

Altai: 5 mysteries

Guided tour on the traces of Altai's mysteries



Experiences you'll have

Altai is famous for its stunning nature. But there’s something more...

People come here not just for the landscapes. Some seek traces of ancient civilizations, others—sacred energy spots, and some want to uncover real mysteries. Shamans, the enigmatic Ukok Princess mummy, ancient petroglyphs with strange symbols, Altai’s "Stonehenge," and even legends of Shambhala... Which of these are just myths, and which still puzzle scientists? Let’s find out together on our 5-day exploration adventure!

Places of power, mysterious rock carvings, shamanic rituals and ancient beliefs surrounded by mystery. Some of the mysteries of the Altai Mountains have received a scientific explanation, and some still raise questions from researchers. We invite you to immerse yourself in the mystical world of the region!

We'll travel along the Chuysky Tract all the way to the Mongolian border
Visit top landmarks and hidden gems of untouched nature—places most tourists never see
Every day, we'll encounter ancient mysteries and natural wonders, uncovering clues with the help of scientists and local experts

We accept bookings for groups of 6 or more
The base rate is in RUB. The price in euro (1200 EUR) depends on the exchange rate of the [Central Bank of Russia](#) plus 4% and is valid as of March 28, 2025.

Most popular

Altai

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Difficulty	
Age	from 10 y.o.
Group size	from 4 to 10
Duration	5 days

Accomodation at the trip



6 nights

Языки



guide



guide

from 1 200 EUR

Itinerary

The journey begins in Gorno-Altaysk, where you should get to on your own. We are ready to help with the purchase of tickets. If necessary, leave a comment in the application.

This is a general plan of the tour, the route may vary depending on the weather conditions.

Day 1

We will meet you at the airport. After transfer to the hotel,
you will have some time for rest.

At 17.00 we will meet in the lobby of the hotel to get acquainted and to discuss our tour.

After that we will take short walk in the city and have dinner together

Day 2

Welcome to Altai! Today, we begin our journey into

mysteries. First, we'll visit Gorno-Altaysk and explore the National Museum of the Altai Republic—one of Siberia’s finest. Traveling through its halls (and millennia of history), we'll reach its crown jewel: the famous Altai Princess mummy, resting in a special sarcophagus.

But there’s more! We'll stroll through the city’s green streets, discover its historic roots, and see how its architecture echoes ancient Egypt.

After lunch, we venture deeper into Altai. Want to feel Altai from head to toe? Kick off your shoes and walk barefoot through the Botanical Garden in Kamlak. Then, we ascend the Seminsky Pass—the highest point of the Chuysky Tract—to learn its legends.

By evening, we reach the sacred Karakol Valley. The day ends with a traditional Altai dinner and an unforgettable kaichi (throat singing) concert—where the "instrument" is the human voice itself.

Stage length: 200 km by car

Day 3

Today we journey into Altai's distant past - a land often

called the cradle of civilizations. Though the Scythians, Huns and Turks left no written records, their mysterious stone monuments and petroglyphs still whisper secrets across the millennia.

We will spend the morning in the sacred Karakol Valley, where the three-peaked Uch Enmek Mountain watches over countless ancient burial mounds. Here we will examine the royal Bashadar Kurgan and its curious stone semicircle - what ritual purpose could it have served?

As we travel further along the Chuysky Tract, we will stop at breathtaking viewpoints like the Chike-Taman Pass and the sacred confluence where the Chuya and Katun Rivers meet. At the Kalbak-Tash sanctuary, we will become detectives, searching the weathered stones for petroglyphs that some claim show ancient rockets and star maps - while scientists offer more down-to-earth explanations.

Our day ends in the vast Kurai Steppe, where the silence beneath the mountain peaks seems to hold as many secrets as the stones we've examined. Tomorrow, more mysteries await...

Stage length: 250 km by car

Day 4

Today is all about nature and mountains. We'll witness a

miracle - the birth of a new day as we watch the sunrise from a viewpoint above the Kurai Steppe.

Let your imagination travel back tens of thousands of years. Picture standing on the shore of a vast ancient lake, about to witness an incredible catastrophe. Some scientists believe this giant lake suddenly burst its natural dam, sending water rushing down at tremendous speed. The rolling hills of the Kurai Steppe? In the grand scale of the universe, they're just ripples left in the sand...

Later, we'll switch to rugged UAZ vehicles and head to the foothills of the North Chuysky Range. Here, the snow-capped peaks reflect perfectly in the mirror-like surface of Lake Dzhangyzkol.

As we climb higher, you'll see firsthand how vegetation and climate change with altitude. You'll learn about glaciers that advanced and retreated like giant bulldozers, moving tons of rock. Discover how plants adapted to climate shifts, and how the Chuya River carved its path through solid stone.

Stage length: 75 km by car

Day 5

By now, you've seen how people thrive in these harsh

landscapes - peacefully, harmoniously. Perhaps they know ancient secrets? Or maybe rituals help them?

We will visit an ethno-ayl to uncover nomadic wisdom firsthand. You will learn:

- How to perform ribbon-tying and fire feeding ceremonies
- Whether true shamans still exist today
- Where spirits dwell in Altai
- What matters most in a nomad's life

Then, we will land on "two Marses" - the surreal red hills of Kyzyl-Chin. Later, the Telengit Museum reveals more mysteries, including an ancient warrior's enigmatic head and hand found in a remote gorge.

Next: Altai's "Stonehenge" - massive stones forming a perfect 60m circle. Ancient observatory or glacial coincidence?

Stage length: 140 km by car

Day 6

Today we travel back along the legendary Chuysky Tract -

this breathtaking road, carved through mountains and time. It was once a vital branch of the ancient Silk Route. As we wind our way along its curves, we will uncover layers of history hidden in the landscape.

We will walk sections of the original caravan trail, our footsteps echoing those of merchants and travelers from centuries past. The dry-stone masonry walls standing strong after hundreds of years will make us wonder. Near the rushing Katun River, we will search

for traces of ancient crossings while admiring a graceful 1930s suspension bridge that revolutionized travel in its day.

We will pay respects at the Chuysky Tract Drivers' Memorial and hear the fascinating true story behind the folk song about Kolka Snegirev.

Expected arrival in Gorno-Altaysk by 18:00, where our journey through Altai's mysteries comes full circle.

Stage length: 400 km by car

Day 7

After breakfast we will transfer you to the airport for your
flight home or your next destination.

Accomodation at the trip

Expect simple but comfortable rooms (2-3 beds) with private bathrooms at family-run guesthouses.

2 nights in Gorno-Altaysk: Igman or similar
1 night in Karakol Valley: "Shanky" Guesthouse or similar
3 nights in Kurai: "Altam" Guesthouse or similar

FAQ

What will the weather be like

Mountain weather keeps things interesting! Temperature can vary from +5°C to +30°C (41°F to 86°F). Rainy days are possible.

What to bring with me

Documents:

- passport (birth certificate for children)

Clothing and shoes:

- a warm jacket or light down jacket for cold evenings
- a waterproof jacket or raincoat
- a fleece jacket
- light trousers made of quick-drying synthetic material
- T-shirts and shorts
- a light long-sleeved shirt
- a cap or bandana
- comfortable waterproof sneakers or boots
- cotton and wool socks 2-3 pairs
- swimsuit/swimming trunks, rubber slippers for the bath

Personal items and equipment:

- sunglasses and cream with an SPF of at least 50
- a water bottle
- a lipstick
- a personal first-aid kit (patch, bandage, antiseptic, antipyretic, painkillers, allergy medications, iodantipyrine)
- photo and video equipment with a supply of batteries and powerbank flash
- powerbank

Meals

3 meals per day (at cafés, guesthouses, or prepared by our team in remote areas).
Lunch during excursion or hiking can be organized as picnic.

Typical day:
Breakfast: Porridge, scrambled eggs, pancakes, cheese, sausage, muesli, yogurt
Lunch (picnic style): Bread, cheese, sausage, butter, fresh vegetables, canned vegetables, jam, cookies, sweets, etc.
Lunch (at cafés): Soup or a hot main dish
Dinner: Salad + hot meat dish with a side
Drinks: Green/black tea, instant coffee
Not included: Breakfast on Day 1 Dinner on the last day

What transport is used on the route

Group of up to 6 people: Mercedes Vito minivan (or similar).
Group of up to 10 people: 7 passengers: Mercedes Vito minivan (or similar) + 3 passengers: Nissan Terrano SUV (or similar).

Off-road sections (Mars & Dzhangyzkol): UAZ 4x4 (specially equipped)

Who will be my guide

Experienced tour guides will be with you throughout the tour.

Fitness Level Required

No special training needed!
The tour involves light walking, though some viewpoints require uphill climbs. The pace is relaxed, with stops for rest and photos.

Meeting Point & Flights

We'll meet you at Gorno-Altaysk Airport or pick you up from hotels in Gorno Altaysk, Mayma, and nearby areas.
After the tour, we'll drop you off at your specified location.

Important Travel Tips:

- Arrive a day early: We strongly recommend coming to Gorno-Altaysk the day before the tour begins. Night flights can be exhausting, often leaving travelers too tired to fully enjoy the first day.
- Same-day arrival: If you can't come earlier, please book flights arriving at Gorno-Altaysk Airport no later than 9:00 AM. We will meet you at the airport.
- Return flights: It's best to book your departure for the morning after the tour ends. Need help arranging a hotel? We're happy to assist with bookings.

Booking

Altai

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Most popular

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from 10 y.o.

from 4 to 10

5 days

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6 nights

from 1 200 EUR

What's included in the price:

— accommodation - guesthouses with private bathrooms, first and last night - hotel 3 stars

— meals - 3x daily

— transfers - all program-related transportation

— guide services - expert-led tours, English-,

Extra charge:

— [airfare](#) to Gorno-Altaiisk and back

— travel insurance


— personal expenses - souvenirs


— alcoholic drinks

German- and Dutch-speaking guides

- excursions & entry fees - National Museum of RA, Botanical Garden, Mars-1 & Mars-2, Geyser Lake, Kalbak-Tash, Telengit Museum of Chui Steppe
- Kaichi concert, ethno-village experience, traditional dinner
- Special transport - UAZ 4x4 rides to Mars 1, Mars-2 & Lake Dzhangyzkol

Best price guarantee

Personal tours

Discounts for regular clients

Gift cards