Far away, mysterious and inaccessible Siberia remains an unknown land; this adventure for only 10 participants will give you the unique chance to discover it. A voyage around the Sayan mountain range, through the unique wilderness of three different Siberian regions: Krasnoyarsk, Tuva and Khakassia. Our route crosses Asia’s geographic center. Each of the three regions has its own peculiarity, culture and history. In our journey, we will experience all of these aspects by attending a concert of guttural songs, sleeping in a traditional Yurt, eating traditional foods, visiting important archaeological sites and Buddhist temples. These are the lands of Shamanism par excellence, and we will not miss the chance to discover its secrets. Your guide on this trip will be Piero Bosco.

25 May
Arrival at Abakan early morning followed by a guided tour of the capital of the Autonomous Republic of Khakassia. Transfer to the ancient Siberian town of Minusinsk on the banks of the Enisey River. After lunch hike to the local museum of the Russian Decabrist. We will drive to the Sayano-Shushenskaya hydroelectric power plant, the largest in Russia and we will continue visiting a trout farm, located very close to the plant. We will continue to the village of Shushenskoye, Lenin’s exile place. Overnight at typical Siberian wooden houses with double rooms, private facilities.

26 May
Excursion at the ethnographic museum of Shushenskoye. The history of the museum is related to the name of Vladimir Lenin, who lived in Shushenskoye during his exile between 1897 and 1900. The seven hectares of the outdoor museum host numerous examples of Siberian architecture: farm houses, commercial activities, prisons, taverns; there are about 200 wooden buildings in total. After lunch we will leave the Khakassia region to enter Tuva, crossing the picturesque western Sayan mountain range. We will stop 22 km from Kyzyl town, on the bank of the Biy-Khem river (in the local language the Great Enisey), in the yurt touristic camp, which consists of traditional felt yurts.

After dinner we will attend a folklore show of traditional guttural songs called Khoomei. The guttural song is an extraordinary gift of Tuva people (and other Siberian
nationalities) and consists of simultaneously emitting two or three sounds of different tone and supporting the same sound for 25-30 seconds without breathing.

Overnight in traditional yurt camp double accommodation, shared facilities.

27 May

Today we will visit **Kyzyl, the capital of Tuva**, an independent republic where the Tuvans is spoken, it is a language of Turkish origin, and religion is between Shamanism and Buddhism. First, we will go to the **Asian Geographical Center**, then we will visit the **Buddhist Temple** and finally the **Shaman community**.

After lunch we will continue with the **National Museum of Tuva** (exhibition of gold of the Scythian) and we will discover unique archaeological finds of different ages, followed by some free time to enjoy a walk in the city center.

Dinner with **traditional Tuva cuisine** dishes followed by **shamanic rite, Kamlaniye**. This ritual connects the shaman with the spirits, a true magical rite around the fire accompanied by the beat of drums and slow songs; can have different meanings but the main purpose is to heal people. Other purposes are related to financial problems, loss of livestock, luck and so on. Kamlaniye is usually conducted according to the following scheme: purification, call of spirits, search for the reason of the illness, expulsion of the evil spirit, report of the rite and departure of the shaman. Traditionally, the ritual takes place overnight or during several nights in a yurt close to the fireplace or in a sacred place. The shaman beats the drum and emits sounds that imitate a crow or a cuckoo. Then he sits near the fire, slowly beat the drum and speaks with his supportive spirits. Finally he expels the evil spirits or says the situation is hopeless. Then you give gifts to the support spirits.

Overnight in traditional yurt double accommodation, shared facilities.

28 May

Today we will follow the path of the ancient nomads and cross Tuva from east to west to reach Khakassia again. The road will pass through some **spectacular mountain steps**.

Before lunch we will stop near the **Khairykan Mountain**, one of the sacred places of Tuva, chosen in 1992 by the Dalai Lama to be an energetically powerful place. Outdoor picnic on the grass near a Buddha stele.

During the drive we will be able to observe the center of Buddhist culture, the **Ustuu-Khuree temple**, now ruined. We will return to Khakassia after passing the **Sayan Pass**, at a height of 2214 meters. The mountains here are covered with a **peculiar taiga of cedar trees**. In the late afternoon we will reach the Snow Leopard camp built in the taiga on the bank of the **Stoktysh River**.

Overnight at typical Siberian wooden houses with double rooms, private facilities.
29 May
After breakfast transfer to the **Kyug valley** (in local language means joy), located at the point where two large mountain ranges meet. The Khakassians call this valley delight, while archaeologists have found a **myriad of monuments of different cultures**. The excursion to the **archaeological reserve Kazanovka** will make us better acquainted with the legacy that ancient civilizations have left us. This outdoor museum includes mountains, canyons, caves, mixed forests and rare plants. There are more than 2000 archaeological monuments in the natural reserve area and every year 30-40 new ones are found. The main purpose of this museum is to preserve natural and historical landscapes, reconstruct and develop the traditional way of life of local people, gathering, researching, training and protecting lands. In Kazanovka tourists will have the chance to see rock paintings 3000-5000 years old.

We will also visit a **Khakassian Ethnographic Village** where we will have the opportunity to learn about the daily lives of Khakassians from XIX and XX centuries. After dinner we will attend to a **folklore performance of the Khakassia National Folk Group**.

Overnight in traditional yurt camp double accommodation, shared facilities.

30 May
In the morning transfer to Abakan, Khakassia capital and visit **Khakassia National Museum**.
After lunch we will drive to the **Valley of the Kings** where there are 30 **burial hills dating back to the III-IV century a.C.** The largest hill, called the **great Salbyk burial mound**, has a circumference of 500 m, its height is more than 11 meters. The total weight of the vertical stones is about 60 tons. Drive back to Abakan for dinner.
Overnight at Hotel Asia *** or similar.

31 May
After breakfast transfer to the airport in time for the flight to Moscow and home (Not Included).

*OTHERWISE YOU CAN CONTINUE WITH THE EVENKIA AND TUNGUSKA VOYAGE (ASK FOR PROGRAM)*
Included in the price:
- All overnight stays in a double room at a hotel and Yurts with breakfast included.
- All excursions mentioned in the program.
- All meals.
- English speaking guide.

Not included:
- Flights.
- Visa expenses.

* DATES ARE TENTATIVE AND CAN BE MOVED ONE WEEK.

PRICE PER PERSON: Euro 2630.00