

SIBERIA



**POLAR URAL MOUNTAINS SKITRAVERSE. UNDER
THE MAGIC NORTHERN LIGHTS IN THE LAND OF THE
NENET PEOPLE.**

DATES: 2th TO 13th MARCH 2022

CODE: XPSI04

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INTRODUCTION

It's so far north that most of it is located beyond the Arctic Circle. It is so inhospitable that Stalin built his prison camps here. No one doubts Yamal's great natural beauty or its unusual fauna. As the world gets smaller, you want to go further – and there are few places as far away as Yamal. If launching yourself on adventures is just something you do, then this voyage of discovery should interest you.

On this journey you will see some of the least trodden and remote regions of the world. This experience will reward you with a stunning combination of this region's amazing arctic environment, the Polar Ural Mountains landscapes and the exclusive insight into the ancient traditional ways of life in the tundra and the life of the Nenets nomads today. This expedition is an opportunity to return to the basics and enjoy exploring tundra and the Polar Ural Mountains.

During the first part of the trip we will traverse the arctic tundra and Ural Mountains on skis, sleeping in tents, heading for the nomadic encampment. Here you accompany a Nenets family with its reindeer, and live in a chum sharing daily tasks with them.

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 am). Arrival at 8.00 am 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 – 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 start crossing the Polar Ural Mountains, skiing into the valley. Overnight in tent. Full board.

DAY 4-10: CROSSING THE POLAR URAL MOUNTAINS

Ski touring through the Polar Urals Mountains, the Arctic Valleys, frozen rivers and tundra; exploring this land called Yamal, what does it mean "The End of the World". During a week we will explore this region to finally arrive at a Nenet family camp where we will spend the next days living with this ancestral ethnic group. 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 polar tent and skin tent *chum* (sharing). Full board.

DAY 11: NENET CAMP – SALEKHARD

After a shared breakfast with the family we will go by snowmobile to pick up location, 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 12: 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 km².

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 Nenets 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: **3.598 €**

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
- Local Guide
- X-Plore Guide
- Activities according to program
- Arctic safety/security equipment
- Telephone SAT, Spot, solar charger
- Tents, cooking equipment, first aid kit
- Snowshoes /Skis

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

