











This is the most active cruise in our collection. Experience full immersion in the world of the Kuril Islands — climb volcanoes, paddleboard, kayak, try foiling, and soak in natural hot springs. For your convenience, all activities and equipment are included in the price.

We've chosen two of our best guides for this cruise. They will share the most fascinating stories about the history, nature, and wildlife of the Kuril Islands.

Experiences you'll have

The only way to see the entire Kuril Island chain is on a sea voyage. This is an exclusive RussiaDiscovery cruise — carefully designed to pack in as much adventure as possible. You will take on challenging treks, climb volcanoes, and enjoy breathtaking views from the peaks you conquer. Every day, you will observe marine wildlife and try your hand at Far Eastern fishing.

With only 10 travelers in the group, we can offer a wider range of activities throughout the expedition

During this voyage, you will:

travel along the entire island chain: visit the Southern, Central, and Northern Kurils

see active volcanoes Krenitsyn, Baransky, and Alaid, and climb Golovnin and Ebeko volcanoes

explore Yankicha Island, one of the most beautiful islands in the archipelago

visit Cape Stolbchaty on Kunashir Island — a unique natural monument that resembles the pipes of a giant organ discover the wildlife of the Kurils — Arctic foxes, sea lions, sea otters, and whales can all be found here relax in natural hot springs and enjoy water activities such as

Contact us by email at hello@russiadiscovery.ru to explore the Kuril Islands in 2027

paddleboarding, kayaking, and foilboarding

The Islands of Volcanoes Difficulty Group size to 10 Duration 11 days Accomodation at the trip 10 nights Языки EN guide from 0 EUR

New

Itinerary

Your journey will begin in Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk and end in Petropavlovsk-Kamchatsky (or vice versa). You will need to arrive in the departure city on your own the day before the program begins. Airfare is paid separately.

We can assist with ticket arrangements. If needed, please leave a comment in your application.

This is a general outline of the expedition — the route may vary depending on weather conditions.

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Day 1

You will take a flight to Iturup (included in the price) and

transfer to the port to board your vessel. Along the way, you will see one of the most famous landmarks of the Russian Far East — Cape Aniva, with its historic Japanese lighthouse perched on the rocky headland.

Day 2

This is the southernmost island of the Greater Kuril Chain.

It is home to three active volcanoes: Golovnin, Mendeleev, and Rurui.

You will start with a trek into the caldera of Golovnin

Volcano (14 km round trip). The trail runs through the protected area of the Kuril Nature Reserve, following a dirt road through forests, Kurile bamboo and Siberian dwarf pine thickets. You will descend into a deep crater bowl with two volcanic lakes — Kipyashcheye ("Boiling") and Goryacheye ("Hot") — and you will be able to take a dip in one of them. Those who climb to a higher lookout point will be rewarded with a mesmerizing panorama of lakes shimmering in every shade of turquoise.

Afterward, you will visit one of the Kurils' natural

treasures — the unique Cape Stolbchaty. It is composed of multifaceted basalt "columns" formed by the slow extrusion of viscous lava cooling under the influence of the sea.

Day 3

Over these two days, you will explore some of Iturup's

most iconic sites, including Lvinaya Past Bay ("Lion's Maw"), an





excellent spot for kayaking, paddleboarding, and foil riding.

You will also visit the Medvezhy Peninsula, home to Ilya

Muromets Waterfall — one of Russia's tallest (141 m). Its full beauty can only be appreciated from the ocean side. In the bay below, you will try fishing for giant halibut.

Day 4

On Urup Island, you will explore scenic waterfalls,

grottoes, and sea caves that adorn the rugged coastline.

This is where the active Berga Volcano (1,040 m) rises. You

will see Lake Tokotan, Cape Glybisty, and the Pivnaya Kruzhka rock arch ("Beer Mug"). In Novokurilskaya Bay, you will fish for char and red salmon, while in Abramova Bay the target will be halibut.

Your vessel will then head to Chirpoy Island. During Zodiac

excursions, you will see Steller sea lion haulouts and thousands of seabirds.

Day 5

Today, you will set out on a trek to Zavaritsky Volcano.

From its summit, you will enjoy breathtaking views — including the collapsed and flooded caldera of the volcano, as well as the majestic Prevo and Milna volcanoes. If the weather is clear, you may even catch a glimpse of part of the Greater Kuril Ridge.

Day 6

By Zodiac boats, you will enter a flooded volcanic caldera:

Crater Bay, one of the most beautiful places in the Kuril Islands.

On the island, you can bathe in natural hot springs and

encounter the rare Commander Arctic foxes. These curious animals are not afraid of people — they often approach travelers and beg for treats.

Day 7

Weather permitting, you will hike up to the Ring Ridge,

which offers a breathtaking view of Krenitsyn Volcano (1,324 m). Krenitsyn is a "volcano within a volcano": its cone stands in the center of Koltsevoe Lake (Ring Lake), which itself fills the circular caldera of the ancient, collapsed Tao-Rusyr Volcano.

This route is suitable for physically fit travelers: you will

cover 15 km with an elevation gain of 600 m. Along the way, you will take in dramatic views — including Nemo Peak on the far side of Onekotan and the picturesque Mussel Bay.

Day 8

This day is dedicated to climbing Ebeko (1,156 m), an

active volcano with fumarolic fields and frequent eruptions. It's a challenging trek: the ascent takes 4-4.5 hours one way (8 km), and the descent — about 3-3.5 hours.

But your effort will be fully rewarded upon reaching the

summit: from above, you will enjoy extraordinary views of the southern group of Paramushir volcanoes — Tatarynov, Chikurachki, Fuss, and Alaid. You may even witness an eruption with your own eyes.

Your first stop today is Atlasov Island, the northernmost

island of the Greater Kuril Chain. This is home to active Alaid Volcano (2,339 m), the highest point in the entire Kuril Archipelago. The island hosts foxes, fur seals, harbor seals, and sea otters. Thick seabird colonies of guillemots, gulls, and puffins nest here, and sometimes you may spot cormorants as well.

During your landing, you will hike to Alaid's side crater,

Taketomi (a 1 km walk with 126 m elevation gain). From here you will have an excellent view of Alaid — often compared to Mount Fuji for its graceful shape.

Your vessel will then continue toward the Bird Islands. On

Zodiac excursions, you will observe thousands of seabirds and watch playful Steller sea lions and sea otters floating on their backs — sometimes even carrying sleeping pups on their bellies.

Day 10

Your vessel will pass through Avacha Bay — one of the

largest bays in the world — and arrive in Petropavlovsk-Kamchatsky. Once you disembark, your transfer to the airport or your hotel will be waiting for you.

Accomodation at the trip

Your voyage will take place aboard the small expedition vessel Omega.

The ship was completely renovated in 2025. It is 30 meters long, 6 meters wide, and accommodates up to 10 guests.

Onboard facilities include a Finnish sauna (available during stops), open decks for relaxation and photography, and a spacious lounge with a bar, karaoke-equipped multimedia center, TV monitor, and themed books.

Breakfast, lunch, and dinner are served in the lounge. Tea and machine-made coffee are available 24 hours a day. Use of SUP boards, kayaks, foilboards, trekking poles, tents, and sea-fishing gear is included in the cruise price.

You will be accommodated in six cabins (two with double beds and four with twin beds). Each cabin has windows, beds, a desk, closets and shelves, hangers, and personal reading lights. Three showers and three toilets are located on the same deck. All rooms are sound-insulated, ventilated, and heated.

A 50% prepayment is needed to make a reservation. The remaining 50% must be paid 120 days before the cruise starts.

FAQ

What to bring

Weather on the archipelago can be unpredictable — from blazing sun and $+20~^{\circ}\text{C}$ in the Southern Kurils to around $0~^{\circ}\text{C}$ in the Northern Kurils. Be prepared for wind and high humidity; fog and rain are also likely during the cruise.

Clothing:

- waterproof membrane trousers (preferably full-zip "drop seat" models that can be easily removed after stepping out of the boat)
- down jacket (warm layer)

- trekking pants
- thermal underwear
- fleece jacket
- wool hat covering the ears
- balaclava/scarf
- cap
- trekking socks
- warm socks
- waterproof gloves
- shirts and T-shirts for each day
- jeans or other comfortable trousers several pairs
- turtlenecks good for wearing on board or as a base layer under a warm sweater
- · sweaters wool or fleece
- sleepwear
- smart/casual outfit for the farewell evening (optional)

Footwear

- waterproof trekking boots
- sandals, sneakers, or any comfortable shoes for wearing on board and before/after boarding
- shoes for the farewell evening (we recommend leaving high heels at home)
- shower flip-flops

Personal Items

- sunglasses
- sunscreen (SPF 30+)
- lip balm
- binoculars
- earplugs
- · personal hygiene items
- swimsuit/swim trunks (for hot springs, sauna, or optional ocean swimming)
- waterproof protective case for photo and video equipment
- memory cards
- chargers and a portable power bank
- personal medication with enough supply for several extra days
- spare pair of prescription glasses or contact lenses
- insect repellent

Documents

- passport
- airline ticket
- copy of your travel insurance

Can I take a part

This cruise is suitable for active travelers in good physical condition. The program includes landings on wild shores and daily trekking. You will hike to the crater of Krenitsyn Volcano (15 km with an elevation gain of 600 m) and ascend Ebeko Volcano (12 km with an elevation gain of 1,200–1,400 m)."

Can children join the cruise

Children aged 14 and older are welcome to participate in the expedition.

Meals on board

You will be provided with three meals a day during the cruise.

Staying comfortable at sea

Rough seas are possible, but motion sickness medication is effective and available at the reception desk if needed.

If you're unsure whether you get seasick, try waiting before taking medication — some travelers find that ignoring mild symptoms helps their body adjust naturally within a few hours.

Helpful tips:

- Avoid staring at screens or reading for long periods focusing on still images can make symptoms worse.
- Fresh air helps: step outside onto the open deck and look at the horizon
- Don't let the cabin get stuffy.

Booking

Kamchatka

The Islands of Volcanoes

New

Difficulty

Group size to 10

Duration 11 days

Accomodation at the trip



from 0 EUR

What's included in the price:

- accommodation in a cabin of chosen category
- three meals a day on board, with tea and coffee available 24/7
- $\boldsymbol{-}$ all landings by boat and excursions listed in the program
- $\boldsymbol{-}$ entrance fees to attractions included in the program
- services of an expedition leader and guide
- rental of of fishing gear, tents, SUP boards, kayaks, foilboards, and trekking poles

Extra charge:

- <u>airfare</u> to Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk and from Petropavlovsk-Kamchatsky (or vice versa)
- meals and accommodation in Petropavlovsk-Kamchatsky and Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk
- personal expenses on board
- tips for the crew







