

Tour GrandKarelian 2010

Day 1. St.Petersburg. Travel to Karelia

Pick-up at the airport or hotel in St.Petersburg, transfer to the train station (without guide). ~22:02 - Departure by the overnight train for Petrozavodsk.

Day 2. Petrozavodsk and Kizhi

~06:50 - Arrival in Petrozavodsk.

Meet by the guide at the train station. Transfer to the hotel (early check-in is to be paid additionally). Breakfast.

Petrozavodsk city walking tour.

Departure for the Island of Kizhi, located in Onego Lake by boat. Arrival at the Island, meet the Museum guide there. Walking tour to the open-air Museum of Wooden Architecture - Kizhi - Churches of the Transfiguration, Intercession, chapels and traditional wooden houses.

Departure back for Petrozavodsk.

Free evening in Petrozavodsk.

Overnight at the hotel.

(B)

Day 3. Kivach Waterfalls, the White Sea – Baltic Canal or Petroglyphs

Breakfast at the hotel.

Departure for the White Sea coast (~450 km to the north).

Visit to the Kivach Waterfalls and Nature Reserve, featuring typical northern forest plants and animals.

Tour of the White Sea – Baltic Canal, constructed during Stalin's time mainly by Gulag prisoners or walking tour to Petroglyphs (an archeological sight, prehistoric rock-carvings).

Arrival to the White Sea coast in the evening, accommodation and overnight at the hotel in the town of Kem.

(B)

Day 4. Solovetsky Islands

Breakfast at the hotel.

Departure for the Solovetsky Islands by the morning boat (travel time is about 2.5 hours).

The Islands, located in the White Sea, are known for the unique historical and cultural heritage, as well as natural attractions, sea habitats - seals and white whales - are among them.

Arrival at Solovetsky Island, transfer to the hotel.

Orientation. Check-in.

Walking tour to the Solovetsky Monastery, Fortress and the Gulag Museum.

Overnight at the hotel.

(B)

Day 5. Solovetsky Islands

Breakfast at the hotel.

Boat tour to Zayatsky Island. The main places of interest of this Island, covered with tundra-type vegetation are its mysterious stone labyrinths, as well as the old wooden church of Andrew the First Caller (1702). Return to the main island.

Free time.

Overnight at the hotel.

(B)

Day 6. Solovetsky Islands

Breakfast at the hotel.

Bus and walking tour to Sekirnaya Mountain. Visit to the Church of the Ascension built in the 19th Century. It also served as a lighthouse and later, during the Gulag times a penalty prison was located in this church.

Walking tour to the Botanical Garden established by monks in the 19th Century. The Garden is considered to be one of the northernmost botanical gardens in the world.

Transfer to the pier.

Departure for Kem by evening boat.

Accommodation at the hotel in the town of Kem.

Dinner.

Overnight at the hotel.

(B, D)

Day 7. Travel to St.Petersburg

Early morning transfer to the train station. Breakfast is provided as a packed meal.

~04:50 - Departure by the daytime train for St.Petersburg.

~20:30 - Arrival in St.Petersburg at Ladozhsky train station.

(B)

Price:

48000 Rubles/person

SGL supplement: 8000 Rubles

Groups(6 pax+) 35900 Rubles/person (single supplement: 8000 rubles)

Included:

1. Accommodation at tourist class hotels (en-suite WC and shower);
2. Car/bus and boat transfers as per itinerary;
3. Meals as per itinerary (B - breakfast, L - lunch, D - dinner);
4. Entrance fees and tours as per itinerary;
5. English-speaking tour leader and local guides' services;
6. Train tickets St.Petersburg – Petrozavodsk and Kem - St.Petersburg (2nd class sleeping cabin).

Dates:

June-Early September

Notes:

1. All boat trips are weather dependent.
2. The sequence of the excursions can be changed.