

The Pre-Conference Tour to Altai, August 14-18, 2018

Outdoors experience before the [Multi-Conference BGRS\SB-2018](#)

August 14 (Tuesday)

Departing at 9:00am from the hotel 'Golden Valley' in Novosibirsk Akademgorodok. We will take [Chuya Highway](#) to pass through the cities of Barnaul and Biysk and have lunch at a point along the way. After traveling about 450 km, we will arrive, at 4:00-5:00pm, at the park hotel '[Aya](#)' on the shore of Lake Aya, a popular freshwater body. The lake is 300-400 meters in diameter, with leisure facilities for safe swimming and other water leisure activities along its shoreline. Upon arrival, we will lodge, have a rest and have supper.

August 15 (Wednesday)

Breakfasting at the hotel and taking either of two trip excursions at your choice. Adrenaline seekers will most probably choose to take a four-hour rafting trip down the Katun River and have a rest near Lake Aya after. Sightseeing lovers may want to visit the [Chemal Dam](#), one of the most popular sights to see in Altai, and [Askat](#), a settlement with 130 inhabitants, most of them being artists, craftsmen, actors, doctors and scientists, who left big cities, came here and stayed here. Askat has a reputation as an art village and a boho place. It accommodates twenty plus ceramists, three members of the Artists' Union of Russia and four art galleries. Depending on which of the trips you will choose, you will have lunch either *en route* or at the hotel. Supper will be at the hotel.

August 16 (Thursday)

Breakfasting at the hotel, checking out and heading to Belokurikha, a town and a resort. To enjoy a bird's-eye view of Belokurikha, we will reach the top of a sacred mountain named Tserkovka (801 m above sea level) with a 2050-meter-long [ski lift](#). After returning, we will have lunch and travel 150 km to reach a cave man site. Guess which? Spot on! It will be [Denisova Cave](#), our natural and archeological heritage. Excavations have revealed more than 20 strata dating back to different times. Today, more than 80 thousand items are on show in museums located in the cities of Novosibirsk and Biysk and in the villages of Chorny Anui and Soloneshnoye. After the cave, we will head to the Science and Research Camp of the Institute of Archaeology and Ethnography of the Siberian Branch of the Russian Academy of Sciences (IAET SB RAS), to stay and, of course, to have supper. By the way, the name of the camp is 'Denisova Cave', too.

August 17 (Friday)

Breakfasting at the camp, checking out and proceeding, through the villages of Yakonur and Yabogan, to Chuya Highway at a point between the [Seminsky](#) and [Chike-Taman](#) passes. We will stop at the summit of the Chike-Taman pass, to behold the best of it around. Next, we will travel 17 km to reach the Kur-Kechu camp. We will have lunch, have a rest and enjoy nature where two rivers, Bolshoy Ilgumen and Katun, meet. Kur-Kechu surroundings are famous for the [Ilgumen rapid](#). This 300-meter-long rapid's difficulty is class 4, with elements of class 5 after Russia's classification. Next, we will move to the village of Kamlak, to lodge and to have supper at the Altai Meadows Inn.

August 18 (Saturday)

Breakfasting at the inn, checking out and heading back for Novosibirsk. Along the way, we will have two unforgettable visits. One of them, down the road in Kamlak, will be the [Gorno-Altai Botanical Garden](#), which is the Altai Branch of the Central Siberian Botanical Garden of the Siberian Branch of the Russian Academy of Sciences and seeks to preserve Altai's wild and cultivated rare and endangered plant species. The other will be the Anokhin Museum in Gorno-Altaysk. The museum will soon be celebrating 100 years since it was founded in 1918. We will see unique and original pieces of the Altai Republic's richest historical, cultural and natural heritage, including the world-famous [Princess of Ukok](#). We will have lunch in Gorno-Altaysk and supper in the village of Srostki, at the Red Snowball Tree Inn. At about ~11.30pm, we will return to the hotel 'Golden Valley', Novosibirsk Akademgorodok.

To participate, please send a request for the application form and for financial details to the Organizing Committee at bgrs2018@bionet.nsc.ru (cc to svetazubova@gmail.com) with "Altai Tour" in the subject field, receive the form, fill it in and send it back to svetazubova@gmail.com.