

Altai: 5 mysteries

Guided tour on the traces of Altai's mysteries



Experiences you'll have

Altai is famous for its stunning nature. But there’s something more...

People come here not just for the landscapes. Some seek traces of ancient civilizations, others — sacred energy spots, and some want to uncover real mysteries. Shamans, the enigmatic Ukok Princess mummy, ancient petroglyphs with strange symbols, Altai’s "Stonehenge," and even legends of Shambhala... Which of these are just myths, and which still puzzle scientists? Let’s find out together on our 6-day exploration adventure!

Places of power, mysterious rock carvings, shamanic rituals and ancient beliefs surrounded by mystery. Some of the mysteries of the Altai Mountains have received a scientific explanation, and some still raise questions from researchers. We invite you to immerse yourself in the mystical world of the region!


We’ll travel along the Chuysky Tract all the way to the Mongolian border
Visit top landmarks and hidden gems of untouched nature— places most tourists never see
Every day, we’ll encounter ancient mysteries and natural wonders, uncovering clues with the help of scientists and local experts

We accept bookings for private tours for your group. For details, please contact our managers.

Most popular

Altai

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Difficulty	
Age	from 8 y.o.
Group size	from 4 to 12
Duration	6 days

Accomodation at the trip



Языки



guide



guide

from 1 399 EUR

Itinerary

The journey begins in Gorno-Altaiisk, where you should get to on your own. 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 tour, the route may vary depending on the weather conditions.

Day 1

We will meet you at the airport. After transfer to the hotel,
you will have some time for rest.

At 17.00 we will meet in the lobby of the hotel to get acquainted and to discuss our tour.

After that we will take short walk in the city and have dinner together.

Day 2

Welcome to Altai! Our journey begins with the main

mystery of Altai - the legendary mummy of the Ukok Princess. At the National Museum in Gorno-Altaiisk, one of the best in Siberia, we will travel through millennia of history and enter a special hall where this unique find rests.

Then, we will get acquainted with the capital of the Republic. We will stroll through cozy streets, find the place where Ulala originated, trace the path from Oirot-Tura to modern Gorno-Altaiisk, and uncover its unexpected architectural connection to Egypt.

After lunch, we will head deep into the mountains. We will ascend the Seminsky Pass - the highest point of the Chuisky Tract, where near the summit lies the mysterious Stone Door. What lies beyond this threshold is one of the first mysteries of our journey. Closer to evening, we will arrive in the Karakol Valley, rightfully considered a sacred place. Our introduction to Altai continues; now we will experience its taste – a traditional national dinner awaits us.

The culmination of the day is a kaichi concert, where you

will hear music born without a single instrument, in the magic of throat singing.

Route length: 200 km by car

Day 3

Today we journey into the past of Altai - the cradle of

civilizations. The Scythians, Xiongnu, and Turks – they did not leave us castles, cities, or manuscripts. But for some reason, they created kurgans (burial mounds), erected giant stelae, and carved drawings on stones that have survived for hundreds and thousands of years. What messages do they hide?

We will dedicate the first half of the day to the Karakol Valley, nestled at the foot of the three-peaked Mount Uch-Emnek. Here we will see the royal Bashadar Kurgan and try to unravel the mystery of the giant stone semicircle surrounding it.

After the tour, we will continue our journey along the Chuiskey Tract, admire the scenery from the Chike-Taman Pass, visit another sacred place - the confluence of the Chuya and Katun rivers, and stop at the Kalbak-Tash sanctuary. This is where mysteries are concentrated! Who and when carved hundreds of drawings on the stones? Are there spaceships, people with tails, mythical monsters, and a star map here? We will learn what scientists say about them and what legends the local people keep.

On the way, we will visit an ethno-village (ethno-ail), where the hostess will introduce us to the customs and way of life of the peoples of the Altai Mountains.

By evening, we will arrive in the village of Chibit, where we will stay for two nights.

Route length: 160 km by car

Day 4

Today we ascend to the very heavens! In powerful off-road

vehicles, we will go to an altitude of 3000 meters to the Radio Tower, where a breathtaking panorama of snow-capped ridges will open up. In clear weather, you can see the highest point of Altai – Mount Belukha on the horizon.

Along the way, we will witness amazing changes in nature: you will see how the vegetation changes with altitude, learn about the movement of ancient glaciers, which, like giant bulldozers, reshaped the landscapes. We will discover an abandoned mine and learn what treasures the mountains hold inside.

Next, another miracle awaits us - the small Geyser Lake, where mysterious patterns are born at the bottom. Many believe you can ask questions to the water's surface and look for answers in the intricate pictures drawn by the underground springs.

The culmination of the day will be the powerful Mazhoysky Cascade on the Chuya River, where turbulent waters cut through a narrow canyon, creating over 50 rapids of the highest difficulty category. This spectacle leaves no one indifferent!

By evening, we will return to the cozy guest houses in Chibit.

Route length: 75 km by car

Day 5

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living conditions in the mountains are. But people here live in amazing harmony with nature. What is their secret? Today we will go to meet modern nomads to find the answer.

Our path lies further along the Chuisky Tract, towards the Mongolian border. Along the way, we will make a landing on Mars - exploring the surreal landscapes of the red hills of Kyzyl-Chin. Then, new discoveries await us: at the Museum of the Telengits of the Chuya Steppe, we will see the mysterious head and hand of an ancient warrior - a find from a distant gorge.

Next stop - the Altai Stonehenge. Giant stones arranged in a circle 60 meters in diameter. An ancient observatory, a sanctuary, or the work of a glacier? Or perhaps a place of power where rituals are still performed?

Upon request (by prior arrangement), a meeting with a shaman is possible on this day. This is a chance to ask a burning question and get advice - the shaman speaks with everyone individually.

We will spend the night in the Kurai Steppe.

Route length: 180 km by car

Day 6

Today we begin our return journey. But what a journey it

is! The Chuisky Tract is one of the most beautiful roads in the world, a northern branch of the Great Silk Road. This time, the entire day will be dedicated to the Chuisky Tract.

We will stop at iconic places, walk along the remains of the old road, marvel at the dry stone masonry and the scale of work done over 100 years. We will learn why it is believed that a path existed here millennia ago. We will search for traces of ancient crossings over the Katun River and admire the suspension bridge from the 1930s, a progressive creation of engineer Tsaplin. We will stop at the monument to the drivers of the Chuisky Tract, listen to an interesting song about Kolka Snegirev, and find out what the fate of the main character really was.

Expected arrival in Gorno-Altaysk by 18:00, where our journey through Altai's mysteries comes full circle.

Route length: 400 km by car

Day 7

After breakfast we will transfer you to the airport for your

flight home or your next destination.

Accomodation at the trip

Expect simple but comfortable rooms (2-3 beds) with private bathrooms at family-run guesthouses.

- 2 nights in Gorno-Altaysk: Igman or similar
- 1 night in Karakol Valley: "Shanky" Guesthouse or similar
- 2 nights in Chibit: "Shavlo" Guesthouse or similar
- 1 night in Kosh-Agach district: "Altynsai" Guesthouse or similar

FAQ

What will the weather be like

Mountain weather keeps things interesting! Temperature can vary from +5°C to +30°C (41°F to 86°F). Rainy days are possible.

What to bring with me

Documents:

- passport (birth certificate for children)

Clothing and shoes:

- a warm jacket or light down jacket for cold evenings
- a waterproof jacket or raincoat
- a fleece jacket
- light trousers made of quick-drying synthetic material
- T-shirts and shorts
- a light long-sleeved shirt
- a cap or bandana
- comfortable waterproof sneakers or boots
- cotton and wool socks 2-3 pairs
- swimsuit/swimming trunks, rubber slippers for the bath

Personal items and equipment:

- sunglasses and cream with an SPF of at least 50
- a water bottle
- a lipstick
- a personal first-aid kit (patch, bandage, antiseptic, antipyretic, painkillers, allergy medications, iodantipyrine)
- photo and video equipment with a supply of batteries and powerbank flash
- powerbank

Meals

3 meals per day (at cafés, guesthouses, or prepared by our team in remote areas).
Lunch during excursion or hiking can be organized as picnic.

Typical day:
Breakfast: porridge, scrambled eggs, pancakes, cheese, sausage, muesli, yogurt
Lunch (picnic style): bread, cheese, sausage, butter, fresh vegetables, canned vegetables, jam, cookies, sweets, etc.
Lunch (at cafés): soup or a hot main dish
Dinner: Salad + hot meat dish with side drinks: green/black tea, instant coffee
Not included: Breakfast on Day 1 and Dinner on the last day

What transport is used on the route

Group of up to 6 people: Mercedes Vito minivan (or similar).
Group of up to 12 people: 7 passengers: Mercedes Vito minivan (or similar)
+ 5 passengers: Nissan Terrano SUV (or similar).

Off-road sections (Mars & Radio Station): UAZ 4x4 (specially equipped)

Who will be my guide

Experienced tour guides will be with you throughout the tour.

Fitness Level Required

No special training needed!
The tour involves light walking, though some viewpoints require uphill climbs. The pace is relaxed, with stops for rest and photos.

Meeting Point & Flights

We'll meet you at Gorno-Altaysk Airport or pick you up from hotels in Gorno Altaysk, Mayma, and nearby areas.
After the tour, we'll drop you off at your specified location.

Booking

Altai

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Accommodation at the trip

6 nights

from 1 399 EUR

What's included in the price:

— accommodation – guesthouses with private bathrooms, first and last nights - hotel 3 stars

— meals – 3x daily (except breakfast on Day 1 and dinner on Day 5)

— transfers – all program-related transportation

— guide services – expert-led tours, English-, German- and Dutch-speaking guides

— excursions & entry fees – National Museum of RA, Botanical Garden, Mars-1 & Mars-2, Geyser Lake, Kalbak-Tash, Telengit Museum of Chui Steppe

— Kaichi concert, ethno-village experience, traditional dinner

— special transport – UAZ 4x4 rides to Mars 1, Mars-2 & Radio Tower

Extra charge:

— [airfare](#) to Gorno-Altaiisk and back

— travel insurance

— personal expenses – souvenirs

— single accommodation (+16.000 RUB)

18 jun 2026, thu — 23 jun 2026, tue

from 1 399 EUR

16 jul 2026, thu — 21 jul 2026, tue

from 1 399 EUR

19 sep 2026, sat — 24 sep 2026, thu

from 1 399 EUR

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