

Kamchatka 4750m

- **Dramatic mountain wilderness**
- **Hot Springs & Glacial lakes**
- **The most active volcanoes in the world**



EXPEDITION OVERVIEW

Kamchatka is without exaggeration one of the most spectacular regions in the world. A land of volcanoes, fire and ice, active boiling springs, geysers, waterfalls and volcanic sculptures displaying a multitude of colours that took millions of years to create. There are over 400 glaciers and 189 volcanoes in this region, 29 of which are still active. The region is such a geological phenomenon it has created its own unique flora and fauna. The beauty of Kamchatka will capture you forever. A number of the regions we visit are on the UNESCO World Heritage List

So where is Kamchatka? Its shores are on the Pacific and it's in one of the remotest places in the world! You will find it at the far Eastern tip of Russia beyond Siberia. Still interested? Look for a small peninsular jutting down towards Japan. The peninsula has two active volcanic mountain ranges extending from northwest to southeast divided by a wide flat area of tundra. The area is remote with practically no infrastructure. We will aim to climb four of the most interesting volcanic summits in Kamchatka: Avachinski (2741m), Ushkovsky (3903m), Krestovsky (4057m) and the highest Kluchevskoy (4750m) a perfect cone. Please note the final peaks attempted may vary according to conditions.

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.

OUTLINE ITINERARY

KEY to inclusions (H-hotel, R-refuge/lodge, C-Camp B-breakfast, L-lunch, D-dinner/evening meal)

Day 1-3 Fly to Petropavlovsk via Moscow, transfer to the lodge/hotel in Paratunka. Optional opportunity to bath in the hot springs. . (R/H,B). *A Saturday flight from the UK with a shorter connection in Moscow can be taken, but a surcharge will apply.*

Day 4 Drive to the north of the city (40km) to climb Avachinski volcano overlooking the Avacha bay. If time permits at the end of the expedition it is well worth taking a tourist boat trip around the bay (H,B,L)

Day 5 Drive to the settlement of Kozyrevsk, a journey of around 540km passing an old Cossack village of Milkovo where we aim to stop for lunch. Overnight in private huts of local style, banya. (R,B,L,D)

Day 6 We fly by helicopter (40minute) to the plateau (2700m) between the volcanoes Klyuchevskoy and Kamen (Stone) to establish our base camp with a tremendous and picturesque outlook to the Klyuchevskoy (4750m), Kamen (4579m), Krestovsky (4057m) and Ushkovsky (3903m) volcanoes. (C,B,L,D)



Day 7-12 We aim to climb Ushkovsky, Krestovsky. and Klyuchevskoy volcano, the highest peak Details below, weather dependent (C,B,L,D)

Day 7 Acclimatisation day or ascend to a high camp

Day 8 Ascent of Klyuchevskoy 4750m

Day 9 Trek to a small house of volcanologists at 2700m

Day 10 Ascent of Volcano Ushkovsky 3903m

Day 11-12 Ascent of Krestovsky Volcano 4057m (or spare days for Klyuchevskoy/ Ushkovsky)

In 2013 we were unable to fly due to a band of cloud that sat across the col, eventually we had to change our plans and drive to climb Tolbachik with the benefits of ascending and see an erupting volcano. The group were very pleased with the alternatives as described in the comments section of the Kamchatka web page

On future expeditions it is our intention to drive and trek in should the helicopter be unable to fly for 48hrs. This would restrict our summits to just Klyuchevskoy 4750m and involve carry sufficient food and equipment for such an ascent if porters can't be secured at a late stage.



Ushkovsky (3903m) or Plosky Dalny, is a large, mildly active strato-volcano with a huge, smoothly glaciated, upturned saucer that has two shallow ice-filled craters on its summit, and a superb viewpoint to Klyuchevskoy volcano, the highest peak.

Krestovsky (4057m) or Ploskaya Blizhnaya, has a tightly defined summit and subsidiary ridge.



Klyuchevskoy (4750m) volcano, is the highest peak in the group and one of the most active volcanoes in the world, it is less than 7000 years old. At the top there is an incredibly beautiful crater 300 meters in diameter, which is constantly changing its form. Beside this crater the volcano has about 80 lateral vents and tapers. Ascent to this volcano is considered rather prestigious. Together with Kamen (Stone), Bezymyanny (Unnamed), Plosky (Flat) Tolbachik it forms the Kluicheyskaya group of volcanoes. The first registered eruption was in 1697. It was registered during the famous travel of Vladimir Atlasov, a Kamchatka explorer. On average, the eruptions take place every five years, at certain time periods they happened annually, and sometimes there are continuous eruptions lasting for a number of years. However, they have never imposed a severe danger upon the inhabitants of Kluchi, a town 30 km away from the volcano. The first ascent to the top of the volcano was by a mountain guide, Daniel Gaus, in 1788. It is climbed from BC or via a high camp at the height of 3200m between Kamen and Klyuchevskoy volcanoes. The summit or crater rim is then reached in 7-8hrs returning to high camp or dropping down to our base camp on the plateau.

Day 13 Trek to Glacier Bogdanovicha at altitude 1700m-1900m (C,B,L,D)

Day 14 Walk to canyon of river Studienaya at 1200m (C,B,L,D)

Day 15 Walk to Hill Kopyto and Drive back to Petropavlovsk. (H,B)

Day 16 Morning in the city to visit the Museum of Local History, the fish market and purchase of souvenirs. (H,B)
Transfer to the airport for an afternoon/evening return flight.

Day 17 Arrive UK or other European Airport

Or: You can take an optional helicopter excursion to the Valley of Geysers and return one day later. (UK flights would then arrive back on Monday). The excursion is paid for on the day of the flight as it may not be possible due to the weather. If the flight is viable it will fly over the volcanoes Karymsky (1486m) and Maly Semyachik (1560m) with time to explore the Valley of Geysers.

EXTENSION

Combine these ascents with an extended visit to the Valley of Geysers, bathing in the Semyachik hot springs and the opportunity to see a diverse collection of flora and fauna plus more than half of the world's Steller's Sea Eagles as well as the largest population of Brown Bears.

PRICE INCLUDES

International flights UK to Moscow and Internal flights associated with the ascent of the advertised peaks for flight inclusive packages (not the helicopter to the Valley of Geysers). Land transport, accommodation and all meals listed above. British Expedition leader and local guide/cook/translator.

NOT INCLUDED

The cost of the Visa, meals in hotels, drinks, excess baggage on personal gear. Extra cost of an expedition finishing early (eg. extra hotel nights).

ACCOMMODATION

The hotels tend to be basic and will be shared on a twin room basis. The lodges/refuges used for the remaining nights are fairly basic which provide basic food, accommodation with 2-4 beds and shared facilities.



TRANSPORT

We will use a variety of transport including buses, large 4-6 wheel drive jeeps/land rovers/trucks and helicopters. All this will be of varying standards which you must be able to accept.

FOOD

The majority of this will be purchased in Petropavlovsk using where possible fresh produce for the main meals (prepared by our leader/guides/cook, perhaps with a little assistance!). The food will be basic but should fill a gap in a well earned stomach.

WHAT TO CARRY

A 60-70L rucksack will be required as we will need to carry camping equipment and food to our high camps in addition to your personal gear.

EQUIPMENT

A detailed equipment list is provided on booking but you will require the following items of equipment, those items

marked (*) can be hired or purchased with 15% discount from our shop. Hired Equipment will be sent out to you in the UK approximately two weeks prior to departure.

BAGGAGE

For your own comfort, travel light. Normally airlines restrict baggage to 20kg, but you will be wearing boots and you could wear one set of trekking clothes. Some items can be left at the hotel for your return. A suitable kit bag is provided (sent out 6 weeks prior to departure) but important items should also be packed in plastic bags. For those doing the Moscow extension additional items of clothing can be left in Moscow. A small padlock should be obtained to secure the zips closed

HEALTH

The risks to health whilst travelling will vary between individuals and many issues need to be taken into account, e.g. activities abroad, length of stay and general health of the traveller. It is essential that you consult with your General Practitioner or Practice Nurse 6-8 weeks in advance of travel. They will assess your particular health risks before recommending vaccines and /or antimalarial tablets. You can also check the fit for travel website www.fitfortravel.nhs.uk

Our leaders hold first aid certificates and carry a first aid kit for medical emergencies. However, you should bring your own supplies of plasters, blister prevention pads (compeed), paracetamol, Insect repellent (DEET) etc. and any medication you are taking.

ALTITUDE

We do not reach extreme altitudes and we have allowed for a gradual increase in our ascent so altitude should not cause any problems. You must, however, be careful to ensure you drink plenty of liquid to stay hydrated.

CLIMATE & WEATHER

The weather can be extremely mixed and we can expect a fair share of winds, rain, snow and, of course, some sunshine. Daytime temperatures 12°C to -12°C at night in the high camps.



USEFUL TIPS

Just in case your main luggage goes missing en route, it is a good idea to wear your boots on the plane. Most other things can be replaced but comfortable, well worn-in boots are impossible.

INSURANCE

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

VISAS AND PERMITS

Both are required together with a letter of invitation. The appropriate information and forms will be sent out approx. 8 weeks prior to departure when the group is complete. Passports must be valid for at least six months after the end date of the trip.



LOCAL COSTS

Most meals are inclusive as set meals, please see the key above. Individuals are responsible for drinks throughout and hotel meals which, although limited, gives you the flexibility to choose where you eat. You will need to obtain Russian Roubles allowing around £150 maximum, unless you wish to take the helicopter to the valley of Geysers. Credit Cards are accepted in Moscow but not after that.

TIPPING

It is usual to tip the local Russian staff approx.£60.

EXTENSIONS

You are welcome to extend your stay and take in the sights of Moscow. Please ask for details.

BOOKS

The following can be purchased from Adventure Peaks or from any good map/book shop.

Lonely Planet Guide

MAP

Kamchatka Peninsular Russia 1:1,000,000 by Avacha Bay £8.95