

Belukha is the heart of Asia

AAA2

Destination: Altai

Activities: trekking/hiking, ascent of a mount/volcano, ecotour

Duration: 11 days

Tour type: join in tour

From EUR 460

We offer you 11-day trekking tour to the foot of the mount Belukha – the highest mount of the Siberia. Special skills or gear are not required. Children from 12 years old are allowed with adults.

Overview:

Mountain Belukha, the highest peak in Siberia, flies up with two summits: Western Belukha (4440 m) and Eastern Belukha (4506 m). The glacier shield of Belukha, which covers the largest part of the mountain ridge, occupies the territory of 70 sq km and is the source of Katun river. The steep peaks of Belukha, sparkling masses of ice, vertical rocky walls charm the travelers from afar and inspire them with awe and excitement. At the mountain's feet among the space mysteries of snow and rocks you become aware that the man is not always the measure of all things. According to one Asian legend Mountain Belukha is a future Northern Shambala a mystical country of spiritual wisdom. This area is associated with the famous Russian artist Nikolay Rerikh and attracts hundreds of admirers of his painting every year. In 1995 the government of Altai Republic established the Belukha nature park.

Itinerary:

Day 0. Transfer to Ust-Koksa from Novosibirsk/Barnaul

Leaving Novosibirsk at 20.00. Place of departure – 65, Sovetskaya street.

Leaving Barnaul at 23.50. Place of departure – “Oblepikha” cafe.

Distance: 825/640 km.

Day 1. Ust-Koksa

Pick up from Gorno-Altai at 10:00 (375 km). Arrival in Ust-Koksa. Accommodation at tents at the tourist center. Lunch. Getting the equipment. Instructing. Dinner. (LD)

Day 2. Kucherla River

Breakfast. 08:00 Transfer to Tiungur (74 km).

Going up the Kucherla river. The Kucherla river (in Altai Kudzhur-ly means «with saline soils») has a wonderful milky-turquoise water. The total length of the river is about 50 km. On the way in a rock cave next to the Kyulu river the ancient people created more than 100 rock paintings. Since the ancient times people have settled down under the shadow of Mysterious Belukha Mountain. More ten paintings are situated on the surrounding rocks not far away from the cave. Trekking distance – 12 km.

Overnight at tents. (BLD).

Day 3. Kucherla lake

Radial excursion to Kucherla lake, that is at the altitude of 1780 m. The lake is 5220 m long, 900 m wide and 55 m deep. There is fish, which leave the running circles on the lake surface, sometimes disturbs its blue-green waters. Trekking distance – 18 km. Overnight at tents. (BLD)

Day 4. Kara-Tyurek

Trekking to Kara-Tyurek passage. Setting a tent camp on the top boarder of the forest. Trekking distance – 7 km. Overnight at tents. (BLD)

Day 5. Kara-Tyurek

Ascending the mountain pass of Kara-Tyurek (3060 m). From the top of the pass the spectacular panoramic view on Belukha Mountain and endless snow peaks of Katun ridge unfolds in front of the traveler. It is a good opportunity to make pictures from the bird's eye view where the presence of eternal outer space is clear and tangible. Overnight at Ak-Kem lake. Trekking distance – 10 km. Overnight at tents. (BLD)

Day 6. Radial excursion to the Ak-Kem glacier

Radial excursion to the foot of Belukha to the realm of scalding ice and icy caves at the feet of the incredibly high vertical wall of the Ak-Kem glacier. Trekking distance – 24 km. Overnight at tents. (BLD)

Day 7. Radial excursion to the Ak-Oyuk River and to the Valley of Seven Lakes

In the river head of Ak-Oyuk there are very beautiful lakes with unique colors. Trekking distance – 14 km. Overnight at tents. (BLD)

Day 8.

Trekking down the speedy Ak-Kem river with milky-white water. The word Ak-Kem means White Water in Turkish language and corresponds with the reality. The river starts in Ak-Kem glacier and carries in its steams the tiny pieces of white limestones from the slopes of Belukha. Trekking distance – 16 km. Overnight at tents. (BLD)

Day 9. Ust-Koksa

Travelers come back to Tyungur village. Transfer by vehicle to Ust-Koksa (84 km). Trekking distance – 8 km. Transfer to Ust-Koksa (64 km). Accommodation at tents at the tourist center. Dinner. (BLD)

Day 10. Verhniy Uymon village

Time for rest. After the lunch transfer to Verhniy Uymon village. The village is one of the oldest settlements in the area and was founded by religious group of old-believers more than 300 years ago. There are two museums in Verhniy Uymon village: Ethnographical museum named after famous artist Nikolay Roerih and Museum of old-believers' religious traditions and culture. After excursion departure for Barnaul (640 km)/ Novosibirsk (825 km) at 17:00 or to Gorno-Altai (at 22:00) 375 km. (BL)

Day 11. Arrival in Gorno-Altai, Barnaul, Novosibirsk

06:00 Arrival in Gorno-Altai.

07:00 Arrival in Barnaul.

10:00 Arrival in Novosibirsk.

The order of the excursions might be changed and some excursions might be changed for equivalent.

All the times are local.