

# Where reindeers live

Trip to Yamal in winter



Yamal tundra means endless snowy space, strong winds and harsh frost. The life in such harsh conditions completely differs from benefits of civilization that we are used to. But if you are not afraid of difficulties and lack of the usual comfort, then this journey to reindeer herders' camp beyond the Arctic circle will give you completely new experience.

# Experiences you'll have

## Watching the Northerh lights at Yamal

This expedition to the far lands beyond the Arctic circle will give you a unique chance to get acquainted with the indigenous peoples of the Far North of Russia. You will stay at the hunting base far from civilization and travel across the snowy tundra. In good weather you will admire the Northern lights. Here, in Yamal this natural phenomenon is characterized by bright iridescences of different colors and mesmerizing flickering.

During the day you will be immersed in the culture and life of the indigenous peoples of the Far North. In the evenings you will try to capture the stunning Northern lights above the vast expanses of the tundra.

During this tour you will:

- learn how to assemble a chum and find out about different types of reindeer sleds
- watch how to work with the herd
- take a ride on a reindeer sled
- spend one night in a real chum — the traditional rawhide tent of nomadic reindeer herders
- taste the traditional cuisine of the indigenous peoples of the Far North
- visit the Khanty family in the national village of Yambura

**We accept bookings for groups of 6 or more**

If you want to participate in the main festival of the Far North – Reindeer Herder's Day, choose a [trip to Yamal in March](#).

**Note:** for your group of 5 or more people, we can organize a New year's program in Yamal. To get details, leave a comment in the application.

## Itinerary

The journey starts in Salekhard, where you should travel to on your own. The flight from Moscow to Salekhard takes around three hours. We can help you with the purchase of tickets. If necessary, leave a comment on the application.

**Note:** this is an expedition program, and the itinerary may change depending on the weather and other unforeseen circumstances. Travelling across the tundra will be organized in a snowmobile sleigh. If desired, and for an additional fee, you can drive a snowmobile by yourself.

### Day 1

**You will be met at the airport of Salekhard and taken to**

the hotel, where you will check in and rest. Then you will have a guided city tour around Salekhard. You will visit the historical and architectural complex "Obdorsk Burg", as well as will see the "66 Parallel" monument, installed at the intersection point of the Arctic circle.

**You will also visit the Ivan Shemanovsky Museum of local**

lore. Here you will get acquainted with the archaeological, natural and ethnographic collections dedicated to the natural treasures and historical and cultural heritage of the Yamal land.

**After the tour you will have lunch in a cafe (paid**

additionally) and then return to the hotel. In the evening you will have free time to relax or take an independent walk around the city.

### Day 2

**After breakfast you will move to Aksarka village by**

minibus. Here you will have a snack and will change into winter clothes comfortable for movement in a snowmobile sleigh. Then you will set off to the base, located far from civilization on the

Yamal

### Where reindeers live

Difficulty	
Group size	from 4 to 12
Duration	7 days

Accomodation at the trip

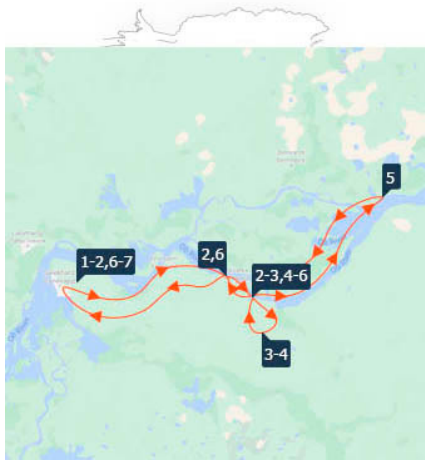
2 nights	3 nights	1 nights

Языки



guide

from 1 100 EUR



banks of the Ob river (if you want to drive a snowmobile by yourself, please, inform us in advance, this option requires prepayment).

**On the way you will admire pristine Yamal nature. Upon**

arrival to the base you will have lunch. Then you can walk near the base and take photos of tundra landscapes. In the evening you will have dinner and prepare for thy night photography of the Northern lights. You can take photos of this unique natural phenomenon in the vicinities of the base or go to tundra.

**Day 3**

**After breakfast you will move to the reindeer herders'**

camp, where you will meet the family of reindeer breeders and will be invited to have lunch with national cuisine (Northern partridge soup, tea with lingonberry jam and bagels).

**After lunch you will have free time for further acquaintance**

with the traditions and life of reindeer herders. You will learn how to assemble a chum — the traditional rawhide tent of reindeer herders, what kind of wood is used for making reindeer sleds. You will find out, that there are several types of sleds: male and female, for riding, for cargo and food storage, festive, sacred, etc. You will also take part in master classes on national beading and preparing leather from reindeer skins using a special ancient tool.

**For dinner you will taste national cuisine: roast venison,**

fried whitefish, flat bread with jam. In the evening you will have free time for capturing the Northern lights. You will spend the night in a chum with the family of reindeer herders.

**Day 4**

**After breakfast with the reindeer herders you will ride**

snowmobiles to tundra to the place where a herd of reindeer is grazing.

**Here an experienced reindeer herder will show you how to**

use a lasso for catching a reindeer and how to drive a team of reindeer. You will take photos of the herd and will ride in a reindeer sleigh.

**After that you will have a snack and return to the base. For**

dinner you will taste roast deer heart with pasta and prepare for the watching the Northern lights.

**Day 5**

**Today you will also spend a lot of time outdoors, that's way**

in the morning you will have a hearty breakfast. After that snowmobile trip to the village of Yambura is waiting for you. This is a national settlement of Khanty people, and in the Nenets language the name "Yambura" means "peat hill".

**Here you will visit a local family, the hosts will hospitably**

invite you to have tea and tell you about their life and customs. Then you will have time to take photos, before you return to the base. In the evenong you will have dinner with national cuisine and rest.

**Day 6**

**After breakfast you will leave the base and go to Aksarka**

village in a snowmobile sleigh. There you will have a snack and transfer to a minibus that will take you to Salekhard.

Upon arrival to the town you will stay in a hotel and have

dinner (paid additionally).

Day 7

In the morning you will be taken to Salekhard airport for

your departure flight.

# Accommodation at the trip

The first and the last nights of the tour you will spend in Salekhard in "Arktika" Hotel or "Yuribey" Hotel.

"Arktika" Hotel offers standard twin or double rooms equipped with a flat-screen TV, free Wi-Fi, a refrigerator, a kettle, a desk, a wardrobe as well as a private bathroom with a hairdryer.

"Yuribey" Hotel offers standard twin or double rooms with a flat-screen TV, a refrigerator, free Wi-Fi, and a private bathroom with a hairdryer and free toiletries. Hotel facilities include a restaurant, a bar, a gym, billiards and a sauna.

Three nights of the journey you will live at the "Khon-Yus" base, located on the bank of the Ob river. You will stay in a wooden house (shared room with bunk beds). The house has a toilet, electricity is supplied from the generator. There is a banya on the territory of the base.

From the third to the fourth day you will stay at the reindeer herder's camp. You will be accommodated in the national raw-hide tents (for 4-5 persons).

## FAQ

### Who will be my guide

You will be accompanied by an experienced guide and an interpreter throughout the tour.

### Meals

The program price includes three meals a day with national cuisine from the second to the fifth days of the tour, as well as breakfasts on days 6, 7 in the hotel. Additionally, you will need to pay for lunches and dinners in Salekhard on days 1 and 6.

### What to bring with me

- warm winter clothing (jacket with hood), comfortable at temperatures up to -40°C
- warm winter boots
- set of warm thermal underwear
- warm windproof hat
- mittens
- wool socks
- down sleeping bag
- thermos
- headlamp
- personal hygiene items
- powerbank for camera and mobile phone

Note: while traveling across the tundra, your luggage will also be



transported on snowmobiles, so please pack your belongings in backpacks or travel bags, suitcases are not recommended.

### What will the weather be like

In the period from December till March temperature varies from 0°C to -35°C. There can be snowfalls and blizzards. In December it is a polar night and a daylight is only 2-3 hours long. From January the daylight starts increasing. You can see the Northern Lights till the end of March (when the weather permits).

### What transport is used

Transfer from Salekhard to Aksarka village will be organized on minibuses Nissan/Toyota. From Aksarka village to "Khon-Yus" base and to the reindeer herder's camp you will travel in a snowmobile sleigh.

If you wish and for an additional fee, you can drive a snowmobile by yourself (this option requires prepayment). For those who will be driving a snowmobile on their own there will be a briefing. Please inform us in advance when booking the tour.

## Booking

Yamal

Where reindeers live

Difficulty

Group size

Duration

from 4 to 12

7 days

Accommodation at the trip

2 nights3 nights1 nights

from 1 100 EUR

What's included in the price:

— accommodation as per program

— meals as per program (national cuisine)

— all transfers according to the program

— English-speaking guide's service

— reindeer breeder services

— Salekhard city-tour

— excursions as per program

— rent of a snowmobile sleigh

Extra charge:

— [airfare to/from Salekhard](#)

— meals in Salekhard on days 1 and 6

— insurance

— rent a set of warm clothing (winter suit, hat, balaclava, gloves, boots):+ 45 EURO per person

— fee for a snowmobile rental: +365 EURO per person (2 riders), +440 EURO per person (single-rider)

— single accommodation in a hotel (+75 EURO per person)

Best price guarantee

Personal tours

Discounts for regular clients

Gift cards