



# Winter Altai

Journey along the Chuysky tract



In winter Altai nature does not fall asleep, but turns into a blue-and-white fairy tale. Just imagine: cold springs gushes out of the ground, the ice-free lakes reflects the sky blueness, firs and mountain peaks put on the sparkling white snow caps. Crystal clean air and incredible silence are everywhere around. It can be interrupted only by crunch of snow underfoot or friendly talks with a hot herbal tea in the small hut lost in the deaf taiga.

# Experiences you'll have

## Tour to Altai in winter 2021

The fascinating journey along the Chuysky tract, which is in the top 10 of most beautiful roads in the world, according to National Geographic, is waiting for you. This is a combined tour with comfortable accommodation. You will cover 1800 km by car, about 30 km — by snowmobiles and about 8 km will walk on foot.

We have collected the most significant natural, cultural and historical sights of Altai in this program

### During the week spent in Altai, you will:

see the pearl of Altai — lake Teletskoye, one of the 5 deepest lakes in Russia, as well as the ice-free Blue lakes that disappear at other times of the year during the flood of the Katun river  
take a photo at the famous Geyser lake — in winter it looks even more spectacular than in summer, due to the contrast of bright turquoise water and snow-covered banks  
ride on snowmobiles or ATVs through the fabulous forest and visit the hunting hut, where you will be treated with delicious taiga tea  
visit the iconic historical and cultural places of Altai — explore the ancient petroglyphs preserved on the rocks of the Kalbak-Tash Hole and see the famous Altai Princess in the National Museum of Gorno-Altaysk  
admire the panorama of the North Chui ridge with the mountain peaks more than 4000 m high at sunset

### We accept bookings for groups of 6 or more

The cost of the tour for New Year holidays in January, 3-10 will be 1010 EURO per person

*Photo by our tourist Veronica Schneider*

## Itinerary

The journey begins in Barnaul, where you should travel to on your own with the morning flight at the first day of the tour (see details in "Common question" section). We are ready to help with the purchase of tickets, if necessary, leave a comment in the application.

**Note:** there are changes in the itinerary of days 5 and 6 for the program with the arrival on January 3, 2021.

### Day 1

#### You will be met at the airport and taken to the city center,

where you will have breakfast in a cafe. Then you will have a short sightseeing tour of Barnaul, and after it you will move to lake Teletskoye, that is considered to be "the pearl of the Altai Mountains". It is one of the fifth deepest lakes in Russia (325 m).

#### On the way you will stop in the village of Srostki. It is a

birthplace of the famous Russian writer and actor Vasily Shukshin. In Gorno-Altaysk you will visit the National Museum. One of its main exhibits is the mummy of the "Altai Princess" found on the Ukok plateau. The sarcophagus with the mummy is open on a certain schedule of the museum.

#### After lunch you will arrive to lake Teletskoye, stay in hotel

and have dinner in the restaurant.

**The length of the route is 430 km by minibus.**

### Day 2

**Today you will ride a snowmobiles or ATVs to the hunting**

Altai

## Winter Altai

Difficulty



Age

from 10 y.o.

Group size

from 4

Duration

8 days

Accommodation at the trip



7 nights

Языки



guide

from 915 EUR



hut Kono located in a deep taiga. Accompanied by an instructor, you will go along the old forest roads to a cozy cedar house, where the hospitable hosts will treat you with taiga herbal tea.

**After the tour you will return to the hotel and have lunch.**

Then, if desired, you can take a short walk to the top of the observation point at Tilan-Tuu Mount or to the Silver spring. In 1839 it was consecrated by the monk Makarios Nevsky who was the founder of the Orthodox mission in Altai. The spring water is enriched with silver ions and has healing properties.

**A 500-year-old cedar grows in a grove near the spring and**

shares its power with anyone who tries to embrace its powerful trunk. To embrace it entirely, you need at least 4 people.

**In the evening you will return to the hotel, have dinner,**

and then you can relax in the Russian banya.

**The length of the route is 30 km by snowmobile/ATV, 2 km**

on foot.

**Day 3**

**After breakfast you will move to the Katun river valley. On**

the way, you will stop in the village of Manzherok, where the same called lake and a ski resort are located. You will rise with a cableway to Mount Sinyukha. From the height you will see a beautiful panorama of the Katun river valley and lake Manzherok. If you want you can go skiing or snowboarding at the ski resort (extra charge).

**You will have lunch in a cafe, and then will move to the**

village of Uznezya. There you will stay in comfortable hotel rooms, have dinner and relax.

**The length of the route is 250 km by minibus.**

**Day 4**

**After breakfast you will move to the picturesque mountain**

Chemal village. Here you will have a sightseeing tour to Chemalskaya hydropower plant, built in 1935.

**Following the "goat trail" along the Katun river, you will**

reach the steep rocky island of Patmos, where the female skete of the Barnaul Znamensky monastery is located. The island is connected to the river bank by a long suspension bridge. An image of the Virgin and Child is carved in the rock near the temple.

**After lunch you will go to the Blue lakes. They are**

changeable (disappear during the flood of the Katun river) and are formed as a result of the decline in the water level of the river. Lakes do not freeze in winter. The cold powerful springs hits at the bottom of the river. They give so much water that the lake does not freeze at 40 degrees (Celsius) below zero. The bravest can go swimming here. Then you will return to the hotel, have dinner and rest.

**The length of the route is 60 km by minibus, 4 km on foot.**

## **Day 5**

### **After breakfast you will travel along the ancient trade**

route — the Chuysky tract. You will overcome the highest point of the tract — Seminsky mountain pass (1739 m above the sea level) and the picturesque serpentine type Chiket-Aman pass (1295 m above sea level). Also you will see the ancient tombs of the Turks and the so called "stone women" guarding their peace.

### **At midday you will have lunch in a cafe of national Altai**

cuisine. Then you will visit Kalbak-Tash Hole. It is a large natural complex with ancient rock paintings. There are more than 5 000 petroglyphs carved with stone or metal tools by ancient people.

### **In the evening you will arrive to Aktash village, stay in**

hotel and have dinner.

### ***In the program with the arrival on January 3, 2021 instead***

*of visiting Kalbak-Tash Hole, you will go to the bison kennel in the village of Kamlak. In the evening you will stay at "Barskaya Usadba" hotel located in the village of Ongudai.*

### **The length of the route is 240 km by minibus (180 km in**

the program with the arrival on January 3, 2021).

## **Day 6**

### **After breakfast you will enjoy a tour of the Ulagan district.**

First you will walk to the picturesque Geyser lake, which does not freeze even in winter and has an amazing turquoise color. From time to time geysers come to life at the bottom of the lake, throwing to the surface a mixture of bluish clay and sand.

### **Next you will continue the way and pass the "Red gate". It**

is a monument of nature, where the road passes in a narrow place between two rocks of a reddish color. Then you will see Chëybekkol (Dead) and Uzunkël (Live), filled with plenty of fish. You will reach the Ulagan pass (2080 m) and return to the Chuysky tract.

### **After lunch in Aktash village you will head along the**

Chuysky tract towards the Mongolian border. From the huge intermountain basin of the Kurai steppe you will have a magnificent view of the highest peaks of the North-Chuysky ridge: Actry-Bash (4075 m) and Karatash (3534 m). Here is a great place to shoot the sunset over the snowy peaks of the mountains. After that you will return to the hotel, have dinner and relax.

### ***In the program with the arrival on January 3, 2021 you will***

*first pass through the picturesque Chiket-Aman pass (1295 m above sea level), will see the ancient tombs of the Turks and the so called "stone women" guarding their peace, and visit Kalbak-Tash Hole. After that, you will go on a tour of the Ulagan district with a walk to the Geyser lake, lunch in the village of Aktash and then will head along the Chuysky tract towards the Mongolian border. In the evening, you will return to the hotel in Ongudai village and have dinner.*

**The length of the route is 2 km on foot and 180 km by**

minibus (360 km in the program with the arrival on January 3, 2021).

#### Day 7

**After breakfast you will go back to Barnaul. On the way**

you will visit the Arzhan-Suu spring. Its water is saturated with silver, copper and other mineral impurities, so it can be stored for a long time and improves metabolic processes in the body. Next to the spring there is a large Bazaar where you can buy a variety of souvenirs and local products.

**After lunch in the cafe you will continue travelling to**

Barnaul. You will arrive to the city around 7 pm and stay in the hotel.

**The length of the route is 610 km by minibus.**

#### Day 8

**In the morning you will have breakfast after that you will**

be taken to Barnaul airport.

## Accommodation at the trip

The first two nights you will spend in **"Artybash" Hotel**, located on the bank of lake Teletskoye in the village of Artybash. In a standard twin room there are two beds, bedside tables, a hanger, a table, a TV, a kettle with a set of dishes, a bathroom with a shower cabin. The rooms offer a magnificent view of the source of the Biya river and the majestic mountains. On the territory there are a restaurant, barbecue pavilions, picnic areas, Russian banya (sauna) with access to the river.

The next two nights you will stay in **"Salut" Hotel** in the village of Uznezya, built on the banks of the river Katun and surrounded by pine forests. You will be accommodated in comfortable twin rooms with a wardrobe, a TV and a bathroom with a shower. The hotel's area includes a bathhouse with a swimming pool, as well as a picnic area.

In the village of Aktash you will stay for two days in **"Rasul" hotel**, in standard twin or double rooms with all of the facilities on the floor. There is a wellness complex with a swimming pool and various types of baths and saunas.

The final night of the trip you will spend in **"Barnaul" hotel**. It offers standard twin rooms with a private bathroom, a TV, a safe and free Wi-Fi. There is the largest restaurant in the Altai region, located in the hotel, where you can listen to live music in the evenings.

**Note:** in the program with arrival on January 3, 2021 from the fifth to seventh days of the tour you will stay in **"Barskaya Usadba"** hotel located in the village of Ongudai. You will be accommodated in standard twin rooms with amenities.

## FAQ

Who will be my guide

You will be accompanied by an experienced English-speaking guide and a driver.

Transfer from the airport

You will be met at Barnaul airport at 7 am near the exit of the arrival hall.

We recommend you the following flights from Moscow to Barnaul:

- Aeroflot (SU 1430 with an arrival at 5:50 am)
- Ural airlines (U6 flight 651 with an arrival at 6:20 am)
- Sibir airlines (S7 flight 217 with an arrival at 6:55 am)

If you arrive in Barnaul by train, the meeting with the guide will be at 8.00 am at the main entrance to the railway station.

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## Meals

The price includes three meals a day, except dinner on the seventh day of the tour. In hotels, meals are served in restaurants, while moving — in roadside cafes. At the "Rasul hotel" the guide prepares several meals for the group by himself.

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## Can I take part

The tour is not recommended for people with chronic diseases of the lungs, cardiovascular, nervous systems, musculoskeletal system, if the presence of these diseases can prevent the passage of the route and/or worsen health. If you have any health problems, be sure to consult your doctor in advance.

We ask you to inform us before your trip about your chronic diseases or contraindications to participation in travel with moderate physical activity.

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## Can children take part

Children from 10 years old can participate in the journey, but only accompanied by adults.

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## Insurance

The cost of the tour includes a comprehensive insurance policy of LLC "Rossgosstrakh", which includes the cost of medical care and evacuation from the scene (150 000 rubles), as well as accident insurance (40 000 rubles).

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## What to bring with me

- documents (passport)
- a bag for personal belongings
- winter insulated boots
- sneakers
- a warm down jacket/ski suit
- a wool cap
- thermal underwear
- a sweater
- a tracksuit (while staying in hotels and camp sites)
- T-shirts
- wool socks
- cotton socks, 3-4 pairs
- a change of underwear
- sleepers
- photo and video equipment
- a flashlight with a set of spare batteries
- sunglasses
- sunscreen
- a hygienic kit

- individual medicines (the guide has a first aid kit)

## What transport is used

All transfers are carried out on comfortable minibuses. Depending on the amount of snow, snowmobiles or ATVs will be used for excursion to Kono (2 people on snowmobiles).

## What will the weather be like

At this time of year in the Altai region daytime temperature can vary from 0 to -20°C, at night falls to -5 -30°C.

# Booking

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7 nights

## from 915 EUR

### What's included in the price:

- hotel accommodation (twin/double room)
- meals according to a program
- transfer to and from the airport
- transport services according to the program (comfortable off-road minibus)
- a guide-interpreter services
- program excursions
- museum tickets and recreational fees
- migration registration
- health and accident insurance
- visiting Russian banya (sauna) according to the program

### Extra charge:

- [airfare to Barnaul](#) (starting from 273 EURO for round-trip ticket)
- single accommodation in the hotel (+105 EURO per person)
- additional expenses at the hotels
- dinner in Barnaul at day 7
- riding and equipment rental at the ski resort "Manzherok"
- extra time in Russian banya (+15 EURO/hour)



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