











The Kuril Islands are part of the Pacific Ring of Fire, with the largest number of active volcanoes in the world. The volcanoes not only form picturesque landscapes but also provide unique conditions for the habitat of rare animals. Whales rise from the Pacific Ocean's depths, brown bears hunt for salmon, and birds soar through the sky to the horizon. Join our cruise along all the islands of the Kuril Archipelago to see it for yourself!

## **Experiences you'll have**

## Expedition to the Kuril Islands

Not only incredible nature but also exciting activities await you on the voyage. We have packed this journey with adventures to the maximum! The cruise will take place on the renovated expedition vessel "Omega", so you will not have to sacrifice comfort.

The group will be limited to only 10 people, allowing us to organize a wide range of activities on the expedition

During this voyage, you will:

travel along the entire island chain: visit the Southern, Middle, and Northern Kurils

see active volcanoes Krenitsyn, Baransky, and Alaid, and climb Golovnin and Ebeko volcanoes

spend the night in tents on Yankicha Island, one of the most beautiful islands of the archipelago

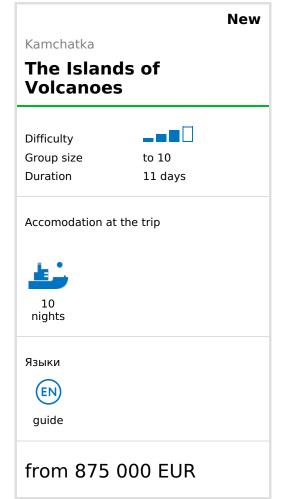
visit Stolbchaty Cape on Kunashir Island, a unique natural heritage

get acquainted with the fauna of the Kurils: Arctic foxes, sea lions, sea otters, and whales can be found here relax in thermal springs and try your hand at water activities: paddleboarding, kayaking, and foilboarding

The price per person with double occupancy in a cabin is 920,000 875,000 RUB (10,041 USD). The price is valid for bookings made by September 30, 2024.

The base rate is in RUB. The price in USD depends on the exchange rate of the <u>Central Bank of Russia</u> minus 2% and is valid as of September 5, 2024.

A 50% prepayment is needed to make a reservation. The remaining 50% must be paid 120 days before the cruise starts.



# **Itinerary**

Your journey will start in Petropavlovsk-Kamchatsky and end in Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk. Airfare is paid separately. 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 expedition, the route may vary depending on the

## Day 1

#### After picking up at the airport you will be taken to the port

of Petropavlovsk-Kamchatsky. Here you will board the ship "Omega". You will pass Avacha Bay, one of the largest bays in the world, and take a course to the southern edge of the Kamchatka Peninsula.

Day 2

### Today the ship will approach the southern part of the

Kamchatka Peninsula. Here you will go on an expedition boat trip in Russkaya Bay. You will get acquainted with the wildlife of the peninsula. At the entry to the bay there are rookeries of Steller sea lions, sea birds nest along the shores. During the spawning season, you can see brown bears on the coast, and orcas are often seen on the entry to the bay.

Day 3

#### During these days, the captain and expedition leader will

offer you the best opportunities to explore the Northern Kurils depending on weather conditions.

## A landing is planned in Krasheninnikov Bay, the pearl of

Paramushir Island. You will enjoy a magnificent view of the active volcanoes Karpinsky and Lomonosov here. You can also see whales and orcas feeding in the coastal waters.





## You will climb the Ebeko volcano (1,156 m). This is an

active volcano with fumarole fields and frequent eruptions. From the height, you will see the southern volcanic group of Paramushir Island: Tatarinov, Chikurachki, Fussa, and Alaid. It is a challenging trek of 12 km long and an altitude gain of 1200-1400 m, but the scenery is definitely worth the effort.

#### On Antsiferov Island or the Lovushki Islands, you will

approach rookeries of sea lions and seals by expedition boats.

#### On the northernmost island of the Great Kuril

Ridge, Atlasov Island, there is an active volcano Alaid (2,339 m). It is the highest point of the Kuril Islands. Foxes, sea lions, seals, sea otters, and numerous species of seabirds live here.

#### Upon landing on the island, you will easily climb to the side

crater of Alaid called Taketomi (1 km on foot with an altitude gain of 126 m). From here you can enjoy an amazing view of Alaid volcano. Its beauty is often compared to Fuji Mount.

#### Day 4

#### Onekotan Island is famous for its unique Krenitsyn volcano

(1,324 m). Krenitsyn is the volcano inside another volcano. Its cone rises in the center of the lake, which occupies the caldera of the ancient destroyed volcano. On this island, you will climb a ridge for a magnificent view of the volcano. The route is suitable for physically fit travelers: you have to walk 15 km with an altitude gain of 600 m.

#### Day 5

### In the morning you will visit Broughton Bay on Simushir

Island. This is the neck of a sunken volcano, which was artificially widened by powerful explosions for the passage of warships. On the shore of the island, you will see the military town abandoned in the 90s. It used to be one of the largest bases of the Pacific Fleet of the Soviet Union. Fishing from the shore or boats is possible here.

#### On Yankicha Island, you will enter Kraternaya Bay by

expedition boat. This sunken volcanic caldera is one of the most beautiful places of the Kuril Archipelago. Here you can bathe in thermal springs and see a variety of seabirds, including rare species. In good weather, you will spend the night in a tent on the coast of the bay.

## Day 6

#### On the coastline of Urup Island, you will see picturesque

waterfalls, grottoes, and caves.

## There is an active volcano Berga (1,040 m) on the island.

You will see Taka Waterfall and Tokotan Lake, Glybisty Cape, and Pivnaya Kruzhka Arch (Rus. for Beer Mug). In Novokurilskaya Bay fishing for char and redfish is possible and in Abramova Bay, you can fish for halibut.

## Day 7

### These days you will explore the iconic places of Iturup, the

largest island of the Kuril Archipelago. The visiting sites will be determined by the weather. There are a few options:

active Baransky volcano (1,125 m). The panoramic platform offers breathtaking views. You can also bathe in thermal springs.

Lions' Mouth Bay closed from the wind. Great place for kayaking and paddleboarding.

Ilya Muromets waterfall. One of the highest waterfalls in the country (141 m). It can only be seen from the ocean side. Fishing for giant halibut is possible in the adjacent bay.

## One of the days you will land on the Sea of Okhotsk's coast

to see the famous White Cliffs, unusual in shape and color. The cliffs consist of soft pumice formed after a volcanic eruption. Under the influence of wind and storms, the pumice has been eroded and the cliffs got a bizarre shape. The black volcanic sand on the shore makes white cliffs even more spectacular.

Day 8

## Today you will reach Kunashir Island. This is the

southernmost and largest island of the Great Kuril Ridge. There are 3 active volcanoes here: Golovnin, Mendeleev and Rurui.

#### You will trek to Golovnin volcano's caldera (14 km in both

directions). The route will pass in the protected Kuril reserve's zone, on a dirt road through the forest, thickets of bamboo and cedar shrubbery. You will descend into a deep crater with 2 volcanic lakes and have a chance to swim in one of them. Those who climb up to the viewpoint will see a mesmerizing panorama of turquoise lakes.

#### Then you will visit the unique Stolbchaty cape. It is made

of multifaceted "pillars", which were formed due to the slow extrusion of viscous lava, solidified under the influence of seawater.

Day 9

The ship will take you to Iturup Island, where you will

disembark. Then you will be transferred to the airport and fly to Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk.

## Accomodation at the trip

Your voyage will take place aboard the small expedition vessel Omega.

The ship was completely renovated in 2024. Its length is 30 m, width is 6 m. 10 guests can be accommodated on board.

**Facilities on board:** Finnish sauna, open decks for relaxation and photo and video shooting, spacious lounge with bar, karaoke multimedia center, TV monitor, and thematic books. Breakfasts, lunches, and dinners are served in the lounge. Tea and machine-made coffee are available 24 hours. Rental of paddleboards, kayaks, foilboards, trekking poles, tents, and sea fishing gear is included in the price of the cruise.

**You will be accommodated in 6 cabins** (2 with double beds, 4 with twin beds). Each cabin has windows, beds, desk, closets and shelves, hangers, and personal nightlights. 3 shower and 3 toilet rooms are located on the same deck. All rooms are sound-insulated, ventilated, and heated.

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The base rate is in RUB. The price in USD depends on the exchange rate of the <u>Central Bank of Russia</u> minus 2% and is valid as of September 5, 2024.

A 50% prepayment is needed to make a reservation. The remaining 50% must be paid 120 days before the cruise starts.

## **FAQ**

## Who will be my guide

The cruise will be accompanied by an experienced expedition leader and experts on the region, who will give a variety of thematic lectures and presentations on board.

#### What to bring with me

When choosing clothing and footwear, take into account the peculiarities of the Arctic region. Temperatures can drop below freezing at the northern points of the route. Sometimes there are no landings on the shore and the boats go along the shore.

Keep in mind that it can be very windy on the coast, this adds to the temperature effect. There will be splashing on the boat even in small waves, so clothing should be **waterproof** and **windproof**. The main heat loss occurs through the head, arms, and legs – pay maximum attention to these places. We recommend taking a camping seat with you. Don't forget about equipment: you need a waterproof case for shooting in rain and drizzle.

**Clothing:** warm pants, waterproof pants, thermal underwear, sweater, turtleneck, wool hat covering ears, balaclava/scarf, warm socks, waterproof hooded jacket. You can bring dressy clothes for the farewell party (heeled shoes are not recommended).

**Footwear:** trekking boots (not compulsory, but recommended for long walks on the shore). If you prefer trekking boots to rubber boots, you should bring them with you in your backpack and change them on the shore. Boots with grooved soles will give you the most stable footing. Rubber boots are also necessary, but they can be given free of charge on the first day of the cruise. It is important to bring warm insoles with you. If you plan to bring your boots, they should be mid-calf height or higher with thick ribbed non-slip soles. Some landings will require stepping into water up to 25 centimeters deep. It can also be quite slippery on the ice and on the shore. Make sure the boots fit comfortably with a wool sock. You will also need sandals, sneakers, or any other comfortable shoes for the ship, and flip-flops for the shower.

**Other:** a small backpack for landings (preferably waterproof), warm and waterproof gloves, sunglasses, cream (in windy weather preferably greasy nourishing), lipstick, binoculars, earplugs, swimsuit (for baths, hot springs, and optional bathing in the ocean), towel.

**Documents:** passport, boarding pass (issued in advance or mailed), airplane ticket, copy of insurance.

## Can I take a part

This cruise is suitable for active tourists in good physical shape. The program includes landing on the wild coast and daily trekking. You will climb to the crater of Krenitsyna volcano (15 km with an altitude gain of 600 m) and Ebeko volcano (12 km with an altitude difference of 1200-1400 m).

## Special offer

Purchasing this cruise will give you a 5% discount on all future journeys with RussiaDiscovery.

# **Booking**

## The Islands of Volcanoes

New

Difficulty

Group size to 10

Duration 11 days

10 nights

## from 875 000 EUR

#### What's included in the price:

- cabin accommodation
- $\boldsymbol{-}$  three meals a day on board, tea and coffee 24 hours
- group transfers between airports and port according to the program
- all excursions and landings according to the program
- entrance tickets
- $\boldsymbol{-}$  overnight in tents on the Kuril Islands (weather permitting)
- airfare Kurilsk Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk
- rental of fishing gear, tents, paddleboards, kayaks, foilboards, trekking poles
- health insurance

#### Extra charge:

Accomodation at the trip

- <u>airfare</u> to Petropavlovsk-Kamchatsky and from Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk
- meals and accommodation in Petropavlovsk-Kamchatsky and Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk
- personal expenses on board
- tips for the crew

22 jun 2025, sun — 2 jul 2025, wed	from 875 000 EUR
24 jul 2025, thu — 3 aug 2025, sun	from 875 000 EUR
4 aug 2025, mon — 14 aug 2025, thu	from 875 000 EUR





