

If you have never been to Altai and want to see all the most picturesque places during one journey, we recommend you choose this route. Turquoise lakes and rivers, vast plains and mountain tops, one of the most beautiful roads in the world, and even a valley similar to Mars are waiting for you here.

Experiences you'll have

Tour to the Altai Mountains

There are numerous tours to Altai, but we suggest this journey is the best for the acquaintance with the region. The program combines minibus routes to Altai's iconic locations with a varied excursion program.

You will explore Altai in comfort, without tedious hikes. If you wish, you can try your hand at challenging trekking and take a 16-km route to the Uchar waterfall.

Highlights of the journey:

- you will travel along the Chuysky tract, one of the most beautiful roads in the world
- cross picturesque Teletskoye Lake, listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site
- have a trek to the bizarrely shaped pillars resembling giant mushrooms
- raft on the turquoise Katun River, the major waterway of Altai
- see ancient burial mounds and rock paintings in Karakol Valley and the Kalbak-Tash Complex
- capture fanciful patterns at the bottom of emerald Geyser Lake
- feel yourself like on Mars, walking along the red-colored mountains of Kyzyl-Chin Valley
- enjoy an excellent view of Chulyshman Valley from a high mountain pass
- visit the Yailiu Nature Reserve: due to the unique microclimate giant plants grow here
- listen to a throat singing concert and join a cheese-making master class

We accept bookings for groups of 6 or more

The base rate is in RUB. The price in dollars (1,295 USD) depends on the exchange rate of the [Central Bank of Russia](#) minus 2% and is valid as of February 22, 2024.

First-hand Experience: our colleague Alena Chudanova went on this tour in 2018. [Find out about her impressions in our blog.](#)

Itinerary

The journey begins in Gorno-Altaiisk, 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

After meeting at the airport of Gorno-Altaiisk, you will

be transferred to the botanical garden. More than 2000 species of plants from different natural and climatic zones of Altai, as well as other regions of Russia and the world grow on its territory. On the way, you will have breakfast in a cafe (extra charge).

Then you will be taken to Ust-Sema village, where you will

check in at the tourist base. After a short rest, you will go to the cafe for lunch. Then a cheese-making master class awaits you: you can choose fillings and create your own recipe. Dinner will take place in the cafe.

Stage length: 90 km by bus, 1 km on foot.

Day 2


After breakfast, you will travel up the Katun River. You will

see the narrow, hidden from prying eyes Che-Chkysh gorge. In ancient times, Altai tribes hid here. Surrounded by cliffs, a mountain stream flows here and forms a tiny waterfall. Up the trail, at the observation point, you can enjoy a breathtaking view

New

Altai

The Golden Ring of Altai

Difficulty 
Age from 12 y.o.
Group size from 6 to 16
Duration 10 days

Accommodation at the trip



2 nights 7 nights

Языки



guide

from 117 700 EUR



of the Katun Valley.

After lunch in a cafe, you will come to Cheposh village.

Here you will start rafting down the Katun River. You will be instructed and given the necessary equipment. You will pass the Seminsky rapids and make a stop at the picturesque Kamyshlinsky waterfall (12 m).

In the evening you will return to the base and have dinner.

Stage length: 145 km by bus, 15 km on rafts, 1 km on foot.

Day 3

After breakfast, you will continue the journey along the

Chuysky Tract, one of the most beautiful roads in Russia.

There are many famous natural and historical sights along

the Chuysky Tract. On the way, you will overcome its highest point, the Seminsky Pass (1717 m), and admire the panorama of the Altai Mountains. Then you will reach the Uch-Enmek Natural Park and have lunch in a national cuisine cafe.

Then you will have a tour of the Karakol River valley. It is

one of the largest historical sites in the region, where traces of many Altai cultures have been preserved. There are groups of ancient burial mounds and a large number of rock paintings in the valley.

You will continue to travel along the Chuysky Tract and

overcome the Chike-Taman pass (1295 m). You will also visit the Kalbak-Tash Complex, where more than 3000 rock paintings named petroglyphs are preserved. The oldest of them belongs to the 8th millennium B.C

Stage length: 345 km by bus, 1 km on foot.

Day 4

After breakfast, you will drive along the Chuysky tract

toward the Mongolian border. On the way you will make a stop in the Kurai steppe, where you can see snowy peaks of the North-Chuysky mountain range: Aktru-Bash (4075 m) and Karatash (3534 m).

Then you will reach the Kyzyl-Chin River valley, called Altai

Mars. Due to the high mercury content, the surrounding mountains are colored in various shades of red: from bright orange to dark brown. A picnic lunch will be organized on the route.

On the way back you will walk to the famous Geyser Lake.

It has an amazing bright turquoise color and does not freeze in winter. At the bottom of the lake, geysers draw bizarre patterns with bluish clay and sand, forming visible circles.

In the evening you will return to the tourist base and have dinner.

Stage length: 180 km by car, 4 km on foot.

Day 5

In the morning, you will have breakfast and then move to

the Chulyshman River past a picturesque place called Red Gates. The road here passes between reddish-colored rocks and lakes of the Ulagan plateau.

You will visit Pazyryk Kurgans, an ancient burials of noble

nomads and tribal leaders dating back to 7-6 centuries BC. Then the road will run through the Katu-Yaryk mountain pass, which you will climb on foot. From there you will have an excellent view of the Chulyshman Valley and a waterfall falling from 100 meters height. The Chulyshman Valley is listed as a World Natural Heritage Site.

A picnic lunch will be held in nature. Then you will be

accommodated at the tourist base in the Chulyshman Valley. In the evening you will have dinner and a folklore program: a throat singing concert with playing traditional musical instruments.

Stage length: 120 km by car, 3,5 km on foot.

Day 6

Today after an early breakfast, you have an opportunity to

make a long trekking to Uchar waterfall (11-13 hours).

The waterfall is located on the Chulcha River. It is the

largest cascade waterfall on Altai, height of 160 meters. On the way, you will overcome several fords. The total length of the route is 16 km in both directions. A picnic lunch will be organized near the waterfall.

Then you will return to the base, have dinner, and go to

the sauna.

In case you do not want to trek, you can stay at the base

and just relax. There is also an opportunity to join motorized rafting along the Chulyshman River (extra charge).

Stage length: 16 km on foot.

Day 7

After an early breakfast, you will be transferred to the

Karasu River valley, from where you will go on a radial trek to Kamennye Griby (Rus. for Stone Mushrooms). This is another natural wonder of Altai: high limestone pillars of bizarre shapes, resembling giant mushrooms. Please note that you will need comfortable trekking shoes for this walk.

You will have an outdoor lunch and then move to the

southern part of Teletskoye Lake to Kyrsay Cape. Here you will get on a boat and go along the whole water area of the lake to its northern part. On the way, you will see the southern and northern shores of Teletskoye Lake and its most beautiful waterfalls.

Teletskoye Lake is among the 20 deepest lakes in the

world. Its length is 78 km and its average depth is 175 m. During the trip, you will visit the Korbu waterfall 12 meters high. It was formed as a result of a failure of the Korbu riverbed, originating from the mountain range.

In the evening you will be accommodated at the tourist

base on the lake shore and have a rest. Dinner will take place in a cafe.

Stage length: 90 km by bus, 80 km by boat, 6 km on foot.

Day 8

After breakfast in the cafe at the base, you will visit the

Yailiu Nature Reserve.

Yailiu is one of the warmest places in Siberia. The unique

relief and proximity of Teletskoye Lake created here a soft humid microclimate, therefore giant plants grow in this part of the lake. The excursion will be conducted for you by a reserve expert. You will also visit the extensive orchards.

Lunch and dinner will be held in a cafe at the tourist base.

Stage length: 10 km by boat, 2 km on foot.

Day 9

In the morning after breakfast, you will have a water

transfer to Artybash village. From there you will be driven to Gorno-Altai, where you will visit the national museum of the Altai Republic.

There you will be told about the ancient and modern

history of Altai, its inhabitants, their language, and religion. You will also see expositions devoted to nature, ethnography, and the fine arts of Altai. The guide will give you a tour, and tell you about the mysterious Ukok princess and the Altai legends associated with her.

Lunch will be held in a Gorno-Altai cafe. Then a transfer

to the tourist complex in Manzherok village will be organized. There you can have a rest before tomorrow's flight home. Dinner in a cafe is paid additionally.

Stage length: 190 km by bus, 5 km by boat.

Day 10

After breakfast, you will be transferred to the Gorno-

Altaisk airport for your return flight.

Accommodation at the trip

Days 1-3 you will spend at the **Chygysh Hotel**, located in a pine forest near Ust-Sema village. You will be accommodated in the comfortable twin or double rooms with a wardrobe, a TV, a fridge, and a bathroom. There is a sauna with a font and a restaurant on the territory of the hotel.

Days 3-5 will be spent in the **Podgornaya tourist base** in Aktash village. You will be accommodated in wooden two-person cabins with double or twin beds. Each house has a TV, a kitchen area with a fridge and a kettle, a bathroom with a shower, and a panoramic river view. There is a cafe and a summerhouse on the territory.

On days 5-7, you will stay in **Dolina Vodopadov tourist base** (Rus. for The Waterfalls Valley). It is located in the Chulyshman Valley. There are 12 warm houses, a cafe, and a Russian sauna with a small swimming pool on the territory. Each house has 3 twin beds, a stove, and a toilet with a sink.

8 and 9 days will be spent at the **Estyuba tourist base** on the shore of Teletskoye Lake. Here you will stay in double rooms with double or twin beds in wooden cottages with showers and toilets. On the territory of the base, there is a cafe, a volleyball court, a table tennis, and a sauna with cedar font.

The final night you will spend in the **Manzherok tourist complex**. You will be accommodated in private cabins of 20 m² with panoramic windows and a spacious veranda. The cabins have double or single beds, toilet and shower, fridge and kettle.

FAQ

What will the weather be like

Altai has a continental climate. The temperature in any summer months is from +10 to +40 °C, the usual daily summer temperature is about +25 °C. Predominantly sunny, rain is possible.

What to bring with me

Clothing and shoes for hot and sunny weather:

- T-shirts and shorts
- cap or bandana
- lightweight, breathable pants for hiking in the mountains
- windproof vest (Windstopper or Windblock)
- light shirt or long-sleeved T-shirt
- sandals for mountain hiking (preferably with a Vibram sole and closed toe)
- light sneakers
- swimsuit

Clothing and footwear for rain and cool weather:

- windproof and waterproof hooded storm jacket and pants
- thermal underwear
- fleece jacket
- warm fleece pants
- hat and gloves
- trekking socks
- wool socks
- thick-soled boots with tread
- rubber shoes

- rubber slippers (for the sauna)

Personal items:

- sunglasses
- sunscreen with 50 SPF
- lipstick
- personal first aid kit

Meals

The tour price includes 3 meals a day, except for breakfast on day 1 and dinner on day 9. You will have breakfast and dinner at the places of accommodation, and lunch as a picnic in nature or in cafes along the route.

What transport is used on the route

All transfers are organized by comfortable minibusses. Part of the route along the Chulyshman Valley will take place on cross-country vehicles (UAZ).

Water trip on the Teletskoye Lake will be organized on small boats (up to 8 persons capacity). During rafting on the Katun River, 8-seater rafts are used.

Who will be my guide

Experienced tour guides will be with you throughout the tour.

Booking

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Difficulty



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from 12 y.o.

Group size

from 6 to 16

Duration

10 days

Accommodation at the trip



2 nights 7 nights

from 117 700 EUR

What's included in the price:

- double accommodation per the program
- 3 meals a day (except breakfast on day 1, and dinner on day 9)
- transportation service per the program
- guide service
- excursion to Yailiu Nature Reserve
- boat rental on Teletskoe Lake
- all excursions per the program
- museum tickets and recreational fees
- personal accident insurance

Extra charge:

- [airfare](#) to Gorno-Altai and back
- breakfast on day 1 and dinner on day 9
- English and German interpreter
- single accommodation (+23,600 rub/pp)
- visa fees
- additional charges in tourist complexes
- sauna



Best price



Personal



Discounts for



Gift

