

# Three Pacific Islands

A trip to Sakhalin, Iturup and Kunashir



In this trip to Far Eastern Russia you will visit as many as 3 islands of the Kuriles: Sakhalin, Iturup and Kunashir. Unique history, wild nature and huge variety of animals, picturesque bays and capes, volcanoes and hot springs... By the end of the journey, this corner of the Earth will hold a special place in your heart.

# Experiences you'll have

What do you know about the Kuril Islands? Disputes about history and a rather distant location? We can assure you that this is far from everything. Magnificent volcanoes, fumarole fields and hot springs, a huge variety of plants, rare animals, birds and fish, legends and mysterious atmosphere — a lot of surprises are waiting for you on the archipelago.

Visiting the Kuril Islands is quite an achievement by itself — this is one of the most distant regions of Russia. You will explore 3 islands in one travel: it will let you see the main attractions of the archipelago, reach the most remote places and admire untouched nature and picturesque landscapes.

7 unusual places of the world that you will visit during the trip to the Kuriles:

white cliffs of Iturup Island formed after a volcanic eruption the Stolbchatiy Cape with natural columns formed with lava on Kunashir island  
Tikhaya Bay on Sakhalin island — the shores of the bay are covered with rare herbs and flowers  
the Yankito plateau on Iturup Island — a combination of black lava with green grass and bright flowers  
fumarole field of Mendeleev volcano on Kunashir island — gas of the volcano gets to the surface with loud pops here  
caldera of Golovnin volcano with hot lakes on Kunashir island  
Lyagushka butte on Sakhalin island — scientists still have not found explanation for mysterious things happening here

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

Border permit is required for this tour. Personal data should be submitted minimum 50 days before the date of arrival

Sakhalin and the Kuril islands

## Three Pacific Islands

Difficulty   
Group size from 4 to 9  
Duration 15 days

Accommodation at the trip



11 3 nights  
nights

Языки



guide

from 216 000 EUR

## Itinerary

The journey starts in Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk, where you must travel to on your own. We are ready to assist with the tickets purchasing. If necessary, leave a comment in the order.

### Day 1

**You will be met at the airport and taken to a hotel. Here,**  
you will have free time and relax after the journey.

**In the evening, a welcome dinner in a cafe is waiting for**  
you. You will taste Sakhalin delicacies and discuss a program of the upcoming travel.

**After dinner, you will have a sightseeing tour of the city.**

During the excursion you will visit an observation deck at the mountain resort "Mountain Air". From here you can enjoy a beautiful view of the city and the entire Susunai Valley, surrounded by hills and ridges. Then, you will return to the hotel and rest.

### Day 2

**After breakfast, you will be transferred to the airport, from**  
where you will have a flight to Kurilsk. It is located on Iturup, the largest island of the Kuril Ridge. From Kurilsk airport you will be taken to a hotel — here, you will accommodate and have lunch.

**In the afternoon, you will go on a tour of the city and**

Kitovoye settlement, that is located on the coast of the Sea of Okhotsk. Also, you will visit hot springs resort "Zharkiye Vody". After that, you will return to the hotel, have dinner and rest.

### Day 3



**After breakfast, you will have an excursion to Kasatka Bay.**

During the Second World War a Japanese naval base was located here. On the 26th of November, 1941, Japanese aircrafts carried an unexpected powerful blow to the US Pacific Fleet Pearl Harbor.

**Then, you will go to Baranskiy volcano — one of the active**

volcanoes of Iturup Island. Its' height is more than 1000 meters. At its foot there is a fumarole field; the slopes of the volcano are full of mud pots and mineral springs.

**By the evening, you will return to the hotel, where you will**

have dinner and rest.

**Day 4**

**This day, you will have a sea excursion with the following**

itinerary: the Olya Bay — Black cliffs — White cliffs — waterfalls of the Parusnaya Bay — a seal rookery (note: it is possible that animals will be absent) — Tornaya Bay — Sopochnoye lake.

**During the excursion you will see the main attraction of**

Iturup Island — the White Cliffs. The cliffs consist of soft pumice, formed after a volcanic eruption.

**After the boat trip, you will go to hot springs resort**

"Vannochki", where you will relax in thermal mineral springs. Then you will return to the hotel, have dinner and rest.

**Day 5**

**In the morning, you will have an excursion to the Yankito**

lava plateau. Solidified black lava in combination with green grass and bright flowers looks very unusual. After coming back to the hotel and checking-out, you will be transferred to a port. From here, you will start a trip to Kunashir Island.

**Day 6**

**Today, you will arrive in Yuzhno-Kurilsk. From the port you**

will be transferred to a hotel.

Your acquaintance with Kunashir Island will start from the coastline of the Pacific Ocean. Here, you will see the attraction of the island — rock named Devil's finger.

By the evening you will return to the hotel, where you will have dinner and rest.

**Day 7**

**After breakfast, you will have a trip to Golovnin volcano.**

First, you will go with a car — during the trip you will admire picturesque fields of cedar elfin wood and Kuril bambuchnik. Then, you will have a trekking to the caldera of the volcano (7 km one way).

**The volcano was named after Russian traveller Vasiliy**

Golovnin, who was digesting the Kuril Islands at the beginning of the XIX century and made 2 trips around the world. At the bottom of the caldera there are 4 small domes and 2 craters — Lakes Boiling and Hot. At the bottom and along the shores of the first lake hot keys beat, mud pots and hot steam emanate. It is forbidden to swim in it. Swimming in Lake Hot, on the contrary, is a great pleasure. If you wish, you can climb one of the hills and make beautiful panoramic photos.

**In the evening, you will return to the hotel and dine in a**

cafe.

#### **Day 8**

**Today you will have a hiking route to Cape Stolbchaty**

located on the coast of the Sea of Okhotsk. It is included on UNESCO's World Heritage List. You will walk along Stolbovo Ecological Path, see hot mud springs and come to the coast (8 km, the walking part can be shortened upon request). Here, you will inspect rocks of volcanic origin, formed from five-/six-sided stone pillars.

**The path to Cape Stolbchaty passes through various plant**

communities, crossing high-altitude vegetation zones. Please, pay attention, that this hiking route is rather difficult. You will have to overcome very narrow rocky areas of the coast. In some places the path will pass through the cliffs at an altitude of 3-4 meters above the sea.

**For lunch you will have sandwiches, vegetables and fruit,**

tea. By the evening you will return to the hotel, where you will have dinner and rest.

#### **Day 9**

**After breakfast, an excursion to fumarole field of**

Mendelev volcano is waiting for you. Fumaroles are cracks, through which volcano gases get to the surface with loud pops. They consist of sulfur, which crystallizes and forms yellow lacelike patterns.

**First, you will drive 17 km with a car, then you will**

start trekking through a bamboo forest (3 km one way). For lunch, you will have sandwiches, vegetables and fruit, tea.

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

rest.

#### **Day 10**

**In the morning, you will be transferred to the port, from**

where you will start a ship trip back to Sakhalin Island.

#### **Day 11**

**This day you will spend onboard sailing to Sakhalin Island**

#### **Day 12**

**After arrival at Korsakov port on Sakhalin Island, you will**

be transferred to the hotel. Here, you will accommodate and have rest.

#### **Day 13**

**After breakfast, you will go to excursion to the Tikhaya**

Bay. It was named by famous seaman Ivan Fyodorovich Kruzenshtern. This is a rocky inaccessible island — the silence here is broken only by seagulls nesting on rocks. The shores of the bay are covered with rare herbs and flowers.

**For lunch you will have a lunch box with you. In the**

evening you will come back to the hotel and have dinner in a cafe on your own.

## Day 14

### Today, you will have an excursion to Lyagushka (Frog)

butte. The legend says that a Temple of Wisdom of ancient Ainu used to be here. They came here to communicate with spirits. This place, even nowadays, attracts magicians and ufologists. Mysterious events, that tempt the minds of scientists and psychics, occur here.

### In the evening you will return to the hotel and have dinner

in a cafe on your own.

## Day 15

### After breakfast, you will visit a fish market. Then, you will

be taken to the airport, from where you will have a flight back home.

# Accommodation at the trip

During the journey you will spend 4 nights in **Santa Resort Hotel** in Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk on Sakhalin Island. 3 nights in **Iturup hotel** in Kurilsk on Iturup Island. 4 nights in **Iceberg hotel** in Yuzhno-Kurilsk on Kunashir Island. During transfers among islands you will stay on board **Igor Farkutdinov** ship — 3 nights in total.

**Santa Resort Hotel** in Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk is located not far away from the city's business area (a 10-minute drive). You will stay in twin rooms with private bathrooms. There is an air-conditioner, flat-screen TV, a mini-bar and Wi-Fi in every room. In bathrooms you can find toiletries, bathrobes and a hairdryer. The resort features a sauna and a hot tub, a restaurant and a tennis court. As well as a spa complex, pool and a well-equipped gym.

**Iturup hotel** in Kurilsk is located in the lower part of Iturup Island. There are 35 rooms of different categories; you will stay in twin ones. There is Wi-Fi in the hotel.

In Yuzhno-Kurilsk you will live in a twin or single room in a **mini-hotel Iceberg**. Every room has a private bathroom. Some rooms have a view on the Sea of Okhotsk or the town. There is a restaurant and a billiard in the hotel.

Between islands you will sail with **Igor Farkhutdinov ship**. This ice-class passenger vessel was built in Poland in 1991. Onboard, there are cabins of different categories with private shower and toilet. Passengers can have lunch or dinner in a canteen.

## FAQ

### What to take with you

On the trip you should take:

- comfortable waterproof clothes
- hiking boots for climbing
- windproof suit
- camera

### Required data for border permit

To participate in tour it is necessary to submit the following information not later than 50 days before start of the tour:

- copy of passport
- full name of employing Company and job position
- address of current residence
- city of birth (with country indicated)

- phone number
- copy of visa

The issue of border permit is included in the tour.

### Tick-borne encephalitis vaccination

We highly recommend to get a tick-borne encephalitis vaccination, especially for May-June arrivals. In Russia vaccination is done in 2 parts. The first vaccine is made 45 days before arrival to Russia. The second vaccine — 7-14 days before arrival to the region.

The vaccination process might differ in your country. For details, please contact your doctor. If you are not willing to go through vaccination process, please, be assured that your medical insurance covers tick-borne encephalitis.

## Booking

Sakhalin and the Kuril islands

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Difficulty



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Duration

15 days

Accommodation at the trip



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from 216 000 EUR

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

- hotel accommodation in Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk (Sakhalin Island), Kurilsk (Iturup Island) and Yuzhno-Kurilsk (Kunashir Island)
- meals according to the program
- transfers according to the program
- excursions according to the program
- entrance fee to "Vannochki" and "Zharkiye Vody" hot springs
- insurance for the tour period

#### Extra charge:

- international flight and a flight to and from Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk
- flight to Kurilsk (starting from 130 EUR pp)
- ferry tickets for the route Kurilks (Iturup Island) — Yuzhno-Kurilsk (Kunashir Island) — Korsakov port (Sakhalin Island) (starting from 350 EUR pp)
- single accommodation in twin room in hotel in Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk
- meals on ferries



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