

RUSSIAN NORTH

DATES OF TOUR: 22.02.10 - 26.02.10
DATES AT THE ARCTIC CIRCLE DIVE CENTRE: 23.02.10 - 25.02.10 3 days and 2 nights

HIGHLIGHTS:

Vast natural beauty, aurora borealis, seabirds and seals watching, beluga whales, an exquisite underwater environment populated by fantastic underwater ice formations, soft coral fields, kelp forests and mussel farms, ice-fishing and Russian steam bath experience lure divers and nature lovers from around the world to experience the best ice diving and natural scenery Russia has to offer.

ACCOMODATION:

Comfortable guest houses on the shore of the frozen sea, exquisite Russian food, traditional Russian beverages and the Russian banya (steam bath) experience. Comfort accommodation: Twin rooms with toilet, basin and shower.



PROVISIONAL ITINERARY:

Moscow - Arctic Circle Dive Centre - Moscow (by flight to Murmansk)
(Alternatively train route will take 2 more days.)

22.02.10 Day 1 In the evening flight from Moscow to Murmansk. 6-7 hours transfer from Murmansk airport to the Arctic Circle Dive Center.

23.02.10 Day 2 Early morning arrival to the ACDC. Accommodation, breakfast, rest. Free time. Lunch. Excursions to see beluga whales. (accompanied by an instructor).

Belugas are very sociable, and love it when people approach them. The instructors will tell you all about belugas. The belugas will give a short show, finishing with feeding the animals. (Alternately snorkeling with beluga whales, for additional payment)* In the evening diner. Russian steam bath.

24.02.10 Day 3 After breakfast visit to the ice diving camp by snowmobiles. Lunch.

Excursion to the village of Chyornaya Rechka, at the mouth of a river. The village is isolated from the outside world; no proper roads lead to it. The locals have restored the church by hand. It is now a working one. Walk to a waterfall. Introduction to the village's history. 4-6 hours.

25.02.10 Day 4 Winter lake fishing. Drive to the lake by car or snowmobile. Fishing. In winter we lay and check nets under the ice. A picnic on a lofty and picturesque island in the middle of the lake, including fish soup cooked on a campfire.

In the evening farewell dinner. / At the late night transfer to the Murmansk airport for flight to Moscow.

26.02.10 Day 5 Early morning around 7a.m. flight to Moscow.

During 3 days program at the Arctic Circle Dive Centre there is an opportunity to take the PADI ICE DIVING specialty course conducted over 2 days. (Has to be pre booked in advance.)

Rates of program per person:

904 USD

Rates include:

Accommodation 1/2 Dbl Comfort room, full board meal.

Excursion to visit Beluga Whales

Excursion to the village of Chyornaya Rechka

Winter lake fishing

Flight tickets Moscow - Murmansk - Moscow (Economy class)

Group transfer Murmansk - Arctic Circle DC - Murmansk

Rates don't include:

PADI ICE DIVING course specialty

463 USD + 30 USD PADI certificating card

Snorkeling with Beluga Whales supplement to excursion

65 USD