











Oymyakon is one of the most inclement inhabited places on Earth. It is the land of permafrost, where thermometers record the lowest temperatures in the world. Not only people, but also animals have to survive in such harsh conditions. You will see special breeds of Yakut horses and cows, go on dog sledding, taste traditional Even cuisine and participate in the mysterious ethnic purification rite.

# **Experiences you'll have**

# Winter journey to Yakutia

For a few days you will see a completely different reality and become a member of ethno-expedition to one of the coldest places of our planet.

The main feature of this expedition is a visit to the Pole of Cold — the place where the lowest temperatures in Russia and the world are recorded: -71,2 °C (-96.16 °F)

It is not easy to reach Oymyakon: you will have been travelling by car for 8-10 hours a day. You should be ready to get up early, but you will manage to see a lot of interesting and unusual things:

you will see the daily life of evens-reindeer herders and find out how they survive in extremely low temperatures climb the famous Lena pillars — a UNESCO world heritage site meet with the charming Yakutian Laika and visit the farms where the special Yakut cows and horses are bred participate in the pagan purification rite try ice-fishing

get acquainted with the cultural and historical heritage of Yakutia during a visit to the ethnographic museum of Tomtor visit the "Kingdom of permafrost", where you will see unusual ice sculptures and meet with the "Yakut Santa Claus" known as Lord of the Cold Chyshaan

## We accept bookings for groups of 6 or more

**Note:** for your group of two or more people, we can organize this expedition on any other dates, see details in the "Common question" section.

Photos by <u>Sergey Dolya</u>

# New Yakutia **Expedition to the Pole** of Cold \_=□|| Difficulty Age from 14 y.o. from 4 to 14 Group size Duration 8 days Accomodation at the trip 3 nights 4 nights Языки (EN)

from 1 940 EUR

guide

# **Itinerary**

The journey begins in Yakutsk, where you should travel to on your own. We are ready to assist with the purchase of tickets. If necessary, leave a comment in the application.

#### Day 1

## You will be met at the airport of Yakutsk and taken to the

hotel. Here you will check in and have breakfast. Next you will go to the ethnographic complex "Us Kut", where you will take part in the pagan purification rite called Algys. It includes a pray to the Supreme deities, as well as mystical rituals of lighting and feeding the fire.

#### Then you will visit the ethnographic complex "Chochur-

Muran". Here you will meet with the Yakutian Laika and have a dog sledding tour on the lake Ytyk Kuel. Lunch will be served in a restaurant in "Chochur-Muran" complex.

### In the afternoon you will visit an underground ice gallery

"Kingdom of Permafrost". It is a tourist complex set inside the mountain where the throne-room of Chyskhaan — the Yakut Lord of Cold is located. Also you can see here the residence of Father Frost from Veliky Ustyug and chamber of Lord of the North, as well as a unique showroom of ice sculptures called "Planet Yakutia".

In the evening you will come back to the hotel, have dinner

and rest.

Day 2

### After breakfast you will go to one of the most famous

natural places of interest in Yakutia — Lena pillars. This is a





complex of steep bizarre shaped rocks, the height of which reaches 220 meters.

You will have a light snack on the way, and then you will go up of the pillars.

#### Then you will have lunch in a cafe and go back to Yakutsk.

In the evening you will have dinner and relax in the hotel. Day 3

#### After breakfast, you will visit the exhibition "Treasury of

Yakutia". Large gold nuggets, diamonds, rare precious stones and works by Yakut craftsmen are presented here.

### After the tour, you will take a minibus from Yakutsk in the

direction of Oymyakon. The distance is 950 km, you will have an intermediate stop for the night in the village of Khandyga.

#### You will drive through mountain passes and river valleys

surrounded by larch taiga. During the trip, you will stop to take pictures of landscapes, monuments, and steles. The first stop will be at the Lena River winter crossing, where the river is 10 km wide

#### On the way, you will have lunch at a cafe (extra charge),

and upon arrival in the village, stop at a private hotel and have dinner at a cafe (at your own expense).

#### The length of the car route is 410 km. Travel time: 8-10

hours

#### Important: the exhibition "Treasury of Yakutia" is closed in

Yakutsk during the January holidays. You will visit the local history museum.

Day 4

#### Today you will have breakfast and continue driving to

Oymyakon along the Kolyma Highway, which was named the "road on bones" because it was built by GULAG prisoners during the Stalinist repressions. The road passes through the Verkhoyansky ridge — during a short stop you can admire the breathtaking views of the mountain peaks and take beautiful photos.

### You will have lunch on the way, and arrive in Oymyakon

late in the evening. Have dinner and check into the guest house.

Car route length: 530 km. Travel time: 12-14 hours.

Day 5

# After breakfast, you will go to the horse farm, where you

will get acquainted with the Yakut horses. You will learn about the peculiarities of their habitat and the life of horse breeders. If desired, you can go horseback riding.

#### Then you will have an excursion to the coldest place in the

Northern Hemisphere. An extreme temperature of -71.2 °C was recorded here. Lunch will be served at the guest house.

### After lunch, you will visit the ice photo gallery and the

Yakut carnival. In the administration of Oymyakon, watch the performance of the children's ethnographic dance ensemble, and then all participants of the expedition will be awarded certificates of visiting the pole of cold. You will also taste tea made from Yakut herbs.

#### In the evening, you will enjoy the entertainment program

"Chips of cold", dinner at the guest house and a sauna.

Car route length: 30-40 km.

#### On your New Year's trip, a festive dinner awaits you on this

day.

Day 6

#### After an early breakfast, you will depart from Oymyakon to

the village of Tomtor, where you will visit the Ebe-Hai cave and an ice gallery in the permafrost. Then you will continue to the village of Khandyga and have lunch at a cafe on your own.

#### On the way to Khandyga, you will stop at a reindeer

herders' camp and ride reindeer sleds, as well as get acquainted with the life of reindeer herders (not included in the price).

Upon arrival in the village, you will stay in a private hotel,

have dinner at a cafe (extra charge) and relax.

Car route length: 530 km. Travel time: 12-14 hours.

Day 7

#### After an early breakfast you will go back to Yakutsk and

stop for lunch at a cafe on the way. You will arrive to the city approximately at 4 pm, check in at the hotel and get some rest.

#### After that you will have free time for a walk, souvenir and

jewelry shopping. In the evening, you will have a farewell dinner in the restaurant of national cuisine.

Day 8

After breakfast you will be taken to the airport, from where

you will have a flight back home.

# Accomodation at the trip

In Yakutsk you will be accommodated in standard double rooms in **Alaas hotel**. You will live in double rooms styled like a Yakut yurt, with double or 2 single beds, bathroom, TV, safe, work area and air conditioning. There is a restaurant on site, there is a mobile connection and Wi-Fi is available.

In Khandyga village and Oymyakon village you will accomodate at **private guest houses** (accommodation up to 2-3 persons in the room).

# **FAQ**

## Who will be my guide

One guide and one driver accompany a group of tourists. Instructors with great experience will help traverse the route safely and comfortably. They are ready for any unexpected situation: they finished first aid Red Cross courses. The guide has a satellite phone for communication with the Emergency department in case of force majeure, as well as a first aid kit with necessary medicines.

## Meals

The cost of the tour includes three meals per day, except for lunches and dinners in Yakutsk restaurants (guests order from the menu and pay for themselves, +25-35 EURO per person for lunch/dinner). There are also light snacks during long journeys (hot tea and coffee, sandwiches with cheese/sausage/fish, fruit, sweets).

If you are a vegetarian, please inform the manager when booking the tour.

### Can children take part

You can take children over 14 years of age on this trip.

### What will the weather be like

There are frosts from -30 to -40 $^{\circ}$ C in Yakutsk, and extremely low temperatures up to -65 $^{\circ}$ C may occur in Oymyakon. As a rule, there are no strong winds, the weather is usually sunny.

Taking into account the severe weather conditions, the travel route is composed in such a way that you will not have to spend a lot of time outside. You will always have a car nearby, where you can warm up and drink hot tea or coffee. After climbing the Lena pillars, you can warm up and have lunch in a warm cafe. While fishing in Oymyakon, a tent with a stove will be set up nearby.

#### Insurance

The cost include a health insurance, which will also cover the costs of emergency evacuation to a medical facility and payment for treatment. Medical expenses are compensated within the insurance coverage of 3 000 USD, accident and evacuation – within 5 000 USD.

### Cost of the program for groups of two or more people

The cost of the tour depends on the size of the group and the dates of the trip:

On New Year's dates, December 27 — January 3:

for a group of 4-14 people — 2280 EUR/person. for a group of 2-3 people — 3355 EUR/person.

On other dates:

for a group of 4-14 people — 1940 EUR/person. for a group of 2-3 people — 3015 EUR/person.

### What transport is used on the route

All transfers along the route will be organized on a comfortable Toyota Hiace minibus (with capacity of 11 people). The car is of 2013 year of manufacture and undergoes a technical inspection before each departure.

## Mobile communication on the route

Mobile communication will only be available while your staying at the towns and villages. In Yakutsk, there is mobile Internet and Wi-Fi in the hotel. In the villages of Teply Klyuch and Oymyakon, mobile communication of the Beeline mobile operator works well, there is no mobile Internet.

#### What to bring with me

- the most warm clothes
- thermal underware
- wool socks
- fleece jacket (or warm sweaters)
- warm pants
- a warm cap
- an anorak
- mittens (you can take two sets to put on each other)
- a scarf
- warm shoes (boots, felt boots, Baffin or Kamik boots)
- personal care items

#### Do I need cash

In Yakutsk, you can pay with a bank card everywhere (except for markets). Only cash (Russian rubles) is accepted on the route to Oymyakon and in the village itself.

# **Booking**

Yakutia

# **Expedition to the Pole of Cold**

New

Difficulty \_\_\_

Age from 14 y.o.
Group size from 4 to 14

Duration 8 days

# from 1 940 EUR

#### What's included in the price:

- double/twin accommodation in Alaas hotel
- accommodation in private hotels in Oymyakon and Khandyga villages
- meals as per program
- meeting/sending off at the Yakutsk airport
- transfers according to the program
- excursions according to the program
- guides' service
- insurance
- satellite communications

Accomodation at the trip





3 nights 4 nights

#### Extra charge:

- <u>airfare to Yakutsk (</u>starting at 400 EURO for a rouns-trip ticket)
- single accommodation in Alaas hotel (+120 EURO per person), optional
- lunches and dinners on days 1, 2, 3, 6 and 7
- an interpreter's service (+1325 EURO in case you are the only foreign tourist in the group)
- rental of a set of warm clothing (jacket and pants that can withstand temperatures up to -50°C): + 40 EURO per person, optional

13 dec 2025, sat — 20 dec 2025, sat	from 1 940 EUR
27 dec 2025, sat — 3 jan 2026, sat	from 1 940 EUR
3 jan 2026, sat — 10 jan 2026, sat	from 2 280 EUR
17 jan 2026, sat — 24 jan 2026, sat	from 1 940 EUR
31 jan 2026, sat — 7 feb 2026, sat	from 1 940 EUR
21 feb 2026, sat — 28 feb 2026, sat	from 1 940 EUR
7 mar 2026, sat — 14 mar 2026, sat	from 1 940 EUR







