

Kunashir island: trip to the edge of the world — Detailed description

Trip Length: 11 Group: 8-14 Departure: Fixed Period: December - January

Trip overview

Kuril arch with a narrow chain of islands as a delicate bridge connects two worlds - Kamchatka and Japan. Mysterious Kuril Islands is a part of the Pacific Ring of Fire. There are more than 150 volcanoes on the islands where 39 of them are active. The highest volcano Alaid (2339 m) is located on the Atlasov Island. There are many thermal springs, some of them possess healing qualities that are connected with the volcanic activity.

The Kuril islands is a paradise for romantic travelers. These inaccessible and isolated no man's land, where active volcanoes and severe climate reigns could be frightens. But don't be and keep the desire of unique adventure in these foggy islands of fire. Discover the old hide secrets from former military fortresses of the Japanese army conserved until now.

The experts compare the Kuril islands with a huge Botanical garden, where there are representatives of various kinds of Japanese-Korean, Manchurian and Kamchatka flora. A polar birch and yew, larch with a fur-tree and wild grapes, Siberian dwarf pine and a velvet tree, tropical liana and a carpet of cowberry grow together here. Travelling through the islands you can find different natural zones: you can get from primordial taiga to the subtropical thickets, from tundra to the jungle of huge grass. Kamchatka and the Kuril Islands are the pioneerings who meet the daybreak in Russia.

Guests accommodate in the ocean sailing catamaran during all the period of cruise. Four double cabins and two triple cabins with wardrobes and shelves accommodate 12 passengers. There are WS with the shower in the catamaran. The spacious saloon with beautiful view is situated in the catamaran's cabin, the galley (kitchen) is also situated there. There are comfortable seats on the deck, so the guests can take pleasure in reading and observing the scenery. The boat is equipped with engines; so following the route even in calm weather is possible. If the weather permits the boat will go under the sail. Sea sickness occurs very seldom as a catamaran shakes on the waters in different way than single-bottom ship. All the guests get training in the sail equipment work. Every guest may take part in the boat sailing. There are sea kayaks (single-seater) on the catamaran. All the guests will be trained in kayaking on calm waters. During the entire cruise the cook will provide tourists with fresh sea delicacies. Every evening coming back from eventful journey you will find yourself in the warm and comfortable floating house with hot water, bedding and delicious dinner. You can become a real explorer and often consider yourself even pioneer travelling around Kamchatka by sailing catamaran and kayaks.

Highlights

- Geographic isolation and uninhabited places
- Discovery of active volcanoes
- Cruise in the Pacific Ocean and Kayaking
- Extensive flora, variety of climatic zones and animal observation
- Bathing in hot springs

Tour type

PURENATURE

Difficulty

Moderately Easy - 1-3 hours of physical activity daily

Comfort

Upgraded — all nights in comfortable rooms.

Begining / end of the tour

Tour starts: Elizovo, End of the tour: Petropavlovsk-Kamchatsky

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Program

Day 1 — Acquaintance with Petropavlovsk-Kamchatsky

10:30 — Meeting at the Elizovo airport
11:30 — Accommodation in the hotel and rest
13:00 — Lunch (Not included)
14:00 — Short city sightseeing
19:00 — Dinner
Overnight in the hotel

Day 2 — Bay Tihaya and sea passage

09:00 — Breakfast in the hotel
10:00 — Embarkation on board
11:00 — Kayaking in the bay Tihaya
13:00 — Lunch on board
15:00 — Setting out the ocean
19:00 — Dinner
Overnight on board

Day 3 — Paramushir island

09:00 — Breakfast
11:00 — Crossing of the First Kuril Strait and of the Shumshu island
13:00 — Lunch
15:00 — Passage to Severo-Kurilsk
19:00 — Dinner
Overnight on board

Day 4 — Kurils Island

09:00 — Breakfast
11:00 — Ascension to Abeko volcano
13:00 — Lunch
15:00 — Continuation of the navigation near the Kurils Island
19:00 — Dinner
Overnight on board

Day 5 — Kurils island

09:00 — Breakfast
11:00 — Exploration of the islands
13:00 — Lunch
15:00 — Continuation of the navigation near the Kurils Island
19:00 — Dinner
Overnight on board

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Day 6 — Kurils island

09:00 — Breakfast
10:00 — Exploration of the islands
13:00 — Lunch
14:00 — Continuation of the navigation near the Kurils Island
19:00 — Dinner
Overnight on board

Day 7 — Kurils island

09:00 — Breakfast
11:00 — Exploration of the islands
13:00 — Lunch
15:00 — Continuation of the navigation near the Kurils Island
19:00 — Dinner
Overnight on board

Day 8 — Way back

09:00 — Breakfast
11:00 — Start of the way back
13:00 — Lunch
15:00 — Free time on the board
19:00 — Dinner
Overnight on board

Day 9 — Russkaya Bay and animal observation

09:00 — Breakfast
11:00 — Kayaking in the Russkaya bay
13:00 — Lunch
14:00 — Observation of sea lions
19:00 — Dinner
Overnight on board

Day 10 — Starichkov Island

09:00 — Breakfast
10:00 — Passage to the Starichkov Island
13:00 — Lunch
17:00 — Transfer to the hotel
18:00 — Dinner
19:00 — Arrival to Petropavlovsk-Kamchatsky
Overnight in the hotel

Day 11 — End of the programme

09:00 — Breakfast in the hotel
10:00 — Transfer to the airport

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Departures

New departures available soon

Note

The price is given for the group of 10 persons. The maximum number of participants is 12 persons. If the the number of participants in the group is less than 10, the price of the cruise can change. The itinerary is approximate, the instructors choose the appropriate travel lines during the route according to the group training and weather conditions. The allowed age is above 12 years old. For the participation of the younger children, please, contact us in advance.

What's included

Price includes

- English-speaking guide services
- Russian-speaking guide
- Accommodation as per itinerary
- Transport a per itinerary
- Meals as per itinerary
- Excursions and visits as per itinerary
- Nature reserves and parks entrance permissions
- Bathing in springs
- Airplane/ train tickets
- Boat trip
- Luggage transport
- Letter of invitation
- Kayak and equipment rental

Price does not include

- Personal expenses and tips
- Visa fees and travel insurance
- Beverages
- Airline tickets

Checklist & Equipment

If you are traveling in the spring or autumn, please check with your manager for a list of recommended equipment and an approximate weather forecast.

Recommended checklist

underwear, socks (several pairs)
pants, long sleeve jacket/tracksuit
wet wipes and antibacterial hand gel
water bottle/flask
sleeping bag
winter (down) jacket and warm pants (windproof and waterproof) / winter suit
winter expeditionary down jacket (up to -50°)
2
13
19
20
21

Meals

Three meals a day on shipboard, cuisine, based on fresh products and caught fish.

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Visa

You need a tourist visa to travel to Russia. It can be issued for a maximum period of 30 days. Your passport has to be valid for at least six months after the expiry date of your visa and to have at least two blank pages.

BaikalNature offers visa support and has created "BaikalNature letter of invitation" package. If you buy a BaikalNature tour, this package is absolutely free; when you buy any other BaikalNature service, you will have to pay for this package.

For questions regarding obtaining an electronic visa, please contact your tour manager.

Money

The Russian currency is ruble. The cost of travel and other services is always fixed in rubles. Please note that cards from foreign banks do not work in Russia at the moment. Tourists can obtain a bank card from a Russian bank in advance or travel with cash. If you have euros or dollars with you, exchange offices will allow you to change them easily in the cities. It is also worth noting that the exchange rate at airports is usually not the most favorable. It is better to exchange in big cities (you can check the current exchange rate online). Important! Only new banknotes without defects or any traces are accepted for exchange.

Tipping

All persons who compose the BaikalNature travel team (guides, drivers, cooks, etc.) are paid a decent wage for their services and do not expect any tips from you. So you have no obligation to leave anything. If you really want to express your satisfaction by leaving a gratuity, and if it is in foreign currency, be aware that torn or glued coins and banknotes cannot be exchanged. Anyway, thank you for your tips, left at your discretion in envelopes.

Health

No compulsory vaccination.

Emergency Contact

You can contact BaikalNature by phone: +7 924 531 87 01 (What's App, Telegram, Viber)

In addition, your call will be forwarded to your manager, reachable 7/7.

Legal Mentions

Professional Guarantees: BaikalNature LLC (ООО "БайкалНейче"), United Federal Register of Tour Operators number: RTO 009402.

Financial Guarantee: "Gaide insurance company" JSC (АО "Страховая компания Гайде"). Insurance contract N 4875/2422-49 from August 6, 2024. Amount of coverage: 500 000 RUB. Legal and actual address: BaikalNature LLC, 55 Dekabrskikh Sobyti Str., office 204.1 664007 Irkutsk Russia

Travel Insurance

In addition to your personal insurance, you have an opportunity to purchase local insurance. Please, do not hesitate to ask us about our services.

Security

Your safety is very important to us! During the trip we ask you to follow the guide's advice, read the instructions carefully and follow the group. If you have any questions or experience any discomfort, please notify your guide or tour-manager immediately.

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