

Karelia is the land of lakes and rivers where adventures await you behind every corner! Take a spin on a bike through a mossy forest, breathing in the fresh air. Feel cool water sprays on your skin while kayaking along the picturesque Yanis River. And admire the beauty of the Ladoga skerries from the shore and from the water. This summer journey full of multiple activities will saturate you with bright emotions and will open to you the most amazing places of Karelia.

Experiences you'll have

Journey to Lake Ladoga

The Northern Ladoga Lake region is one of the most picturesque and popular areas for active tourism in Karelia. Combining different activities in one trip, you will explore the main highlights of the place: the Ruskeala Mountain Park and the Europe's largest Lake Ladoga.

The trip is recommended to tourists in a good physical shape. The bicycle activities suppose riding a distance up to 40 km a day along forest and unsurfaced roads with a significant elevation difference. You will move without luggage; it will be brought by an escort transport. The second part of the journey will include kayaking along the Yanis River and boating on Lake Ladoga.

Highlights of the tour:

- you will take a spin on a bike to the Marble Canyon, famous for its turquoise lakes and underground tunnels of 18th century marble mines
- admire breathtaking Ruskeala waterfalls
- visit the architectural complex of a former Finnish hydro-electric power station
- go kayaking along the fastest river of the Ladoga area
- have a motor-raft ride across bays and passages of the Ladoga skerries
- climb Aino Mount, the highest point of the Ladoga reef mountains, and enjoy a fascinating view of the Ladoga and Valaam archipelago's vast expanses

With a group request, we can organize this trip on any dates suitable for you

Karelia

Way to Ladoga

Difficulty



Group size

from 12 to 21

Duration

7 days

Accommodation at the trip



6 nights

Языки



guide

from 290 EUR

Itinerary

The journey starts with meeting at Sortavala railway station, where you should get to on your own. We recommend you to choose a train №160B "Moscow - Petrozavodsk" with arrival to Sortavala at 6:34 am (departure from Leningradsky railway station in Moscow at 4 pm the day before the start of the program). To return to Moscow, take the train №160A with departure from Sortavala at 8:25 pm (arrival to Moscow at 10:16 am the next day). We are ready to help you to purchase tickets. If necessary, leave a comment on the application.

The itinerary may change depending on weather conditions.



Day 1

You will be met at Sortavala railway station and taken to

the starting point of a cycle route — to Kharlu village. Those, who prefer arriving by their own transport, can leave a car in Lyaskelya village located 11 km away from Kharlu village. The car will be under the care; the service is provided at additional cost.

In Kharlu you will get safety instructions, prepare an

equipment and have a light meal. After that you will move to Lake Yatyaskelampi on your bike. You will be cycling with light luggage, your other things will be transported by an escort car.

The route goes along the logging road with significant

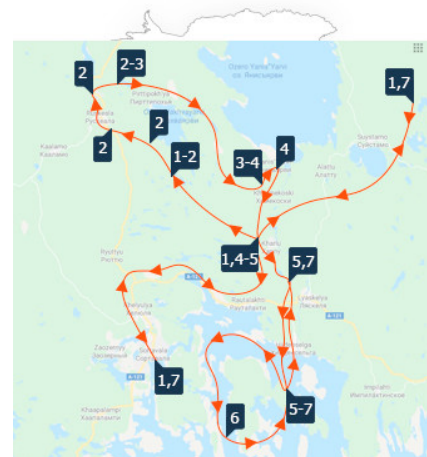
elevation difference. On the way to the lake you will have to overcome many descents and ascents. Arriving to the place, you will set a camp and have dinner.

The route length is 14 km by bike.

Day 2

After breakfast, you will pack up the camp and cycle to the

Ruskeala mountain park. On the way, you will pass villages of Sarkisyurya and Ruskeala and have a rest stop for a picnic.



The first highlight of this day is the magnificent Ruskeala

waterfalls. The shooting of the famous Soviet movie about World War II "The dawns here are quiet" took place here in 1972.

Then you will explore the Ruskeala Marble Canyon. The

canyon is the Russia's cultural monument. This is a marble water-filled quarry. Excavation works were started in 1765. A system of underground galleries and gangways, connected by vertical mines, runs through the quarry walls. The most of them had been sunk after World War II, and the quarry turned into a wonderful lake with turquoise water with clarity up to 18 meters.

The route finishes at Lake Matkaselkylamp , where you

will set a camp, have dinner and stay for overnight in tents.

The route length is 25 km by bike (10 km of earth road, 4

km of asphalt, 11 km of logging road with significant elevation difference).

Day 3

After breakfast you will go on you cycle route and get to

Khyamekoski village. Here a former Finnish hydro-electric power station is located. While exploring an architectural complex of the station, you will be enchanted by water power and by the talented Finnish constructors who succeed in using waterfalls power without breaking a balance with nature. You will have hot meal or picnic en route and overnight in a camp.

The route length is 42 km by bike along the logging

road with significant elevation difference.

Day 4

After breakfast you will go by bikes to the starting point of

kayaking route along the Yanis River. At first you will have safety briefing, get an equipment and take some training on water.

The Yanis River has its source in Lake Yanisjarvi — the

place from where you will start kayaking. According to some scientists, the Yanisjarvi Lake is a ruined meteorite crater. The lake strikes visitors with its beauty; here about 40 beautiful islands are located.

While kayaking you will pass the Yanis River rapids and

watch Khemyakoski canyon. Depending on the route conditions, you will have hot or light meal en route. In the evening you will set camp near Kharlu village, have dinner and overnight in the camp.

The route length is 2 km by bike, 10 km by kayak.

Day 5

After breakfast you will go on the kayaking route along the

Yanis River, from Kharlu village to Lyaskelya village, and at last will reach Lake Ladoga. Here your kayaking will be finished. You will change the transport for motorcraft and follow to Lake Ladoga skerries.

Lake Ladoga is one of the largest freshwater lakes in

Europe and the second largest lake in Russia after the Baikal. 32 rivers flow into the lake. On the area of 18,000 sq.km about 500 islands are located. The islands separated by straits form the skerries.

You will land on one of the island of the Ladoga skerries,

set up a camp, have dinner and overnight in tents.

The route length is 12 km by kayak, 10 km by motorboat.

Day 6

After breakfast you will start a voyage around the Ladoga

skerries on motorboats. It will be a loop route. One of the remarkable features of the skerries are reef mountains. These are mountains with 80-meters cliffs that go down sheer into the lake.

You will visit islands where the Finnish settlements were

located during the Winter War of 1939-1940 between the Soviet Union and Finland. The preserved house bases look like fire fortifications with bunkers. The settlements were used as permanent fire positions and were part of defense line.

Another activity for today is climbing the highest point of

the Ladoga skerries – Aino Mount. From the top you will enjoy a fascinating view of the Ladoga and Valaam archipelago's vast expanses. You will have picnic en route. In the evening you will return to the camp, have dinner and overnight in tents.

Day 7

After breakfast you will move to Lyaskelya village by

motorboats. Here is the final point of your route. You will have picnic en route.

At 3 pm you will have transfer to Sortavala for trains

departing after 8 pm. For those coming by their own transport, transfer to the parking place will be organized. For tourists from Saint-Petersburg, individual transfer to Lodeynoye Pole or Sortavala stations is available at additional cost.

The route length is 12 km by motorboat, 250 km by auto.

Accommodation at the trip

During the tour you will stay in camps with overnight in tents.

FAQ

Who will be my guide

Experienced guides will accompany you throughout the tour.

Meals

The price includes three meals a day, besides breakfast on day 1 and lunch and dinner on the last day. Breakfasts and hot dinners will be offered during your stay at camps, snacks with hot tea will be offered for lunches en route during activities.

Sample menu:

- breakfast: cooked cereal from rice/millet/oat/wheat, condensed milk, butter, cheese, sausage, biscuits, chocolate paste, processed cheese, dried biscuits
 - lunch: vegetable salad, borsch/cabbage soup, fruit, bread, sweets
 - dinner: stewed potato with vegetables, boiled buckwheat with vegetables, pilaff, pasta Navy-style, sugar, tea, waffles, biscuits, bread, sausage, tomatoes, cucumber, tomato sauce, mayonnaise
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Can I take part

The trip is recommended to tourists in a good physical shape. The bicycle activities suppose traveling a distance up to 40 km a day along the logging roads, unsurfaced and — rare — asphalt roads with many descents and ascents.

Discounts

If you bring your own bicycle, you will get 10 EURO discount.

For those coming from Saint-Petersburg and booking an individual transfer from Sortavala station to the program's starting point at additional cost, a discount for not used group transfer is provided — 8 EURO per person in one direction.

What to bring with me

Clothes and footwear (for bicycle route):

- trousers made from strong fabric, 2 pairs (NOT jeans)
- thin fleece jacket or T-shirt (depending on weather forecast)
- light windbreaker
- cycling gloves (optional)
- cycling shorts (optional)
- raincoat or jacket from fabric membrane
- socks, 2-3 pairs
- cap or bandana
- comfortable footwear covering foot

Clothes and footwear (for kayaking):

- sport outer garments or neoprene suit (advisable)
- sport trousers from drip-dry
- footwear (for example sneakers, gumboots are not allowed)
- socks from strong fabric
- light suit from water-resistant fabric; raincoats from strong fabric can be used
- light cotton or neoprene gloves (optional)
- bandana to wear under helmet

Clothes and footwear (to wear in camp):

- clothes to change after kayaking and cycling
- comfortable dry outer garments to change after kayaking and cycling
- comfortable footwear
- socks
- heading, bandana
- set of underwear for changing
- set of thermal underwear
- warm socks (woolen is well)
- thin heading for cool nights
- fleece jacket
- towel, swimming gear, flip-flops for banya

Personal belongings and equipment:

- documents in tight packing: passport, medical insurance certificate
- rucksack or travelling bag
- sleeping bag
- repellents
- flash light and store batteries
- cycling glasses (recommended as wind and insects protection)
- sun protection cream sunglasses
- small polyurethane mat to sit on
- power bank
- personal dish: mug, soup plate, spoon

Booking

Karelia

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What's included in the price:

- transport services according to the program
- three meals a day
- instructor services
- rental of camp equipment (fire equipment, tents, thermal insulation mats)
- bicycle and gear rental (a helmet, a bright vest with reflective elements), escort cars on the bike route
- rental of equipment for kayaking (kayaks, paddles, helmets, life jackets, dry bags, boats with motors)

Extra charge:

- railway tickets to Sortavala
- trolley ride over the Marble Canyon (optional, from 15 EURO per person)
- rental of a sleeping bag (comfort temperature +6°C, extreme 0°C): +4 EURO per person for the tour
- health insurance and other unexpected expenses (from 1 EURO per person per day)
- parking service in Lyaskelya village (+3 EURO per day)
- individual transfer for participants from Saint Petersburg from Lyaskelya village to Sortavala station (+10 EURO per a car), optional
- individual transfer for participants from Saint Petersburg from Lyaskelya village to the Lodeynoye Pole station (+53 EURO per a car)
- an interpreter's service (+315 EURO in case you are the only foreign tourist in the group)



Best price guarantee



Personal tours



Discounts for regular clients



Gift cards