The Snow Leopard Challenge

- The Ultimate 7000m Challenge
- Five 7000m Peaks in 70 days
- Remote and Spectacular

CHALLENGE OVERVIEW
It started in the old Soviet Union times and became the ultimate challenge for alpinists…to climb all Soviet peaks over 7000 meters; Peak Lenin, Korzhenevskoy, Communism, Khan Tengri and Pobeda. Those who managed to summit the five Central Asian giants were awarded the Snow Leopard Trophy. Today it has been completed by less than six hundred mountaineers, none of them British. Adventure Peaks is offering all five; three peaks are located in the Pamirs and two in the Tien Shan. They can be climbed individually or in combinations.

Participation Statement
Adventure Peaks recognises that climbing, hill walking and mountaineering are activities with a danger of personal injury or death. Participants in these activities should be aware of and accept these risks and be responsible for their own actions and involvement.

Adventure Travel – Accuracy of Itinerary
Although it is our intention to operate this itinerary as printed, it may be necessary to make some changes as a result of flight schedules, climatic conditions, limitations of infrastructure or other operational factors. As a consequence, the order or location of overnight stops and the duration of the day may vary from those outlined. You should be aware that some events are beyond our control and we would ask for your patience.


The Record Breaking Snow Leopard Challenge in one season – All five in 70 days

Almost impossible but that is what records are made of, on paper given good weather at the crucial times it is possible! If not then it would have been an incredible journey and no doubt at least four seven thousand metre peaks.

Dave Pritt Director of Adventure Peaks who has been travelling to the region for over twenty years has put the plan together. **The full plan would be given on booking.** He did the same for the Seven Summits back in 2007 when Adventure Peaks guided Ian McKeever to the world record in 156 days; it had previously been 187 days.

**Dates:** Thu 25th Jun to Wed 2nd Sept 2016 **£13,995**
Sat 25th Jun to Sun 2nd Sept 2016 **£14,995**

**So what will it take:**


THE PEAKS

**Peak Lenin 7134m**

Peak Lenin at 7134m is the third highest of the snow leopard peaks and is situated in the Pamirs range of Kyrgyzstan. It is one of the most accessible of the world’s 7000m peaks. The climb is non-technical and truly Himalayan by proportion requiring previous basic alpine skills and altitude experience to 6000m.

**BC - Camp 1 (ABC)** - From BC we walk through the glade of Lukovaya Polyana (Wild Onion Meadow). As the plateau ends we follow the small steep path that climbs towards the Puteshestviennikov Pass (4100m). We then descend again via the moraine to the right where the start of the climb up the Lenin Glacier begins. A further 5kms walking brings us to ABC (Camp 1) at a height of 4200m. 6-8 hours

**Camp 2 - Camp 3** - We ascend steeply above the camp to gain a ridge below Mt Razdelnaya. We follow this making a small detour to the summit before establishing our camp at 6100m. 5-6 hours

**Camp 3 - Camp 4** - Unlike most other groups we aim to establish a fourth camp at 6400m. It may appear to be just 200m of height gain but it does reduce down the summit day by 2-3 hours. Leaving camp two you must descend steeply down by 200m to a distinct col before climbing back up to gain the plateau of Camp 4. Without a camp four the climb back up from the Col to the safety of camp 3 is incredibly tough.

**Summit Day**

The summit can be attempted in one long day in 8-10hrs to the summit, or a fourth camp can be placed as described reducing it down to 6-7hrs to the summit. The route initially follows the West ridge over be mixed snow & rock to gain a rocky plateau at 6300m where it is possible to establish a Camp 4 if required. The plateau appears to go on for a long time before the slopes steepen to about 40 degrees which eventually lead to the summit. The summit at 7134metres is crowned by a number of plaques, including one of Lenin himself. The views, as you would expect, are outstanding and stretch right across the Pamirs to Muztagh Ata and Kongur in China and to the west, the Karakoram

**Korzhenevskoy Peak 7105m**

It is usually said to be the second easiest of these peaks to climb, after Peak Lenin and can be climbed in conjunction with an ascent of Peak Communism (Ismoil Somoni Peak 7495m) using Korzhenevskoy to prepare for its higher and more difficult neighbour. The classic Southern ridge route starts from the Moskvina Glade, reached by helicopter and is generally regarded as the safest and easiest route to the summit. Camps are placed at 5300m and 6400m from where we tackle the summit via a narrow but not steep ridge. To aid our ascent and the move between camps we will acclimatize on the nearby peaks Vorobeva (5691m) or Chetyreh peak (6299m)

On Peak Lenin

![On Peak Lenin](image)

Ismoil Somoni (Peak Communism)
**IsmoilSomoni (Peak Communism) 7495m**

Peak Communism (IsmoilSomoni Peak) is the highest mountain in Tajikistan and a cherished dream of any mountaineer being one of the most beautiful and interesting climbs in the world. A mountain that has seen many names: in 1933 Stalin Peak, in 1962 Communism Peak, in 1998 IsmoilSomoni after the ancestor of the Samanid dynasty and finally its modern name Peak Somoni. The ascent starts from a base camp Moskvina Glade (4200m) which can only logically be approached by helicopter. Many climbers attempt Vorobeva Peak (5691 m) or Chetyreh Peak (6299 m) as part of their acclimatization. Four further camps are placed to reach the impressive small rocky summit with its spectacular panoramic views across the whole Pamirs and into China.

**Khan Tengri 6995m** (or 7010m with the ice cap)

A classic expedition Adventure Peaks has been operating for the last 15 years. This challenging expedition follows in the footsteps of many previously successful trips to this comparatively undiscovered region. At 7010m, Khan Tengri is without doubt the most splendid of summits amongst the jagged peaks of the Tien Shan. With its elegant ridges and superb pyramidal summit, it is also regarded as one of the most beautiful peaks in the world, alongside the stunning Alpamayo, AmaDablam and the Matterhorn.

Base Camp will be established at 4000m on the North Inylchek Glacier, the world’s third longest at 62km. The views from here are quite breathtaking and provide a superb backdrop whilst enjoying a welcome drink of tea and relaxing, before we head for Camp 1 at 4300m and Camp 2 at 5100m. We then ascend the stunning Peak Chapayev, with its momentous views of our summit objective, and onto the Col just below the West Ridge at 5900m. To improve our chances of success on Khan Tengri, an additional camp may be established at 6300m.

**Pobeda Peak 7439m**

Pobeda Peak is regarded as the toughest of the five summits and lies opposite Khan Tengri on the South Inylchek Glacier. It is the most northerly 7000m peak in the world, isolated and difficult and forms the border with China. It is climbed via five or six camps and would challenge any 8000m for its harshness.

**Why Adventure Peaks?**

**Our Expertise is unmatched**

Three times guiding the youngest British person to the summit of Everest
Jake Meyer in 2005 and Rob Gauntlet and James Hooper in 2006 – then in 2011, Geordie Stewart summited 2 hours ahead of George Atkinson who still holds the record. In total five records!

The Seven Summits World Speed Record in 2007
Director Dave Pritt guided Ian McKeever to a new world record for the quickest ascent of the seven summits in 156 days! The previous record was 187 days

The Youngest Seven Summits World Record in 2011
Between 2008 and 2011 Adventure Peaks guided George Atkinson to the summit of his final five peaks to become the youngest in the world to complete the challenge at just 16 years of age.

In 2008, he reached the summit of Indonesia’s Carstensz Pyramid (4,884m) then went on to climb with Adventure Peaks South America’s highest Peak Aconcagua (6,962m). Aged 15 he went on to summit Mount McKinley (6,194m) in North America.

In 2011 he conquered Mount Vinson (4,892m) in Antarctica. At 16 years of age, in 2011, George Atkinson reached the summit of Mount Everest (8,848m) giving him the world record for the youngest person ever to complete the Seven Summits and the youngest Brit to summit Everest with the support of Adventure Peaks.

7 summit and 2 Poles In 2014 – Adventure Peaks successfully organised the grand slam of all nine for Sebastian Merriman to become the 5th Brit and 38th person in the world to complete this amazing challenge in just over twelve months.
SHORTER COMBINATIONS

Korzhevenskaya & Ismoil Somoni 36 days £4,650
Peak Lenin & Korzhenevskaya 43 days £5,950
Peak Lenin & Ismoil Somoni 43 days £5,950
Peak Lenin & Khan Tengri 44 days £5,950
Lenin, Korzhenevskaya & Ismoil Somoni 50 days £6,950
Peak Lenin & Pobeda 50 days £7,950

PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE/FITNESS

You should have some previous experience of Alpine Terrain in addition to the following technical skill level:
- Peak Lenin: Scottish grade I or Alpine PD
- Peak Korzhenevskaya: Scottish grade I/II or Alpine PD+
- Khan Tengri: Scottish grade II/III or Alpine AD+
- Ismoil Somoni Peak: Scottish grade III or Alpine D+
- Peak Pobeda: Scottish grade III or Alpine D+
- The Full Snow Leopard: Scottish grade III or Alpine D+

A TYPICAL CLIMBING DAY

The Tien Shan and Pamir do not have the infrastructure of Nepal and its Sherpas, cooks and porters, so this is very much a hands-on expedition and we share the load carrying. Most days will tend to start early between five and six (not a problem as it is usual to go to bed fairly early!) and we can expect some days to be long. You will need a rucksack with at least 65 Litre capacity to enable both personal and group equipment to be carried to the high camps.

CAMP AND CATERING ARRANGEMENTS

We have Base Camp services which will consist of our own tents and a large communal tent for eating and socialising. Food is prepared for us by our local cook, it is basic but plentiful. Snack food for the hill will be a combination of boil-in-the-bag, freeze dried packs, pasta, soup and supplementary snacks.

IMPORTANT MISSED INTERNATIONAL FLIGHTS–The small print

If you book this expedition to the Tien Shan or Pamir you must be aware the helicopter flights to and from the mountains can be delayed due to the weather, please be patient. We allow one extra day in the itinerary for bad weather. If you are delayed longer (unusual) we can re-book your international flight but additional costs will normally be incurred. Tickets can be changed according to availability and the class of ticket, you may need to upgrade and be flexible on your return date. All additional payments would need to paid in Bishkek (card payments accepted). If you are unable to accept this, please do not book this expedition.

INSURANCE

Insurance which covers mountain rescue, helicopter evacuation and medical expenses is **essential**. We will require a copy of your insurance prior to departure

EQUIPMENT

A detailed equipment list is provided on booking. Specialist items such as sleeping bags & down jackets can be hired or purchased with 15% discount from our shop. High quality light weight equipment is essential.

BAGGAGE & WHAT TO CARRY

For your own comfort, travel light. Normally airlines restrict baggage to 20/23kg and the helicopter flight 15kg, but you will be wearing boots and one set of mountaineering clothes. Some items can be left at the hotel for your return. A suitable kit bag is provided but important items should also be packed in plastic bags. You will be required to transport 4 kg of group gear/food in your international baggage. A 60l rucksack will be required as you will need to assist in carrying camping equipment and food to the camps in addition to your personal gear. Porters are available at extra cost on this climb and will need to be booked and paid for in advance

Inclusion

- A British expedition team leader. Small groups may use a local leader.
- Domestic Internal flights and helicopters
- Permits, charges, importation taxes and levies payable to the Local Authorities in connection with the expedition.
- Food, fuel and cooking equipment whilst on the mountain.
- Hotel accommodation in Bishkek or Dushanbe on a Bed & Breakfast basis.
- All tents and other communal equipment necessary for the climb.
- Medical safety equipment and supplies.
- Communication equipment each member is normally provided with a radio whilst on the mountain. The team will have a Satellite Telephone
- 90 – 120 litre kit bag for UK expedition members A logged top will be substituted for all clients residing outside of the UK and for returning clients.
- 15% off the RRP on clothing and equipment purchases from Adventure Peaks shop

Exclusions

- Personal climbing clothes and equipment.
- Personal insurance, visas and inoculations.
- Drinks and hotel or guest house meals unless specified.
- Personal medical supplies.
- Personal use of communication equipment.
- Excess baggage.
- Costs associated with expeditions finishing early.
- Costs associated with you leaving early.
- Costs associated with extending a trip due to bad weather or other circumstances.

VISAS AND PERMITS

A normal Tajik tourist visa is required. Most clients will be able to pre-register for a visa through Adventure Peaks in liaison with our agents. Information will be sent to you before your trip. More information is on the website below.

**Tajik Embassy**: 26-28 Hammersmith Grove, London, W6 7BA
**Email**: info@tajembassy.ork.uk
**Web**: www.tajembassy.org.uk/consular.htm
For most Nationalities Visas are not required for Kyrgyzstan please check

FLIGHTS AND JOINING ARRANGEMENTS

PLEASE ENSURE YOU DO NOT PURCHASE YOUR INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL (FLIGHTS OR OTHER) UNTIL WE HAVE GUARANTEED YOUR TRIP IS RUNNING.