

# Kamchatka

Tour dates:  
August 2 - 14, 2010  
Group: 11 persons  
Cost: \$7,740 / person  
double occupancy

Tour highlights: Volcanoes, Geysers, Salmon, Bears, the Inhabitants of the Peninsula



## Tour overview



*Majestic land of volcanoes, lakes and pristine nature*

Just across the northern edge of the Pacific Ocean from the Aleutian Islands lies one of the world's great natural wonders: Russia's Kamchatka Peninsula. Featured on the PBS series "The Living Edens," this 780-mile long finger of land approximately the size of California between the Pacific and the Sea of Okhotsk in the Russian Far East encompasses the most spectacular volcanic region in the world, including the Volcanoes of Kamchatka UNESCO World Heritage Site, magnificent landscapes, glaciers and lakes, and an abundance of wildlife. With a population of less than one person per square mile, it also remains one of the planet's most pristine natural environments.



*The brown bear (Ursus arctos).*

*Two cubs peek out from behind their protective mother in the Valley of the Geysers, Kamchatka*

This summer the IBEX Tour program will offer a rare opportunity for travelers with an adventurous spirit and the desire to be among the privileged few to experience first-hand this unique destination and its history and culture. World-renowned scientist Dr. Ilya Raskin of Rutgers University will lead a select group on a 13-day exploration of South Kamchatka to explore its unspoiled natural beauty and geological wonders, observe its wildlife in their natural habitats and meet and learn from its people. We invite you to join Dr. Raskin on this once-in-a-lifetime

opportunity to expand your knowledge of the world, nature and cultures.

Your Kamchatka journey of discovery will begin with your arrival at the international airport of Petropavlovsk-Kamchatsky, the capital of the Kamchatka Region, where an IBEX Tours representative will welcome you and escort you to Paratunka, a nearby resort village famous for its thermal springs. In the days that follow, you will travel in a specially modified 6WD bus along the Sea of Okhotsk shore to the Kurile Lake caldera containing a crater lake located in the southern part of the Kamchatka Peninsula; you will fly over the magnificent volcanic ranges of the peninsula and the famous Valley of Geysers on giant MI-8 helicopters fitted with large porthole windows for aerial sightseeing; and you will have the opportunity to climb Avacha Volcano and hike the spectacular chain of craters of the Gorely Volcano.

You will also discover the history of Kamchatka's colonization and its native traditions as you meet members of the region's indigenous nomadic Itelmen tribes that have survived through the centuries.

## Tour Leader

### Dr. Ilya Raskin

A world-renowned scientist, traveler and noted nature photographer, Ilya Raskin received a Ph.D. in 1984 from Michigan State University and joined the faculty of the Biotechnology Center for Agriculture and the Environment at Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, in 1989.

As Professor of Plant Sciences, he directs scientific programs comprising over 50 researchers from more than 15 countries. He also is the founder and president of the Global Institute for Bio-Exploration (GIBEX).

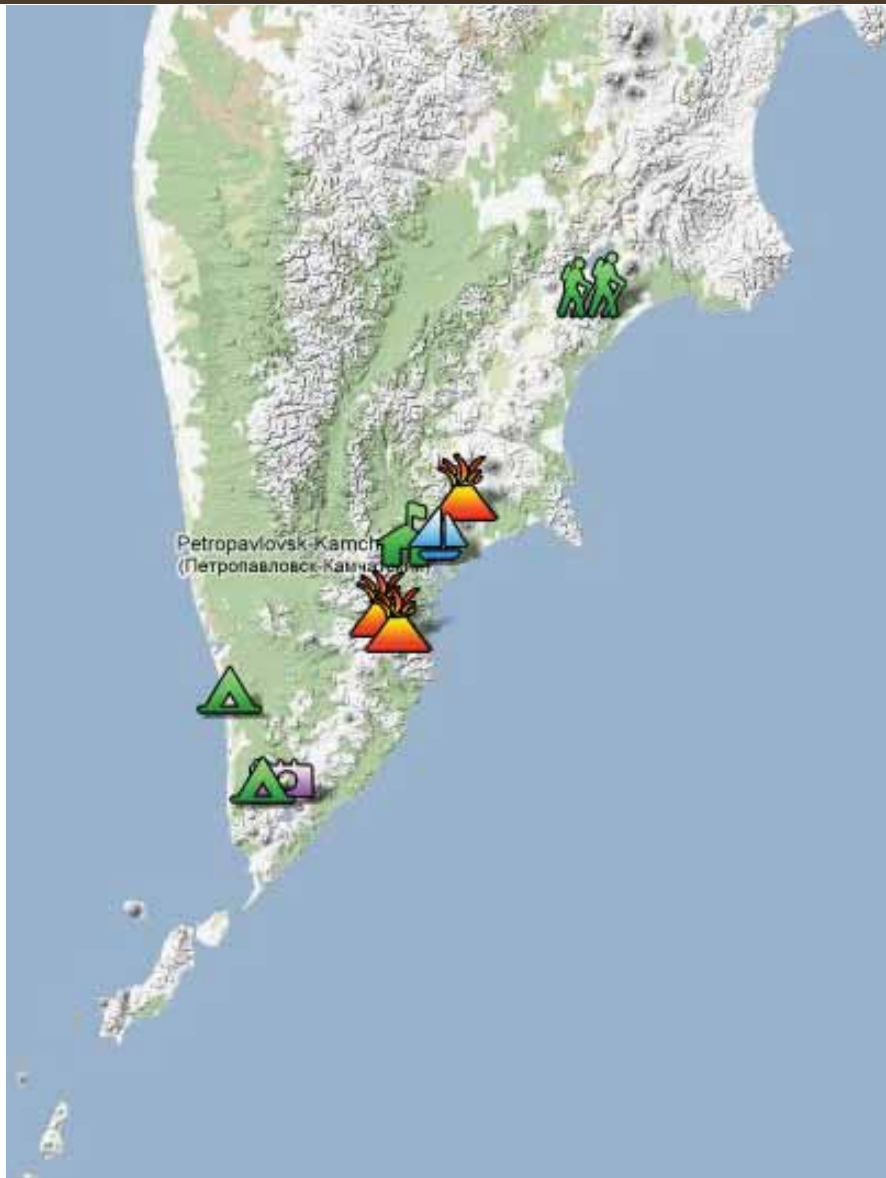
Dr. Raskin has received a number of prestigious awards, including the Albert Shull Award for outstanding contributions to plant biology and the Thomas Alva Edison Patent Awards for revolution-



ary product innovation and scientific breakthrough.

Dr. Raskin also is an avid nature photographer, whose photographs have been widely exhibited and published in many scientific journals and popular magazines.

## Tour Map



## Transportation



*Specially designed vehicles will provide comfortable transportation for overland segments of the tour*



*Travel to some remote places will be via chartered helicopter equipped with large porthole windows for aerial sightseeing*

## Experience



### **Volcanoes of Kamchatka**

View the forces of nature at play during the IBEX Tour to Kamchatka an integral part of the Pacific Ring of Fire.

The most spectacular and highest-density volcanic region in the world, with many active volcanoes representing a variety of types and a wide range of



related features, the peninsula contains the Volcanoes of Kamchatka UNESCO World Heritage Site.

This combination of active volcanoes and glaciers forms a spectacular dynamic landscape of exceptional natural beauty with its large symmetrical volcanoes, lakes, wild rivers and magnificent coastline.



### **Lake Kuril**

Lake Kuril, the second largest freshwater lake in Kamchatka, located on the territory of the South Kamchatka Nature Sanctuary, is the biggest salmon spawning ground in the peninsula. Every year from August to December, estimated 2.5- to 5-million specimens of the most valuable Ozernovsky population of red salmon come to the lake to spawn along the River Ozernaya and along the lakeshore and in numerous rivers and streams flowing into the lake.

The shores of Lake Kuril and surrounding areas also are known for having the highest concentration of Kamchatka brown bears. According to the results of an air census of local bear population, there are more than 100 individuals! During the excursions



on the lake, visitors will have an opportunity to observe and photograph bears in their natural habitat and to watch pairs of Steller's sea eagles nesting on the lake.

### **Itelmens (Kamchadals)**

The Itelmen, also known as Kamchadal, is an ethnic group of the original inhabitants living on the Kamchatka. Much reduced by conquest and epidemics, they have been largely Russianized since the 18th century and only about 3,000 now live on the peninsula. Traditional dancing and rituals are preserved by small group of enthusiasts.



## Itinerary

### Day 1, Monday, August 2

#### Arrive in Petropavlovsk-Kamchatsky, Tour Paratunka

On morning arrival to Petropavlovsk-Kamchatsky, Petropavlovsk-Kamchatsky, the capital of Kamchatka Region, an IBEX representative will greet you, and you will transfer by bus to Paratunka, a resort village located about 15 miles from the airport, which is famous for its numerous thermal springs.

The Paratunka Valley, just a 45 minutes drive from Petropavlovsk-Kamchatsky, is a wonderland of geothermal activity including hot springs, mineral pools and sprouting geysers. After a welcoming lunch where you will meet Dr. Raskin and your traveling companions, you will have the opportunity to tour the city of Petropavlovsk-Kamchatsky, with an optional visit to the Museum of Local Lore or to



the visitor center of the Kronotsky Nature Reserve. In the evening, the group will dine at a local restaurant, and afterwards you may want to relax in the thermal pool before retiring for a restful overnight stay in the luxury resort Hotel Antarius .

### Day 2, Tuesday, August 3

#### Drive alongside the Sea of Okhotsk to Lake Kuril

After breakfast, you will set out on a two-day drive to Lake Kuril. The all-terrain bus will travel along on the beautiful coast of the Sea of Okhotsk. On the way, you will experience ferry crossings over several major rivers, explore the coastal terrain and see abandoned fishing villages. That night you will sleep in comfortably rustic accommodations in a tent camp.



### Day 3, Wednesday , August 4

#### Visit Pauzhetka and tour a geothermal power plant

Continuing south along the coast of the Sea of Okhotsk, you will arrive at Pauzhetka, where you will -in the area on an optional and tour the geothermal power plant operating since 1966 to learn about local green energy resources. You will also have the

opportunity to visit fumaroles in the area on an optional excursion, or you may choose to stay back and relax at the camp.



### Day 4, Thursday, August 5

#### Tour Lake Kuril

Start the morning with a hike to Lake Kuril on a 6.5- mile scenic path along the river that brings you to the base camp on Lake Kuril. Your luggage will be transferred to the base camp on the lake.

In the afternoon, a guide will lead an ecological excursion along Lake Kuril. You will explore the unique ecosystem of the South of Kamchatka and learn about sustainable nature use. Masses of red salmon gather in the shallow water before going to the spawning grounds, and you will observe this natural phenomenon from the observation bridge at the viewing grounds.

The salmon also attract a great number of birds of prey and waterfowl, including the Steller's sea eagles

and mergansers, and mammals -- bear, otter, fox, ermine, and gull. In the afternoon, you will arrive at the source of the Ozernaya River at Kuril Lake, where the field station of the Kamchatka Institute for Fishery and Oceanography is located.

You will learn first-hand about the work of ichthyologists and rangers of the nature sanctuary engaged in protecting the salmon spawning grounds and bear population.





**Tour the Lake Kuril area**

Today a guide will take you on an excursion on Lake Kuril to the South Kamchatka Nature Sanctuary. Depending on the weather and other local factors, the excursion program may include:

- A motor boat cruise along the lake shore (in small groups) to visit areas with the highest bear population concentrations to observe their activity and behavior;
- Watching bears from stationary “observation grounds” where you likely will enjoy the rare treat of viewing the behavior of several males and females with cubs at very close range;
- An optional hiking excursion to the Ilyinsky Volcano. The ascent is a moderate hike, although there is no distinct trail and it is sometimes necessary to cut through the thickets of cedar creeper.

During these excursions, you will have an occasion to

observe and photograph bears in various habitat settings -- along the riverbanks, spawning grounds, tundra, etc. The guides will acquaint you with the major methods of field observations of brown bears. During the daily excursions and talks, you will learn about various aspects of bear ecology and behavior in wild nature.

Your guided excursion on Lake Kuril will continue the following morning, providing you with ample time to fully appreciate and understand this important natural area.

After lunch, you will fly to Petropavlovsk-Kamchatsky by charter helicopter. That evening you will enjoy the region’s capital city and stay overnight at the Hotel Antarius.

**Day 7, Sunday, August 8**

**Tour the Avacha Volcano**

Today a bus trip along the Sukhaya River will take you to the Avacha Volcano (Avachinsky volcano; Avachinskaya Sopka) Plateau.

Last erupted in 2001, Avacha Volcano, also known as Avachinskaya Sopka, is an active stratovolcano that provides breathtaking backdrop to the capital of Kamchatka Krai, Petropavlovsk-Kamchatsky. It is one of the most active volcanoes on the Kamchatka Peninsula, and began erupting in the middle to late Pleistocene era. It has a horseshoe-shaped caldera, which formed 30,000-40,000 years ago in a major landslide which covered an area of of 193 square miles south of the volcano, including the land underlying the city of Petropavlovsk-Kamchatsky. Reconstruction of a new cone inside the caldera occurred in two major eruption phases, 18,000 and 7,000 years ago.

From the plateau, you will take a leisurely 5- to 6-hour hike to the 8,953-foot high Avacha Volcano by a gradual slope to the top. You can walk at your own pace as you climb about 5,900 feet on a well-marked single trail. At



*Avacha Volcano*

the end of the trail, you will enjoy lunch on the edge of the crater of the volcano with a stunning panorama of the Pacific Ocean, Petropavlovsk, Koryaksky Volcano and the Nalycheva Valley. Easier options with spectacular views are also available.

Your day will close with a return to the Paratunka Valley, where you will again overnight at the Hotel Antarius.

## Day 8, Monday , August 9



### Tour the Gorely Volcano

After breakfast, you will travel about 4 hours by bus to the caldera between the Mutnovsky and Gorely Volcanoes. The road passes by Vilyuchinsky Volcano, a favorite downhill skiing place for Kamchatka dwellers.

The Gorely is a massive shield volcano with three separate craters. At the end of the Pleistocene all that was left of Gorely was a huge 8-mile by 7-mile caldera filled with lava from earlier eruptions. Between 6,000 and 2,000 years ago Gorely became a quiet volcano with occasional explosive eruptions and a few lava flows. Gorely has a height of 1,097 feet and comprises three merged cones, about 11 craters and 40 volcanic vents. During the historical time the volcano has erupted about 10 times. The latest eruption in 1986 was characterized by weak activity. Currently the most intensive fumarolic activity is concentrated in the central crater of volcano. The Central crater of the Gorely Volcano has a telescopic structure with steep walls up to 300 feet high composed of lava rock. Located atop the Gorely volcanic massif on the bottom of active funnel, an acid lake impresses visitors with the intense blue color of its water.



Following a picnic lunch, an afternoon hiking excursion will lead you to the chain of craters of the Gorely Volcano. All the craters can be visited in a single day when the weather is favorable. The hiking distance is 12 miles, but the route is not difficult. The excursion takes about 8 hours; however, those who wish may return to the base camp earlier.

Return to the Hotel Antarius in the Paratunka Valley for the night.

## Day 9, Tuesday, August 10



### Tour the Valley of Geysers

The magnificent valley of the “pulsating” geysers was discovered by a local Russian scientist, Tatyana Ustinova, in 1941. It took her 14 years to publish her findings in an obscure journal, and there was little exploration of the area until 1972. More than 30 geysers were given individual names including Velikan (the Giant geyser), capable of producing a jet of water reaching up to 24 feet. It was not until 1990 that an automatic monitoring system was introduced to this remote area.

The Valley of Geysers remains the world’s premier geyser field and the second largest concentration of geysers. Geothermal waters pass from a stratovolcano along the Geysernaya River and form over ninety geysers. The place is very difficult to reach, and visitors have to use a helicopter to reach the site. A massive mudslide rolled



over almost two thirds of the Valley of Geysers on June 3, 2007. Less than 3,000 tourists visit the site annually.

On your IBEX Tours exploration, you will join the few who have seen the wonders of this area as you take a helicopter tour to the Valley of Geysers, including a flight over Karymsky (4,875 feet) and Maly Semyachik Volcanoes (5,118 feet). The helicopter flight to the Valley of Geysers takes about 75 minutes.

You will have time to stroll through this remote world of nature’s treasures hidden deep in the mountains of Kamchatka on a boardwalk that snakes across the valley. A picnic lunch is included in the all-day excursion. The Hotel Antarius in Paratunka Valley will again host our group for the night.

## Day 10, Wednesday, August 11

### Tour the Mutnovsky Volcano

In the morning start a daylong hike, without backpacks, to the Mutnovsky active volcano and further into its crater through a crack in the volcano's edge. The view can only be described as alarming and fantastic: eastward a glacier descends the crater's wall to end in a bluff eaten by fumaroles; opposite, a sheer rock rises, with columns of water vapor curling upward.

The Mutnovsky active volcano, a nest of merged craters, is perhaps the most beautiful volcanic phenomenon of Kamchatka. The magnificent view from its top overlooks steep walls surrounding the vast and deep crater cavity, the glitter of firm and sparkling glaciers split by cracks, torches of fumaroles oscillating far below and drawing a translucent view over the northern crater. The southern craters lies under an armor of ice and above all this a column of vapor rising from the Active Funnel crater, surround a clogged



crest.

The total hiking distance during this day is about 11 miles. You will enjoy lunch at the volcano site, and return to the Hotel Antarius in the Paratunka Valley for the night's accommodations.

## Day 11, Thursday, August 12

### Cruise Avacha Bay

The city Petropavlovsk-Kamchatsky grew next to the almost ideal deep-water seaport of the Avacha Bay. This large and deep bay has a narrow opening to the sea that keeps out foul weather and ice and protects the harbor well from storms and dreaded tsunami waves, allowing it to be open to shipping year round.

On your cruise of the bay, you will enjoy spectacular views of the Northwest part of Petropavlovsk-Kamchatsky and note the great variety of ships and boats that

make their home in the port. Both Koryaksky and Avacha Volcanoes are clearly visible behind the city.



You will also explore nesting places of sea birds at the Babushkin Kamen (Old Woman's Stone) Island and Tri Brata (Three Brothers) Island.

## Itinerary

### Day 12, Friday, August 13

### Visit Itelmens (Kamchadal) village of Pimchakh

You will complete your discovery of Kamchatka by meeting the native people of the peninsula and learning their history and traditions on a special excursion to the Itelmens (Kamchadal) village of Pimchakh, 25 miles from the regional capital Petropavlovsk-Kamchatsky. The Itelmen, also known as Kamchadal, is an ethnic group of the original inhabitants living on the Kamchatka. Much reduced by conquest and epidemics, they have been largely Russianized since the 18th century and only about 3,000 are living on the peninsula now. Traditional dancing and rituals are preserved by small group of enthusiasts.

The ethnic community of Pimchakh maintains a traditional life style, language, customs, dances and food. We



will visit the ethnography museum, talk to local people living there, and taste traditional cuisine and phyto-teas. There is an opportunity to see a performance of the folk ensemble.

Accommodations for your final night in Kamchatka will be at the Paratunka Valley Hotel.

### Day 13, Saturday, August 14

### Departure from Kamchatka

IBEX Tours will arrange your transfer to the Yelizovo Airport for your departure and journey home where you will be able to enjoy and share your memories of your extraordinary experiences in this remarkable and little-

known treasure among the wild places of the world.



## Things to Know Before You Go

Disclaimer : IBEX is not liable for any errors or omissions. All pricing and itineraries are subject to change.

**Gateway City Airport** The closest airport to our destination on the Kamchatka Peninsula is Petropavlovsk-Kamchatsky (PKC) in Far East of the Russian Federation. The most reliable way to reach Petropavlovsk-Kamchatsky is flying through Moscow, the capital of Russian Federation. If you wish to explore Moscow for a few days please request a pre or post tour extension information.

**Weather** Petropavlovsk-Kamchatsky is located in the southern part of Kamchatka; the air is humid with soft winters and relatively warm summers. Average daily temperature of August is 12.4°C (54.3°F). In the south of Kamchatka Peninsular the temperature during summer goes up to +20°C (70°F). Historically for August reported 14 wet days with total 106 mm precipitation for the month.

**Documents** Citizens of most non-CIS (Commonwealth of Independent States) countries must obtain a visa prior to arriving in Russia.

**Money** The national currency is Russian rubles (RUB). The exchange rate in March 2010 was about 30 RUB per US dollar (USD).

**Physical Activities** The IBEX Tours exploration of Kamchatka involves a significant amount of physical activity, including hiking in altitudes above 5,000 feet. You should be sure that you are in good health and able to participate in these activities to fully enjoy your Kamchatka experience.

**Clothing** We recommend that you keep the weight and bulk down to a minimum as the baggage allowance is 20 kg on most flights. Since you will be spending much of the time outdoors bring comfortable hiking apparel and shoes. Good quality rain pants and a hooded jacket that will cover your warmer underlayers are essential. You will not need much clothing for cities.

**Equipment** It is prudent to have a rucksack especially for day tips. You will also want to be sure to bring a camera and binoculars for observing wildlife.

**Electrical Items** Electricity throughout Russia is 220 volt/50 Hz. Be sure to check your electric equipment for 220 volt/50 Hz compatibility and to bring your own converter if required.



International BioExploration Society (IBEX) is affiliated with Rutgers University through The Global Institute for BioExploration (GIBEX). IBEX Tours are developed by leading Rutgers faculty. IBEX is a non-profit organization

that invests all proceeds in conservation and biodiversity research which directly benefits natural habitats and human health in the host countries.

You as a traveler directly contribute to preserving our planet's environment, improving human health, and supporting environmentally sustainable communities.



INTERNATIONAL  
BIOEXPLORATION  
SOCIETY

[www.bioexploration.org](http://www.bioexploration.org)  
[ibex@gibex.org](mailto:ibex@gibex.org)

Rutgers University  
Foran Hall  
59 Dudley Road  
New Brunswick, NJ  
08901-8520

Phone: +1 732-932-8165  
Fax: +1 212-208-2584

To book IBEX tour  
contact Kriegner  
Travel Services:

Call:  
609-737-9393  
800-458-9590

Fax:  
609-737-3932

Email:  
[rkriegner@yahoo.com](mailto:rkriegner@yahoo.com)

# Registration Form

I would like to register for IBEX tour:

Tour title: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Registration Information

Full Name (as it appears on your passport): \_\_\_\_\_

Name for Participant List: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (home): \_\_\_\_\_ Phone (work): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

Passport Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Issue: \_\_\_\_\_ Place of Issue: \_\_\_\_\_ Citizenship: \_\_\_\_\_

Birthday (mm/dd/yyyy): \_\_\_\_\_ Birthplace: \_\_\_\_\_

Wedding Anniversary or special occasion: \_\_\_\_\_

We will do our best to accommodate your needs. Please contact us with any questions.

## Personal Information

Allergies: \_\_\_\_\_

Special dietary needs: \_\_\_\_\_

General health: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact information of a person who is not traveling with you, who we should contact in case of emergency.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (home): \_\_\_\_\_ Phone (work): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Travel will be made in the least expensive economy class airfare, unless otherwise directed.

Travel will be from your home city of departure to the Tour's Gateway City using the most direct flights available which will enable you to arrive in time to join the IBEX Tour.

## Airline travel request

Please provide the following information:

Home City Airport of Departure: \_\_\_\_\_

Return reservations will be made to this city, unless otherwise directed

Airline seat preference: \_\_\_\_\_ Aisle \_\_\_\_\_ Window \_\_\_\_\_

Airline Frequent Flyer Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Please fax or email this form to IBEX partner Kriegner Travel. Each participant must complete their own form

Kriegner Travel  
11 North Main Street  
Pennington, NJ 08534  
Tel 609-737-9393  
Fax: 609-737-3932  
E-mail: rkriegner@yahoo.com