



HANDBOOK ON NORTHEAST ASIA ECOTOURISM ROUTES



RUSSIA



CHINA







REPUBLIC OF KOREA



MONGOLIA

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INTRODUCTION

This handbook has been prepared under the Russian chairmanship in the Tourism Board of the Greater Tumen Initiative (GTI).

GTI is an intergovernmental mechanism of cooperation in Northeast Asia which includes four member countries: Russia, China, the Republic of Korea and Mongolia. GTI is supported by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and headquartered in Beijing, China.

Tourism is one of the key areas of cooperation for the GTI member countries. The Tourism Board, established in 2007 (Vladivostok, Russia) as one of the GTI main working bodies, serves as an advisory council to member governments on intraregional tourism activities and tourism promotion.

In 2023, Russia launched the project which consists of two interrelated parts:

- 1 Publishing the Handbook of Ecotourism Routes in Northeast Asia;
- 2 Holding the Seminar on Ecotourism Promotion in Northeast Asia.

It is intended to exchange best practices on developing ecotourism projects and routes as well as analyzing the opportunities of cooperation between Northeast Asian countries on ecotourism promotion.

The Ministry of Economic Development of the Russian Federation, the State Development Corporation VEB. RF, the Government of the Irkutsk Region and the GTI Secretariat jointly organized the Seminar on Ecotourism Promotion in Northeast Asia on March 27, 2024 in Baikalsk, Russia. During the event, experts from Russia, China, the Republic of Korea and Mongolia shared their experience on the implementation of ecotourism projects and the development of routes. As a result, the seminar has additionally fostered the preparation of the handbook.

The outcomes of the event were reflected in the conclusion which contains a set of recommendations on ecotourism development at national and regional levels based on the presentations of the participants.

Russia, China, the Republic of Korea and Mongolia have an extensive experience in unlocking the tourism potential of their natural sites. However, the information on ecotourism destinations in these countries is not easily accessible in one place.

The handbook is aimed at solving this problem and offering national and regional tourist administrations, tour operators and tourists a useful tool to search for perspective partnerships and new places worth visiting.

The handbook includes 46 ecotourism routes from ten Russian regions of the Far East and East Siberia (Amur Region, Irkutsk Region, Kamchatka Krai, Khabarovsk Krai, Krasnoyarsk Krai, Primorsky Territory, Republic of Buryatia, Republic of Sakha (Yakutia), Sakhalin Region, Trans-Baikal Territory), four regions of China (Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region, Heilongjiang Province, Jilin Province, Liaoning Province), five regions of the Republic of Korea (Busan Metropolitan City, Jeju Province, North Gyeongsang Province, South Gyeongsang Province, South Jeolla Province) and two regions of Mongolia (Dornod Province and Sukhbaatar Province).

We would like to thank all the contributors who supported the preparation of the handbook for their valuable inputs and suggestions.

We hope that the handbook will let you know about ecotourism opportunities provided by the GTI member countries and motivate you to choose one of these routes as a desirable vacation destination. While reading this handbook you will be able to learn more about beautiful places created by nature as well as local traditions and customs of the GTI member countries.

According to the UN Tourism's definition, ecotourism refers to forms of tourism which have the following characteristics:

- 1 All nature-based forms of tourism in which the main motivation of the tourists is the observation and appreciation of nature as well as the traditional cultures prevailing in natural areas.
- 2 It contains educational and interpretation features.
- 3 It is generally, but not exclusively organized by specialized tour operators for small groups. Service provider partners at the destinations tend to be small, locally owned businesses.
- 4 It minimizes negative impacts upon the natural and socio-cultural environment.
- 5 It supports the maintenance of natural areas which are used as ecotourism attractions by: generating economic benefits for host communities, organizations and authorities managing natural areas with conservation purposes; providing alternative employment and income opportunities for local communities; increasing awareness towards the conservation of natural and cultural assets, both among locals and tourists.



Review of Ecotourism Development IN RUSSIA



Russia is a country with huge tourist and recreational resources, many natural areas and landmarks. In 2023, however, ecotourism accounted for only 2% of the national tourism industry turnover, so active work is underway to unleash its potential.

There is a significant factor conducive to the national ecotourism development as Russia already has the largest nature reserve system in the world. It is more than 12 thousand specially protected natural areas of federal, regional and local importance with a total area of more than 240 million hectares, or about 12% of Russia's total territory.

The popularity of ecotourism in specially protected natural areas is growing. In 2021, the tourist flow amounted to 10 million people, in 2022 — 14 million people, in 2023 — 14.5 million people.

At the legislative level, ecological tourism is considered a promising area for the development of the domestic tourism industry. The Strategy for the Development of Tourism in the Russian Federation for the Period until 2035 is a key national document of the tourism sector. It defines ecotourism as “tourism activities that include all forms of nature-based tourism in which the primary motivation of tourists is to observe and experience nature while striving for its conservation.”

The priority of the strategy is to create conditions for the implementation of models for attracting more tourists to specially protected natural areas which

makes it possible to compensate for the anthropogenic impact on the territory using the profits received as well as to develop infrastructure that limits the impact of tourists on the environment.

The strategy highlights two major priorities for the development of ecotourism:

- (1) increase in the number of visitors to specially protected natural areas to 16 million people by 2035;
- (2) implementation of an ecotourism model on the territory of at least half of national parks by 2035 taking into account standards for conducting tourism activities within the boundaries of specially protected natural areas.

The law on tourism in specially protected natural areas also serves as an important milestone in the development of national ecological tourism. It came into force in September 2023. The law sets criteria that will serve as a basis for other ecotourism legislative acts and is intended to protect national parks and reserves from excessive human influence on unique natural systems.



12%

of the country's area is considered a protected natural area



14.5

million people visited specially protected natural areas in 2023



16

million visitor inflows are planned by 2035



AMUR REGION

TUKURINGRA MOUNTAIN PEAKS



Length
30 km



Height difference
1,300 m
300–1,600 m



Best time to visit
August — September



Approximate duration
3 days



How to get to the starting point
By plane:
Blagoveshchensk International Airport (Ignatievo)



By train:
Blagoveshchensk Railway Station

Route map

- ▼ **Blagoveshchensk**
- ▼ **Zeya**
- ▼ **Tukuringra Range**

Requirements:

- general physical training;
- not recommended for people with heart diseases due to the physical load of climbing uphill;
- groups of schoolchildren over 12 years old are allowed to take the route under the guidance of a teacher or other responsible person;
- vaccination against tick-borne encephalitis;
- necessary equipment:
 - * clothing for the season and comfortable shoes with protectors;
 - * a hat;
 - * a capacious backpack;
 - * a change of clothes, a warm jacket or a sweater;
 - * personal hygiene items;
 - * a flashlight.

Expeditionary Group
Taiga X-Tour LLC

- 1 Blagoveshchensk is an administrative center of the Amur Region located on the border with China.

Main attractions of the city include Amur River Embankment, Victory Square and Arc de Triomphe, Amur Regional Local History Museum named after Grigory Novikov-Daursky and the building of the Center for Aesthetic Education of Children named after Vyacheslav Beloglazov.
- 2 Zeya is an administrative center of the Zeya municipal district of the Amur Region. The Zeya hydroelectric power station is located in close proximity to the town. Besides, the only gold mining history museum in the Far East is also located in Zeya.
- 3 The Tukuringra Range is a mountain range stretching for 230 km. The name of the range comes from the Evenk word “tokur” meaning “bend” or “ring” and the suffix “ngra” which indicates names of mountains, rivers and lakes.
- 4 The starting point of the route is the Kamenushka cordon where tourists can pack up the gear and get a safety briefing.
- 5 After travelers finish all the preparations, there will be a walking passage (6 km long) to the Thunderstorm Plateau mountain shelter which will include approximately 700 m of trail with a steep climb. Travel time is from 4 to 6 hours.

Guests will be able to take a rest and cook food on a fire upon arrival at the mountain shelter.
- 6 Next, tourists will cross the ridge of the Tukuringra range and go to the mountain tundra. Distance between the shelter and the ridge of the range is 1.5 km. The range is 1,400 m above sea level. After completing the pass, travellers return to the mountain shelter.
- 7 On the second day, tourists will go back to the Kamenushka cordon and then depart for Zeya.



Additional information

- Before starting the route, tourists should obtain a pass to visit the territory of the nature reserve as well as to receive initial training on personal safety and behaviour in the protected area.
- Groups are allowed to take the route only with a guide for safety reasons and in order to preserve the nature.



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AMUR REGION

THE TSAR’S ROAD



Length
90 km



Height difference
1,600 m
300–1,900 m



Best time to visit
August — September



Approximate duration
7 days

How to get to the starting point



By plane:
Blagoveshchensk International Airport (Ignatievo)



By train:
Blagoveshchensk Railway Station

Route map

- ▼ Blagoveshchensk
- ▼ Ekimchan
- ▼ Tsar’s Road
- ▼ Aesop Range

1 The village of Ekimchan is an administrative center of the Selemdzhinsky district located in the northeast of the Amur Region. It is an important transit point for tourists heading to conquer the Aesop and Turan Ranges as well as the Selemdzhinsky Range. Ekimchan is situated 655 km away from Blagoveshchensk.

2 The Tsar’s Road is a historic segment of the Nikolaevsky tract that once linked Blagoveshchensk and Nikolaevsk-on-Amur. The wheeled road winds through dense taiga and streams traversing the Amur hills.

Hiking along the Tsar’s Road offers not only an adventurous trek but also a glimpse into history, with visible remnants of convict labor from its construction during the reign of the imperial family.

3 The Aesop Range, located in the Selemdzhinsky district, derives its name from the local Evenki word “esop” meaning “shar”, which aptly describes its jagged peaks.

To reach the summit, tourists have to navigate through the taiga and mountain streams, rewarded with breathtaking views of the vast forests below.

In addition, the Aesop Range is home for a variety of butterflies, with 81 species of these lovely creatures identified in the area of the Aesop and Dusse-Alin Ranges.



Additional information

- A tourist group takes the route only when accompanied by a guide.
- The route is suitable for moderately fit people.
- It is desirable to get a vaccine against tick-borne encephalitis.
- Clothing should be selected according to the season.
- It is recommended not to leave exposed areas of the body.
- Tourists need to take a change of clothes, a warm jacket and a supply of food with them.
- Hiking backpacks, trekking poles and sleeping bags are available for rent.



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IRKUTSK REGION

GOING ALONG THE PATHS OF BAIKALSK: FROM MOUNTAINS TO THE SEA



Length

337 km

Irkutsk — Baikalsk: 145 km;
trails in Baikalsk: 60 km;;
Baikalsk — Listvyanka: 63 km;
Listvyanka — Irkutsk: 69 km



Height difference

1,544 m

481–2,025 m



Best time to visit

June — September



Approximate
duration

4 days

How to get to the
starting point



By plane:
Irkutsk International
Airport



By train:
Irkutsk Railway
Station

Route map



Irkutsk



**Baikalsk
(Lake Baikal —
Sobolinaya Mountain —
Porozhisty Peak)**



Listvyanka



Irkutsk

Additional information

— The route is not recommended
for people with heart diseases
due to the physical load
of climbing uphill.

— It is desirable to get
vaccination against tick-borne
encephalitis.

— Clothes should be selected
according to the season.
Shoes should be comfortable
and have protectors. A hat is also
required. Repellents against ticks
should be applied to the clothes.

— As the weather is cool at night
in the mountains, it is necessary
to take a change of clothes,
a warm jacket or a sweater
(even in summer).

Coordinator of the Baikal Project,
a voluntary program dedicated to trail
building in the Baikal area

Mr. Evgeniy Rakityansky

- ① The route begins in Irkutsk, the capital of the Eastern Siberia. This is a merchant city founded by pioneering Cossacks in 1661 at the confluence of Irkut and Angara rivers. The Angara River is a non-freezing river from the source of Lake Baikal.

There are many historical places in the city such as the New Kazan Cathedral, the house-museum of the Decembrists in the Volkonsky Manor, the Znamensky Monastery where Princess Trubetskaya has been buried. The emblem of Irkutsk depicts an Ussuri tiger, which used to be known as “babr”, carrying a sable in its teeth.

Tourists can get from Irkutsk to Baikalsk by train, bus or car.

- ② Baikalsk is the snowiest and rainiest town on the coast of Lake Baikal. The town embodies the continuity of traditions of the Baikal Pulp and Paper Mill which has operated for almost 50 years as well as the dynamic development. The Baikal Pulp and Paper Mill Museum and the Museum of Nature of the Southern Baikal Region are highly recommended to visit.
- ③ The Baikal Versta Trail, a unique natural park along Lake Baikal, features stunning natural art objects. The Sobolinaya Mountain Ski Resort serves as the town’s tourist center as well as home to the enchanting Fairytale Trail lined with ancient trees.
- ④ There is a start of the trail to Porozhisty Peak with the altitude of 2,025 m. This is the second most popular peak of the Khamar-Daban mountain range and one of the most physically demanding and interesting for climbing.
- ⑤ The village of Listvyanka on the shores of Lake Baikal can be reached by boat in summer and by “khivus” (hovercraft) in winter and in the off-season.

Listvyanka is the primary tourist center for Lake Baikal, providing access to Olkhon Island and the Circum-Baikal Railway.

In the early 20th century, Listvyanka was home to a shipyard that built icebreakers for navigating Lake Baikal. Besides, the Baikal Museum in Listvyanka, established during the Soviet era, serves as a scientific center dedicated to researching this unique lake.

Travelers can return to Irkutsk from Listvyanka by bus or taxi.



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IRKUTSK REGION

LAKE ALYATI – THE PEARL OF ALAR



Length
107.7 km



Best time
to visit
May – October



Approximate
duration
1 day

How to get
to the starting point



**By personal
transport**



By train

Route map

- ▼ **Kutulik**
- ▼ **Alexandrovsk**
- ▼ **Shapshaltuy**
- ▼ **Zony**
- ▼ **Alyaty**
- ▼ **Kutulik**

Additional information

- The route is accessible for moderately fit people. It does not require special physical training.
- Tourists need clothing and footwear for hiking depending on the weather as well as raincoats, snacks, tea and repellents.
- This route is recommended for tourists over 12 years old. Children aged 12 to 17 years must be accompanied by parents or other adults.

Director of the Bibliographic Department,
the Inter-Settlement Central Library
named after Alexander Vampilov
Ms. Lyudmila Tsyrenova

- 1 The ecological excursion route Lake Alyaty, the Pearl of Alar, offers tourists a chance to explore the largest reservoir of the Ust-Orda Buryat district located in the Alarsky area.
 - 2 The Inter-Settlement Central Library named after Alexander Vampilov (the starting point of the route) is widely known for its experience in implementing the Alarsky Runo (fleece) social project (2019–2020) which was aimed at the revival of the traditional craft of wool processing. Products which have the Alarsky Runo logo are recognizable. They have become a brand mark of the Alarsky area. Visitors can purchase handicrafts such as national dolls, souvenirs, amulets and wool products here.
 - 3 Upon arrival at the village, guests are warmly welcomed by local residents with good wishes and traditional white food gifts. The tour around the village of Alyaty is conducted by a guide.
 - 4 The Alyaty population is multiethnic: there are Russians, Buryats, Tatars, Ukrainians, Belarusians, Veps, etc. The farmer Alexander Kopytov is a prominent representative of the Vep people. In 2014, the Church of the Holy Trinity was built in the village thanks to his efforts.
 - 5 The local history museum, named Memory and located at the Alyatskaya school, preserves artifacts from the village’s past, including everyday items, fishing gear, shamanic cult objects, clothing, documents, and photographs. The museum also provides information about the ecological trail, student research projects, and the annual Clean Coast Campaign.
 - 6 The Arshan healing spring is a reserved place and a place of worship. Ethnographer Pyotr Batorov noted that in the 19th century, spring water was used to treat gastrointestinal, eye, and skin diseases. In the early 20th century, shamans utilized the spring for various Buryat healing rituals. In 1997, the Shirab Lama from St. Petersburg blessed the spring and placed a Buddhist symbol there.
 - 7 Lake Alyaty is regarded as sacred, with its waters historically utilized for healing various ailments. Baths and compresses were made from its silt, while carp skin was employed for treating skin conditions. The lake boasts impressive dimensions, measuring 5 km in length, 1.5 km in width and 11 m in depth. The Mardai and Babagai Rivers flow into the lake, while the Alar River serves as its outlet.
- The lake is covered with ice in winter. Reeds, cane and acorus grow on its shores. Bitterns inhabit the area, and the local Buryat community refers to this waterbird as “uhanai buha”, translating as “water bull”. The lake is also home to various fish species, including crucian carp, roach, minnows, pike and perch.
- 8 The village of Alyaty has gained international recognition for its unique dugout boats, which are integral to daily life. These boats, shaped by the nature itself, are crafted from a single log, allowing them to glide effortlessly through the water. They are lightweight, sturdy, and possess a high load capacity, although require skill to maneuver. Designed for a single person, these boats have low sides and are steered with a single oar held in hand while the boat glides gracefully along the water surface.
- In 2012, Japanese ethnographer Akaba Shozen spent three day in the village, studying local materials and concluding that the Alyat dugout boat is closely related to the Indian pirogue.
- 9 The Alyat crucian carp (“zoode” in the Buryat language) is another attraction of the lake. There are two carp subspecies in Lake Alyati: common (Carassius carassius) and silver (Carassius gibelio). Local residents note that the Alat crucian carp has a unique “sweetish” taste.



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KAMCHATKA KRAI

A TOUR AROUND TOLBACHIK



Length
60 km



Best time
to visit
**June –
September**



Approximate
duration
7 days



How to get
to the starting point

Tourists can get from
Petropavlovsk-Kamchatsky to
Kozyrevsk by car or by regular
bus. The distance is 500 km, the
travel time is around 8–9 hours



Then tourists can get from
Kozyrevsk to the Dead Forest by
off-road vehicles along a forest
road about 75 km long. There
are two fords on the way across
the Studenaya (Icy) river which
overflows due to the melting
snow and glaciers and can
present a serious obstacle in
early summer. The travel time is
around 4–5 hours

Route map

- ▼ Petropavlovsk-Kamchatsky
- ▼ Kozyrevsk
- ▼ Tolbachik Volcano
- ▼ Kozyrevsk
- ▼ Petropavlovsk-Kamchatsky

Directorate of the Nature Park
Volcanoes of Kamchatka

Day 1

The journey begins with an 11 km trek from the Kleshnya stopover to the Tolud stopover, followed by an overnight stay.

Day 2

A 15 km trek leads from the Tolud stopover, traversing the Tolud pass to the stopover near the Tolbachinsky pass and concluding with another overnight stay.

Day 3

An 8 km trek through the Tolbachinsky pass reaches an altitude of 1,503 m while taking travelers to the Field of Mars stopover. Here, tourists have the opportunity to embark on radial excursions to the Stone Woodpiles natural monument, the Dam seismic station near Bezymianny (No Name) Volcano, and Mars and Jupiter craters, followed by the overnight stay.

Day 4

A 16 km trek from the Field of Mars stopover proceeds along the plateau in the valley of the Studenaya River. It includes visiting the Canyon on the Studenaya River along the way to the Edelweiss Glade stopover. From this stopover, a 1.5 km radial walk leads to the Edelweiss Glade natural monument and the Ram Rocks natural monument, followed by the overnight stay.

Day 5

The final trek spans 10 km from the Edelweiss stopover to the Stolik (Table) stopover located beneath Kopyto (Hoof) Mountain.

After completing the trek, tourists return to Kozyrevsk by car.



Additional information

It is necessary to obtain permission to visit the Nature Park *Volcanoes of Kamchatka*. While taking the route, tourists are required to pay the recreational fee.



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KAMCHATKA KRAI

PINACHEVO TOWN — CENTRAL CORDON



Length
39 km



Best time
to visit
June — September



Approximate
duration
2 days



How to get
to the starting point

Tourists can get
to the Pinachevsky Cordon
using personal transport
or transfer

The location of the cordon
is 10 Podgornaya street,
Pinachevo, Yelizovsky
District, Kamchatka Krai

Route map



**Petropavlovsk-
Kamchatsky**



Pinachevo



**Tsentralny (Central)
Cordon**



Pinachevo



**Petropavlovsk-
Kamchatsky**



Additional information

It is necessary to obtain permission to visit the Nature Park *Volcanoes of Kamchatka*.
While taking the route, tourists are required to pay the recreational fee.



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Volcanoes of Kamchatka



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KAMCHATKA KRAI

AVACHINSKIY CORDON — CENTRAL CORDON



Length
46 km



Best time
to visit
**June —
September**



Approximate
duration
2.5 days



How to get
to the starting point

Tourists can get to the Avachinsky cordon using an all-terrain vehicle (SUV). They need to turn right from the Petropavlovsk-Elizovo bypass road in the area of the “wooden” market (29 km) and drive about 6 km towards the holiday villages. When the country road begins to turn sharply to the left, it is necessary to get off the road to the right. Further on, the road runs along the riverbed of the Sukhaya River and leads to the Avachinsky Pass. Tourists should be careful: the local landscape changes several times throughout the year. The border of the Nalychevo Nature Park begins at the foot of the Medvezhya (Bear) Hill. Parking lot for vehicles is located next to the Avachinsky cordon. Further travel through the territory is possible only on foot

Route map

- ▼ Petropavlovsk-Kamchatsky
- ▼ Tsentralny (Central) Cordon
- ▼ Petropavlovsk-Kamchatsky

Directorate of the Nature Park
Volcanoes of Kamchatka

Day 1

The route starts from the inspector cordon, passes east of the “Camel” extrusion, then goes through the Avachinsky Pass to the upper reaches of the Perevalny Stream with a transition to its left side.

The Pravaya (Right) Sedlovinskaya River is located at a distance of 18 km. Tourists need to go about 4 km from the river to the pass and come down to the Shumnaya (Loud) River. After the descent, there is an overnight stay.

Day 2

Tourists cross the bridge over the Shumnaya River. Further on, the trail leads to the Aagsky Narzans. From the Narzans, the trail descends into the stone birch forest and goes to the Tsentralny cordon along the Olkhovaya (Alder) River. The length of this part is 15 km.

Half of the route passes through slag fields. Thickets of the alder wanderer plants begin in the area of the Shumnaya River. There is a path through the thickets.



Additional information

It is necessary to obtain permission to visit the Nature Park *Volcanoes of Kamchatka*. While taking the route, tourists are required to pay the recreational fee.



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KAMCHATKA KRAI

FROM UZON TO THE GEYSER CIRCLE



Length
40 km



Height difference
760 m
400–1160 m



Best time to visit
**mid-July –
mid-October**



Approximate
duration
5 days

How to get
to the starting point



By helicopter

Route map



**Territory of the
Kronotsky State Nature
Biosphere Reserve
namely:**

- Uzon Cordon;
- Glukhoy (Deaf)
Field Station;
- Valley of Death
Cordon;
- Valley of Death
Field Station.



Additional information

- The visit is possible only with a permit issued by the Service for the Protection of Protected Areas of the Kronotsky State Reserve.
- During the visit, tourists are always accompanied by an officer of the Kronotsky State Reserve.
- It is necessary to follow the approved route stopping at designated stopovers.
- The arrangement of new recreation areas as well as the creation of new trails and routes are prohibited.
- Professional photography for commercial purposes using drones is possible only when having a permit from the Kronotsky State Reserve.
- The route is not recommended for children under 14 old.
- The route is accessible for people who have basic sport training experience.

- 1 Tourists fly by helicopter to the Uzon Cordon which is a starting point of the route. Tours are conducted along wooden footpaths. There are view sites, helicopter landing pads, information stands, benches and toilets nearby.
- 2 The caldera of Uzon Volcano is located on the territory of the Kronotsky State Nature Biosphere Reserve.

The Uzon hydrothermal system is one of the most powerful in Kamchatka. Modern hydrothermal activities are concentrated in several areas of different sizes which are commonly called thermal fields.

In the Uzon caldera, there are five large thermal fields which contain more than a thousand of thermal springs of various sizes and shapes, many outlets of streams of gas and steam, mud pots and mud volcanoes as well as thermal lakes.
- 3 The Glukhoi Field Station is located in the picturesque place on the Glukhoi River which is 20 km long.
- 4 The Valley of Geysers is located on the territory of the Kronotsky State Nature Biosphere Reserve. The reserve is a specially protected natural area. The Valley of Geysers is the only large cluster of geysers in Eurasia and one of the five largest geyser fields in the world. According to the results of the national vote, it belongs to the Seven Wonders of Russia.

The valley is located in the expansion of the deep canyon of the Geysernaya River at a distance of about 180 km from Petropavlovsk-Kamchatsky. The altitude of the valley ranges from 400 to 1,100 m above sea level. The water temperature of the erupting geyser reaches 96–99°C which is approximately equal to the boiling point at a given altitude above sea level.

The distance between the Valley of Geysers and the Pacific Ocean is about 20 km.

- 5 The Death Valley is located at the very top of the Geysernaya River at the foot of Kikhpinych Volcano. This is a very small area of land. Its length is about 2 km and its width varies from 100 to 500 m.

The valley is known for its high concentration of toxic gases, so tours are held only from the observation deck.



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**Division of Educational Tourism
of the Kronotsky State Reserve**



KHABAROVSK KRAI

A JOURNEY TO THE HEART OF THE NATURE RESERVE



Length
42 km



Best time
to visit
May – September



Approximate
duration
2–3 days

How to get
to the starting point

The nature reserve is
located in Komsomolsk-on-
Amur. Tourists can get to
the territory of the nature
reserve:



by personal
transport



by public
transport

Route map

- ▼ Tikhaya (Quiet) Cordon
- ▼ Lake Zolotoe (Golden)
- ▼ Talandinsky Tunnels
- ▼ Cape Pervy Byk (First Bull)
- ▼ Mouth of the Gorin River

- 1 In close proximity to the Tikhaya cordon lies a scenic lake known as Zolotoe (Golden), which boasts a variety of coastal flora, including several species of orchids. There is a sphagnum bog along the perimeter of the lake.
- 2 In 1937, it was decided to build a hydroelectric power station on the Gorin River to provide Komsomolsk-on-Amur with electricity. If this project was implemented, the reservoir of the Talandinskaya hydroelectric station would flood a vast area up to Lake Chukchagir. However, construction was halted due to the outbreak of World War II. Today, remnants of the former construction site can still be found on the left bank of the Gorin River.
- 3 Cape Pervy Byk (First Bull) preserves the nature reserve and other Nanai holy sites which are hills that jut out sharply into the bed of the Gorin River (translated as Cape First Bull, Cape Second Bull and Cape Third Bull).

Cape Pervy Byk stands out as one of the region's prominent attractions, accessible via a narrow forest path that leads to its summit. From this vantage point, visitors are treated to a studding view of the river, which forms a heart shape with its meandering curves. This location, regarded as the heart of the reserve, has become a distinctive symbol and hallmark of the area.



Directorate of the Komsomolsk
State Nature Reserve

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KHABAROVSK KRAI

TIGER TRAILS

- ① The route is located on the territory of the Anyuisky National Park. The park serves as a northern border of the Amur tiger habitat. Himalayan and brown bears, wild boars, fish owls and morning mandarin ducks also inhabit this area.
- ② In total, more than 300 species of vertebrate animals are found on the territory of the national park including about 60 species of mammals, 40 species of fish and more than 200 species of birds.
- ③ The main attractions of the route are landscape panoramas, relict representatives of flora and fauna, feeding areas and cultural and historical places.



Length
50 km



Best time to visit
December — March



Approximate duration
3 days

How to get to the starting point



By personal transport



By public transport



Directorate of the Anyuisky National Park



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KRASNOYARSK KRAI

BOLSHOY BORUS PEAK



Length
11.5 km



Height difference
1,960 m



Best time to visit
late May – September



Approximate duration
1 day



How to get
to the starting point

By plane:
**Krasnoyarsk International
Airport**



By train:
**Krasnoyarsk Railway
Station**

Transfer from Krasnoyarsk
to the village of
Cheryomushki (Republic
of Khakassia)

The road 95N-310
Sayanogorsk — Mainskaya
Hydroelectric Power
Station — Cheryomushki
leads to the village

The road to the Talovsky
Log Cordon from the village
goes through the bridge
which is located opposite
the Sayano-Shushenskaya
hydroelectric power station

Route map



Krasnoyarsk



**Cheryomushki
(Republic of Khakassia)**



Borus Range



Krasnoyarsk

①

The route passes through the Shushensky Bor Nature Park which is located in the southern part of Krasnoyarsk Krai. The boundaries of the park cover a number of ranges including the Borus Range. The range is a part of the Western Sayan system and is distinguished by four peaks standing close to each other: Peak of the Cuban Revolutionaries, Koshurnikov Peak, Maly Borus Peak, Poilov Peak (Bolshoy Borus). All peaks are more than 2,000 m above sea level. The route passes along the Borus Range from the Talovsky Log cordon to the highest point of the range which is Poilov Peak (Bolshoy Borus) with a height of 2,318 m above sea level.

②

The trail begins from the Talovsky Log cordon. The first part of the route up to the pass runs along the taiga picturesque trail, among the mighty Siberian coniferous trees.

③

The pass mainly consists of kurum and opens great mountain views. The forest remains below and further climbing is carried out along mountain slopes and passes. On the way, tourists see Koshurnikov Peak and Lake Venice on the right side. They climb to the top of Maly Borus Peak along the range, then they traverse to the top of Bolshoy Borus Peak. They see the Western Sayan Mountains and the Sayano-Shushensky Reservoir. After ascending the peak, tourists return to the Talovsky Log cordon following the same route.

This route will create happy memories due to the uniqueness of the Siberian taiga, forest and mountain paths, mighty kurum boulders, pure mountain air and magnificent views.



Additional information

- The trail can be accessed all year round but it is necessary to pay attention to weather conditions as there may be frequent snowstorms on the top of the range in spring and winter resulting in the trail being covered by snow.
- A good level of fitness is required to complete the route. The first part of the trail is wider, rocky in places and with a slight climb. Then it becomes narrower, and there are sections with steep climbs.

- The route goes through the kurum on the ascent before the pass. The ascents to the peaks of Maly and Bolshoy Borus go through medium kurum and in some places small kurum.
- Please use the Krasnoyarsk Hiking mobile application for easy navigation.



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**Tourist Information Centre
of Krasnoyarsk Krai**



KRASNOYARSK KRAI

ERGAKI. HANGING STONE ROCK



Length
5.5 km



Height difference
825 m



Best time to visit
**late May –
September**



Approximate duration
1 day



How to get
to the starting point

By plane:
**Krasnoyarsk International
Airport**



By train:
**Krasnoyarsk Railway
Station**

Transfer from Krasnoyarsk
to the Ergaki Nature Park
is carried out on the federal
road P257. It is also possible
to travel by train or by plane
to Abakan and further by
car to the visitor center of
the Ergaki Nature Park
(614 km of the federal
road P257)

Route map



Krasnoyarsk



**614th km of the Federal
Road P257**



Ergaki Nature Park



**Lake Raduzhnoe
(Rainbow)**



Hanging Stone Rock



Krasnoyarsk

①

The territory of the visitor center of the Ergaki Nature Park includes the main tourist infrastructure of the park and serves as a start of many tourist routes. In the visitor center, tourists can get information about the nature park, register and receive a safety briefing. Some recreation centers are also located here.

②

The beginning of the ecotrail to Lake Raduzhnoe is close to the visitor center. The route starts here. Tourists climb up to 185 m to Lake Raduzhnoe and further to the Hanging Stone. Here, the climb becomes much steeper. The total gain in height in this part is 640 m.

③

The Hanging Stone is considered one of the most attractive sightseeings of the Ergaki Nature Park. It is located on a sloping rock and touches it with only a small part of its surface. It seems that it is about to slide into the abyss, at the bottom of which tourists see the beautiful Lake Raduzhnoe, one of the pearls of the Ergaki Mountain Range.

④

The magnificence of the Ergaki Nature Park is hard to put into words. Enchanting views can be seen along the entire path including the silhouette of the Sleeping Sayan Mountains, the Sayan Pearl Waterfall (a trail from the main path leads to it), Lake Raduzhnoe, Lake Uyutnoe (Cozy), the Hanging Stone, the Pass of Artists, Lake Maloye Buibinskoe (Karovy). Peaks of the Aradan Mountain Range are visible in the distance. After the ascent, tourists return to the visitor center of the Ergaki Nature Park using the same route.



Additional information

- Most of the walkway to Lake Raduzhnoe is made of wooden sidewalks which sometimes lead to the nature rocky trail. The steepest areas have stairs. The upper part of the route passes along stony trails of the range. In some places, tourists will go through kurums. The route is marked in yellow. A moderate level of fitness is required to complete it.

- Please use the Krasnoyarsk Hiking mobile application for easy navigation.



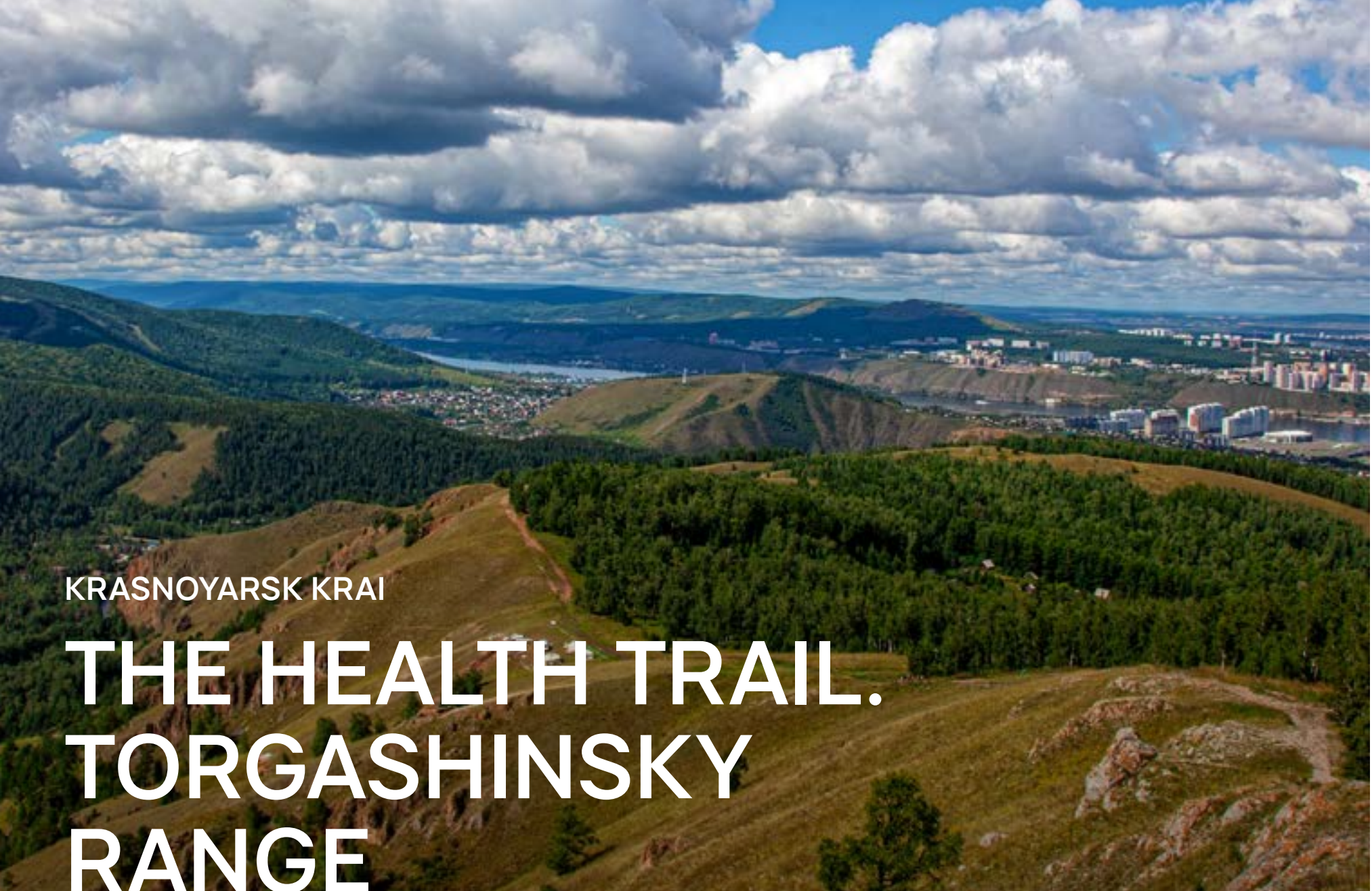
Tourist Information Centre
of Krasnoyarsk Krai



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KRASNOYARSK KRAI

THE HEALTH TRAIL. TORGASHINSKY RANGE



Length
23.4 km



Height difference
1,385 m



Best time to visit
all year round



Approximate duration
1 day



How to get
to the starting point

By plane:
Krasnoyarsk International
Airport



By train:
Krasnoyarsk
Railway Station

Route map



Krasnoyarsk



**Krasny Greben
(Red Comb) Rock**



**Black Sopka
(former volcano)**



Krasnoyarsk

1

The route starts from Krasny Greben Rock. Tourists can get to the starting point from the Shkola (School) stop (Meditsinsky (Medical) alley) of the city bus route No. 58. Next, tourists climb up the Torgashinsky Range to Krasny Greben Rock.

While looking from Krasny Greben Rock, travelers can see a beautiful view of the valley of the Bazaikha River and the village of the same name, Nikolaevsky and Zheleznodorozhny (Railway) bridges, Afontova Mountain, Nikolaevsky Hill, routes of the Bobrov (Beaver) Log Fan Park and the Krasnoyarsk Stolby (Pillars) National Park, Vorobushki and Takmak Rocks formations.

2

Moving along this route, tourists make an almost complete traverse of the Torgashinsky Range. This is a mountain taiga massif stretching along the right bank of the Yenisei River for more than 15 km. Its northern border is Krasnoyarsk and the southeastern border runs along the Krasnoyarsk Stolby National Park where the Bazaikha River flows at the foot of steep slopes.

3

While passing the Health Trail, tourists will see Krasny Greben and Arch Rocks. Tourists can visit many attractions of the Torgashinsky Range going towards the Bazaikha River along Krasny Greben and Arch trails. They are Ryzhaya (Red), Sivye (Grey), Lugovye (Meadow) Rocks, Tamara, Top, Senilga Mountains and others. There are magnificent views of the Krasnoyarsk Stolby National Park, the city of Abatak and the valley of the Bazaikha River from all these points. Also, the longest staircase in Russia, the Torgashin Staircase, is located next to the trail from the side of the Bazaikha River, near which there are places for recreation, photo zones and an observation deck.

4

The route ends at the top of Black Sopka Mountain. Black Sopka is one of the highest natural points near Krasnoyarsk. It is located in the Berezovsky district of Krasnoyarsk Krai. Black Sopka is visible from afar at any time of the year thanks to its top rising above the forest and cluttered with large kurum. The height of the hill is 668.7 m above sea level. Black Sopka or Karatag (kara is “black” and tag is “mountain” in the Khakass language) is a volcano that was extinct since more than a thousand years ago.

Tourists can return to the city following the same way.



Additional information

• The Health Trail is a main trail of the Torgashinsky Range from which all the others branch out. When tourists take it, they can visit almost all the sightseeings. Lyzhnaya (Ski), Mokry Log (Wet Ravine), Skvoznaya (Cross-Cutting) and Speleologist trails lead to the city from different points of the range. The trail is marked in red.

• Please use the Krasnoyarsk Hiking mobile application for easy navigation.

Tourist Information Centre
of Krasnoyarsk Krai



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PRIMORSKY TERRITORY

THE HIGHEST PEAK — OBLACHNAYA MOUNTAIN

Photo credit: Vitalii Berkov



Length
**17 km by car,
7 km on foot**



Height difference
1,699 m
155–1,854 m



Best time to visit
**early July —
late October**



Approximate duration
**planned
individually**



How to get
to the starting point

By plane



By bus

Route map

- ▼ **Vladivostok**
- ▼ **Chuguevka**
- ▼ **Yasnoe**
- ▼ **Zov Tigra (Call of the Tiger)
National Park**
- ▼ **Oblachnaya Mountain**
- ▼ **Zov Tigra National Park**
- ▼ **Yasnoe**
- ▼ **Chuguevka**
- ▼ **Vladivostok**

United Directorate of the Lazovsky
State Nature Reserve named
after Lev Kaplanov and Zov Tigra
National Park

① Zov Tigra National Park is located in the southeast of the Primorsky Territory. The park includes sections of three districts namely Chuguevsky, Olginsky and Lazovsky districts.

The park has been created to preserve and restore natural systems, historical and cultural sites, to implement environmental education of the population, to develop and apply scientific methods of nature conservation, environmental monitoring and to create conditions for regulated tourism and recreation.

② Oblachnaya Mountain is one of the highest peaks of the Primorsky Territory. While climbing the mountain, tourists at first pass through the belt of broad-leaved taiga which is followed by the dense spruce and fir forest filled with the aroma of resin. The forest here is low-growing, with strongly twisted white trunks of stone birches even higher up. In summer, tourists will explore mountain tundra with many flowering plants at the top of the mountain. The peak of Oblachnaya Mountain is a stone desert. The altitude of the peak as well as frost and wind leave no room for any tree to grow here.

③ After climbing the mountain and descending it, tourists return to their camps.



Additional information

- It is constantly windy with frequent influxes of clouds on the summit. There may be a few unexpected rainfalls during the day when clouds are lingered by the mountain. It is necessary to have warm, waterproof and windproof clothing to take this route.
- Tourists should strictly follow the route agreed with the administration. Changes are only permitted in case of emergency.
- Since trampling is destructive for many plants, it is necessary to move strictly along the trail.
- Throwing litter is prohibited during the route. All household waste is taken along and placed in waste containers at the Ussuri cordon.
- Making campfires is permitted only in specially equipped places.
- Special permission is required for camping at the top of the mountain. The growth rate of high-altitude vegetation is very insignificant because it grows in extreme conditions. Therefore, making fires is not allowed here.
- Picking flowers, digging up plants, cutting down trees and shrubs is also prohibited.
- It is not allowed to draw or carve on rocks, create stone sculptures on the top of the mountain or cause damage to signs and trail markings.



Photo credit: Vitalii Berkov



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PRIMORSKY TERRITORY

CLIMBING PIDAN MOUNTAIN



Length
135 km



Height difference
1,125 m
207–1,332 m



Best time to visit
May — October



Approximate duration
1 day



How to get
to the starting point

By train



**By personal
transport**

Route map



Vladivostok



Lukyanovka



Pidan Mountain



Lukyanovka



Vladivostok

- 1 Lukyanovka is a village located in the Shkotovsky district of the Primorsky Territory, featuring over ten recreation centers that operate throughout the year and provide a variety of entertainment options. It serves as a base for tourists embarking on the ascent of Mount Livadiyskaya, also known as Pidan. Additionally, Lukyanovka hosts annual tourism competitions.
- 2 Mount Livadiyskaya (Mount Pidan until 1972) is the most popular peak among tourists of the Primorsky Territory.

According to the legend, the mountain received its former name Pidan (meaning “stones poured by God”) during the time of the ancient state of Bohai in the first millennium AD. Its top is composed of unusual huge stones and surrounded by legends. One of the stories claims that there were Maori stone guards and a huge quartz crystal of enormous size installed on the top of the mountain. This crystal could fulfill wishes of anyone who touched it. However, access to this crystal was historically restricted to priests during the time of the Bohai state.



Additional information

- Clothing and footwear should be comfortable for walking through forests and rocks (sneakers or hiking boots).
- Personal items must be in the backpack. Clothing should include warm clothes for the morning and evening (things could be left in the car before climbing), a jacket

for additional warming, thin and warm cotton gloves, a hat, a small flashlight (as there may be a necessity to move at dusk). It is recommended to take replacement clothing to change on the bus on the way home.



Lotos-Tur Travel Agency



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PRIMORSKY TERRITORY

THE SLAVIC SHORE. GOING TO THE LAND OF DENSE-FLOWER PINE TREES



Length
97 km



Best time to visit
**May —
October**



Approximate duration
1 day



How to get
to the starting point

By bus



By train



**By personal
transport**

Route map



Vladivostok



Slavyanka



Cape Bruce



Gamova Peninsula



Slavyanka



Vladivostok

Directorate of the Land
of the Leopard National Park

- 1 The village of Slavyanka is situated along the banks of the Slavyanka Bay, where visitors embark on boats to venture into the sea.
- 2 Shortly after setting sail, tourists will encounter Cape Bruce, renowned for the lighthouse perched at its summit. The lighthouse serves as a navigational aid for sailors entering Amur Bay.
- 3 While continuing the maritime journey, vessels reach the Far Eastern Biosphere Reserve, where rare relict pine trees can be observed at Cape Sosnovy. This densely flowered pine is one of the few tree species endemic to Russia, found exclusively in the southern region of the Primorsky Territory.
- 4 After the guided tour of the nature reserve, tourists return to their boats and make their way back to Slavyanka.



Additional information

Tourists should have:

- a windproof and waterproof jacket with a hood or a raincoat;
- windproof trousers;
- a fleece or regular jacket (a sweatshirt);
- a headgear for sun protection;
- sunglasses;
- T-shirts, tank tops, shorts;
- trekking boots or sneakers;
- swimming slippers (or beach slippers);
- warm wool socks;
- light cotton socks.



Photo: Igor Onuchin



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PRIMORSKY TERRITORY

RESERVED BIKIN NATIONAL PARK



Length
43 km



Best time to visit
April – October



Approximate duration
1 day

How to get
to the starting point



**First by plane
to Vladivostok
International Airport
and then by train to
Luchegorsk and by
bus to Krasny Yar or
by personal transport
directly to Krasny Yar**

Route map



Vladivostok



Krasny Yar



Bikin National Park



Krasny Yar



Vladivostok

Directorate
of the Bikin National Park



Additional information

- Visiting the national park is possible only after getting an approval of the park administration and while being accompanied by a park official.
- Tourists cannot change the route agreed with the park administration.
- It is necessary to dress in such a way as to reduce the possibility of ticks crawling under clothing.
- Tourists can set up a camp or make a fire only in designated parking areas.
- Guests should not litter parking areas and routes.
- Fires should not be left unextinguished or smoldering under any circumstances.
- Tourists should not cut down trees and bushes.
- Fishing can only be done with hook and line gear in accordance with the fishing regulations.
- Collection of wild plants is possible after the approval of the park administration.



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REPUBLIC OF BURYATIA

IN THE VALLEY OF EXTINCT VOLCANOES



Length
60 km



Best time to visit
May, October



Approximate duration
1 day



How to get
to the starting point

There are daily buses from Irkutsk to Arshan village and from Ulan-Ude to Arshan village



All passenger trains, running on the Trans-Siberian railway, stop at the Slyudyanka railway station



Tourists could go from Slyudyanka to Arshan village using personal or public transport

Route map

- Arshan Village
- Khara-Boldok (Cherskiy Volcano)
- Kovrizhka Volcano
- Taloe Village
- Talskaya Vershina (extinct volcano)
- Talsky Spring
- Shandagataisky Volcano
- ”Bukh-Noyon Rookery”
- Kuntenskiy Source
- Arshan Village

Directorate
of the Tunkinsky National Park

- 1 The village of Arshan is known for its balneal and mountain climate health resort of the same name. It is a unique healing area that improves health of the population of Buryatia and neighboring regions. Until now, its combination of natural healing factors (mountain climate, landscapes, Arshan carbon dioxide mineral water and sulfide silt mud) has no analogues in Russia.
- 2 Cherskiy Volcano (or Khara-Boldok, from Khara boldog, “black hill” in the Buryat language) is an extinct volcano near the Arshan resort. It is the largest of 20 volcanoes of the Tunkin Depression volcanic field which was given a status of the regional natural monument.
- 3 Kovrizhka Volcano located on the east of the Arshan resort is the most ancient volcano from the Tunkin group of volcanoes. However, it is better preserved than others.
- 4 Talskaya Vershina Volcano is the largest among 9 volcanoes of the Talskaya group. From the volcano, there is a picturesque view of the extinct volcanoes. The latest volcano eruptions occurred about 10 thousand years ago.
- 5 The Bukha-Noyon cult place has a special significance for Buryat people and serves as a place of worship for shamans and lamas. Bukha-Noyon means “bull, owner, chief, leader”. The bull is one of ancestors of the Buryat people. It is a symbol of the nature’s power and an object of the shamanic cult. Many legends and folk tales about this animal have been created.

The rock really looks like a lying bull in its outline. The marble is gradually destroying, so a large white spot descends from the mountain down the slope.
- 6 The Kuntenskiy Arshan mineral spring originates from the northern slope of the small volcanic hill named Kunten which is 10 km away from the Arshan resort near the Koimorsky Lakes.



Additional information

- Tourist equipment, sports shoes, warm clothes and a raincoat are necessary to take the route.
- Tourists should get vaccinated against tick-borne encephalitis, get insurance against tick bites, attend training on safety precautions and rules for going on the route.
- The route is visited with a tourist instructor.
- Children from 7 to 14 years old can take the route only if accompanied by their parents or as part of children’s groups.



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REPUBLIC OF BURYATIA

THE HORSE RIDING TOUR SHUMAKSKY ROADS



Length
183 km



Best time to visit
June, August



Approximate duration
9 day



How to get
to the starting point

By plane: Irkutsk International
Airport, Baikal International
Airport (Ulan-Ude)



Buses daily operate on routes
Irkutsk — Arshan village —
Kyren village — Nilova Pustyn
resort;
Ulan-Ude — Kyren village;
Kyren village — Slyudyanka
station (East Siberian Railway)



Note: All passenger trains
running on the Trans-Siberian
Railway stop at Slyudyanka
railway station

The distance from Slyudyanka
to Kyren village is 132 km

Route map

- ▼ Kyren Village
- ▼ Nilova Pustyn Health Resort
- ▼ Shumaksky Pass
- ▼ Shumaksky Springs

- 1 The village of Kyren is located in the Tunka Valley in Buryatia. It is located on a major highway, the Tunka Highway, which leads to Mongolia. The village offers beautiful views, and the mountain peaks here are covered with snow even in September.
- 2 Nilova Pustyn is a complex of clinics, sanatoriums and guesthouses in the foothills of the Eastern Sayan Mountains. Here, at an altitude of 915 m above sea level, springs of healing radon waters were discovered back in the 19th century. Thanks to them, Siberians and visitors have been improving their health for centuries. Today, Nilova Pustyn is a unique resort specializing in the treatment of diseases of the cardiovascular, nervous and musculoskeletal systems.
- 3 The Shumaksky Pass connects the valleys of the Ekhe-Ger and Left Shumak Rivers. The height of the pass is 2,760 m. From Shumaksky Springs, the trail goes through the forest zone along the river bank. The forest turns into alpine meadows and rocky placers after about a 10 km walk. Just above the forest line, three rivers merge and, in fact, Left Shumak is formed in this place. Here, tourists can also see a beautiful waterfall where the water falls into a deep canyon from a height of 30 m.
- 4 Shumaksky Mineral Springs contains a glacial and moraine mountain lake, Shumaksky waterfall with a height of 8 m, thermal carbon dioxide springs in the Shumak River valley, cult places, Child Mountain and the place of Mother's Power called Khuukhein-Khaada.

Shumak is a corner of wild nature with its own legends and tales. Shumaksky Springs are located at an altitude of 1,558 m in the mountains of the Eastern Sayan on the Shumak River.

Since ancient times, local population has been aware of these springs. This is evidenced by inscriptions in ancient Mongolian and Tibetan languages, providing information about the healing properties of the water and rules for taking it.

The waters of Shumaksky Springs are used to treat various diseases. Besides, tourists can swim in the Shumaksky Radon Spring.

Springs can be reached by foot, horseback, and helicopter.



Additional information

- Tourist equipment, sports shoes, warm clothes and a raincoat are necessary to take the route.
- Tourists should be accompanied by an instructor to visit the route.
- Children from 7 to 14 years old can take the route only if accompanied by their parents or as part of children's groups.
- Tourists should get vaccinated against tick-borne encephalitis, get insurance against tick bites, attend training on safety precautions and rules for going on the route.

Directorate
of the Tunkinsky National Park



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REPUBLIC OF BURYATIA

A JOURNEY TO THE YURGON WATERFALL



Length
284 km
by car — 272 km
on foot — 12 km



Height difference
860 m
120–980 m



Best time to visit
June — November



Approximate duration
1–2 days

How to get to the starting point of the route



By bus:
Kurumkan
Bus Station

Route map

- ▼ Ulan-Ude
- ▼ Kurumkan Village
- ▼ Umkhei Cordon
- ▼ Birankur Entnic Town
- ▼ Kovyli Cordon
- ▼ Jurgon Waterfall
- ▼ Kovyli Cordon
- ▼ Birankur Ethnic Town
- ▼ Umkhei Cordon
- ▼ Kurumkan Village
- ▼ Ulan-Ude

- 1 The village of Kurumkan is located in the north of Buryatia at a distance of 411 km in the northeast from Ulan-Ude, 53 km in the east from Lake Baikal. The Barguzinsky Range protects the village from the severe Baikal winds. Russians, Buryats, Evenks, Tatars and other nationalities live in the Kurumkan area.
- 2 The land of Kurumkan is a northern health resort of Buryatia. There are more than 50 mineral water springs here. Natural health resorts named Kuchiger, Umkhei, Alla, Buksyken as well as the Dzherginsky Nature Reserve are becoming the most popular tourist facilities from year to year.
- 3 The Umkhei Cordon is a checkpoint of the Dzherginsky Nature Reserve. Here, tourists undergo an identity check and a safety briefing.
- 4 There is an overnight stay in the ethnocultural complex of the indigenous people of Buryatia where tourists can experience everyday life of the indigenous people of these wonderful protected areas. They can feel like a true nomadic people while spending a night in the Evenki tent or the true Buryat yurt.
- 5 The Kovyli Cordon is a starting point of the walking route. The cordon is a small transit point which has a winter hut, a gazebo and a sanitary area.
- 6 The waterfall of the Jurgon River is located in a small picturesque canyon. Its height is about 4 m, width about 3 m. The stream falls into the azure lake, below which a pebble island is located.



Additional information

- Necessary equipment: a sleeping bag, a tourist mat, trekking shoes for hiking and rough terrain, trekking poles, a change of clothes, a change of shoes, a raincoat, personal care products.
- Hunting, fishing, gathering wild plants and collecting wood for a fire are not allowed while taking the route.
- Note: It is better to enter the territory of the nature reserve early in the morning

around 07:00–08:00 as it is more likely to observe wild animals (roe deer, moose, red deer (elk) and others) in the natural environment during their morning feed.

- The nature reserve provides monacles and binoculars for comfortable observation of animals (the service is included in the price). Food is not included in the price but there are places for cooking and having meals as well as dishes, gas and fire equipment.



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Officer of the Administration
of the Dzherginsky State
Nature Reserve
Mr. Sergey Shvetshov



REPUBLIC OF SAKHA (YAKUTIA)

LENA PILLARS IN WINTER



Length
3 km



Height difference
200 m



Best time to visit
March — April



Approximate duration
1 day



How to get to the starting point
By plane:
Yakutsk International Airport



By train: Nizhny Bestyakh Railway Station



By ferry:
Nizhny Bestyakh Pier to Yakutsk

Route map



Yakutsk



Yelansky Rocks



Lena Pillars National Park



Yakutsk

1

Yakutsk is the capital of the largest region in Russia. The Sakha Republic (Yakutia) is located in the northeastern part of Siberia.

There is permafrost here and frosts in winter can reach -50°C. At the same time, it is hot in summer, so Yakutia is considered a land of contrasts.

2

Tourists leave Yakutsk and travel for 200 km. They see local attractions along the way.

They go along the winter road to the Lena River and stop in the caves and grottoes of the Yelansky Rocks.

3

Travelers climb the path to the top of Lena Pillars. The path is 3 km long while the height of Lena Pillars rocks is 200 m.

Lena Pillars is a unique natural monument of the region in permafrost conditions. It is considered a pearl of the Republic of Sakha (Yakutia) and its main and most recognizable landmark included in the UNESCO World Heritage Sites List.

Hundreds of foreign tourists and local residents annually visit the Lena Pillars National Park.

The park got its name from 200 meter tall stone idols that can be seen there. They are formed from the remains of ancient plants and animals that existed on the territory of ancient Yakutia.

Forests of the park are home to bears, lynxes, wolverines, wolves, squirrels, elks, red deer, hares, muskrats, golden eagles, eagle owls, falcons, and white herons. There are 42 species of mammals and 102 species of birds, many of which are listed in the Russian Red Data Book.

After visiting the national park, guests will head back to Yakutsk.



Additional information

Tourists are recommended to carry:

- a hiking backpack (30–100 litres);
- warm clothes (a jacket, pants, a hat, a scarf);
- personal utensils and food including a mug, a spoon, a bowl, a knife and a thermos with hot tea.



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Tour Operator



REPUBLIC OF SAKHA (YAKUTIA)

TOUR BULUUS – TURUK HAIA – KURULUUR



Length

2 km



Height difference

100 m



Best time
to visit

June – August



Approximate
duration

1 day

Route map



Yakutsk



Nizhny Bestyakh



Buluus Glacier



Turuk Haia



Kuruluur



Yakutsk

1

As tourists leave Yakutsk, they take a ferry to Nizhny Bestyakh and travel to the Buluus glacier.

After lunch, they will walk around the territory of the Buluus complex. Buluus is a unique natural site. Its name means “glacier” in the Yakut language.

There are few places in the world where tourists can find a place with so many contrasts. Summer in Yakutia is very hot. It dries out forests and burns the tops of trees. During this time, there is only one place where the mountains of ice and snow can be found. Tourists will experience amazing sensations when they walk on the ice in the heat.

2

Travelers will also visit Turuk Khaya Rock. “Turuk Khaya” means “sheer cliff” in the Yakut language. Tourists can enjoy the panorama of the Samartay Valley from this rock.

3

Guests will appreciate the scenery of Kuruluur Waterfalls. They also have an opportunity to swim in the Menda River.

Kuruluur is a small but quite fascinating waterfall located on the Menda River. The Menda River flows into the Lena River from the rocky Aldan Mountains. Stones, which have acquired a unique appearance under the flow of water, fit very harmoniously with the landscapes of forest taiga. Crystal clear and invigorating water as well as clear forest air will guarantee good memories to any tourist. The waterfall is located in a picturesque place surrounded by the pine forest.



Additional information

Tourists need to carry snacks and water, a mosquito repellent, a bottle for collecting water and hiking clothes according to the weather.



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REPUBLIC OF SAKHA (YAKUTIA)

COLOURED DZHAPKACHANA MOUNTAINS AND MARBLE MOUNTAIN. THE BUORDAKH MASSIF OF THE CHERSKY RANGE



Length
80 km



Height difference
2,300 m



Best time
to visit
August



Approximate
duration
1 day



How to get to
the starting point

**By plane: Yakutsk
International Airport**



**By train: Nizhny Bestyakh
Railway Station**



**By ferry:
from Nizhny Bestyakh Pier
to Yakutsk Pier**

Route map

- ▼ Yakutsk
- ▼ Lake Bugchan
- ▼ Chuk River
- ▼ Southern Chuk Pass
- ▼ Dzhapkachan River
- ▼ Marble Mountain
- ▼ Yakutsk

- ① The route goes through the valley of high-mountain lakes, through the gorges of the Buordakh massif and includes a visit to Southern Chuk glacier.
- ② Apart from the glacier, there are such sightseeings along the route as colored mountains of the Dzhapkachan River valley and Marble Mountain. This area is a paradise for people who are fond of taking nature photographs as it is very bright and beautiful.
- ③ One of the main features of marble in this area is its unique ability to be translucent to a depth of up to 7 cm making it a valuable material for sculpture. The transparency of such marble gives volume and internal warmth to sculptures.
- ④ The Ulakhan-Chistay section of the Arctic winter road can for sure be added to the list of attractions. Its beautiful views catch the attention of professional travelers and photographers from all over the world.



Additional information

The group is equipped with all the necessary camping gear: fire accessories, tents, sleeping bags, mats, tents, ropes, a satellite phone.



InYakutia Tour Operator



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REPUBLIC OF SAKHA (YAKUTIA)

GOLDEN ROCKS



Length
331 km



Height difference
100 m



Best time to visit
June — August



Approximate duration
8 days



How to get to the starting point

By plane: Yakutsk International Airport



By train: Nizhny Bestyakh Railway Station



By ferry: from Nizhny Bestyakh Pier to Yakutsk Pier

Route map



Yakutsk



Berdigestyakh



Uorannaakh



Andreevsky Petroglyphs



Serdechko (Heart) Group of Rocks



Singing Rocks



Yunkur Rocks



Lena Pillars National Park



Tit-Ary

**Chuchuna Regional
Tourist Center**

①

The tourist group leaves Yakutsk and heads to the village of Berdigestyakh (187 km). The transfer is organized from Berdigestyakh to the Sinyaya River (90 km). The route lies through off-road, marshy areas of the Yakut taiga. The guests will spend the night at the Uorannah recreation center. They need all-terrain vehicle to get to the starting point of the route.

②

There is a start of rafting and the beginning of the inspection of ancient petroglyphs! After assembling catamarans, rafting to the Kyra Tas River begins. On the way, the group will make a stop to visit ancient Andreevsky petroglyphs. Petroglyphs date back to a thousand years BC. They indicate that people inhabited these places in ancient times.

③

The Sinyaya River basin is rich and diverse in wildlife. There are a lot of moose in this area. They can be seen in the early morning hours when they take a drink. Along the banks, tourists can see bears, roe deer, hares, foxes, squirrels and other inhabitants of the Yakut taiga. They can observe the scenes of hunting these animals in the drawings of ancient people. During this day, tourists will go rafting to the Serdechko (Heart) group of rocks.

④

Guests will set off on a journey to the Singing Rocks with a height of up to 125 m. Due to the structure of the rocks, a special sound is created by the wind walking through them. Tourists will also reach Amma Chygyn petroglyphs which were discovered in 1993 on the left bank of the Sinyaya River at a distance of 54 km away from the river's mouth. Here, there are nine places with 163 drawings made with dark red, red and light red ochre.

⑤

Tourists will take a break from rafting but will take an excursion to grottoes of the Singing Rocks.

⑥

The rafting continues and tourists head to the long ridge of Yunkur Rocks.

⑦

After rafting to the village of Sinsk, tourists will go to the Lena River, get acquainted with Petrovsky Rock paintings and visit the Lena Pillars National Park. The group will set up a tent camp on a sandy island opposite Lena Pillars.

⑧

On the final day, tourists will raft to the village of Tit-Ary in the Khangalassky district. Then they will dry their rafting equipment.

In the evening, the group will return to Yakutsk.



Additional information

The group is equipped with all the necessary camping gear (catamaran with outboard motor, oars, life jackets, tents, mats, sleeping bags).



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SAKHALIN REGION


ZHDANKO RIDGE




Length
220 km



Height difference
510 m




Best time to visit
May – October



Approximate duration
1 day

How to get to the starting point



By plane:
Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk International Airport

- Route map
- Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk
 - Dolinsk
 - Vzmorye
 - Zhdanko Ridge
 - Vzmorye
 - Dolinsk
 - Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk

1 Vzmorye is located on the shore of the Sea of Okhotsk. This is a village of fishermen: they fish here all year round.


This historical place once was a Japanese territory, and the torii temple gate has been preserved since then. The sea sometimes throws up pieces of amber on the sandy shore opposite the torii.

One of the attractions of the village is also the local market where tourists can buy crabs and shrimps.

In winter, Vzmorye is the snowiest place in Sakhalin.

2 Zhdanko Ridge is one of Sakhalin's landmarks. It is a natural monument of regional significance and a complex of mountain and seaside ecosystems. According to scientists, it was formed by frozen lava flows during the formation of the volcano. The mountain chain is 13 km long. The highest point of the range is Zhdanko Mountain which is 682 m above sea level.


Zhdanko ridge is a steeply sloping mountain ridge, the crest of which is crowned with numerous rocky scallops. It is quite a rare mountain formation for the Sakhalin nature. Sargent juniper, edelweisses, and peonies can be found here. Lingonberries and evergreen shiksha bush bear abundant fruit in this area. These berries cure insomnia and serve as an excellent remedy for chronic fatigue syndrome.




Additional information

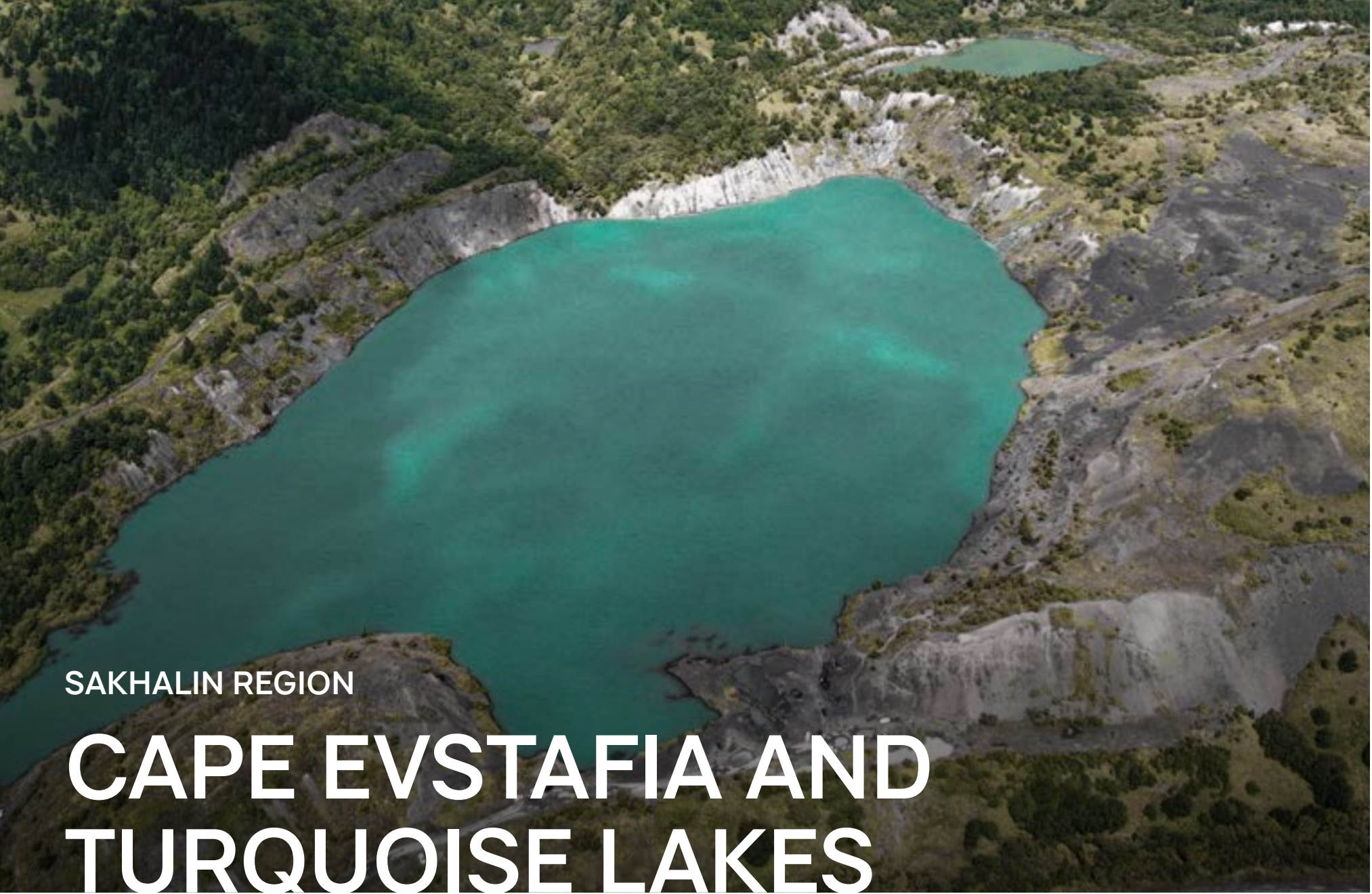
Detailed information on the website: <https://gosakhalin.ru>.



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Sakhalin Tourist
and Information Center



SAKHALIN REGION

CAPE EVSTAFIA AND TURQUOISE LAKES



Length
150 km



Best time
to visit
May – November



Approximate
duration
1 day

How to get to
the starting point



By plane:
Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk
International Airport

Route map

- ▼ Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk
- ▼ Korsakov
- ▼ Novikovo
- ▼ Cape Evstafia
- ▼ Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk

- 1 Korsakov is one of the largest ports on Sakhalin. It is located in 40 km away from Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk.
- 2 The abandoned lighthouse in Aniva Bay is one of the major sightseeings of the town. This place is considered one of the most beautiful corners of the Russia's seaside. When the weather is good and sunny, the coast of Japan and Kuril Islands can be seen from there.
- 3 Another interesting place to visit is Lake Busse. The lake is formed by the lagoon and is considered the most beautiful lake of the Sakhalin Island. Here, tourists can ride a boat, catch oysters, scallops, sea urchins and enjoy magnificent sceneries.
- 4 The village of Novikovo is the most southeastern settlement of Sakhalin nestled on the shores of Aniva Bay. Novikovo has been established a century ago and has gone down in history as a center of the island's coal industry, providing up to 80% of all the germanium production in the Soviet Union.
- 5 In Soviet times, the Turquoise Lakes were quarries where coal was extracted. But after the mine was abandoned, quarries were filled with rainwater. The colour of these lakes is turquoise due to the high content of sulfosol germanate. They look very spectacular, especially in sunny weather, and in winter they freeze later than other lakes.
- 6 Cape Evstafia is one of the most beautiful and impressive places which is located almost at the very tip of the eastern coast of Sakhalin Island. Its height is only 51 m but it offers a stunning panorama which gives an extraordinary feeling of flying. It incorporates a view from the upper part of the cape to the south, to Cape Pavlovich as well as Cape Aniva, the extreme south-eastern point of Sakhalin. The cape offers mesmerizing views to all sides of the world. It is surrounded by crystal clear water, rocky landscape and incredibly delicious, fresh smell of the sea.



Additional information

Detailed information on the website: <https://gosakhalin.ru>.



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SAKHALIN REGION

PUGACHEVSKY MUD VOLCANO



Length
165 km



Height difference
45 m



Best time to visit
May – November



Approximate duration
1 day

How to get to the starting point



By plane:
Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk International Airport

- Route map
- Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk
 - Dolinsk
 - Starodubskoye
 - Vzmorye
 - Pugachevsky Mud Volcano
 - Vzmorye
 - Starodubskoye
 - Dolinsk
 - Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk

Sakhalin Tourist and Information Center

- 1 The village of Starodubskoe was founded on the site of the old oak forest in 1886. At first, it was called Dubki (Oaks).

Here, in the coast of the Sea of Okhotsk, people have traditionally been engaged in fishing, so tourists can try a lot of delicious fish dishes in the village. Besides, guests can find yellow amber at the local beach.
- 2 This area has a rich history as the largest ancient Sakhalin human settlements were found here. They date back to III–II thousand years BC.
- 3 Though there are several sightseeings worth visiting in the area of Starodubskoe and Vzmorye, the most famous one is Pugachevsky Mud Volcano. It is a unique nature phenomenon. The surface of the huge mud spot with a diameter of 4 km reminds of the lunar desert with gray dried mud, craters and rare marsh herbs and flowers. This is not an ordinary volcano. Its view resembles a huge eye from above. This place will provide unique experience to any tourist and will leave an unforgettable impression of visiting another planet.



Additional information

Detailed information on the website: www.gosakhalin.ru.





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TRANS-BAIKAL TERRITORY

ADON CHELON, A STEPPE MIRACLE



Length
6.5 km



Height differences
985 m



Best time to visit
June – August



Approximate duration
1 day

How to get to the starting point



By plane: Chita International Airport, the distance from Nizhny Tsasuchey (central manor) is 274 km



By train: Chita Railway Station-2, the distance from Nizhny Tsasuchey (central manor) is 250 km



By personal transport: It is possible to get to the reserve from the nearest cities by personal transport. The distance from Chita to ecological trails is around 300 km. The administration of the Daursky Nature Reserve provides buses from the central manor on the routes and to the accommodation




By bus: Regular buses and minibuses daily run from Chita to Nizhny Tsasuchey. The duration of the trip is 4 hours

- Route map
- ▼ Nizhny Tsasuchey
 - ▼ Defeated Dragons Rock Complex
 - ▼ Waters of Heaven Rock
 - ▼ Stone Woman Rock
 - ▼ Chameleon Rock
 - ▼ Grandfather Rock
 - ▼ Elm Grove
 - ▼ Halt Rock
 - ▼ Nizhny Tsasuchey

Directorate of the Daursky
State Nature Biosphere
Reserve

- 1 Visitors of the route will meet bizarre piles of rocks which resemble fairytale giants, existing and extinct animals, ruined castles and cities in their shape.
- 2 Guests will get acquainted with the flora of the meadow steppe. There are more than 360 species of higher vascular plants. The fauna of this tract is also diverse. Owl, kestrel, shaggy-legged barrow, steppe eagle, white-bellied swift, rocky pigeon nest in the rocks. Manul, zokor, Siberian roe deer and many other animals also inhabit this area.
- 3 The tract is considered sacred by local residents. A religious building has been built on the highest mountain of the Tsagan-Obo massif. The route is popular among visitors of all ages.



Additional information

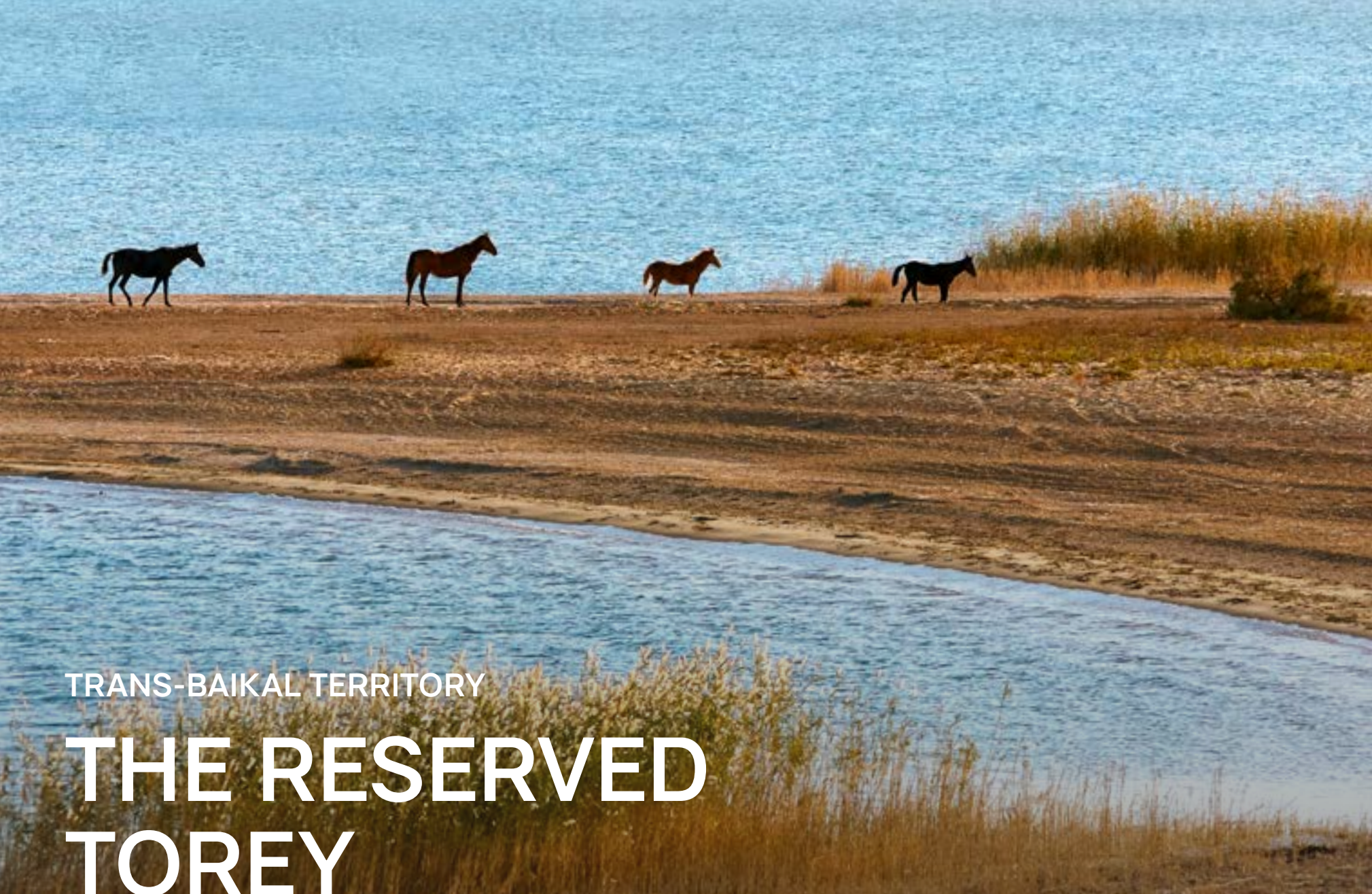
- The length of the trail is 3.5 km.
- The trail is located in a strictly protected area.
- Elements of the arrangement include information boards, a gazebo, a bonfire, a recreation area and a toilet.
- The trail is marked and equipped with information boards. An entrance board provides general information about the rock massif, the shape and length of the route, main natural sights, rules of conduct on the trail. There are also thematic boards at trail stops.
- The trail is equipped with recreation areas (gazebo), a fire pit, a toilet.

- Equipment: Visitors must wear closed shoes with non-slip soles and need to have hats and sunglasses.
- It is desirable to get vaccinated against tick-borne encephalitis before the visit.
- Note: The Adon-Chelon tract, where the trail is laid, is located at a distance of more than 120 km away from the central office of the Daursky Nature Reserve in Nizhny Tsasuchey village. The tract can be reached in 1.5 hours by a car provided by the reserve.
- Difficulty: The hiking route does not require special training and special equipment. It is not recommended to take children under 7 years old on the route.



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TRANS-BAIKAL TERRITORY

THE RESERVED TOREY



Length
160 km



Height differences
100 m
600–700 m



Best time to visit
May – September



Approximate duration
1 day



How to get to the starting point
By plane: Chita International Airport, the distance from Nizhny Tsasuchey (central manor) is 274 km



By train: Chita Railway Station-2, the distance from Nizhny Tsasuchey (central manor) is 250 km



By personal transport: It is possible to get to the reserve from the nearest cities by personal transport. The distance from Chita to ecological trails is around 300 km. The administration of the Daursky Nature Reserve provides buses from the central manor along the routes and to the accommodation



By bus: Regular buses and minibuses daily run from Chita to Nizhny Tsasuchey. The average duration of the trip is 4 hours

Route map

- ▼ Nizhny Tsasuchey
- ▼ Lake Barun-Torey
- ▼ Chiholan Mountain
- ▼ Aral Island
- ▼ Tali Cordon
- ▼ Nizhny Tsasuchey

Directorate of the Daursky State Nature Biosphere Reserve

- 1 Tourists will get acquainted with the fauna and flora of the Daurian steppes. The Torey Lakes, the greatest lakes of the Trans-Baikal Territory, are the main regional attraction. Many birds can be observed on the shores of these lakes and generally in this area. They include such rare ones as relict gull, swan goose and demoiselle crane.
- 2 The steppes around the Torey Lakes are the only place in Russia where the Dzeren antelope lives and breeds. Guests of the route will have an opportunity to see its free herds. Besides, it is possible to meet camels grazing peacefully here as well as perform an ancient Buddhist ritual on Obo (formation of stones) on the sacred Tali Mountain. The northern coast of Lake Zun-Torey is a range of hills of volcanic origin. On a hot summer day, swimming in the milky-white water of Lake Zun-Torey will leave a lasting impression on any visitor.



Additional information

- The route is located in the border area, so it is necessary to carry a passport and get a pass to the border area in advance.
- It is desirable to get vaccinated against tick-borne encephalitis before the visit.
- Visitors should wear closed shoes with non-slip soles and need to have hats, sunglasses and raincoats in case of rain.
- Difficulty: The route does not require special training or special equipment.



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Review of Ecotourism Development

IN CHINA



5

National parks



112

Ecotourism demonstration areas



897

National forest parks



921

National water conservancy scenic spots



In China, the concept of ecotourism was introduced more than 30 years ago, in the 1990s. Nowadays, ecotourism has become a popular type of tourism that contributes to environmental protection and green development.

In 2005, President of the People's Republic of China Xi Jinping proposed a concept of "lucid waters and lush mountains are invaluable assets" which highlighted the importance of protecting ecological environment and fostering sustainable development as well as expanded the meaning of ecotourism development. Guided by the concept, the new-era ecotourism refers to those tourism activities that are people-oriented and based on harmonious coexistence between man and nature.

At the national level, the basic document for ecotourism regulation is the Development Plan for National Ecotourism (2016–2025). Its objectives include coordination of ecotourism development nationwide, strengthening coordination and interaction between tourism development and ecological protection as well as exploring new ways of revitalizing rural areas through ecotourism. According to this document, "ecotourism is a way of tourism to conduct ecological experience, ecological cognition and ecological education and acquire happiness in both body and mind, by appreciating natural ecological environment and its co-existing cultural ecology."

The document highlights such principles of the national ecotourism development as: prioritizing nature protection; adapting measures to local conditions and providing guidance to promote ecotourism in different regions; exploring new ways for ecotourism development to promote poverty alleviation in poverty-stricken areas; carrying out cooperation in natural resource protection, product development, route organization, publicity and promotion; actively exploring the potential of innovative ecological tourism investment and financing, environmental education, etc.

China has identified eight ecotourism areas in the plan. The regions presented in the handbook (Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region, Heilongjiang Province, Jilin Province and Liaoning Province) belong to the first area called Northeast Plain Ecological Tourism Area.

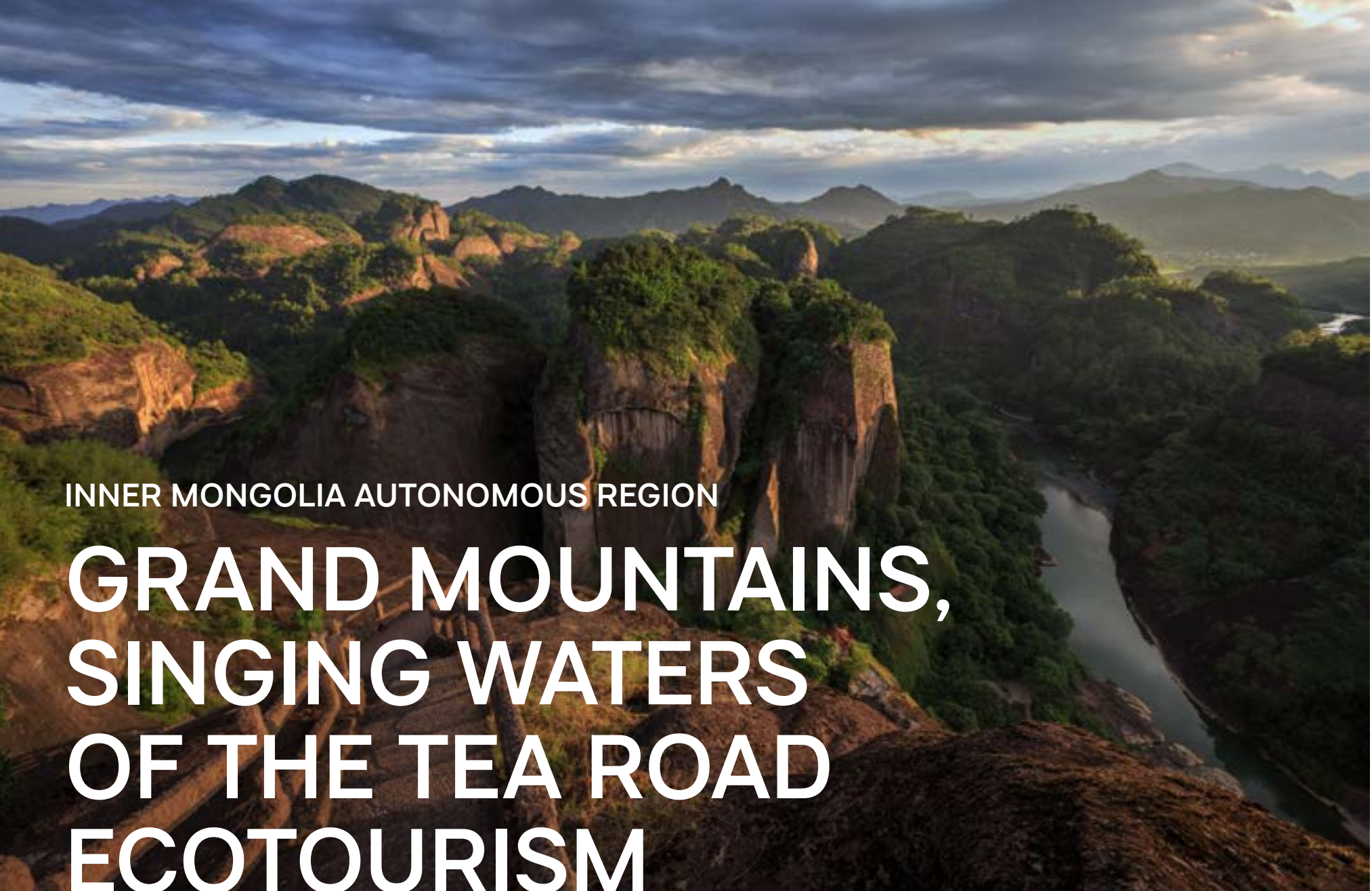
The key development direction of this area is to rely on forests, wetlands, grasslands and ice and snow tourism resources. One of the priorities of the development of this area is also to strengthen cooperation with Japan, South Korea, Russia, North Korea and Mongolia to create cross-border ecotourism routes.

Besides, national standards such as "National Ecotourism Demonstration Zone Construction and Operation Specifications", "National Green Tourism Demonstration Base Standard" and "Green Tourism Scenic Area" have been launched to effectively promote the standardized development of ecotourism products.

In addition, Several Measures on Releasing Tourism Consumption Potential and Promoting the High-quality Development of Tourism were released in 2023. The document is aimed at enriching the supply of high-quality tourism, tapping the potential of tourism consumption, promoting the high-quality development of tourism and highlighting the important role of tourism in promoting economic and social development.

In the context of ecotourism, it is indicated in the explanatory material that new formats and new products are to be constantly developed, especially regarding ecological education, ecological camping, outdoor sports together with other products that are highly in demand and meet the needs of the people to enjoy beautiful ecological environment, excellent ecological products and high-quality ecological services.

According to the Bulletin on China's Land Greening published in 2023 by the Office of the National Afforestation Commission of the People's Republic of China, the number of ecotourists in China reached 2.531 billion in 2023, accounting for more than half of the total domestic travelers. In its turn, the ecotourism market has been continuously growing, accounting for more than 60% of the national tourism market.



INNER MONGOLIA AUTONOMOUS REGION

GRAND MOUNTAINS, SINGING WATERS OF THE TEA ROAD ECOTOURISM



Length
1,600 km



Height difference
3,000 m



Best time to visit
July



Approximate duration
12 days

How to get to the
starting point



By plane:
Hailar Dongshan
Airport

Route map



Hulunbuir, Hohhot (Inner
Mongolia Autonomous Region)



Wuhan Yangtze River Hankou
(Hubei Province)



Yueyang, Dongting Lake
(Hunan Province)



Huangshan Mountain
(Anhui Province)



Lushan Mountain
(Jiangxi Province)



Wuyi Mountain
(Fujian Province)

- ① Hulunbuir grassland is a world-renowned natural pasture and one of the four major grasslands in the world, with a total area of 113,000 km².
- ② Daxing'anling is one of China's important forestry bases, with more than 1,800 species of rare wild plants.
- ③ The Yellow River flows through Inner Mongolia, forming natural landscapes such as grasslands, deserts, mountains, and canyons along the river.



Inner Mongolia Autonomous
Region Culture and Tourism
Department



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LIAONING PROVINCE

A TOUR OF SUMMER LANDSCAPES



Best time to visit
April – October

Route map

- ▼ Manchu Customs Park
- ▼ Daya River Rafting
- ▼ Longdaogou Red Maple Scenic Spot
- ▼ Benxi Grand Canyon
- ▼ Land of Jade Culture
- ▼ Estuary Scenic Spot

The following route includes visiting Benxi, Anshan, and Dandong.

- 1 Manchu Customs Park presents architecture buildings which possess characteristics of Qing palaces. Here, tourists can immerse into the world of local folk customs such as the ancestor worship show performed by more than 100 people at regular time.
- 2 As one of AAAA national tourist attractions (according to China's national classification, the highest rating of tourism facilities is AAAAA), Daya River Rafting is a great resort for rafting, sightseeing, catering, accommodation, entertainment and shopping. Rafting is its most distinct and interesting activity.
- 3 Longdaogou Red Maple Scenic Resort is an AAA national tourist attraction. Tourists get a great chance to experience the most ecological landscapes here such as large reservoirs, hanging bridges and waterfalls.
- 4 The Benxi Grand Canyon is an AAAA national tourist attraction. Tourists will enjoy the landscapes with unique geological structure, hanging waterfalls and natural rural customs here.
- 5 The Land of Jade Culture is located in Xiuyan Manchu Autonomous County. This place is perfect to feel the great charm of Xiuyan jade culture.
- 6 Estuary Scenic Spot is situated along the Yalu River boasting beautiful scenery. Besides, the Dandong Estuary Peach Blossom Festival is annually held here in April and May.



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LIAONING PROVINCE

AN ECOLOGICAL COUNTRYSIDE TOUR



Best time to visit
early March – late August

Route map

- ① Seven Star Mountain Scenic Spot
- ② Rice Field Art Landscape
- ③ Flowers Valley Ecological Scenic Spot
- ④ Jiuzhou Colorful Theme Park
- ⑤ Yangchengzhai Ecotourism Area

The following route includes visiting Shenyang, Anshan, Fushun, Liaoyang, and Tieling.

- ① Seven Star Mountain Scenic Spot has lovely natural sceneries and beautiful environment. It was formed at the end of the Jurassic period and got such a name because its shape resembles the Big Dipper. In the area, there are numerous cultural landscapes and historical sites such as the Great Wall and Beacon Towers of the Ming dynasty as well as some modern battle forts.
- ② Shenyang Rice Field Art Landscape is an AAAA national tourist attraction. It demonstrates the splendid rice culture of China with its picturesque landscapes formed by rice fields in different colors.
- ③ Flowers Valley Ecological Scenic Spot is a great place for entertainment and relaxation. There are many different functional parts such as a maze of sunflowers, a sea of flowers, a grassland for leisure, a fairground for kids, a catering center, the folks customs museum and a water entertainment area.
- ④ Jiuzhou Colorful Theme Park is the first animation theme park in China. It will leave kids impressed with its magical animation experience.
- ⑤ Yangchengzhai Ecotourism Area is an AAA national tourist attraction. Tourists can experience the fun and excitement of strawberry and grape picking there.



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LIAONING PROVINCE

A TOUR OF SCENIC MAPLES



Best time to visit
**early August –
late October**

Route map

- ① 30th River Village of Qingyuan Manchu Autonomous County
- ② Chenying Village of Benxi Manchu Autonomous County, Fushun
- ③ Peace Village of Huanren County, Benxi
- ④ Sandaowan Village of Kuandian Manchu Autonomous County, Dandong
- ⑤ Pear Trees Village of Phoenix City, Dandong

The following route includes visiting Fushun, Benxi, and Dandong.

- ① 30th River Village in Fushun Qingyuan Manchu Autonomous County has Red River Valley National Forest Park. Meanwhile its famous rafting project has the reputation of the best rafting locations in northern China.
- ② Chengying Village in Benxi Manchu Autonomous County has a national AAAA tourist attraction, Guanmen Mountain Forest Park, which forest coverage rate reaches 95%. The park has well-preserved vegetation, including many ancient trees, and wonderful sceneries.
- ③ Famous Tiger Valley Scenic Spot in Peace Village of Huanren County, Benxi, is an ideal place for maintaining a healthy lifestyle.
- ④ Sandaowan Village in Kuandian Manchu Autonomous County has a lot of fascinating landscapes. With an annual maximum temperature not exceeding 30°C, it is an excellent summer resort. There is a unique 15 km long maple leaf landscape road in the village. Every autumn, red leaves covering mountains and forests attract many tourists.
- ⑤ Dalishu Village in Fengshan District, Dandong is a national key village for rural tourism. Dalishu Village offers visitors a variety of tours including colorful pastoral low-carbon tour, “Yaowang Valley” health tour, “Film and Television City” experience tour etc., forming an environment for the integrated development of culture and tourism.



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LIAONING PROVINCE

A TRIP OF HOT SPRINGS IN ICE AND SNOW



Best time to visit
early August – late October

Route map

- | | |
|--|--|
| <p>⌵ Zhongsi Village, Shenbei New District, Shenyang</p> <p>⌵ Wangshilan Village, Lixiang Street, Hunnan District, Shenyang</p> <p>⌵ Fushun Royal Polar Ocean Park</p> <p>⌵ Tongzhuang Village, Hou'an Town, Fushun</p> <p>⌵ Sanhuichang Village, Huoliansai Street Office, Xihu District, Benxi</p> | <p>⌵ Hanjiayu Village, Tiedong District, Anshan</p> <p>⌵ Tanggangzi Village, Tanggangzi Street, Qianshan District, Anshan</p> <p>⌵ Huandong Village, Huandong Town, Tai'an County, Anshan.</p> |
|--|--|

The following route includes visiting Shenyang, Anshan, Fushun, and Benxi.

- ① Zhongsi Village is located at the foot of the Changbai Mountain. It is surrounded by mountains on three sides as well as by the Changhe River. It is adjacent to the AAA-level national tourist attraction, Shenyang National Forest Park. Shenyang Northeast Asia Ski Resort is also situated here. The ski resort offers skiing, snow biking, snow motorcycle, and other snow activities.
- ② The Ice and Snow World in Shenyang Jiuzhou-Seven-Colour Theme Park has many exciting entertainment activities, which are perfect for young people to relax and enjoy refreshing winter.
- ③ Fushun Royal Polar Ocean Park is the largest marine theme park in Asia. It is divided into five major themes: the Ocean World, the Polar World, the Beach Water World, the Animal World, and the Happy World.
- ④ Tongzhuang Village in Fushun City is one of the tourist attractions featuring traditional Chinese revolutionary culture.
- ⑤ The Ice and Snow Program in Sankuaishi National Forest Park includes activities to experience ice and snow culture as well as to enjoy ice and snow sports. This is a comprehensive ice and snow training complex that combines training facilities with snow entertainment activities.
- ⑥ Sanhuichang Village in Benxi City is an AAA-level national tourist attraction. It is a multifunctional sports and leisure resort providing various services in such spheres as sports, tourism, entertainment, leisure, catering, and accommodation.
- ⑦ Hanjiayu Village in Anshan City is located at the foot of Qianshan Mountain. It is surrounded by mountains on three sides and is rich in forest resources serving as a natural oxygen bar. Hanjiayu Village also owns spectacular historical and cultural heritage.
- ⑧ Tanggangzi Village in Anshan City is a place with magnificent hot springs. Its major hallmark is mud therapy. While enjoying the nourishment of hot springs, tourists can experience rural customs by savoring typical northeastern dishes such as preserved cabbages with pork and potato noodles as well as by sitting on a Chinese heated brick bed.
- ⑨ In Huandong Town, Tai'an County, Anshan City, Huandong Village there is an AAA-level national tourist attraction called Longhu Hot Spring Resort. It is known for the health benefits of its high mineral hot spring water. It is a tourist village which integrates colourful southern scenery, ecological agriculture, and northern hot springs.



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HEILONGJIANG PROVINCE

THE MYSTERIOUS SNOW LAND



Best time to visit
**November –
February**



How to get to the
starting point

Plane:
Harbin Taiping
International Airport

Route map

- ▼ Harbin
- ▼ Yabuli Skiing Center
- ▼ Snow Town
- ▼ Jingpo Lake



- 1 Tourists will go to Harbin, the capital city of Heilongjiang, to explore the world's biggest snow and ice theme park called Ice and Snow World and to visit the world's biggest Snow Sculpture Art Expo on Sun Island.
- 2 They will also go to Harbin Polarland to watch Beluga's show and to see the polar bears, penguins, and other polar animals.
- 3 Visitors will then go to Ice and Snow Carnival on the Songhua River and to Sunac Park to experience a variety of ice and snow recreational activities. They will also head to Central Street and St. Sophia Church to appreciate the unique style of architecture while trying some Harbin specialties such as crispy sweet sour pork (Guo Bao Rou) and Madieer Ice Cream.
- 4 Guests will head east from Harbin to experience alpine skiing at Yabuli Skiing Center and see giant pandas in China's northernmost panda house.
- 5 Tourists will also go to Snow Town to enjoy a variety of charming snow scenery in China. In Snow Town, it begins to snow in October every year. The snow lasts for 7 months, and the depth of snow can reach almost 2 m. Visitors can do ice sliding, have snowball fights, watch Northeast Yangko dance, and try local and rural dishes. They can also feel the charm of walking through the forest and snow fields.
- 6 Guests will visit China's largest ice waterfall located within Jingpo Lake. They will see the wonders of the ice waterfall and spectacular scenes of winter fishing.



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HEILONGJIANG PROVINCE

THE EXTRAORDINARY VIEW OF TWO LAKES



Best time to visit
**June —
October**



How to get to
the starting point
By plane:
Harbin Taiping
International Airport



Then by train:
Mudanjiang

Route map

- ▼ Harbin
- ▼ Mudanjiang
- ▼ Jingpo Lake
- ▼ Xingkai Lake



- ① Tourists will go to Jingpo Lake National Scenic Area in Mudanjiang to enjoy beautiful views. Jingpo Lake is the world's largest volcanic lava dammed lake. It is surrounded by mountains with beautiful scenery. The lake also has Diaoshuilou Waterfall along the shore as well as eight other beautiful sightseeing spots. Diaoshuilou Waterfall falls from a height of 12 m. The maximum width of the waterfall is more than 400 m. Here, visitors can also enjoy the amazing performance of waterfall diving.
- ② Another major sightseeing is Xingkai Lake Scenic Area in Jixi. Xingkai Lake is a border lake between China and Russia. Tourists can enjoy the beach and bath under the sun. They can also participate in water recreational activities and take a boat ride to feel the magnificence of the lake. Redfin culter (Da Bai Yu in Chinese) is a speciality of Xingkai Lake. It is one of the four major freshwater fishes in China and tourists should not lose an opportunity to try the dish made of it!



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JILIN PROVINCE

FANTASTIC ICE
AND SNOW



Length
1,534 km



Height difference
2,691 m



Best time to visit
**mid-December —
late February**



Approximate duration
8 days



How to get to
the starting point

By plane:
Changchun Longjia
International Airport

Route map

- Changchun
- Jilin City
- Yanbian Korean Autonomous Prefecture
- Changbai Mountain
- Baishan City
- Changchun City

- Changchun is a capital of Jilin Province and one of the 15 sub-provincial cities in China. Changchun has a population of 9.06 million people and a vast land of 24,744 km². It is famous as Auto City, Movie City, Forest City, Sculpture City, Science and Education City. Based on these labels, Changchun has been considered one of the “happiest” cities in China for a long time.
- Located in the Tiandingshan Tourist Resort Town of Changchun, Changchun Ice and Snow New World is an ice and snow theme park integrating ice and snow sightseeings and ice and snow entertainment. There are such activities as interactive performances, ice and snow disco, firework shows, so tourists can have a unique experience with the enthusiastic Changchun even in the cold winter.
- Jilin Rime is one of the China’s four natural wonders. With its pure, spectacular, and magical beauty, it is praised by both Chinese and foreign tourists as the best winter scenery in the North. “As the clear cold river flows, rime ice flowers can be found on both sides of the river”. Every winter, embankments on both sides of the Songhua River in Jilin City are good places to watch the rime.
- Arirang Dangdang Bus is a city sightseeing tour bus which aims to introduce the customs, folk culture, historical development process of Yanji City and the experience of local delicacies. Dangdang bus creates the atmosphere of a Chaoxianzu (ethnic Chinese Korean) family as much as possible and demonstrates local culture.
- Laolike Lake is situated in Yanbian Korean Autonomous Prefecture (“laolike” means “long neck” in the Manchu language). Snowfall in this area is frequent and the amount of snow is huge. The snow period lasts for 6–7 months. The various natural snow sculptures and the magnificent rime landscape, coupled with the lack of human presence and many animal traces, make people feel the beauty and the mysterious nature of the lake.
- Changbai Mountain North Scenic Area is located on the north slope of Changbai Mountain. There are representative landscapes of Changbai Mountain such as Tianchi (Heaven Lake), waterfalls, hot springs, Xiaotianchi (Little Heaven Lake), Lvyuantan Waterfall, and the underground forest. Changbai Mountain was included in the list of the United Nations International Biosphere Reserves in 1980. In 2020, it won the Gold Award for the Best Natural Ecological Tourism Project in China at the 9th ITIA Awards issued by The Irish Travel Industry Award (ITIA).
- Lushuihe National Forest Park is located in Fusong County, Baishan City, Jilin Province, at the northern foot of Changbai Mountain. Tourists can go winter rafting in rime mineral water inside the park, and the beautiful scenery makes tourists immersed into the winter beauty.
- Changbaishan Luneng Resort is located in Manjiang Town, Fusong County, Baishan City, Jilin Province. It is located to the east of Changbai Mountain at the intersection of three rivers. It is a resort complex and also an international ecotourism resort demonstration area integrating entertainment, ecological protection and cultural tourism. Here, tourists can participate in skiing, snow entertainment activities, and have an exciting experience of splashing water to make ice as well as wearing floral cotton-padded jackets from the Northeastern folk customs.
- Changchun Jingyuetan National Forest Park (Jingyuetan is “clean moon lake” in the Chinese language) is a national level tourist attraction and one of the eight scenic spots in Jilin. Its unique natural sceneries make it a piece of pure land in the hustle and bustle of the city. It is an ecological green core and a calling card of Changchun.



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RECOMMENDATIONS FOR TOURISTS

Keep Warm

There is a big temperature difference between morning and evening in winter. Please add or remove clothes according to the temperature. Cold-proof clothing, snowshoes, gloves and hats are necessary to bring along.

Skin Care and Moisturization

As the weather is very dry outdoors and heaters are often used indoors, the indoor air is not very circulated, and the humidity is generally around 20°C. Therefore, it is important to prepare oily lipid skin care products with moisturizing effects to prevent dryness. Besides, placing a glass of water on the nightstand can increase the humidity of the room.

Eye Care

If you usually wear glasses, it is highly recommended to wear contact lenses in winter in Jilin instead. As warm vapor touches cold lens, the glasses will fog up and this will block your vision. Sunglasses are a must. Since the sun reflects strongly on the snow, you must wear sunglasses with UV protection. There will be less strong sunlight in the forest.

Diet

Because the temperature is low, you can drink alcohol and eat meat as much as possible, though the taste can be too strong. During the trip, drink as much water as possible and eat more fruits. In addition, it is best to carry your own thermos bottle, so that you can drink hot water at any time.

Electronic products

Mobile phone cameras are easy to freeze and shut down in cold weather, especially iPhone cameras. You can prepare some heat packs and stick them on the battery area of the mobile or camera to prevent this but it will not be effective if you stay outdoors for a long time.

Special note

When your hands are wet in winter, be sure not to touch metal objects in order to prevent your hands from getting stuck with them.





Review of Ecotourism Development

IN THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA

The Republic of Korea has also developed ecotourism standards which are internationally recognized, in particular, by the Global Sustainable Tourism Council (GSTC).

In the Republic of Korea, ecotourism is considered a type of tourism which has a huge potential to practically implement the sustainable development agenda in the context of the tourism industry. According to the National Environment Preservation Act (2004), ecotourism is “eco-friendly tourism through which the importance of the environment may be experienced through the conservation and wise utilization of natural assets in an area with a particularly excellent ecosystem or beautiful natural scenery.”

In 2008, the Ministry of the Environment and the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism developed a plan to invigorate ecotourism, integrating ecotourism as one of the five objectives for the Third National Tourism Development Plan (2012–2021). Since then, ecotourism-related discussions are flourishing at the governmental level and ecotourism has become an important part of the national tourism strategy.

To promote ecotourism, the Korean government started to create prospective ecotourism sites. For instance, national ecological trails were introduced in 2008 to allow people to easily access natural sceneries. Besides, ecotourism areas were launched in 2013 to make wise use of the natural environment and promote the value of environmental conservation.

Ecotourism is highlighted as a key type of tourism in national strategic documents. In the Basic Tourism Promotion Plan (2023–2027), one of the strategic objectives is the creation of a sustainable tourism environment accessible to everyone, including the development of a culture of eco-friendly travel and raising public awareness of the importance of reducing greenhouse gas emissions. In addition, ecotourism is mentioned as one of the priority areas for the development of local tourism to achieve an increase in tourist flows and length of stay of tourists during trips.

Korea Dulle Trail is a key national project for the development of ecotourism. It unites national tourist trails and extends over 4.5 thousand km. It includes Haeparang Trail in the east of the country,

Namparang Trail in the south, Seohaerang Trail in the west, and DMZ Peace Trail in the north. Tourists can find detailed information about the trails and provided services using the Durunubi online platform.

Protected areas contribute a lot to the national potential of ecotourism development. In this context, the Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Korea published the “2030 National Protected Area Expansion Roadmap” in 2023. According to this document, by 2032, the area of national parks is planned to be increased by 33% compared to 2022, including by defining new areas with excellent ecosystems and natural scenery and giving them the status of national parks to preserve biodiversity. It was also decided to meet the target of making 30% of Korea’s territory protected nature areas by 2030.

Currently ecotourism continues to be a priority area for the government. The Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Korea mentioned it among three priorities (in the category of environmental services) for 2024. In particular, it plans to designate three ecotourism hubs in each region and provide high-quality ecotourism services. Besides, the government supports the development of ecotourism at the local level and conducts workshops on ecotourism with consultations for local authorities.

	4.5 thousand km	length of Dulle Trail
	30%	of the national territory will become protected nature areas by 2030
	3	ecotourism centers to be opened in every region



BUSAN METROPOLITAN CITY

HAEPARANG TRAIL BUSAN



Length
51 km



Best time to visit
March — August



Approximate duration
1 day

How to get to the starting point



By plane:
Busan International Airport
(1 hr from Seoul)



By train:
Busan KTX Station
(2.5 hrs from Seoul)

Route map



Oryukdo Sunrise Park



Igidae Coastal Trail



Gwangalli Beach



Dongbaek Coastal Trail



Mipo Port



Dalmajigil Road



Moontan Road



Cheongsapo Port



Songjeong Beach



Haedong Yonggungsa Temple



Daeyeonhang Port



Ilgwang Beach



Chiramhang Port



Imnang Beach

1330 Korea Travel Hotline:
+82 2 1330 (Available 24/7
in Korean, English, Japanese
and Chinese)

Haeparang Trail links 12 different cities in Korea and spreads over 750 km along the east coast. The trail consists of 50 connected courses stretching from Busan in the south to Gangwon in the north. “Haeparang”, the name of the trail, means “to be friends with the rising sun and the blue ocean” in Korean. As the name suggests, visitors can enjoy beautiful sunrises at major beaches throughout Haeparang Trail.

- 1 Oryukdo refers to five or sometimes six (depending on the tides) rocky islets located in Busan, bordering the emerald East Sea. For its cultural, biological, and geological value, Oryukdo has been designated as a state cultural heritage site, marine sanctuary, and national geopark. Visitors can enjoy the unobstructed view of Oryukdo Islets at Sunrise Park which serves as a starting point for Haeparang Trail.
- 2 Dongbaek used to be an island but currently it is not due to the years of sedimentation. It is located off the south end of Busan’s famous Haeundae Beach.

The name “Dongbaek” means camellias in Korean as the flower bursts into bloom everywhere on the island in spring. The magnificent scenery of Dongbaek has been admired by many artists and scholars. This part of the trail is particularly easy to navigate even for first-time visitors.
- 3 The approximate halfway point of the route is Cheongsapo, a small port village with twin lighthouses in red and white lined up next to each other. The port offers a peaceful scenery with waves crashing against the shore and small boats huddling together.
- 4 Unlike most temples in Korea located in the mountains, Haedong Yonggungsa Temple offers visitors a rare find of a temple set on the seaside. The temple is popular among tourists, especially during Buddha’s Birthday celebrations as it is decorated with colorful paper lanterns. By walking 108 steps down the stairs, visitors can get close to the water’s edge where they can hear calming sounds of the waves.
- 5 The final point of the route is Imnang Beach. Alongside the pine forest, a distinctively bright color of the sandy beach stretches out over 1 km long. Fun activities and events are held during summer such as Gijang Imnang Summer Music Festival. Though it is the final point of the Busan section of the trail, tourists can always extend their walk, following the rest of Haeparang Trail.



Additional information

- The Haeparang Trail tourist information center is located in Oryukdo, the starting point of the route. The center offers tour guide services in English, Japanese, and Chinese, as well as various tour maps and useful materials published by local governments.
- The trail construction, maintenance, and repair program along its entire length was completed in 2016.
- The route is open to tourists all year round.



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durunubi.kr/eng/main.do



JEJU PROVINCE

JEJU OLLE TRAIL



Length
17.7 km



Best time to visit
**April – May,
September – November**



Approximate
duration
1 day



How to get
to the starting point

By plane:
Jeju International Airport
(1 hr from Seoul)



By ferry:
Jeju Coastal Ferry Terminal
(9 hrs from Seoul)

Route map



**Jeju Olle Tourist
Center**



**Seogwipo Chilsimni
Poetry Park**



Oedolgae



Solbit Bada Cafe



Subong Trail



Beophwan Port



Olleyo Rest Area



Wolpyeong Port



**Wolpyeong
Awenangmok**

1330 Korea Travel Hotline:
+82 2 1330 (Available 24/7
in Korean, English, Japanese
and Chinese)

- ① Jeju Island, the largest island of Korea located at the right end of the Korean Peninsula, was formed approximately 2 million years ago by the eruption of an underwater volcano. Jeju is known for its volcanic landscape of craters and picturesque coastal sceneries. The best way to experience Jeju Island is to hike the Jeju Olle Trail as it offers magnificent views and cultural variety of the island. Olle Trail is a series of hiking routes that comprises 27 courses circumference Jeju Island with various degrees of challenge. The trail is marked by signposts and ribbons which makes it very easy for hikers to navigate.
- ② Stretching from Oedolgae to Wolpyeong Village, Olle Trail Course 7 is the most popular among the Jeju Olle Trail courses for hiking, running, and walking. It is a balanced route encompassing coastal and inland paths, offering many different features of nature. Jeju Olle Trail Course 7 combines wooden walkways, stone stairs, and dirt paths.
- ③ Near the starting point of this trail, there is the breathtaking stone column of Oedolgae and its surrounding cliffs which are formed by wave erosion in a lava field. There used to be no way of walking this rugged and wild route, but thanks to the volunteers who handpicked stone by stone off the trail, the route has been renovated into a beautiful coastal path. Oedolgae is now well-known to Olle hikers for its outstanding scenery.
- ④ Subong Trail is considered to be the most beautiful ecological trail among Olle hikers. This former thicket was named after the Olle Trail ranger Mr. Su-bong Kim who created the trail all alone using just a hand shovel. Subong Trail is an ideal choice for those who want to enjoy the charms of the narrow winding path.



Additional information

- At the Jeju Olle Tourist Center (22 Jungjeong-ro, Seogwipo-si, Jeju, Republic of Korea), tourists can receive leaflets and guidebooks and purchase special souvenirs such as the Jeju Olle Passport. The center is open all year round between 08:00–22:00.
- Lightweight trekking shoes are recommended due to the frequent rains

and winds on Jeju Island. In particular, a hat with a chin strap is preferred because the wind is quite strong in the coastal areas.

- The area gets dark quickly after sunset, so visitors are advised to finish their walk by 18:00 in summer and 17:00 in winter.



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durunubi.kr/eng/main.do



NORTH GYEONGSANG PROVINCE

HAEPARANG TRAIL YEONGDEOK



Length
65 km



Best time to visit
**March – May,
September – November**



Approximate
duration
1 day



How to get
to the starting point

By train:
Pohang KTX Station
or Yeongdeok Train Station
(2.5 hrs, 4 hrs from Seoul,
respectively)



By bus:
Yeongdeok Bus Terminal
(4.5 hrs from Seoul)

Route map



Hwajin Beach



Jangsa Beach



Namho Beach



Ganggu Port



Gobulbong



**Yeongdeok
Sunrise Park**



**Yeongdeok
Wind Farm**



Obo Beach



Gyeongjung



Chuksan Port



Goraebul Beach

1330 Korea Travel Hotline:
+82 2 1330 (Available 24/7
in Korean, English, Japanese
and Chinese)

- 1 Jangsa Beach, the second point of the route, sits at the bottom of Yeongdeok. Visitors can enjoy seaside camping, fishing, and jet skiing with a peaceful pine forest nearby. The Yeongdeok section of Haeparang Trail is called “Blue Road” due to the endless ocean views the route offers.
- 2 Ganggu Port is not only the largest port in the region but also the main marketplace for giant snow crabs. Since Korean snow crabs are not available from June to October to protect the breeding stocks, it is advised to visit the port at other times.
- 3 At Yeongdeok Wind Farm, tourists can see the exotic scenery of 24 wind turbines. The turbines generate 96,680 megawatts of electricity a year, an amount that is enough to supply power to the entire Yeongdeok residents. Yeongdeok New & Renewable Energy Center is also located at the farm, allowing visitors to learn more about the region’s beautiful nature and its green energy policies.



Additional information

- The Wind Farm and the Energy Center are both closed to visitors during national holidays. Visitors may also check operating hours (09:00–18:00) as well as ticket prices (KRW 1,500 for adults) beforehand.
- Since Haeparang Trail Yeongdeok is built along the seaside, visitors can easily find the trail by simply following the coast. The trail is equipped with arrows, ribbons, road tiles, and wooden panels to help visitors navigate.



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


SOUTH GYEONGSANG PROVINCE


NAMPARANG TRAIL GEOJE



Length
170.4 km




Best time to visit
July – September




Approximate duration
3 days


How to get to the starting point



By plane:
Gimhae International Airport
(Additional travel required)



By train:
Geoje Train Station
(3.5 hrs from Seoul)



By bus:
Gohyeon Bus Terminal
(4.5 hrs from Seoul)

Route map

- ▼

Gohyeon Bus Terminal
- ▼

Daeseongsa Temple
- ▼

Hakdong Mongdol Beach
- ▼

Heungnam Beach
- ▼

Oepohang
- ▼

Maemi Seong Fortress
- ▼

Kim Young-Sam Presidential Archives & Exhibit Hall
- ▼

Dukpo Beach
- ▼

Okpo Great Victory Commemorative Park
- ▼

Jangseungpo Port
- ▼

Geoje Marine Cultural Center
- ▼

Jisepo Port
- ▼

Wahyeon Beach
- ▼

Gujora Port
- ▼

Hallyeohaesang National Park
- ▼

Rainbow Road Observatory
- ▼

Geoje Natural Recreation Forest
- ▼

Cheongma Museum
- ▼

Dundeokgiseong Fortress
- ▼

Geoje Bridge

1330 Korea Travel Hotline:
+82 2 1330 (Available 24/7
in Korean, English, Japanese
and Chinese)

Namparang Trail consists of 90 connected courses, spanning along the south coast of Korea over 1,470 km. The trail is well-known for the beautiful scenery of the South Sea as well as the quaint charm of farming and fishing villages. By exploring Namparang Trail, tourists can visit 17 different cities from Busan to Haenam.

- 1

Maemiseong Fortress is a halfway point of Course 18 of Namparang Trail. The fortress is named after the deadly typhoon “Maemi” that wreaked the homes and properties of the Gyeongsang province residents in 2003. Mr. Soon-sam Baek, a lone man who lost his arable land to Maemi, built the fortress all alone, brick by brick, to protect his home and crops from future natural disasters. Though he had no prior experience in design or construction, Mr. Baek managed to build an amazing fortress which resembles medieval western castles. The fortress is now extremely popular among tourists from all around the world thanks to the magical view it offers out onto the blue ocean and sky.
- 2

As opposed to a sandy beach, Hakdong Mongdol Beach is filled with black pebbles, spanning a distance of 1.2 km. Walking barefoot on pebbles along the beach has various health benefits such as lowering blood pressure and relaxing foot muscles. Unlike other southern beaches of Korea, the water of Hakdong Mongdol Beach is relatively deep with rough waves, which allows exciting water sports activities like jet skiing. On summer days, tourists may indulge in such fun activities before moving on to the next point.
- 3

Hallyeohaesang National Park was designated as the first national marine park in 1968 due to its rich flora and fauna. The park is known to have more than 1,142 species of plants, 25 mammal species, 115 bird species, 16 reptile species, 1,566 insect species, and 24 freshwater fish species. As Hallyeohaesang National Park encompasses 99 islands from Yeosu to Geoje, multiple visits or a longer stay are highly recommended.



Additional information

- Certain parts of the route are not well-paved for pedestrians, which requires tourists to be careful when walking.
 - It is advised to bring water before embarking on the journey, especially during summer due to the extreme heat.
- Just like any other national park in the Republic of Korea, Hallyeohaesang National Park is closed during two set periods every year: mid-November to mid-December, and mid-February to May. Though the peaks and ridges are inaccessible during these periods, tourists can still visit some trails.



+82 55 681 8077 (available 10:00–17:00)



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SOUTH GYEONGSANG PROVINCE

NAMPARANG TRAIL

NAMHAE



Length

162 km



Best time to visit

**May, June,
October**



Approximate
duration

3 days

How to get
to the starting point



By train:
Yeosu Expo KTX Station
(additional travel required)



By bus:
Namhae Bus Terminal
(5 hrs from Seoul)

Route map



Samcheonpo Bridge



Undaeam



Bracken Field



Jangpo Port



Boriam Temple



**Namhae Pyeonbaek
National Recreational
Forest**



Namhae Bridge



Woncheon Port



Darangee Village



**Gwaneumpo Yi
Chungmugong
Relics**



Changseon Bridge

1330 Korea Travel Hotline:
+82 2 1330 (Available 24/7
in Korean, English, Japanese
and Chinese)

①

Namhae, the 5th largest island in Korea, is famous for its majestic mountains, beautiful sea, and unique attractions. This section of the Namparang Trail pass through this amazing city, allowing tourists to gaze upon the panoramic view.

②

Boriam Temple, which is nestled at the top of Mountain Geumsan, is one of the most prestigious Buddhist temples in the Republic of Korea. Overlooking the emerald ocean, the temple was founded in 683 AD by the leading monk, Wonhyo. He lived in this temple near the end of his life in complete solitude and away from all worldly pleasures. To get to the temple, visitors can hike different paths leading up to the mountain, enjoying the serene surroundings. While most of the paths that lead up to the summit at Boriam Temple are well constructed for tourist convenience, certain parts are filled with steep stairs and rocks.

③

Namhae Pyeonbaek National Recreational Forest, opened in 1998, is located near the South Sea. The forest is full of cypress trees. With a total area of 2.27 million m², the forest is an ideal place for those who need relaxation with a peaceful view. The observatory, approximately one hour's walk from the entrance, provides an amazing view of the ocean decorated with seemingly small islands. Near the forest, there are many historic sites such as Chungnyeolsa Temple.

④

Darangee Village is located on a coastal cliff, which offered nothing but barren land to the villagers. The villagers had to clear and build a farmland layer by layer with stone pillars, and that is how Darangee rice fields were created. Though the fields are jagged, they provide refreshing walking paths to tourists.



Additional information

Certain part of Namparang Trail Course 37 (9 km) requires prior registration from March to late June to protect bracken in the region. During this period, tourists are allowed to take the route only when accompanied by an instructor.



+82 55 863 8778 (available 09:00–18:00)



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SOUTH JEOLLA PROVINCE

BONGHWASAN DULLE TRAIL



Length
14 km



Best time to visit
**March — May,
September — November**



Approximate
duration
1 day

How to get
to the starting point



By train:
Suncheon KTX Station
(3 hrs from Seoul)



By bus:
Suncheon Bus Terminal
(4 hrs from Seoul)

Route map



Jukdobong Peak



Eopdong Reservoir



Mangbuk Village



Bonghwa Greenville



Jukdobong Peak

1330 Korea Travel Hotline:
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in Korean, English, Japanese
and Chinese)

Suncheon is the largest city in South Jeolla with an approximate population of 280,000 people. Blessed with the beauty of nature, Suncheon boasts several walking trails that allow visitors to enjoy the refreshing air. Among them, a trail along Bonghwasan Mountain sitting at the center of Suncheon is the most recommended. This gently sloped mountain can easily be accessed from the city, making it an ideal choice for travelers who are not familiar with the area. As the trail was built while preserving the mountain's original form, visitors can fully experience Suncheon's nature.

- ① Eopdong Reservoir is close to the city center of Suncheon. It has an endangered toad habitat nearby, which symbolizes a healthy ecology. Suncheon, thanks to such excellent ecological conditions, has been designated as a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve. By following Bonghwasan Dulle Trail, visitors can experience the peaceful ambiance of the reservoir.
- ② Mangbuk Village is the place where Yi Su, a royal family member from the Joseon Dynasty, was exiled in 1617. The name “Mangbuk” symbolizes Mr. Yi Su’s hope to one day return to Seoul, where the king resides. In front of the Village Hall stands the Suncheon Mangbukjeong Yujibi Monument, installed by a descendant of Yi Su. This monument holds significance as it tells the history of Suncheon.
- ③ The word “Juk” in Jukdobong Peak refers to bamboo, whereas “do” means “island”. Jukdobong Peak was thus named as it has a bamboo forest and the peak looks like an island. The peak is now a starting point of Suncheon Dulle Trail and a scenic night spot sought after by many tourists.



Additional information

- For hikers with less experience, it is advised to take a rest in regular intervals, for instance, a 10-minute break for every hour of hiking. Bonghwasan Dulle Trail is well-equipped with rest stops and shelters to ensure the safety of visitors.
- The signs along the route provide useful information to the visitors including names and features of the surrounding forests as well as their environmental values.



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SOUTH JEOLLA PROVINCE

SEOHAERANG TRAIL

HAENAM



Length
74 km



Best time to visit
**April – June,
September – October**



Approximate
duration
2 days

How to get
to the starting point



By train:
Mokpo Station
(additional travel required)



By bus:
**Haenam Usuyeong
Bus Terminal (5.5 hrs from Seoul)**

Route map



Ttangkkeut Tower



Songho Beach



**Haenam Ahnori Ancient
Tombs**



**Gocheonam Bird
Sanctuary**



Gwandusan Mountain



**Ongmaesan
Mountain**



**The Battle
of Myeongnyang
Memorial**



Nokjin Observatory

**1330 Korea Travel Hotline:
+82 2 1330 (Available 24/7
in Korean, English, Japanese
and Chinese)**

Seohaerang Trail consists of 109 smaller courses stretching along the west coast. The trail begins at the southern tip of the Korean Peninsula in Haenam, South Jeolla, and reaches up north to Ganghwa, Incheon. Due to the large differences in tidal range on the west coast, Seohaerang has some uniquely shaped trails offering interesting trekking and hiking routes to visitors.

- 1 Ttangkkeut Tower is a triangular tower with an observatory nearby where one can get an unobstructed view of Korea's southern archipelago and even a glimpse of Jeju Island on a clear day. The name Ttangkkeut means "the land's end" in Korean as the tower stands at the southernmost point of the Korean Peninsula. Special events take place to celebrate the first day of the New Year, drawing many tourists to the area from all over the country.
- 2 Songho Beach is one of the most beloved beaches in Haenam. The clear, calm waters of the beach are said to be like that of a lake, perfect for children and families. A camping site is located alongside centuries-old sea pine trees, which is popular among beachgoers as a unique accommodation. From July to August, Songho Beach hosts a number of summer events such as festivals, concerts, fireworks shows, and more.
- 3 The Republic of Korea is located in a geographically important part of migratory bird route, serving as a breeding, wintering, and stopover point for birds. Gocheonam Bird Sanctuary attracts hundreds of thousands of migratory birds every winter, including protected mallards, spoonbills, white-fronted geese, and Baikal teals. Out of all the Baikal teals in the world, for instance, 95% visit Gocheonam between January and February each year as a stopover on their migration from and to China, Japan, Siberia, Alaska, Australia, and New Zealand. In addition, the Korean film "Memories of Murder" by Director Bong Joon-ho was filmed at reed beds surrounding Gocheonam Lake, offering a unique experience to visitors.
- 4 Seohaerang Trail also provides hiking opportunities to visitors. Among the mountains located throughout the trail, Ongmaesan Mountain is one of the most visited due to its historical significance. Around 1932, during the Japanese occupation, the mountain was developed by the Japanese as an alunite mine. Alunite is a raw material for aluminum needed to manufacture fighter aircraft and other military products. Due to the high demand for alunite, the mine employed up to 1,200 miners, most of them being from nearby villages and forced into labor without pay. Later on, miners were taken to Jeju Island against their will and lost at sea on the twists and turns of the journey home. Today, the trail on Ongmaesan Mountain is dotted with stone towers built to commemorate the souls of the miners. For visitors who would like to pay a visit to this historical site, it takes about two hours round-trip from the village to the Ongmaesan summit.
- 5 The last point of the Seohaerang Trail Haenam Section is the Nokjin Observatory. Located at the top of Manggeumsan Mountain, the observatory offers panoramic views of Jindo Bridge and the beautiful ocean.

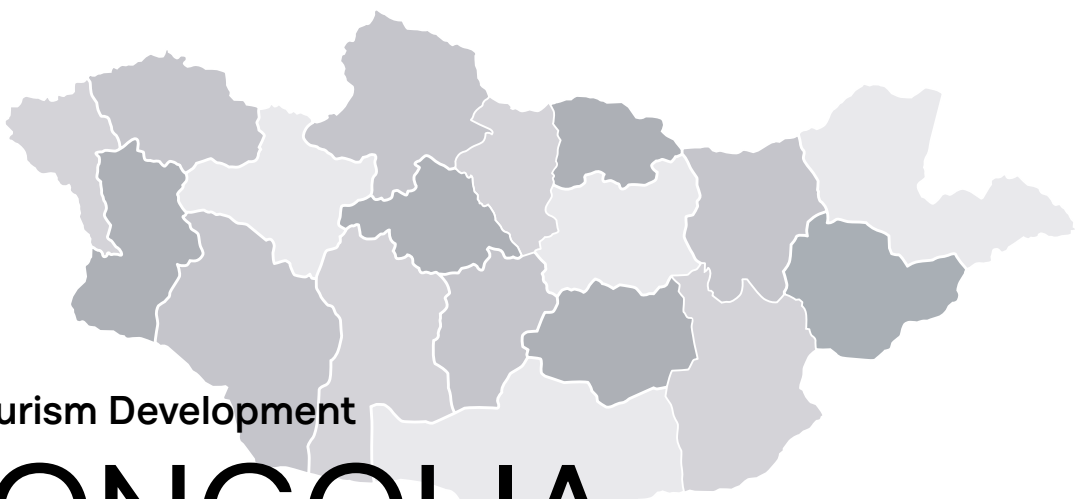


Additional information

Depending on the ebbs and flows, the original Seohaerang Trail becomes partially inaccessible to tourists. Alternative course information is available on the Durunubi website and mobile app run by the Korea Tourism Organization.

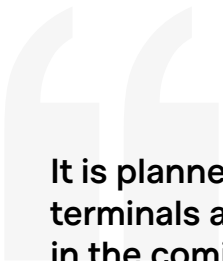


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Review of Ecotourism Development

IN MONGOLIA



It is planned to open ten transport terminals at the country’s borders in the coming years to improve conditions for the entry and traveling of tourists within Mongolia. Besides, six regional airports will obtain the right to receive international flights

Mongolia has a unique geographical location in the center of Eurasia. The country has enormous natural resources and is rich in local traditions associated with close communication with nature due to the nomadic lifestyle of the population. All these factors form the national potential for the development of ecotourism.

More than 90 protected natural areas have been established in Mongolia. They occupy about 20% of the entire territory of the country. The legislative basis for to creation of such areas is the Law on Special Protected Areas (1994). The government has set an ambitious goal of giving 30% of the country’s territory the status of protected natural areas by 2030. Since most tourist centers are located in these areas, rules and principles of ecotourism play a leading role in the management of such territories.

Mongolia has not yet adopted separate strategic documents on ecotourism, so this type of tourism is developing in line with the general priorities of the national tourism industry. In 2023, the Mongolia Tourism Association together with the Ministry of Nature and Environment and Tourism of Mongolia and the Mayor’s Office of Ulaanbaatar launched Visit Mongolia state program to promote inbound tourism. According to this program, citizens from 62 countries will be able to visit Mongolia without visas in 2023–2025. In 2024, it is planned to receive a million foreign tourists and earn at least a billion US dollars from tourism due to such measures.

	90	protected natural areas
	62	countries’ citizens can visit Mongolia without visa
	3	international airports



SUKHBAATAR PROVINCE

WONDERS OF THE SUKHBAATAR PROVINCE



Length
1,040 km



Height difference
739 m
1,039–1,778 m



Best time to visit
Summer and Autumn



Approximate duration
6 days



How to get to the starting poin
By plane:
Baruun-Urt Airport



Then by car:
Erdenetsagaan Soum
(around 200 km from the airport)

Route map

- ▼

Erdenetsagaan Soum
- ▼

Eguzer Khutagt Monastery
- ▼

Shilin Bogd Mountain
- ▼

Talyn Cave
- ▼

Man Stone at Khurgyn Valley
- ▼

Ganga Lake
- ▼

Dariganga Soum
- ▼

Man Stone of King and Queen
- ▼

Ulgii Rock
- ▼

Nartyn Mountain Ongon
- ▼

Ongon Tavan Bulag Reserve
- ▼

Petroglyphs at Lake Toson Zamyn
- ▼

Khalzan Soum
- ▼

Uulbayan Soum
- ▼

Ruins and Petroglyphs near Munkh Khaan Soum

Department
of Environment
and Tourism

- 1

Tourists visit Yeguzer Khutagt Monastery which is located in the center of Erdenetsagaan Soum. Then they travel to Shilyn Bogd Mountain which is an extinct volcano.

This mountain is considered a sacred place for Mongolian people. Local tradition holds that the soul of any person who climbed up Shilyn Bogd Mountain will be renewed, filled with optimism and will gain strength for the better future. After visiting the mountain, tourists will spend the night at Talyn Cave Camp.
- 2

Next, they move from the Talyn Cave Camp and see the Man Stone of Khongyn Valley. Then tourists visit Ganga Lake and spend a night in Dariganga Soum.

In Mongolia, Dariganga plateau is known for its beauty. “Dari” means “blowing” in the Mongolian language and “ganga” means “cliff”, “chasm”. “Blowing cliff” is named in such a way as a huge number of volcanoes (more than 200) is concentrated in this area.

Travelers visit the Man Stone of King and Queen, Nart Cave, Ulgii Khad, Moltsog Sands, and Dagshin Lake which are all around Dariganga Soum.
- 3

From Dariganga Soum, they travel to Ongon Five Springs and see petroglyphs at Lake Toson Zamyn. On the way, tourists travel through Khalzan Soum and Uulbayan Soum and spend the night in the center of Uulbayan Soum.

On the way from Uulbayan Soum to Munkh Khaan Soum, guests visit petroglyphs around the Munkh Khaan Soum, tombs, ruins of temples and spend the night in Munkh Khaan Soum.
- 4

Tourists visit sightseeings near Munkh Khaan Soum for one more day and then head to Ulaanbaatar. The travel distance is 457 km.



Additional information

- Tourists can book rooms at hotels and tourist camps in soum and provincial centers.
 - They should dress appropriately for the local weather conditions.
- Average travel distance is about 153 km per day.
 - It is necessary to carry plenty of water during travel.



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DORNOD PROVINCE

TRAVEL TO BUIR LAKE, KHALKH RIVER AND MATAD



Length
1,140 km



Height difference
457 m
643–1,100 m



Best time to visit
April — May



Approximate duration
5 days



How to get to the starting point
By plane:
Choibalsan Airport

Route map

- ▼

Choibalsan
- ▼

Buir Lake
- ▼

Bayan Khoshuu and Uvdug Port
- ▼

Khalkh River Soum
- ▼

Field Museum
- ▼

Tamsag Bulag Site
- ▼

Sangiin Dalai Lake
- ▼

Matad Soum
- ▼

Choibalsan

- 1

 From Choibalsan to Buir Lake (280 km), it is possible to make a short stop at the Baga Khuree post and Menen Detachments and spend the night at the Bayan Buir Tourist Camp. Fishing and boating are available in Buir Lake.
- 2

 From Buir Lake to Khalkh River Soum, tourists visit Bayankhoshuu Port, Ikh Burhant Stone Monument and monuments which were installed as a tribute to the Khalkh River War.
- 3

 From Khalkh River, visitors travel to Khadan Khysaa, Kheree Mountain and Ar Soum Khooloi and spend a night at the tourist camp of the Khalkh River soum.
- 4

 They travel 130 km in the direction of Utai Five Mountains and Tamsag Spring from Khalkh River Soum, and spend a night at a tourist camp on the shores of Sangiin Dalai Lake. Wang White Mountain can be seen at a distance of 45 km from this point.
- 5

 Tourists move from Sangiin Dalai Lake to Matad Soum and spend a night at the tourist camp of Matad Soum.
- 6

 They go to Naran Rashaan through Bayankhangai Soum (30 km).
- 7

 Tourists drive from Bayankhangai Soum to Matad Soum (12 km) which is an endpoint of the journey.



Additional information

- Average travel distance is about 190 km per day.
 - It is necessary to book rooms at hotels and tourist camps in soum and provincial centers.
- Tourists should dress appropriately for the local weather conditions.



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CONCLUSION

We hope our readers enjoyed this journey spread geographically from Russia's gorgeous Siberian forests through dormant volcanoes, waterfalls and geysers to ecological scenic spots of China, magnificent parks, ports and beaches of the Republic of Korea as well as breathtaking lakes and mountains of Mongolia.

The total of 46 routes presented in the handbook clearly demonstrate the diversity of ecotourism opportunities in Northeast Asia.

On the one hand, the handbook cannot be called exhaustive as it includes a deliberately selected set of routes. The development of specially protected natural areas and ecotourism infrastructure is an ongoing process: new routes are being opened and existing ones can be expanded. Therefore, the handbook may be updated in the future.

On the other hand, the handbook is meant to form an impression on ecotourism profiles of Russia, China, the Republic of Korea and Mongolia rather than to cover all ecotourism destinations in these countries.

The additional value of the handbook is provided by the fact that it gives tourist communities of Northeast Asian countries a chance to reflect on the best practices of their domestic and foreign partners.

To make our journey accomplished, we would like to present a comprehensive set of expert recommendations which has been prepared as an outcome of the Seminar on Ecotourism Promotion in Northeast Asia held on March 27, 2024 in Baikalsk, Russia.

In particular, countries in Northeast Asia are encouraged to take the following actions to create a favorable national and regional ecotourism environment.

At the national level:

- 1 Create civilized conditions to attract tourists and reduce environmental damage;
- 2 Improve interagency coordination of the national ecotourism development;
- 3 Design a set of definitions starting from the term ecotourism, including the standards and code of conduct for ecotourism;
- 4 Develop ecotourism-oriented infrastructure and actively involve businesses to invest in it;
- 5 Develop protected nature reserves;
- 6 Develop new unexplored routes for ecotourism journeys, including those ensuring personalized experience for tourists and focusing on uniqueness;
- 7 Support local ecotourism, including holding seminars and consultations for local authorities and involving local communities in the development and delivery of tourism services;
- 8 Create high-quality visual content, including online platforms for travelers, to attract tourists and ensure promotion through social networks, in particular, bloggers;
- 9 Provide high-quality linguistic support while organizing eco-tours and field trips in protected natural areas.

At the regional level:

- 1 Strengthen cross-border tourism cooperation in Northeast Asia;
- 2 Build partnerships between ecotourism-focused tour operators of Northeast Asian countries;
- 3 Exchange experience and best practices (among possible topics are legal issues related to ecotourism development, management models for ecotourism facilities, technological solutions for tracing carbon footprint and digital models for optimizing anthropogenic load);
- 4 Support international youth projects and initiatives on ecotourism in Northeast Asian countries;
- 5 Hold international events on ecotourism which bring together experts from various government agencies, businesses and other organizations involved in ecotourism development in Northeast Asia;
- 6 Launch joint educational programs on ecotourism and training courses for personnel working in the hospitality industry;
- 7 Establish the mechanism of the exchange of volunteers, including the youth, for joint building of hiking trails.



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