

Polistovsky zapovednik and Chisty les zakaznik

Exploring one of Europe's largest pristine raised bog systems (12 thousand years old Polistovo-Lovatsk mire complex) on foot, in an all-terrain vehicle and by boat;



Seeing remains of old growth forests of Central Russia during the late spring with many rare flowering plants, ferns and lichens as well as observing birds in the forest with chances to see capercaillie and woodcock in courtship;

Roaming around beautiful bog lakes and rivers in the Great Watershed of the Russian Plain rich in waterfowl;

Getting to know local infrastructure (trails, visitor centers, eco-educational programmes, etc.) with possibility to observe large mammals like brown bear, moose, beaver, marten, deer, etc.;

Visiting the Chisty les biological station, famous for its brown bear rehabilitation programme;

Discovering old Russian history in preserved villages and the historic town of Toropets and tasting delicious local food.

Cost: 780 €



Author photo: A. Kolotilin

Kenozero National Park

Exploring one of the best preserved old-Russian cultural landscapes with picturesque lakes, patches of old-growth forests and a plethora of valuable wooden architecture (proposed UNESCO world heritage site) on foot, by bus and by boat;



Visiting unique wooden churches with well-preserved ceiling drawings (heavens) and icons dating back to 18th and 19th centuries saved from destruction during the Soviet times due to area's remoteness;

Experiencing the true Russian North where the national park administration (leader in Russia) managed to restore and revive century-old local history, culture and traditions through engaging local residents in their preservation and sharing their life-style with visitors;

Feeling the special atmosphere of ancient times gone by, no internet and mobile phone ringing, but instead savouring delicious locally sourced food, enjoying local folklore, dancing and singing coupled with great outdoors with a chance to see a bear or two.

Cost: 730 €



Author photo: I. Shpilenok

Caucasus biosphere zapovednik

Exploring one of the most biologically rich and culturally diverse regions on Earth, UNESCO world heritage site and the largest and oldest protected area in the Caucasus on foot, on horse-back (optionally) and in an all-terrain vehicle;



Hiking through the western edge of the Caucasus Mountains; crossing a diverse range of ecosystems from glaciers and picturesque alpine meadows to subtropical forests (including relict yew and box tree grove) in a few days;

Discovering rich flora with lots of endemic species (every fifth plant species is endemic here) such as rhododendrons, orchids, ferns, box trees, lianas, etc. with high chances to observe mammals such as mountain tur, brown bear, chamois and high variety of birds;

Experiencing well-equipped visitor centers, trails and tourist routes as well as both Russian and Adygean culture, including tasty food, quality wines, folklore and crafts;

And as a bonus - swimming in the Black Sea and getting to know the Sochi resort with the Olympic facilities.

Cost: 1100 €



Author photo: O. Komissarov

Russia's natural treasures

Russia boasts the world's largest system of strictly protected nature reserves (so called zapovedniks) listed as category Ia by IUCN. They preserve not only large tracts of endless taiga forests and rolling steppes, but also pristine river systems and peat bogs, crystal blue lakes, spectacular mountains and old growth forests teeming with biodiversity.

The establishment of a comprehensive network of nature reserves, national parks, wildlife sanctuaries (zakazniks) and natural monuments is a long standing and effective form of biodiversity conservation and justly the pride of Russia. Today protected areas cover 11.4% or 206.7 million hectares of the country, more than the size of Mexico. 2017 passed the 100th anniversary since the first strict nature reserve near the lake Baikal was created.

Machaon International, supporting these protected area for the last ten years, is honoured to invite specialists from other European protected areas and true nature lovers to discover some of these Russia's natural treasures. By joining one of our tours, you not only explore, learn but for sure you are on the right way towards your happiness.

Alongside the tours published in the brochure, we can always help you organizing your visit to many other unique nature reserves and national parks of Russia.



Important information

Group size: 7 people minimum - 11 people maximum

The price includes:

All tours with English speaking guides,
Local transfers in Russia during the stay,
Full board (3 meals a day) during the tour,
Accommodation (guest houses or tents),
Local taxes and site entrance fees mentioned in the itinerary,
Complete tour assistance.

The price excludes:

Expenses of personal nature like telephone calls, medical bills, laundry, alcoholic drinks, etc.,
Personal travel insurance,
Travel to Russia (airfare) and visa,
Any other services not mentioned in the inclusions,
Or extras not specified.

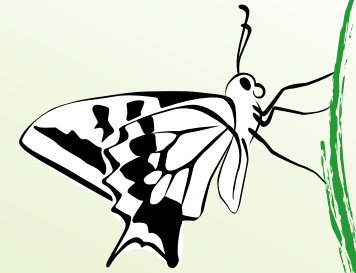
Come to Russia and experience the natural wonders for yourself. The protected areas and their dedicated staff working there will amaze you and make you happier.

Further information: www.machaon.eu/happiness

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Association for nature conservation
MACHAON INTERNATIONAL
(Slovakia)



Heading towards happiness

Special tours to Russian protected areas

(for protected area specialists and nature lovers)

