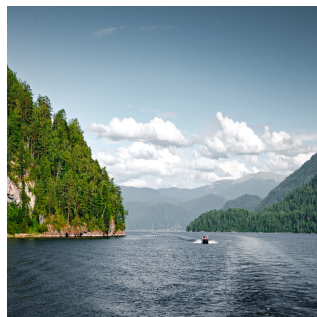


The Golden Ring of Altai

Comfortable sightseeing tour



If you have never been to Altai and want to see all the most picturesque places during one journey, we recommend you choose this route. Turquoise lakes and rivers, vast plains and mountain tops, one of the most beautiful roads in the world, and even a valley similar to Mars are waiting for you here.

Experiences you'll have

Tour to the Altai Mountains

In this tour, routes by minibus to iconic locations of the region are combined with a diverse excursion program. You will take a boat ride on Lake Teletskoye and enjoy a leisurely rafting trip on the Katun River, as well as participate in a folklore program and a master class.

The itinerary is designed so that you can see all the most famous places in the Altai Mountains comfortably, without tiring long hikes. At the same time, you will have the opportunity to try a longer trekking route — if you wish, you can hike a 16-kilometer trail to the Uchar Waterfall.

We accept bookings for groups of 6 or more

First-hand Experience: our colleague Alena Chudanova went on this tour in 2018. [Find out about her impressions in our blog.](#)

Itinerary

The journey begins in Gorno-Altaysk, where you should get to on your own. We are ready to help with the purchase of tickets. If necessary, leave a guide comment in the application.

This is a general plan of the tour, the route may vary depending on the weather conditions.

Day 1

You will be met at the airport in Gorno-Altaysk. Before the start of the tour, you will have breakfast at a cafe.

The first stop on the program will be the A.V. Anokhin

National Museum. The three floors of the museum house finds from the Pazyryk burial mounds, Turkic armor, paintings by Nicholas Roerich and Grigory Choros-Gurkin, and a department dedicated to the nature of Altai. You will see one of the museum's main exhibits — the mummy of the "Altai Princess," found on the Ukok Plateau. The sarcophagus with the mummy is opened according to the museum's specific schedule.

Afterwards, you will go to the village of Ust-Sema, where

you will check into a hotel. Then you will take a trip to the botanical garden. Its territory is home to about 2,000 species of plants from various natural and climatic zones of Altai, as well as from other regions of Russia and the world.

You will have lunch at a cafe, and in the evening you will

have a cheesemaking master class. You will be able to make your own piece of cheese with fillings of your choice — to become the creator of your own signature cheese. You will also taste village milk and the cheese you made yourself.

At the end of the day, you will return to the hotel to rest.

Dinner will be at a cafe.

Route length: 90 km by bus, 1 km on foot.

Day 2

After breakfast at the lodge, you will drive upstream along


the Katun River to the Che-Chkish Gorge. This is a narrow mountain gorge, up to 15-20 meters deep in places. A stream flows inside it, turning into a low waterfall (4 m). The streams of the waterfall break away from the rock, so you can walk under it. On the route, you will also visit a viewing platform offering a panoramic view of the Katun River valley.

You will have lunch at a cafe and then transfer to the

New

Altai

The Golden Ring of Altai

Difficulty 
Age from 12 y.o.
Group size from 5 to 15
Duration 9 days

Accommodation at the trip

 
4 nights 4 nights

Языки



guide

from



village of Cheposh, where the rafting on the Katun begins. After a safety briefing, you will start the route on rafts. Along the way, you will pass the Seminsky Rapid (class II-III difficulty) and make a stop to see the cascade of the Kamyshly Waterfall, 12 meters high.

In the evening, you will return to the lodge and have

dinner.

Route length: 145 km by car, 15 km by raft, 1 km on foot.

Day 3

After breakfast, you will embark on a journey along the

Chuysky Trakt — one of the most beautiful roads in Russia. In the past, this road was part of an ancient trade route — the Mungalsky Tract — mentioned in ancient Chinese chronicles.

Numerous famous natural and historical landmarks of Altai

are located along the Chuysky Trakt. On the way, you will cross the Seminsky Pass (1,717 m) and admire the panorama of the Altai Mountains. Then you will transfer to the "Uch-Enmek" Natural Park and have lunch at a cafe, where you will try several national dishes.

Next, you will have an excursion to the valley of the

Karakol River, where there are entire groups of ancient burial mounds and a large number of rock paintings. The Karakol Valley is one of the region's largest historical sites, preserving traces of many cultures once present in Altai.

Afterwards, you will continue along the Chuysky Trakt and

cross the serpentine Chike-Taman Pass. You will also visit the Kalbak-Tash Sanctuary — here, more than 3,000 petroglyphs have been preserved on the rocks, the oldest of which date back to the 8th millennium BC.

In the evening, you will arrive at the village of Aktash,

where you will check into a lodge. Dinner will be at a cafe.

Route length: 345 km by car, 1 km on foot.

Day 4

In the morning, you will have breakfast at the lodge and

set off along the Chuysky Trakt towards the border with Mongolia. From the huge intermontane basin of the Kurai Steppe, you will have a magnificent view of the peaks of the North Chuya Range — the peaks of Aktru-Bash (4,075 m) and Karatash (3,534 m).

Upon reaching the village of Chagan-Uzun, you will visit

the valley of the Kyzylchin River, nicknamed "Altai Mars" by tourists. Due to the high content of iron oxide, manganese, clay, and limestone, the surrounding mountains are colored in various shades of red: from bright orange to dark brown. A picnic lunch will be organized for you on the route.

On the way back to the hotel, you will visit another famous

Altai landmark — Geyser Lake. Its depth is about 2 meters, and its diameter is 25-30 meters. It has a surprisingly rich turquoise hue and does not freeze in winter. "Geysers" periodically come to life at the bottom of the lake, forming visible circles of blue color.

In the evening, you will return to the lodge and have

dinner.

Route length: 180 km by car, 4 km on foot.

Day 5

In the morning, you will have breakfast, and then transfer

to the Chulyshman River, passing by a picturesque place called the "Red Gates." The road here runs between reddish cliffs and the lakes of the Ulagan Plateau.

You will visit the Pazyryk Burial Mounds — ancient burial sites of noble nomads and tribal leaders dating back to the 7th–6th centuries BC. Next, the road will go through the mountain pass of Katu-Yaryk, which you will ascend on foot (the pass height from the base to the top is about 800 m, length 3.5 km). The pass offers an excellent view of the Chulyshman Valley and a waterfall falling from a height of 100 m. The Chulyshman Valley is included in the list of UNESCO World Natural Heritage sites.

A picnic lunch will be held in nature. Then you will check

into double cabins at the tourist lodge in the Chulyshman Valley. In the evening, you will have dinner and a folklore program — a concert of throat singing accompanied by traditional musical instruments.

Route length: 120 km by car, 3.5 km on foot.

Day 6

Today, after an early breakfast, you can, if you wish, set

off on foot to the Uchar Waterfall (16 km round trip, 11–13 hours on the trail). This is a rather difficult route; part of the path goes over large stones and scree, across open terrain, along a gorge, with ascents and descents. You will cross several fords.

The waterfall is located on the Chulcha River on the

opposite bank of the Chulyshman River. It is the largest cascade waterfall in Altai, with a height of 160 m. A picnic lunch will be organized near the waterfall.

After exploring the waterfall's surroundings, you will

return to the lodge, have dinner, and visit a banya (sauna).

If you stay at the lodge all day, you can swim in a small

pool and relax. There is also an option to participate in motor rafting on the Chulyshman River (additional charge).

Route length: 16 km on foot.

Day 7

In the morning, you will have an early breakfast and then

set off along the Chulyshman Valley to the mouth of the Karasu River. You will take a round-trip hike into the river gorge to see an amazing natural object — the Stone Mushrooms. This is a very interesting natural phenomenon: cones rise above the valley slope, topped with huge rock slabs. The base of the cone is quite loose sandstone; individual "mushrooms" rise 10 or more meters above the slope. This place offers a wonderful view of the Chulyshman Valley.

You will have lunch in nature and then transfer to the

northern part of Lake Teletskoye to Cape Kyrsay.

You will stop and check into a lodge, and then have dinner

at a cafe. On the lodge grounds, you can relax and take a walk along the northern shore of Lake Teletskoye.

Route length: 90 km by car, 6 km on foot.

Day 8

After breakfast at the tourist lodge, you will go on a boat

excursion. Your journey will take you across the waters of Lake Teletskoye.

Lake Teletskoye is among the 20 deepest lakes in the

world, with a length of 77.7 km; its maximum width reaches 5 km. Its area is relatively small — 223 km² — but due to its great depth, it contains a huge amount of fresh water saturated with oxygen. About 70 rivers flow into the lake.

Along the way, you will visit the Korbu Waterfall — the

most picturesque waterfall in the vicinity of Lake Teletskoye. It is located on the territory of the Altai Nature Reserve, 100 meters from the mouth of the Bolshaya Korbu River. The drop height is 12.5 meters. Opposite the waterfall, in the middle of Lake Teletskoye, lies its greatest depth — 325 meters.

You will have lunch at a cafe in the village of Artybash on

the northern part of Lake Teletskoye. Then you will head to Gorno-Altaysk, where you will rest and stay at a tourist complex on the bank of the Katun River.

Dinner will be at a cafe (paid extra).

Route length: 80 km by boat, 160 km by car.

Day 9

After breakfast at the tourist complex, a transfer to the

airport will be arranged.

Accommodation at the trip

First two nights you will spend at the **Chygysh Hotel**, located in a pine forest near Ust-Sema village. You will be accommodated in the comfortable twin or double rooms with a wardrobe, a TV, a fridge, and a bathroom. There is a sauna with a font and a restaurant on the territory of the hotel.

Next two nights will be spent in the **Altai Rest tourist base** in Aktash village. You will be accommodated in wooden two-person cabins with double or twin beds. Each house has a bathroom with a shower and a panoramic river view. There is a sauna and a summerhouse on the territory.

For another two nights you will stay in **Dolina Vodopadov tourist base** (Rus. for The Waterfalls Valley). It is located in the Chulyshman Valley. There are 12 warm houses, a cafe, and a Russian sauna with a small swimming pool on the territory. Each house has 3 twin beds, a stove, and a toilet with a sink.

1 night will be spent at the **Oyer park hotel** on the shore of Teletskoye Lake. Here you will stay in double rooms with double or twin beds with private with showers and toilets. On the territory of the base, there is a SPA complex, a sauna and a cafe.

The final night you will spend in the **DOM hotel**. You will be accommodated in private houses with panoramic windows. The houses have double or single beds, toilet and shower. On the territory there is a sauna and a campfire area.

FAQ

What will the weather be like

Altai has a continental climate. The temperature in any summer months is from +10 to +40 °C, the usual daily summer temperature is about +25 °C. Predominantly sunny, rain is possible.

What to bring with me

Clothing and shoes for hot and sunny weather:

- T-shirts and shorts
- cap or bandana
- lightweight, breathable pants for hiking in the mountains
- windproof vest (Windstopper or Windblock)
- light shirt or long-sleeved T-shirt
- sandals for mountain hiking (preferably with a Vibram sole and closed toe)
- light sneakers
- swimsuit

Clothing and footwear for rain and cool weather:

- windproof and waterproof hooded storm jacket and pants
- thermal underwear
- fleece jacket
- warm fleece pants
- hat and gloves
- trekking socks
- wool socks
- thick-soled boots with tread
- rubber shoes
- rubber slippers (for the sauna)

Personal items:

- sunglasses
- sunscreen with 50 SPF
- lipstick
- personal first aid kit

Meals

The tour price includes 3 meals a day, except for breakfast on day 1 and dinner on day 8. You will have breakfast and dinner at the places of accommodation, and lunch as a picnic in nature or in cafes along the route.

What transport is used on the route

All transfers are organized by comfortable minibusses. Part of the route along the Chulyshman Valley will take place on cross-country vehicles (UAZ).

Water trip on the Teletskoye Lake will be organized on small boats (up to 8 persons capacity). During rafting on the Katun River, 8-seater rafts are used.

Who will be my guide

Experienced tour guides will be with you throughout the tour.

Booking

Altai	
The Golden Ring of Altai	New

Difficulty

Age

from 12 y.o.

Group size

from 5 to 15

Duration

9 days

Accommodation at the trip



4 nights

4 nights

from 2 500 EUR

What's included in the price:

- double accommodation per the program

— 3 meals a day (except breakfast on day 1, and dinner on day 8)

— transportation service per the program

— guide service

— boat rental on Teletskoe Lake

— museum tickets and recreational fees

— personal accident insurance

Extra charge:

- [airfare](#) to Gorno-Altai and back

— breakfast on day 1 and dinner on day 8

— single accommodation (+39.000 RUB)

— additional charges in tourist complexes

— sauna



Best price
guarantee



Personal
tours



Discounts for
regular clients



Gift
cards