



Olympia-Reisen-Sibir tour operator

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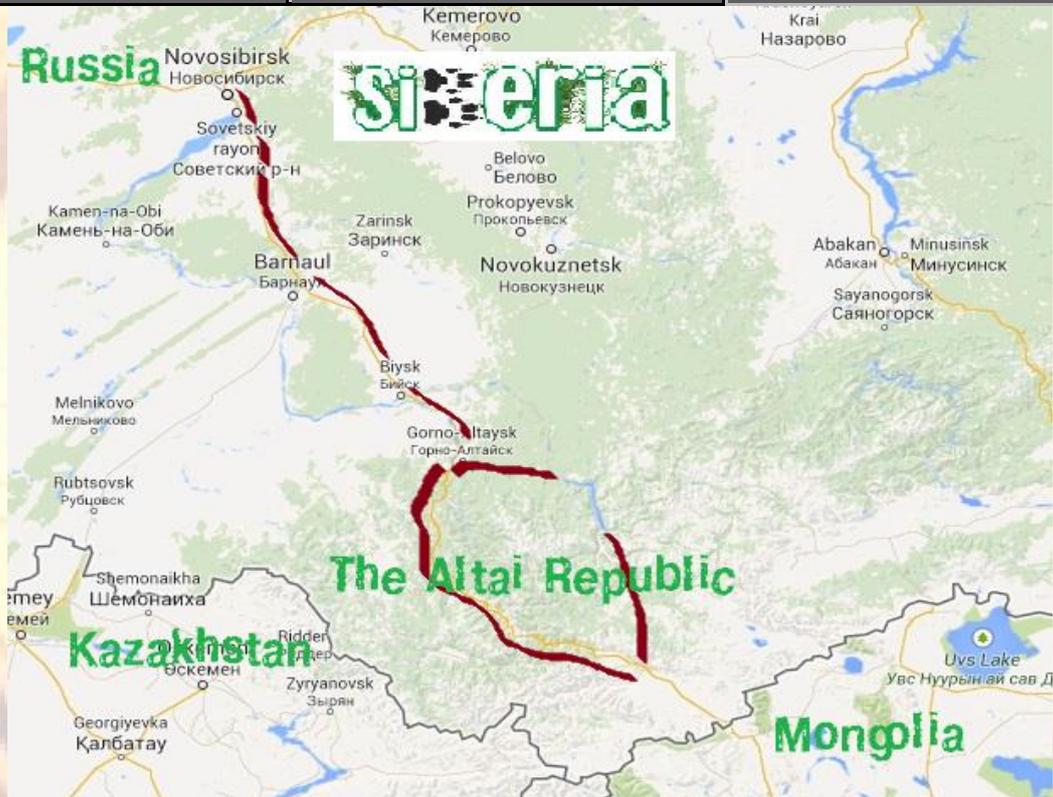
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Working hrs Mon-Fri: 12:00 - 21:00 (Tokyo time) / 03:00 - 13:00 (London time)

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OFF-ROAD ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXPEDITION IN THE ALTAI MOUNTAINS BY LAND ROVER DEFENDER CARS May – September 2016



Off-road archaeological expedition to the heart of Asia, conducted by Professor Andrey Borodovsky (Institute of Archeology and Ethnography of the Siberian Branch of the Russian Academy of Sciences)

Altai is second to none when it comes to the beauty of its landscapes and the diversity of its attractions and is one of the least known, yet most curious corners of Russia. Located at an equal distance away from four oceans, it lies at the crossroads of Mongolian and Turkic worlds, and keeps all the traces of the centuries-old history: overgrown enclosures, nomadic stone idols and burial-mounds, pictures and characters on the weathered rocks, ancient stone statues... The Altai has escaped urbanization, remaining unchanged in the diversity of its landscape - limpid rivers, dense taiga, high-mountain meadows, the icy mountain streams and sparkling glaciers! Isn't it curious that the Altai has the landscapes of almost all the geographical zones of the world?

Apart from people interested in archeology, this 4WD expedition will be interesting for nature-, adventure- and ethnography-oriented travelers, as well as for those who are fond of driving through the rocky deserts, challenging hard roads in search of hardly accessible terra incognita, and who are ready to discover sensational places of Asia beyond the regular map names!

Days	Brief Program
August,14 FRI	Departure to Novosibirsk via Moscow, Prague (S7) , Istanbul (Turkish Airlines) or Beijing (S7).
August, 15 SAT	<p>Morning arrival in Novosibirsk, transfer to the hotel (early check-in), breakfast and morning free.</p> <p>14.00 – 19.00 Lunch in Siberian tavern, followed by a city tour of Novosibirsk, covering all the main attractions of the city: Novosibirsk Railway Station – the biggest station of the Trans-Siberian Railroad, Ascension Cathedral, Krasny Prospect street, Lenin Square - city center with the biggest world’s Opera House (inside visit), old wooden houses on Gorkogo Str. - the oldest part of the city, St.Nicolas Chapel – the geographic center of Russia, river Ob’ embankment. Participate at North Siberian cuisine degustation at the Hunting Workshop (bear salami, wild meat, wild berries) and visit Transsib Museum.</p> <p><i>Novosibirsk city was founded in 1893 owing to the construction of the Great Trans-Siberian Railroad. In fact, it is the only construction workers settlements of Transsib that turned to a metropolis. The crossroads of the major transport routes proved to be an advantageous location, which promoted rapid growth of the city, sometimes called Siberian Chicago because of its phenomenal growth rate:it reached a million population mark in less than 70 years (Chicago - in 90 years, New York - in 250, Moscow - in more than 700 years!). Nowadays it's a third largest city of Russia (after Moscow and St. Petersburg) both by population and area and is often called «Uncrowned capital of Siberia».</i></p>
August, 16 SUN	<div data-bbox="917 757 1485 1126" data-label="Image"> </div> <div data-bbox="300 1507 917 1937" data-label="Image"> </div> <p>Novosibirsk /Akademgorodok/Biysk/Gorno-Altaiisk (475 km by bus) Morning departure southwards to the Altai Mountains by bus with enroute stop in Akademgorodok - <i>the only scientific city in the world, where all the branches of sciences are presented, sometimes called by Western Media "Scientific Vatican". Enter Akademgorodok by Lavrentiev Prospect, marked by the Guinness Book of Records as the "world's most scientific street". Visit of 2 museums of Archeological Museum at the Institute of Archeology and Ethnography and Open-Air Train Museum (a collection of the old Trans-Siberian trains).</i> Stop in old Siberian city Biysk for lunch and then proceed to LESOTEL lodge located on the bank of Katun River.</p>
August, 17 MON	Gorno-Altaiisk/Artybash Village – crossing the lake Teletskoe – Chulyshman River Valley (200km by bus + 80 km by motor boats + 150 km by 4WD)

Drive to Artybash village on the North bank of Teletskoe Lake, cross the lake by speedboats with a stop at Korbu Waterfall and arrive to the South Bank of Teletskoe Lake.

The Teletskoye lake, often called Baikal's younger brother is among the 20 world's deepest lakes (length is 77,7 km, average width is 2-3 km, maximal width is up to 5 km). Its area is not large (223 km²). However, due to its depth (maximum is 325 m) it contains a huge amount (40 km³) of excellent fresh water saturated with oxygen, transparent to the depth of 12-15 meters. About 70 rivers flow into the lake (the biggest is Chulyshman River), but just one - Biya river – flows out, so the lake feeds the largest Russian river Ob to a considerable extent. The mountains of 2400m height surround the lake, making its shores wild and rocky. The nature of this unique place remained virgin due to the fact the lake is a part of Altai State Reserve Area and the lake is void of roads. Moreover, no path or railway goes around the lake either.

Upon crossing the lake we proceed with 4 WD team for off-road drive to Chulyshman river valley – one of the remotest and inaccessible places of Asia. Overnight in wooden chalets in one of the wildest places of Asia located in the river valley! Meet Professor Andrey Borodovsky and after dinner have an open-air introduction lecture about the Archeology in the Altai.



August, 18
TUE



fishing.

Chulyshman River Valley (radial excursions by 4WD.)

Enjoy your stay in the middle of nowhere and regain your strength before the next portion of long off-road drive. Visit the curious rock formations known as "stone mushrooms". Those who are not afraid of physical activities can trek on the majestic Uchar waterfall on Chulcha river, the testiest morsel for trekkers all over Russia. Otherwise, have the natural walk with Professor Borodovsky or try yourself in

August, 19
WED

Chulyshman/Ust Ulagan/Kurai – 200 km by 4WD

Continue off-road drive to Chibit through the adventurous and extremely picturesque Katu-Yaryk Pass – the highlight of the trip from the geographical point of view.

The Katu-Yaryk pass is accessible by a deeply serpentine road, cut in the mountains. A splendid view to the Chulyshman Valley and the waterfall on the opposite side can be seen from the Pass. The Chulyshman Valley is one of the most beautiful places in whole Altai, included into the UNESCO list.

Visit ancient irrigation canals at the bottom of Katu-Yaryk and important Pazyryk kurgans - the burial mounds sites of Scythian aristocracy that brought to the world the sensational [Altai Princess Mummy](#). Evening arrival to Chibit settlement and check-in to NOMAD eco-camping, the last "civilization" point on Russian territory for those who travel to Mongolia by Chuysky Highway.



August, 20
THU



Chibit – Kurai – radial excursion by 4WD
Nature walk in Chibit and 4WD drive to Kurai steppe, a panoramic point of North-Chuya Range and massif Aktru, located just 150km from Mongolia. An awesome road and the most breathtaking natural panoramic point of Asia - you're surrounded by the 4000m-peak mountains located as on a horse-shoe. Horseback riding and rafting is possible optionally.

August, 21
FRI

Chibit – Gorno-Altaisk by Chuysky Tract, by 4WD– 341 km

We shall depart very early in the morning for Gorno-Altai by the extremely picturesque [Chuysky Tract highway](#), connecting Mongolia with Russia. Behind the boring road name M52 the most scenic road in Russia is screened, ranked by National Geographic as the 5th most scenic road of the planet. Professor Borodovsky will show the burial mounds and petroglyphics located in the vicinities: Skythian stelae near Inya settlement, Kalbaktash and Ignatov Stone petroglyphs. However, this drive can be called excursion itself, as it can be compared with traveling though all the country: travelers can see both cities and villages, birchwoods and taigas, rapid rivers and rivers' junctions, mountains and steppes. The breathtaking landscapes are uncovered with each road turn and the travelers make several interesting stops en-route (picturesque and serpentine Chiket-Aman Pass 1295m, so much liked by the photographers, Seminsky Pass 1739m, panoramic view points and local markets stops). Evening arrival to LESOTEL Lodge.



In the ancient times Chuysky Tract route was the path of Tatar-Mongolian forces led by Genghis Khan. Many nations supposedly migrated along this path, and ancient carvings and mysterious tomb stones still remind about that. The road was first mentioned in history 1000 years ago, and before the 20th century existed as a mountain path for the merchants and local pilgrims. The highway we know today dates back to 1935, when numerous detention camps appeared along the Chuysky Tract, so the prisoners, mostly dispossessed by Soviet system farmers, were the main labor force. The beauty of Chuysky tract required awful human losses. Some people, who have died during the construction, were buried right in the roadbed, so that their mates might own their dietary. The most spectacular road of Russia has a fairytale beauty, and as a real fairytale it can be a bit scary...

August, 22
SAT



LESOTEL - Radial excursions by 4WD.

This day we visit 2 outstanding sites: The Republican National Museum "to give honor" to the famous Alataian Princess ([Pazyryk Princess Mummy](#)), whose room with sarcophagus will be specially opened for this group.

<http://www.examiner.com/article/siberian-mummy-tattoos-about-2-500-years-old-discovered-on-princess>. Later we visit Manzherok settlement and the site named "[Chultukov Log](#)", where Professor Borodovsky conducts his

excavation works. It was this place where Cleopatra's necklace was found.

<p>August, 23 SUN</p>	<p>Gorno-Altaiisk/Barnaul/Novosibirsk – 466 km by 4WD. Morning depart for Novosibirsk. Evening arrival in Novosibirsk and check-in to the hotel.</p>	
<p>August, 24 MON</p>	<p>Morning transfer to the airport of Novosibirsk for onward travel.</p>	

Expedition cost includes:

TRANSPORT

- Bus Aug,14-17
- Speed motorboats for crossing lake Teletskoe
- 7 Land Rover Defender cars Aug,17-23. Cars are fully equipped with everything needed for autonomous driving.

ACCOMMODATION (based on TWN accommodation, BB)

- Hotel LESOTEL near Gorno-Altaiisk, 3 nights total (or 2 nights + pension on Chuysky tract, depending on group size)
- Camping EZEN in Chulyshman Valley, 2 nights (separate rooming list is applicable for this night, as usual TWN/SGL breakdown may not be possible)
- Camping NOMAD in Chibit, 2 nights
- Hotel Azimut Sibir 3+* (or hotel Marriott 5*) in Novosibirsk, 2 nights

MEALS

- HB (breakfast and dinners) on the “best available option basis”.

ACCOMPANYING PERSONS:

- ESG throughout the route
- Professor Andrey Borodovsky (Institute of Archeology and Ethnography of the Siberian Branch of the Russian Academy of Sciences) August, 17-22.

ENTRANCE TICKETS:

- 4 entrances in Novosibirsk
- 1 museum in Gorno-Altaiisk

Excluded:

- Air tickets to/from Novosibirsk
- Alcoholic drinks
- Supplement for FB (lunches added) = 270 EUR per person