The Kuril islands are the part of the Pacific Ring of Fire, where the largest number of active volcanoes in the world is located. They form not only a picturesque landscape here, but also provide unique conditions for the habitat of rare animals and birds. Come here to see it firsthand together with famous travel-photographers and enliven your insta-profile with breathtaking shots.
Experiences you'll have

Photo tour to the Kuril islands

During this sea journey you will explore the unique wildlife of the Far East of Russia, and the professional photographers will teach you how to use maximum of functions of your camera to express the natural beauty of the Kuril islands. Starting from the Petropavlovsk-Kamchatsky, you will reach the Northern Kuril Islands, alternating sea trips by Zodiaks boats with hiking routes on the islands.

Max Muench from Germany and Jord Hammond from UK will be the photo leaders of the tour. Together you will climb to the craters of active volcanoes and go ashore the untouched islands searching for sea otters, sea lions, arctic foxes and rare seabirds.

Highlights of the tour:
- Ascent to the craters of 5 active volcanoes: Taketomi (Vladimir peninsula), Ebeko (Paramushir Island), Krenitsyn (Onerotan Island), Zavaritsky (Simushir Island), Kuntomintar (Shiashkotan Island)
- Watching the largest seabirds' and seal rookeries at the Starichkov Island, Cape Shelekhov, Middle Island, Yankich Island
- Swimming in the wild thermal springs
- Visiting the historical and natural monuments of the Kuril islands: You will see the consequences of a volcanic eruption at Raikoke island, the “mineralized” waterfall near Cape Bashmachny and the former village with Japanese coastal fortifications in Sunset Bay

If you are fond of wildlife photography, see also our cruise to another pearl of the Russian Far East — the Commander Islands, where 21 species of cetaceans are registered. Here you can watch orcas, cachalots, grey and humpback whales.

Photos by Nikolai Pavlov and Konstantin Savchuk

Itinerary

The journey begins in Petropavlovsk-Kamchatsky, where you should travel to on your own. We can help with the purchase of tickets. If necessary, leave a comment on the application.

Please, note, that the itinerary can be changed due to the weather conditions.

Day 1

Upon arrival to Petropavlovsk-Kamchatsky you will be met and taken to the hotel. You can rest or go for a walk to get acquainted with the town. In the evening a welcome dinner is waiting for you.

Day 2

After breakfast you will move to the port of Petropavlovsk-Kamchatsky. Here you will board the expeditionary ship and depart towards the Northern Kuril Islands. You will pass through Avacha Bay and go out to the Pacific ocean. Here a boat trip to Starichkov Island is waiting for you. It is a regional nature monument, where the largest sea bird rookery of Kamchatka peninsula is located.

Day 3

Today you will arrive to Atlasova island. You will land on the northwestern coast of the island, a go for a walk to the side cones of the Olympic breakthrough.

Next you will move towards the Vladimir peninsula. Here you will have a hiking route, climbing Taketomi volcano and exploring the panorama of the volcano Alaid.
Then you will continue the sea voyage and will land on Paramushir island. You will go hiking from Shelekhov bay to see the seal rookery. From the boats you can observe Cape Shelekhov, covered by frozen lava.

Day 4

Today you will arrive to the port of Severo-Kurilsk on Paramushir island. By car you will be taken to the start on of the hiking trail. The aim of this day will be to climb the active volcano Ebeko. Breathtaking landscapes are waiting for you here. Having finished the route, you will return by car to the port, board the ship and depart towards Onekotan Island.

Day 5

In the morning you will land on the bay of Mussel of Onekotan Island. Hiking trial to the crater of the Krenitsyn volcano is waiting for you today. After that you will return to the ship and will continue the journey to the south of the Kuril islands.

Day 6

In the morning you will reach the rocks of the Middle island. Here you can watch the rookeries of northern fur seals and sea lions from zodiacs boats.

Then you will move to the Ushishir archipelago and will land on Yankich island. Here you will visit Cratermay Bay, where you will have an opportunity to swim in wild thermal springs, as well as observe seabirds, arctic foxes, walking around the island. In the evening you will return to the ship.

Day 7

Landing and ascent to volcano Zavaritsky on Simushir island is waiting for you today. You will take a great shots of the crater and Lake Turquoise.

Returning to the ship, you will continue travelling to Broughton bay. You will land in the village of Kraternyi, that used to be a settlement of military sailors. You will climb the top of the East Kleshnia peninsula, which offers a wonderful view of the bay.

Day 8

This day you will explore Raikoke island by zodiacs boats. In the presence of favorable weather conditions you will go ashore to walk along the coast and observe the consequences of a volcanic eruption. Then you will return to the ship and move to the rocks of the Lovushki.

In the afternoon you will inspect the rookery of Steller sea lions and seals at the ski resort. Then the ship will depart to the north.

Day 9

Landing at the foot of the Kuntomintar volcano of Shiashkotan island and hiking to the crater field are waiting for you today.

After that you will go to Sunset bay and visit the former village, where Japanese coastal fortifications were preserved. Next you will be taken to the northwestern side of the island, where you will go ashore and walk along the coastal strip, visiting the “mineralized” waterfall near cape Bashmachny.

Day 10
In the morning you will arrive to the east coast of Shumshu island. Here you can watch the steller sea lion. You will go to the meteorological station Babushkina and walk along the shore. Here you will observe the coastal cliffs and grottoes and see hatchets, cormorants and sea otters. After that you will board the ship and depart towards Kamchatka.

**Day 11**

In the morning you will cross along the southeast coast of Kamchatka. You will arrive at the port of Petropavlovsk-Kamchatsky approximately at 2 pm. Then you will be taken to the hotel or to the airport.

### Accommodation at the trip

You will travel by the **expeditionary boat “Athena”**. It is a comfortable specially equipped passenger vessel designed for voyages in the northern latitude. You will be accommodated in the double cabins of economy class. Each cabin has a lower and upper berth. The nearby showers and toilets are shared with other cabins.

The first night of the tour you will spend at **“Three skis” hostel**. It is located in the heart of Petropavlovsk-Kamchatsky. The rooms have a private bathroom, one double or two separate beds, a working area with free Wi-Fi, a mini-refrigerator, a wardrobe, bedside tables with individual lamps.

### FAQ

**Who will be my guide**

The experienced guides, as well as professional travel photographers will accompany you in this journey.

**Max Muench** is a Berlin based photographer specialized in outdoor, landscape and adventure. By following his passion to travel, he captures the beauty and diversity of our planet, always looking for a fresh perspective and a unique story. His photography works as the key link between an engaged community and progressive companies as well as modern brands & tourism boards. Max Muench is also project manager of German Roamers, Europe's biggest outdoor community on Instagram.

**Jord Hammond** is a 26-years-old travel photographer from UK, who is known for posting a variety of colored landscape content from places such as Switzerland, Thailand, Abu Dhabi, and Japan to his over 550,000 Instagram followers. He has been to 44 countries. He began taking photos whilst working as a teacher in China back in 2015. He has also developed the online photography course. “That being said, becoming a professional photographer involves a passion and an eye that university classes may never be able to give you, and you can definitely learn by yourself too. Be creative, explore the world around you, don’t be afraid to put yourself out there and above all, work very hard!” these are Jord’s advices to aspiring photographers.

### Meals

The cost of the tour includes three meals a day on the boat and a dinner in Petropavlovsk-Kamchatsky at the day of arrival.

### Booking

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<th>Kamchatka</th>
<th>Most popular</th>
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<td>The Kuril Islands</td>
<td>Accomodation at the trip</td>
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<th>Difficulty</th>
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from 5 600 EUR

What's included in the price:
— pre-cruise night in a hotel and dinner in Petropavlovsk-Kamchatsky
— accommodation in the double cabin (economy class)
— three meals a day on the expeditionary boat
— all the permissions and coordination to visit the natural reserve parks and check points
— excursions on the board and during the landing
— lectures, presentations and consulting from the guide
— insurance
— visa support

Extra charge:
— airfare to Petropavlovsk-Kamchatsky
— extra excursions not listed in the tour program
— extra expense unforeseen by the tour program
— tips for the crew

21 aug 2021, sat — 1 sep 2021, wed
from 5 600 EUR