

# SIBERIA



## PHOTOGRAPHICAL EXPERIENCE WITH THE LAST SIBERIAN NOMADS: YAMAL'S NENETS

**DATES: 01<sup>th</sup> TO 10<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2022**

**CODE: XPSI03**

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## INTRODUCTION

*It's so distant that most of its territory is located past the Arctic Circle and, to get there, you'll have to cross half of the world. It is so inhospitable that Stalin decided to build his labor camps there. But Yamal's natural beauty is just unquestionable and, if you want to travel far away... you won't actually be able to go much further than Yamal.*

*You'll be travelling to one of the least explored and most remote regions on Earth, where you'll have the opportunity not only to enjoy the colorful reindeer festival but also to exclusively experience the Nenets ancient lifestyle, one of the most ancestral and traditional cultures on this planet. You'll feel the excitement of living in their habitat, the tundra, an arctic environment surrounded by the Polar Ural, a natural border between the European and Asiatic continents.*

*We will be having a photographic experience rather than a more technical one in order to dive into the soul and spirits of the people of Yamal. Photography will be a tool at the service of artistic and vital expression. We will try to get closer to an unknown and distant culture that could be able to enrich us visually and personally. You can travel to a country and take pictures during your visit... Or you can visit a country and photograph it while you experience it.*

## TRAVEL MAP



## ITINERARY

### DAY 1: FLIGHT TO MOSCOW

Arrive at Moscow Domodedovo, transport to Airhotel Domodedovo (double room)

### DAY 2: FLIGHT TO SALEKHARD. CITY TOUR

Transport to Domodedovo Airport, departure of the flight to Salekhard (3.15h a.m). Arrival at 8.00 a.m and transport to the hotel. Salekhard, with 42,500 inhabitants is located on the banks of the river Ob. Constructed in 1595 as a Cossack fortress, the city bore the name Obdorsk - place on the Ob - until 1933. Salekhard means from the Nenets language "settlement at the Cape." Overnight in hotel, double room (B).

### DAY 3: SALEKHARD – AKSARKA - HERDERS DAY FESTIVAL - AKSARKA

Breakfast and transport to the Herders Day Festival in Aksarka, a town located 60 km from Salekhard. In the tundra reindeer are a symbol of the meaning of life, they provide food, clothes and warmth. The festival is based on the cultural and spiritual traditions of the indigenous peoples of the North, therefore all the activities that take place on the Day of the Reindeer are aimed at their support and preservation. The main spectacle of the event is a variety of reindeer races: the trot, standing on a sled, on skis pulled by reindeer and on reindeer skin. There are also competitions for national sports: sled jumping, *tyznyan* throwing (throwing a lasso onto a wooden pole), ski hunting, long distance axe throwing, tug of war. There are competitions and fairs selling handicrafts made of bones, fur, beads and much more. There are also national dishes of reindeer meat and frozen steak. Overnight in hotel, double room (B).

### DAY 4: SALEKHARD – KHARP –THE POLAR URAL MOUNTAINS

Breakfast at the hotel and transfer (1,5h) to Harp village, located north of Salekhard at the foot of the Polar Ural Mountains. Just north of the village we will go with the snowmobiles into the vast wilderness, crossing the Polar Ural Mountains. The Polar Urals Mountains range (66-68° N., 63-67° E.) is stretched from the northeast to the southwest. Across the valley of Sob' River, with a thin line of the north most Trans-Ural railway connecting Seida and Labytnangi, the Ural mountains, before they blend into the coastal plain, widen again and the last groves of the Ural forest occur in valleys protected from winds. The nenet will welcome you with a warm cup of "chai". Overnight in *chums*. Full board.

### DAYS 5-8: NENET CAMP

Living together with the Nenet family, who lead their traditional lifestyle, which has hardly changed over the last century. You will homestay with the indigenous peoples of the North, getting to know their way of life, cooking national dishes and helping to set up *chums* (tents) and perform rites.

You can immerse yourselves in the real life of nomadic people, stay in their chum and find out more about their unique culture and ancient traditions. Daily tasks like chopping wood, making fire, preparing food, making water and helping with the Reindeer can be part of your adventure. Overnight in *chum* (sharing). Full board.

### **DAY 9: NENET CAMP – SALEKHARD**

After a shared breakfast with the family we will go by snowmobile to Harp, where we will be picked up by car and transport to Salekhard. In the afternoon you have the option to take a *banya* (Russian sauna). Overnight in hotel, double room (B).

### **DAY 10: FLIGHT TO MOSCOW**

Breakfast in the hotel. Departure to the airport at 7:30h a.m. Departure of the flight at 9:10h a.m and arrival at Domodedovo airport at 10:10h a.m. End of the program.

## **INFORMATION**

The Yamalo-Nenets Autonomous Area is an entire country in the center of Russia's Far North. It is located on the West Siberian Plain, the largest such plain in the world. A small part of its territory is situated on the eastern slopes of the Polar Urals (the city of Payer).

Arctic Ural is considered the territory of Ural from the source of the river Khulga in the south up to Konstantinov Kamen's mountain in the north. In the west and the east ridges of Arctic Ural adjoin to taiga and tundra of the Pechora and Western - Siberian lowlands. The territory of Arctic Ural Mountain area takes more than 25000 km<sup>2</sup>.

The Yamal is the territory of the traditional habitation of the indigenous small-numbered peoples of the North: Nenets, Khanty, Selkup and Komi (Zyryane). Inhabiting the high latitudes for thousands years the indigenous peoples of the Yamal created a striking and original culture to the maximum adapted to the severe Arctic nature conditions. The Nenets people of the Siberian arctic are the guardians of a style of reindeer herding that is the last of its kind. Through a yearly migration of over a thousand kilometres, these people move gigantic herds of reindeer from summer pastures in the north to winter pastures just south of the Arctic Circle.

While summer temperatures range between +5C and +25C (but can still be cold due to the wind), winter temperatures can reach BELOW -60C. Out in the tundra, the AVERAGE winter temperature is -25-30C.

## NOTES

The guide will adapt the program of activities according to the group.

The order and content of the expedition may vary. Adapt the route and content based on conditions and options offered each time. The Nenet can move their camp at any time, so final location of homestay will only be known just before departure.

During the expedition the co-operation of all participants will be crucial. There is no cook on this trip, preparing the meal is a groups task.

The program will vary depending on the weather, snow and ice conditions, presence of animals and the guides' decisions at the time.

The accommodation in the *chums* is on a sharing base.

## PRICES

### Per person:

Group of 6 persons: **3.250 €**

Individual supplement: please inform

## Included

- Flights Moscow-Salekhard / Salekhard-Moscow
- Accommodation in Airhotel hotel Domodedovo\*\*\* (double rooms)
- Accommodation in hotel (double rooms) in Salekhard
- Meals as specified in the program
- Transports as specified in the program
- Homestay with local family
- Herders Day Festival visit
- Local Guide
- X-plore guide (photographer)
- Activities according to program
- Arctic safety/security equipment
- Telephone SAT, Spot, solar charger
- Tents, cooking equipment, first aid kit
- Snowshoes

## Not included

- Flights to/from Moscow
- Invitation Letter and Russian Visa
- Personal expenses such as drinks, tickets, phone calls, etc.
- Travel Insurance
- Excess baggage
- Individual clothing/equipment, sleeping mat, backpack, cold-weather clothing, etc (contact us for advice)
- Any service in Moscow
- Satellite phone calls (2 € per minute)
- All services not specified in "included"

## TRAVEL IMAGES

