

KAMCHATKA

Land of Mystery and Mists!

July 22–August 6, 2011

Dear Travelers:

Join us!... from **July 22–August 6, 2011**, as we explore **Kamchatka**, a remote peninsula in the Russian Far East north of Japan!

Kamchatka is two-thirds the size of California, includes several active volcanic corridors, and is designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Kamchatka extends into the North Pacific Ocean along the highly volcanic zone where the Pacific Ocean and Eurasian tectonic plates meet. Twenty-nine of its 300 volcanoes are active, including **Klyuchevskaya**, the tallest on the Eurasian continent at 4,835 meters. The Peninsula's diverse ecosystems include glacier, tundra, taiga forest, birch forest, wetlands, lagoons, and desert. On the mountainous volcanos there are 414 glaciers, some 150 meters thick. There are 200 healing mineral springs; 150 of them are hot springs.

For two weeks, we will explore this remote land of mystery and mists. During our expedition we will:

- Explore **Petropavlovsk**, the capital of Kamchatka, situated on the lovely **Avachinskaya Bay**.
- Discover the villages of **Mil'kovo**, **Esso**, and ethnic settlements, including **Sosnovka**, which maintain their rich culture.
- Fly by helicopter to see fabulous geologic wonders—geysers, steam vents, mud pots, recent lava deposits, and snow covered volcanoes, including the scenic, world famous **Valley of the Geysers**.
- Discover a profusion of flowering plants and ferns. Many of them have medicinal value and about 100 species are already used in scientific medicine.
- See amazing and noisy seabird rookeries, with nesting gulls, kittiwakes, guillemots, and cormorants. There are 240 species of land birds.
- Discover the salmon capital of the world. Six species of ocean-going salmon and two species of freshwater salmon spawn here, including the King Salmon. The coastal waters are incredibly rich in fish: cod, halibut, flounder, herring, perch, and rock



trout, plus there are many species of crabs, shrimp, mollusks, sea cucumbers, and commercial sea weeds.

- Meet and learn from ethnic tribes (Even, Itelmen, Koryaks) who live much as they have for thousands of years and share their stories of hunting, fishing, and traditions. Visit the Regional and the Local Museums for more examples of artifacts and displays.

With leadership by **Dr. Victor Kuzevanov**, we will discover the delights of this remote paradise on a journey of a lifetime!

Best regards,

Margaret

Margaret M. Betchart, President
Betchart Expeditions Inc.
For AAAS, Sigma Xi & ACS

Itinerary

Days 1/2 USA to Moscow & Petropavlovsk, Kamchatka

Group members depart on flights from the USA to Moscow (to arrive July 23 by noon). All group members will depart on a flight from Moscow to Petropavlovsk, Kamchatka at 4:10 pm.

Day 3 Arrive Kamchatka

Arrive in Petropavlovsk, Kamchatka at 9:50 am. Meet your Expedition Leader, Dr. Victor Kuzenakov, and transfer to your hotel. After lunch, begin your introduction to Kamchatka with a visit and lecture at the Museum of Regional Studies. The museum's displays are devoted to the history of the region, its flora and fauna, the native peoples of Kamchatka, and their ancient culture. Learn about the ancient tribes that lived on Kamchatka thousands of years ago, about the discovery of this beautiful land by Russian explorers, and the heroic history of Petropavlovsk. On June 4, 1741, Admiral Vitus Bering led his expedition from Petropavlovsk to open up Alaska and the Aleutian Islands. Welcome dinner. *Petropavlovsk Hotel (3 nights)*. L,D

Day 4 Sosnovka

Today, we will explore Sosnovka, a small settlement where the ethnic Itelmen people maintain their lifestyle much as it was hundreds of years ago. There is an ancient village site where excavations are on-going and producing beautiful artifacts. Meet with the elders and learn about the traditional lifestyle and their plans for their settlement and tribe. After lunch, enjoy a walk through the forest discovering the plants and birds of the region. B,L,D

Day 5 Avachinskaya Bay

Depart for the port of Petropavlovsk to board the launch to explore Avachinskaya Bay. Avachinskaya is geographically as perfect a bay as a city could hope for and is the busiest in Kamchatka. Circle small islands looking for pelagic and red-faced cormorants, Mew and slaty-backed gulls, tufted puffins, guillemots, and harlequin ducks. The scenic Starichkov Island is good for fishing and we will try our luck. Lunch on board. This afternoon continue to look for seabirds and salmon as we return to Petropavlovsk. B,L,D

Leadership

Dr. Kuzenakov has been leading expeditions for Betchart Expeditions groups to Lake Baikal and Siberia since 1994, and to Kamchatka since 2003. He is the head of the Irkutsk Botanic Garden of Irkutsk State University, and represents Russia at botanical congresses throughout the world. He is a superb expedition leader, beloved by his travelers, and speaks impeccable English. He looks forward to sharing the wonderland of Kamchatka with you in 2011.

Explore KAMCHATKA



Day 6 The Switzerland of Kamchatka

The central part of Kamchatka, from the south to the north, is crossed by an ancient volcanic chain called Sredinnyi Ridge. It includes over 120 extinct volcanoes and over 1,000 lava cones that tell the former activity of the "builders of the earth." The Sredinnyi Ridge is a giant, natural ensemble which tells scientists about the creation of the planet on which we all live. We'll have a long day's drive to the headwaters of the Kamchatka River and follow its course northward, stopping for wildlife and photography. Mid-day lunch in Mil'kovo and visit the Aboriginal Ethnographical Museum. Late afternoon welcome in the remote village of Esso. *Alyona Guest House (5 nights)*. B,L,D

Day 7 Klyuchevskaya Volcanoes

After breakfast board a helicopter to fly to the Klyuchevskaya complex of volcanoes for a breathtaking view. We will land on the slope of the volcano, the largest in Eurasia at 15,863 feet (5,835 meters), one of the many volcanoes visible in the region. We will explore the volcanic slopes covered with volcanic bombs, colorful lakes, and steep ravines. We'll make another stop near a series of red cinder cones and stark lava fields dotted with small wildflowers. Afternoon flight back with breathtaking views. B,L,D

Day 8 Bystrinsky Nature Reserve & Esso Community

The local community of Esso petitioned the government and created the Bystrinsky Nature Reserve in 1995. The Even people wanted to protect the land to enable them to continue many

aspects of their traditional lifestyle. We'll meet with elders to share their successes and to learn from people who continue a long history living in central Kamchatka. Enjoy a discussion about local activities and learn about their economic plans and vision for the community. B,L,D

Day 9 Valley of the Geysers & Uzon Caldera

In 2001 the Valley of the Geysers celebrated the 60th anniversary of its discovery. We'll fly by helicopter to this world famous site. The 5 km long canyon at the Valley of the Geysers is steeply sided with yellow weathered volcanic rock, with the winding Geysernaya River at the bottom. The geysers have periods of furious activity followed by inactivity. All of this is surrounded by small streams of cascading water, green meadows, a dwarf forest, and patches of snow on the mountains above. We will then fly to the picturesque Uzon Caldera, a massive collapsed volcano, 9x12 km across, with forests, marshes, lakes, and steaming mud pools. B,L,D

Day 10 First Fish Festival

The local Even people honor the importance of salmon by celebrating their return up the Bystraya River. Join the local population at the Anavguy village a few



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miles from Esso. See the Russian and Even styles of buildings, the harvesting of plants and drying of salmon. See lunch being prepared and then enter the local style yurt (*yaranga*) to see the "Noorgenek" dance troupe. They were the winners of the all-Kamchatka ensemble in 2002. Also see their techniques for tanning hides and making traditional clothing. B,L,D

Day 11 Mil'kovo & Paratunka

We'll return south on an all-day bus ride along the course of the Kamchatka River, making stops for wildlife and photography of the scenic, snow covered volcano. The river flows through meadows and forests, and cascades through volcanic narrow. Mid-day stop at Mil'kovo for lunch and a walk around their market. *Virginia Hotel (2 nights)*. B,L,D

Day 12 Paratunka

Today we will walk and explore the area south and west of Paratunka. Explore the surrounding Erman's birch forest and the hillside meadows. We should see the Arctic warbler, Common cuckoo, two species of spotted woodpeckers, and the Siberian tit. Afternoon to continue your exploration walks. Afternoon and evening dinner with Alexander Yastrebov, who lives on much of what grows on his farm and what he collects from the forest. Learn of his farming, artwork, and join in an evening of music. B,L,D

Day 13 Mutnovsky Geothermal Station & Volcano

The volcanoes of Kamchatka created multiple ore deposits: mercury, lead, tin, gold, silver, and molybdenum.

Sulfuric gases created deposits of elemental sulfur and we will see many samples of such creations when visiting thermal springs. Volcanoes are the giant chemical reactors that create pre-organic compounds and a substantial part of the water that we find in the seas, oceans, and rivers was brought to the surface of earth by volcanic activity. We will see the Geothermal Station and then walk in a valley with geothermal vents at the base of Mutnovsky Volcano. *Geotherm Hotel (2 nights)*. B,L,D

Day 14 Gorely Volcano

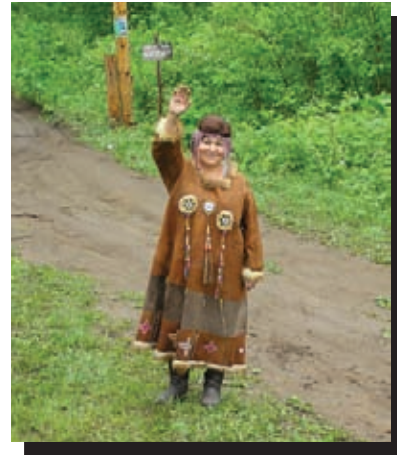
We awake this morning to the sights and sounds of an active geothermal area, with steam vents, hot pools, and highly oxidized basic soils. We will walk and explore the area near Gorely Volcano, looking for wildflowers and singing birds proclaiming their nesting territories. We'll explore the road that is generally lined with snow in the higher passes and we will stop to see the new growth of Kamchatka rhododendrons, gentians, anemones, and prostrate willows as the snow recedes. We'll make stops at cascading streams, scenic overlooks, and flower filled meadows with massive Vilyuchinsky Volcano in the background. B,L,D

Day 15 Petropavlovsk

Depart for Petropavlovsk. Check in at the *Petropavlovsk Hotel*. Afternoon guided walk of the downtown area, historic buildings and monuments. Farewell dinner and celebration of our journey. B,L,D

Day 16 Kamchatka to Moscow & Home

Transfer to the Petropavlovsk airport for the flight to Moscow. Upon arrival Moscow, take a direct connecting flight back to the USA. B



Reservations

#1195

Yes! I/We want to join the **Kamchatka Expedition, July 22–August 6, 2011**. Please reserve _____ space(s) on the expedition. As a deposit, I/we have enclosed a check for \$ _____ (\$1,000 per person), payable to Betchart Expeditions Inc. Trust Account.

Name(s) _____ Age _____ Sex _____

_____ Age _____ Sex _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone: Home (_____) _____ Work (_____) _____

Email Address _____

Membership: AAAS Sigma Xi ACS Planetary Society

Accommodations Preference:

Twin Single Twin Share with a friend *or* assign a roommate

Nonsmoker Smoker

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Please Mail To:

**Kamchatka Expedition 2011, Betchart Expeditions Inc.
17050 Montebello Road, Cupertino, CA 95014-5345**

Responsibility: Betchart Expeditions Inc., the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS), Sigma Xi, The Scientific Research Society, and the American Chemical Society (ACS) act only as agents for the passenger with respect to transportation and hotels, and exercise every care possible. However, we can assume no liability for injury, damage, delay, loss, accident or irregularity in connection with the services of any airplane, ship, motorcoach, or any other conveyance used in carrying out the arrangements of the tour. We cannot accept any responsibility for losses or additional expenses due to delay or changes in air or other services, sickness, weather, strike, war, quarantine, terrorism, acts of God, or other causes beyond our control. All such losses or expenses will have to be borne by the passenger, as tour rates provide for arrangements only for the time stated. We reserve the right to substitute another leader of similar expertise or reserve the right to cancel any tour prior to departure, in which case the entire payment will be refunded with no further obligation on our part. The right is also reserved to decline to accept or retain any person as a member of the tour. No refund will be made for the unused portion of any tour unless arrangements are made in sufficient time to avoid penalties. The price of the program is based on current tariffs and rates, and is subject to change. Any tariff, exchange rate, or fuel increases will be passed on to participants. Baggage is carried at the owner's risk entirely. It is understood that the air ticket when issued shall constitute the sole contract between the passenger and the airline concerned. The airlines concerned are not to be held responsible for any act, omission, or event during the time passengers are not on board their plane or conveyance.

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Land of Mystery & Mists!*
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Costs & Conditions

Expedition Fee: \$5,995 per person plus air fare of \$1,000 + tax from Moscow to Petropavlovsk, round trip. Air fare from USA to Moscow is approx. \$1200 + tax.

Accommodations: Are based on twin share with bath in a first class hotel in Petropavlovsk and in a mountain lodge. In Alyona, we'll have accommodations at a simple guest house with share bathroom facilities. Limited singles are available for a supplement of \$795 (singles are not available in Alyona). If you do not have a roommate, or we cannot provide one, you must pay the extra cost of the single.

What to Expect: A great adventure for intrepid travelers, this expedition is planned for travel enthusiasts who would like to explore the remote Kamchatka Peninsula, one of the least visited, least accessible places on earth. The expedition is an ecological and cultural journey of discovery, touching remote cultures, visiting archaeological sites, steaming geysers, and immense volcanoes, with leadership by an outstanding Russian scientist. Travel by motorcoach, vans, helicopter, and best available local transportation. There will be daily outings by coach, van, or foot at a leisurely pace suitable for learning and discovery. The trip is planned for travelers with an appetite for adventure who will happily undertake a day-long drive, partly on a

gravel road, to the remote village of Esso (and return), fly in helicopters, and deal with some mosquitoes and rapid changes in the weather. The trip itinerary is subject to change, at the discretion of the expedition leader, based on weather and local conditions. Facilities and transportation options are quite limited; a spirit of flexibility and cooperation is essential. All said, we'll have a tremendous adventure! (No smoking in vehicles, or during lectures or meals, please.)

Expedition Fee Includes:

Airport transfers in Petropavlovsk; land, boat, and helicopter transportation as indicated; accommodations twin share; meals in Kamchatka; entrance fees; baggage handling; tips to local guides and drivers; leadership, administration.

Expedition Fee Does Not Include:

Air fare (quoted separately); any meals in Moscow; pre or post night hotel in Moscow if desired and Moscow transfers; personal items such as laundry, phone calls, snacks, alcoholic beverages; gratuity to expedition leader; Russia visa fee; personal insurance; foreign airport departure tax.

Airfares & Airline Ticketing:

All passengers should book independent flights to arrive Moscow on July 23, 2011 by approximately noon. Please call Marisa for assistance, **(800) 252-4910**. We can book Moscow transfers and pre-night hotel for you for the night of July 22 if you wish to arrive the day before. All passengers from the USA will fly together Moscow/

Petropavlovsk, round trip, as part of the group. Air fares are subject to change.

Reservations, Deposits and Payments: Please mail a deposit of \$1,000 per person with the completed reservation form to:

Betchart Expeditions Inc.
17050 Montebello Road
Cupertino, CA 95014-5345

The balance is due 60 days before departure.

Cancellations & Refunds: The initial deposit for this expedition is refundable up to 60 days before departure less a handling fee of \$100 per person. There will be no refund for any cancellation after the 60-day period unless your place can be resold, then only the handling fee of \$100 is withheld. There are no refunds for unused meals, accommodations, or other expedition features. Trip cancellation insurance will be offered.

Questions?

Please call Marisa Eide,

Betchart Expeditions Inc.

Telephone: **(800) 252 4910**

or **(408) 252 4910**

Fax: **(408) 252 1444**

Email:

BetchartExMarisa@earthlink.net

On the web:

www.betchartexpeditions.com