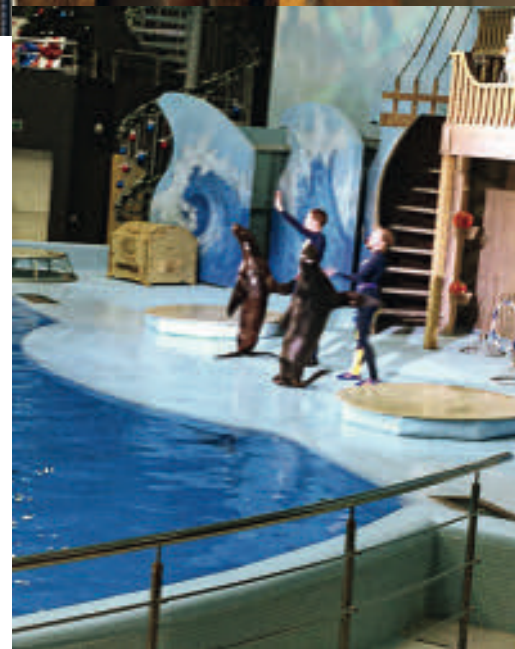
and Pacific walrus all perform in the dolphinarium.

#### **Museum treasures**

Novosibirsk has many museums - big state museums, as well as smaller private establishments. For years, the city has been home to unique museums such as the Museum of the Sun, the Museum of Siberian Birchbark, the Museum of Happiness, the World Funeral Culture Museum, the Radiation Disasters Museum, and even the Museum of Aliens.

The Museum of Local History has earned a special place among the city's institutions, displaying archeological and paleontological collections, the

*Novosibirsk has many museums - big state museums, as well as smaller private establishments. For years, the city has been home to unique museums such as the Museum of the Sun, the Museum of Siberian Birchbark, the Radiation Disasters Museum, and even the Museum of Aliens.*



most famous exhibit in which is the complete skeleton of a female mammoth—one of only two found in Russia.

There are also museums located outside of the regional capital that are no less interesting, such as the Suzun Mint Museum, located in the village of Suzun 150 km outside of Novosibirsk. Siberian coins were minted here in the 18th century, and the museum's grounds include the estate of the copper mill's director, the Copper Mill exhibit, located in the only surviving workshop, as well as the Mint Museum, with its line of working models of coin-printing machines and tools from the 18th and 19th centuries. →

**The Museum of the History and Culture of the Peoples of Siberia and the Far East: from the Paleolithic Age to modern day.**

**The Suzun Mint Museum. A craftsman demonstrates an ancient handicraft.**

**A collection of handmade birchbark artifacts in the Museum of Siberian Birchbark.**

**Both children and adults enjoy the big modern Centre of Oceanography, its aquarium and dolphinarium.**





All the exhibition areas have interactive zones where every visitor can single-handedly print a coin, and experience the life of a factory worker or clerk of the 18th-19th centuries.

### **Kolyvan—a merchant village**

The amazing merchant village of Kolyvan is located 46 kilometres from Novosibirsk. This ancient Siberian village, nestled among blue lakes, white birches, and green taiga forest, is more than 200 years old, and Kolyvan residents treasure their heritage.

A very long time ago, in 1713, the tsar ordered a fortress to be built here, which was named Chaussky Stockade. On the hill next to the fortress, protected by it, a settlement sprang up that was named Kolyvan, which



in Turkic means “place by the water”. Kolyvan boasts wide, straight streets and more than 30 architectural monuments. Among them are merchants’ mansions, original houses of ancient wooden architecture, and the Church of Alexander

Nevsky, erected in 1887, which is one of the oldest local history museums in the region.

There are many other beautiful places in the Novosibirsk area. Among them are the Barsukov Cave, whose passages reach 200 metres in length, the

**The Kolyvan Natural History Museum is one of the oldest in the region. Approximately 15,000 people visit it annually.**

**A liger, a lion-tiger hybrid, with its cubs in the Novosibirsk Zoo.**

**Tourists often use the Belovsky Waterfall as a natural hydro-massage to relax the body.**

**The Salairsky Range in the south-eastern Siberia is of great interest to tourists. A whole network of caves is located here.**





***Novosibirsk Region is wonderful at any time of year. Every season offers special types of recreation: in summer and autumn you can enjoy the beauty of Karakansky Pine Woods, or relax on the shore of the Ob Reservoir.***



Belovskiy Waterfall, Glubokoye (Deep) Lake, and Umrevinsky Stockade, another early 18th century fortress. The Berdsky Cliffs are one of the most beautiful stops on any Siberian tour, while those who love hiking should give the Bugotaksky Hills a try.

### **Healing lakes**

Lake Danilovo, a lake with unusual water composition, is located in Kyshtovsky District. According to a legend, this lake is a part of the “Five Lakes,” formed as a result of a meteorite that fell and broke into five pieces. The meteorite’s fall imbued the lake’s water with amazing qualities: it contains anomalously large quantities of silver. This legend gave the lake its second name: Silver Lake. Due to the water’s silver content, it is believed to possess therapeutic qualities.

The region has its own Dead Sea, or, to be exact, two lakes: Ostrovnoye (Island) and Gorkoye (Bitter). It has been determined that the Ostrovnoye Lake’s mud isn’t just close in quality to the Dead Sea mud, but surpasses it in its antioxidant and anti-inflammatory qualities, and has a rejuvenating effect.

### **Vacation Year Round**

Novosibirsk Region is wonderful at any time of year. Every season offers special types of recreation: in summer and autumn you can enjoy the beauty of Karakansky Pine Woods, or relax on the shore of the Ob Reservoir, which locals simply refer to as “the Sea”. In the winter you can take part in the Snow Sculpture Festival, take your children to an Ice City, enjoy an active break at one of the local ski resorts, or have a go at extreme sports including paragliding, snow-kiting, and ice-sailing.

Come to the Novosibirsk Region and put together your own kaleidoscope of impressions! **TLR**  
[turizm.nso.ru](http://turizm.nso.ru)



# HIGHLIGHTS OF THE IMPERIAL TOUR

TEXT: **ANNA MAKAROVA**

A NEW ITINERARY BEARING THE "IMPERIAL" BRAND HAS APPEARED IN THE YEAR MARKING THE 100TH YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF THE RUSSIAN REVOLUTION, WHICH BROUGHT AN END TO THE MONARCHY. AFTER THE UPHEAVALS OF 1918, NICHOLAS II WAS MURDERED ALONG WITH HIS FAMILY. TOURISTS ARE OFFERED THE CHANCE TO VISIT THE PLACES WHERE THE LAST RUSSIAN EMPEROR SPENT HIS LIFE.

**I**t is best to start your journey in Moscow or St. Petersburg. The jewel of the itinerary is Nicholas II's residence at Tsarskoye Selo. It is located 25km from St. Petersburg. A tour of the private chambers of Nicholas II and his wife Alexandra Feodorovna provides the opportunity to discover the artistic tastes of the last Romanovs, and to see the Emperor's official office.

From here, visitors have a choice of how to continue their journey in the footsteps of the imperial family – to the Urals or to Siberia.

In the Tyumen Region, situated in Siberia, there are several iconic sites that will be of interest to all lovers of history. For example, in the old Siberian city of Tobolsk, the imperial family lived in exile from August 1917 until April 1918. In April 2018, the Museum of the Family of Emperor Nicholas II opened in a house where the Tsar once lived. The museum holds some personal artifacts from the members of the royal family, as well as a large quantity of documents and photographs. The interiors of the museum have also been restored to replicate their appearance during Czarist times.

Another fascinating and mandatory stop on the journey is the Grigoriy Rasputin Museum in the village of Pokrovskoye (80km from Tyumen). Not only was Pokrovskoye the birthplace of Rasputin, one of the most notorious and mysterious figures of Russian history, it was also on the route along which the imperial family were taken to Tobolsk.

In Yekaterinburg, the capital of the Urals, tourists can visit the Church-on-Blood, built on the site of the Ipatyev House where, on the night July 17, 1918, the royal family members were shot. Another place of pilgrimage is the working Monastery of the Holy Imperial Passion-Bearers in Ganina Yama. The monastery was built 15 years ago on the site of the mine shaft into which the bodies of Nicholas II and his family were flung. All the slain were canonized by the Russian Orthodox Church in 2000. **TLR**



A tour in the recently opened Museum of the Family of Emperor Nicholas II in Tobolsk.



Tobolsk Prison Castle, a former prison, is now a museum. Among its prisoners was the writer Fyodor Dostoevsky.



The Church of St. Nicholas in Ganina Yama was built on the spot where the remains of the Imperial family were destroyed.



A venison tenderloin. The Chum restaurant in Tyumen.

## Getting **THERE**



### **How to get there**

A plane ticket from Moscow to either Yekaterinburg or Tyumen will cost \$65-100, depending on the quantity of luggage and the date of travel. The flight from St. Petersburg to Yekaterinburg takes 2 hours 40 minutes and will cost around \$80. It is a 3-hour flight to Tyumen, costing around \$160. From Tyumen, you can reach Tobolsk by car or bus in 4 hours.



### **Where to stay**

There is a vast choice of hotels in Yekaterinburg and Tyumen to suit every

taste. For example, in Tyumen the 4-star Double-Tree Hilton and "Eurasia" Hotels offer rates from \$100 per night. The 3-star Georgievskaya Hotel in Tobolsk costs from \$45.



### **Where to eat**

Tyumen can boast the wonderful Chum Restaurant-Museum, where you can try reindeer tartar, braised bear meat, and marinated cloudberries. In Tobolsk, try the restaurant Ladeyny near the city's Kremlin, with traditional Russian interiors and Siberian favourites like pelmeni meat dumplings, ukha fish

soup, salted mushrooms, and stroganina, the local equivalent of carpaccio.



### **What to buy**

Traditional souvenirs from Tyumen include anything connected with oil—the city's major industry. Popular in Tobolsk are pine nuts, warm reindeer-fur boots, and carved figures made at local workshops that use mammoth tusk, reindeer antler, and even sperm-whale tooth for materials. In the Urals, goods made with local precious and semiprecious stones are popular.





# GAME FIT FOR A TSAR

HUNTING EAST OF THE URALS CAN PROVIDE EVEN THE LEAST EXPERIENCED **TRACKERS WITH IMPRESSIVE BIRD AND ANIMAL TROPHIES.**

TEXT: NATALYA PLOTNIKOVA

**T**he Kurgan Region has everything necessary to actively develop hunting tours—beautiful scenery, forest rich in game, and extensive hunting grounds. In fact, the region is generally considered a paradise for hunters. Kurgan's forests harbour a wide range of fowl and large animals, and the most popular quarry is the Siberian roe deer.

Moreover, you can hunt in the region all year round. High levels of service, qualified gamekeepers, accommodation in wooden hunting lodges, Russian steam baths, excellent equipment, and game with exceptional trophy value all make Kurgan a tempting destination for superior hunting holidays.

The area is home to moose, wild boar, wolves, and many other animal species. Hunting for fowl is particularly attractive due to the wide variety and bountiful stocks, particularly of wood grouse, geese, ducks, and black grouse.

Hunting tours to Kurgan Region have long been popular with foreigners, and every year around 300 hunters come to the region from countries including Germany, Austria, Spain, Hungary, and Poland.

The region boasts 147 private hunting estates, 49 publicly accessible hunting grounds, and 20 regionally recognized state game reserves. In all these areas, you can find everything necessary to

**Hunters who come from all over the world to the Urals, are fascinated by the scenery of coniferous forests.**

organize a satisfactory hunting trip, with campsites and holiday camps where a warm welcome, comfortable accommodation and facilities, delicious food, and assistance with arranging recreation activities all await you.

## Holidays with children

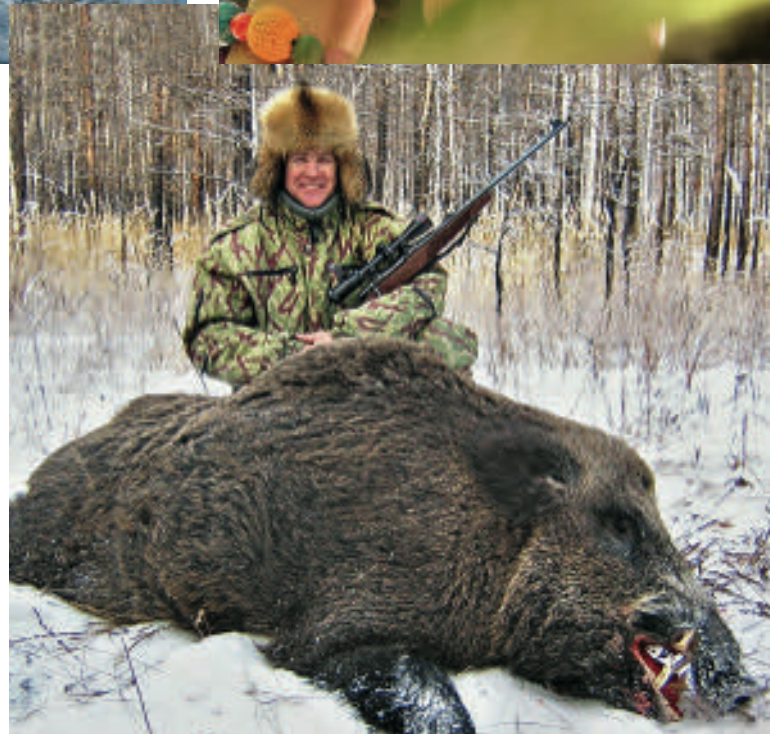
Not far from the village of Glyadyanskoye—the centre of the Pritobolnyi District—there is a comfortable holiday camp, where all visitors are politely greeted by the resident hunting dog, Ayk. The two-storey wooden cottages are fully fitted, and the camp has extensive grounds with cozy recreation zones that will please the whole family. Here they organize great hunting summer and winter, for fowl, deer, hares, foxes and moose. And, for those not interested in hunting, they also offer photo safaris, which follow special routes to show you the main types of local fauna and beautiful pine forest scenery, with opportunities to take truly spectacular photographs. Also on offer at the camp are quad bikes,



**A young white-tailed eagle in Chastoozerskiy State Game Reserve.**

**Kurgan Region is considered a hunter's paradise. Hunting for fowl is particularly attractive due to the wide variety and bountiful stocks of wood grouse, geese, ducks, and black grouse.**





PHOTOS: YURI ARTEMIN / ALEXEY KISELEV / VIKTOR MIKHAILOV / INNA CHERNYSHEVA

## ***HUNTING TOURS TO KURGAN REGION HAVE LONG BEEN POPULAR WITH FOREIGNERS, EACH YEAR, AROUND 300 HUNTERS FROM GERMANY, AUSTRIA, SPAIN, HUNGARY, AND POLAND VISIT KURGAN REGION.***

snowmobiles, and hang gliding, while the administration arranges a busy calendar of events and entertainments.

### **Popular hunting grounds**

The Kamagan Hunting Ground is located near Bolshoy Kamagan Lake, which offers excellent hunting opportunities for water fowl. The camp is fitted with everything necessary for hunting and recreation, and boasts its own pheasant run, where these truly regal birds are reared for hunting.

The Peschano-Kaledinskiy Hunting Ground comprises 30000ha of birch and aspen forest, marsh, and fields sown with alfalfa and wheat, where deer and boar come to feed. The place is popular with hunters from Germany, Italy,

and France, who come not just for the hunting, but also simply to enjoy the truly pristine wilderness.

It is this, as well as the high rate of success for hunters, that means that most visitors leave Kurgan Region not just fully satisfied, but even with a new lease on life.

There are two tour firms registered in Kurgan Region that specialize in hunting tours: SAPSAN Regional Charitable Fund for the Conservation of Hunting Animals ([sapsankurgan.ru](http://sapsankurgan.ru)) and Kurgan Region Union of Civic Hunting and Fishing Organizations. **TLR**

*Find out more on Kurgan Region's official tourist information site: [tourism-kurgan.ru](http://tourism-kurgan.ru)*

**The region boasts 147 private hunting estates, 49 publicly accessible hunting grounds, and 20 state game reserves.**

**For those who don't wish to shoot, the camp also offers photo safaris.**

**The most popular and coveted quarry is the Siberian roe deer.**

**Boar hunting—a journey from trepidation at the outset, to immense satisfaction at the end.**







# Reaching your peak

TEXT: EKATERINA LYULCHAK

Every day, we scale professional and creative heights, work at the peak of our abilities, and strive to avoid the precipices of hardship and despair. Living in modern cities, working in comfortable offices, we still envision our lives in terms of a difficult but ambitious mountain ascent. Isn't it time, then, to move from metaphors to a real encounter with mountains, time to scale your first real summit?







The ascent of Cherskiy Peak is not considered difficult, and visitors can complete the roundtrip climb in just a few hours.

The Khamar-Daban mountain range is one of the most interesting and picturesque regions of all Eastern Siberia. These mountains are not high, but are very munificent, with lots of berries, mushrooms, and pine nuts. It is also the location of the most interesting floatable rivers and warm lakes.

**T**here are a great number of destinations in Russia suitable for mountaineering beginners to go trekking. For the most part, popular treks run through the “small mountains” – the Khibiny, the Urals, the Sayan, or in Kamchatka – or through the foothills of the “big mountains” – the Caucasus and Altai.

## Mounts Narodnaya and Manaraga

These mountains are a good starting point for anyone who has never been mountaineering before. Mount Narodnaya (1895m) is the highest peak in the Urals, located within the Yugid Va National Park, which is on the list of UNESCO World Heritage Sites. It is also the largest national park in Russia. Not far from Narodnaya stands Mount Manaraga (1662m), which

is considered to be the most beautiful mountain of the Subarctic Ural Region. The great advantage for beginners is the proximity of these two mountains, making it easy to reach both peaks in a single trek. A standard trek lasts nine days, and covers a 110km walking route.

Trekking in the Urals is not expensive – around \$160 per person, which includes transfer in an SUV from Inty Station to the Zhelannaya Camp, from which your trek begins. You’ll be welcomed there by your guide and instructor, with hire equipment already prepared for you – a tent, a sleeping bag, a gas stove, and (to the joy of every traveler) a mobile sauna. Narodnaya is even suitable for older children, as the ascent is rated in the simplest 1A category.

### Getting there:

*The first point on your journey is Vorkuta (flights from Moscow from \$130). From there you can take the train to Inta. The five-hour train trip costs \$8.*

## EXPERT OPINIONS



**YULIA NAUMOVA**, Assistant Director of SunTrek:

“For us, the highest demand is for uncategorized mountain treks. These are popular with a wide range of tourists, including families with young children and pensioners – everybody who wants to enjoy the beauty of the mountains, but do so in comfort and with no risk. Our most popular routes are in the Elbrus foothills, Dombay, and Arkhyz. We’ve given up on tents and heavy rucksacks. All through the treks, our tourists spend the night in hotels with showers and a proper breakfast, and eat their meals in cafés. They are taken to the start of their trek by car, and collected at that end. A standard trek can last four hours or the whole day, but the pace and intensity of the trekking is always tailored to the travelers’ capabilities. People can take a walk through the hills, take a rest when they want to, and stop for unhurried photography.

## Cherskiy Peak

The Khamar-Daban mountain range, which is crowned by Cherskiy Peak (2090m), is one of the most interesting and picturesque regions of all Eastern Siberia. The mountains here are not high, but they are very munificent, with lots of berries, mushrooms, and pine nuts (khamar means “nut” in the Buryat language). It is also the location of the most interesting floatable rivers and warm lakes. The

PHOTOS: ADVENTURE TRAVEL NEWS / KE ADVENTURE TRAVEL / LIFESTEPS.RU / NASLEDNIKI.NAROD.RU / TRAVELOI HOLIDAYS / NIKITA MATROSOV / OLEG CHEGODAEV / STANISLAV MIKOV / YOUR KAMCHATKA / PHOTO ALBUMS KKA



climate here is very humid, and Khamar-Daban is often referred to as the “Siberian tropics”. A walk through the charming forest clears the lungs and calms the nerves, while a climb up Cherskiy Peak offers the reward of fantastic views of Lake Baikal. The ascent of Cherskiy Peak is not considered difficult, and visitors make the climb and back in just a few hours, with a camera, a thermos of tea, and a good mood being the only provisions required. A standard itinerary with three days of trekking and climbing costs \$65-80, which includes accommodation at a leisure camp then in tents at a campsite, food, and a guide/instructor. Rafting down the Irkut River of Class 2 or Class 3 difficulty can be added to the itinerary, for those who are interested.



*Trekking in the Urals is not expensive – around \$160 per person, which includes transfer, a guide and instructor, and equipment hire – tent, sleeping bag, and gas stove, and (to the joy of every traveler) a mobile sauna.*

**Stop on Belukha.** Perhaps it's here that Shambala is hidden...

**Cherskiy Peak** is rich in plant life and natural beauty.

**Manaraga – the most beautiful mountain in the Subarctic Urals, included on UNESCO's World Heritage list.**

#### Getting there:

First fly to Irkutsk (direct flights from Moscow are around \$370), and then take the train to Slyudyanka (\$8-16), which takes around eight hours.

#### Oshten

Oshten (2804m) is a peak in the Lago-Naki Uplands, part of the foothills of Mount Elbrus. Once upon a time, Oshten was a coral reef in an ancient ocean, which is what gives its cliffs their pinkish tone. Here you can find fossilized ammonites (ancient molluscs), and the imprints of starfish, sea-urchins, and coral in the stones. The simple ascent (category 1A) and the many interesting palaeontological finds on the route to Oshten make it very popular with travellers. The best time for trekking in Lago-Naki and an ascent of Oshten is between May and October. These are the months when the slopes are free of snow, and the routes are accessible for almost anybody. Don't forget, however, to bring hiking poles with you to help on the steeper ascents and descents.

A big advantage of travel in the Elbrus region is the comparatively well-developed infrastructure →





**The fire-breathing Avacha Volcano resembles a dragon.**

**Experienced instructors will help you pitch camp.**

**The ascent and descent of Avacha Volcano take around ten hours.**

#### **Getting there:**

*The flight from Moscow to Apatity is relatively low-cost – from \$80. From Apatity, it's best to order a taxi, which for only \$8 will take you to the required leisure camp.*

### **Avacha Volcano**

To ascend not just any peak, but to conquer the summit of a real volcano is a challenge for the particularly adventurous. To view a panorama of massive fire-breathing mountains and to look right inside a crater is possible in Kamchatka. Avacha Volcano (2,741m) is located 30km from Petropavlovsk-Kamchatsky. Climbers are taken to the base of the volcano, where they are put up in guest houses for a night. You can leave most of your belongings there, as no special equipment is required and all you need is a small rucksack with

for tourists. There's no problem here finding somewhere to spend the night. Three days of trekking with food, lodging at the superior Lago-Naki leisure camp, and ascent of Oshten with an instructor costs \$160-200.

#### **Getting there:**

*You can get to Krasnodar by plane, train or automobile for \$50-80, then take a local train to Khadzhokh for a further \$3.*

### **Khibiny**

The Khibiny Mountains, located within the Arctic Circle on the Kola Peninsula, offer a well-established trekking route that runs through seven simple mountain passes. The Khibiny are not the highest mountains in the world, but they do boast 400m precipices. The highest point in the Khibiny is Mount Yudychvumchorr. Although only 1,200m high, the thin Arctic air on its slopes gives the feel of ascending a much higher mountain. The Khibiny are very beautiful, the mountainsides covered with ice caves, glacial cirques, and more than 30 mountain lakes with exceptionally pure water.

The trekking routes in the Khibiny are normally circular, with tourists making a trek of about 100km to return to their departure point. Throughout the trek, you pitch camp every night with the help of your guide. No special equipment is required beyond the standard set of hiking provisions – sleeping bags, appropriate clothing, walking boots, and a thermos. Even though there is no actual climbing involved, trekking in the Khibiny is restricted to those older than 14. A week-long trek works out at around \$160-190 per person.







*If you're preparing for a serious ascent, you'll need grapnels, a harness, an icepick, a helmet, three locking carabiners, climbing boots, lined over boots, and a safety lanyard.*

### Belukha

The Altai beauty Belukha (4,509m) is one of Russia's highest mountains. Legend has it that this is the site of the hub of the universe and the gateway to the mystical Shambala. The route of ascent on Belukha can be divided into two parts – the trekking stage and the technical stage. The trekking stage, which is suitable even for children, starts in the village of Tyungur, follows a forest path up the mountain slope, and ends when you emerge at the pretty Akkenskoye Lake, where the group makes a base camp. Here at the base of Belukha, there are various leisure camps with different levels of comfort, and for \$13-16 per night you can rent a room in a guest house, for example at the Vysotnik leisure camp.

Once at camp, the experienced and properly trained climbers – the only ones who can →

**Grapnels and ice picks are a true mountaineer's best friends.**

**The peaks of Kamchatka are still "terra incognita" for the majority of travelers.**

**Starting the Oshten ascent, the altimeter shows a height of 1,629m.**



dry food and spare clothes. The route of ascent takes you across lava fields, over the deep crevasse of the Sukhaya River, and up to the crest of the volcano.

The ascent takes 6-8 hours, and the return trek is a further 3-4 hours. The distance covered on the ascent is only 8km, but the final stage of the climb, where the incline is 30°, takes some effort. The trekking season runs from the end of July to the beginning of September, and the cost of the tour per person is \$120.

#### **Getting there:**

*A ticket to Petropavlovsk-Kamchatsky from Moscow is not cheap – upwards of \$400. From there, it's easiest to order a taxi, which will cost around \$8.*

## EXPERT OPINIONS



**VLADIMIR KAVUNENKO,**  
international master mountaineer:

If you're going to the mountains, you have to understand that a tourist is not the same as a mountaineer. There are many mountains it's better not to visit for people who just want to relax and enjoy the view. Moreover, the difficulty of the ascent is not always dependent on the height. For example, my favourite mountain Ushba (4,700m) in the Central Caucasus is lower than Elbrus, but far harder to climb. Its double summit is known throughout the mountaineering world. There's even a club of "Ushba lovers" in England – the mountaineering elite. However, for beginners even Elbrus is dangerous. The weather changes there very quickly, and sometimes the wind twists so hard it's impossible to move. That's why those who love the mountains are brave, but also cautious. I'd recommend beginners start slowly, and definitely get some proper instruction and training.





**The moment of joy that makes all the effort worthwhile.**

**Temporary camp on Elbrus.**

**A passing SUV gets us to the start of the trek.**

**Terskol ascent. The observatory on top of this mountain should be of interest to all.**

continue the ascent – start to get acclimatized with trips out onto the ice to practice with ice-climbing gear. From here on, the ascent is classified in the very challenging 3A category. The climb goes up snow-covered cliffs, and in place you'll encounter the odd glacier. You'll need to take with you a proper climbing rucksack with grapnels, an ice pick, and sleeping bag. After a ten-hour climb to the summit of Belukha, the mountaineers return to base. The full trek with final ascent takes around ten days and costs \$800.

#### **Getting there:**

*The starting point for the trip is Gorno-Altaysk (flights from Moscow start at \$320). Cheap buses run from there to Tyungur – the village at the foot of Belukha.*

## **Elbrus**

The magnificent two-headed Elbrus (5,642m) is the crowning achievement for amateur mountaineers in Russia. Before beginning their ascent on the highest peak in the country, visitors get acclimatized in the Adyl-Su ravine, where they make short climbs in the foothills of Elbrus, during which they visit the observatory at the summit of Terscop Peak and the Devichi Kosy ("Maiden's Tresses") waterfall. Then they spend two or three days with instructors making preparatory climbs to heights of 4,000–5,000m, sleeping in tents or leisure camps. On the seventh day, they make the ascent on the western peak of Elbrus.

The ascent and return to camp take up to 14 hours. The classic southern route is classed as of medium difficulty (2A), while other routes are all classed as difficult (3A), so tourists need to be in good shape and properly equipped. If you're not confident in your abilities, however, you can opt for a more comfortable ascent with the help of winches and snowcats. Ten days on Elbrus with accommodation, meals, and guide services included cost around \$480.




#### **Getting there:**

*The nearest airports to Elbrus are in Nalchik and Mineralnye Vody (flights from Moscow from \$80). For there to the village of Terskol, where trekking routes begin, there are scheduled buses or you can take a taxi. **TLR***







*To conquer Elbrus, travellers require seven days of acclimatization and practice climbs. The ascent to Russia's highest peak itself takes 14 hours.*





The narrow path to the lake runs right along the cliff's edge.





TEXT: OLGA POPLAVSKAYA

# WILD BEAUTY

DEEP FORESTS, CLIFFS, MOUNTAIN LAKES, AND WATERFALLS – ADYGEA HAS MANAGED TO PRESERVE ITS PRISTINE NATURAL ATTRACTIONS.

**TOURISM & LEISURE IN RUSSIA OFFERS TWO SEVEN-DAY TOUR OPTIONS** THROUGH THIS REMOTE CAUCASUS REPUBLIC – “ECONOMY” WITH ACCOMMODATION IN TENTS, OR “COMFORT” WITH HOTEL LODGING.

**A**lmost a third of the territory of Adygea is protected as part of UNESCO’s West Caucasus World Natural Heritage Site. The republic’s most striking natural feature is its unusual cave system, which run through the mountains like the holes in Swiss cheese. The pride of Adygea is the Lago-Naki Plateau, remarkable for its limestone karst, comprised of underground streams that have formed interlinked chambers and galleries. If there’s still snow cover when you’re trekking through the mountains in Adygea, heed caution – there could be deep sinkholes underneath the snow!

## For travelers on a budget

Andrey Nazarkin, a keen spelunker and cave exploring enthusiast from Volgograd, is not a rich man – nor are his friends. However, with four of them in an SUV loaded to the gills with tents, tinned food, and all sorts of other provisions, their seven-day trip through Adygea cost almost nothing (not counting, of course, the cost of gas and the initial outlay on the trunkful of food). The only expense the travelers incurred in Adygea was the conservation fee for entry into the Caucasus Nature Reserve of around \$5 USD per person, per day. It’s also worth noting that there is a fine of around \$40 per person for pitching a tent on an unauthorized site.

Moreover, there’s really no need to bring provisions with you to Adygea. On your way to the mountains, you’ll pass through several villages, with stores and small local markets where you can buy fresh Adygei cheese, locally made wine, bread, vegetables, fruits, and meat for grilling.

If you wish to, you can also choose to leave your car parked in the yard of a local’s house (there are residents who offer this service for a reasonable daily rate), and then take a taxi to the entrance of the Lago-Naki Plateau. The staff of the Emergency Situations Ministry on duty there will always ask where you’re headed. This is because if worst comes to worst, they’ll be the ones to come looking for you either in helicopters or on foot with dogs!

“We’ve visited Adygea twice, once to the Lago-Naki Plateau at the end of May, and then in autumn, when the first snow had already fallen, to the Bolshoy Tkhach nature reserve,” Andrey tells me. “What we were really interested in were the caves. For example, the Great Bird cave on Lago-Naki Plateau is so high up that →

PHOTOS: KRISTINA PANTELEVA / INNA TUSYACHNAYA / DANIL SHMELEV / KUKARATA.RU / @TYPDAR



## JOURNEYS **Adygea**

to start with, we had to climb a glacier and get all our ropes and other kit up there before going inside. But the Lago-Naki Plateau itself is stunningly beautiful. It's a real lost world. There's one ravine there where I took most of my photos for the trip. Once upon a time during an earthquake, huge stones rained down into the ravine, creating an extraordinary labyrinth. And in the middle of this stone labyrinth mountain flowers bloom luxuriantly. Right on the bare cliff face, there are gorgeous rhododendrons with big white flowers.

On one day of our week-long visit to the plateau, my friends went to investigate the Absolyutnaya shaft, but they quickly realized that they'd be risking life and limb going into that cave, and decided not to bother. Even in summer, that particular hole in the cliffs is full of ice and snow. On the other hand, our trek to Psenodakh Lake gave us some wonderful views. There's a straight path to Psenodakh Lake along the foot of Mount Oshten, so it's hard to get lost. There are no great changes in gradient, so it's almost completely safe if you don't count the risk of slippery patches of snow. The path is about 9km in each direction, and if you want to see the landscape at its best, try to get an early start – there's not much

sun there after 1pm. There are marks on the stones showing the path to the lake." Psenodakh in the Adyghe language means "beautiful well". The lake is about 1938m above sea level and is crescent-shaped. They say it's a site of mystic energy, so it's a popular destination with lovers of esoterica.

"The Bolshoy Tkhach nature park has very beautiful forest, where we saw bear prints," continues Andrey. "Then we bumped into some hunters who asked if we'd seen any actual bears and warned us to hide all our food at night if we didn't want bears coming to tear up our tents."

Mountainous Adygea also boasts the world's most unusual sea – the "Sea of Stones", which resembles a 100m stone collar that grips the Lago-Naki Plateau at its eastern end. The Sea of Stones is a natural object protected by UNESCO. In reality, it's the product of frozen lava, which erupted from a volcano at the bottom of the ancient ocean of Tethys. Between the ridges of Oshten and the Sea of Stones, there's a cliff called the Hedgehog, and nearby on the way to the Guzeripskiy Pass is a viewing platform offering spectacular views with the wonderful name "The Hedgehog's Navel".

Lago-Naki, with snow-capped peaks beyond the wooded hills.

*The Lago-Naki Plateau itself is stunningly beautiful. It's a real lost world. Right on the bare cliff face, there are gorgeous rhododendrons with big white flowers.*



There are two levels in the Azishkaya Cave. The lower level is only open to individual visitors.

The road across the plateau – the beautiful vistas and mountain flowers lift the spirit.







## For lovers of comfort

Svetlana Djigaros and her daughter Diana traveled to Adygea's tourist capital, the village of Kamennomostskiy, located only 40 minutes by taxi or scheduled bus from Maykop. The village offers a number of hotels, with room rates starting at around \$10 a night per person.

Kamennomostskiy ("Stone Bridge") got its name from the bridge crossing the Belaya River that leads to the area's main visitor attraction, the Khadzhokhskaya Gorge. There's a toll of \$5 to cross the bridge, but some locals recommended a way to reach the gorge without using it. The Khadzhokhskaya Gorge is a remarkable place. The river roared its way through the mountains here, creating a bubbling brook between majestic cliffs.

An hour-and-a-half walk from the gorge is the Rufabgo Waterfall. It's not an easy destination to →



The Belaya River bursts through the Khadzhokhskiy Gorge, ripping its way through the cliffs.





The ascent to Oshten, feeling pleasantly tired, and with wonderful views all around.



**Belovodye  
("Whitewater")  
Museum in Kamen-  
nomostskiy.**

reach, and requires travelling through forest and canyons with steep ascents and descents. It's a beautiful place, but the beauty alone was not enough for the Djigorases – mother and daughter booked a canyoning trip through the waterfall. This activity costs \$32 per person, and children as young as 10 can have a go. "We wanted something extreme," recounts Svetlana.

"Canyoning seemed a really interesting idea. We were provided with the necessary climbing equipment and a training session. Then the instructors led us down on ropes straight through the waterfall, down the cliffs, and along the riverbed. It was so exciting that the following day we decided to go rafting along one of the most dangerous rivers in the country – the Belaya River. The rafting course travelled not along the standard route, but along a special extended route recommended for athletes (Diana is a well-known judo practitioner). It cost \$80 for the two of us and was worth every cent. I'm still over the moon about our holiday to Adygea. They can say what they like about the lack of service, but the attraction of Adygea is its wild beauty, its



pristine nature, and of course the adrenalin rush of the activities.”

The next day, Svetlana and Diana visited the dolmens around Kamennomostskiy. Close to the village there's a concentration of 14 dolmens. The most magnificent of these is Chygyudzh, which has survived completely intact to this day. The next morning, mother and daughter headed for Azishskaya Cave. This is the largest cave equipped for visitors on the Lago-Naki Plateau, with a wealth of stalactites and stalagmites. Inside the caves, the temperature is a constant 4°C year-round, and there are coats available for hire at the entrance. Group and individual guided tours are offered. Entry prices are as follows: adults \$6.50 and children \$3 for group tours, adults \$8 and children \$5 for individual excursions.

“On day five, we went to the Mishoko Ravine. It's a difficult two-hour trek through some picturesque scenery and a prehistoric cave, so we were very appreciative of the hot lunch that was provided to us upon arrival at our destination. Inside the ravine it's unbelievably beautiful, with a great feeling of space and a light breeze carrying the scent of meadow

flowers, the chatter of birds, and the buzzing of bees. Thrill-seekers can fly over Mishoko Ravine on a zip line, the cost of which is \$25. You sweep over the abyss from one cliff to another, and it's not for the faint-hearted.”

On their sixth day, Svetlana and Diana visited some thermal springs, of which there are many in Adygea. You can reach them easily enough by taxi, and the entry fees start at \$4.00, depending on the spring you choose to visit. On their seventh day, Svetlana and Diana Djigaros simply went strolling around the area, dressing up in traditional local costumes for photographs, just breathing in the mountain air. If they had wanted to, however, they could have found more to do. For example, taking a ride on the cable car to the Devil's Finger cliff on Una-Koz Ridge, which costs \$10 per person.

If you're planning to eat out all the time, bear in mind that the local cafés are oriented to tourists, with prices to match – a single cheburek meat pie can cost \$1.30. Svetlana Djigaros calculated that the entire cost of the week-long trip for her and her daughter in Adygea was a little over \$650. **TLR**

Extreme sports park in Mishoko – the zipline over the abyss is not for the faint-hearted.



In the Belovodye Museum.

## Getting **THERE**



### How to get there

There is no airport in Maykop. Visitors usually take the train to Krasnodar or Armavir, and a bus from the bus stations in either city to Maykop. From the capital of Adygea, you can reach Kamennomostskiy or the other tourist centers and leisure camps of the republic by taxi or minibus.



### What to see

One has to travel by car to reach the Lago-Naki Plateau by taking the Maykop-Kamennomostskiy (also called Khadzhokh) road

and turning right shortly before reaching the settlement of Dakhovskaya. The route is well signposted. There are no scheduled buses, so the only alternative is to hire a taxi.



### What to wear

The weather in Adygea can abruptly change in a single day, and there are also several climatic zones in the mountains. It's worth bearing this in mind and packing your rucksack with several layers that you can quickly put on or take off. It's also a good idea to take something waterproof with you.





# On Foot Through the Southern Capital

IF IT'S YOUR FIRST TIME IN ROSTOV-ON-DON, ALSO KNOWN AS "THE SOUTHERN CAPITAL OF RUSSIA", MAKE SURE YOU'RE EQUIPPED WITH A CAMERA AND A GOOD MOOD, AND HEAD OUT FOR A WALK.

TEXT: **DENIS FURMANOV**



**T**he main avenue of the city, Bolshaya Sadovaya Ulitsa ("Great Garden Street") got its name back in the 19th century when it was surrounded by the tender pale pink of apple and cherry orchards, in place of the large stone buildings that now line the street. Looking now at this city of over a million inhabitants, it's hard to believe that until the middle of the 19th century there were only 14 streets in Rostov-on-Don. The main buildings on Bolshaya Sadovaya date back to the construction boom that came to the city with the development of the

port and the introduction of the railroad. At the turn of the 20th century, rich men from all over the south – bankers, grain merchants, and even artists – built themselves mansions along the street. In the "Russian Chicago", as it was jokingly known at the time, the finest architects of the era let their fantasies roam free.

The first photo that every tourist takes in Rostov-on-Don is a selfie in front of the monument to St. Dmitry on the square in front of the Cathedral of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin. The cathedral was built in the Russo-Byzantine style by

Konstantin Ton, architect of the Kremlin Armory and Cathedral of Christ the Savior in Moscow, and is an exact copy of his Presentation Cathedral in St. Petersburg (destroyed in 1933).

Running from Bolshaya Sadovaya Ulitsa to the cathedral is the pedestrian Soborny district that is the Rostov equivalent of Moscow's Arbat, with numerous cafés and souvenir stores. Beneath the cathedral walls lies one of the most vibrant city sites – the Central Market.

On the other side of Bolshaya Sadovaya can be found Rostov's historic central park, now bearing

**The memorial monument "To the Freedom Fighters Against the German Fascist Invaders" and the Rostov Drama Theatre, shaped like a giant tractor, are the dominant architectural features on Teatralnaya Ploshchad ("Theatre Square").**

**Monument to Dmitry of Rostov, archbishop of the city at the turn of the 18th century and a saint in the Russian Orthodox Church.**



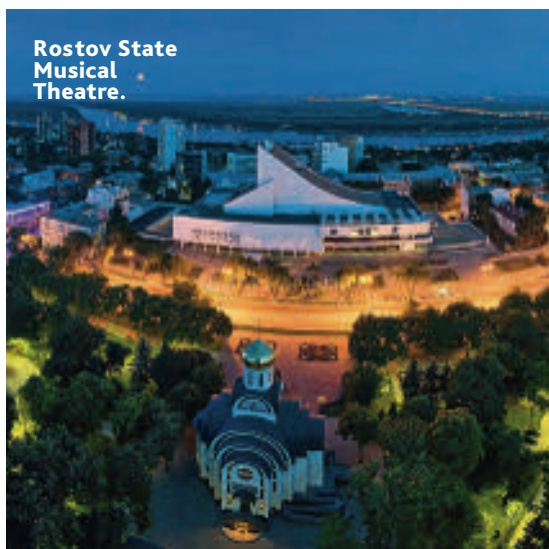
the name of the writer Maxim Gorky. Right behind the park stands another fine building – Rostov's City Hall and Parliament, the facade of which boasts more than 250 sculptures and artistic decorations. In the evenings, carefully designed lighting adds to the town hall's fairy-tale atmosphere. The building is an exquisite example of fin de siècle architecture. For many years it was painted white, and the locals fondly compared it to a sponge cake with whipped cream. Then, a couple of years ago, its original color scheme was restored, so now they joke that it's more like a crème brûlée.

Rostov's modern inhabitants are also keen on creative experiments. Head to the next major intersection, and you'll find a hotel in the shape of a milk bottle. From the restaurant on the top floor, you get a fantastic panoramic view of the city center, while down below there's a karaoke club with its own music studio.

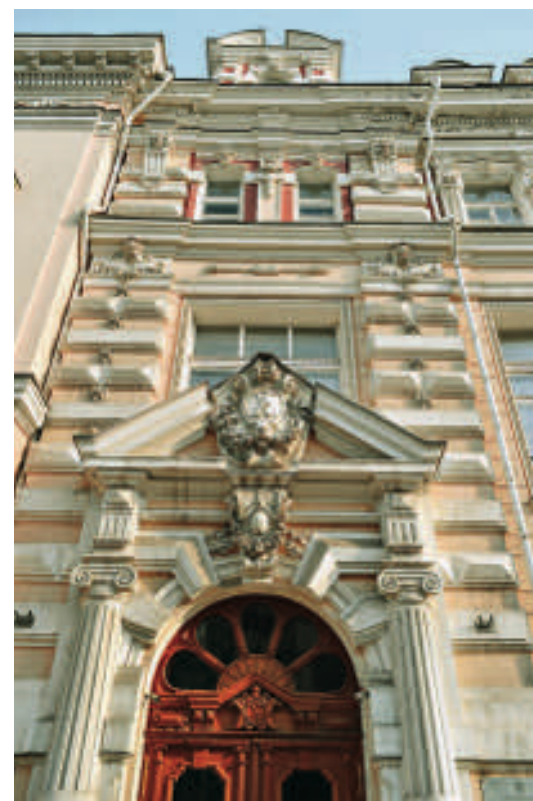
Rostov's theaters are also highly unusual. The Rostov State Musical Theater was built in the form of a white grand piano with the lid open, while the Maxim Gorky Rostov Academic Drama Theatre was supposedly inspired by the Soviet Union's first tractor. The Gorky Theater merits a mention in numerous books on Soviet architecture, as well as museum exhibitions, as one of the finest extant examples of constructivism in Russia. For example, in the London Museum of Architecture there are only two exhibits representing Russia – including models of Moscow's St. Basil's Cathedral and the Gorky Theater in Rostov. Even so, few know that the high reliefs that decorate the theater are the work of the well-known sculptor Sergey Korolkov, a Don cossack from the village of Konstantinovskiy. Internationally renowned as an artist and designer, his works illustrated the first edition of Mikhail Sholokhov's *Quiet Flows the Don*.

Come to this Don capital, take a walk round town, breathe in the warm southern air, and you'll never want to leave! **TLR**  
[tourism.rostov-gorod.ru](http://tourism.rostov-gorod.ru)

Rostov State Musical Theatre.



Chernova's House in Bolshaya Sadovaya Ulitsa.

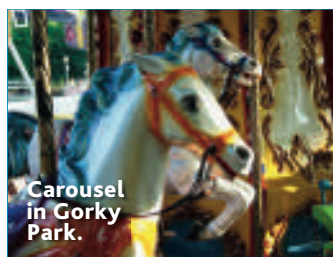


Decorations on the tenement building of the merchant company of S. Gench-Ogluyev and I. Shaposhnikov, designed by Alexander Pomerantsev.



Soborny Pereulok ("Cathedral Lane") – one of the first central streets of the city.

## City STATISTICS



**Population:** 1,125,300.  
**Ethnic Groups:** More than 150.  
**Houses of Worship:** About 40 Russian Orthodox churches – including churches of the Old Believers. Churches of the Armenian Apostolic, Roman Catholic and Greek Orthodox faiths can also be found, in addition to a mosque,

Buddhist centers, and Jewish synagogues.  
**Bridges:** The city has 7 bridges, and the embankments stretch for more than 2km along the river.  
**Attraction:** Rostov boasts one of Europe's largest zoos.  
**Sport:** Rostov Arena hosted matches of the FIFA World Cup in the summer of 2018.

PHOTOS: AIRGOROD.RU / LIFE-ROUTES.RU / MAPRUNET / DENIS DEMKOV / KATERINA DMITRIJEVA / SASHA SAVELIEVA



# EXPANDING BORDERS

RUSSIAN CONVENTION BUREAU, A TRADE ASSOCIATION FOR THE MICE INDUSTRY, HAS FOR THE FIRST TIME **REPRESENTED RUSSIA AT IMEX 2018**, EUROPE'S LARGEST INTERNATIONAL EVENT INDUSTRY EXHIBITION IN FRANKFURT. ALEKSEY KALACHEV, DIRECTOR OF THE ASSOCIATION, TOLD US HOW THE EXHIBITION WENT AND TALKED ABOUT THE PROSPECTS FOR BUSINESS TRAVEL DEVELOPMENT IN RUSSIA.

TEXT: ANTON SEMENOV

**- Aleksey, how did the exhibition go?**  
- Our national exposition RUSSIA OPEN TO THE WORLD provoked great interest among our colleagues in the profession, buyers, organizers of international events, and representatives of the trade press. More than a thousand event industry professionals visited the exposition, and more than 600 meetings and discussions took place at our stand.

**- Your association represented our whole country. Isn't that level of responsibility frightening?**

- That was the purpose of establishing the association last November. Our main goal is to develop and promote a positive image of Russia as a country with a favourable business and investment climate, in order to attract international business events.

We are going to promote the infrastructure capabilities of the Russian regions, with the aim of getting major conferencing events hosted there and developing business travel to these areas. This provides a significant economic effect both for the state budget and for companies involved in the meetings industry.

**- Was there a need to create an organization like this?**



The Russian exhibition stand at the IBTM International Exhibition in Barcelona.



Aleksey Kalachev.



The "Russian Open to the World" stand at the IMEX Expo in Frankfurt.



We represent the whole country rather than any particular region, providing a “one-stop service” for international event organizers. We also provide marketing solutions, and develop strategies to promote the country at the international level. The Convention Bureau participates in a variety of prominent events and arranges familiarization tours in the Russian regions for foreign buyers.

**- Who are the members of your association?**

- The association works with regional government departments and with market participants in the meetings industry—regional convention bureaus, event organizing companies, convention and exhibition venues, hotels, and transportation companies.

**- What can Russia offer foreign clients?**

- We have more than 100 cities that could potentially host major conventions and forums. Moreover, the top ten of them - Vladivostok, Yekaterinburg, Krasnodar, Kazan, Nizhny Novgorod, Moscow, St. Petersburg, Sochi, Ufa, and Chelyabinsk - are ready to host major high-level events right now. **TLR**



More than 1,000 event industry professionals visited the "Russia Open to the World" exhibit.



More than 600 business meetings and discussions took place at the Russian stand at IMEX.



Photos from FIFA Russia 2018 at the Russian stand at IMEX.



Convention Bureau took part in the opening of the VII Eurasian Event Forum in St. Petersburg.

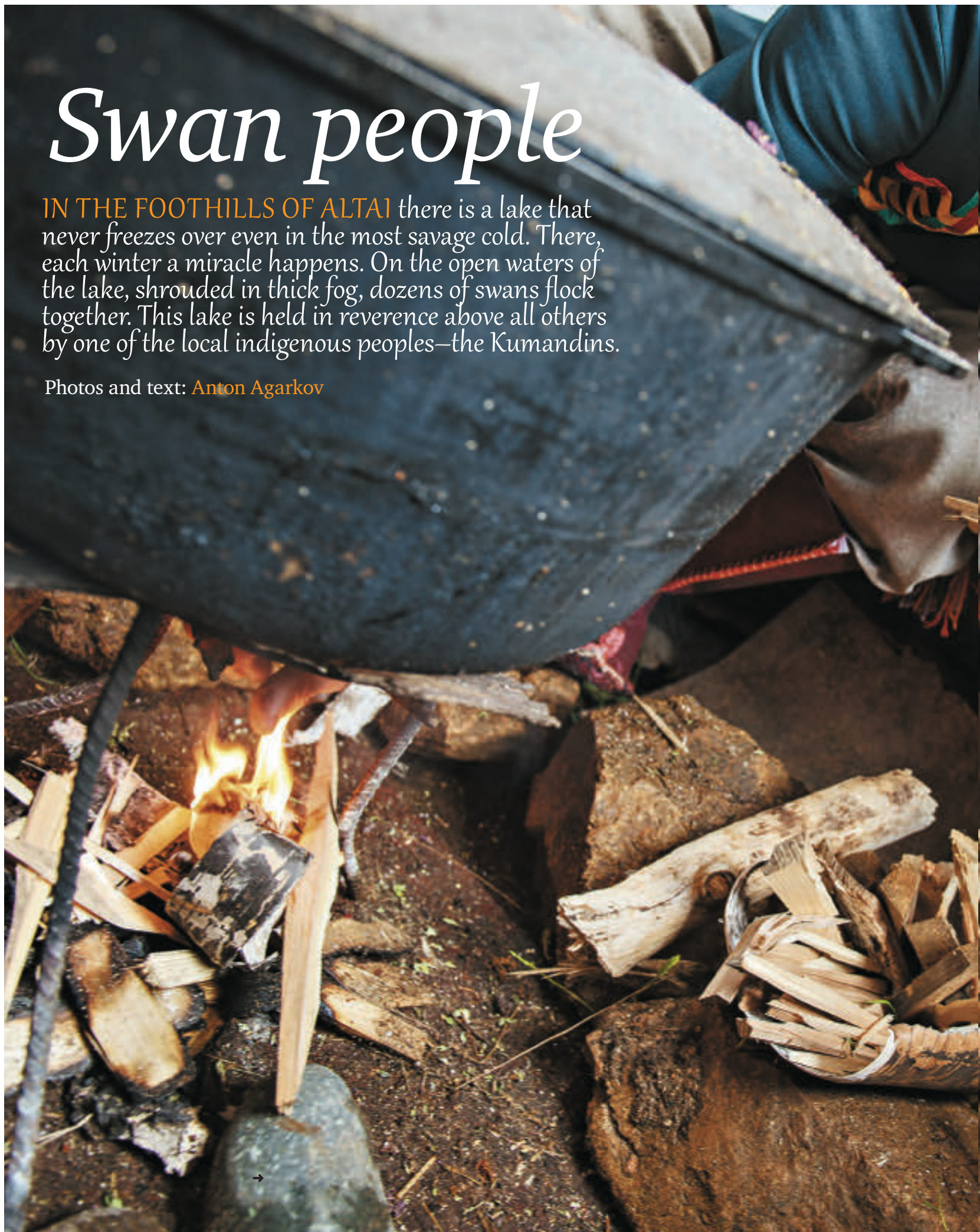
- Russia's share of the international business events market is less than 1%, and the Russian conventions, conferences, and business meetings sector is valued by experts at about \$200-250 million. To put that in context, the worldwide turnover for the industry is \$900 billion. The industry accounts for only 0.02% of Russia's GDP, while in Europe's leading economies that figure reaches 2% or more.



# Swan people

**IN THE FOOTHILLS OF ALTAI** there is a lake that never freezes over even in the most savage cold. There, each winter a miracle happens. On the open waters of the lake, shrouded in thick fog, dozens of swans flock together. This lake is held in reverence above all others by one of the local indigenous peoples—the Kumandins.

Photos and text: **Anton Agarkov**







A traditional Kumandin home, the *ail*, a sharp cone covered with larch bark, with a fireplace in the centre.



It is said that once upon a time, among the ordinary birds, the spirits of nature flew here in the form of swans. Once here, they removed their wings and turned into beautiful maidens. At the time, the people knew nothing of the lake, or of the swans. Then one day a hunter came to the lake and by chance saw the spirits in human form. When he saw them, he fell in love. Then, to keep the beautiful spirit with him, the hunter stole and hid the maiden's wings. Everything went according to plan—despairing of finding her wings and returning to bird form, the maiden stayed with the hunter. And that was how the Kumandin race—the swan people—were born.

Censuses in the Soviet era varied between classifying the Kumandins as a separate ethnic group or combining them with the Altai people. Linguists were also at odds as to whether the Kumandin language could be classified as a separate tongue. There were also those who thought the Kumandins were simply a group of Altaians who claimed unique ethnic status just to gain privileges of some sort. The Kumandins themselves, however, always considered their people to be separate. Once there were many more of them, with their own rituals, customs, and traditions. Guests were greeted with a pipe-smoking ceremony, while they bid farewell to the dead by →









**In ancient times, the Kumandins greeted guests with a pipe-smoking ceremony.**

**The kamy—local shamans—talked with spirits, knew the properties of medicinal herbs, and were skilled masseurs.**

**Nowadays most shamans are paid actors.**

**The ail is divided into male and female halves, the male section housing hunting gear and tools.**

**THE KUMANDIN ALWAYS CONSIDERED** themselves a separate people. Once there were many more of them, with their own rituals, customs, and traditions. Guests were greeted with a pipe-smoking ceremony. They had their own religion and their own shamans—*kamy*, who travelled to the underworld and the higher realm.

carrying the coffin three times around the home and smoking dry juniper in order to close the gates to the underworld behind the departed. They had their own religion and their own shamanic healers, called *kamy*, who traveled in the underworld and the higher realm to talk with the spirits. Even in the Soviet era, when Party officials and collective farm managers were fatally sick, they called not only for doctors, but also for one of the *kamy*. And in some cases, it even helped.

Today, the Kumandin number just over 3 000. Once nomads, hunters, and fishermen, at the beginning of the 21st century the Kumandins swapped hunting for homesteading, and their fishing opportunities are now restricted by quotas. If you ask them where to go to see Kumandin culture in all its glory, the swan-people will tell you: “Go back in time 70 years.”

It is difficult to say why this group was unable to maintain its ethnic identity. On the one hand, the Soviet system fought against







**DEPRIVED OF ALMOST EVERYTHING** and pushed back to the very brink—the point of no return—the Kumandin desperately cling on to their way of life and their future. They have begun to revive their native language.

their beliefs, as it did against any religion. And, while no one was forbidden from speaking their native language, young Kumandins nevertheless preferred Russian. Further damage was done by ethnographic expeditions, which pillaged from Kumandian villages—costumes, shamanic ritual relics, and traditional household artifacts. Now, in order to see their own traditional costumes, Kumandins have, with great difficulty, to get into the archives of the State Hermitage Museum.

Historians will dig deeper still. The Kumandins were never an aggressive people. When Russian settlers came to the foothills of Altai, the locals met them as friends, teaching them how to survive in the taiga and how to get through the harsh winters. In return, they were dispossessed and slaughtered. Rather than answering violence with violence, the swan people just retreated further into the forest.

However, deprived of almost everything and pushed back to the very brink—the point of no return—the Kumandins desperately cling on to their way of life and their future. They have begun to revive their native language. Activists from ethnic societies make expeditions deep into the countryside to find older generations and record their words and legends. Then, at Sunday schools, they teach their children the Kumandin language. The children are happy to attend the lessons, and show off to their peers that they belong to the ancient people of Altai. After all, these days it is fashionable to have a unique identity. In the evenings, in small village houses, it is increasingly common to find gatherings of dignified old ladies who make special Kumandin dumplings with minced potato, drink tea with *tolkan* (roasted wheat ground between stones), talk about life, and burst into song. What they sing is always heartfelt, and always in the Kumandin language. **TLR**

**The Kumandins still live off the forest, where they collect pine nuts, berries, mushrooms, and medicinal herbs.**

**The female section of the ail contains instruments for handicrafts and a baby in a cradle.**

**Many of the traditional dishes of local cuisine are supposed to be cooked in a cauldron.**

**Special stones are required to grind corn and make *tolkan*.**











# NATIONAL CHARACTER

WHAT ARE THE RUSSIAN REGIONS FAMOUS FOR? SOME ARE FAMOUS FOR THEIR WATERMELONS AND YET OTHERS—FOR BEING THE COLDEST PLACES IN THE WORLD. LOCAL RESIDENTS HAVE ALREADY GOTTEN USED TO THEIR UNUSUAL FESTIVALS AND CULINARY WEEKS. NOW IT'S TIME YOU CHANGE YOUR PLANS AND HEAD TO RUSSIA'S FAR-FLUNG PROVINCES!

**Tula**

## 15-16

September 2018



### Kulikovo Field Festival

Tula Region, Kurkinsky District, Kulikovo Field Museum

The Kulikovo Field International Military and Patriotic Festival is held each year to mark Dmitry Donskoi's victory over the Golden Horde in 1380. Here you can experience a real medieval battle and a knights' tournament. You can take part in archery or fencing competitions. You can also visit the memorial on the Red Hill, a museum complex in the village of Monastyrshchino, the Market House Museum in the village of Yepifan, and the Museum of St. Matrona of Moscow.

**Sochi**

## 27-30

September 2018

### Formula 1 Russian Grand Prix 2018

Sochi, Olympic Park, Autodrom

The Formula 1 Russian Grand Prix will be held at the Sochi Autodrom, the first and only track in the country hosting these "royal races", and the most modern year-round motor speedway complex in Europe. The Sochi Autodrom will gather the 20 best racers on the planet out of ten teams. Russia will be represented by Sergey Sirotkin.



**Kamyshin**

## 25-26

August 2018

### Watermelon Festival

Volgograd region, Kamyshin, city centre

Don't miss the 11th Watermelon Festival. This vibrant, juicy celebration draws over 30,000 guests every year. Guests will be greeted with an abundance of interactive venues, bazaars, free watermelon refreshment stands, contests, and a sailing regatta. One of the most memorable events is the Watermelon Parade, which travels through the length of the town along its central streets and across the Borodinsky Bridge. This year's festival coincides with the town's anniversary: Kamyshin is turning 350 years old. Therefore, this year's guests can expect even more thrills and spectacle—as well as memorable performances from pop stars on the festival's second day.



St. Petersburg

04

November 2018

## The Festival of Light

St. Petersburg, Moscow Square

The festival concept was developed at the Council of Representatives of the World Festival Association. The main idea of the project— which will take place in every country in the world – is to connect with the city's history and iconography. In 2016, the Light Festival made a splash with a light show projected on the facade of the Alexandrinsky Theatre. Using 3D-mapping technology, the producers incorporated the architecture of St. Petersburg's oldest theater and other buildings in a play of light, music and optical illusions. Last year, the light show took place at St. Petersburg's new Arena Stadium.



Veliky Novgorod

06-11

October/November 2018

## Gourmet Festival

Veliky Novgorod, 5 Sennaya Square

All month long, Novgorod residents and guests will delight in ancient gourmet dishes—or their modern renditions. Last year, the guests of this mouthwatering autumn festival were able to try Novgorod fish stew with sturgeon and pike, market-style honey pork ribs, Ilmen bream ribs with turnip and onion jelly, and other Novgorod delicacies. Festival guests can delight in the culinary art of Veliky Novgorod's best chefs, and take a delicious trip into the history of ancient Rus. National Cuisine Days will be held as part of the festival, representing dishes from Estonia, Finland, Mexico, Latvia, China, and the United States.



Yakutsk

25-03

November/December 2018

## Winter Begins in Yakutia

Yakutsk, villages of Tomtor and Oymyakon, Oymyakonsky Settlement [ulus]

The Republic of Sakha (Yakutia) is the coldest region of the Northern Hemisphere, and the village of Oymyakon has won the title of "Pole of Cold". The lowest recorded temperature here is -71.2C (-96.2F). Yakutia residents greet the onset of Russian Winter on December 1. The Russian Santa Claus, Ded Moroz [Father Frost], pays an annual visit to Chyyskhan, the Yakut Master of Cold and Winter, in his royal residence in the Kingdom of Permafrost.



Izhevsk

26-09

January/February 2019

## World Pelmeni Day

Izhevsk, Central Square, city restaurants and cafes

This festival's slogan is: "Udmurtiya—Birthplace of Pelmeni!" Last year, 35,000 guests visited the event that celebrates pelmeni, Russia's ubiquitous meat-filled dumplings. There, they set the record for the most pelmeni ever eaten in one place—74,059 to be precise. During the holiday, pelmeni makers sold seven tons of pelmeni products. The festival's program included master-classes in pelmeni-making in city restaurants and cafes, as well as a series of Pelmeni workshops, concerts, best-chef awards, and contests for the grand prize: a year's worth of pelmeni.



# Hotel Baltschug Kempinski

*a remarkable journey to Moscow*







Hotel Baltschug  
Kempinski

MOSCOW



Enjoying an enviable location overlooking the Kremlin and Red Square, the legendary Hotel Baltschug Kempinski Moscow has long been the hideaway of choice for business travellers, politicians and sophisticated globetrotters. The hotel has 227 elegant rooms, including the unique collection of Design and Panoramic suites offering scenic views of Moscow.

Hotel Baltschug Kempinski Moscow interprets classic European luxury in a new way, combining a historical appearance with advanced technology and local charm.

+7 495 287 2000 | [reservation.baltschug@kempinski.com](mailto:reservation.baltschug@kempinski.com) | [kempinski.com/moscow](http://kempinski.com/moscow)

*Kempinski*  
HOTELIERS SINCE 1897





**Intourist**<sup>®</sup>  
Thomas Cook 

# Discover Russia with Intourist



[intourist.com](http://intourist.com)