

Motorcycle tour around Sayan Ring

Day 1.

Meeting in the airport of <u>Krasnoyarsk</u>, transfer to the city, accommodation in the <u>Siberia Hotel</u>. Rest before lunch.



Meeting in a rent-a-motorbike company, hiring the motorbikes, completing of formalities, instructions concerning the bikes.

A test drive to Sukhaya village under the guidance of instructors.

Welcome dinner, coming back to the hotel, rest before the trip.

- Accommodation in the Siberia hotel 4*
- Breakfast in the hotel, dinner in a restaurant
- км 80 km
- 🚼 Lunch independent

Day 2.

Departure from Krasnoyarsk accompanied by a car and instructor.



The road runs through the taiga, almost untouched by civilization, despite being close to the largest industrial center. The virgin and harsh beauty of the forests, the river Mana will not leave anyone indifferent.

In the evening arrival to Kuraginsky District, accommodation in the campsite Estate Okolitsa. This campsite is for people, who wishes to have a rest in the open air with maximum comfort. There are cottages for 4-6 people with all conveniences, café with Russian traditional cuisine and picturesque taiga landscapes. All these will provide you with opportunity to have a rest with a family or friends. In warm cottages surrounded by coniferous trees you will spend time in an appropriate way.

- Accommdaotion in the campsite Estate Okolitsa
- Breakfast in the hotel, lunch box
- 350 km, incl. 100 km of unpaved road
- 🖌 Dinner in the campsite independent

Day 3.

Departure to <u>Shushenskoye village</u>. Excursion in the <u>ethnographical museum Shushenskoye</u> that will bring you to the real Siberian village of the 19th-20th centuries. The history of the museum is inextricably linked with the name of Vladimir Lenin, who lived in Shushenskoye in exile 1897-1900. This corner of antiquity is situated on a bank of the river Shush, near its confluence with the Yenisei. There are numerous monuments of architecture on the 7 hectares: farmhouses, commercial shop, jail,



tavern, about 200 wooden buildings. A lot of people go here attracted by ancient Siberian traditions, which are fully preserved in this place. A visit to a real tavern will bring everybody another surprise, you can see handicrafts and go to the shop of a merchant.

Departure to Natural Park Ergaki. The way goes through the mountains of the Western

Sayans, behind which, as it was believed earlier, there is the end of the world. Believe it or not, anyway there are striking sceneries, so that you couldn't take your eyes.

Accommodation in the Ergaki hotel.

|=== |¥¶ Accommodation in the Ergaki hotel

Breakfast in the hotel, lunch in the museum

KM 340 km

🖌 Dinner in the hotel independent

Day 4.

The group continues its way towards <u>Tuva</u> across the <u>West Sayan mountains</u>. You will see the host of this territory - Sleeping Sayan warrior if you look attentively at the contours of the mountain. The legend says that one day the Khakassian warrior Sayan fell asleep here. He can be seen now lying on the back with folded arms.



In June now here, now there you can see <u>globeflowers</u>, flowers of a bright orange colour, which are so fond of Siberians.

Closer to the lunch the group comes to Tuva. It's amazing but as soon as the bus crosses the border between Krasnoyarsk region and comes to Tuva even the scenery changes. It seems like you are coming to another planet and another age. There are almost no signs of civilization on the most part of Tuva territory; steppes and sharp mountains are over the hundreds kilometers.

The group makes a stop 22 km from Kyzyl city, on the bank of the Biy-Khem river (in Tuvan – the Big Yenisei), in the <u>yurt camp</u>. Accommodation in the real thick felt yurts built by Tuvans specially for the tourists.

Excursion to Kyzyl, the capital of Tuva. This city is situated in the place where the Biy-Khem (the Big Yenisei) and the Kaa-Khem (the Small Yenisei) unite their waters and give a life to the great river <u>Yenisei</u>. The first sight to visit here is <u>the Geographical Centre of Asia</u>.

The next place of visiting is <u>the Buddhist temple</u> and Drum of Wishes.

The group will visit <u>the National Museum of Tuva</u> (exhibition Scythian gold) and see unique archaeological finds of different epochs.

Buddhism in Tuva exists in harmony with shaman beliefs. So after the Buddhist temple we will go to a <u>Shaman community</u> where you can pay and ask about your health and future, get information about shamanism secrets^{*}.

Visit local handicraftsmen who will share the secrets of making shamanic drums, yurts, utensils, jewelry.

Visit a local market.

Upon return to the yurt camp dinner with traditional dishes of Tuvan cuisine (meat and dairy products).

The performance with the traditional throat singing – <u>khoomei</u>*. The throat singing is a fantastical capability of the Tuva people (and some other Siberian nationalities) to emit simultaneously two or three sounds of different tone and to sustain the same sound for 25-30 seconds without taking a breath. If you close your eyes it is hard to believe that the sounds are emitted by a person and not by a musical instrument.

Accommodation at the yurt camp Biy-Khem Breakfast in the hotel, lunch and dinner in the yurt camp 240 km

🖌 For extra charge

Day 5.

The tourists have an opportunity to ride along off-roads, steppes and roads, where you cannot meet a single oncoming car. It seems that you got in ancient civilization.



River crossing on the ferry will be an important event. On condition there is rain, you'll have an opportunity to have a kind of off-road trip, that'll give you some adrenalin.

Picnic near Chagytay Lake.

Visit the healing mineral spring Argolik. It's an interesting fact that there is no salt in the spring, but native doctors believe in it's healing power.

Return to yurts.

In the evening you will see a bewitching show: <u>shamans' kamlaniye</u>*. Kamlaniye is a magical communication between shamans and spirits. During this ritual the shamans dance around fire, sing and beat a drum. Kamlaniye will leave a long lasting impression, nobody remains indifferent after this ritual. There the shamans will tell you about their traditions, rituals and abilities. After that you will get an opportunity to ask them about your future, your health and experience the ritual of purification*.

- Accommodation at the yurt camp Biy-Khem
- Breakfast and dinner in the yurt camp, lunch-box
- KM 350 km (unpaved road)
- 🖌 🛛 For extra charge

Day 6.

Nowadays the tourists can follow exactly the same path that ancient nomads followed crossing Tuva from the east to the west and reach <u>Khakassia</u>. The route will go through the mountain pass. Here you can meet places which are considered to be energetically powerful. Before lunch there is a stop near a breathtaking mountain <u>Khairykan</u> - one of the most respected places in Tuva. In 1992 it was chosen by the 14th Dalai Lama to be an energetically powerful place. Once a year local shamans come here to get energy, strengthen and purify their spirits.

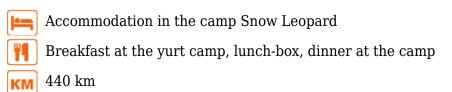


Picnic is organized right on the grass, next to a Buddha stela. And around the larches a lot of edelweiss's are growing, which became a symbol of the mountains for many people.

On the way tourists will see the center of Buddhist culture, a ruined <u>temple Ustuu-Khuree</u>. The temple was the crowning of Buddhist construction in Tuva. And it was unique not only in Tuva, but also in the former Soviet Union. In 1930, after the adoption of a special resolution Ustuu-Khuree was closed, and in 1937 - destroyed. In 1999, the Russian government, recognizing the historic and architectural value of the unique temple Ustuu-Khuree, decided to restore it. In June 2012 the new temple was officially opened.

<u>Khakassia</u> begins after the Sayan pass, at a height of 2214 meters. The mountains here are covered with fabulous cedar taiga. The tourists will spend the next two days in the taiga <u>camp Snow Leopard</u> built on the bank of the river Stoktysh.

You can enjoy walking on colourful moss here, breathe pure mountain air, taste traditional taiga cuisine.



Day 7.

The first day in taiga will amaze you by silence, not usual in big cities. In the morning the group will go to the mountain Mayak, to the bridge of love or to the hunter's house. It is also possible to hike to the mountain lake Marankul (8 km one way) or Stoktyshskie mountain lakes (10 km one way).



The pendant bridge is over a mount river, which flows across taiga forest overcoming many rapids. There is a local tradition according to which a lover if he wants to prove his love has to carry in one's arms his beloved lady over this bridge.

In July and August you can gather gifts of the forest - berries and mushrooms which you don't even need to look for - they are just under your feet. You will also have a chance to eat cedar nuts. A Siberian cedar is a unique tree. Those cedars which you will be surrounded by are the witnesses of several centuries, fed hundreds of generations who lived in taiga.

Taiga air makes you healthier, but the real cure for all illnesses is a <u>Russian banya</u>. A steaming Russian banya with brooms made of coniferous twigs, birch and oak twigs. Those who are courageous enough can jump into the cold river right after steaming. Time after the dinner is spent at the fireplace. Cedar taiga, fire, star-spangled sky and silence will make you forget about rush of the cities. All this will make you feel a part of wild nature.

- Accommodation in the camp Snow Leopard
- Breakfast, lunch and dinner at the camp
- Distance of the day depends of the chosen route

Day 8.

After breakfast - bid farewell to Snow Leopard and taiga.



On the route the group makes a stop at a Khakassian village where there is a monument <u>Khurtuyakh tas</u>, where native women bring there gifts if they wish to have a baby.

The ancient land of <u>Khakassia</u> takes the lead over Siberia and even Russia for the abundance of its archeological relics. Here right by the road you can see the rock paintings, every twenty meters - a burial mound or a stone figure, which is still serving as a cult place for the local people.

By afternoon the group arrives to the Kyug valley (in Khakassian "kyug" means "delight"). Two great mountains chains stand near each other here. The Khakassian people call this valley "delight", archaeologists find a lot of monuments of different cultures.

Lunch with traditional Khakassian dishes.

The excursion to the <u>nature reserve Kazanovka</u> will let you know more about the inheritance of ancient civilizations. In Kazanovka the tourists will have a chance to see rock paintings which are 3000-5000 years old. Archaeologists make copies of these paintings on paper for further studying and you can take these copies with you as souvenirs.

In the evening arrival to Abakan, capital city of the Khakassia Republic. Accommodation in <u>Asia Business Hotel</u>.

- Accommodation in the Asia hotel 4*
- Breakfast at the camp, lunch in the yurt camp
- KM 330 km

🖌 Dinner independent

Day 9.

Departure to <u>the Valley of Kings</u>. There are 30 burial hills in this valley that date back to 3d-4th century B.C. The largest hill is named <u>the Great Salbyk burial mound</u>. The hill's circumference is 500 m, its height is more than 11 meters. The total weight of vertical stones is approximately 60 tons. Many think that this is a place where shamans enrich their power.



The group will have picnic in the open air. After that – a long way back to Krasnoyarsk.

- - Accommodation in the Siberia hotel 4*
 - Breakfast in the hotel, lunch-box, dinner in the hotel
- KM 440 km

Day 10. The end of the tour

Departure. Transfer to the airport.



Check-out from the hotel till 12:00.

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Breakfast buffet in the hotel or packed to the airport 50 km