



# Kolyma

Modern Guidebook  
to Magadan oblast



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# KOLYMA

MODERN GUIDEBOOK  
TO MAGADAN OBLAST

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### **Kolyma. A Modern Guidebook to Magadan Oblast.**

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This first and to this day only guidebook to Magadan Oblast contains information about its exploration history, the sights, the infrastructure and the prospects of the region. For the first time, all information about the tourist opportunities of the region, the most interesting tours, sights and all historical information, was put together. The book contains plans and schemes of the settlements, illustrated with pictures of sights and infographics. The book will be of use for all those who are interested in Kolyma Krai or plan to visit Magadan Oblast.

### **Dear readers!**

Magadan Oblast is a unique region of Russia that has large amounts of biological and mineral resources, as well as beautiful nature. For a long time it was closed for the tourists due to its frightening GULAG past. Fortunately, now it is only part of the history. Although every part of exploration of northeast is worth remembering, Magadan Oblast has significantly changed since those days. We want to get rid of the stereotypes once and for all and introduce you Golden Kolyma, one of the most beautiful place in the world.

The Magical nature of Magadan Oblast is represented by its quick rivers, rich in fish and gold, high unconquered mountains, and the cold Sea of Okhotsk that attracts you with its beauty and greatness. Everyone will find here something they like, whether you want to hunt a bear or a snow sheep, or to fish for the famous Kolyma whitefish or a huge halibut.

Those who are interested in ethnography will find our region fascinating as well. Here you can meet the native peoples, the Evens, the Koryaks and the Itelmens, who honour their traditions and protect their culture. The tourists will be interested in visiting a real reindeer herder camp and participate in one of the national holidays, such as Khebdenek and Baklydydyak.

Recently the Golden festival featuring the Russian championship in gold flushing is being held in Kolyma. You can not only try yourself at mining during the festival, but also win a prize. We hope that soon our festival will become international and reserve a name of the golden capital of Russia for Kolyma.

At the same time, Magadan Oblast is a dynamically developing region with a huge industrial potential. New jobs are created here, and qualified specialists work in a very competitive environment.

We hope that this guidebook will help you to see Magadan Oblast in a new light. We gladly welcome all those who want to be acquainted with our region, and we will show our hospitality to everyone who decided to move here for good.

Come to Golden Kolyma, you will not be bored!



SERGEI KARPJUKHIN



SERGEI KARPJUKHIN

## A DIFFERENT PLANET

There is a strong feeling that Magadan Oblast, also known as Kolyma Krai, was created to break stereotypes about the man and the world around him, and change people's habitual rituals by giving them new opportunities and showing new life horizons.

It is no mere chance that the locals call everything that goes beyond this region's boundaries the mainland. For centuries, the only way to reach this land was by sea, although, even when people were approaching this territory, they could not recognise the coast right away: the land was covered by fog, with severe winds blowing, and rivers that were frozen to riverbeds. Nedorazumeniya Island (literally Island of Misunderstanding) in Magadan Bay is not only a dot on the map, but also the evidence of the first impression this land produced on the pathfinders: an illusion, which does not give any chance to survive here. Nevertheless, people did survive, they settled here and started exploring the world they had never seen.

It is not clear even today, where the name of Magadan comes from. It is usually accepted that we should take into consideration the language of the Evens because it has many similar sounding words. For instance, "mongodan" means sea alluvium, "mongot" is a dried out tree, and "mongdan" is a windy place. There exists even a non-sophisticated explanation, according to which the name Magadan derives from a nickname of a poor Even, Magda – in the meaning of a rotten stump, who lived here before.

Although there are not many specialists who insist on the Even origin of the name. The territory was populated mostly by the Lamuts before the first Kolyma expeditions by the Russian Cossacks (Stadukhin, etc.) in the 17<sup>th</sup> century. We can even trace further: the Yukaghir were the most ancient people living here. Nobody has studied so far any traits that the word "magadan" and those languages had in common. Besides, the earliest settlements found on the territory let us know that they were founded in the early Neolithic, far from the time when linguistics paved its way into study.

After Kolyma Krai officially entered the territory of the Russian Empire, this piece of land stayed undeveloped for another 200 years. A sudden interest in this region grew only at the beginning of the past century, exactly 100 years ago: in 1915, a gold digger Shafigullin also known as Boriska, was the first to find gold here, in the basin of the Srednekan. Since then, people started coming here to see this opened Nature's box, and the interest in Kolyma territory became fairly acute.

In 1926 an expedition led by Sergei Obruchev, it was proved that there are all the necessary conditions on the territory for gold bedding. Within two years, the First Kolyma expedition under the command of Yuri Bilibin gave the green light to a detailed study of Kolyma. Reliable data on the region's economy were attained by a hydrographic expedition under the command of Ivan Molodykh, who recommended the Nagaev Bay as the most convenient place to build a port and make it the starting point for the road construction. This put the beginning to the development of the territory: on 13 October, 1928, it was decided to build the East Even (Nagaev) Cultural Base, and on 22 June, 1929, people began the construction of dwelling





apartments, a school, a pet hospital, a hospital, and a boarding school in the new settlement called Magadan. In 1939, the settlement received the status of a city, together with the stained memory about tens of thousands of people dying in local camps.

“You will come here by plane. It should have been an extraordinary event about twenty years ago, but now you are flying without concern. As soon as you feel tired of sitting in the airplane for days on end and having your ears blocked any time the plane lands on some obscure airfields, you will be surprised. Suddenly it will turn out that your flight will end up not on the planet you took off from,” writes Oleg Kuvaev in the popular and important for the northerners novel *The Territory*. Since that very time the summer time shortened to seven hours, flights became much more comfortable; however, the plane will still land on another planet.

Everything seems reverse here: simple things become complicated, and the impossible – accessible. A person finds themselves tête-à-tête with the nature and in solitude with their own self, feeling both mighty and insignificant at the same time. Permafrost and the long lasting winter are against the man. However, every building, every road is his victory. It will cost you less to buy a can of red caviar on (shaiba, or “hockey puck” is a special term for it), than a handful of cherries on a local market. You will have a better chance of seeing a seal than a cow. And it will take even less time to get to the Crimea than to the Jack London Lake, famous for its unspeakable beauty. If you look on the city hall’s website, you will find quite a blend: the plan of the Weekend club for events taking place in the park of 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Magadan, and the Rules of conduct when facing a bear, both standing side by side.

This is supposed to be the main trick of Magadan, the place where people’s history blends with a pristine environment.

A typical tourist is not someone to consider a trip to Magadan, because people do not know that much about this place. It is impossible not to fall in love with this land once you see it with your own eyes. The north coastline of the Sea of Okhotsk is one of the most beautiful places in the Far East. The mountainous seashore that is shaped in a very peculiar way, the islands with birds, the rich fish supplies. Stormy, wilful Kolyma tributaries – the Omolon, the Detrin, the Bakhapcha, and the Buyunda Rivers – will be perfect for extreme rafting, and the quiet Arman River will be the place where the beginners enjoy. A total must for all types of water tourism is the fishing, which will never disappoint you. In the rivers you can catch a grayling (there is even a lake with such a poetic name as the Dancing Graylings Lake), in the Kolyma basin – a sucker and a round whitefish. Upper reaches of the mountain rivers in the Okhotsk Basin are the spawning ground for the Pacific salmon – chum salmon, hunchback salmon, blueback salmon, and silver salmon. Hunting is also worth going: bears, snow sheep, deer, roe deer, various types of fur and feather from the upland to the waterfowl. And there is not a single person around.

Let us mention the hot mineral springs as well (as for the chemical composition and their useful properties, the Magadan springs stand on the same level as the world’s best health resorts), well-equipped slopes for ski and snowboard riding. Recently we started organising night springboard jumps in Magadan, which was never organised before in Russia. Moreover, there is one more detail: one of the bases is famous for being a training place for the South Korea Olympic national ski team. Magadan is the nearest for them.

And hopefully, not only for them. Kolyma Krai is in fact becoming closer to the mainland, although there is still railroad communication missing, and the only highway here goes from Yakutsk (or to Yakutsk, depending on your current place of staying). The territory is becoming more air loaded, and the seaport is constantly growing. However, the most important factor is that people who come here do not always come only out of interest – they want to live and work here. And the desired workforce is exactly what comes in hand: very soon we are going to start developing two new gold-bearing and coal deposits, the world’s first factory constructed by the Japan counterparts that produces liquefied hydrogen is about to open. The Magadan Shelf is especially what we pin our hopes on (the hydrocarbons deposits are fantastic here – 1.4 bt of oil and 892 tr cu m of gas)...

Nobody knows for sure, how many people per square meter from there will be in Magadan after all these projects come into force: although Kolyma attracts developers, it does not offer pleasant conditions for living. Magadan is the place for those spiritually strong; others simply cannot bear the low annual average temperature. The North opens itself to only that sort of people. And it may surrender only to them.



# MILESTONES IN HISTORY



## 10,000 BC – the early Neolithic

The beginning of settlement on the territory. The most ancient primitive peoples' settlements are found on the right bank of the Detrin River estuary, the Congo River estuary, and on the Mayorych River banks.

## 10–13<sup>th</sup> century

The ancient Koryak settlements (Mys Kharbiz, the Naidenov Bay, the Koni Peninsula, the right bank of the Kip-Kich River estuary, the Astronomicheskaya Bay, etc.)



## 5 March, 1847

The Consecration of the church in Taui stockade town. A parochial school was opened by the church, the first Taui priest Stefan Popov was doing missionary work and made a valuable contribution to the study of the indigenous people's languages. Not only did he translate the Gospel according to St. Matthew into the Even language, but also wrote a Concise Tungus dictionary.

## 1921–1923

The Civil War was not that felt in Kolyma: a few White movement supporters under the command of the Cossack captain Bochkarev were defeated by the guerrilla troops that came from the Kamchatka Peninsula.

10 000 BC

2000 AD

10–13<sup>th</sup> AD

17<sup>th</sup>

1652

18<sup>th</sup>

1752

19<sup>th</sup>

1847

20<sup>th</sup>

1920–1930s

1921–1923

1928

1929

1931

1932–1953

1940

1941–1945

1953

1955

21<sup>st</sup>

2000s

2010s

2015–2020



## 2,000 BC

Indigenous tribes of the Yukaghir and the Koryak ancestors settle along the coastline of the Sea of Okhotsk. Appearance of the permanent settlements on the deer migration paths, the beginning of the sea animals hunting.

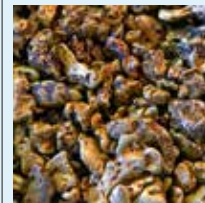
## 1652

Taui stockade town foundation by Chief-tain Mikhail Stadukhin's team.



## 1752

Foundation of the wooden Gizhiginskaya Fortress on the Gizhiga River. After closing Anadyrsky stockade town in 1771, the fortress became the biggest defence facility in Northeastern Siberia, with a 229 people garrison.

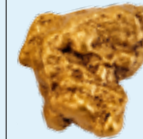


## 1920–1930s

The Gold rush in Kolyma. Rumours about the immense local natural resources attract crews from all the Far East. In 1928, Ola Village, a transshipment point at the time, suffered a massive famine: the coming gold diggers laid all the storages and shops empty.

## 1929

Magadan settlement foundation (from 1939 – city).



## 1940

A record in gold mining in Kolyma was established – more than 80 tonnes of chemically fine metal.

## 3 December, 1953



Establishment of Magadan Oblast by separating it from Khabarovsk Krai.



## 2015–2020

The development of the project for international inbound tourism development. Construction of Solnechny. Magadan ski resort.



## 17<sup>th</sup> century

The beginning of the Russian colonisation of Siberia and the Far East. The Cossacks explorers study the Kolyma territory and reach the Chukchi Peninsula shore.

## 4 July, 1928

The participants of the Kolyma expedition under the command of Yuri Bilibin came to Ola Village. The main goal was to check the information about the gold deposits in Kolyma and to evaluate the field's commercial significance.

## 1932–1953

Construction of the Kolyma Highway, one of the key highways in Russia, connecting Yakutia and Magadan Oblast. The first 30 km of the road and 90 km of the winter road commissioned during the first year. The total length of the highway exceeds 2,000 km.

## 1941–1945

The Great Patriotic War. Many dwellers of the region volunteer for the battlefield. Others serve on the home front. In 1942–1945, there is an Alaska – Siberia air route functioning on the territory of Magadan Oblast, the airway was created for the American planes transportation, due to the sales agreement.



## 13 January, 1955

Arkagalinskaya Thermal Power Station was commissioned this year.



## 2000s

Villages and cities undergo a planned reconstruction; the transport infrastructure development is starting to be planned in the region.

## 2010s

After the examination of the Natalka deposit and the beginning of the Pavlik deposit development, Magadan Oblast is considered the largest gold mining region in Russia.



## TO THE ATTENTION OF TOURISTS

Magadan Oblast is one of the coldest regions in Russia. Its whole territory forms a part of the Far North regions. This fact, along with the tragic Soviet Union past, created an unfavourable reputation of Magadan among tourists. However, nowadays the Nordic tourism gains weight, and the tragic past has fortunately become a part of the history. The region attracts more and more tourists, with its unbelievably beautiful landscapes and rich natural resources, views of rivers and lakes, waterfalls and high mountains. There are hunting, alpinist and eco travel tours organised to this place. Rafting along wild rivers and "gold" trips are gaining popularity as well.



### Geographical features

Magadan territory is the 11<sup>th</sup> largest region in the Russian Federation. It was created in the Soviet Union by a Supreme Soviet Decree from 3 December, 1953. Nowadays it is a part of The Far Eastern Federal District. It borders with Chukotka Autonomous Okrug in the north, with Kamchatka – in the east, with Yakutia – in the west, and with Khabarovsk Krai to the south. The south borders of the region are washed by the Sea of Okhotsk.

The geography of Magadan Oblast is shaped majorly by numerous mountain ranges; there are only a few valleys in the lower reaches of rivers and on the coastline of the Sea of Okhotsk. The major part of the territory accounts for subdued tablelands, situated within Yano-Kolymsky fold belt. To the west there is the Chersky Range chain, stretching for thousands of kilometres.

Tangible earthquakes are not rare here. They are measured up to 8.0 because the territory lies within the Chersky and the Okhotsko-Anadyrsky seismic belts. The intensity of earthquakes is usually lower along the seashore.

As for the region's geography, the leading role belongs to the subdued tablelands. The major part of the territory lies within Yano-Kolymsky fold belt. To the west of the region, there is the Chersky Range chain, stretching for 1,500 km.

The Magadan territory possesses a wide river network. Near the Arctic Ocean, there is the biggest river in the region, the Kolyma, and its tributaries – the Detrin, the Tenka, the Bakhapcha, the Buyunda, the Balygychan, the Sugoy, the Corcodon, the Omolon, the Debin, the Seymchan, etc. Rivers that are much smaller than the Kolyma form part of the Pacific Ocean basin: the Taiu, the Yana, the Arman,

THE TERRITORY  
OF MAGADAN  
OBLAST IS

**462 464**  
SQ KM

the Ola, the Yama, the Gizhiga. These rivers are supplemented mostly by snow, rain and underground waters.

Magadan Oblast is characterised by ice crusts forming in places where rivers become cluttered with sludge ice and freeze to the riverbed. The climate of Magadan Oblast is severe, acutely continental. Strong breezes blow during the whole year, in summer – from cold seas to the mainland, in winter – vice versa. The weather in the seaside and inland territories differs considerably; the climate by the sea is softer.

Average annual air temperature does not exceed  $-2.8\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$  on the whole territory, the lowest temperature is registered in the Kolyma basin, up to  $-14\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$ . However, the highest summer temperature of  $+35\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$  is also registered here. It should also be mentioned that the record low temperature went below  $-67\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$  in winter.

It rains heavily for long periods of time on the Sea of Okhotsk coastline and in the upper reaches of the Kolyma in the low season, which has to do with cyclones. However, the winter period is characterised by clear, quiet and very cold weather.

At the highest point of summer, the weather in the continental territories is warm, sometimes even hot. However, the Magadan summer is chillier than, for example, that of St. Petersburg, though they are in the same latitude. It is more like the Murmansk summer; the city is situated almost 1,000 km farther to the north. The average July temperature in Magadan is  $+12\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$ .

The winter in the major part of Magadan Oblast can be characterised as long, from five and a half months on the coastline of the Sea of Okhotsk, and up to seven or seven and a half months on its continental and north territories.

### Administrative division

Magadan Oblast entered the Russian Soviet Federative Socialist Republic on 3 December, 1953, with Magadan as its centre and six districts, after being separated from Khabarovsk Krai and Chukotka Autonomous Okrug, with a part of Koryak Autonomous Okrug annexed. That is how Olsky, Severo-Evensky, Srednekansky, Susumansky, Tenkinsky and Yagodninsky Districts appeared. A year later, Omsukchansky District was formed additionally, and Khasynsky District in 1966. In 17 June 1992, Chukotka Autonomous Okrug withdrew from Magadan Oblast. At present, the administrative division of the territory looks the following way:

#### URBAN DISTRICTS



THE NORTH-SOUTHERN EXTENT ACCOUNTS FOR

**930** KM

THE EAST-WESTERN EXTENT FOR

**960** KM





### Traffic

Passenger traffic that connects Magadan and the “mainland” is solely aerial, as Magadan residents say themselves. The Magadan International Airport (Sokol) is situated in the nearest suburbs of the region’s capital. Every day there are flights to Moscow, and once a week to St. Petersburg, Khabarovsk, Vladivostok, and Novosibirsk. Since very recently there are also flights to the Crimea peninsula – the airline Alrosa flies to Simferopol.

The railroad, although having been planned for many decades, is still in project. The transcontinental road Siberia – Alaska has to run through mountain chains and the Bering Strait.

Sea passenger traffic to and from Vladivostok and Vanino Port ceased in the 1970s because of the air traffic development, and all the trade is carried out by sea as it used to be. The main trading gateway of the region is the Magadan Sea Port, which carries the main cargo flow to Kolyma.

The only enterprise specialised in river transport in the Kolyma river basin is the Kolyma Shipping Company. It was founded in 1993 and carries 100% of the inland cargo traffic. The intraregional traffic is mostly by bus, as well as by air – by small planes and helicopters.

STRETCH OF THE  
HARD SURFACE  
ROADS

2323 KM

### USEFUL ADDRESSES AND PHONES

#### Talisman Taxi:

Phone: 8 (4132) 60-50-60

#### Bumer Taxi:

Phone: 8 (4132) 60-05-00



### Communication

The mobile communication in Magadan Oblast is represented by local and all-Russian providers – Beeline, MTS, Tele2 and Rostelecom. A 3G mobile network connects all cities and towns.

Only a decade ago, the Dalsvyaz Company was the single internet provider in this region. Nowadays the development of internet communication is in full swing, and all the mobile operators can supply you with mobile and home internet. The cities now have internet cafes.

Soon Kolyma is going to have high-speed internet – the agreement has already been signed, so the region is waiting for the fibre cable to be laid.

### Frontier zone

The frontier zone in Magadan Oblast is a 25 km wide line along the entire coastline, except for Magadan itself. Such towns as Ola and Evensk are part of the zone. If someone wants to visit Nedorazumeniya Island, Spafariev Island, and Zavyalov Island, they need to have a pass. To obtain it, you need to apply to the Federal Secure Service border control of Russia and fill in the application form (67, Rechnaya st., Magadan; phone +7 (4132) 69-70-11, 64-06-91). If a person breaks the rules of being in the frontier zone, they face administrative responsibility – a warning or a fee from 300 to 1,000 roubles.



### USEFUL ADDRESSES AND PHONES

#### Border Service of the Federal Security Service of the Russian Federation:

Magadan, Rechnaya st 67

Phone: 8 (4132) 69-70-11, 64-06-91

### Going for a trip in Magadan Oblast

Take only the necessary things with you.

#### Do not forget:

- 1 Sleeping bag or travel mat
- 2 Tent
- 3 Raincoat
- 4 Camp shoes
- 5 Knife and dishes
- 6 Polyethylene inlay in the backpack
- 7 Matches
- 8 Compass or navigator
- 9 Mosquito repellent
- 10 Pocket flashlight and spare batteries to it
- 11 Sunglasses (you will need them in winter)
- 12 Swimming suit (bathing in hot springs is possible even in winter)
- 13 Fishing rod, fishing tackles







### Accommodations

The majority of hotels are situated in Magadan. The most popular of them are the Ocean Hotel, VM-Centralnaya Inn, Magadan Hotel, and the most modern one – GoldenHouse. They all are aseismic stable and meet to the contemporary comfort standards.

One of the convenient possibilities of stay is to rent a flat or a room from locals. The natural beauty of this territory makes you consider staying closer to nature. That is why tourists often prefer living away from the city. For example, in the Talaya Village Resort, which is 280 km away from Magadan and is famous for its healing springs and mushroom spawns.



### Population

The region has a population of 150,000 people, as of 2015, according to the Russian Statistics data. The population density record is quite high for the north regions, 0.32 person per sq km. The majority of the population lives in cities, and by 2010 about 70% were already living in Magadan. The representatives of small indigenous population groups are the ones who keep away from the city. Among them, there are 57% of Evens, 23% of Koryaks, and 13% of Itelmens (as of 2007). The significant part of them dwells in rural areas. They take up manual trades, mostly reindeer breeding and fishing. The majority of them is engaged in self-sustained farms, i.e. they do not produce anything for sale. The indigenous people keep up their ancestors' traditions. Starting from the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century their culture began gaining more weight, and even languages that were about to disappear are spoken again.

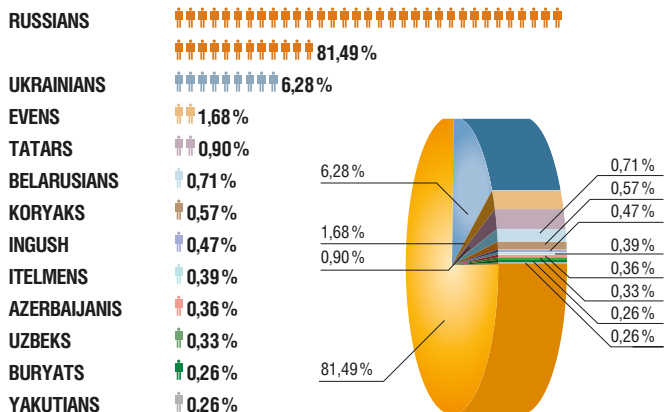
## POPULATION

# 148 071

in 2015



### National composition of the population



## WHAT TO TAKE FROM MAGADAN



To answer the question “What can I take as souvenirs from Magadan?” people usually joke: they either suggest taking the deposits map, or something that reminds you of jail. In fact, you have a lot of things to choose from. And if you plan to give presents to the people you love, there is no place in Russia better than Magadan to buy jewellery – the gold is our own here.

The most authentic present taken from Magadan Oblast is an uncut **gold or silver nugget**. It is expensive looking and very beautiful, you can buy it in any jewellery shop.



**The Jewellery** in Magadan is extracted and sold on the same day. So many shops specialise in it, that tourists joke about whether the Magadan residents eat gold instead of food. There are presents for any taste; you can visit even children jewellery shops in the region's capital.



**Fur and beads bijouterie** is the fruit of local good hands' work; those who appreciate the ethnic style will like it and learn more about the culture of the region.



**Exotic seafood** is what you may take from Magadan in plenty. You may purchase a big and beautiful shell or mother-of-pearl jewellery. Or you may bring home a piece of the sea – something edible, like semi-conserves with whelk, crabmeat or caviar.

**Small figures made of snow sheep, deer or elk horns** carried a ritual meaning for the aboriginal people. Nowadays they are just a part of a decoration.



**Soft slippers made of sealskin** are not only an esthetical, but also a practical present from the North – it will make anyone happy. You will not feel any frost wearing them and the slippers will serve for quite a long time.



### Koryak folk art

The Koryaks can probably be called the jack-of-all-trades in Magadan Oblast. They are incomparable to anyone else when compiling a fur mosaic, for which a person must select pieces of fur with different shades; mosaic lines are sewn on hems as a wide fringe (opuvan). A separate woman's craft is the design of carpets, which are made of pieces of light and dark fur with colourful embroidery. Ornaments in the Koryak clothes are chiefly geometrical or sometimes vegetable-themed. They embroider with satin stitch, and the themes are taken from animal life. Men were traditionally dealing with wood-carving or bone engraving, as well as metalwork, which is a pride of the local blacksmiths. The designs were complicated: scrolls, pair spirals on a knife (the so called “sheep horn”)... They carved human and animal figures, earrings, necklaces, snuff-boxes, and smoking pipes from walrus tusk or reindeer horns, and decorated them with engraved ornament and paintings.

# KOLYMA HIGHWAY

The highway is considered all-season since 2008.

In winter and summer, the average speed is 80 km/h.



The Kolyma, or the P504 Highway, is the main traffic artery in the North-east of Russia. It connects Yakutia with Magadan Oblast. The highway runs through the mountains of Verkhoyan and Oymyakonskiy Highlands, Suntar-Khayata Range, crosses the watersheds of the Lena, Kolyma, Aldan and Indigirka rivers and arrives to the shore of the Pacific Ocean. The Kolyma Highway is 2,032 km long; 835 km are in Magadan Oblast and other 1,197 km are in the Republic of Sakha (Yakutia). The highway's altitude varies from 400 to 1,500 m.



A stele on the border between Magadan Oblast and Yakutia.

578<sup>th</sup> km – The height of **Burkhalinsky Pass** is 1,011 m. This is the most difficult pass on Kolyma Highway. The pass is extremely insidious and twisted with lots of blind turns.



514<sup>th</sup> km. Road to the **Jack London Lake and Lake of Dancing Graylings** (Tantsuyushikh Khariusov).



390 km. **Orotukan** urban-type settlement. The monument for Tatyana Malandina, a young communist who was killed by escaped prisoners in 1937, stands in the settlement's centre.



184<sup>th</sup> km. **Elikchanskiye lakes**. The biggest lake of the group is the Grand Lake, which is 8 km away from the highway.

SAKHA REPUBLIC (YAKUTIA)

YAKUTSK



710 km – Kadykchan Village – the most famous ghost settlement of Magadan.

Kadykchan

Susuman

Myaunzha



627<sup>th</sup> – **Susuman** town. In 1977, a well-preserved baby mammoth Dima was found not far from the town, near the Kyrgilyakh Stream mouth where it joins the Berelyokh River. The mammoth's body provided a lot of information to scientists about mammoth life.

Yagodnoye



522<sup>nd</sup> km. **Yagodnoye** urban-type settlement. The Memorial Museum for Victims of Political Repressions was opened in the settlement. The exposition and archive of museum have thousands of photos and hundreds of exhibits – tools and the prisoners' household items.

Orotukan

MAGADAN OBLAST

272<sup>nd</sup> km. **Myakit** village. Dyedushkina Lysina Pass. The altitude of the pass is 1,000 m.

Atka



164<sup>th</sup> km. **Yablonozy Pass** (928 m) and a monument for operators-pioneers. The name of the Pass is often mistakenly spelled as Yablonevy, but has nothing to do with a Russian word "yabloko" (apple), and comes from a Yukaghir word "yablon" meaning "road".

Nizhny Bestyakh

The road starts in the **Nizhny Bestyakh** Village of Megino-Kangalassky District.



745<sup>th</sup> km – **Monument for the aviators** of Kovlyin's fallen crew. The crew was pursuing the ALSIB (Northern trace) route, when the plane crashed. The monument stands on the crash site.



The altitude of **Arkagalinsky Pass** is 985 m. A monument for Kolyma prisoners stands on this pass. There is a phrase of a poet Anatoly Zhigulin on the monument: "Few were guilty here, and many more without guilt."

Palatka

Stekolny

65<sup>th</sup> km. **Stekolny** village.



81<sup>st</sup> km. **Palatka** urban-type settlement. A monument to the Kolyma highway worker stands here. In front of the monument, there is a spring with healing water.

50<sup>th</sup> km. **Sokol International Airport**.

Sokol

The highway starts in **Magadan** after Lenin Avenue gives way to it.

MAGADAN

## MAP SYMBOLS

Places of service and help



## MAGADAN CUISINE

Travellers have a joke that in Magadan people eat gold, because there are as many jewel stores in the city as grocery ones. Although it is not far from the truth, as the food that is traditional here in many parts of the world is worth its weight in gold. Three pillars of the local cuisine are fish, clams and reindeer or elk meat (sokhatina).



Though Magadan and its vicinity are mostly populated by Russians, the gastronomic traditions of the locals were inherited from the natives – Evens, Chukchis, Koryaks. The high calorie diet of the Northern people is stodge food by our standards. On one side, you cannot survive in this area without such food: stodge food has to warm the eater in cold weather. On the other side, the nature does not give you much choice. The local cuisine, however, consists of many dishes.



**Venison** is the cornerstone of the northern cuisine. This is the main component of the majority of the traditional dishes of the Evens, the Yakuts, the Eskimos and other Northern peoples. This meat is considered to have healing properties. It helps with digestive problems and fortifies the immune system. The reindeer fat even cures tuberculosis. The majority of dishes with venison might seem very exotic to modern person, but they are the secret not only of survival, but the longevity of the Northern people.

**Caviar** is a traditional snack of the Magadan cuisine. There are several salmon species, such as chum salmon, pink salmon, chinook salmon, coho salmon and grayling in local rivers. Their caviar is a real dainty.



**Crab** meat is rich in protein and has a very delicate flavour. Crab meat can be eaten boiled. You can cook a nice soup from crabs' claws.

**Whelk** is a large sea snail, a star of the northern cuisine. Whelk meat is rich in protein, easy on the stomach and smells nice when you cook it. It is usually served boiled with cream sauce.

**Sea urchin caviar** is a dainty. It is considered one of the recipes of eternal youth and beauty. It is eaten in Japan, France and in the Russian North. Cooked and served with an exquisite sauce or raw with lemon juice it will be appreciated by real gourmet.

**Uyucha** fermented fish heads, is a dish that is difficult to find in the restaurants, though it is a real treat of the Even cuisine. The chum salmon, pink salmon and coho salmon are used in this dish. The fermenting lasts a week, as the fish heads have to dissolve. Before being eaten, they should be rinsed in water.

**Kulni** is a boiled cowberry with red caviar and cowberry grass. Cowberry and cowberry grass are mixed with pounded red caviar in equal parts, brought to the boil, and cooled. After being cooked this way, it can be stored for a long time, like jam. A dry reindeer stomach traditionally served as a storage for this mass.

**Uman** is marrow from the long bones from reindeer legs. It is considered a delicacy. Raw reindeer lungs are also eaten cut and salted.

**Khorcho, ginge, ulekte** are different names of the dried sokhatina. The meat is salted and dried and then is used in different dishes or eaten dry. Drying is very popular among the natives.

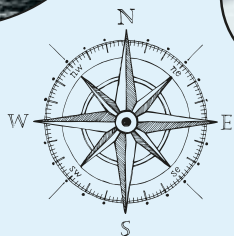
**Nimyn** is blood porridge. The fresh blood is boiled with water and constantly stirred to avoid lumps, then it is salted and the fried reindeer fat is added. Fresh berries, cowberries and blueberries are sometimes added at the beginning of the cooking process.



# SEA CRUISE

If you have free time and the weather is nice, it is time to go on a small but fascinating cruise. You do not have to go far, as the majority of the local wonders can be seen within Taiu Bay.

THE DISTANCE FROM MAGADAN TO MOTIKLEYSKIY BAY IS **110** KM



## THINGS TO SEE

### 1 Nagaev Bay

The coasts of Nagaev Bay are very picturesque. You can see the Stone Crown Mountain, the lighthouse on Chirikov Cape, and some interesting mountain shapes.

### 2 Ostrovnoy Cape

### 3 Nedorazumeniya Island

A homonymous tourist centre is located on the island. You can make a stop here. A beautiful view on the surrounding landscapes opens from the island. There is a small beach where you can grab a meal. You can find fresh fish, crabs and sea urchin caviar in the menu. You can also stay here overnight.

### 4 Solenoye Lake

Behind the island and to the right, you can see a small lake. It is famous for the fact that in good weather it warms up, and you can swim in it, something that is rare in the North. The water of the lake is clean and warm, but almost fresh; it is desalinated with numerous streams and springs.

### 5 Onatsevich peninsula

The Onatsevich peninsula pushes out to the sea behind the Balagannoye Village. It spreads over Motikleyskiy Bay and serves as a home for many birds.

### 6 Motikleyskiy Bay

The rocky buttes as high as 50 m are at the entrance of the bay. Inside the water is very still and its depth is shallow.

### 7 Talan Island

This is one of the biggest bird colonies in the Sea of Okhotsk. About two million birds are nesting on this small island - guillemots tufted puffins, horned puffins, cormorants and many other. Here you can see the biggest local bird - the Steller's sea eagle.

Solenoye Lake

Arman

Magadan

Ola

CRUISE BOAT LEAVES FROM THE BERTH IN THE RYBNIY HARBOUR IN MAGADAN AND AFTER PASSING THROUGH NAGAEV BAY PAST CHIRIKOV CAPE TAKES TO THE OPEN SEA.

### 8 Spafaryev Island

On this relatively big island you can have a rest or walk around. The island consists of two capes and a small plain between them.

### 9 Zavyalova Island

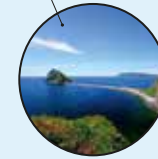
Zavyalova Island is the biggest uninhabited island of Taiu Bay. The island is inhabited by birds, foxes and arctic foxes. In 1930, the fish farm was located on the island. There is fresh water on the island in streams and small lakes. Here you can also find large predators - bears.

### 10 Killer whales and seals

While a motorboat is moving, have a look around. It is very likely that you will see seal resting places of seals or killer whales, which inhabit the large part of the local waters. You can also see a finback whale, if you are lucky.

### 11 Koni Peninsula

From the East, Taiu Bay is limited with the Koni Peninsula that is a part of the Magadan Natural Reserve. The island is largely inhabited by rare birds and bears. They say you can catch a big halibut here.



# TROPHY HUNTING

BEST HUNTING PERIODS

**spring autumn**

1 MAY – 24 MAY 20 AUGUST – 10 SEPTEMBER

Many hunting areas are rich in different animals. If hunters have all necessary licenses, they can practice sport hunting, trophy hunting or commercial hunting. The most precious trophies are bears and snow sheep. The hunting period for each animal is set annually, depending on the weather.

Magadan Oblast is interesting more than anything because of its trophy hunting. Tourists from Russia, as well as foreign guests come here for the big game. Only experienced hunters can go alone on such tours, and amateur hunters should visit one of the tourist companies, that provide complex hunting tours.

The company takes upon itself the execution of necessary documents and licenses; also, it helps foreigners to receive a visa. The hunting goes on fully prepared territory; it has pre-laid trails, comfortable camps and helicopter landing pads. An experienced hunter will accompany you during the whole hunting. He will take care of the safety, help to track the catch and carve it. At the end of the hunting tour, the hunter with his catch will be delivered back to Magadan and, if necessary, the company will help with air transportation (including transportation abroad.)



## ATTENTION!

### Make yourself aware of hunting rules of the hunting territory

According to the Russian laws, the wild animals hunting is strictly regulated and presupposes a wide range of documents, such as a hunting license, right to bear arms and a hunting tag. Before the hunting, you have to make yourself aware of the rules acting on the hunting territory, permitted hunting periods and prey volume.

## Snow sheep

Snow sheep is a big animal with thick horns. This animal is the most difficult to catch in the whole Kolyma District. In Latin it is called *Ovis nivicola* – “living in snow” – which precisely describes their environment: stiff slopes that are high in the mountains. This animal is extremely careful and cautious; it moves fast and does not dwell in one place. All these facts, in addition to the severe climate and the necessity to travel long distances makes the hunt a real endurance challenge. The sheep is considered a trophy if its left horn length is more than 80 cm.



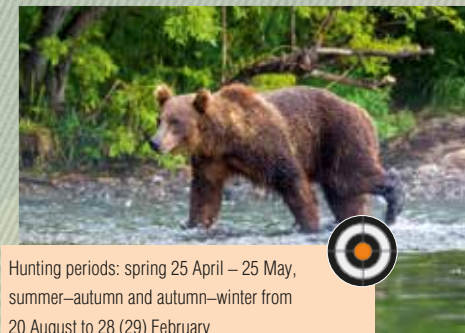
Hunting period:  
from 1 September  
to 15 January



## Brown bear

Sometimes called the Taiga master, it is the biggest land animal of the Far East. It is notable for its power, endurance, high speed and agility. The brown bear hunting is very dangerous but can bring a special pleasure to the hunter.

One of the biggest species of brown bear inhabits Magadan Oblast. The average size of a mature animal is about 200–300 cm (from nose to tail), the skull is about 63 cm, and sometimes you can meet a bigger animal.



Hunting periods: spring 25 April – 25 May, summer–autumn and autumn–winter from 20 August to 28 (29) February



Hunting period:  
from 15 October  
to 28 (29) February



## Arctic fox

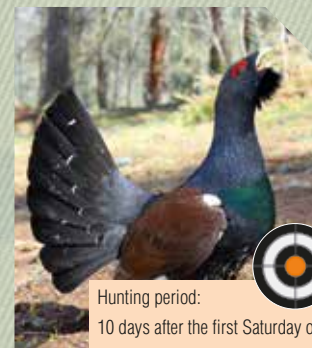
The Arctic fox inhabits the Arctic regions, and unlike her ginger fellow, has a white or blue-white winter fur. In summer, the arctic fox becomes dark and plain. It gains its best shape closer to January–February. The Arctic fox is as sly as the ginger fox, which is why it is very difficult to catch.

## Elk

In Kolyma, the elk is easy to meet, and thanks to the remoteness of the hunting areas, this animal grows to enormous sizes. The weight of the animal can reach up to 750 kg with the height up to 235 cm. The Far Eastern elk differs from the European subspecies with his far-stretched head, more narrow, hawk nosed face with a big upper lip that hangs over the lower one. The most valuable part of the trophy, beside the meat, is the huge spatulate horns, that weigh 20–30 kg and exceeds 180 cm in width.



Hunting period:  
All kinds of animals from 1 October  
to 15 January, males during the rut period  
from 20 August to 30 September



Hunting period:  
10 days after the first Saturday of  
May. Only males can be hunted



## Wood grouse

This big bird is often called the forest king. Its wingspread can exceed 1.5 m, the weight can exceed 5 kg. The wood grouse hunting requires a lot of dexterity; it is difficult to track this cautious bird. Usually, the wood grouse hunt goes during the spring courtship display. Singing bird becomes less cautious so you can easily sneak in on it. Usually the courtship display happens in the old pinewood or mixed forests, and the place is the same every year. That is why hunters do not like to share this precious information.

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## JANUARY

### New Year and Christmas

**When:** from 31 December to 10 January  
**Where:** Everywhere

## FEBRUARY

### Defender of the Fatherland Day

**When:** 23 February  
**Where:** Everywhere

## MARCH

### The National Folk Festival Kazachiy Krug

**When:** The end of March  
**Where:** All around Magadan

### International Women's Day

**When:** 8 March  
**Where:** Everywhere

## JULY

### Bakyldydyak – the evens festival of the first fish

**When:** July  
**Where:** Everywhere

### Fishman day

**When:** 2 Sunday of July  
**Where:** on the shore

### Sabantuy – the tatars festival of the end of all fieldwork

**When:** The middle of July  
**Where:** Magadan



### City Day

**When:** the third Saturday of July  
**Where:** Magadan



### Golden festival "Gold miner's luck"

**When:** The middle of July  
**Where:** Gornyak recreation area, Magadan.

## AUGUST



### International day of indigenous people

**When:** The first Saturday of August  
**Where:** Everywhere

## SEPTEMBER

### Knowledge Day

**When:** The first September  
**Where:** Everywhere

## DECEMBER



### International ice sculpture competition "Magadan crystal"

**When:** The middle of December  
**Where:** Magadan

## APRIL



### Ski championship Vyalbe ski track

**When:** April  
**Where:** Snow valley, Magadan



### Valeri Popenchenko boxing championship

**When:** The end of April or the beginning of May  
**Where:** Magadan

## MAY

### Victory day

**When:** 9 May  
**Where:** Everywhere



### Kelvey – Chukchi festival of the first fawn

**When:** The beginning of May  
**Where:** All around Magadan Oblast



## JUNE

### Festival Friendship Territory and the Russia Day.

**When:** 12 June  
**Where:** Magadan



### Khebdenek – Evens New Year

**When:** 21–24 June  
**Where:** Dukcha river valley, on the shore

### International Youth Day and The White Nights

**When:** 27 June  
**Where:** Everywhere

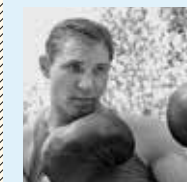
## Vyalbe ski track



Vyalbe ski track is the most prestigious ski racing championship in the region. The championship gathers up to a thousand participants. It is carried out not far from Magadan in the Snow Valley, usually in April. The championship has the name of the legendary Russian sportswoman Yelena Vyalbe, a native of Magadan. For a week skiers compete in classic racing, freestyle, team sprint and marathon. Not only professional skiers participate in the championship but amateur ski fans as well. The mass start that closes the championship is a true holiday of Magadan Oblast.

## Boxing championship

Valeri Popenchenko boxing championship is traditionally held in Magadan in spring, in the end of April or the beginning of May. It lasts 3–4 days. About a hundred sportsmen from Russia and foreign countries participate in this championship. The main prize is a wooden boat with letters "For mastery and courage". The championship was organised in Valeri Popenchenko lifetime so he personally handed out the prize to the first winner Valeri Udovikov. At present, the boat is in the local history museum and available to see only during the championship.



**Valeri Popenchenko** (26 August 1937, Kuncovo – 15 February 1975, Moscow) was a Soviet boxer. He won an Olympic gold medal in 1964 in Tokio and European titles in 1963 and 1965, Soviet titles in 1960–1965. He was the only Soviet boxer to receive the Val Barker Trophy. He tragically passed away in winter of 1975, when he was only 39.



# CAPITAL AND ENVIRONS



## A PEARL IN THE MIST

The city of Magadan welcomes its guests in different ways. Some see its bright and sunlit side with spectacular panoramic views of hills and bays, and some find themselves covered up in a thick fog that spreads all over the city and, it even seems, crawling into windows. You can never guess: the city is very capricious and the weather changes several times a day – just like in St. Petersburg, which, by the way, is situated at the same geographical latitude.

This is not the only thing that both cities share: the architecture in the central part of Magadan surprises with its beauty and, which is uncommon for far-away lands, its elegant style. Joined street fronts, balconies, cornices, towers, spires... The look of the city, created by Leningrad architect Alexander Lepkovsky, makes you wonder at how similar these two cities really are, despite the time difference time of over 200 years and the fact that they stand on the opposite sides of the map.

Both cities were built on virgin lands, despite the nature's whims, at a great cost of human life and through incredible efforts. Houses, streets, gardens rose on these inhospitable lands.

However, if St. Petersburg was the beginning of the West European classical tradition in Russia, then Magadan was the beginning of the future. As the city grew, geographical and geological discoveries came one after the other, new enterprises, settlements and airports were created. The exploration of Russia's rich North-eastern territories and exploitation of gold ore provinces started here, in Magadan. Man was exploring the golden Kolyma.

The misty city on the Sea of Okhotsk for decades turned into a capital for intrepid geologists, who set off for the far North in search of not only silver and gold. Specialists were also driven by lofty ideals, and they were chasing their dreams. "This is a story about the people whose work became their religion, with all the ensuing consequences: decency code, cruelty, maximalism and holy light in their souls", Oleg Kuvaev wrote about heroes of those times in his book "The Territory", probably one of the best novels about the exploration of the Russian Northeast. The figure of Chinkov was considered a generalised character by the author's contemporaries. The inspirations for the character are believed to be the winner of the State Stalin Prize Nikolai Chemodanov and a famous Magadan academician Nikolai Shilo, the head of the Science Institute in the city.

But there are also dark pages in Kolyma's history, specifically – the times of the Gulag camps. There are, probably, no other plac-



es that have seen so many human tragedies and broken lives. For more than two decades of political repressions, hundreds of thousands people served their sentences in regional penitentiary facilities. Dilapidated camps scattered all over the region still instil fear with their rickety barbed wire fences and menacing watch-towers.

Among those exiled to Kolyma, there were outstanding scientists, culture workers, people of art and architects. Many of them contributed to the city's development and will forever remain in its history. Many former prisoners grew to cherish the remote northern city as their homeland, for instance, the well-known singer Vadim Kozin lived here for many years and often reminisced about Magadan in his poems and songs.

Nowadays, Magadan is a fast-growing city. It is the capital of the leading region in Russia in terms of gold mining. In 2015, gold mining volumes should exceed 24.5 t. Large-scale investment projects are being carried out in the region, and new deposits, such as Natakinskoe and Pavlikovskoe (some of the richest in the world), are in the process of development. Magadan Oblast is a special economic zone, which will soon lead to a breakthrough in gold mining.

Besides industrial advances, Magadan Oblast is quite successful in social and tourist spheres. The transport infrastructure

EACH YEAR  
**24.5** T  
 OF GOLD  
 IS MINED IN KOLYMA



DMITRY BARTOSH



PAVEL ZHDANOV

in Magadan is rapidly developing – new flights that connect Kolyma with other Russian towns and cities are being launched, with the direct flight to Simferopol being a notable achievement. Natural sights, perfect fishing and hunting conditions – all this lures both Russian and foreign active tourists. In the years to come, practically within the city's territory, "Solnechny. Magadan" Year-Round Sport and Tourist Complex is going to be built, with all the necessary infrastructure for comfortable leisure and professional sport activities.

The best time to visit Kolyma is during June–August. In May, there is still freezing inshore wind, but days are becoming sunny and rains are fading away. Summer is short, but the northern nature in this season is strikingly beautiful. Flowers blossom, and a bit later mushrooms and berries start appearing. It is a fishing season – salmon is spawning. You absolutely need to have a taste of its red caviar.

Overall, Kolyma is not yet favoured much by travelers – maybe they are afraid of the unknown. However, those who came here at least once will never forget this incredible experience of life at the edge of the world and absolute freedom. Magadan is like a breath of fresh air: the smashing of the cold Okhotsk Sea waves, sunsets in Nagaev Bay, seagulls crying and soaring over buildings...

Magadan is the kind of place you want to go back to, which is probably the best thing that can be said about a city.










THE BEST TIME TO VISIT  
 KOLYMA IS DURING JUNE–  
 AUGUST



RASUL MESYAGUTOV

# CAPITAL AND ENVIRONS

## In focus

-  **Centre:**
  - Magadan, population 92,974
-  **Urban areas:**
  - Ola, 6,206 people
  - Sokol, 4,763 people
  - Uptar, 2,003 people
  - Arman, 1,190 people
-  **Rivers and lakes:**
  - Magadanka River, Ola River, Arman River, Reservoir, Solenoye Lake, Glukhoye Lake
-  **Mountains and hills:**
  - Krutaya, Marchekanskaya, Kammeny Venets (Stone Crown)
-  **Transportation:**
  - air (planes, helicopters), bus, car
-  **Roads:**
  -  P504 Kolyma Highway
  -  P482 Solnechny – Ola
  -  P481 Magadan – Balagannoye – Talon


Urban district Magadan consists of the regional capital and its surrounding areas, including the airport and the urban-type settlements of Sokol and Uptar. Most of the region's population (almost 100,000 out of 148,000 residents) lives on the territory of the administrative unit.



**Climate:**  
subarctic, partly oceanic

### Average temperature

 **WINTER**  
-17...-13 °C

 **SPRING**  
-10...+3 °C


 **SUMMER**  
+8...+13 °C

 **AUTUMN**  
-8...+8 °C



# MAGADAN

city (since 1939), administrative centre

-  **District:** Magadan
-  **Coordinates:** 9° 34' N, 150° 48' E
-  **Time zone:** UTC +10
-  **Territory:** 295 sq m
-  **Population:** 92,974 people
-  **Dialing code:** +7 4132
-  **Distance from Moscow:** 5,911 km
-  **Travelling from Moscow:** direct flights by Transaero, VIM Airlines (travel time – 8 hours)
-  **Direct flights:** St. Petersburg, Khabarovsk, Irkutsk, Novosibirsk, Simferopol



 **Founded in**  
1929



PHOTOBANK LORY


Magadan lies in a permafrost and seismic zone on a narrow neck of land between two bays of the Sea of Okhotsk – Nagaev and Gertner. Nagaev Bay is located in Taui Bay of the Sea of Okhotsk, running inland for 16 km into the western part of Staritsky Peninsula. The bay is well protected from three sides (except for the western one) and is considered the best mooring place in the Sea of Okhotsk.




## on the map

- |   |                                      |
|---|--------------------------------------|
| 1 Nagaev Bay                                      | 13 Pushkin Library                   |
| 2 Observation deck and Vladimir Vysotsky Memorial | 14 Local History Museum              |
| 3 Stone Crown                                     | 15 Boldyrev square                   |
| 4 Fishing Port                                    | 16 Cathedral square                  |
| 5 Marine (Morskoy) Square                         | 17 Holy Trinity Cathedral            |
| 6 Commercial Port                                 | 18 Music and Drama Theatre           |
| 7 City Park                                       | 19 Vadim Kozin Monument              |
| 8 Gornyak Cinema                                  | 20 Magadan's 60th Anniversary Square |
| 9 House with a spire and a tower                  | 21 Harvest (Urozhay) Market          |
| 10 Walk of Memory                                 | 22 Natural History Museum            |
| 11 Square of Glory                                | 23 Geological Museum                 |
| 12 Polytechnic College                            | 24 Mask of Sorrow memorial           |
|   | 25 Gornyak recreation area           |


## VM Tsentralnaya Hotel

 **Address:** 13 Lenin Avenue  
**Phone:** +7 (4132) 60-10-88

## Magadan Hotel

 **Address:** 8 Proletarskaya Street  
**Phone:** +7 (4132) 60-45-57

## Golden House Hotel

 **Address:** 1 Transportnaya Street  
**Phone:** +7 (4132) 20-11-11



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## Things to see

It is better to start your journey from **Nagaev Bay 1** shore, where you can find a breathtaking view of the Sea of Okhotsk. Snow-capped hills, rock-ribbed cliffs with dense larch forests and between them – the sea that spreads out beyond the horizon, shining under the sun like a shoal of graylings in a cold river. Iodine smell, algae that are driven ashore, anglers fishing for a northern breed of capelin, all these things make you feel like you are truly at the edge of the world.

Until the 20<sup>th</sup> century, Nagaev Bay was known as Volok: via the narrow passage through Staritsky Peninsula sailors got into another bay – Mongodan. The present-day names of

the bays were suggested in 1912 by Russian hydrographer and head of the scientific expedition to the Pacific Ocean (1898–1913) Mikhail Zhdanko. He put forward an idea to rename the bay after Russian hydrographer admiral Alexey Nagayev, while Mongodan Bay was renamed after one of Zhdanko's expedition members, 2<sup>nd</sup> rank Captain Konstantin Gertner.

The bay has a steep cliffed shore. There is an **observation deck 2** mounted on top of it. Citizens like to have a stroll here. Many people drive here at nightfall to take in the sunset from their cars. The scarlet sun goes down right in the middle of the bay, colouring the sea and the shore pink. At this moment, the parking lot resembles a drive-in theatre.



### Alexey Nagayev

(1704–1781) – Russian hydrographer, cartographer and an admiral. He graduated from St. Petersburg Naval Academy together with the future famous navigators – Malygin, Laptev and Chirikov. Nagayev compiled the first atlases of the Bering Sea and Baltic Sea (1752). He drew maps of Lake Ladoga, the Caspian Sea, the Medvezhyi (Bear) Islands and the Kolyma River mouth. He was also the author of the first Bering Sea maps. Interestingly enough, Nagayev himself never visited the eponymous bay.

On the observation deck, there is a monument to the pioneer explorers of Kolyma and Chukotka (author Kiryukhin S., architects Peterburzhtsev V. and Samsonov A.). The monument depicts people of the main Magadan occupations: a fisherman, a reindeer-breeder and a geologist.

A bit to the left there is a monument to actor and singer Vladimir Vysotsky, built in 2014. In 1965, the singer's friend Igor Kokhanovsky went to Magadan, and Vysotsky dedicated the song "My friend will go to Magadan" to him. Vysotsky himself visited Kolyma only once in his life, to be a guest at the wedding of Kokhanovsky, who worked as a local newspaper correspondent at the time.

Not much information is known about this short visit, but, according to Kokhanovsky's memories, the musician was

heading to Odessa for voicing a Soviet film *Intervention*, and on his way he dropped by his friend's in Magadan. Under the impression of the northern city, Vysotsky wrote a song "I went to Magadan", the lyrics from which are carved on the monument: "I will tell you about Magadan..."

The statue is installed on the left side of the observation deck. Vysotsky's figure is holding a guitar and peering into the distance, looking very laconic. Sculptor Yuri Rudenko made the singer 180 cm tall – just a bit taller than he was in reality.

Right under the observation deck there is a sand-and-shingle beach. It stretches out along the top of the bay. The citizens spend sunny days here. Even in summer, the water temperature rarely goes above 15°C, but the most courageous ones still go for a

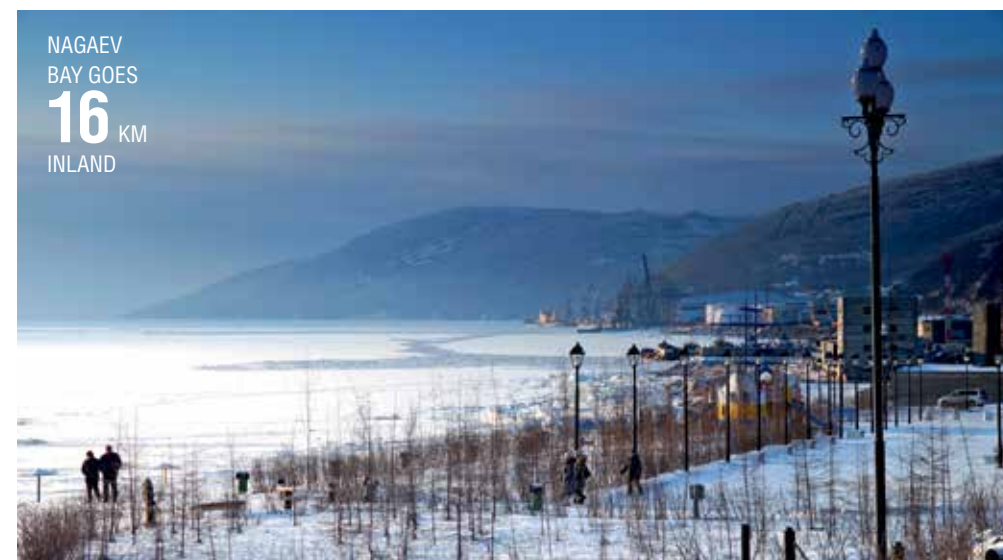


Vladimir Vysotsky Monument

swim. A far more popular activity is fishing: the sea is full of fishing boats sailing through the waves.

**i** Address: Nagayevskaya St., Observation Deck

The most remote point to the left of the Bay is Chirikov Cape, where a lighthouse



RASUL MESYAGUTOV



PHOTOBANK LORY

is situated. The shoreline stretches there for about 17 km. Somewhere in the middle of the shoreline there is Zamok Cape, above which you can see a crown-shaped rock. This natural wonder that consists of gabbro stone was named the **Stone Crown** ③ by the citizens and maps. Tourists come here in summer and in winter. On the road to the Stone Crown, you have to have a look at Holodny stream – the largest mountain stream that flows into the bay. Another name for the stream is Korean spring. On the left shore of the bay, there grow cowberries and a special species of fern that you can fry and pickle.

To the left, closer to the bay's top, you can find the **Magadan fishing port** ④. Its water area consists of two parts: the first one is deep within Nagaev Bay, and the



Nagayev Bay in winter

RASUL MESYAGUTOV

second one is at Zamok Cape. Right now, the port is about to undergo capital modernisation. Regional authorities are calling for the fishing terminal of the Magadan Sea Port to be transferred into their ownership and for the berth reconstruction. "Fishing boats cannot be properly moored, there is no shore base for storing the catch, no refrigerators. After acquiring the ownership of the fishing terminal, the state is go-

ing to modernise it by attracting investments under public-private partnership," said governor of Magadan Oblast Vladimir Pecheny.

There are also plans to include the reconstruction of the existing and construction of new fish hatcheries into the federal programmes. Besides, new fish trade fairs will be organised in Magadan. The regional government conducts the policy of protectionism in



Weight 6 t

### The Time Monument

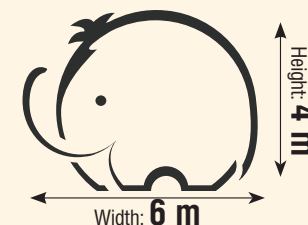
The sculpture is a full size version of the so-called "Mammuthus imperator" (imperial mammoth) that lived on these lands in the past.

Author – Yuri Rudenko.

It took 4 years to create the monument.



The monument is made of metal scrap, so it makes sounds akin to a roaring mammoth when wind blows.



the fishing industry and is determined to increase domestic production. "At least 1,000 t of fish should stay in the region instead of being exported. We need to supply the local market with fresh fish at acceptable prices," says Vladimir Pecheny.

The right shore – from Ostrovnoy Cape to the city – is flatter; it is covered with alder and birch woods. At the beginning of the shore there is situated **Marine (Morskoy)**

**Square** ⑤, a recently-opened small park. The square is equipped with lanterns, picnic zones and a convenient passage to the sea. The central element of the park is the **Time Monument**. It is a mammoth made of scrap. The animal's skin is decorated with metal details that look like gearwheels of a clock. There are some elements inside the structure that make sounds of a roaring mammoth at every gust of the sea breeze. This

is how sculptor Yuri Rudenko portrayed the connection between the past and the future. The monument was opened in 2013, weighing in at 6 t, its height 4 m, width – about 6 m.

**i** Address: 2 Portovoe Highway

Further along the shore there is **Magadan Sea Trading Port** ⑥, also known as "Gates of Kolyma". Caravans of vessels from Nakhodka arrive at Nagaev. They carry hundreds of thousands

Marine Square in autumn



RASUL MESYAGUTOV



Cargo turnover of Magadan Sea Trading Port –  
**1.158 MT PER YEAR**

RASUL MESYAGUTOV

tonnes of cargo, which is later delivered by land to every corner of the region. The port is located on the crossing between the Northern Sea Route and Kolyma Highway. Liquid petroleum, construction supplies, equipment – practically 90% of cargo gets to Magadan Oblast by sea. The history of this modern port with highly developed infrastructure began at the dawn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. At first, cargo was unloaded with the help of boats and motor boats. The construction works started only in the eon of 1932, but a year later, on 6 December 1933, the first steamer – Uelen – came to the 12 m wooden pile stockade for unloading. This date is the official birthday of the port. By 1937, it had been processing more than

253,8 kt of cargo a year (for that purpose the port purchased its own vessels Dalgostroy, Dzhurma and Kulu). Machinery, aircraft and automobiles came through the port. Nagaev Port became a strategic element in the exploration of the country's Northeastern region.

*Magadan commercial sea port*



RASUL MESYAGUTOV

In December 1947, a horrible accident happened in the port: the explosives on General Vatutin steamer went off. The blast wave demolished practically all port facilities and materiel, some city buildings' windows were smashed, other vessels in the Bay were also damaged, one of them –

Vyborg – was also carrying explosives, and it sank. The fire broke out and spread to the living area and the peat bog. It took firefighters, local garrison personnel, volunteers and Japanese captives more than one day to put out the fire, all during the -20°C frost. This tragedy claimed the lives of 111 people. As commemoration of those events, there are still tons of twisted metal laying on the hill high above the port.

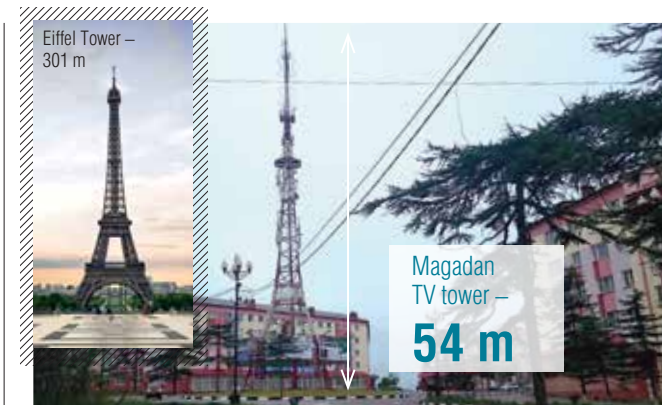
The port was rebuilt and continued its development. On 25 May 1963, the Moskva icebreaker for the first time provided safe waterways for other ships in wintertime: the possibility of a year-round navigation boosted the port's capacity.

In the 1990s, the port was transformed into an open joint-stock company, which was acquired in 2013 by a group of independent Russian investors. Already in April the biggest ore-grinding mill in the world was unloaded in the port. The cargo, delivered for

*Sunset in Nagayev bay*



PHOTOBANK LORY



Matrosov Mine (a subsidiary of Polyus Gold) from Belgium on the vessel Rubin, consisted of 67 units of oversize load, nine of them weighing 97 t each.

The 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Magadan Sea Trading Port that took place in 2013 was a new milestone in its development: the cargo turnover in the last ten years had more than doubled and reached 1.158 mt per year.

From the observation deck, walking down Nagaeva Street, we head for the city centre. At the intersection with Gagarina

Street there stands the once main TV and radio tower of the city, often compared to the Eiffel Tower. The 54 m structure seems to tower over the residential blocks. The relay transmitter was moved to Krutaya Mountain, but the TV tower remained an indispensable symbol of the city. It took only one night to assemble the tower in June 1957.

Bit further, between Gagarina and Karl Marx Streets, there is the **City Park 7**. Here you can do some fitness, play with your children or take a ride on the Ferris wheel from which you can see the entire city. You can even have a walk in a pristine Magadan forest, taking in the beautiful scent of dwarf Siberian pine. That is why people call the City Park a patch of "Magadan Taiga".

In the 1930s, Magadan consisted of two parts – Nagaev Bay and a small piece of land on the bank of the Magadanka River. Sovetskaya and Oktyabrskaya Streets were the main roads, and Lenina Prospect



Central Park of Culture and Leisure

was no more than just a by-road. The first Dalstroy leader Eduard Berzin gave an order to leave the forest on one side of the by-road and create a park there. The work started in 1935, with architect Burdukov V. in charge. The park looked like a dense forest with small alleyways in it; lat-

er, Dynamo stadium was built there, as well as some children playgrounds, a summer stage, a small zoo with bears, wolves and birds of prey. Inside the park, there were a football field, three volleyball and three tennis courts, and two special grounds for playing Gorodki. The park has be-

come the place for almost all sport competitions, and later – for Magadan and Kolyma championships.

The park has one of the city's points of interest – the **Good Angel of Peace Monument** that was presented to the city for its 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary. A golden figure of an angel with the outspread wings stands on a 6-metre marble pillar and semitransparent sphere, which represents the Earth. The Angel holds a dove in her hands, the symbol of peace and hope. The monument is dedicated to the people of Kolyma and Chukotka, who made a great contribution to the people's defense fund during WWII. Such angels are installed in 20 Russian cities under the project "Good Angel – Guardian of Peace".

In 1948, a **Gornyak (Miner) cinema theatre** ⑧ opened

near the park. Gornyak is still the largest cinema not only in Magadan, but also in the entire Magadan Oblast. A few years ago, it was repaired and re-equipped. You can watch new films in two halls: the large one with 500 seats and the small one with 250 seats. Besides the cinema, there is a Minutka bar in the building, where you can rest, watch cartoons and amateur films.

**Address:** 19 Lenin Avenue

**Phone:** +7 (4132) 62-28-47

Lenin Prospect is the main city street, it starts near the TV tower and stretches through the whole city. The city's people believe it to be one of the longest streets in the world. The avenue changes into Kolyma Highway and runs to Yakutsk. Its overall length is 2,000 km.

The Magadan citizens are very proud of the city centre architecture that is bursting with originality. The buildings designed in the Stalinist style,



with small towers and stucco, bring St. Petersburg to mind. Such resemblance is not accidental. The street was designed by Leningrad architects. At the corner of Lenin Avenue and Portovaya Street you can find another Magadan symbol – the **building with a small tower and a spire** ⑨.

Japanese war prisoners built this house in 1947, under the project of architect Alexander Lepkovsky. Back then, it was the biggest building in the city – 4 storeys, 215 m in length. Vladilen Leontyev, a well-known Far Eastern scientist and writer, lived in one of the 22 flats during 1957–1988.

Up the prospect, you can see another building in the same style; just recently it got back its 3.5 m spire with the city emblem – a reindeer, making the city look even more beautiful. Buildings with spires

are Magadan's landmarks; they are often depicted on postcards.

During WWII, Magadan was the homefront living under the slogan "All for the Front, all for Victory". The Magadan people had to work three times harder: they mined gold, tungsten and tin. Orotukan open hearth furnaces produced up to 12 t of metal, development works started on Arkagalinskoye coal deposit. During the war, miners extracted 290,6 t of gold.

Industrial facilities produced 25 thousand cups, 52 thousand dishes, 230 thousand pairs of trousers, 11 thousand pairs of boots. The Kolyma people sent to the front agricultural production, warm clothes, and money for purchasing military vehicles. They supported freed cities and territories.

Many Magadan people volunteered for the front. The



PHOTOBANK LORY



PAVEL ZHDANOV



The building with a spire

residents honour heroes who won this horrific war. In honour of the soldiers who fell in WWII, the **Walk of Memory** 10 was created. The unveiling ceremony of the memorial stela (author – Magadan architect Sergey Manzhekhanov) was held in 1996, on the date of the 51<sup>st</sup> Victory anniversary. The last element of the memorial

complex is the Chapel of Saint George.

Later on, the Walk of Memory was enlarged. In 2001, the memorial to the veterans of the Far North was built, who heroically explored the region and founded Magadan. Four years later, on the other side, there was erected a Memorial commemorating the fellow Kolyma

people who fell during military service in Afghanistan, Chechnya and other local conflicts (authors – Vashkovets A. and Fentyazhev F.).

On 14 July 2009, on the city anniversary day, another part of the square was opened – Honourable Citizens Avenue. There you can see the pictures of the people who have made a great contribution to the development of the city and region. Today, the whole memorial complex is called **Walk of Glory** 11.

When taking a walk along Lenin Avenue, pay attention to a building with a clock. In 1939, under the general city development plan, there began construction of four- and five-storey buildings. The 57-flat brick block at the corner of Karl Marx Avenue with the inbuilt Polyarny convenience store was one of the first to be commissioned. The build-

ing was equipped with all the necessary utilities, the flats were spacious and high-ceilinged. At the present, there is an inbuilt clock on its tower, and the beginning of each new hour is accompanied by a famous melody from the song *Kolymskaya Trassa*. The entire first floor is taken up by shops, mobile phone stores and Sberbank.

The Voskhod department store, which was opened in 1966 and is working to this day, also adds to the array of old and historic buildings of the town. During its first year the store sold goods worth RUB 9.8 m, and it was composed of 14 sections with 111 salespeople. Today, the building has a modern look, but preserved its former name and popularity.

In front of the department store there is a central garden of Magadan and in it you will see Memory Knot, a monument to the Magadan battlefront and homefront heroes of the Great Patriotic War. The memorial is an architectural and sculptural composition with a bronze sculpture on a granite plinth at its centre. It is a female figure with a child,



### Russian Chukcha

**Vladilen Leontyev** (1928–1988) – a well-known Far Eastern scientist, writer, linguist and Honoured Cultural Worker of the RSFSR. Leontyev was awarded the Order of Friendship of Peoples, holds a PhD in History. He was born in a small town called Chumikan on the Sea of Okhotsk. At the age of seven, together with his parents the boy moved to Anadyr, which determined the course of his life. Leontyev became the first to translate Mayakovsky's poem "What Is Good and What Is Bad", as well

as the works of Gaidar, Bianki and Mamin-Sibiryak, into the Chukchi language, which he learned to speak like a native.

Many years Leontyev worked as a school's headmaster, then he was an employee of North-East Interdisciplinary Research Institute. Leontyev, who was nicknamed "Russian Chukcha", was famous not only for his scientific activities, but also for his literary works. His novels and short stories about the Chukchi are rightfully believed to be the encyclopedia of the life of these people.





Building with a clock

which symbolises the motherland, and she is surrounded by with three symbolic sculptures: a soldier, a geologist and a GULAG prisoner.

The monument stands on a five-meter long granite pedestal and weighs eight tonnes. The authors of the memorial were sculptor Vladimir Roldu-

gin and architect Nikolay Lushik from St. Petersburg. The ensemble is composed of an ornamental wall with five bronze medallions made using the relief technique (courtesy of Arkhipov A.) that depicts the heroism of the Kolyma residents in battle and labour. It is located to the left of the sculpture.

Near the monument, you will see Book of Memory – concrete slabs with the engraved names of the Kolyma people who died on the battlefield. In 2010, on the 65<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Victory in the War, the public garden was renovated and named Victory Park. On 9 May 2010, the square hosted the opening ceremony for a stele with names of the Magadan Heroes of the Soviet Union and the Eternal Flame. Fifty people are immortalised here, each of whom performed a heroic deed and influenced the course of

events that deeply affected Magadan. For instance, in May 1943, Sergey Shershavin detonated the enemy's crossing over the Seversky Donets and cut off the retreat path for a big group of occupants, and senior sergeant Ivan Skuridin repeated the heroic deed of Alexander Matrosov when he shielded the embrasure of the enemy's ground cover with his own body. The flame is ignited once a year, on 9 May.

In winter, Victory Park is enchantingly beautiful: starting 2007, the park has been hosting the Magadan Crystal International Contest of Ice Sculptures. Its aim is to support and foster the artistic potential of craftsmen and young sculptors. The snow-covered streets are illuminated with bright garlands, and the figures that sculptors and students make from ice blocks need to be seen to be properly admired – they are this good.

If you move further along Karl Marx Avenue, you will see the **Magadan Polytechnic College (MPC)** 12, which is part and parcel of the city's



The contest of ice sculptures – Magadan Crystal

history. Almost every Magadan family has person who is somehow associated with this institution.

In May 1948, in accordance with the resolution of the USSR Council of Ministers, it was decided to establish a mining college, as part of the Dalstroy training centre. It was reorganised twice during the years of its existence: in 1951 – into a mining and geological college, and in 1962 – into a polytechnic college. More than 20,000 specialists graduated from this institution.

Nowadays, the college is the largest secondary edu-

cational institution of the Russian North-East that trains specialists in eleven fields. Many MPC graduates go on to become scientists, engineers, constructors and entrepreneurs. The majority of the specialists stay to work in the region.

A bit further, to your left, you will see Magadan **Pushkin Library** 13, one of the largest book archives in the Far East. The development of the library science in Kolyma flourished during the Dalstroy period. In

The Memory Knot monument



### Architect that “painted” the whole town

The signature of **Alexander Lepkovsky** can be seen on dozens of archive blueprints: a group of buildings along Portovaya Street, apartment blocks stretching from the bus terminal along Lenin Street, the building of the trade union regional committee, the exterior of the Magadan Polytechnic College, an apartment block that has an arch and adjoins Voskhod... In his capacity of the chief architect, he participated in constructing many other buildings in the city; however, for a quite long time Magadan residents did not know who Lepkovsky was. Alexander Lepkovsky was born in 1914 in Saratov. After graduating from Leningrad Institute of Architecture, he worked in St. Pe-

tersburg. The war changed the architect's life: he was an ethnic German. He was sent to Syberia as early as September 1941, to the Stalin mine in Prokopyevsk. On 19 June 1944, the court-martial sentenced the architect to execution by shooting for organising counterrevolutionary activities. However, a month later the judicial panel changed the sentence to ten years in a concentration camp. Lepkovsky was sent to Kolyma, where he put all his professional skills to use. In September 1951, the architect was set free; however, was not allowed to return back to the mainland, so he settled in Magadan for the rest of his life.



FRASUL MESYAGUTOV

FRASUL MESYAGUTOV

1938, the House of Engineers and Technicians merged the libraries of the district committee of the Gold and Platinum Union; of North-Eastern Corrective Labour Camps and the engineering library, and got the name Dalstroy House of Books. In 1939, it was reorganised into the State Library. This date is regarded as the date of foundation of what later came to be known as the Magadan Library. Later on, in June 1949, it was renamed to Magadan Pushkin Library in connection with the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary since Pushkin's birth. Starting 2013, the regional library has been taking part in the all-Russian campaign Biblionight.

**i** Address: 55/13 Karl Marx Avenue  
Phone: +7 (4132) 65-55-87

Right nearby there is **Magadan Regional Museum of Local Lore** 14 one of the largest scientific and educational institutions of the

*Magadan Polytechnic College*



*Pushkin Library*

Russian North-East. It has over 50,000 items on display in the exhibition area of about 1,700 sq m.

The museum (called Okhotsko-Kolymy Regional Museum of Local Lore until 1953) was founded on 30 March 1934, using the first regional exhibition collection. The exhibition was part of the first congress of Kolyma farmers that was taking place between 9 and 14 February.

At first, the museum's collection contained only 600 items, representing the ethnography of Evens and Yakuts, as well as the scientific and historical data collected by the Dalstroy's volunteers of the Okhotsko-Kolymy local history club. The first director of the museum was Caesar Cron, an active club member and the organiser of the first regional exhibition.

The Nature of the North exposition introduces us to the flora and fauna of the region. You may see the skeleton bones of such animals as mammoth, woolly rhinoceros and muskox. The life and culture of the region's indigenous peoples are broadly represented in the museum. A separate hall tells the stories of Stalin's repressions on this territory. Here you can see items collected from the former camps – a watchtower, bars from medium-security barracks, household items, extant documents and letters. The Kolyma-Sevostlag exhibition became one of the first exhibitions of this kind in Rus-

sia. Among a variety of unique exhibits there is an original of Osip Mandelstam's verse "We live, not feeling the country beneath us..."

The art collection of the museum has over 5,000 paintings, artwork items and sculptures, as well as applied art exhibits. The works of Magadan authors and exiled painters are especially precious. During the past 20 years, the museum hosted about 150 exhibitions, including: Contemporary Art of Alaska exhibition (Anchorage, USA), Nicholas Roerich's exhibition (Moscow), Eastern Collection, Japanese Printmaking (Irkutsk), The Faces of History (St. Petersburg), Christian Easter (Moscow) and exhibitions of the museum's collection, as well as the exhibitions organised in collaboration with the Magadan's division of the Russian Union of Artists.

**i** Address: 55 Carl Marx Avenue  
Phone: +7 (4132) 65-11-48, 60-55-57  
Business hours: We–Su, from 10:00 am to 6:00 pm

If you go farther down Carl Marx Avenue, you will find yourself on the street named after the outstanding Russian scientist Anatoly Boldyrev (1883–1946), who was a crystallographer, mineralogist and a mathematician. His textbooks served as the studying materials for several generations of Russian geologists. He authored three volumes of the Course of Descriptive Mineralogy, which is systematic description of all the known minerals at that time, and Crys-



*From the collection of Magadan Regional Museum of Local Lore*

tallography saw three editions and was translated into the Spanish language. Boldyrev founded Fedorov Institute of Crystallography, Mineralogy and Petrography, which became a science centre that brought together all the crystallographers of the Soviet Union. Starting 18 November 1940, Boldyrev worked in the Geological Exploration Department of Dalstroy while being imprisoned there. He first worked as a geology engineer

and proceeded to work as the chief geologist and R&D consultant after his release in October 1943. He made a great contribution to the studies of geology and minerals in the north-east of the USSR.

Next to the street named after the scientist there is **Boldyrev Square** 15. It got a nickname "Antenna" because there used to be an antenna field in its location. Down the street, at the intersection of Boldyrev Street and Gaga-



*Holy Trinity Cathedral*

rin Street, there is Astronauts Square (Ploshad Kosmonavtov) that houses a Lenin monument.

The monument used to stand in the main city square, which is now called **Cathedral Square** 16 (Sobornaya Ploshad). The solemn and monumental **Holy Trinity Cathedral** 17 can be seen from anywhere in the city thanks to its location. Its architects drew inspiration from the Old Russian Vladimir and Novgorod architecture, which is why the church resembles the Cathedral of Christ the Savior in Moscow. The Holy Trinity Cathedral is the largest orthodox church in the Far East and one of the tallest ones in Russia, reaching up for over 70 m.

The construction of the memorial church in honour of the political repression victims

started in 2011 on the spot of the incomplete (since 1985) House of Soviets. The Holy Trinity Cathedral's chief architects were a married couple, Vladimir Kolosov and Yelena Kolosova. The interior was painted by Palekh masters, icon-painters from the country's central regions. The two big icons for iconostasis, each three metres high, were creat-



### **Saint Innocent** 18

Saint Innocent of Alaska (secular name Ivan Popov–Veniaminov) started his missionary work in the Far East in 1823. During forty–five years of work, he baptised thousands of people, built churches and schools, educated people of Kolyma, Kamchatka, Yakutia, Khabarovsk Krai and North America. In 1840, Archimandrite Innokenty became head of the Far Eastern eparchy and made several missionary trips, continuing his educating activities. In his diaries, he mentions the Gizhiga, Tauysk and Yamsk Villages.

In 1868, Innocent was appointed the Metropolitan of Moscow, head of the Russian Orthodox Church. He was canonised on 6 October 1977. His monument was made by the sculptor Andrey Pliyev. The monument's height is five metres, eight metres with the pedestal

ed by the best icon painters of the Trinity Lavra of St. Sergius.

On 14 September 2003, the Holy Trinity Cathedral hosted its first divine liturgy while still in construction, and on 1 September 2011 it was consecrated by Patriarch Kirill.

Next to Cathedral Square there is **Gorky Square (Ploshad**



*The bust of Eduard Berzin*

**Gorkogo**) with a big park that is split in two parts by a street. One of these parts is called 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Square and houses the fountain. It is one of the oldest squares in the city.

Several years ago a monument to **yevrazhka** was installed in the square, which is the name of a small animal that is often featured in tales of the Northern indigenous peoples. Evrazhka symbolises kindness and luck. It can often be seen near mines, where gold-diggers treat these animals to some food.

On the other side of the square, in front of the Mayor's office, there is **the bust of Eduard Berzin** (1894–1938), who was the first director of the state trust Dalstroy (sculptor – Semenov A. V.).

In early February of 1932, Berzin and other trust mem-



bers, sailing on the Sakhalin ship, arrived at the Nagaev Bay. A lot was accomplished during his six-year tenure, including the construction of the first seaport moorings, establishment of Magadan and its industrial facilities, a power plant, theatre, library, school and park of culture and leisure. Boarding schools were opened for local students. In 1934, Kolyma became the monetary centre of the country. On 19 December 1937, Berzin was arrested on false slander charges. He was executed by shooting on 1 August 1938 and rehabilitated in 1956.

Author Varlam Shalamov wrote this about Dalstroy's director: "Eduard Berzin tried, rather successfully, to work on colonising the harsh land along with solving the problems of reforming prisoners and living through isolation. Prisoner evaluations that helped cut down ten-year sentences to two or three years. Good food, clothes, 4–6 hour shifts in winter and 10 hour shifts in summer, unprece-



**Yuri Rudenko** is the sculptor behind the majority of Magadan's current sculptures. He authored such well-known pieces as the Mammoth sculpture, the Vladimir Vysotsky monument in the Nagaev Bay, the Vadim Kozin monument, evrazhka in 70-year Anniversary Square, the Deer sculpture at the entrance to the city and many more. His works have become Magadan's most famous landmarks.

The artist has been living and working in Kolyma for over 40 years now. Having done military service in Chukotka, the master fell in love with the North and opted not to come back to the mainland. He moved to Magadan in the late 1970s and, according to his own words, never regretted this decision. Kolyma's capital became his hometown. He actively participates in the city life, in making parks and squares better, and is now working on new sculptures.

Yuri Rudenko is a member of the Magadan division of the Russian Union of Artists. His professional interest lies with sculpture and painting. He was awarded the Medal of the Order "For Merit to the Fatherland" for his many contributions to fostering culture in Magadan Oblast.

dently high pay for prisoners that let them support their families and go back to the mainland well-off... Prisoner cemeteries were so small that one could be excused for



Magadan Oblast Government

thinking that Kolyma people were immortal...”

The Magadan Oblast Government is right across the road from the square. The building was built in 1942 and was first home to NKVD with jurisdiction over Dalstroy.

To the other side of the Cathedral there is the Magadanka River that divides the city in two parts. On its bank, to the left of Lenin Avenue, there is a Memorial to the Order of the Red Banner aviators of the ferry aviation division of the Civil Air Fleet, built in memory of those who died or went MIA on the Special Air Route “Alaska-Siberia” (1942–1945) while ferrying aircraft for the Soviet Air Forces, which was supplied by the US under the Lend-Lease policy. The monument used to contain three parts: obelisks with the names of the deceased, military exhibitions and military obstacle-courses; however, after an immense flood of 2014, a part of

the complex was damaged by water and is still in disrepair.

From Fairbanks to Krasnoyarsk ferrying was done by a relay method – the route was 6,500 km long. The ferry regiments were positioned in Kolyma and Chukotka. The heroism of the Soviet aviators went down in history forever.

**Magadan’s music and drama theatre** sprang up from a small group that became active during 1933 in Dalstroy, before

#### Music and drama theatre



Magadan was even founded. The first play that they put on was A. Stein’s Utopia.

At first there were two theatres in Kolyma: one in the and one in the club of the North-Eastern Corrective Labor Camps (the group was mainly made up of imprisoned former actors) and the other in the workmen’s club of the Kolyma regional Gold and Platinum Workers’ Union. The two groups eventually merged into one, and in September 1941

## ALSIB (ALASKA – SIBERIA)



ALSIB was an air road connecting Alaska and the USSR used for ferrying the Lend-Lease American aircraft that were supplied to the USSR during 1942–1945. The aircraft supplies were carried from Fairbanks to Krasnoyarsk and to the front through Nome (Alaska), Uelkal, Seymchan, Kirensk and Yakutsk. Over 8,000 planes were ferried using this route, as well as lots of passengers, mail and strategic cargo for the front. During ferrying, 81 planes were lost (less than 1% of the total number), resulting in deaths of 115 pilots. The route played a significant role in the postwar exploration of the North, paving the way for the regular air transportation in this region.



#### ★★★ P-39 AIRACOBRA ★★★

This plane’s layout was innovative for its time: the engine was installed in the center fuselage, behind the pilot, driving a tractor propeller via a long shaft. It was one of the most manoeuvrable and well-equipped fighter aircraft of WWII. Alexander Pokryshkin, who received three Hero of the Soviet Union medals, accomplished 48 out of his 59 victories while flying the P-39 Airacobra.



#### ★★★ P-63 KINGCOBRA ★★★

The modernised version of P-39, it got larger wings and a more powerful engine. However, due to some design errors the plane was not very popular: once its ammunition was exhausted, its nose became so light that the aircraft was launched into a flat spin.



#### ★★★ CURTISS P-40 WARHAWK ★★★

This single-engine fighter aircraft did not boast the best performance, but it was reliable and simple to use. Its low speed was offset by good ammunition and operational range (up to 1,100 km), which made Warhawk a good escort during sea flights.



#### ★★★ B-25 MITCHELL ★★★

A twin-engine, all-metal five-seat medium bomber. What is interesting about it is that the first and second pilots could seat next to each other, not in tandem. The plane was actively used by the Allied forces.



#### ★★★ DOUGLAS A-20 HAVOC ★★★

A light bomber that could, in addition to powerful shooting ammunition, carry 11 kg parafrog bombs (parachute fragmentation bombs). Was used by the United States Army Air Forces.



#### ★★★ DOUGLAS C-47 DAKOTA ★★★

A military transport aircraft that was used extensively by the Allies during WWII and remains in front line service with various military operators to the present day. Its capacity allowed for 28 troops and up to 7 t of cargo.

★ In **2015, 70** years after, two Russian–American–Canadian crews repeated the legendary flight on the rare Douglas DC–3 airplanes. ALSIB–2015 started in Grey Falls (Montana). Later the planes landed at the airfields of Noma (Alaska), Anadyr, Magadan, Yakutsk and Krasnoyarsk. The destination point was the Zhukovskiy Airfield. ★



the Magadan Music and Drama Theatre of Dalstroy was formed, with Yarikov F. A. at its helm.

This is the theatre where a political prisoner, film actor and the People's Artist of the USSR Georgiy Zhzhonov started his theatrical career. In 1945, Leonid Varpakhovsky, an apprentice of Vsevolod Meyerhold convicted under Article 58 of the Soviet Russia Criminal Code, put on the only opera in the theatre's history – La Traviata by Giuseppe Verdi. During the postwar times the theatre stage was graced by the imprisoned Soviet singer Vadim Kozin and jazz orchestra leader Eddie Rosner.

The theatre put on many well-known classical works, like Die Bajadere and Das Veilchen vom Montmartre by Emmerich Kalman, Die Fledermaus by Johann Strauss II, Der Graf von Luxemburg and The Merry Widow by Franz Lehár.

**i** Address: 30 Karl Marx Avenue

Phone: +7 (4132) 62-29-01

Next to the theatre there is a small square, where one of the benches near the fountain is occupied by an old man in a coat and felt boots, with a cat in his arms. This is Vadim Kozin, a singer and a composer, who arrived in Magadan in 1945.

The sculpture was put here, near the maestro's house, on 21 March 2013 to honour the 110<sup>th</sup> anniversary since his birth. Yuri Rudenko, the sculptor, depicted Kozin the way that Magadan residents came to know him. Next to the singer there is a binder with poems, with the words "Singer and composer Vadim Kozin" written on it.

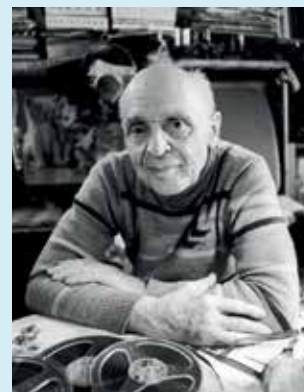
**The memorial flat No. 9** <sup>19</sup> that used to belong to Kozin is located on the fourth floor of a plain khrushchovka in 1 Shkolnaya St. He had lived there since 1968, and his portrait now greets visitors with a smile. Two tables, a round

*Kozin house museum*



one for dining and a writing one where the artist used to work, an old piano, reel-to-reel recorders and a radio receiver. And cats – photos and figurines. Nowadays people go here on excursions, where they learn about all the famous guests that Kozin entertained here – Boris Shtokolov, Valentina Tolkunova, Lyudmila Lyadova, Rolan Bykov and Sergei Yursky.

The neighbouring flat No. 10 houses a music salon, just like during Kozin's days. The flat was purchased for this purpose right before the maestro turned 90. It was here that the singer gave little house concerts till the day of his passing. The official opening of the salon was on 21 March 1993. It is a room that is divided into an audience space and a makeshift stage with a red grand piano. Next to it is a red chair, where the maestro entertained his guests on his last birthday.



### Vadim Kozin

(1903–1994) was a Soviet singer, composer and poet, whose popularity soared in large Russian cities (especially in Leningrad) during the 1930s. People stood in long lines to get his music, and authorities had to go as far as to resort to horse police to keep the crowd in order. During the Great Patriotic War he toured with concerts for the military. Under the orders of the People's Commissariat for Railways he was allotted a special train car for his trips. His records were sorted into a special category, preventing them from being melted. In 1941, he authored

a programme that included his patriotic song Moscow ("My Moscow shall not be taken over..."). In early December of 1943, Kozin collaborated with Maurice Chevalier, Marlene Dietrich and Isa Kremer to put on a concert for the Tehran Conference participants.

However, in 1945 his voice vanished from the radio, and how records were discontinued. It has been speculated that the reason was the fact that he and Lavrentiy Beria fell out over Beria's unfulfilled promise to evacuate Kozin's relatives from Leningrad, where they eventually died. Kozin ended up being convicted for eight years and being exiled to Kolyma. According to unofficial sources, Kozin was incarcerated due to his refusal to write songs praising Stalin. Still, the real reason for the persecution remains unknown.

Kozin lived out the rest of his day in Magadan, in a way becoming a city sight in his own right. He died on 19 December 1994 and was buried nearby, at Merchekanskoye Cemetery. During his prolific life he wrote about 300 songs. His best songs – Autumn, Lyubushka and others – are still popular to this day.



\*\*\*

*Tall hills are blanketed with snow,  
with Sea of Okhotsk in the background.  
The waves of Kolyma and Chukotka alike  
keep changing to my hometown's accord.*

*Magadan... Magadan...*

*A sliver of light in the Far Northern desert.*

*Magadan, Magadan...*

*I sing this song for you.*

*Like stars in the dark taiga sky,  
the window lights are shining still brighter.  
Our land is rich, but there's no treasure that's dearer  
Our people's golden and welcoming hearts.*

*Magadan... Magadan...*

*A sliver of light in the Far Northern desert.*

*Magadan, Magadan...*

*I sing this song for you.*

*V. Kozin, I. Urlin*

The museum's storage and the office building are located in the former apartment 11. Among the unique exhibits are tapes with Kozin's voice, his usual and grand pianos, sound recording equipment from the 50s and 60s, correspondence and journals, photos and paintings, vinyl, books, furniture and personal belongings.

In 1995, Kozin's music salon was made into a house museum (Kozin Memorial Museum). Now the museum hosts con-

certs, commemoration gatherings, themed meetings and excursions.

In Magadan's **60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Square** <sup>20</sup>, which is not far from Shkolniy Avenue, the first city fountain was built in 1999. Several years ago it was repaired and is now as good as new. The layout and design of the fountain were handled by the Moscow specialists. The new fountain is a dynamically lit structure with alternating water jet levels.

Next to the square there is one of the most well-known markets in the city – **the Harvest (Urozhai) Market** <sup>21</sup>. You cannot go to Magadan and not bring back some salmon and caviar, and this is the place to buy them. The market works from 9:30 am to 6:30 pm.

**i** Address: 28 Dzerzhinsky St.

**North-East Interdisciplinary Research Institute**, the first academic institute in the country's North-East, is situ-

# RED CAVIAR



They say that in Magadan you can eat as much caviar as your heart desires, which is, of course, a bit of an exaggeration. But that does not change the fact that there is a lot of it here, and that people here are really good at producing it. The red caviar that Russians are so accustomed to is classified into a number of types here, in accordance with the fish species.

## TYPES OF RED CAVIAR



**Chinook** salmon caviar is the largest among all salmon caviar. It is bright-red reaches 7 mm in size. Despite that, this caviar is very tender. Right now, the Chinook salmon caviar is the scarcest and most expensive.

↗ 6–7 mm

● saturated red



**Coho salmon** caviar has unique vitamin composition, earning it the status of the healthiest caviar type. It is medium in size, dark-orange in colour, and is pleasantly bitter with a tender creamy aftertaste.

↗ 3–4 mm

● burgundy



**Pink salmon** caviar is the most wide-spread in Russia. It is round in shape, medium-sized, bright-orange, mildly bitter and with a distinct sea flavour.

↗ 3–5 mm

● orange (bright-orange)



**Chum salmon** is considered the most delicious. It is larger than the pink salmon caviar, with a thin and elastic film; bright-orange (almost red) in colour.

↗ up to 7 mm

● amber-orange with red tinge



**Sockeye salmon** caviar can be seen as an acquired taste. Its caviar is small, red, and have a peculiar, mildly bitter and savoury taste.

↗ about 3 mm

● bright-red, dark-red

↗ – diameter; ● – colour of caviar

## NUTRIENTS IN RED CAVIAR

Ca Calcium

● Vitamins A, D and E

● Polyunsaturated

P Phosphorous

● Protein

fatty acids



Market is open from 9:30 am to 6:30 pm

ated in Magadan. It was established on 4 March 1960 to solve fundamental and regional scientific challenges in geology, geophysics, economics, history and archeology.

The institute's director and establishing member, and currently – its honorary director, is the Russian Academy of Sciences member Nickolay Shilo, the biggest name in geological research in North-Eastern Asia. In 2012, the academician's name was added to that of the institute.

Since 1977, a **Natural History Museum** has been working within the walls of the institute. The total area of its exposition is about 400 sq m, with over 3,500 artefacts and specimens in its fund. Upon visiting Geology & Mineralogy and Archeology & Ethnography sections, you will be submerged in the world of meteorites, minerals and rocks. The exhibits feature both unaltered and processed specimens. Here you can see crystal fragments that are, according to expert estimation, over 3 billion years old.

The museum has its own seven wonders: the most an-



In the Natural History Museum

cient substance in the Solar System – pallasite Omolon; the largest iron meteorite in Russia – Bilibino – weighing about 1 tonne; Kolyma fulgurite (the largest in the world), left after a lightning strike; a unique agate and onyx collection of the richest and most promising semiprecious province on the planet; a unique 100 sq m stone floor, covered with polished coastal skarn; and two organic findings – a replica of the famous baby mammoth Dima (the original is in St. Petersburg's Zoological Museum) and a fragment of a grown mammoth's leg with samples of "alive" DNA. The museum is open from Monday till Friday between 9:00 am and 4:00 pm.

**i Address:** 16 Portovaya St.

**Phone:** +7 (4132) 63-09-34

The square near North-East Interdisciplinary Research Institute houses the bust of Yuri Bilibin.

gist's contribution to the region's development was immense. He spearheaded the first Kolyma expedition that discovered the North-Eastern gold deposit.

You can learn more about Kolyma's gold in **Magadan's Geological Museum**. Famous mineralogist and crystallographer Anatoly Boldyrev, a professor from the Leningrad Mining Institute, who was exiled to Magadan, started gathering the museum's collection as far back as 1939–1940.

The museum has preserved some unique items, like the vast collection of gold nuggets from hardrock placer gold deposits of Magadan and Chukotka (Natalka, Karamken, Shkolniy, Vetreenskoye, Mayskoye): small nuggets, gold crystals; a small collection of silver nuggets from hardrock and placer deposits of Dukat and Omolon, a collection of quaternary fossil fauna and



## Nikolay Shilo

1913–2008, Soviet geologist, member of the Academy of Sciences of USSR (1970), member of Presidium of the Academy of Sciences of USSR (1977–1988), Hero of Socialist Labour (1973)

After graduating from Leningrad Mining Institute, he worked in geological and mining enterprises in the northeast of the USSR. He also was Director of All-Soviet Union Gold and Rare Metals Research Institute (1950–1960), first Director of the North-Eastern Complex Research Institute (1960–1986), Head of the Presidium of the Far Eastern Research Institute of the Academy of Sciences of USSR (1977–1985). Since 1988, he was an adviser in the Presidium of the Academy of Sciences of USSR.

Nikolay Shilo became a prominent specialist in geology of gold and endogenous deposits of the Far East and Siberia. He created a new branch of geology, a science about deposit making formations. His research of the structure of gold and tin deposits lead to the discovery of several big gold and tin fields, namely the ones in Chukotka and the Far East. These discoveries played a big role in fulfilling the state plan on gold and tin mining.

of gemstones. In total, there are over ten thousand exhibits in the museum.

The museum's crown jewel, however, is the "Golden Room", the items for which have been collected since the very start of Kolyma's exploration. These are peculiar-shaped nuggets and large crystallised intergrown gold pieces that are quite hard to come by. The biggest nuggets have become part of Moscow's Diamond Fund.

The museum is open from Monday to Thursday, during 8:30–12:00 am and 2:00–6:00 pm, and on Friday – during 8:30–11:00 am; you can only visit as part of an excursion or after preliminary booking.

**i** Address: 11 Proletarskaya St.

Not far from the museum there is another academic in-



Gold nuggets

stitution that is engaged in fundamental research – **Institute of Biological Problems of North FEB RAS**. Since 1972, its areas of research included the functioning, organization principles and adaptive strategies of northern populations, groups and ecosystems, bio-



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diversity on in North-Eastern Asia, and scientific methods for protection, reproduction and rational use of the biological resources of the North. In particular, the Institute's members studied the effect of Kolyma HPP on floodplain ecosystems of the Seymchan area of the nature reserve. They also studied vegetation and protected plants in the floodplain of Ust-Srednekan HPP.

In order to facilitate joined R&D activities aimed at studying the northern and arctic zones of the Pacific Rim under the Agreement on international cooperation between the University of Alaska (USA) and the Far Eastern branch of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR, the International Scientific Center "Arktika" was established in Magadan (24 Karl Marx Avenue).

At first, the Centre was meant to be built in Chukotka. However, the dissolution of the USSR, the rapidly declining supplies of building ma-

terials and fuel to the region and the deficit of academic staff changed the course of the project. In 1991, the Centre was opened in Magadan. Its main areas of research are centered around the problem of adapting to the life in the North-East of Russia, studying the region's functional reserves and capabilities, and conducting medical research for endemic, indigenous and aboriginal peoples. In addition to doing its own research, the Arktika Scientific Center also participates in various international projects.

Another scientific Magadan institution is the **Permafrost station of the Melnikov Permafrost Institute**, which is the only specialised academic institution in the world that is fully dedicated to studying permafrost rock. In addition to the Magadan station, the institute has seven research laboratories in Yakutsk and four

### North-Eastern Federal University

NEFU is the only stationary federal university in Magadan Oblast. The university prepares specialists in different fields of economy, management and social services, providing the region with qualified workforce. 3.5 thousand students study in NEFU, and 600 young specialists graduate here annually. NEFU was founded in 2007 on the base of Magadan federal pedagogical university

that was operating since 1960. Nowadays, NEFU is one of the leading universities in the northeast of Russia. NEFU evolves, while preserving its history and traditions. It makes a significant contribution to the region's economy, by offering careers that measure up to modern standards, population requirements and needs of the regional job market.

regional branches: research permafrost stations in Chernyshevsky (the Sakha (Yakutia) Republic), Igarka (Russia), Almaty (Kazakhstan), and a research group that is studying the cryolithic zone of the European North in Moscow.

Also, research for developing and applying the most advanced geophysical and remote methods for studying permafrost rock is underway.

There are many statues in Magadan that are dedicated

to political prisoners. The most well-known monument is the



### Baby mammoth Dima

A unique find was discovered near a stream in Kirgily – a baby mammoth, 2 m under the water. Its body is 104 cm tall and weighs 90 kg, and its age was 6–6.5 months. According to various estimations, Dima had been in a frozen state for anywhere between 13 and 44 thousand years, until it was found by a bulldozer driver during a gold deposit development. The discovery made a big splash in the science world – it was the first time that scientists saw such a well-preserved mammoth. The exhibit holds immense scientific value and is regularly taken out to various exhibitions, both in Russia and abroad.



### Yuri Bilibin (1901–1952)

After graduating from the Leningrad Mining University, he worked as a geologist in the Aldanzoloto trust during 1926–1928; after that he spearheaded the expedition by the Institute for Nonferrous Metal Research in Yakutia that gave an accurate and detailed estimation of the gold content in the local river basins. He organised and headed the first Kolyma expedition of 1928 that aimed to verify the data on the gold content in the region and estimate its industrial potential. The expedition resulted in the discovery of the North-Eastern gold-bearing region. After that Bilibin organised a second Kolyma geological survey expedition, which was headed by Valentin Tsaregradsky.

In 1931–1932, Bilibin headed the Kolyma division of the geological survey department of Supreme Soviet of the National Economy, and also the geological sector of Tsvetmetzoloto. After that, he was the chief geological engineer of Dalstroy's mining division and the head of the Elekhchansky reconnaissance geological survey party.

Yuri Bilibin penned over 60 research papers, including his monumental work *Fundamentals of Placer Geology* (1938); he was a member and correspondent of the USSR Academy of Sciences (1946) and received the Stalin Prize of the 1st degree (1946).



Mask of Sorrow

**Mask of Sorrow** 24, which was built at the foot of Krutaya Mountain (Sopka Krutaya) in 1996. This is the place where there used to be a transit route, the beginning of an endless road for thousands of prisoners. Sculptor Ernst Neizvestny, whose parents were political prisoners, received the State Prize of the Russian Federation for this work.

The monument's central sculpture is a stylised human face, with little mask-tears falling from its left eye. Its right eye is a barred window, with a crying woman and a crucified man behind it. Inside the monument there is a replica of a typical Stalin prison cell. The monument towers over the stylised cemetery with concrete slabs,

on top of which lie 11 concrete blocks with the names of the horrific repressions.

**Address:** Bibliotekhn Avenue, Krutaya Mountain

From Krutaya Mountain you can see the whole city: it is lo-

#### Magadan Thermal Power Plant



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cated on the lowland, on a narrow part of Staritsky Peninsula. From a bird's eye view you can see Nagaev Bay on the one side of Magadan and Gertner Bay – on the other. Up ahead there is Marchekanskaya Hill. If you walk a bit and look the opposite way, you can get a good view of the Magadan Thermal Power Plant.

The locals often joke that the size of the coal pile near the station can bode warm or cold house temperature during winter. In many respects that is true, since the Magadan Thermal Power Plant is the energy heart of the Kolyma region and the only centralised heat and electricity source for kindergartens, schools, hospitals and other facilities, including Magadan's residential blocks of flats.

By the late 1950s, there were several power plants and small boiler stations, but they could not meet the rapidly growing demand of the developing northern city. At this point, the construction of a new power station was agreed on

that would be located near the Kamenushka River. Magadan Thermal Power Plant was commissioned in 1962.

During 1973–1976, the second stage of the Magadan Thermal Power Plant construction was completed. This was the first time that high-pressure equipment was installed in Kolyma. The constant reconstruction of the equipment and modernisation of technological processes allowed to decrease the fuel consumption per kWh twofold, and the installed power capacity grew fivefold.

During 1980s, the third stage of the Magadan Thermal Power Plant construction was underway. It was a water boiler with two boiler units with the total capacity of 200 Gcal per hour. In the late 20<sup>th</sup> century, an electric boiler house was commissioned. It used the power generated by Kolyma Hydroelectric Sta-

#### Gertner Bay during wintertime



Horse ride on the coast of the bay

tion to provide the Magadan people with hot water. Today, the station's power capacity is 96 MW, thermal capacity – 495 Gcal per hour.

Gertner Bay charms with its northern beauty: even in June there are lots of ice floes here. The southernmost cape of the bay is Krasny (Red) Cape, and to the north it is impassable during high water. In 700 m from Krasny Cape, 20 m above

water, there is Kekurniy Island that is home to thousands of seagulls.

The shores of Gertner Bay, with their narrow sand and shingle beaches, evoke good feelings – it is not a coincidence that it is sometimes called Veselaya (Fun). In the bay you can not only admire the pristine nature of the Magadan region, but also catch something, like the saffron cod, crabs or smelt. For leisure purposes the bay houses the **Gornyak recreational area** 24.

During winter, Gertner Bay is also quite popular among the “fast ice tourism” aficionados. Fast ice is the ice that is formed when drifting floes freeze to the land. Fast ice can be up to 3 m thick, and its width can be several dozen metres. Extreme lovers walk on the fast ice and reach areas of the shore that are normally hard to reach in summer. There they discover wonderful, picturesque views – blocks of ice that are glowing in the sun, majestic icefalls, rock crevices, grottos and many more..



# GOLD-MINER'S LUCK



Annually gold-miners from Magadan Oblast, other regions of Russia and different countries gather in Gertner Bay, where they compete in traditional gold flushing. Winners receive a hefty money reward, while other contestants get special diplomas.

**WHEN:**  
Middle of summer

**WHERE:**  
Magadan, Gertner Bay

**CONDITIONS:**  
To participate in "Gold-miner's luck" you must be 18 years or older and confirm absence of any disease which prohibits physical activities. The list of candidates is to be approved by the Magadan Regional Office of the Ministry of Internal Affairs. The request should be filed no less than ten days before the festival.

Gold-miner tent camp is in the Gertner Bay near the Gornyak recreational area. It also has a field kitchen where you can eat and listen to singer-song-writers.



After a gold panning master class, gold miners receive an equal amount of gold-bearing ground, which they flush in wooden gold pans. It is possible to use your own equipment as well; the only condition is to mine the gold in a traditional way.



**ATTENTION!**  
**AT PRESENT, GOLD MINING ON THE TERRITORY OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION WITHOUT A SPECIAL LICENSE IS PROHIBITED.**  
*In other countries, for example in Australia, you can purchase such a license for USD 30.*



In addition to gold mining, festival guests can visit a Kolyma Chanson concert, take part in Magadan's birthday celebration, see the historical expositions of the local history museum and legendary nuggets from the golden room, and take a tour to a Steller sea lion rookery.



The job should be finished in half an hour. The winner is the one with the largest amount of gold. At the end of the competition all the gold is given to the manufacturer who provided the gold-bearing ground. All the competitors receive diplomas, and the winners get a rewards of 500, 300 and 200 thousand roubles.

## How to mine for gold?

**EQUIPMENT.** You will need:

-  gold-bearing ground
-  shovel
-  gold pan
-  lots of water

**PROCESS**  
Gold-bearing ground should be flushed with lots of water, big gravel pieces should be ground up. Un-necessary material would be washed away, while gold, which is heavier than ground, would remain at the bottom of the gold pan. Grains of gold can be really tiny, but to get them is big luck, since gold is very expensive.

## Gold mining in Russia

One of the goals of the festival is to support the draft law on individual gold mining that has been under consideration in the State Duma for many years. Under this law, sole proprietors and individuals will again (as it was before 1954) be allowed to extract precious metals in non-industrial areas. The law covers non-commercial mining, gold mining tourism, non-professional gold mining and individual gold mining as one of the possible variants of searching for small gold deposits. If passed, it would sharply increase the volume of extracted metals, create hundreds of new jobs and help foster a new kind of tourism.



The first gold flushing competition took place during the "Golden festival" in Magadan in 2015. The event drew in large numbers of participants and spectators, which is why the festival was made annual. Gold is the region's trademark, and "Gold-miner's luck" ought to become the most popular summer celebration.

# ENVIRONS



EUGENY RADCHENKO

View of Magadan from Marchekanskaya Hill

## Things to see

### Staritsky Peninsula <sup>1</sup>

People often choose Staritsky Peninsula for weekend strolls and sporting activities. The main part of the peninsula is separated from the mainland with a narrow space, at the base of which there lies Magadan. On the opposite sides of the peninsula there are Nagaev and Svetlaya Bay to the west and Gertner and Veselaya Bay to the east. The rocky coastal outliers are 25 km long from west to east and 12 km from north to south.

The highest point of the peninsula is Marchekanskaya Hill. It is 705 m high. It was named

after the Marchekan stream, which in Even means “peat swamp”. There was a reason for this: numerous streams – Beryozovy, Marchekan, Vesely spring, Ozerny – are running down from the top of the mountain. It runs deep into the mountain and there is an ancient cirque glacier in its upper reaches called Chasha (a cirque is an amphitheatre-like basin, formed at the top of the valley glacier).

There is a special microclimate in this place that is protected against winds by slopes. High larches, spreading Erman’s birches, sorbus and alders are growing in this favorable environment. There are more than 30 species

of trees, shrubs and flower plants. Chasha is a local sight and also a natural monument of Magadan. A bit further there is one more local natural monument with an extremely diverse flora – Vesely spring valley.

At the beginning of summer you can enjoy rhododendron aureum flowers or ledum’s white stars while strolling on the Marchekanskaya Hill. It is especially beautiful here at sunset, when the town dresses up in pink-purple colours under the rays of the setting sun.

Marchekanskaya Hill is popular in winter too. With the first snow, skiing fans begin preparing ski tracks that lead down from almost the very top.

Skiing is one of the most popular sport activities in the region. That is why everyone can find a track suiting his or her skill.

**Be careful! In winter, snow accumulates above the eastern slope and can easily fall down. It is especially dangerous to travel above or under the slope after massive snowfalls.**

During any time of the year the best way to climb the Hill is via the central cut-through, which continues from Gagarin Street. The other way to the hill top is from Marchekanskoe highway.

West of Marchekanskaya Hill, on the same mountain range, there is The Stone Crown mountain. This ideal arête that rises above Staritsky Peninsula is considered to be one of the Magadan’s symbols and can be clearly seen from the observation deck in Nagaev Bay.

At the top of the mountain rocks form a perfect semicircle

The Stone Crown

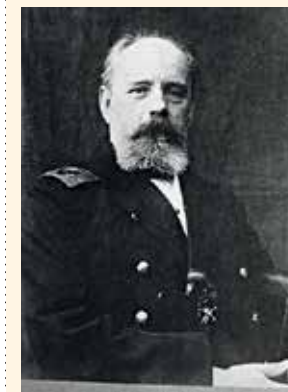


PHOTOBANK LORY

that resembles a crown. Outcrops that are 25 m high are made up of gabbro – a very solid stone but at the same time a perfect material.

Right under the arête there is Cape Zamok. Sailors who came to the port used to leave their ships’ “calling cards” on it. In time, many of the inscriptions faded, but if you get lucky you can make out some of them. For example, if you climb to the Crown from the sea, you can read the oldest one on a separate rock: it is “Kishinev”, and a bit lower – 1919 27/IX.

A bit higher, on the rocks of the Stone Crown, you can see big cracked letters “Krasniy Vimpel 19 9/USH 23”. They were left by the crew of the first Russian steam yacht – Admiral Zavoyko, which was renamed to Krasniy Vimpel. The yacht became a guard ship and in 1923 plied along the Okhotsk seaside. Today, Krasniy Vimpel is lying idle in Vladivostok.



### Konstantin Staritsky

(1839–1909) – a Russian geographer, hydrographer, counter admiral and explorer of the Far East.

In 1857, Staritsky graduated with honours from Sea Cadet Corps. Then he entered the Officer classes of the Naval Academy to study hydrographics. At the same time he underwent training in astronomy and geophysics in Pulkovo observatory.

In 1865, he started service in the Pacific Fleet. During four years, he was to Japan, Okhotsk, Bering Seas, and near the Kuril Islands, taking his research everywhere with him. In particular, he determined 37 astronomical positions, arranged the chronometric connection between the main ports of Japan and China, conducted a marine survey and depth measurement along the west coast of Sakhalin, and created a map of the northern part of Strait of Tartary and south of Sakhalin Island. Staritsky was the first (in 1866) to notice the extreme depths east of Kuril Ridge (Kuril–Kamchatka Trench).

In 1871, he returned to Kronstadt. His scientific observations made during his expedition were highly praised by the Russian Geographical Society, which awarded Staritsky the Litke Golden Medal.



PAVEL ZHDANOV

It serves as a monument to the Pacific Fleet heroism during the revolution and war.

There are a lot of other inscriptions on rocks: "Parokhod Tobolsk 1993", "Parokhod Svirstroy 19 3/IX 34", "Pelokonsk 1934", "1931 Khodakovskiy, parokhod Yukagir". Stones are covered with bushes

so it is difficult to find them, but, perhaps, you will manage to find other notes from the past.

The best way to reach the Stone Crown is to go along the south coast of the Nagaev Bay during the low tide, otherwise you will have to walk on the stones or take an unsafe bridle path.

Moving further along, you can reach the Chirikov Cape – the westernmost part of the peninsula. Gradually, the birch



#### Aleksei Chirikov (1703–1748)

was the closest assistant of Vitus Bering in the First and the Second Kamchatka expeditions ordered by Peter the Great. He was a renowned Russian navigator, scientist and discoverer. Chirikov was head of the Second Kamchatka expedition, he put about a dozen Aleutian Islands on a map and explored a major part of the north-eastern coast of Siberia. Later he used all the discoveries made by Russian sailors in the east to draw two comprehensive maps. According to Mikhail Lomonosov, "Chirikov was the central figure of Kamchatka expeditions".

forest gives way to shrub and a grass plateau with rocks piles. The peninsula narrows to half a kilometre, forming a narrow rocky strip, the view from which is marvelous. To the right you can see Nagaev Bay and Magadan, to the left – Svetlaya Bay, and a bit further forward – Tikhaya Bay. Chirikov Cape is a favourite nesting place for seagulls, tufted puffins and cormorants. Beneath the cape, like small dots, the ducks are swimming and pusa is playing. These rocks are a favourite among sailors, who say that this is a good place for ruffe fishing.

On the edge of the cape stands a lighthouse that helps ships to harbour. The exact date it was built is unknown: according to some sources, it is 1944, but it is possible that the lighthouse had been operating before that. There used to be a bell here that warned sailors of danger with



PAVEL ZHDANOV

Cape Ostrovnoy and Cape Chirikov

a loud, thunderous sound. There was an inscription on the greened copper of the bell that said "This bell, donated by Nicholas II of Russia to the churches near the Siberian railroad, was made in 1900 A.D." Today, the bell can be found in the Holy Trinity Cathedral.

The lighthouse is built at the height of over 30 m above sea level. From the coast, it can be reached by a steep staircase. Walking along various buildings and the meteorological station, you can reach the tower, at the top of which there is a 500 W lamp. Its light, reinforced with reflectors, can be seen from 25 miles away, and call signs of the radio beacon can be heard from 80 miles away.

If you take a closer look, it is possible to see Ostrovnoy Cape ("Island" Cape) from Nagaev Bay, which, indeed, resembles an island. To defend the city from the Japanese troops, a coastal battery was set up here to guard the entrance into the bay and harbour. An outpost was created on the resulting peninsula to monitor the Okhotsk Sea and spot enemy ships. Today, only a few things remind of the past, like the ruins of fortifications on the shore, concrete bases of

Recently, a memorial cross was built on the cliff next to the lighthouse



FRASIL MESYAGUTOV



After the tragedy of 1946, when a ship that carried explosives exploded and damaged the harbour and coastal buildings, a special berth for unloading explosives was built. Not far from the harbor, there is still a field for testing and disposing of explosives.



Ostrovnoy Cape

cannons, and trenches. The coastal rocks became home to hundreds of birds that nest on the precipitous coasts.

The eastern coast of Staritsky Peninsula is notable for its stacks – vertical columns of natural origin. Just 700 m away from Krasny Cape there is Kekurniy Island (also called Monk) – a 21 m high rock, which serves as home for lots of gulls, tufted puffins and cormorants.

To the right of the island there is Veselaya Bay. It is very interesting in terms of archeology. In 1932, while exploring the northern coastline of the Okhotsk Sea, Ulyanov's expedition found an ancient settlement of the so-called Tokarev culture. In the southern part

of Staritsky Peninsula, a lot of archeological artefacts were found. In Veselaya Bay, the biggest discovery was made – the a whale skull that weighs 0.5 t.



FRASUL MESYAGUTOV

Explorers came to a conclusion that between the 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> century a clash between the ancient Evens and Koryaks took place in that area. This is indicated by the graves that were found by the archeologists in the Soviet times – they were made in haste, and the corpses, contrary to the tradition, were not cremated.

Vdovushka Island (Widow Island) is located deep within the bay. During the low tide, it is possible to walk to the island: the sea subsides from the coast, leaving behind shells and kelp leaves.

The island is really small – just 0.04 sq km, but 58 plant species grow here. The island is especially rich in lingonberry: you can spend hours picking it, but keep in mind that you have to get on a shore before the tide comes back, otherwise you will have to wait for a boat.

On the other side of Veselaya Bay, right in front of Vostochny Cape, there are



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Three Brothers Islands

the Three Brothers Islands (Tri Brata Islands). They are just 1 km away from the shore and from a certain angle look like a solid wall. The smallest one is a tiny stack of granite blocks with a spire on top. The medium one a bit bigger and taller, and the “big brother” is a 75 m high conic island. It seems unapproachable with its rocky contour and couloirs. Gulls and tufted puffins nest on this island. These lonesome rocks create the beautiful and inimitable image of northern nature: even in June, there is a lot of drifting ice near Vostochny Cape.


Three Brothers Islands is one of the most picturesque places in the Magadan region, often appearing on local postcards.

The southern and most inaccessible part of Staritsky Peninsula stretches along the

shore from Sredniy Cape to Olsky Cape. Another name of Sredniy Cape is Orliny (“Eagle”), since one of its peaks consists of granite blocks and serves as a nesting ground

for Steller's sea eagles – big, majestic birds. From there you can enjoy a great view of bays and islands: Staritsky Peninsula, Zavyalov and Spafaryev Islands.



There is a beautiful legend that explains the origin of the name Vdovushka (Widow) Island. According to a legend, a loving couple was living in Staraya Veselaya village. 

One day, during a storm, the young man died in the sea and his beautiful wife, hiding from numerous admirers, moved to the island. Every day the widow went to the shore and peered into the sea. She did it for a few years until she was washed away by a wave during a severe storm.





View at the Ostrovnoy Cape from Nedorazumeniya Island

Behind the cape there is a small bay. Vodopadny stream, from a small height, flows into this bay. There is a reason why the bay is called Zhemchuzhnaya (Pearl). When the first frost sets in, the stream's surface becomes "crystal" and covers the nearby stones with a transparent ice crust. In some places, ice build-ups form beautiful icefalls that sparkle in the sun.

## Taii Bay Islands ②

A small mountainous island, **Nedorazumeniya Island**, is located 20 km away from Magadan.

It got its humorous name due to a mistake made during the hydrographic expedition of 1910. The scientists did not spot it against the shore and put it on the map as a part of the land. Only later it emerged

that the island is separated from the land with a 3 km wide strait.

The biggest part of the island with territory of 4.5 sq km is taken up by a hill with a truncated top, which is covered with Erman's birches, shrubs and larches. A lot of berries

### Nedorazumeniya Island



These islands are a border zone of Russia. To visit them you have to get a pass in the State Border Service, otherwise you will have to pay the fee of RUR 300–500.

and mushrooms can be found among the trees.

To the south of the island lie high stacks of peculiar forms. One of the stacks looks like a mountain-dwelling Indian, another one – like an executioner. A steep passage connects another high cliff to the seafront... Fishermen call these numerous stacks "Boys". A small bay with cliffs lies behind these stacks. There is a perfectly clean vertical fissure in the rock. The cape's rocks are very rocky, with lots of ledges where gulls, tufted puffins and guillemots are nesting. The highest cliffs are home to the Steller's sea eagle.

In the northern part of the island there is a small flat area. There used to be a fish farm and a few houses. Nowadays, there are only ruins and memories. The island has been abandoned for many years.

Nowadays, life comes back to the island; Nedorazumeniya

# NEDORAZUMENIYA ISLAND

There is a reason why a tourist centre is built on the island. It is 20 km away from Magadan, on the crossroads of tourist routes. Here, tourists can save time on travelling to different places on the shore, spending an equal amount of time on it. The island has all the necessary amenities for a comfortable stay, including guest houses on its shore.



## Cruises



### Spafaryev Island

The island was discovered in 1740 and for many years had been known as Korovy Island because of sea lion rookeries. You can see them today, too. Lots of sea lions are lying on the shore or swimming in the water.

### Talan Island

This is one of the biggest bird colonies in the northern seas. About two million birds are nesting on this small island.

### Koni Peninsula

Here you have a unique chance to take a look from the sea at a section of the Magadan Nature Reserve. If you are lucky, you may see bears on the shore.



## Fishing

The Okhotsk Sea is rich in fish. Depending on the season, you can fish out chum salmon, pink salmon or European plaice. Halibut is a very valuable take; it can weigh over 100 kg.

## Diving

Divers can go down to the sea depths and explore the sea bottom in search of the local specialty true whelks, sea urchin, starfish or crabs.

## Whale-Watching

Near the island you can see killer whales. They menacingly raise their black fins above the water, sometimes even jumping out of it like dolphins. You can also see a finback whale.



**Health resort**  
**Nedorazumeniya Island**  
Phone: +7 (900) 408-31-53



PAVEL ZHDANOV

Islands tourist centre is being built on the island's shore.

Spafaryev Island is to the south-east of Khmitevskiy Peninsula, in Taiu Bay. The island was discovered in 1740 by Vitus Bering and for many years had been known as Korovy Island because of sea lion rookeries. Only in 1912, the island was renamed after Leontiy Spafaryev, a famous explorer of the Baltic Sea.

The island is 13 km long and consists of two mountainous parts connected with a low landstrip (12 m at its highest), the width of which reaches 300 m. In the southern part of the landstrip there is Lisy Mountain. Not far from it, there is a small salt lake with a shingly shore. The lake's water level depends on the sea level. In the northern part, there is a conic Komandor Bering Mountain, the highest part of the island. The mountain sharply de-

scends to the western shore, and its foot, gradually changing to the rocky peninsula, separates a small bay from the sea. In the north-westernmost part of the peninsula, a narrow sand-and-shingle strip stretches away from the cliffy coast, with a freshwater lake at its base.

*Spafaryev Island*

EVGENY RADCHENKO

The island is inhabited by foxes, hares and bears. In summer, the cliffs are filled with chirping birds. The flora here is extremely scarce: only dwarf Siberian pine hides from the wind in the cracks. Although there is a lot of lingonberry, mushrooms, aspen bolete and slippery jacks.



ALEXANDR ANDREEV

*Talan Island*

Spafaryev Island is separated from Khmitevskiy Peninsula with Likhachev Strait. The strait's width is 7.5 km. There are strong ebb-tide waters in the strait, the speed of which reaches 5 knots. That explains why the sea in the strait is not covered with ice in winter.

**Talan Island** ③ is a butte to the west of Taiu Bay, about 100 km away from Magadan. Its territory is about 2.5 sq km.

On the top of the island there is a flat plateau with rocky ridges and bents. Three sides of the island are steep and their height reaches 150 m. The island's slopes are dotted with multiple Swiss cheese-like holes made by digging birds: tufted puffins and horned puffins. The shoreline is riddled with multiple small bays and grottos. Only the north-western part of island is a meadow terrace with freshwater lakes,

surrounded by a semi-ring of rocky littoral.

The island is famous for its bird colony, which is one of the biggest in the North Pacific.

Just imagine, there are 147 bird species on the island, more than 20 of which are nesting here. The total number of birds in the colony reaches 1.8 m. Each day they eat about 200 t of fish and marine invertebrates.



# BIRDS OF TALAN ISLAND

**1.8 M**  
BIRDS INHABIT  
THE ISLAND

## Least Auklet

The biggest population on the island. No fewer than a million of them live here. This small bird has dark-brown plumage, bright-red beak and a playful tuft of feathers on its head.



## Guillemot

This bird is easy to recognise because of its white-black plumage. Guillemots do not nest on cliff ledges; this form of the egg does not let it fall into the sea. One more peculiarity of the guillemot is that it feeds its nestlings in water. When nestlings grow up, they jump into the water from the height of up to 40 m.



## Tufted puffin

This clumsy and funny in appearance bird is difficult to miss because of its bright colours and heavy beak. Despite its appearance, it flies well and is a good swimmer. This is a commercial bird that can be used as food.



## Horned puffin

"A parrot in a tail-coat", this is probably the most unusual bird on the island. It has a strong red-orange or ginger beak and sharp claws on its webbed paws. Horned puffins live in holes that they dig in the shore.



## Cormorant

These big birds have black plumage with a metallic tint. On the ground, you can recognise them by their ideal posture and long neck. Cormorant is a good diver and its eyes are adapted for swimming. Because of their heavy weight, it takes them a running start to take off the water.



## Ancient murrelet

A small nocturnal bird that breeds its nestlings in deep holes. When the time comes, the nestlings come out and go down the slope, their mother's cry guiding them. Then their families feed in the sea around the island until the nestlings can fly.

Gulls, kittiwakes, guillemots, tufted puffins, horned puffin, least auklets, parakeet auklets, sooty guillemots, ancient murrelets and cormorants have the biggest populations.

There is a reason why birds love Talan Island so much. Near the island, right where the waters of Motykleysky Bay border those of Taiu Bay, there is an area rich in zooplankton. This attracts flocks of Alaska Pollock, Ammodytes and herring, which are the favourite food of birds.

The majority of birds on Talan Island are from the Charadriiformes order. These are guillemots, tufted puffins, horned puffins, ancient murrelets, parakeet auklets and least auklets. They are all good swimmers and divers, and, unlike cormorants and ducks, they "fly" under the water by flipping their wings.

The biggest inhabitant is the Steller's sea eagle. These giants, whose wingspan reaches 2.5 m and weight – up to 9 kg, are considered to be the biggest bird of prey in the world. Only condor is bigger than Steller's sea eagle, but it doesn't hunt, it feeds with carrion. In summer or autumn, about 20 young and adult Steller's sea eagles are on the Talan Island.

There are mammals on the island, too. You can see a fox or arctic fox. Animals here are barely afraid of humans and do not mind people taking pictures.

## Fishing with cormorant

Cormorant is widespread in the coastal areas of Magadan and is highly appreciated in the countries of Eastern Asia. In China and Jaapan these clever birds are used as "fishing gear". A trained bird dives for the fish and then gives it to the owner. It is like falconry, but in the sea and with cormorants.



### HOW IT WORKS



Training period is about half a month. The most difficult part is to teach the bird to answer to its name and make it follow the "come!" command.



One fisherman handles 5–6 birds at a time. They dive on a signal and then put fish into a special scoop-net.



A special ring is placed on the bird's neck so it does not swallow the prey. The ring lets the bird eat small fish, but makes it give the big ones to the owner.



After the hunt the bird get a reward – some small fish. Then cormorants are put onboard boats and brought back to the camp.

### Royal entertainment

Fishing with birds was already known in Europe in the times of British monarch Charles I of England (1625–1649), who had a special servant – "master of royal cormorants".



### National Heritage

Ukai (fishing with cormorants) has been practiced in Japan for no less than 13 centuries. The first mention dates back to 702 AD. With time, this type of fishing has become associated with many rituals, and today it is a craft only for those worthy. Only 21 people can hold the official license for fishing with cormorants, and this honorary title is passed on in families.



ALEXANDR KRYLOV

Entertainment in Nagaev Bay

Ever since 1987, scientists from all over the world have been studying the island's ecosystem. This was the reason for constructing the biological research area. Talian Island is a federal natural landmark.

### Nautical tourism 4

Magadan Oblast has a long coastline, and if you take a walk along it you will see many tourist attractions and regional natural monuments, some of them only accessible on a boat. This is due to the historical peculiarities of the territory: the Russian Far East was explored via sea routes. The earliest explorers were making their way to the Far East along the seaside and riverbanks, laying the foundation for the future forts and towns along the way.



FRASUL MESYAGUTOV

Nowadays, the water transportation is not as widely used in the region due to the underdeveloped infrastructure and severe climate conditions; however, all the prerequisites for the nautical tourism are there: beautiful northern seas, large expanses of water, constant wind,

sun and, most importantly, waves. The development of this travel destination has huge potential.

The nautical tourism may be subdivided into several main types, by a long shot the most popular of which is fishing. The Sea of Okhotsk is immensely rich with biological



resources that make it virtually impossible to leave without a good catch.

More than 20 fish species may be found here, with halibut, plaice and coho being the most valuable. Some prefer catching crabs, others – the spawn of a sea hedgehog; thankfully, the local waters abound in both.

Another type of tourism is wild animal watching. Here you can observe a wide variety of animals: just 20 km outside Magadan there are whales, orcas that jump out of the water, and groups of seals just lying on the coastline. Pay attention to the birds as well, since the local bird colonies are some of the most numerous in the North Pacific.

The third type is extreme tourism: underwater fishing, yacht sports, kitesurfing and

diving... Magadan gives tourists a unique variety of opportunities that are all within an hour's travel from the inn.

The development of cruise travel to other countries and Pacific regions also holds a lot of promise. The region has

already worked with Japanese cruise liners, whose tourists were very much willing to make a stop in Kolyma and visit the local sights.

The advantages of the sea are obvious, which is why this destination is being developed in two ways: the local entrepreneurs organise cruises for those interested, running the gamut from excursions and fishing to kitesurfing and water skiing (be ready to don a wet-suit for the latter).

Then there is the region's administration, which is working hard to create the necessary infrastructure by improving moorages, winter ship storages and technical service stations.

Specifically, the Committee on physical training, sports and tourism of Magadan's city hall has already developed a project that will see the construction of a nautical club near Primorskaya Street, on the shore of Nagaev Bay.






### Nautical tourism club



The Committee of physical training, sports and tourism of Magadan city hall has developed a project for fostering the yacht tourism as a new alternative for domestic and in-bound tourism. Under the project, it is planned to build all the necessary infrastructure for yacht owners and tourists. The total budget of the project is RUB 119 m.

#### Brief description of the project

The project for building the nautical tourism club in Magadan near Primorskaya Street consists of the following stages:

-  construction of the administrative building;
-  construction of service stations for tourists;
-  construction of a yacht and motor boat maintenance centre;
-  construction of a yacht moorage;
-  development of public amenities.



# SEA FISHING

Here, every sea fishing outing guarantees a good catch. Biodiversity of this region is so great that you will not leave empty-handed even in the poorest of weather conditions. The waters of Taiu Bay and the Sea of Okhotsk are where valuable fishes, crabs and other sea-food are caught. You can try your luck on the shore or near it and feel the unique excitement of the amateur fishing. Still, the best experience awaits you out in the sea. Just 20 km from Magadan you can see killer whales, the most dangerous sea predators, and admire walrus-es, sea lions, seals and other sea mammals.

**Smelt** – a small fish, up to 34 cm, favoured by winter fishing lovers. It is easily recognisable by large silver scales and peculiar fresh cucumber smell.



**Herring** – valuable commercial fish that reaches 50 cm in length. It actively nibbles at artificial bait and during low tides frequently remains on the landfall, where fishermen can just pick it up.



**Greenling** – predatory fish reaching half a metre in length (some specimens grow to be up to a metre and a half and longer). It is valuable because of its good taste and high oil content.



**Grouper** – a large fish, sometimes reaching the length of one metre or more; peculiar in form and bright in colour. It looks similar to perch, but is a representative of another family and even another order – scorpaenidae (the scorpionfish).



**Halibut** – maybe the most prized catch – a large flatfish. In the Okhotsk Sea halibut reaches 1.2 m and up to 45 kg.



**Capelin** – small fish from the Smelts family, reaching 25 cm in length. During spawning flocks into large shoals and comes close to the shore.



**Flounder** – one of the most widespread fishes in the region. It is notable for its oblate body and eyes situated on one side; reaches 40–60 cm in length.



**Goby** – benthic coastal fish from the Perciformes family. It is recognisable by typical fins and large head. It usually reaches up to 40 cm in length.



**Alaska Pollock** – a Gadidae family fish, which reaches 91 cm. Notable for its spotty coloration and large eyes.



**Salmon** – in the waters of the Okhotsk Sea the most frequent are Humpback salmon and Coho salmon, which can reach up to 98 cm. Red salmon and its caviar are popular gourmet foods.



fishing tackle



tall boots



wind-resistant clothes






sunglasses

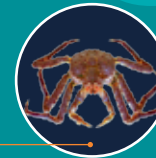


sunscreen

## WHAT YOU WILL NEED:

### SEA FISHING

-  Halibut, Alaska Pollock, Flounder, Grouper, Greenling, Salmon
-  Fish line, fishing rod
-  Artificial bait, spoon lure

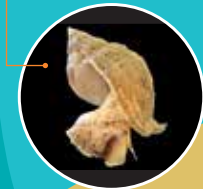


**Crab** – one of the main far eastern gourmet foods. The size of cephalothoraxes can reach up to 25 cm in diameter, and leg span can be up to 150 cm.



**Sea urchins** – these Echinoderms are quite frequent on the Okhotsk Sea shore. Their roe and milt are highly valued for their taste.




**Common whelk** – a marine gastropod mollusc reaching 25 cm in length. It is similar to the Black sea Rapa whelk, but has a finer taste. It is considered to be a good aphrodisiac.






### LEGEND

-  fish
-  tackle
-  bait

### COASTAL FISHING

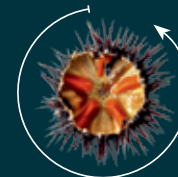
-  Herring, Flounder, Smelt, Crab, Sea urchin
-  Fishing rod, leger rig, crab pot
-  Beef, lard, fish, artificial bait, spoon lure

### SHORE FISHING

-  Flounder, Capelin, Goby
-  Fishing rod, leger rig
-  Beef, lard, fish

### HOW TO EAT A SEA URCHIN

You need to eat a captured Sea urchin fresh, right after catching. Take a sharp knife and cut the cephalopod in half – it is easier to begin from the buccal opening. Practically everything in a Sea urchin is edible, but the tastiest parts – milt and roe – can be recognized by their brownish orange colour.





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Snegorka ski centre

### Magadan ski school 5

Along the coast from Magadan to Tauysk there is a highway that goes through the Arman passage. Many tourists choose this route for short trips because of easy

transport access and a great number of local landmarks.

The closest point of interest is the Snegorka sporting entertainment centre. This is the resort of choice for the locals and visitors. It has well-equipped ski slopes for both



FASUL MESYAGUTOV



### Ski queen

The pride of Magadan residents, Yelena Vyalbe (nee Trubitsyna; born 1968) – an outstanding Soviet and Russian skier, three-time Olympic champion, 14-time world champion, five-time world cup winner. Her first breakthrough was at the world championship in the Finnish town of Lahti in 1989, where she won three medals. Later, in 1997, Vyalbe set an unbelievable record by winning five out of five medals at the world championship in Trondheim, an achievement that is yet to be repeated. Yelena Vyalbe entered the Guinness Book of Records as the best female skier of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. In 2010, Yelena Vyalbe became head of the Russian Cross-Country Ski Association. She has a lot honours and titles – Honoured Master of Sports of the USSR, Honoured Master of Sports of Russia. She was decorated with the third-class medal of the Order of Merit for the Motherland, the Order of Peoples' Friendship, and the first-class medal of the Order of Merit for the Motherland, as well as the badge of honour "For promotion of physical fitness and sports". Since 1990, Magadan has been hosting the Vyalbe ski-run in the Snow Valley – a unique sporting event dedicated to the Olympic champion.

beginners and experienced skiers.

Magadan Oblast is a unique region, where skiing is possible all year round. Snow covers the slopes until June, and when the natural snow cover is not enough, more snow is created using the artificial snowing system.

All the necessary gear and equipment can be rented at the renting centre. On top of that, the Snegorka ski resort gives its guests many different entertainment opportunities – off-road and snowmobile rides through snow-covered fields, zorb or inflatable sledge rides down the slopes, skating on an ice rink.

You can have a snack in one of the cafes, and outdoor eating aficionados can use areas with charcoal grills and have a picnic. The administration is planning to diversify the guests' leisure by introducing reindeer sleigh riding.

Skiing is among the most popular sports activities in this region. Youth Cross-Country Skiing School has been open in Magadan since 1 January 1968. In 1970, the school received the Sports School of Olympic Reserve status. During 47 years of its existence, this school has prepared more than 50 masters of sports, seven world class skiers, World and Europe champions, including three-time Olympic champion, 14-time world champion, five-time world cup winner Yelena Vyalbe.

The sports school also boasts such award-winning

graduates as Sergey Kichkin, Maxim Varvarin, Andrey Varvarin, Alexander Karchevsky and many others. Over the years of school's existence it had more than 22,700 trainees. Sporting improvement groups alone were made up of thousands of this school's students.

Today, there are new future champions training in Yelena Vyalbe sports school. The Yelena Vyalbe School is the 6<sup>th</sup> out of 106 in the rating of Russian sports education centres, while Magadan Oblast is the 13<sup>th</sup> among the 37 federal subjects in this list. The school is free and children are accepted from the age of nine; the pupils are



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Ski centre in Solnechny

trained by eight experienced coaches.



### Vyalbe ski-run

A sports competition among young athletes, sport veterans and cross-country skiing lovers that annually takes place in Magadan. People with disabilities also take part in this competition.

Every year Vyalbe ski-run becomes more and more popular, attracting athletes from Magadan Oblast and other regions of Russia. In 2014, it gathered more than 600 people eager to join in on the active lifestyle. The youngest participants compete in the 300 m category. Men under 30 compete in the 10 km category, and for women the distance is 5 km. Winners and medalists in all age groups receive medals, diplomas and valuable prizes.

Yelena Vyalbe always tries to come to the opening ceremony of the competition and does a great deal for the development of the ski sport of Magadan Oblast. The impressive results demonstrated by the Magadan athletes at nationwide competitions speak for themselves.

# SOLNECHNY. MAGADAN

The skiing sport of this region, in addition to its history and present-day success, has a very bright future. The regional authorities, as of part the skiing and tourism industry development programme, have drafted the project Solnechny. Magadan (Sunny. Magadan) that involves the construction of modern infrastructure for athletes and outdoor activity enthusiasts. Kolyma Krai can be rightfully called “Russian Switzerland” – the natural foundation is all there, however, the infrastructure is still not quite up to par with European counterparts. This large-scale project is meant to solve this problem.

It will be the first recreation complex of this scale in the Far East region. The territory of 1,000 ha will be equipped with ski and biking trails of varying difficulty levels, cable cars, ski and hiking trails. At the peak of the snow-capped mountains a covered observation deck will be built, looking over the picturesque Magadan outskirts and Nagaev Bay. It will also house landing sites for helicopters and gliders. Additional infrastructure will include such buildings as hotel and

entertainment, shopping and recreation centres. The project involves the use of the latest global trends and cutting-edge technologies in the construction of tourist centres. The surrounding territory will house an ethno park, areas for dog and reindeer riding, and a venue for national ceremonies and holidays. Thanks to the complex's large capacity, at least 2,500 people will be able to do sports and just have a good time there.

The temperature ranges from +3 – -13 C°

TERRITORY:

1000 HA

COST:

RUB 2,6 BN



2 CABLE CARS



3 SKIING RUNS



4 SKI JUMPING HILL



5 ETHNIC VILLAGE



6 OUTDOOR ICE RINK



7 SUMMER POOL



8 PARKING

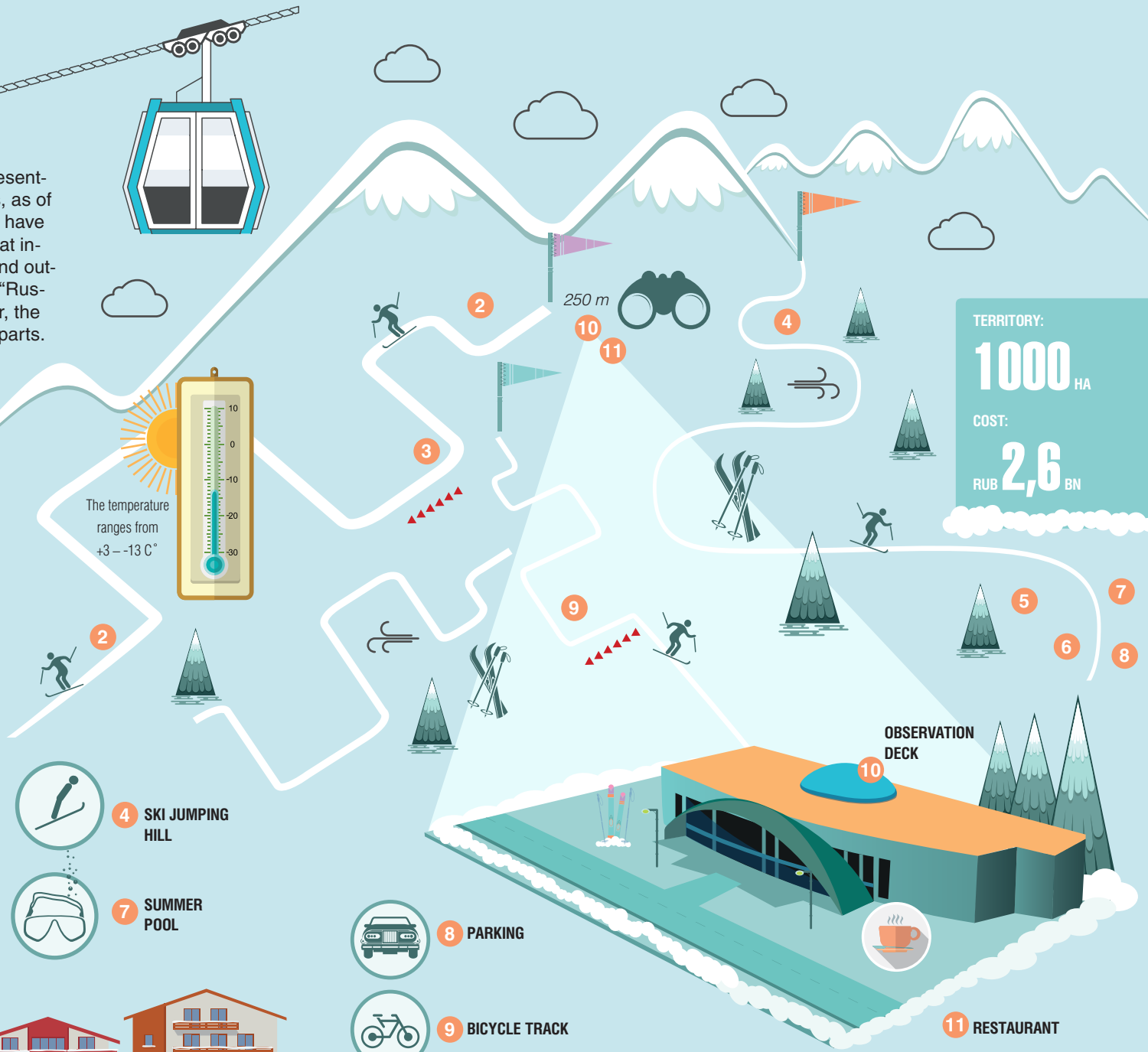


9 BICYCLE TRACK

OBSERVATION DECK







11 RESTAURANT

1 HOTELS



# OLA

urban-type settlement (since 1957)

-  **District:** Olsky
-  **Coordinates:** 59° 33' N, 151° 17' E
-  **Population:** 6,206 (2015)
-  **Dialling code:** +7 41341
-  **Distance from Magadan:** 27 km
-  **Travelling:** from Magadan bus station by bus or taxi (travel time 40 minutes)



 **Founded in:**  
1716



RASUL MESHAGUTOV

Ola is an urban-type settlement, an administrative centre and the biggest urban area of the Olsky District in Magadan Oblast. The settlement is situated 27 km east of Magadan, at the mouth of the Ola River. Officially, the year of foundation is 1716.



## Things to see

Until 1928, Ola was a quiet fisherman settlement, mostly inhabited by the locals. Everything changed after the **first Kolyma Geological Expedition headed by Yuri Bilibin** landed there. Having heard about gold-bearing zones,

miners travelling to Kolyma started coming to the settlement. This gold rush triggered a sharp increase in population, which even resulted in famine.

Today, Ola is a large (by regional standards) settlement with population of more than 6,000 people. As per tradition, there is a **Lenin**

**Square 1** in the centre of the town, complete with a classic Lenin monument. This square is the heart of the settlement: all the local festivities and fairs take place here. On the right side of the square there is a **fountain 2**, not far from which there “grows” a heart-shaped metal **tree of love**.



SERGEI MAL'YUKOV

Ola river

This symbol of family happiness was set up just recently, but is definitely fancied by the locals, who immediately decorated it with various locks and ribbons.

Next to this ensemble there is another sight – Victory Square (Skver Pobedy), which is the main park in this town. Its picturesque paths lead to the **monument in memory of those who fell for the Motherland during the Great Patriotic War of 1941–1945** ③, built there in 1993 in tribute to the 50TH Victory anniversary. The memorial is a six meter high stele made of two parts representing two mourning women bowing their heads.

Nearby, there is the local history museum. It exhibits costumes of local peoples, interesting documents and photographic materials, which introduce the visitors to the history of this land and provide in-

formation on ethnography and archaeology. One can also learn something about local fauna and flora: the museum has a large collection of stuffed animals and birds of this land. A separate hall is dedicated to the heroes who died fighting in the Great Patriotic War. Many residents of this town volunteered to go to war. The museum is a scientific centre

Fountain in the centre of settlement



of the settlement, which frequently hosts exhibitions, presentations and meetings with famous people.

Next to the museum, there is the **Culture center** ④, where the most important events take place, as well as occasional movie showings. Local musical ensemble Lel uses this place for rehearsals. This group has been participating in various



RASUL MESYAGUTOV

festivals, local and regional competitions for over 40 years; the singers usually perform a number of traditional Russian and Cossack songs.

Going further down, one can see an unusual **church** ⑤. The temple occupies the former Rodina cinema that was closed in the 90s – the building had been empty for several years until it got rebuilt into a church. However, a new church will soon be constructed in the settlement. Its design is based on the photographs of the pre-revolutionary church devoted to the Baptism of Jesus Christ. The former cinema is set to be refitted into a baptismal house and a parochial school.

The local **college** ⑥ is also a very important place for the people of Ola. Experimental agricultural station was built as part of the Ola State farm in 1960. It was equipped with

cutting-edge analysis and measurement technology. Students from all over the region, as well as from Kamchatka, Chukotka and Yakutia, came to Ola Agricultural College to study.

**The Ola River**, formerly known as Kola (the word for “scoop” in the Even language),

Lel performance



flows pass the settlement. Ola is one of the richest in salmon among the water bodies of the Taiu Bay. Humpback salmon is the core of its bioresource, with Siberian salmon being second in quantity, and Coho salmon – third. Up to 80% of Humpback salmon population and almost a quarter of the Magadan Region Siberian salmon and Coho salmon populations are localised in this river. Near the settlement, there are zones of free and licensed fishing on the river.

## Nearby

The town, founded in 1716, was located too far away from large cultural centres of the Far East, so news of the October Revolution got there with a delay. Only in February 1920, after a garrison uprising in Okhotsk, the district revolutionary committee was established, which enacted a regime change in Ola. However, the first Ola

revolutionary committee was short-lived: the Okhotsk shore got cut off from the Soviet Russia by the civil war and foreign intervention – the White Guard detachment of Valerian Bochkarev was on the move between Okhotsk and Kamchatka.

In memory of those events there is an **obelisk** three kilometres from Ola, which reads “Here, by the River Uglikanka, in 1923, Gatilov D. L. died a heroic death. He was the former representative of the Yakut province revolutionary committee on the Okhotsk shore and one of the organisers of the fight against White Guardists”. The monument was built in September 1967, by the decision of the executive committee of the Ola regional Congress of People’s Deputies.

On the sea coast, four kilometres from the town of Ola, a **stele is located, which marks the landing place of the first Kolyma Geological Expedition 7**. It was unveiled in 1978. The monument is comprised of a rectangular slab with a metal map of the North East attached to its front side. On this map, the expedition landing place is marked with a star, and the geological emblem is stamped (a symbol of a tent against two crossed hammers). In the lower part of the monument, below the map, there is a marble plaque with the following inscription: “The first Kolyma expedition of the USSR Geological Committee headed by Yuri Bilibin and Valentin Tsaregradsky landed on this coast on 4 July 1928”.



Fishermen near Ola village



PHOTOBANK LORY



### The echo of the Civil War

On 10 April 1923, Red Army detachment of Grigory Chubarov, together with guerrilla fighters, defeated the small detachment of Bochkarev in Gizhiga and headed for Nakhayan, where the remaining White Guardists, led by colonel Bochkarev himself, were ensconcing by the radio station.

On 13 April, after a severe fight, Nakhayan was liberated and Bochkarev, along with his executive officer, were captured and then killed during an attempted escape. Gatilov D. L., representative of the Yakut province revolutionary committee, died on the same day. The revolutionary committee assigned him to maintain the telegraphy communications between Okhotsk and Yakutsk and keep the communication line intact. But the White Guardists were waiting for him by the Uglikanka River (between the settlements of Ola and Gadlya). On 30 April 1923, the detachment of Pyotr Grigoryev liberated Ola and Gatilov’s killers were executed by shooting. The sites of the Red Army soldiers’ death in Nakhayan and Gatilov’s demise in Ola were later commemorated with monuments.



FASUL MESYAGUTOV



### On the history of Kolyma gold mines

In his essay “On the history of Kolyma gold mines” Yuri Bilibin wrote: “After working in this expedition, I got an impression of Kolyma as a new colossal metallogenic and, in particular, gold-bearing province. I estimated its industrial prospects to be quite optimistic... Using the geological statistical approach I tried to evaluate in figures the gold mining prospects of Kolyma. I was getting figures that left me in awe. But no matter the calculation method, the results were roughly the same. Finally, I came to terms with those figures and used them as basis for my ‘Plan for Conducting Geological Prospecting Surveys in Kolyma’. To characterize this plan I can say that I forecasted investment in surveys in the amount of RUB 4.5 m during the first year of the plan’s existence. In case of more investments, I considered it possible to provide the placer mining in Kolyma in 1938 with supplies four times bigger than those of the whole Soviet Union in 1930. So, using these figures, I started rallying for Kolyma.”

The first Kolyma geological exploration expedition was of exceptionally great importance for the study of the upper Kolyma basin. Bilibin’s studies laid the foundation for the systematic mineral explo-

ration in the region. Relying on the data on the pre-revolution discoveries of lone gold-miner Boriska, Yuri Bilibin staffed the expedition with geologist Valentin Tsaregradsky, land-surveyor and astronomer Dmitry

There is a version that the location of the memorial does not coincide with the real historical landing place. The monument is situated at a considerable distance from the settlement and on the opposite bank of the rather broad Ola River – it is unlikely that the expeditionists would have wanted to force a crossing over a river after a long and hard journey. It seems more likely that the site for the monument should be considered symbolic. Cape Nuklya is one the most picturesque places on the shore.

Kazanli, prospectors Sergey Rakovsky and Ernest Bertin. A doctor, a supply manager and 15 workmen were reserved for the group. The conducted work resulted in discovering the geological features of the region and outlining certain patterns in gold distribution, which were used as basis for further geological research.

In the summer of 1929, Sergey Rakovsky, who was



Cape Nuklya – Sleeping Beauty.

leading one of the smaller search parties, found industrial gold in a spring that he called Yubileiny. Thus, a new gold field on the Utinaya River

was discovered, as well as the Srednekanskaya gold-bearing lode. It was also in Kolyma where for the first time tin ore was found in gold

#### Bakylidiyak holiday



washings. Having completed the expedition and basing his report on its findings, Yuri Bilibin gave a bold outlook regarding geology and metallogeny of a huge area located within the North East and the gold mineralisation of the upper Kolyma basin.

The view on **Cape Nuklya** from the site of the monument is wonderful. This cape is also called **Sleeping Beauty**. Indeed, the rock ledge projecting far into the sea from a distance does look a bit like a sleeping girl from children's fairy tales. For most of the year, blindingly white patches of snow lie between the black rocks of the cape. In early summer local snowdrops – violet Eastern pasqueflowers – cover the slopes. The Nuhlya panoramic view is considered

to be one of the greatest landmarks of Magadan Oblast. The most beautiful view can be found on the high coast to the eastern side of the cape.

Its name, however, despite the beauty of nature, is far less poetic when translated from the Even language – “nu-kuya” means rotting fish. This name could have emerged from periodic kills of spawning herring. Fish shoals entering Ola during high tide are sometimes so numerous, that the fish does not pass through the high water in time. During the low tide, thousands of them stay dabbling in the shallow water without any chance of getting back to the sea. Local residents gladly pick up the spontaneous catch of herring, but occasionally the sheer number of fish is so great that it starts decaying.

During the summer months, the shore of a small bay formed by Cape Nuklya is fancied by the town residents for leisure. The sea is not deep here, with sandy and pebbly bottom. The shore is also the place for traditional ethnic celebrations of northern indigenous peoples.



#### Kolyma snowdrop







Eastern pasqueflower (or pulsatilla) is considered Kolyma snowdrop. This tender flower is one of the first to blossom in early summer, covering the mountain slopes with a violet carpet. Its flower buds are dark violet and similar to tulips in form, but a bit smaller in size. The stem is covered with light bloom.

From the dawn of time his plant was used for magical and ritual ceremonies by northern indigenous peoples. Pulsatilla was used as a protective amulet, and a dried flower was kept to attract wealth. The plant is also used in traditional medicine.



# SOKOL

town

-  **District:** Magadan Urban District
-  **Coordinates:** 59°54' N, 150°43' E
-  **Population:** 4,763
-  **Dialling code:** +7 4132
-  **Distance from Magadan:** 56 km
-  **Travelling:** by bus from Magadan Bus Station or by taxi (travel time – 1 hour)



 **Founded in**  
1962



FRASUL MESYAGUITOV

Sokol is 56 km away from Magadan via Kolyma Highway. It is located near the main regional airport of the same name. Founded in 1962, the town was initially meant for workers who were building an airfield. Later, pilots with their families started to settle in this town.



## Things to see

Sokol was founded based on the decree of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Russian SFSR of 28 May 1962. On registering a new settlement located 56 km north of Magadan along the main

highway and assigning it the name Sokol. Two years later, the town was granted urban-type settlement status.

The residents' principal aim was to build an airfield suitable for heavy aircraft Ilyushin IL-18, Antonov An-10 and IL-12. The runway construction saw

the establishment of a special area near the town for producing concrete, small building blocks and reinforced concrete products.

The airfield construction was proceeding at a record pace. Its first flights date back to as early as 1963. In 1966,





Monument in Honour of Labour Glory

the construction was completed, and the airport terminal was commissioned in 1974.

Gradually Sokol, an urban-type settlement, turned into a pilot base. **The Aviator Palace of Culture ①** still remains an important place in Gagarin Street. It hosts a wide range of festivals, competitions, concerts and other entertainment activities on national holidays.

Sokol airport



The Palace of Culture also organises special events to develop traditional folk arts.

Opposite the Palace of Culture, there is a cosy small **Central park ②** with lights, paths, benches and a big playground. You can also see an ice hockey rink, and in winter you can hear fans yelling "Score!"

Walking along Gagarin Street passing by the **music**

**school ③**, you will find another interesting place – the modern **swimming pool ④**, opened in 2015. The sport centre includes changing rooms, showers and a training hall with cutting-edge technology. Ultraviolet and ultrasonic water treatment systems are installed in the swimming pool that allow to reduce the chlorine level to as low as 0.1%.

The four-lane swimming pool is 25 m long and 2 m wide. A coach from Saransk was invited to train young athletes.

Every year winter sports lovers can enjoy excellent ski tracks and visit the ski resort. Junior World Ski Champion Sergey Kichkin trained in Sokol.

The main **airport ⑤** in Magadan Oblast is situated



RASUL MESYAGUTOV

near Sokol. It ensures a regular air service with the Russian Far East, Siberia, Moscow and St. Petersburg. In summer, Sokol Airport offers direct flights to and from Simferopol. Tourists fly to relax on the beaches of the Crimea, and when they return home, they bring a lot of vegetables and fruit. There used to be direct flights to Anchorage (Alaska). Sokol Airport has a 3,452 m long and 59.5 m wide concrete runway. These runway dimensions allow to service most civil airplanes and military-transport aircraft.

In 1979, the Aircraft **Monument in Honour of Labour Glory** was erected in front of the airport terminal. The Antonov An-12 aircraft (hull number 11355) have been used as cargo airplanes in Kolyma since 1960s. This breathtaking monument is even more beautiful when lit up at night.

Besides Sokol airport, there is old **Magadan-13**. To-

day, it is used for storing written-off aircraft, including military planes. Another defunct







airport is Magadan-47 (Northern). It was closed due to inability to service large aircraft.



Upon leaving Magadan, you can see the Kolyma Road Workers Memorial, 25 km along Kolyma Highway. It was unveiled in 2007, to mark the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary launching the Kolyma Highway construction. In the centre of the granite monument, there is a sculpture carved in bas-relief by Vyacheslav Kalikyan. He was the Road Department Chief and honorary citizen of Magadan Oblast. On the sculpture, there are words that say "Forever enshrined in memory, these people live on in this road". The names of road veterans are written on the wings of the memorial. The monument was designed by sculptor Kramarenko Ye. and architects Bezrukov S. and Sychev A.

# ARMAN

town (1965–2015 – urban-type settlement)

-  **District:** Olsky
-  **Coordinates:** 59°40' N, 150°08' E
-  **Population:** 1,190 (2015)
-  **Dialling code:** +7 41341
-  **Distance from Magadan:** 56 km
-  **Travelling:** by bus from the Magadan bus station or by taxi (travel time – 1.5 hours)



 **Founded in**  
1717



FASUL MESYAGUTOV

Arman stands at the mouth of the eponymous river. The name stems from the Even word “anmanra”, which means “a water spring”. It is believed that the town was founded in 1717 by Even tribes. At that time, due to the launch of a 4,000 km route from Yakutsk to Petropavlovsk, the people of Arman were forced to transport people and mail.



## on the map

- ① School
- ② Armansky Bridge
- ③ Stele in honor of the participants of WWII
- ④ Arman Pass
- ⑤ Monument to V. Filimonov

## Things to see

In 1887, only 93 people lived in the town of Arman. The settlement grew as the exploration of Kolyma went along; in 1932, the Awakened North collective farm was formed. It specialised in reindeer and animal breeding, fishing and agriculture. In 1960, it was reorganised into a state farm

that bred minks. That was one of the largest animal-breeding farms in the region. In the 90s, the life of Arman came to a standstill: the connection with Magadan was hampered, and many residents left their native town.

Today, Arman is coming back to life. Recently, the **local school ①** has been totally repaired, streets and yards are

being renovated. In autumn 2014, a new **bridge ②** across the Arman River near the town was opened, which significantly facilitated transportation between the town and the region's centre. New stores are being opened and new jobs are being created in the town.

The main attraction of the town is **the stele in honor of the participants of WWII ③**



ALEXANDR KRYLOV

Arman Pass

in the central square, named after Sverdlov. Every year, on 9 May, holiday festivities are held here. There is also a Cultural Centre in Arman, which hosts a variety of local events.

Armansky Vestnik, a local monthly newspaper, informs people about the town's life and the main events in the area. It has small circulation, but it is popular among the Ar-

man people, since it publishes genuinely useful informations.

Not far from Arman, on the road to Magadan, **Arman Pass 4** is located. It is not very high, just about 1 km above sea level, but the track is quite dangerous, especially in winter: on one side of the road there is a steep rock wall, and on the other – a several metre high cliff. Going up the pass, you can observe how climatic zones alternate. If you leave Magadan on a cloudy day, on the pass, where there are snow patches, you can get into a thick fog. However, on the other side, you are plunged into the sunlit evergreen zone with larches.

There is a little-known **monument to Vladimir Filimonov 5** on the pass. He was the

Monument to Vladimir Filimonov



RASUL MESYAGUTOV

CEO of Magadanavtodortrans. In 1960, Filimonov was associated with road maintenance service for Kolyma Highway and did much to repair roads and bridges. This place is popular among paragliders: they jump into the valley and then use the highway to get back to the starting point.

Within an hour's drive from Magadan and 20 minutes from Arman, there is **Lake Solyonoe (Salty)**.

You can go there on foot, but in this case, be prepared to spend the whole day walking. Lake Solyonoe is a shallow pond separated from the Sea of Okhotsk by the pebble strip. The lake water is crystal clear and not salty, it is fresh. The reason it is called salty probably has to do with the fact that during high tides and



PHOTOBANK LORY

storms, sea water flows over the embankment, making the lake a little salty. The lake is popular among the residents

of Magadan because on warm days it warms up well and gives a rare opportunity to go for a swim.

### Armansky Bridge

In autumn 2014, a new bridge was built across the river Arman, as part of the road "Magadan – Balagannoe – Talon". It was built under the federal programme for the development of the Far East and Trans-Baikal. To carry out the construction of the 500-metre crossing, RUB 915 m was allocated. The bridge construction, which is two meters higher than the previous one, was finished ahead of schedule. Road workers asphalted 1.5 km of pavement before the bridge and made a levee of the same length. During high water, it protects not only the driveway, but also Arman itself.



# SOLNECHNY. MAGADAN

## Magadan's and its environs' development perspectives



Magadan Oblast has the potential to be a leading Far Eastern region in terms of the economic growth rate. The regional authorities have worked hard to pass a bill that extends the city's current status of the special economic zone (SEZ) to 2025.

In addition to that, the boundaries of the SEZ have been expanded to the borders of the region (the SEZ was initially created within the boundaries of the city of Magadan), which allows to extend tax incentives, including for the expensive mining equipment.

A number of crucial projects aimed at comprehensive improvement of living standards of the residents are being implemented under Magadan's development programme, including transport infrastructure development, renovation of the commercial and fishing port, as well as of the airport and modern tourist facilities. Large-scale construction will create new jobs and make the region more comfortable and attractive for living.

### Commercial Sea Port

Under the federal target programme for the economic development of the Far East and Trans-Baikal, RUR 1.2 bn will be allocated for the reconstruction of the quay walls in the Magadan Commercial Sea Port. Technical modernisation of the port is being carried out within the framework of the investment programme for 2014–2017, with the budget of at least RUR 1.7 bn.

Two brand-new Liebherr portal cranes together worth EUR 10 m and with the lifting capacity of 124 and 84 tonnes respectively have already been commissioned.

The new equipment is more economical, since it eliminates maintenance expenses for several years to come whilst allowing loading and unloading bulk heavy equipment that is used in the region's leading industry – mining.

The next step, which will be taken in the near future, is modernising the port's tugboat fleet. In the course of a year and a half, two modern single-type tugs, made by the Dutch company Damen, will be commissioned for the port. Their tugging power and manoeuvrability exceed those of the existing vessels by 2.5 times. Each tug will cost more than EUR 6 m.

One of the most difficult tasks will be the reconstruction of the Births 5 and 4, and an overhaul of the hydraulic structures nearby. "The renovation of the hydraulic structures will boost the port's cargo turnover up to 3 mt. As we are starting the development of the new gold deposits and oil and gas-bearing shelf in the Sea of Okhotsk, it is vital to develop the potential of this strategically important facility," says Vladimir Pecheny, the region's governor.

# 3<sup>MT</sup>

MAGADAN COMMERCIAL SEA PORT'S PROJECTED ANNUAL CARGO TURNOVER AFTER THE RENOVATION



BY 2015, NEW HOUSING  
RATES WILL INCREASE TO

34

SQ M PER YEAR

The short-term priority is applying IT innovation in the port's operations.

A contract with a St. Petersburg company has already been signed, guaranteeing the installation of a modern information system (based on the 1C platform), which will process all the possible operations and procedures. The system and the installation of all the required equipment will cost around RUB 15 m. It will be launched during 2015. The system allows to effectively organize the work of the port machinery, electronically store and process information not only about the number of transported containers, but also about the crane and loader operating times and fuel consumption. Besides, the system will allow external clients to track a particular container as it is being unloaded from a ship, saving the consignees a lot of time.

In parallel with that, the project of the fishing port reconstruction is also in development; it includes quay walls overhaul and installation of modern equipment in the port, like cold storage chambers for the fish.

In addition to that, a separate dock for small private vessels will be built in the near future. Yacht travellers will be able to enter the port, and local captains will be able to moor their boats and carry out full maintenance.



THE SKI RESORT WORTH

RUR 2,6 BN

### Solnechny. Magadan

In the near future, a very ambitious and large-scale infrastructure project in the sphere of tourism – Solnechny. Magadan – is going to be built not far from the regional centre. It will become one of the most modern ski resorts in the North-East of Russia.

Skiing is undoubtedly one of the most popular sports in Magadan Oblast. The annual all-Russian Vyalbe's ski-run has been attracting athletes from all parts of the country for 25 years. Thanks to the unique climate of the region, the natural snow on the slopes of the Kolyma Mountains lasts until the middle of June or even all the year round, given proper care. This creates an excellent opportunity for fostering winter sports.

The ultra-modern sports facility will include ski slopes of various difficulty levels, suitable for both amateurs and experienced skiers. A ski-lift with closed cabins will take the visitors to the top of the mountain trails, where an observation deck and an entertainment complex with cafes, restaurants and shops will be built in the near future. A number of modern hotels for guests, as well as the necessary infrastructure for the most comfortable stay possible, will also be constructed under the development project.

The Solnechny. Magadan ski resort, with its high quality slopes and reasonable prices, will be an attractive holiday destination not only for guests from other regions, but for international visitors as well.



### Magadan Airport

Since 1996, the reconstruction of the region's main airport (Sokol airport) has been underway. The funding is allocated under the programmes Modernisation of Russia's Transport System (2002–2010) and Development of the Transport System of Russia (2010–2015). During 15 years, the overall investment in the reconstruction of the runway has exceeded RUB 4 bn. Thanks to the improvements that have been made in the airport, it is now able to service aircraft with low-slung engines. Thus, in the past two years, 11 new aircraft have been passed for commissioning. Among them are Boeing-767, Boeing-737, Airbus A-320, A-321, IL-96-400T (Ilyushin) and others.

In order to improve passengers' comfort, new modern flight information display systems have been installed in the airport hall. For the first time in many years, new luggage carts and a modern baggage carousel have been purchased. Within the coming years, work will continue to align the airport with international comfort and service quality standards, as well as to improve its safety and anti-terrorism measures.

Regular flights to the villages throughout the region and different cities of Russia, including Simferopol, are serviced in the airport.

### Social sphere

Magadan Oblast is in need of qualified specialists. Staff shortage has an inevitable negative effect on the region's development. It also causes a affects the social sphere, especially medicine and education. In this regard, the regional government has developed

a number of measures to support young professionals coming to work in the region.

In particular, young teachers of various educational institutions are provided with subsidised mortgage loans, and doctors who come to work in the region are provided with accommodation from the regional government.

"The region is experiencing a dire shortage of staff, specifically physicians, neurosurgeons, gynaecologists, obstetricians, clinicians, laboratory technicians... The amount of subsidies intended to motivate the specialists to abandon the comfort of the central Russian regions in favour of the Far North has been significantly increased. The average salary of the doctors in Kolyma is around RUB 70,000, in some cases – up to RUB 100,000. The doctors and nurses who are up to 35–40 years old and who get a job in the rural areas are provided with accommodation from the regional government, which can subsequently be privatised, after having worked for several years. They are also entitled to compensation of their commuting costs (including luggage costs). In addition to that, there are other types of compensations and grants designed to support young specialists," says Vladimir Pecheny.

Special attention is paid to the families with many children and to child development programmes in general. In most towns and the city of Magadan itself, a complete renovation of children's playgrounds has been carried out, numerous classes and educational clubs have been established. As a result, the 2013 statistics showed a natural increase in the population, for the first time in 20 years. The mortality rate went down by almost 6%. There is a trend that shows a significant increase in life expectancy. Today, men in Kolyma live, on average, over 61 years, and women – about 72 years.

FOR THE FIRST TIME

IN **20** YEARS, THERE HAS BEEN A NATURAL INCREASE OF THE REGION'S POPULATION

VOLUME OF INVESTMENTS  
IN THE RECONSTRUCTION  
OF THE RUNWAY

**4** BN RUR



PASUL MESYAGUTOV

SOUTH



ANNA MIROSHNICHENKO



ANNA MIROSHNICHENKO

## LET'S GO TO THE SOUTH!

Magadan Oblast is not the place to delude you. Everything here is sincere and real. The Magadan people are born this way because of the severe weather conditions, rich history and their ancestors' hardship-laden past. You can especially feel it in the south of the region, which is virtually permeated with people's heroic deeds. In comparison to the northern regions, this territory is much more explored and studied, although it did come at a price.

The first settlements arranged by the Cossacks on the coast of the Sea of Okhotsk in the 17<sup>th</sup> century were in and of themselves a feat of unprecedented courage and a symbol of their devotion to the motherland. Moving through the uncharted territories, the Cossacks were not only drawing maps and annexing new territories to Russia, but they also brought their language, culture and religion to the local people.

Later on, pioneering geologists came to the Kolyma territory, who went through hard ordeals to find gold mines for the country. Nagaev Bay was the starting point for Kolymskaya trassa – the only highway that links Magadan and the neighbouring Chukchi Peninsula, the Kamchatka Peninsula, and Yakutia with the mainland. Despite very severe weather conditions, people constructed the Kolyma Hydroelectric Station here that provided the whole territory with cheap electricity and boosted the region's development.

The words from Oleg Kuvaev's novel apply to almost everyone who devoted themselves to this hard work: "...they knew the coarseness and the beauty of the real world and lived the way a man and a human should live". The numerous volunteers can really "dive into the sweet weight of memories, where rivers, hills, sweat, cold, blood, fatigue, dreams and a sacred feeling of doing what's necessary are blended."

Of course, those who got this hard lot not by their own choice will also stay in our memory. A traveller who has made up his or her mind to go to Magadan should be ready to hear from everyone around, "What will you do there? There are only camps and criminals!", to which the traveller may quote Vladimir Vysotsky: "If someone asked him: 'What's it for? // <...> The jails have killers by the score! // He'd shrug – 'Whatever people say // There's more in Moscow anyway.' – // Then pack up everything he can – // For Magadan, for Magadan. "

Immense human grief and thousands of lives destroyed by SevVostLag made Kolyma notorious. "There were few of those who are guilty, // and twice as many – without guilt," wrote poet Anatoly Zhigulin. This tragic reality is already in the past, though it is still quite recent and can be seen in the name of a mountain or in a sorrowful obelisk.

The south of Magadan Oblast is rich in unbelievably beautiful nature. Hundreds of rivers, waterfalls, hills, mountains, lakes, val-





IF SOMEONE ASKED HIM:  
"WHAT'S IT FOR?  
WHY JUST ABANDON  
YOUR LIFE AT RANDOM?  
THE JAILS HAVE KILLERS  
BY THE SCORE -  
THAT'S WHERE  
THEY CRAMMED "EM,  
THAT'S WHERE  
THEY CRAMMED' EM!"  
HE'D SHRUG -  
"WHATEVER PEOPLE SAY  
THERE'S MORE  
IN MOSCOW ANYWAY" -  
THEN PACK UP  
EVERYTHING HE CAN  
FOR MAGADAN,  
FOR MAGADAN.

leys make you feel like you are in a fairy-tale. There are so many breath-taking views that people have a hard time coming up with names for all of them. Take a good look at your map or route description. Many waterfalls, streams and hills are still waiting to be named. The already existing names all carry some fantastic, romantic or mystical meaning in them. Take a ride to the Three Bogatyrs, Sleeping Knight or Bald Grandfather mountains, swim across Jack London Lake or Grey Gull Lake in a boat, climb the Aborigine or Challenger peaks. You may see natural objects with such meaningful names at every turn.

But, while chasing new experiences, be ready to find yourself the only person within hundreds (!) of kilometres. Although, coming face to face with a bear, a moose or a snow sheep is a very real possibility. Cellular communication is possible within cities or villages, and very often you will need a special vehicle to drive along the road. However, if you overcome all these difficulties, you may rest assured that the Magadan nature has many unique things in store for you. There is no end to berries and mushrooms: on a small spot you can collect as much of them as you can carry. It is hard to just walk by such abundance, but you cannot take the forest with you.

And the fishing! This is an indispensable part of the journey of each Magadan Oblast visitors. There is so much fish to catch that you may not be able to eat your entire take. You will find fish everywhere – both in rivers and lakes. Take, for example, a lake with a fish-themed romantic name – Dancing Graylings Lake! Sea-



ANNA MIROSHNICHENKO



PAVEL ZHDANOV

shore fishing deserves a special mention. Valuable fishes swim here in abundance. In the second half of summer, salmon moves to the shoreline of the Okhotsk Sea and up the rivers to spawn. But be careful – the big brown fishers also know about this and go fishing at that same time.

Motykle Healing Hot Springs are wonderful in this place, where the temperature goes lower than  $-50^{\circ}\text{C}$  in winter. You will find it especially pleasant to bathe in these springs in cold winter – the temperature of water in some of them goes up to almost  $+47^{\circ}\text{C}$ . As your eyelashes and eyebrows frost, you lie in a natural warm bath and restore your strength for the future discoveries.

Rafting down numerous local rivers is another unforgettable experience. The majority of the rivers are suitable even for first-timers – beginners may easily overcome many rapids. You can see the true beauty of the rivers – the purest water that runs down the stony riverbed, splits into dozens of streams and then becomes one again. Icing mounds that did not melt during the short Magadan summer are shining in the sunlight. And also the clean, herb-scented air – all these are the main treasures of the Magadan nature, and those daring enough to say "I am going to Magadan!" will be able to enjoy them in full.



# SOUTH WEST OF KOLYMA HIGHWAY

## In focus

### Urban areas:

- Tauysk – 582 people
- Palatka – 3,999 people
- Ust-Omchug – 3,452 people
- Sinegorye – 2,522 people
- Yagodnoye – 3,811 people
- Susuman – 5,157 people

### Administrative divisions:

- Ol'sky, Khasyn'sky, Tenkin'sky, Yagodninsky, Susumansky districts

### Rivers:

- Kolyma, Kulu, Arman, Yama, Tauy, Kava, Chelomdzha, Detrin

### Mountains:

- Snezhny, Aborigen, Vlastnyi, Stremleniya, Mordzhot

### Transport:

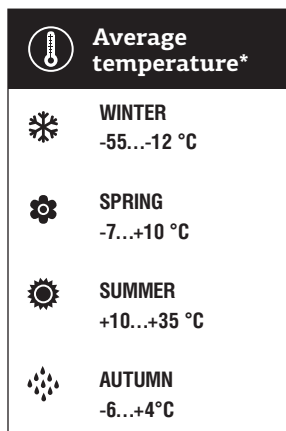
- buses, cars, air travel (helicopters, planes)

### Roads:

- █ R504 Kolyma
- █ 44H-4 Palatka – Kulu – Neksikan (Tenkin Highway)
- █ Kadykchan – Tomtor – Kyubyume



**Climate:**  
continental, near water – tropical monsoon



\* Temperature scenarios considerably vary in different climatic zones



- on the map**
- 1 Jack London Lake
  - 2 Lake of Dancing Graylings
  - 3 Big Annachag Ridge
  - 4 Kolyma Hydroelectric Station
  - 5 Ghost town Kadykchan
  - 6 Tenkin Highway
  - 7 Motykleyskiye Hot Springs
  - 8 Kava-Chelomdzhinsky nature reserve

## Kolyma Golden Ring

After Magadan, Kolyma Highway goes two ways. Actually, it goes farther to the North, and its branch road, Tenkin Highway, goes to the left, through Ust-Omchug, and then joins up with "Kolyma" again near Susuman. This road loop, called the Kolyma Golden Ring, is seen as the most popular tourist way of travel in the region. The road goes through a number of inhabited and uninhabited villages on its way, gold mines, former camps, and it also crosses rivers and winds through mountains and passes. It is there, within the Golden Ring, that the majority of the region's sights accessible without using a helicopter are situated.

Most villages along Tenkin and Kolyma highways are accessible by public transport. All major villages have a regular bus service. You can also travel by car, as the roads have been repaired recently, and a high-clearance vehicle can reach anywhere without any serious difficulties.





PAVEL ZHDANOV

## Things to see

### Jack London Lake 1

This name astonishes everyone who hears about this lake for the first time. It is a cause for numerous disputes, bewilderment, admiration and smiles. Where did such a place-name come from to our back-country area back in the times of the Soviet Union? According to a very popular theory you may hear even from indigenous population, and on TV, a “first geologist” to visit this place named the water body this way. He was incredibly happy to be the first to find this strikingly beautiful place. But upon approaching the water’s edge, he has noticed that somebody had left a Jack London’s book here. This unusual finding gave the geologist an idea of a name for this lake.

In fact, the water body owes its name to Yuri Bilibin. It was he who suggested that one of the geographic features should be named after Jack London. “He was a courageous writer”, Bilibin said, “let’s name something after him”.

The geologist P.I. Skornya-kov who was based in the area of the water body supported his director’s idea, and named the lake after the American writer in 1932.

The idea of London’s name, who was a passionate advocate of socialism and sup-

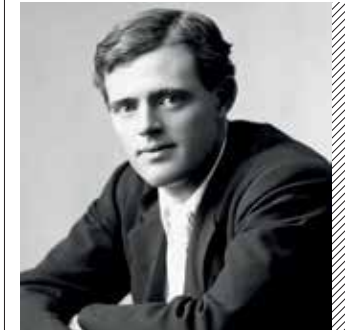
ported the doctrines of Marx and Engels, had not been questioned, and the name was approved.

Jack London’s lake, or just Jack, as it is called by the locals, is a very picturesque place. Its narrow and rugged banks stretched for miles among the mountains resemble the Norwegian fjords. The lake lies at the altitude of 803 m near the mountain ridge Big Annachag, which looks like the Alps. Grim tops of the cliffs rise up to the sky for more than two kilometres. The highest peaks, Aborigen (2,287 m) and Snezhny (2,293 m), are a mountaineer’s dream. The upright towers, like giant sentinels, guard peace of the lake, snowy steep slopes prop up the lofty peaks, resting in the clouds. Dense green coniferous forests are reflected in the mirror-like surface of Jack London Lake. Low rocky

banks, small sandy coves, capes and brows scattered their depths, are covered with cedar elfin woods bending down to the ground. In autumn, downy larches burn like fires. The water is so crystal clear that you can see fish scurrying ten metres below the surface. The grayling is the kind of fish mainly inhabiting the lake. It is a very fascinating kind of fish with a huge dorsal fin, and its habitat is clean and cold water of mountain rivers and lakes. Here, you may also catch an arctic char, a Phoxinus perenurus and a bullhead.



The lake is in the middle of mountain tundra. In spring, yellow azaleas blossom on the banks lined with numerous rivers and streams. Ledum also looks very beautiful because of its bright colours. Autumn



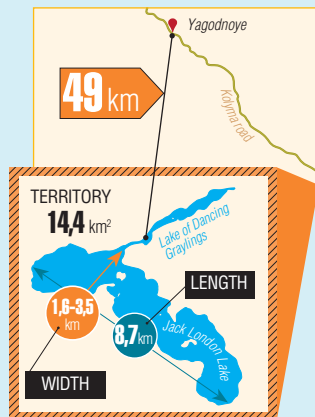
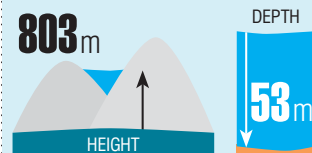
### A born romantic

Jack London (1876–1916) was born in San-Francisco amidst the economic crisis and had to work since childhood. At the age of 14, after graduating from school, London borrowed some money to buy a used sloop and become an “oyster pirate”, illegally fishing oysters. The young man often switched from one activity to another. He was a member of the Fish Patrol, then was hired as a sailor on a fishing schooner. In spring of 1897, Jack London did not resist the temptation to follow the “Gold Rush” and went to Alaska, but luck did not favour him. It was not gold what the fate gave to the future writer, but the images of protagonists of his novels. He published his first cycle of “Northern” stories after coming back from Alaska, and in 1900 he published the storybook titled “The Son of the Wolf”. Jack London was a romantic and always cherished dreams. His heroes, much like him, often find themselves in a difficult situation, but beat the odds thanks to their tenacity and toughness.

### Jack London Lake

#### LOCATION:

Magadan Oblast, Ygodninsky District, Jack London Lakenature park. Distance to the nearest populated area (Yagodnoye) – 49 km (56 km by road).



ALEXANDER SHAFRANOV



ANNA MIROSHNICHENKO

Panoramic view from Yuntur's stop

## MUSHROOMS OF KOLYMA

About 200 kinds of edible mushrooms have been discovered in Magadan Oblast. They are found in abundance almost everywhere here. In the times of the Soviet Union, the region stocked up on approximately 120 t of mushrooms, and now almost every family makes its own provision for winter.



Slippery jack



Birch bolete



Red-capped scaber stalk



Penny Bun



Fried chicken mushroom



Milk mushroom

promises a rich harvest: cranberries, blueberries, cloudberry, lots of mushrooms, cedar cones.

Different kinds of mushrooms grow here in abundance. There are so many of them that it is almost impossible to just pass by. But you cannot have all the mushrooms of the



forest, so you have to take only what you are able to carry and move on, feasting your eyes on their striking abundance.

According to those who are well-versed in the nature of Kolyma, Jack London Lake and the surrounding area are the most beautiful and picturesque places of Magadan Oblast.

Being here feels like discovering pristine nature. To mountaineers and tourists, Jack offers a variety of possible routes – they can climb up such peaks as Snezhny, Aborigen or Challenger, walk in the valley of the Vosmiozorny stream (“the Stream of Eight Lakes”), go fishing in one of the water bodies of Stoozyorka, or make a foray into the tundra.

Jack is in the upper reaches of the Kolyma River and is the centre of a smaller lake

### Fauna of Jack London Lake



**ANIMALS:** ❶ bear, ❷ moose, ❸ wolf, ❹ wolverine, ❺ bighorn sheep, ❻ fox, ❼ sable, ❽ ermine, ❾ chipmunk, ❿ white hare, ⓫ squirrel, ⓬ long-tailed ground squirrel



**BIRDS:** ❶ black brant, ❷ snowy owl, (various species) ❸ loons ❹ partridges, ❺ greater white-fronted goose, ❻ sandhill crane, ❼ Bewick's swan, ❽ lesser white-fronted goose, ❾ grey plover, ❿ common ringed plover, ⓫ bean goose, etc.

system. This region is literally pitted by a number of large mountain lakes, hence the name “Stoozyorka” (One Hundred Lakes). Many names of the water bodies found here have a romantic meaning: Mechta (Dream), Anemone,

Seraya Chaika (Grey Gull), Nevidimka (Invisible), Sosedneye (Neighbouring)... They were formed in the pits left by ancient glaciers – moraines. The whole group of lakes is in a small depression surrounded by the mountain ranges.



ANNA MIROSHNICHENKO

Several mountain torrents flow into the lake. They are: Purga River, Studyony and Navedomy streams, and countless unnamed streams.

Even based on the topographic names alone, you can tell that these places are rough: bitterly cold streams and continental climate do not allow the lake water to get warm enough even in summer. For example, the maximum possible temperature of the shallow water is +12°C in June, while in the middle of the lake there may be floating ice. At this time of the year, the lake is most full-flowing. The water body is already frozen solid in October. Even in the early summer, the ice in the middle of the lake can be 2 m thick. The average air temperature rises up to +20°C in the early summer.

If summer here is cold, then winter is just ruthlessly

freezing. It starts in October and ends in May. The air temperature may often go below -30°C in January. There are blizzards and storms that amass a lot of



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snow and create fascinating snow canopies on the leeward slopes of the rocks. Avalanches also often occur in winter. Snow melts away only in late April – early May. So, for the majority of travellers it would be better to plan a trip for July–August.

There are also four islands in Jack London Lake. The smallest, the Central Island, divides the water body in two: Big and Small Jack. There is a small island near the Northern bank called Vera (Faith). A meteorological station has been functioning here for a long time now. Not many people have ever lived there, and even if they had, it was because of their work. Their activities left a mark on the local toponymy. There is Cape of Biologists in Small Jack, behind Central Island. This name is dedicated to the Aborigine biological

station that was part of the Institute of Biological Problems of the North. The biological station operated from 1974 to 1994. The Cape is remarkable because, unlike the majority of rocky and marshy shores, it is fully covered with fine sand and resembles a tropical beach. However, in contrast to tropics, instead of dolphins jumping up from water, here it is graylings.

Since 1975, Jack London Lake, the neighbouring Lake of Dancing Graylings, and one of the region's highest peaks – Aborigen – have been a nature reserve.

### Travelling from Magadan

It is quite a hard trip to Jack London Lake, but it is worth it. This journey is ideal for strong-willed people who seek incredible experiences, eager to get away from it all and become pioneers. If you have never been here, you had better join a tour group.

### Lake islands



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View at Jack London Lake and Variantov Anabranch

Upon leaving Magadan, you should take Kolyma Highway and drive 600 km till Yagodnoye. There is also regular bus service. The road can be dusty, but there are few cars. Further, the real adventure begins. You have to cover 60 km on the unpassable road that was paved in the 1940s.

There are pits and deep ruts. Sometimes the way can lead through a dense forest. You will also have to ford small streams, which is why you will need either an off-road vehicle (like KAMAZ and MAZ trucks), or even a helicopter.

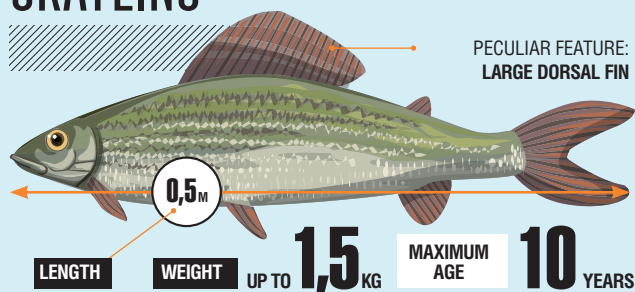
By the lake, there is a campsite with a number of cosy wooden houses. Of course, you can stay in your own tent, pitching it wherever you like on the lakeside.

### Dancing Graylings Lake 2

Dancing Graylings Lake (Ozero Tantsuyushchikh Khariusov) is located in Yagodinsky District of Magadan Oblast on the Verkhnekolymskoye Plateau at the headwaters of the Kolyma River. The lake is 780 m above the sea level, a bit lower than Jack London Lake. The 500 m Variantov Anabranch connects the two lakes.

# GRAYLING

FAMILY: SALMON



PECULIAR FEATURE:  
LARGE DORSAL FIN

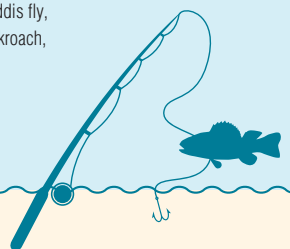
**COLOURING:** bright – scattered dark and red spots on sides, yellow stripes. Pelvic fins are yellow, red and violet, tinged with blue.

**BEST MONTHS TO FISH:**  
from June until freeze-up

**BAIT:**  
bloodworm, traditional worm, maggots, fries, pieces of fish, caddis fly, grasshopper, cockroach, baitless jigs

**LURES:**  
not used, stirring up water is enough

**BEST TIME TO FISH:**  
before sunrise, at sunset, at night and in the afternoon if it is cloudy



## How to catch a grayling?



In the lake, this fish hunts hiding near big rocks, so you should cast the bait there. Once it has reached the bottom, you should tighten the fishing line gently and cast the bait again. However, at Dancing Graylings Lake, a fish grabs the bait so fast that you will hardly need to cast a lure one more time. While a spate is rising and the wa-

ter is muddy, fishing for graylings with flies does not really work. In this case, you can find fish in the sandbanks, where the water is a bit cleaner. In autumn, you can fish for graylings all day long. As the winter is getting closer, graylings start to feed later. In the morning, while air is cooler than water, there are a lot of graylings at the river bottom and you can fish for them using either bright artificial flies or baits. When air heats up and becomes warmer than water, graylings start to splash and you can fly fish on the surface. You should cook a grayling shortly after you have caught it, because the tender fish spoils fast. The grayling is perfect for fish-soup.



The fast-current Kuel-Sien River with a lot of rapids takes its source in Dancing Graylings Lake. This river is a left tributary of the Kolyma River and flows into the Kolyma Reservoir. Long and narrow, the lake is surrounded by two mountains. However, it is not as deep as Jack London Lake – just 22 m. Dancing Graylings Lake is almost 3 km long in the north-west and 800 m wide.

The lake takes its name from a small fish – grayling. These fish do indeed dance here. At sunrise and sunset, when midges appear to float above the lake in the clouds, the water trembles as if it boils and hundreds of graylings jump out. The fish hunt insects, spreading their fins that resemble a beautiful sail. There are so many jumping graylings that you cannot but imagine a perfectly synchronized dance performance with a great variety of feats and leaps. This graylings dance lasts about half an hour. That is the reason why fishing at Dancing Graylings Lake is especially successful at sunrise and sunset. No wonder, this lake attracts many anglers who are fond of graylings.

There is an interesting fact about graylings in this area. The fish in Dancing Graylings Lake are much smaller than in Jack London Lake. An average grayling is 1 kg in Jack London Lake, while in Dancing Graylings Lake it is just 500–600 g. Even though it grows much more slowly, fishermen are happy with a great number of fish in Dancing Graylings Lake.

## Fishing

Magadan Oblast (especially its southern part) is home to the finest fishing. Various rivers, lakes and streams spread across this area. This region boasts a diverse variety of fish species. In this regard, it can compete with Kolyma.

Anglers mostly visit Magadan Oblast to fish for salmon, sharp-snouted lenok and taimen. Here you will also find huge burbot, delicious broad whitefish and muksun, beautiful humpback whitefish and grayling. As for cyprinoids, there is a Kolyma crucian, which is the largest species of crucian in Russia.

If you are fond of ordinary perches and pikes, you will find them here too. You can also try fishing for a new species like Siberian suckerfish, which is quite widespread in the Far East.



In spring and summer, you can enjoy sea fishing. When it gets warm, there are plenty of plaice, capelin and herrings at coast during the spawning season. Then, it is time to fish for pink, sockeye, chum salmon and char. The best month to fish for coho salmon is July. As for

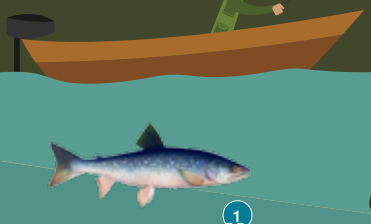
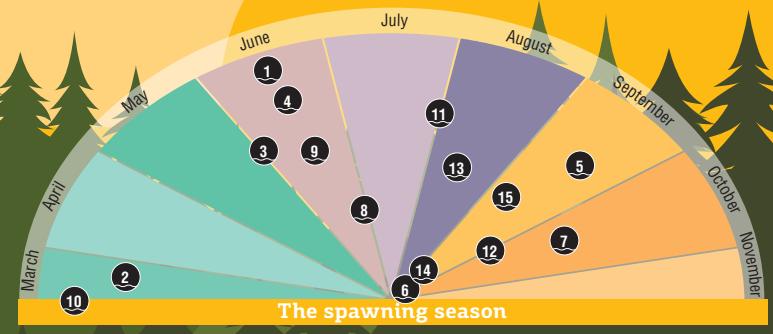
halibut, it is August. In autumn, the rivers are full of humpback whitefish, sharp-snouted lenok and grayling. Here, you can also enjoy ice fishing. The largest catch of humpback whitefish and char is in November, while at sea you can fish for saffron cod and smelt.

*Dancing Graylings Lake at dawn*



# FRESHWATER FISHES

Rivers of Magadan Oblast have an impressive diversity of delicious fishes to catch and eat. Depending on the season, fish can be different. For example, if there are a lot of suckerfish in spring, then you will have to wait for broad whitefish season until autumn.



**Siberian Char**  
 Salmon Family  
 lakes on the low and middle stretches of the Kolyma  
 27 cm 700 g



**Siberian Dace**  
 Cyprinoid Family  
 rivers and lakes  
 29 cm 340 g



**Siberian Suckerfish**  
 Cyprinoid Family  
 bed of the Kolyma River  
 45 cm 706 g



**Arctic cisco**  
 Salmon Family  
 rivers and shores of the East Siberian Sea  
 56 cm 3 kg



**Humpback whitefish**  
 Salmon Family  
 rivers and lakes  
 38 cm 550 g



**Muksun**  
 Salmon Family  
 shores of the East Siberian Sea, the Kolyma delta  
 50 cm 2,5 kg



**Broad whitefish**  
 Salmon Family  
 rivers and lakes  
 60 cm 3,8 kg



**Siberian grayling**  
 Salmon Family  
 rivers and lakes  
 50 cm 1,5 kg



**Sharp-snouted lenok**  
 Salmon Family  
 rivers  
 50 cm 1,4 kg



**Burbot**  
 Cod Family  
 rivers  
 90 cm 4.3 kg



**Siberian sturgeon**  
 Sturgeon Family  
 river deltas and beds  
 120 cm 9,6 kg



**Nelma**  
 Salmon Family  
 Seashore, the Kolyma River  
 90 cm 8 kg



**Pink salmon**  
 Salmon Family  
 several in the Kolyma  
 60 cm 2,2 kg



**Chum salmon**  
 Salmon Family  
 Kolyma River  
 75 cm 5 kg

**LEGEND**

- Family
- Habitat
- Length
- Weight
- On the Red List of Magadan Oblast



**Malma**  
 Salmon Family  
 rivers and lakes  
 75 cm 3,5 kg

## Peaks of the Bolshoi Annachag Range

VLASTNY (2,187 m)

STREMLENIYA (2,190 m)

ABORIGEN (2,287 m)

SNEZHNY (2,292 m)



ANNA MIROSHNICHENKO

### Bolshoi Annachag Range 3

Aborigen Peak, one of the highest peaks of the Bolshoi Annachag Range, is several kilometres away from Jack London Lake. This summit is the most popular tourist destination. The peak was put on the map in 1948 and was mistakenly considered the highest point in Magadan Oblast. Based on the fallacious measurements, it was believed to be 2,586 m high. However, later it was proved that Aborigen Peak is almost 300 m lower – 2,287 m. Now, the highest point of the region is Snezhny Peak (2,292 m).

When you look at the Bolshoi Annachag Range, it is hard to say which summit is higher because their height is almost the same. Vlastny Peak is 2,187 m high, 5–6 km away you will find Stremeniya Peak, the height of which is 2,190 m,

and a bit further there is Aborigen Peak (2,287 m).

Snezhny Peak stands detached from the others, many kilometres to the north. This summit is not as popular with tourists as Aborigen. Steep and rocky ridges, glaciers that do not melt in summer – all these make it hard to climb. Only well-experienced climbers can reach this summit and Snezhny Mountain attracts those climbers with its challenging routes. A far more difficult summit to climb is Challenger Peak. Although it is not that high compared to other peaks of the Bolshoi Annachag Range, Challenger Peak is almost inaccessible. This black 400-metre rock has the steepest ridges. In 1988, Russian trekkers were the first to reach the summit. They noticed that this black rock very much resembled the American space shuttle Challenger. This name

perfectly fits the inaccessible mountain that looks like a rocket ready to launch.

A waterfall on the way to Aborigen



## RISE ABOVE THE CLOUDS

In Magadan Oblast, most mountains are 2,500 m and have snowcaps because of the climate. Mountain glacier remains here all year round or until autumn, depending on the weather. We ask you to follow all climbing rules to be safe.

MOST POPULAR AMONG CLIMBERS:



Snezhny Peak

2292 m

2287 m



Aborigen Peak

400 m



Challenger Peak

### EQUIPMENT

**ICA-AXE** – a multi-purpose tool and essential item for trekkers. It comes in handy when climbing snow summits.

**CARABINERS** – no fewer than three.

**CAP** – wool or synthetic. Must cover your ears.

**SUNGLASSES** protect your eyes from harmful ultraviolet rays. Important: not all sunglasses block UV-rays. It is necessary to check before buying.

**CRAMPONS** improve mobility on snow and ice. Best with anti-balling plates that prevent snow from building up.

**TREKKING POLES** (ski poles) help you maintain balance on difficult terrain. Poles reduce the impact on your legs, knees, ankles, and feet.

**WIND-PROOF JACKET** – essential for climbing to resist wind on the top.

**CLIMBING HARNESS** is a key item of climbing equipment. Make sure it is safe and comfortable.

**MOUNTAINEERING BOOTS** – important items of hiking gear. If your crampons are rigid, make sure that your boots have special platforms to be attached to.

**LIGHT PAIR OF GLOVES** protect your hands from the sun and wind. Best with silicone grip pads on the fingers and palms to reduce slippage.

### TREKKING VOCABULARY

**CIRQUE** – the broadening of summits surrounded by steep ridges in a mountain valley.

**COULOIR** – a narrow gully with a steep gradient in a mountainous terrain.

**SNOW FIELD** – accumulation of permanent snow and ice in places where there is little wind and sunlight.

**FIRN** – granular and compacted snow, usually builds up for years.







**KOLYMA HPP ACCOUNTS FOR 95% OF MAGADAN OBLAST ELECTRICITY PRODUCTION**

PRESS SERVICE OF RUSHYDRO JSC

### Frishter Kolyma Hydroelectric Station 4

The need to tap into the hydro-technical potential of Kolyma became obvious as early as the 1930s. It was then that, upon completing his survey of the upper river, geologist Dmitry Voznesensky put forward an idea of constructing a hydroelectric station: it was to provide the growing population and industry of Kolyma region with cheap energy.

For the project evaluation, an expedition was formed, which was headed by hydraulic engineer Morozov I. P. In the summer of 1935, on assignment from Dalstroy, he came down the Bokhapcha River and landed on the site of the present-day settlement of Sinegorye. Soon, the first schematic draft of the hydroelectric station on the Grand Rapids of Kolyma was created.

At first, the plan was to build a station that is less massive than the one existing today. However, the construction was going to cost RUB 180 m – a price quite exorbitant for that time. The undertaking got postponed.

The matter was brought up again only 30 years later. In the summer of 1963, mapping and surveying commenced near the Kolyma Rapids. Yuri Frishter was appointed head of construction, and the station was later named after him. A

hydraulic engineer by training, smart, honest, understanding and intelligent, he became the favourite mentor for all the builders of the power station and Sinegorye settlement.

The construction was carried out in extremely difficult conditions – permafrost, range of temperatures of around 98 °C – from the winter minimum of -62 °C to the summer maximum of +36 °C, lack of communications, etc. During the construction, workers encountered a serious problem:

#### Hydro dam

Kolyma hydroelectric station has the highest earth dam in Russia. Its maximum height is 134.5 m, with the crest length of 683 m and crest width of 15 m. Such a substantial height of the construction was due to the unsteadiness of the Kolyma run-off – in winter, the river dries out almost completely, but it is during the cold season when electrical energy is most needed, to provide heating for Magadan Oblast. Insufficient stream force is counter-balanced by the dam height. This power station's total capacity is 900 MW, and its mean annual electricity output equals 1,558 bn kWh. Kolyma HPP accounts for 95% of Magadan Oblast electricity production.

they needed a winter road over the river to deliver cargo, but due to severe frost the ice on the rapids was frail and the only solution was to build a bridge. The passage was built in two years (1975–1977), and the main works to construct the power station began.

In 1965, builders attempted to arrange a winter passage over the Kolyma for equipment delivery. They sent a bulldozer ahead to check the ice density and make way for trucks. But the ice broke down and the large-tonnage vehicle sank, together with the dozer operator Mullanur Gazizullin.

He got pulled out of the flooded cab by his colleague, who tied a rope around his waist and dived into the ice-hole in spite of the -60 °C frost. After that accident, the ice-road finally got arranged, but cargo delivery during the warm season remained very problematic. The need for a bridge over the Kolyma was essential.

In 1980, the Kolyma River waterflow was blocked and directed through the river's



*The main block of Kolyma HPP was built in the shape of a ship*

right-bank outlet; the filling of the reservoir commenced. This time-consuming process was only finished in 1988 and during the entire period, equipment installation and adjustment were still going on at the station. The first four hydropower units of the station were driven to their projected capacity in 1991, and the last unit – No. 5 – was only launched on 2 October 1994.

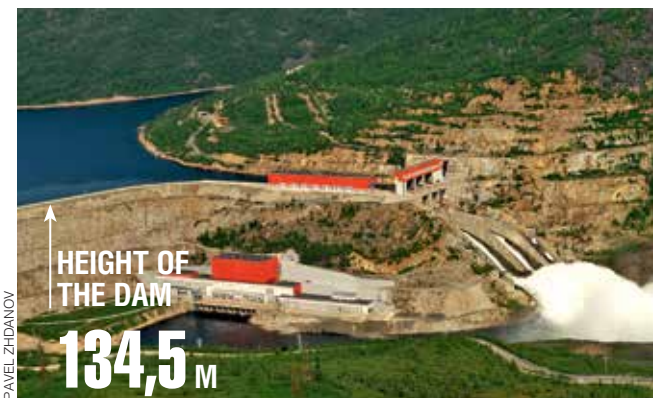
The workers building the power station participated in a socialist emulation. They were to finish the construction by February 1981. However, the actual scope of work that was yet to be done was immense, the budget



#### Yuri Fishter

"Kolyma will remember him for as long as the HPP illuminates this harsh land" – these words are carved in the bronze plaque dedicated to Yuri Fishter – the founder of the station and the first director of "Kolymagesstroy" division. The plaque has been attached to the Kolyma HPP Administration building since 2010.

Only 41 years after the power station was constructed, its staff finally managed to formally name the HPP after its first director and mastermind. It was thanks to his efforts that the hydroelectric station and Sinegorye settlement of hydraulic engineers appeared in the Kolyma region. "Yuri Fishter dedicated his whole life to bringing warmth and light into the homes of the Kolyma people," recounted Yuri Frishter's daughter Lyudmila. Only two hydroelectric stations in Russia are named after real people: Pyotr Neporozhny Sayano-Shushenskaya HPP and Yuri Fishter Kolyma HPP.



PAVEL ZHDANOV



### Underground HPP

Kolyma HPP has a lot of permanent and temporary underground constructions with the total length of 7.2 km and excavation volume of 425,000 cu m. The main generator hall, for instance, is cavate, with a 300 m long transportation tunnel leading to it. Typically, the main generator hall of an HPP is located on the surface.

was scarce, and new technical problems kept arising here and there. Due to this, and the low water level of the winter Kolyma, the water accumulated in the reservoir was only enough for the hydropower unit to last eight days, after which its work was suspended.

The builders were stripped of government awards and the construction of HPP continued. Although the power station was scheduled to be built in eleven years, it actually took twice that time.

Officially, the building of the station was only finished on 25 October 2007, when the act

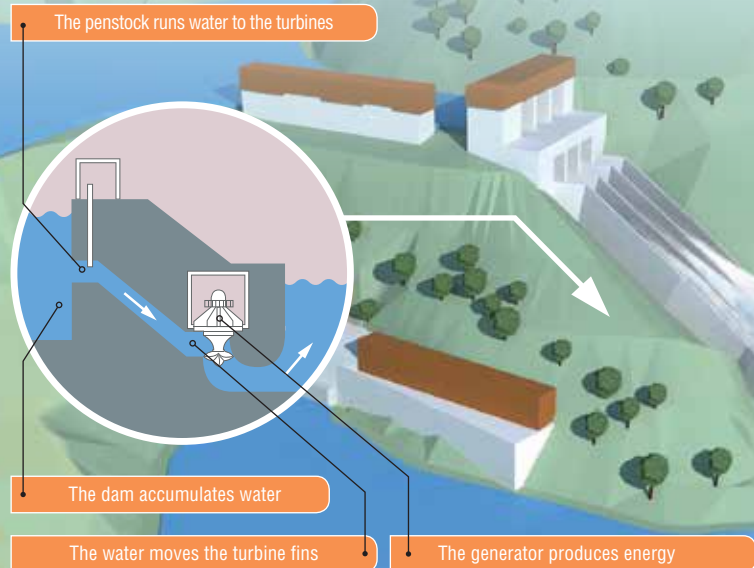
of its full-time commissioning was signed. The total cost of the construction equalled the record sum of RUB 1.0857 bn at 1984 values. Nowadays this plant is one of the principal energy sources of the region. It is possible to get on a tour of the Kolyma HPP, but it should be requested and arranged in advance.

### Kolyma reservoir

Siberia and the Far East have reservoirs that are among the biggest in the world. They were constructed in the second half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Dams were built on copious

## HPP OPERATING PRINCIPLES

A hydroelectric power plant allows generating cheap and environmentally friendly electricity using the natural powers of the water. It is required primarily in areas with a developed power-intensive industry, such as ore mining.



**A child of the 20<sup>th</sup> century**

The first reservoirs on Earth were built more than 4,000 years ago. The most ancient formation of this kind, preserved up to the present moment, is the dam and reservoir of **Sadd el-Kafara**, built in Ancient Egypt in **2950-2750 BC**. But despite its millennial history, reservoirs can be considered children of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The total volume of all reservoirs on our planet at the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century was only 15 cu km; nowadays, Bratsk reservoir on Angara alone has the volume of 169 cu km.

**World's largest reservoirs**

<b>1</b> Lake VICTORIA (NILE) Uganda, Tanzania, Kenya, 1954 205 cu km   76,000 sq km	<b>2</b> BRATSK (ANGARA) Russia, 1967 169 km <sup>3</sup>   5470 km <sup>2</sup>	<b>3</b> KARIBA (ZAMBEZI) Zambia, Zimbabwe, 1963 160 km <sup>3</sup>   4450 km <sup>2</sup>
<b>16</b> KOLYMA RESERVOIR (KOLYMA), 1980 14,6 cu km   441 sq km		

rivers – Ob, Yenisei, Angara, Kolyma, and Zeya.

Most of the reservoirs in this region have rather substantial length – from the 150 m long Kolyma reservoir to the 565 m long Bratsk reservoir. Kolyma reservoir is in the top-20 of our

planet's biggest reservoirs, at the 16<sup>th</sup> spot. The construction of the Kolyma dam resulted in several settlements being submerged; those were Kongo, Vetreny, Yubileiny, Sanga-Talon, partially Sibik Tyellakh, etc. People were relocated. Now, some of the remaining houses and streets can be seen through the water in certain places, which attract tourists.

One can see the Kolyma power station with its main

ship-shaped building and the builders' Syngorie settlement from the waterside of the reservoir. This place also has a nice view of mountains Bessytdnitsa, Spyashchy Rytsar, Chiganiya, Korabl.

It is also possible to get a good look at the peaks of the Bolshoy Annanchag range: Vlastny (2,187 m), Stremleniya (2,190 m), Aborigen (2,287 m). A fairly new settlement of Vetrenskoye, where hardrock gold is mined, is located on the waterside of the Kolyma reservoir.

In August, it is a great idea to go fishing in these waters. After the reservoir was filled, a lot of Northern Pike appeared there. It nibbles at all types of lure. One can fish out pikes weighting 1–15 kilos. Local Kolyma perch, which only lives in the Kolyma catchment basin, also nibbles well at lure and can reach three kilos of live weight. Thymallus, Coregonus, Lenok and Burbot are common here as well.

**Kolyma reservoir**  
 LENGTH: 148 km WIDTH: 6 km  
 WATER SURFACE AREA: 441 sq km  
 MAXIMUM DEPTH: 120 m  
 CATCHMENT AREA: 61,500 sq km

FRASIL MESYAGUTOV



Vladimir Lenin monument in Kadykchan settlement

### Ghost town of Kadykchan

Houses with chipped paint, deserted streets, broken windows, roads overgrown by wild grass, discoloured signs... Writings and slogans addressing no one look rather melancholic: this place was once brimming with life. Only wind is now flipping through the books and magazines, abandoned by the former residents of these desolated houses. Outside, old cars are getting rusty. That image is quite common for all abandoned settlements,

Former residential houses and a restaurant



and Magadan also has them as well.

In the Kolyma region, however, people do not take that as pessimistically. Such is the destiny of most exploitation-related settlements: as soon as the development is finished, the plant is just moved to a new territory, and the majority of the residents tag along.

People move reluctantly, leaving their homes with sadness, but it is the natural order of things for those settlements. In 1960, for instance, 15 houses of "Zolotoy" (Golden) dis-

### Varlam Shalamov about Kadykchan

*"I did not descend down the shaft and worked at grass. Nobody would have let me work deep in the mine, because I did not know the basics of technical safety. It was a safety-lamp mine and one needed to know how to measure gas with a Volf bulb, learn not to be afraid of working after the mine caving, get used to darkness, come to terms with your lungs being filled with coal-dust and sand, understand that in case of danger, when the back crashes, you run into the pit, to its face, not out of it. And only forcing yourself against the coal can save your life. One also needed to understand that mine timbers are not set to hold something; a billion tonne mountain cannot be held by anything. Mine timbers are set to see by their bending, cracking and creaking that it is time to leave. <...>*

*I worked at grass and I did not like it. <...> The pit had many advantages, and the main one was warmth – it was not colder than 20–22 °C – below zero, of course, but still not -50 °C, as in the open cut of a gold mine with wind, sweeping away at your neck, ears, hands, torso and everything that is exposed. <...> I asked quite determinately to be transferred into the pit."*

trict just got dismantled and moved to another place to form another settlement with an unexpected name – Kongo.

Later, it was abandoned as well – the settlement was flooded by the Kolyma reservoir and the residents moved out again. And such examples are numerous in the history of the Kolyma region. There are a lot of forsaken settlements along the Kolyma and the Tenkin Highway.

The most famous and advertised ghost town of this region is probably the settlement of Kadykchan. Once, by mere chance, it was featured in a rating of the world's abandoned towns, and ever since then a great deal of articles appeared on the web, and tourists started coming specifically to visit Kadykchan. In reality, there are a lot of such desolated settlements in this region.

This town is located along the Kolyma route, 730 km away from the capital of the region. From a far, in the calm frame of the green mountains, it looks snow-white, neat and quite alive. Only after entering



The residential houses look quite liveable

the settlement itself, one sees that people abandoned it a long time ago.

Kadykchak is situated in a picturesque place not far away from the confluence of rivers Kadykchanka and Arkagalinka. It was first populated by miners, who came to develop deposits in the 1930s. Later, one of Gulag camps was situated here. Writer Varlam Shalamov was among the prisoners working at the Kadykchan mine No. 10, where he had to work in coal pits.

In 1986, the population of this settlement was

10,270 people. The life was pulsing through the town: there were shops, restaurant "Polarny" ("Polar"), a cinema, a culture centre, and a bath-house. The mines of Kadykchan were providing fuel to heat not only the local mines, but also the entire central Kolyma region.

But in 1996, after a mine explosion, coal production was stopped. People started leaving their homes. In 2003, the authorities decided to relocate the settlement, but not everybody wanted to go. Until 2007, the population of Kadykchan was 287 people, but now only two of its previous residents are still living in this town, making their subsistence from hunting and fishing and heating their homes with a potbelly stove.

The town gives you a strange feeling: some houses are rather well-preserved – glaze the windows and you can live there. Roads and sidewalks are no worse than those in any Russian regional settlements. Some personal belongings

were left in a hurry: an open book on the table, a pot with a plant on the window, even some clothes in the wardrobe.

A rusty Zaporozhets car stands by the entrance hall of an apartment block... it seems as if people vanished from here in a flash. One can still recognise a hospital building, a hockey rink, a primary school. Its chipped poster reads "Welcome to the world of knowledge", which looks rather bizarre. And there is still a flaked bust of Lenin standing in front of the local culture centre.

### Sibik-Tyellakh

Sibik Tyellakh, another currently abandoned town, was located in the estuary of the Olen Creek, geographically forming part of Yagodninsky District, and administratively – of Tenkinsky District.

The name is Yakut, "sibik" means "the presence of supernatural forces", and "tyellakh" means "windy". By now, most of the village got submerged in the Kolyma reservoir, with only a few houses of

*Sibik Tyellakh, an archive photo*



*Sibik Tyellakh, an archive photo*

gold miners remaining on its banks.

Gold deposits here were discovered in 1956 and Sibik Tyellakh became the base for the gold mine "40 years of October revolution". The settlement grew rather quickly. In 1961, the feldsher's station attended to 115 people, in 1962 – already to 700 people and by 1978 the number of people grew to 1,150.

In 1958–1990, "40 years of October revolution" gold mine produced more than 60 tonnes of gold, and even now there still is some of it left in this area. Ac-

ording to geologists, the land contains more than 1,600 kg of gold. But it is almost impossible to obtain: only 4 m of the 200 m permafrost thaw in the warm season. The presence of the reservoir complicates the task even more. That is why the development in this settlement was stopped in the 1980s, and people moved out.

Nowadays, Sibik Tyellakh is fancied by romantics who dream of panning a speck of gold in the river, as well as by stalkers and fishermen. The settlement is reachable through a waterway (50 km by boat from Sinegorye or 18 km by ferry from the Obo River estuary), or by a cross-country vehicle via a very bumpy road (80 km from Yagodnoye).

There are a few houses remaining on the waterside. Once they were miners' homes or settlement service buildings. Even the windows are still untouched here and there, but the wall coverings are missing, and the houses look rather extraterrestrial, their silver thermal insulation glinting in the light. The house where the gold was



*Tenkin Highway*

stored and sealed can be recognised by the treillage on the windows and barbed wire. On the table there are scattered metal leads used for sealing sacks of gold. It is possible to walk to the abandoned biologists' station from the settlement. It was built in 1975 to study the ecosystem of the Kolyma HPP flood zone.

### Tenkin Highway: The Golden Ring

Tenkinskaya road branches from Kolyma Highway 83 km from Magadan, and then the two roads rejoin near the settlement of Bolshevik, forming the Golden Ring of Kolyma. Tenkinskaya road crosses the Khasyn River and rises up to the first pass. High mountains are hanging over the river, surrounded by lush larches. This road is famous for its unpredictable twists and turns, as well as rather spectacular passes.

Enjoying the beauty of this track comes at the price of getting through endless descents, climbs and turns of the road, winding in the never-ending mountains. Unsafe bridges also used to be part of the fare, but, fortunately, in recent years, the road is constantly being renovated and new flyovers and bridges are being commissioned.

*View from the Gusakov's pass*





View over the Kolyma route and Korona Mountain (afar in the centre)

sections to work with were the passes. Rocks were broken by sledgehammers with the help of a wedge. Workers single-handedly dragged wheelbarrows or sleighs loaded with rocks weighting up to 300 kg. They sometimes lived right on the road in makeshift shelters in

groups of 20–30 people. Nowadays those passes astound with their beauty and dazzle by their breathtaking ups and downs.

The border of Tenkinsky District goes along Gusakov's pass (42<sup>nd</sup> km of the road) at the altitude of 987 m. The pass was named in honour of dozer operator Alexander Gusakov, who was clearing the track in the winter of 1966 and got caught under a heavy avalanche, which covered the en-

tire valley in a ten-meter layer of snow. It took the road builders 18 days to find the bulldozer lying upside down almost a hundred meters from the road. The smashed cabin was even further... There is no forest on the long and steep slopes of these mountains, which makes this area dangerously prone to avalanches. In winter, snow cornices hang from ridges, threatening to break down at any moment.



**AGATE**, a variety of chalcedony, is one of the most popular semi-precious stones, which has hundreds of structure and colouring options. The colourful layering of this mineral can include almost all colours and shades, conditioned by various impurities. Each agate has a unique pattern. Such diversity makes this mineral one of the most versatile jewellery materials.



Pavlik deposit



Passing by an abandoned road builders' settlement (44<sup>th</sup> km) and a weather station, the road goes gradually further north through the valley of Dondychan. A high mountain with a flat top, the so-called Lebedyanka, is seen from here. It is famous for the deposits of agates, which are easy to find right on its slopes. The foothills are covered with shrubs of honeysuckle, wild rose and wild currant.

At the 71<sup>st</sup> km the road makes a smooth turn and shows us a small village of Madaun stretching in the Magadavena valley. The road winds through the mountains, roughly outlining the watershed between the Arctic and Pacific oceans. The rivers on one side of the road

carry their waters to the north, and on the other side – to the south. There are several interesting places where oceans merge quite miraculously, and Lake Solnechnoye is one of those places. A road leading to it branches off the main track after the bridge over the Arman River. This lake is very popular among locals and tourists because of its relative transport accessibility.

The main road comes up to the 811 m high Igandinskiy Pass, and then runs winding

down to the Igandzya River. The track goes quite smoothly: the height changes sharply enough, but the turns do not have fast corners. After the bridge over the Solontsovaya River, a view over a huge icefield greets the travellers; this glowing white spot among the dark woods seems to be pushing the forest aside. In summer, one can find a lot of wild animals near the icefield, trying to escape from the heat. The tourists passing by this site also like making a stop here – a walk on the ice can be very nice on a hot day. The icefield is not far away from the administrative centre of Tenkinsky District – the workers' settlement of Ust-Omchug is located at the 181<sup>st</sup> km of the road.

Having passed through the settlement, you will see on your right the infamous Mount Butugychag and abandoned uranium and tin mines. A relatively passable road leads to the former labour camps, and it starts immediately after the bridge over the Terrasovya Creek.





Going further in almost a straight line, the road leads to Omchak settlement and Nataлка gold deposit – one of the largest in Russia and in the world. The development of the deposit is conducted by Matrosov Mine JSC.

The development used to be underground, but nowadays the work is in progress to arrange for full-scale surface mining. It is expected that an ore processing plant will be constructed and commissioned, which will increase production of the precious metal and reaffirm the nationwide leadership of Kolyma region in the amount of gold mined.

The road goes further and leads to the upper reaches of the Kulu River. The track runs by the high Kulinskiy Pass (1,183 m), by the "Gvardeyets" area, through streams and rivers, leading to a most difficult Gavryushka Pass (1,082 m). Before the rise to the pass, the track goes over the Ulakhan Matraybyt River. This area is

famous for fishing and hunting opportunities – many hunters come here in the open season. Gavryushka is a pass with a 10 km long winding rise, followed by a descent of the same length. The road going through the Matraybyt valley makes a sudden 90-degree turn and then heads up to another sharp crook. A long and stringy lift leads the way up to 100 m above the valley, only to sharply swerve again and go to an even steeper climb. The road is narrow, very twisty, and the cliff is

*Kulinskiy Pass*



high. In summer, all on-coming vehicles can diverge without difficulty, but most drivers still do not take the risk and prefer to wait at the bottom in the special passing "pocket". In winter, on-coming vehicles diverge with great difficulty. The road surface gets polished by the wheels, and overcoming the pass becomes extremely difficult. But the view greeting you from the top of the pass is stunning: mountain ridges, peaks and two valleys with streams. The descent is equally as wind-

# YANO-KOLYMA GOLD BEARING PROVINCE



The Yano-Kolyma gold bearing province is located in Magadan Oblast and the Republic of Sakha (Yakutia). According to the regional Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, there are 15 large deposits of precious metals with a total resource potential of 4,700 t of gold, by some estimates – up to 7.2 kt. The largest gold deposits are Nataлка and Pavlik, both related to the Omchaksky ore node. In the near future, modern ore mining and processing enterprises will be launched at both deposits, and, once the ore has been mined, it will be prepared for further processing and gold extraction.

**In addition, the following gold deposits of the Yano-Kolyma province will be engaged in the mining process:**

- Igumenovskoye-Rodinovskoye – 150 t,
- Degdekan – 400 t,
- Tokichan – 100 t,
- Olbot – 100 t,
- Verkhniy-Khakchan – 150 t,
- Chumysh – 150 t,
- Osadochniy – 150 t.

– gold resources



## Nataлка and Pavlik gold deposits

The unique gold-bearing region was discovered by **Dmitry Aseev**, head the Tenkinsky prospecting district in the early 1940s. Aseev managed to discover two gold-bearing streams (tributaries of the Omchak River), which afterwards were named after his children – Nataлка and Pavlik. Already on **1 January 1942**, the estimated resources of the discovered field amounted to **50 t of gold**.



**Confirmed gold resources:**  
over **1450 t**  
**Silver: 331 t**  
**Forecast resources:**  
over **1,000 t**

**NATALKA**



**Confirmed gold resources:**  
over **154 t**  
**Silver: 39,8 t**  
**Forecast resources:**  
over **200 t**

**PAVLIK**

RASUL MESYAGUTOV



**TYPE OF HOT SPRINGS:**  
Chloride sodium-calcium

**MINERALISATION:**  
4.6-8.5 g per litre

ing, steep and dangerous as the ascent. Tenkinskaya road saves another difficult pass for last – the way up Loshkalakh (1,072 m) lasts for about 20 km. After this pass, the road re-joins Kolyma Highway.

**Motyklej hot springs**

It has long been known about the existence of hot mineral

waters in Motykleysky Bay. “Motykley” means “early autumn” in the Even language: these places used to serve as the summer-autumn pastures for the nomadic Evens. The Russian Cossack winter quarters encamped in this particular area in 1648, and previously there were Yakut and Even settlements. The villages of Tauysk

and Balagannoye, situated in this area, have been mentioned in historical documents since the 17<sup>th</sup> century.

Mineral springs emerge among the lower hill slopes of the Khmitevsky Peninsula, which is washed by Sheltinga Bay and Motykleysky Bay (Tauyskaya Guba). Thermal springs are located 125 km away from the city of Magadan, and Balagannoe village, which is situated 45 km away, is the nearest settlement.

Thermal springs are used to treat liver diseases and diseases of the gastrointestinal tract, aching joints, tophus, heartburn, skin diseases and many more. Those who visited the Motykleysky hot springs claim to have been able to get rid of virtually incurable diseases. Geologists were the first to notice the amazing healing effect of the hot springs – bathing in

**Balagannoye village**

This settlement, with a population of around 300 people, was built in a beautiful location – on the west coast of Tauyskaya Bay at the mouth of the Taiui River, famous for its big waves. The river divides into several channels. Many fishermen are attracted to this area in springtime, since they can have a fishing license to catch silver smelt.

The name of the village comes from the name of the Yakut dwellings – “balagans” (huts), which used to be situated in the area. The excavations that were made in the vicinity of the village on the low spit that is flooded by the sea revealed an ancient log fortification – a former Tauysky Cossack ostrog (fort).



RASUL MESYAGUTOV



RASUL MESYAGUTOV

*The autumn forest*

the thermal spring helped to restore energy.

It is recommended to drink thermal water, due to its restorative effect. Bathing in hot springs on cold winter days can be especially beneficial for health. The hot springs’ temperature varies greatly. The junction of the Left and Right Ulukan rivers generate a spring with the temperature of +26 °C. The valley of the

Left Ulukan houses the hottest Motykleysky springs with the temperature range from +38 to +47 °C, emerging amidst the larch forest. A warm pink-and-white mist rises above the springs, protecting the swimmers from the frosty air.

Unfortunately, despite the fact that the miraculous springs are only 125 km away from the city of Magadan, getting to try out their curative effect might

prove rather challenging. Over the years, many attempts have been made to develop the area, but severe weather conditions and lack of roads have always stood in the way. Nowadays, there is a number of new projects aimed at the commercial development of these thermal springs. A 45 km long track has to be built leading from the Balagannoye village to the springs in order to make the mineral water and therapeutic muds available to people. It might seem to be an easy task. However, the area selected for the construction of the road was unsuitable: swamps, marshes, and sometimes permafrost considerably complicated the matter.

However, the healing power of the springs still tempts many people to overcome all obstacles. In some cases, some springs may even be equipped with a place for swimming.





RASHUL MESYAGUITOV

*Tau River's mouth*

### How to get there?

If you choose to travel by car, the route "Magadan – Balagannoye – Talon" will lead you to the village Balagannoye. During the summer season, there are two options available: either to travel across Motykleysky Bay in a boat or hike 40 km on a cross-country terrain. In winter, you can choose between skis, snowmobiles or cars to explore the region's winter roads. For the most part, the roads pass through the frozen gulfs.

The ski trail is II degree of difficulty. Its length is about 120 to 160 km; estimated travel time will be 6 to 8 days.

Many tour operators offer tours on snowmobiles and travel guidance. All the necessary equipment (tents, food, personal belongings) is also transported by snowmobile.

### Kavinskaya Lowland

The Kavinskaya Lowland Nature Reserve is located in the

Olsky District of Magadan Oblast in the Kava river valley, encompassing the basin of the Chukcha River (a right-side tributary of the Kava River) and large lakes of Chukcha, Maloye Chukcha, and Bezymyannoye. The Kavinskaya lowland is bounded from the coast by the mountain ridge, including the northern foothills of the Chutkavar Range. On the south, the site borders the Sea of Ok-

*You can often spot a bear near the spawning rivers*



hotsk. The Onara and Skalisty peninsulas are situated nearby.

Kava appears to be one of the most non-typical Magadan rivers. Its flow is comparatively slow and the water warms up to +22–24 °C during the summer period, thus there are ice-free parts of the river. As a result, you might find various plants here, such as rowan, which is unusual and uncommon for this region. Chum, Hunchback and Chinook salmon often enter the Kava River and its tributaries for spawning.

The Kava Valley is a spacious marshy lowland, riddled with numerous sparkling lakes. The Kavinskaya lowland is bounded from the Sea of Okhotsk by the Chutkavar Range, stretching along the coast. The river seems rather small at first, with low banks and thick willow and dwarf birch stands. Thin larches rise above the ground, dry hills are fringed with elfin wood. Downstream, the river width gradually reaches 100 m. The Kava and Chelomdzha rivers form the Tau River, with its right bank being rather



*Osprey preying*

high, and the left one low and wooded.

The climate in the area is very severe. In winter, cyclones form and develop along the coast of the Sea of Okhotsk, which leads to frequent weather changes. Thus strong winds, snowstorms and thaws give way to bright frosty days. In the autumn, you may catch a glimpse of the trees in the green attire, and during the night they may suddenly be powdered with fluffy snow. In summer, the cyclone season is over. The air is heated more above the mainland, where it is warmer. The summer in the region can even be hot and dry. On some days, the air temperature can rise up to +28–32 °C. In winter, the temperature often drops to around -30 °C.

The Kavinskaya lowland lies at the crossroads of migration routes for many birds breeding in the tundra, forest-tundra, and continental regions of the northern Far East. Spring migrations



*Hunchback (pink) salmon spawning*

start in late April and last until early June, with autumn migrations occurring from the second half of August until early October.

About 156 species of birds from 35 families are registered in the Kavinskaya Lowland Nature Reserve. Among them, 85 species breed in Kavinskaya Lowland, and 38 species regularly migrate, sometimes staying for the winter.

Steller's sea eagle, Pacific gull, Grasshopper warbler settle along the edge of the seashore and river banks. Be-

sides, Peregrine Falcons, Ospreys and Harlequin ducks are frequent guests in the area.

As for the animals, the most common species here are brown bears, wild reindeers, elks. In Chutkavar Mountains, you might find isolated populations of snow sheep and black-capped marmots. Sables, ermines, wolverines, foxes, grouses and wolves can sometimes be seen on the territory of the Kavinskaya Lowland Nature Reserve.



## The Kava-Chelomdzhinsky area

This area is located near the Kavinskaya lowland, far out on the widespread Tauiskaya plain. Numerous lakes make it

one of the main nature reserves for waterfowl in the northern part of the Sea of Okhotsk.

These are marshlands with relatively low mountains (about 1,200–1,300 m).

The area was named after its two main rivers – Kava and Chelomdzha, which merge to form the Tau River. The Chelomdzha River is 215 km in length and has its source

## ON THE RED LIST

In Kava-Chelomdzhinsky Nature Reserve there are a number of protected bird and animal species that are on Russia's Red Data List

### Hericium coralloides

Hericium coralloides is known as the coral tooth fungus. It grows on dead hardwood trees (aspen, elm, oak, birch). When young, the fungus is soft and edible, but as it ages, the branches and hanging spines become brittle.



### Steller's sea eagle

It is one of the heaviest eagle in the world, weighing in at about 9 kg. It can be found in coastal north-eastern Asia. It mainly preys on fish (especially salmonids), water birds and small mammals including hares, arctic foxes and young seals



### Osprey

It is a large bird of prey with a wingspan of 145–170 cm. Osprey is perfectly adapted to catching fish with its long, convex curved claws and reversible outer toes helping to hold its catch. Fish makes up 99% of the osprey's diet.



### The Blakiston's fish owl

One of the largest owls of the world and the largest representative of its genus. Blakiston's fish owl measures 60 to 72 cm in length, with a wingspan of 180–190 cm. For an owl, it spends unusual amounts of time on the ground, and you can spot its trails on the river banks within its hunting grounds.

in the upper Okhotsk-Kolyma mountain range. Numerous Chelomdzha tributaries, occasionally reaching about 70 km in length, run through the territory of the nature reserve. All the rivers in this area are more alpine in character. They are not very long or wide, have a rocky bottom, a strong current and lots of rifts. However those features are not typical of the Kava river. In its middle and lower parts, Kava runs through the marshy lowland, where its flow becomes slow and gentle, the river banks low and sinuous, and its sandy bottom – smoothly grassed in some parts.

In this part of the nature reserve, you may come across various bird species such as Whooper swan, Eurasian teal, Northern pintail, Mallard and Goosander. The greater white-fronted goose prefers



ALEXANDR ANDREEV

the middle reaches of the Kava River for nesting. This is the southern most habitat of the species. As for the river inhabitants, you may find Arctic char, Whitespotted char, Dolly Varden trout and Thymallus. The Chelomdzha River is among the largest ecologically undisturbed spawning

areas of Chum and Coho salmon on the northern coast of the Sea of Okhotsk. The early chum salmon spawns in the upper reaches of the Kava River, whereas the later chum prefers Chelomdzha River. Sometimes, various types of seals appear in the area during the spawning season.

The continental climate conditions of the Kava-Chelomdzhinsky area become more favourable and moderate under the influence of the sea. Cold temperatures last from November to April. The average annual temperature is 8 °C above zero.

January is usually the coldest month of the year, with the temperature of -28 °C. The lowest temperature that has ever been recorded is 60 °C below zero. The summer is usually short, with the average temperature of +11 °C and the maximum temperature of about +38 °C.







The sundews grow on the swamp



ALEXANDR ANDREEV

# TAUYSK

village

	<b>District:</b>	Olsky
	<b>Coordinates:</b>	59°43' N, 149°19' E
	<b>Population:</b>	582
	<b>Dialling code:</b>	+7 41341
	<b>Distance from Magadan:</b>	103 km
	<b>Travelling:</b>	from the bus station in Magadan by bus or taxi (travel time – 2 hours)



**Founded in**  
1652



FASUL MESYAGUITOV

The Tauysk village is located in Olsky District on the right bank at the mouth of the Yana River. The village is 103 km away from Magadan, so it is only possible to get to the city by ferry in summer or by ice river crossing in winter. Thus, every year in midseason the villages of Tauysk and Balagannoye are cut off from the outside world.



### on the map

- 1 Tauysky ostrog (fort)
- 2 Ethnocultural centre
- 3 Motykleytsky Bay

## Things to see

Tauysk is the oldest settlements in Magadan Oblast. In the 17<sup>th</sup> century, after the foundation of the Yakutsky ostrog, the Cossacks proceeded eastward to collect imposts (Yasak collection – usually payable in sables, cattle was also allowed as payment in some circumstances) and annex new territories. In 1652, the explorers, led by the ataman Mikhail Stadukhin founded a small settlement at

the estuary of the Taiu River. For more than a century, the settlement was called Ostrog, despite having no fortifications.

By the end of the 17<sup>th</sup> century, the settlement moved 40 km eastward to its current location. It happened for several reasons, constant flooding being the principal one. Another reason was that the inhabitants needed to find more fertile lands. In the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, Tauysk was regarded as one of the biggest settlements on the coast of the Sea of Okhotsk. To this day, Evens con-

stitute the majority of the village's population.

In 1820, a chapel was built in Tauysk at the expense of the local residents. The chapel subsequently transformed into the Pokrovsky Monastery, which played a crucial part in the Christianisation of the local population in the Russian Northeast. Unfortunately, the Monastery could not be preserved, and today only several old archival photographs can remind us of its existence.

Nowadays, Tauysk is a common average village, though



FRASUL MESYAGUTOV

Tauï ostrog

the living conditions there are comparatively tough due to the remote location and lack of transportation. The village is separated from the city of Magadan by the Yana River. There are two ways to get to the city: either by ferry in summer or by ice river crossing in winter. But in autumn, when the ferries do not function, and in spring, when the ice is not hard enough to walk

on, the village may be cut off from the outside world for weeks.

A small **ostrog (fort) ①** is situated in the centre of the village. It was built not long ago, but is especially dear to the residents since it symbolises their long and rich history. All the local festivals, concerts and fairs take place in the ostrog.

**The ethnocultural centre ②**, which took in the traditional culture of Evens, Yakuts, Cossacks and Russians, has recently opened nearby. It is

Performance of a folk band



FRASUL MESYAGUTOV

## Khmitevsky and Onazevich

### Vasily Khmitevsky

The Bering expedition member, made the first survey of the northern coast of the Sea of Okhotsk on the boat «Bolsheretsk». During 1743–1744, he was the first to map the coast from the Inya River to the Tauï River and further to Kamchatka, and the map was used by Russian sailors until the end of the 18<sup>th</sup> century.

**Mikhail Onazevich** (1847–1879) was a hydrograph and explorer of the seas of the Far East. In 1874–1876, during the voyages on the clipper «Rider» and the schooner «Vostok», he mapped and described the northern and north-western shores of the Sea of Okhotsk, specifically of Tauyskaya Guba.

designed to preserve the unique way of life, history and traditions of the village. In this ethnocultural centre, the villagers can get acquainted with the traditions of the indigenous population, learn local languages and dances. Thus, several institutions with

common objectives and goals were united under one roof.

First of all, it is the Palace of Culture, where local celebrations take place and where there are all sorts of children's clubs. There is also a 100-seat concert hall, which welcomes you to watch your favourite film on a cold winter evening; at other times it serves as a rehearsal platform for the ensemble «Dyarel» (Waves), which is bringing the traditional dances of the northern indigenous peoples back to life.

The same building houses the Tauysk local history museum. The museum displays rare objects of material and spiritual culture of the local residents – hunting weapons, reindeer saddles, household items and even a unique wooden calendar – chivesse, which was used by the Evens in ancient times. The museum curator – Matrona Grechushnikova – is a connoisseur of Evens' folklore and traditions.

The cultural centre also has a place for a library of 5,000 books and even a disco hall with the latest party and entertainment equipment.

The newly built local clinic is of particular importance to the



At the confluence of rivers Chelornozhka and Cava, almost on the border of Magadan Nature Reserve, there is the Bayanay tourist centre. Tourists are offered accommodation in comfortable cabins and various types of recreation, both summer and winter. DVS-TUR organises the recreation activities

**DVS Tour:** 41, Yakutskaya St. Magadan, **Phone:** +7 (914) 862-89-20, +7 (914) 850-87-40

settlement. Tauysk sometimes gets cut off the road network, so proper medical treatment opportunities are vitally important. The polyclinic is located in a two-story house with the treatment rooms located on the ground floor, and the doctor's rooms situated on the first floor.

## Nearby

### Motykleisky Bay ③

Motykleisky Bay, located west of Tauysk, is logged between the Onatsevich peninsula and the Khmitevsky peninsula, which shelter it from high waves and strong winds. It is as if the bay

is hidden from the harsh and inhospitable Sea of Okhotsk. It juts out into the mainland for 35 km, which explains its waters being almost constantly calm. The depths are small: between 5 and 15 m in the east and only 1–2 m in the west and the north. At low tide, the water ebbs about one kilometre. Tokarev Bay is worth a special mention: it is a small, secluded bay by the northern coast of the Khmitevsky peninsula. At low tide, this bay dries almost completely, exposing its 4 sq km bottom.

The apical part of the bay is fertile ground for hunters during the autumn migration of birds. The mouth of the Motykleyka River and small bays of the Onatsevich peninsula, are the locations for salmon fishing, and crab is caught near Stanyukovich Cape. Tourists will be interested in watching the birds in the tidal flat, reaching more than one kilometre in width, as well as visiting a seal rookery. If you wish, you can go to the Motykleyka River right to the Motykleyskiye hot springs.







### Tungus ABC-book

The name of father Stefan Popov, who served at the Church of Intercession, is associated with the appearance of the first books in the Even language in the 1850s. With the help of Tauysk Cossack elder Gavril Sheludyakov, Popov translated ecclesiastical writing, including the Gospel of Matthew, into the Even language. He also compiled an ABC-book with prayers and a Tungus-Russian dictionary. He opened the first parochial school in the village.



# PALATKA

town

-  **District:** Khasynsky
-  **Coordinates:** 60°06' N, 150°56' E
-  **Population:** 3,999 (as of 2014)
-  **Dialling code:** +7 41342
-  **Distance from Magadan:** 87 km
-  **Travelling:** by bus from the bus station or by taxi (travel time – 1 hour 20 minutes)



 **Founded in**  
1932



RASUL MESYAGUTOV

Palatka Settlement, the administrative centre of Khasynsky Urban District, is situated 87 km away from Magadan near the Kolyma Highway. It is a big industrial centre with the Kolymavzryvprom factory and the Palatkinskaya Road Company operating on its territory. The Kolymavzryvprom factory supplies many local ore mining sites with explosives.



## Things to see

Palatka today is one of the most well-appointed settlements of the region. Paved streets, renovated facades of buildings, groomed parks with sculptural compositions and fountains, modern playgrounds... Much of this became possible thanks to the local Arbat concern headed

by Alexander Basansky. The company invests heavily in the reconstruction of old buildings, construction of new ones and in land improvement. Arbat also owns several socially significant facilities – the eponymous supermarket, a shop, a restaurant and a food processing plant.

The township of Palatka dates back to 1932, when,

during the construction of Kolyma Highway, the heated garage of the Magadan motor pool was built. In view of the difficult climatic conditions, the enterprise was strategically important and soon became the independent Motor Pool No. 1. Today, in commemoration of the life of the Palatka residents in 1933–1983, the



PAVEL ZHDANOV

Monument at the entrance to the settlement

**Monument to the Worker Truck MAZ-200** ❶ has been opened at the entrance to the town. Earlier, the monument stood in front of the gates of the motor pool, but it has recently been moved and has taken its place at the foot of the stele bearing the name of the town.

Around the motor pool, a town began to grow, and later there appeared nearby camps with prisoners: by 1937, there had already been three camps, one of them was female-only. Palatka grew unexpectedly fast and in 1938 an urgent need arose to construct a school. The population that mostly consisted of independent workers had to send their children to the Magadan boarding school, which people were not content with. Opening a school in Palatka was discussed even in regional newspapers.

The first school premises were located in the local boiler house – a separate school building was not intended to be built. Teachers were members of manufacturer families who had at least a brief experience in working with children – the personnel issue was very acute.

A fully valid school building of red brick, which is still situated in Lenin Street, opened its

doors only in September 1940. In the first year, the pupils of the seven classes studied in a cold, ill-equipped building, but the desire to learn was stronger than frosts. With the growth of the settlement new, more spacious educational institutions were built, and the premises of Palatka's first house of knowledge accommodated the School of Arts.

In the neighbourhood of the school, there stands the **Church of the Transfiguration** ❷ with gilded domes. It is Palatka's landmark. The church, the construction of which began back in the 1990s, was opened for parishioners in 2014. The walls and vaults of the church were painted by invited Palekh masters – representatives of a family dynasty of artists engaged for decades in iconography. The adjacent area was also developed and turned into a small park decorated with a light and music **fountain**. In the evening, the church and water jets get illuminated with colourful lights.

### River or geologists?

The origin of the town name is obvious at first glance – a tent is an indispensable attribute of geologists, discoverers of these sites. However, this romantic version is refuted by the Palatka River flowing along the settlement and mentioned in the works of Nikolai Slyunin published way back in 1900, when there were no geologists to speak of in these lands. So where does the name "Palatka" come from?

The small river Atka, flowing 100 km to the north, gives a clue; its name is translated from Even as "stone". Another root of the word "palatka" is explained by the difference in the languages of indigenous peoples: in Yukaghir, "stony" sounds as "pnyen", which in the Chukchi pronunciation was transformed into "palja". Thus, the river bore the same name – Kamenistaya ("Stony"). The Chukchi and Yukaghir "Palja" was similar to the Even "Atkan": Palja-Atkan – Stony River.



Lenin Street abuts the square that houses the local Administration building. The massive building to the right of it is the House of Culture. Lately, the establishment has been completely renovated: changes have been made both to the facade and interior. The modern hall, equipped with comfortable seats and an appropriate curtain, is especially admired by the residents. They say that after the renovation, the HC has become more like a cultural institution of the regional centre, rather than an ordinary "village" club. It hosts a variety of concerts, as well as classes of various kid hobby clubs and creative groups.

Most of the settlement celebrations are held in the **Victory square** ❸ in front of the House of Culture. On the concrete pedestal there stands a stele in memory of WWII, where flowers and wreaths are annually laid on 9 May. "The Immortal Regiment" event is also held here – Kolyma res-



PAVEL ZHDANOV

Playground

idents march while carrying pictures of their relatives – war veterans. At the other side of the square, in front of the Administration, there stands the **monument to the labour – Sickle and Hammer**.

If you travel with your children you should visit one of the recently built playgrounds.

On the whole, in Palatka they treat children in a special way. In this small town there are playgrounds in almost every yard, some of them are of special interest. One of them

is "Korablik" ("The Shiplet"), made in the form of a huge ship. The other one is **"The Kremlin"** ❹ – it has its own fortress wall, turrets and galleries. It seems that an hour would not be enough to explore it entirely. The ground is bordered on both sides by beautiful babbling fountains



The Palatka fountains are worth mentioning separately. The town is listed in the Russian Book of Records as the settlement having the largest number of fountains per capita: four fountains and 3,999 residents, which is the highest figure in the country, and permafrost is not a hindrance for this. The first three fountains appeared in Palatka in 2013, and the fourth one – a year later. The local authorities are not going to stop – new records lie ahead.



VLADIMIR VOROPAYEV

and benches for the adults who accompany the children. Such “royal” places attract even children from Magadan. As for sports facilities in the town – there is a good football field and a basketball court.

To play in such a “royal” place children come even from Magadan. Playground is some kind of a local sight. The town has everything for an active leisure; there are a good football pitch and a basketball court. Just recently **Shkolny square** 5 was built near the school number one.

Palatka is, in many respects, a model settlement of the region that is increasingly being called a town, and there is every reason to think so. This is a worthy example showing that in harsh lands one can live none the worse than on the mainland. New shops, banks, offices are opening in the settlement. The positive influence is gradually spreading to the surrounding settlements, particularly to Stekolny, which is considered a local suburb.

Square in the centre of Palatka



The Kremlin playground

A few kilometers away from Palatka, on the other bank of the Khasyn River, there is the settlement of Novaya Palatka (lit. “new tent”). The road leading to it goes around, through Kolyma Highway. The shortcut runs through a footbridge. In Novaya Palatka there is the Kolymavzrypprom research and production enterprise that is strategically important for mining – it is an explosives manufacturing plant.

## Nearby

The settlement of **Khasyn** 6 located just south of Palatka, is a kind of a capital of Kolyma geologists. The populated locality was founded in 1938 to carry out exploration and production works at the Khasyn coalfield, and later it became the base for geologists who conducted research throughout the region.

During WWII, the headquarters of the coal industry of Kolyma Dalstroyugol was transferred to Khasyn. It was from here that the search and development of fields in the whole region were coordinated.

The settlement, with geologists having been the bulk of the population, acquired special fame due to the songs, stories and short novels that were composed in its honour. Khasyn even had its own Small Khasyn Art Theatre.

The name of the settlement was presumably derived from the Even word “Hesen”, which means “herd”. According to another version, expressed by Khasyn geologist Yuri Nehoroshkov, this name is more poetic: Evens noticed black pebbles on the mountain and called the area the Tungus word “Khasyn” – “embers of the fire”.

In 1960, the settlement became home to the Central Geological and Geophysical Expedition that conducted a survey on a vast territory, including Chukotka, Okhotsk Coast and the so-called Pri-karamkenie. During the expedition, geophysicists discovered a lot of deposits of gold, silver and rare metals in different parts of the region.

In the 1980s, Khasyn became the center of the blossoming art of Florentine mosaic in Kolyma. Local craftsmen – artists and stonecutters Skripichnikov G., Sergin A., Shpilko L. and oth-



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*The somnolent sun casts its rays on the hills,  
The blue of the heaven is poured in taryn,  
There stands a geologist near Palatka,  
It is a settlement, it is Khasyn*

*All of the names are remembered in faces;  
Here, now and forever they will stay in the minds,  
Grandfather of parties, he sparked expeditions –  
Chukotka, Okhotsk, Kolyma were the finds.*

*And wherever you are, you will have the affection.  
Khasyn is your home anywhere anytime.  
This is the ground.  
This is your work and this is your prime.*

Anatoly Tokarev

ers – mastered a hard technique of working with minerals. Florentine mosaic is a type of mosaic art that allows artists to create works of unsurpassed beauty and subtlety. All of the items are handmade and convey the unique beauty of natural stone. The work involves rare gems: agate, chalcedony, cacholong, carnelian, tremolite, hornfels, jasper, obsidian.

You can walk to Khasin because it is really close. On your way you will meet an unusual suspension bridge.

Walking on it during a flood can be frightful – the water popples below and the construction swings strongly.

However, the bridge has proven reliable, so the locals set foot on it without fear.

## Infatuated with gems



**Alexander Sergin** – a war veteran, a Kolyma geologist who has devoted 35 years to the







development of the North-East of the country, a master of Florentine mosaic.

Alexander Sergin mastered this intricate craft after retirement. The artist's pictures are made of local minerals – jasper, chalcedony, marble, oficalcite – and they amaze with an abundance of colors and accuracy of details. The main themes of his mosaics are memories of war events and landscapes of his native land. One can get to know Florentine mosaics of Kolyma better in the Magadan Local History Museum that hosts a static exhibition with works of Sergin and Skripichnikov.



# UST-OMCHUG

town

-  **District:** ■ Tenkinsky
-  **Coordinates:** ■ 61°09' N, 149°38' E
-  **Population:** ■ 3,452 (as of 2015)
-  **Dialling code:** ■ +7 41344
-  **Distance from Magadan:** ■ 271 km
-  **Travelling:** ■ by bus from the bus station or by taxi (travel time – 6 hours)



 **Founded in**  
1939



RASUL MESYAGUTOV

Ust-Omchug is the centre of Tenkinsky District situated in the southwestern part of Magadan Oblast and covering an area of about 36,000 sq km. The settlement is located at the 271-kilometre mark of the auto-road to the north-west of Magadan; it was founded in 1939 as the Tenkinsky Mining Directorate (TGPU) to manage the entire production and economic activity on the development and exploitation of ore and placer deposits of Tenkinsky District.



### on the map

- 1** Monument to the Home Front Workers
- 2** Monument to V. Lenin
- 3** House of Culture
- 4** Antonenko Square
- 5** Butugychag

## Things to see

At first, the Tenkinsky Mining Department (TGPU) was just called “the 184<sup>th</sup> km”. The first residents, including authorities, lived and worked in tents that in wintertime were studded with plywood and boards. The first wooden building built in the set-

tlement was the Mining Authority, it was followed by a canteen, and then a shop and two dwelling houses were built. After Tenkinsky District Geological Exploration Department became the geological exploration division of the TGPU, it was transferred from the Igandzha settlement to the Ust-Omchug for the wartime.

In the war years, the mining was led by very well-known geologists – the laureate-to-be of the Lenin Prize Izrael Drabkin; Nikolai Anikeev, who held a PhD in Geological and Mineralogical Sciences, later – the Hero of Socialist Labour; the laureates of the Stalin Prizes of 1946 Sergey Rakovsky and



FRASUL MESYAGUTOV

Playground

Georgy Kechek. Their names are immortalized in the district history by discoveries of new deposits.

In the war years, the mining industry of Tenka (Tenkinsky District) grew at an accelerated pace. The selfless work of geologists and involvement of a huge number of prisoners resulted in discovery of many new fields and mines. In late 1941, the TGPU already owned nine fields and mines, as well as two plants.

The TGPU repeatedly became the winner of socialist competitions among Dalstroy enterprises: in 1942, the TGPU fulfilled 159.4% of the metal plan by 20 November.

In the central park, in the midst of greenery, there stands the **Monument to the Home Front Workers** ❶ in memory of WWII. The high stone stele depicts a star, and the footing bears an inscription "Glorious are your deeds, Tenka!" and the dates 1941–1945. They



9 May in Ust-Omchug

really were the glory years – in 1943, Tenkinsky Department set a record in gold mining. It is no wonder – despite the fact that the majority of workers involved in the mining were prisoners, there was a strike worker movement in camps. Given their high performance, prisoners could even get parole. For comparison, 50 years later, in 1993, eleven times less gold was mined.

Walking away from the monument and down the pic-

turesque dog-rose alley, you can go to the building of the District Administration. It is situated in the former building of the boarding school. The construction was completed in the 1950s, around the same time as the district library, standing on the other side of the park.

The library enjoys great popularity in the settlement: people come here not only to read or borrow books, but also to have a chat. This is a gathering place mainly for people of the older generation who discuss the life of Ust-Omchug, recall the past and make plans for the future while having a cup of tea.

In the central square of the settlement, there is a customary **Monument to Vladimir Lenin** ❷. It is noteworthy that the well-known revolutionary points with his hand exactly at the spot where another monument to him used to stand. The first sculpture was presented to the settlement by Magadan in 1959, but later the monument was dismantled, and the modern statue was built instead.

One of the biggest and most peculiar buildings of the settlement belongs to the local **House of Culture** ❸. It hosts a variety of settlement activities, onstage performances of creative teams from different districts of the region. At other times there are various clubs and project groups operating on the premises of the House.

A separate part in the building of the House of Culture is the **Museum of Local History**. Its exhibition tells



The Church of St. Blessed Xenia of St. Petersburg

the story of the settlement, its first settlers, the glorious years of the construction of the major motorway passing through the territory of Tenkinsky District, as well as the terrible years of the Gulag. The Museum also acquaints visitors with a large collection

of stones, including gold and tin-containing ores, as well as plants of the region.

The creation of the Museum is nearly the sole merit of the geophysicist Inna Gribanova. When she came to Kolyma in the late 1960s, she became interested in the history of this re-

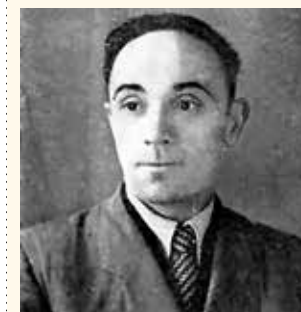


### Chapaev in the North

In front of the school in the Settlement of Ust-Omchug there once stood the bust of Vasily Chapaev. The sculpture was built with the money raised by pupils and their parents. Unfortunately, only archival photographs bring this monument back to memory.



FRASUL MESYAGUTOV



### Shalva Tsvizhba

After being in camps, the famous Abkhazian poet Shalva Tsvizhba (1912–1987) worked in the geological exploration division of the TGPU as a foreman. He was arrested and convicted in Vladikavkaz in 1935, during

his studies at North Caucasus Pedagogical Institute.

The poet spent five years in camps and twenty years in a labour settlement in Kolyma on an unjust charge, but he did not break down. His uneasy destiny was reflected in poetic works permeated by faith in the triumph of truth and goodness. Each poem of Tsvizhby has images that elicit a smile, delight or surprise, his poetry is deeply philosophic and aphoristic, it is characterised by intolerance for anything bad. After Stalin's death, Shalva was granted amnesty and released, subsequently rehabilitated. Shalva Tsvizhba is the author of the tale "The Beaten Snake", several collections of poetry and poems dedicated to the Kolyma camp.



gion and began to gather information and the first exhibits bit by bit. In 1996, on the basis of the gathered material, the Museum of Local History of Tenkinsky District was opened and headed by no other than Inna Gribanova. The documents, photographs and newspaper items presented in the museum tell about the pioneer geologists, mines and gold fields, construction of Tenkin Highway, as well as the camp life of prisoners. The unique exhibits comprise maps of camps, photographs, everyday items belonging to prisoners and their correspondence.

Today, the institution is located in the House of Culture, but it is expected to be relocated to a new building, which is now undergoing renovations. Recently, a cozy **square with a fountain** and bench-



*A square near the House of Culture*

es has been laid out before the House of Culture, and it is gradually turning into the favorite place for walks of local residents. At night, the area is beautifully illuminated.

A little further, there is the Ust-Omchug Secondary School No. 1. Its modern building was built in the 1960s and earlier the place to study had been located elsewhere (its former gym has been transformed into the Sports School).

Another place for walks around Ust-Omchug is **Antonenko Square** ④. The park was created on the spot where the building of the Tenkinsky Directorate of Internal Affairs used to stand. The police officers actively participated in the improvement of the area and dedicated the park to their colleague Valeriy Antonenko, who had died tragically.

A special place in the park is held by the memori-

al stone. Historically, it was brought for the anniversary of the Tenkinsky Ore Mining and Processing Enterprise and was formerly dedicated to the glory of the miners, and now it is, in a way, a monument to the officers of the internal affairs.

chag. The ruins of the camp that is associated with the most sinister myths and legends lie for about 40 km from Ust-Omchug. In many respects, this fame of Butugychag came about due to all sorts of conjectures, yet it is definitely a place worth visiting.



PAVEL ZHDANOV



### The Death Valley

According to the legend, this terrible name was given to the area by indigenous inhabitants – reindeer herders. Moving along the Detrin River, they noticed a large amount of bones scattered around. Shortly afterwards, the deer in the herd fell ill with an unknown disease: first the hair on their legs began to fall out, then the animals languished and died. Ever after, local people tried to keep away from the valley.

### Attention!

An increased radiation background is observed in the vicinity of Butugychag. It is not recommended to linger here, drink from the local water sources, eat mushrooms and berries, as well as take along rock pieces.



FRASIL MESYAGUTOV

### Nearby

#### Butugychag ⑤

In 1939–1956, one of the Soviet forced labour camps – Tenlag – was located in Ust-Omchug. The number of prisoners involved in the geological exploration and survey, mining and processing works at the same time reached 18,000 people.

Before the war, around two hundred people worked at

chag. The ruins of the camp that is associated with the most sinister myths and legends lie for about 40 km from Ust-Omchug. In many respects, this fame of Butugychag came about due to all sorts of conjectures, yet it is definitely a place worth visiting.

The tin ore deposit on the site of the camp was discovered in 1936 by geologist B. Flerov. The conducted exploration of the area revealed significant reserves of precious metal – no less than 10,000 t. Thus was created the mine Butugychag and the eponymous settlement-camp. As early as 1938, under the plans of Dalstroy leadership, the mine was to produce 57% of the annual tin mining program.

Before the war, around two hundred people worked at



PAVEL ZHDANOV

*Gusakov's pass*

the tin mines, but by the early fifties, the number of prisoners and free employees rose sharply, Butugychag merged several individual camp points (ICP «P.O. Box No.14», «Dizelnaya», «Tsentralny», «Kotsugan», «Sopka», «Vakhanka») and stretched for almost three kilometres.

The enhanced development of the deposit was also

related, in particular, to the discovery of uraniferous ore. Later it turned out that the site was quite poor, with the uranium content in the ore being low, but at that point in time this was not yet known. The scope of production activities in Butugychag is impressive: in the uranium mining area, there still exist several adits with numerous waste heaps,

geological trenches, remains of ore passes and railways fenced with snow protection stone walls, electric motors. In the nearby Vakhanka camp, an ore-processing plant was built.

At present, you can find some of these things as well; dark ruins remind of deary past. From time to time you will meet pieces of barbed

*The Sopka (lit. Hill) Camp, Butugychag*

PAVEL ZHDANOV



### **The historians Roy and Jores Medvedevs:**

*"In 1946, uranium deposits were found in various parts of the USSR. Uranium was found in Kolyma, in Chita Oblast, Central Asia, Kazakhstan, the Ukraine and the North Caucasus, near Pyatigorsk.*

*The first batches of domestic uranium began to arrive only in 1947 from the Leninabad Mining and Chemical Combine that was built in the Tajik SSR in record time. In the atomic GULAG system, this combine was known only as "Construction-665". The locations of uranium production were kept secret until 1990. Even the workers in the mines did not know about the uranium. Officially, they were mining "special ore", but the documents of the time contained "lead" instead of the word "uranium". The deposits of uranium in Kolyma were poor. Nevertheless, a mining and chemical combine was also built there, along with the Butugychag camp nearby. This camp is described in the Black Stones novel by Anatoly Zhigulin, but he also did not know that uranium was mined there. In 1946, uranium ore was sent to "the mainland" by aircraft. This was too expensive, so in 1947, a processing plant was built there".*

wire and metal as well as different tools.

The negative assessment of a number of ore veins was confirmed only in 1953, after which the production curtailment was begun. After Stalin's death and changes in the system of Dalstroy, the uranium and tin mining was terminated, the metallurgical works and plants were suspended and subsequently abandoned.

Between the hills, to the left of the Central Camp Point there is a cemetery. The high plateau is covered with neat rows of barely visible oblong stone hummocks, each having a tin plate above it with an embossed holey number or just pegs among grey stones.

Butugychag is considered to be one of the severest Kolyma camps. There are a lot of myths and legends about this place, but the majority of them have no proof.

# KOLYMA CAMPS

It was mostly forced labour that was used to develop the majority of the ore deposits of Kolyma. The exact number of Kolyma camps is impossible to determine: they were constantly opened, closed, their locations were changed. The prisoners were constantly transported from place to place and sent on “taiga missions”. There was even a joke among the prisoners that the land of Kolyma is dotted with camps like a bun with poppy seeds. According to the research of Alexander Kozlov, during the period from 1931 to the mid-1950s, about 870 thousand prisoners were delivered to Kolyma. This data was obtained from the reports on the steamship sailings, on which the arrestees were transported. If what the archive data say is true, then around 127 thousand people from this number did not survive until their release, and just over 11 thousand were officially executed by shooting.



## ELGEN

Elgen (Yakut for “elongated lake”) is one of the biggest state farms of Dalstroy, which was transformed into the eponymous women’s corrective labour camp in the 1930s. The custodial control was not very strict, since most of the women were convicted on domestic charges. On the site of a former women’s prison camp in the Village of Elgen there remain the ruins of one of the barracks, a tumbledown administration building and more than 50 m of barbed wire.

## BUTUGYCHAG

The Butugychag mine was located between the settlements of Ust-Omchug and Nelkoba. It comprised several individual camp points (ICP “P.O. Box No. 14”, “Dizelnaya”, “Tsentralny”, “Kotsugan”, “Sopka”, “Vakhanka”). The principal activities of the prisoners were mining of tin and uraniferous rock ores. The remains of the camp are preserved well enough – you can see adit entrances, remains of barracks, buildings of a processing plant and a cemetery.



300 g

of bread was the amount of penalty bread ration when prisoners produced less than half the norm

740 434

people were brought to Kolyma camps from 1932 to 1953 (in the subsequent years the arrival rate decreased)

№ 00447

the notorious order of Nikolai Yezhov on Repression of former kulaks [wealthy peasants], active anti-Soviet elements and criminals

## «MALDYAK»

The field of Malydyak (Even for “to fetch firewood”) was classified as a maximum-security camp – there were lots of “enemies of the people” among the prisoners. In the open-cast mining, the day shift was 11 hours and the night shift was 10 hours. Failure to fulfill the production norms was almost always qualified as “counter-revolutionary sabotage” and led to execution. The field kept its leading position in Dalstroy for a long time by mining up to two tonnes of pure gold annually.



## DNEPROVSKY

At the “Dneprovsky” mine, tin mining was carried out largely by political prisoners and dangerous special offenders. The camp territory is preserved well enough – there still stand wooden and stone buildings, all sorts of metal pieces are scattered on the ground. One can see an old adit, the rails leading to it, fences with barbed wire, towers for telephone cables.









## SERPANTINKA

Serpantinka is a site where at the end of the 1930s mass executions of prisoners were conducted. There was a serpentine dirt road that twisted through the pass, and a few hundred metres away there was a barrack-prison for those sentenced to death. In 1991, on the site of the prison, some volunteers reared a monument to all the people who had died in Kolyma in the years of terror. This was the first monument of that kind in USSR.



# SINEGORIYE

urban-type settlement

-  **District:** Yagodninsky
-  **Coordinates:** 62°04' N, 150°30' E
-  **Population:** 2,522 (as of 2014)
-  **Dialling code:** +7 41343
-  **Distance from Magadan:** 486 km
-  **Travelling:** from Magadan bus station by bus or taxi (travel time – 6–10 hours)



 **Founded in**  
1971



PAVEL ZHDANOV

The town of builders and personnel of Kolyma HPP was built in 1971–1981. The plan was for the town to become the power centre of Kolyma. This is a big, by Kolyma's standards, settlement that has a developed infrastructure with all the necessary amenities.



## Things to see

The appearance of Sinegorye differs from that of the other settlements of the region. Sinegorye is the only Kolyma town that was built according to a general construction plan. "I told the designers to use St. Petersburg as a model. It is no good for houses to be scattered like bones in a

town," said Yuri Frishter, the HPP construction manager, on the housing for construction workers.

He does deserve full credit: there were never any tents in Sinegorye, which were an inevitable attribute of all Soviet constructions. The settlement was built to house up to 10,000 people; however, today there are less than

3,000 residents. The following facilities were built in Sinegorye: panel buildings with gar-

### *Sleeping Knight Mountain*



RASUL MESYAGUTOV



The town is surrounded by mountains

bage chutes, which is a rare thing to see in northern towns; a hotel, a sports complex with a pool, playroom and gym; a hospital, a health clinic, a kindergarten, a school and a club. On the slope of one of the mountains around the town, there is a ski track with a ski lift.

The history of the town (in the beginning it was called Pionerny) begins in 1971, when geodesist Vasilenko hammered the first peg into the snow not far from the Kolyma River. In March 1971, a team of builders from Khantayka HPP came to Sinegorye. Via a winter road, two ZiL vehicles and a mobile crane made their way to those two lone pegs that were standing in the middle of taiga.

This was the start of construction works. The first houses were construction trailers set up on a swampy ground. The town was developing at a rapid rate. On the day of foundation, there were only 36 people in the settlement, and in

three years this number grew to about 2,500.

There used to be the Sinegorye airport here. The first Antonov An-24, outbound from Magadan, landed here in 1978. Air transportation was highly developed in Sinegorye: there were four flights to Magadan per day. In 2000, the airport was closed.

In the centre of the town there is a **pedestrian zone 1** with nice lawns, birches and rowans. The park zone has nice paths.

Town square



They lead to the administrative building and to the main square of the town on one side, and to a small church on the other.

The **Vladimir Mayakovsky monument 2** stands in the square. The poet is looking into the distance, leaning on a stick. The monument was installed during the Soviet times. At first, it was in a different district, in Molodezhnaya Street. At present, that area is unpopulated, so, in order for the monument to not disappear into oblivion, the administration decided to move it to a new place.

Another monument that you will find in the square is a huge rock with the letters "Dedicated to the Sinegorye pioneers".

White-blue **Church of the Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin 3** was built here recently. The church is located on the edge of the town; right behind the church there is a sharp descent to the Kolyma River.

From the church, you can get a good view on the river, a shunted forest, mountains



Church on the edge of Sinegorye

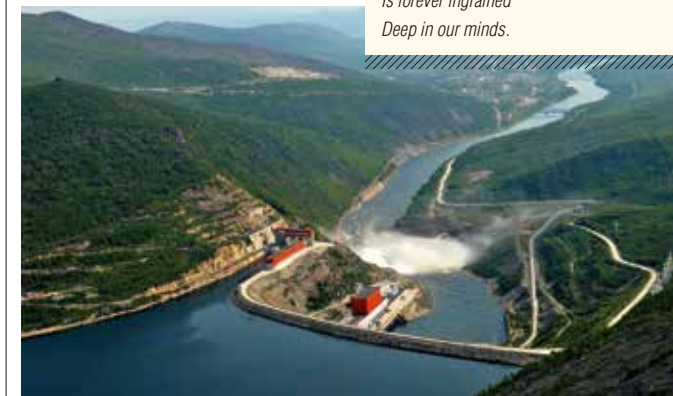
in the distance and Sleeping Knight Mountain (Sopka Spyashiy Rytsar).

There is a reason why the mountain has such a romantic-sounding name: it resembles a huge man lying on his back, looking in the sky. You can see his forehead, nose and chin. There are other beautiful highlands here – Resting Camel hill, Besstydnitsa and Chiganya mountains (1,507 m).

The locals are especially fond of the **Oleg Kogodovsky monument 4**. Oleg Kogodovsky was an engineering hydrotechnician, who had played a major role in Kolyma virgin lands exploration. The monument is made of granite and is 2.5 m high. There is an anaglyph on its front side. It says "Oleg Kogodovsky. Engineer. Builder. Poet. Romantic." Below that, on the pages of an open marble book, there are a few lines from his poem. In 1998, Tsentralnaya (Central) Street of Sinegorye was named after Kogodovsky.

The town is located on the Anmanyanchan stream, close to the Kolyma reservoir. **Kolyma HPP 5** can be rightfully called the main sight in the local area. You need a special pass to enter the station itself, but you can approach the main building of the station quite close and see the floodgates. The station is especially stunning during water discharge, when the road from Sinegorye to the station is covered with clouds of water drops from the raging river.

Kolyma HPP



### Oleg Kogodovsky

(1939–1997) was an engineering hydrotechnician. He started his career as a specialist at the Bratskaya and Mamanskaya HPPs, where he underwent an internship. After graduating from the university, he worked at the Viluyuskaya HPP in Yakutia, Kolymskaya and Ust-Srednekan HPPs in Kolyma. Kogodovsky was versed in many subjects, possessed tremendous experience and knowledge. He was highly specialist in his field.







The people of Kolyma, however, remember Kogodovsky as a poet first, since he devoted a number of his poems to this region.

\*\*\*

*The autumn is bright  
With stark yellow colours.  
Taiga fights the snow  
Of the first winter night.  
This dear, cherished image,  
With the dam's slanted contours,  
Is forever ingrained  
Deep in our minds.*

# YAGODNOYE

village

-  **District:** Yagodninsky
-  **Coordinates:** 62°31' N, 149°37' E
-  **Population:** 3,811 (as of 2015)
-  **Dialling code:** +7 41343
-  **Distance from Magadan:** 522 km
-  **Travelling:** from Magadan bus station by bus or taxi (travel time – 8 hours)



 **Founded in**  
1935



RASUL MESYAGUTOV

Yagodnoye is the district centre of the golden Kolyma. It borders with a number of districts: to the south – with Khasynsky, to the north – with Susumansky, to the west – with Tenkinsky, to the east – with Srednekansky. The mountainous landscape with mountain ranges Annachag, Nengedzhek, Uaza-Ilna and Chyorgo is crossed by the Kolyma River and its tributaries – Debin, Taskan, Bokhapcha, as well as by numerous streams and rivers that freeze over in winter.



## Things to see

Yagodnoye, with its population of four thousand people, is on the left side of the Debin River, an inflow of Kolyma River and 522 km away from Magadan. The works to build a village began in 1930s; it was supposed to be a base for further exploration of Kolyma. Full-time construction works began in the second half of 1935.

By the beginning of 1936, the first street was finished – Tsentralnaya. “Everywhere you look, there are berries. We have never seen such abundance,” wrote N. Kutuzov, one of the first to explore there. That is where the name of the village came from (Yagodnoye – “Berry”). By the beginning of 1938, the first vitamin factory was built on the Debin’s bank, but it

processed Siberian dwarf pine needles, not berries. Back then, people were not served food without drinking a glass of this bitter beverage first – it was the best remedy against scurvy.

In May 1937, the construction of a bridge across the Kolyma River near the Debin village was completed, and in the 1940s, a narrow-gauge

railway that linked Ust-Taskan and Elgen-Ugol villages was built. It was used to deliver fuel for the Taskan thermal power station that supplied North, South and South-West mining divisions with electricity.

The centre of the village is a cosy **park** that stretches on the Yagodinka riverbanks. On its territory, there are many nice



*Square in front of the administrative building*

### Birds of a feather



Yagodnoye gave Russian rock fans two rock stars. **Yuri Shevchuk**, a Soviet and Russian musician, poet, composer, producer and leader of the band DDT. He was born in Yagodnoye on 16 May 1957, in the family of school teachers, and lived in Kolyma until he was seven.



**Diana Arbenina**, a singer, poet, musician and leader of the rock-band Nochnyie Snaipery was born in the Belarusian town of Valozhyn on 8 July 1974. When she was three, her parents (journalists) moved to the Far North, where she attended school and music school. Diana Arbenina (Kulachenko) finished high school in Yagodnoye and proceeded to enroll in Magadan State Pedagogical University.

paths, playgrounds scattered throughout the park, benches and attractions.

Walking on these curvy paths, you can reach an administration of the village. There is a small square in front of it, where you can find the **Memorial for the Heroes of the Great Patriotic War** ①. It depicts a big red heart that lies on Czech hedgehogs. Granite pedestals with letters "Eternal glory to the heroes of the people" complete the composition. Behind the hearts stands a small zvonitsa (a bell tower). Each year, this garden hosts commemorative events and

gathers veterans. On 9 May, the main festivities take place here.

Another side of the garden leads to the **House of Culture** ②. A golden bust of Vladimir Lenin stands in front of it. The House of Culture has recently been repaired and nowadays hosts different bands and artists from all over the region.

Not far from there stands the **Fakel cinema** ③. The building has been around for several generations. Its outer appearance has not changed a lot, but its interior is being gradually renovated. The cinema building has a restaurant



FRASUL MESYAGUTOV

## BERRIES OF YAGODNOYE

Almost all of Magan Oblast is rich in berries. Here you can find different types of berries, each of them has its own tale. You can make jam or mors out of them or just eat them. Berries are one of the few vitamin sources in the northern territories.

### Lingonberry

Lingonberry often gets mixed up with cranberry, but it is bigger and has a more saturated colour. It can be used to treat the diseases of kidneys and liver, as well as rheumatoid arthritis and diabetes. Lingonberry juice is recommended to the people with high arterial pressure. Lingonberry leaves also have medical value – they contain elements that heal the digestive system.

### Blueberry

Blueberry can be found almost everywhere in Kolyma. Berries are consumed raw or processed. It has a lot of components that have a positive impact on health. Blueberry improves memory, increases focus. It is also used as antiscorbutic, for strengthening immunity and boosting metabolism.

### Bilberry

Bilberry has a positive effect on eyes. It helps the process of retina renewal, sharpens the vision and mitigates fatigue. Bilberry has the highest manganese content, boosts metabolism. It also has a styptic, diuretic, painkiller, anti-inflammatory and homeostatic effects. Leaves and berries both have medical value.

### Cloudberry

Cloudberry is also called moor amber or north orange. There is a reason for that: this berry is considered to be a medicinal one,

and it is used to treat diseases of the cardiovascular system, kidneys, liver and bile ducts. It reduces fermentative and ichorous processes in the intestines. It is also used to treat heavy metal poisoning. The cloudberry heals avitaminosis and hypovitaminosis.

### Cranberry

Since cranberry has a bactericidal, anti-inflammatory, vulnerary effects, it is used to treat rheumatism, diabetes, hypertension, hemorrhagic syndrome, toxicosis of pregnancy and so on. Cranberry boosts mental and physical capacity, has a tonic, freshening and revitalising effect.

### Crowberry

Crowberry grows on tops of hillocks or on mountains. It stimulates nerve system. Northern peoples use crowberry all year round. It is a mandatory component of traditional dish "tokushi", where it is mixed with fine-cut fish and seal fat.

### Honeysuckle

Honeysuckle grows on the edges of moors and tundra on the whole territory of Magadan Oblast. This berry is rich in mineral salts, has the highest magnesium and sodium content among its rivals, and in potassium it loses only to lingonberry. Regular consumption of honeysuckle strengthens capillaries and lowers blood pressure.





View of the village from a mountain

inside, where you can have a meal after a movie.

The village **church** is of special interest to tourists. It has a very peculiar, a bit non-canonical form. That figures – it used to be a local administrative building. If you take a closer look, you can still spot traces of the previous building on the church's exterior.

The main sight of Yagodnoye is a **Memorial Museum for Victims of Political Repressions** ④. It was opened

by the local historian Ivan Panikarov in his own flat (15–109 Transportnaya St.).

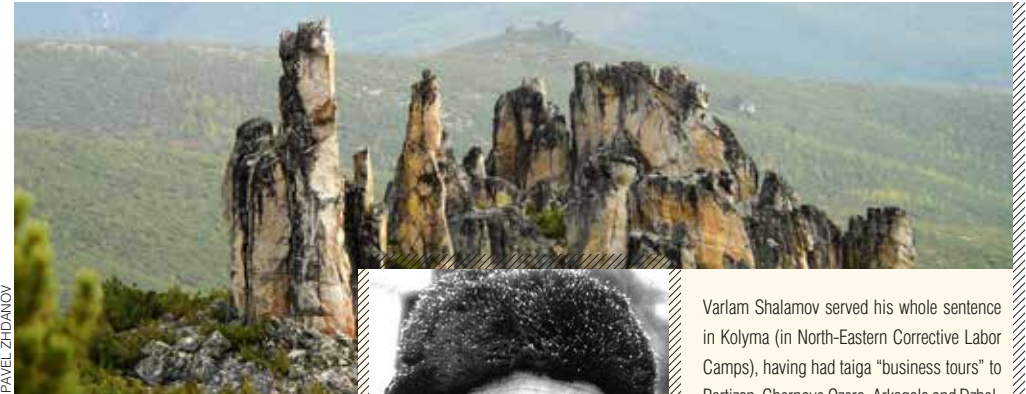
The first exhibits were a kettle, a paper punch, a pickaxe and a scraper. Panikarov brought them from the ruins of the old Kinzhal ("Dagger") camp that was located close to the Orotukan. Studying the Dalstroy history captivated Panikarov so much that by 1992, in closets of his flat, he had dozens of exhibits. On the shelves he had many books

New Year tree near the administrative building



### Ivan Panikarov

A journalist, historian, publicist and, as he calls himself, a Don Cossack, Ivan Panikarov has been living in Kolyma since 1981. He started a number of projects in Yagodnoye, like the Search for Wrongfully Imprisoned society (1990) and Pamyat Kolymy museum of memory about repression victims (1994). He actively participates in the work of the society and in various educational initiatives, publishes the Archives of Memories book series, where he puts the memories and literature works of GULAG prisoners. Thanks to him, several monuments were opened in Yagodninsky District, including one on the site of the notorious Serpantinka prison. He was the organiser of the first forum of local historians that took place in 2004 and resulted in establishment of the Kolyma's Local Historians public organisation. In March 2007, University of Sorbonne invited him to make a speech at the Repercussions of GULAG international conference. In 2007, Ivan Panikarov won the Magadan governor's culture and art prize for outstanding museum work and for participating in educational activities and exhibitions to promote the history of Magadan Oblast.



PAVEL ZHDANOV



### Varlam Shalamov

Varlam Shalamov (1907–1982) was a writer, poet and the author of the series of books about Soviet camps. He came to Kolyma in 1937 for his second sentence. He got his first three-year sentence in 1929 for making the Lenin's Will flyers. This second time, the charges were more serious. Shalamov was convicted for the counterrevolutionary Trot activities. He was sentenced to five years of hard labour.

Varlam Shalamov served his whole sentence in Kolyma (in North-Eastern Corrective Labor Camps), having had taiga "business tours" to Partizan, Chernoye Ozero, Arkagala and Dzhelgala mines. In 1943, without even being released, he was arrested again. Shalamov got another ten years for "anti-Soviet comments" and praise for Ivan Bunin. Later on, during his sentence, Shalamov often got sent to penal camps because of repeated accusations of anti-Soviet activities and an escape attempt.

Varlam Shalamov wrote his first poems in 1949. After being released in 1951, he got back to his literary work. Still, he could not leave Kolyma, and got the permission to do that only two year later. During those two years, he was working on one of his main works – Kolyma Stories. They were published in London in 1978, and in the USSR – only in 1988–1990.

A part of the exposition in Yagodnoye's Museum of political repression victims is dedicated to Shalamov. In 2005, a special museum room was set up in the Debin village, where Shalamov was working as a feldsher in 1946–1951.

and numerous copies of newspapers, as well as archive documents that were found in abandoned villages, on old camp sites and in archives of factories and offices. In 1994, the enthusiast bought a small flat and opened a museum there.

At present, the museum archive has about four thousand photographs of ex-prisoners, Kolyma veterans, ruins of camps and settlements, as well as three hundred exhibits such as tools and prisoners' household items, their personal belongings, originals of their case files, pictures and paintings that were made in camps, letters to their relatives. The museum library contains more than 500 books about the repression, war and the history of Magadan Oblast.

The most valuable exhibits are the telephone that was made in 1941 and is still functioning, typewriter Bashkiria and Photokor camera made in the 1930s. There is also a gramophone with dozens of vinyl records with the voices

of Lenin, Stalin, Krupskaya, Kalinin, Lunacharsky and other politicians of the past.







Despite the fact that Ivan Panikarov's museum remains private, it contains the most extensive information about Kolyma camps, which is why it is popular among tourists. Often there are a lot of foreigners

among the guests of the history enthusiast, who are interested in the development of the North-East of Russia and in the history of Dalstroy. In spring 1998, the Memorial Museum for Victims of Political Repressions was accepted into the Open Museum international association.



# SUSUMAN

town

-  **District:** ■ Susumansky
-  **Coordinates:** ■ 62°47' N, 148°09' E
-  **Population:** ■ 5,157 (as of 2014)
-  **Dialling code:** ■ +7 41345
-  **Distance from Magadan:** ■ 629 km
-  **Travelling:** ■ by bus from Magadan bus station (travel time – 13–15 hours)  
■ or by plane (travel time – 1,5 hour)

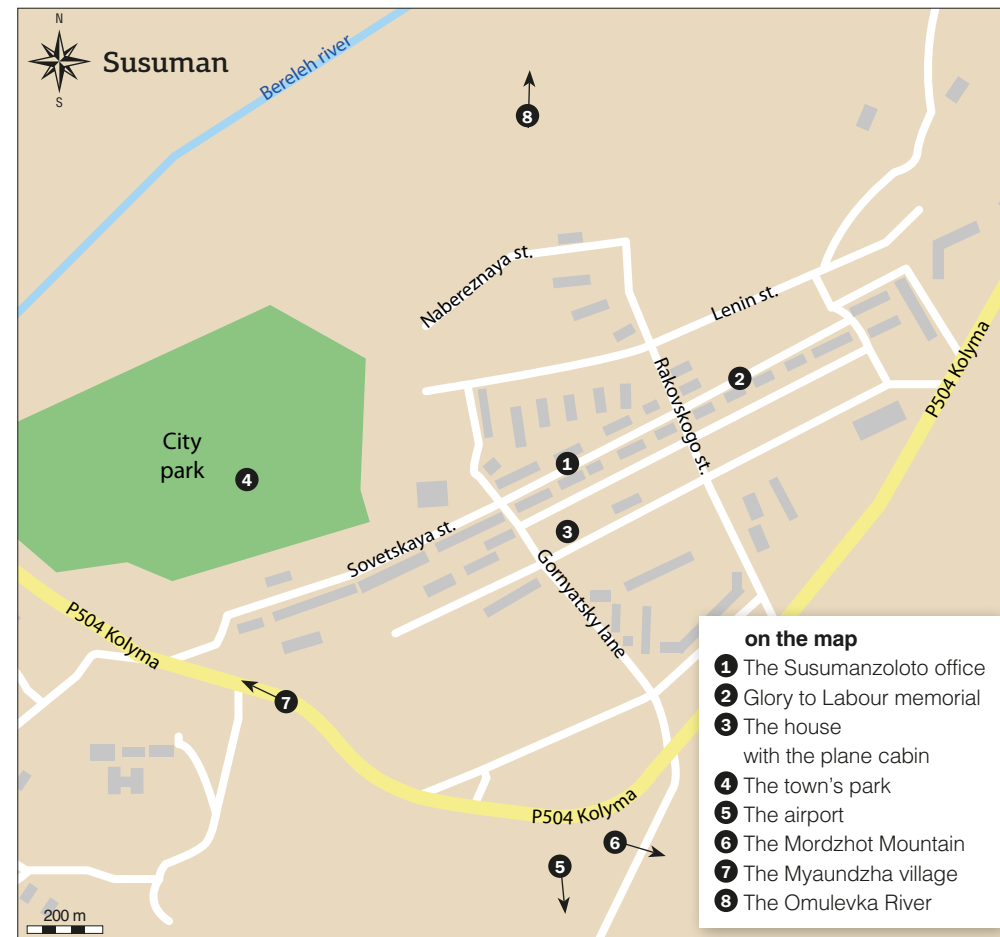


 **Founded in**  
1938



RASUL MESYAGUTOV

Susuman is the only town in the region apart from Magadan. It is the centre of Susumansky District, and its population exceeds 5,000. Susumanzoloto, a mining and refining plant, is located here. It is the largest gold-mining company in Magadan Oblast.



## Things to see

Susuman (from the Even “kukhuman” – a snowstorm, a wind) was initially a labour camp laid down by the prisoners of Elgen state farm, which was part of Dalstroy.

In 1937, Evgeny Shatalov, an exploration geologist who found a gold placer deposit in the area and realised its importance, scratched “The town of Susumansk” on the trunk of

a nearby dry larch. The first gold-mining plant in the region called the Maldyak gold site was commissioned here that same year.

In 1939, Susuman became the centre of the mining industry in the western region of Dalstroy. In 1949–1956, the administration of one of the largest SevVost-Lag camps – Zaplag – was located here. On 12 December 1946, Susuman was

reformed from a worker's settlement to a town under regional jurisdiction.

Susuman is one of the coldest populated localities on Earth. The average temperature in January is as low as -52.4 °C. In some places, the temperature can reach -67 °C. The cold air masses come here from Yakutia down the Indigirka River, passing the so-called cold pole in Tomtor and Verkhoyansk villages, and then



The town's main square is situated in front of the administration buildings. There are two buildings here, the town and regional administration. All the holidays and important occasions are celebrated in the square.

Here you can find an unusual memorial called **Glo-ry to Labour** ②. A man and woman's figures carved out of stone stand in the centre on a concrete base with a Susuman coat of arms above them. The plates with the names of the region's towns and villages, with descriptions of their feats of labour, are placed on both sides of the statues.

One of Susuman's main points of interest, which has

go down the Berelekh River. The temperatures documented in Susuman are close to world record lows.

Despite the cold weather, the town is rather densely populated, by Kolyma standards. The majority of the citizens work in the metal mining industry. Susumanzoloto, the largest mining and refining plant in Magadan Oblast, is located here, as well as the region's second largest company, Berlekhsy mining and refining plant, and the Kadychansky open-cast coal mine.

**The Susumanzoloto office** ① is easy to find – the big, recently renovated building is situated in the very centre of the town. The front of the building features a panel showing the outside temperature. In front of the office, right next to Rodnitchok nursery, there is a large playground with a lot of ladders, slides and pull-up bars. The company is sticking to a responsible social policy and takes an active part in the town life. Specifically, there

is an instructional facility attached to the plant, offering courses that prepare specialists in the most popular professions in the mining industry with subsequent employment.



### Susumanzoloto

During its operation, since the 1930s, the plant has mined over 900 tonnes of precious metal. Today, forty contractors are developing gold-bearing deposits, and the plant has almost 2,000 employees. Susumanzoloto is a diversified enterprise with the complete gold-mining cycle performed in its workshops, starting with site preparation and ending with gold ore concentrate dressing at the processing and gold-concentrating facilities. The chemical laboratory here analyses stream and hardrock gold, conducts tests of ore, fuel and oils, as well as various types of waste water analysis. The gas station provides oxygen for the plant workshops and subsidiary production units, as well as for other consumers in the region.

become the town's landmark, is the **house with the plane cabin** ③, 27 Sovetskaya St. Here you will find the aviation youth club, led by an aviation enthusiast Alexander Smirnov since 1983. The members of the club had an idea to place a real plane cabin on the front of the building.

Obtaining a permit from the administration was no easy task, but in the summer of 1986 the nose section of the plane was placed on the second story of the building. Initially, the cabin was connected to the power grid, and some parts of the dashboard worked, as well as the lighting, so the young engineers could learn about how the cabin of a plane works and have a go at the wheel.

The station operates to this day and hosts a wide range of complementary educational programmes, such as introduction to technical modelling; sports gliders and powered models; aeromodelling; and scale modelling.

*A street in Susuman*



FRASUL MESYAGUTOV



*The youth aviation club*

PAVEL ZHDANOV

**The town's park** ④ is located in the centre of the town. It occupies a large territory, stretching along the bank of the Berelekh River. Here you can stroll along picturesque paths. A stadium, including football fields and an indoor sports complex, is situated in the heart of the park. Next to it is the editorial house of the Gornyak Severa ("The Miner of the North") newspaper, which is quite popular with the locals.

**The flying field** ⑤ is located near Susuman. The airport

### Cosmic luck

Sergey Korolev, a future chief spacecraft designer, was among Maldyak prisoners in August–November 1939. There he served a sentence on charges of sabotage and survived by a miracle after being transported to NKVD's Central Design Bureau No. 29, where under the direction of Andrei Tupolev, also a political prisoner, he actively participated in the development of Pe-2 and Tu-2 bombers. It is hard to imagine what the course of history would be if the creator of the jet motor would not have arrived to the capital. He nearly died in the labour camp, sick with scurvy and exhausted with hard labour. Later, during a prison transfer to Moscow, Korolev was not put on the "Indigirka" steamer, which saved his life once again, as the boat ended up in a strong storm and did not arrive at its destination.



FRASUL MESYAGUTOV

FRASUL MESYAGUTOV

FRASUL MESYAGUTOV



RASUL MESYAGUITOV

The Mordzhot mountain group

was opened during the war, and, during 1942–1945, Susuman (former Berelekh Air-drome) was a part of the ALSIB air route. After the collapse of the Soviet Union, the transportation ceased for nearly twenty years, and the recently introduced regular flights that connected the town to the regional centre became a real source of joy for the locals.

In the airport, you can find a small church located in the former traffic control building.

The building was slightly re-equipped, with a bell tower and a cross set up on top of it, and turned into a proper church.

## Nearby

You can enjoy a bird-eye view of the city from one of the surrounding mountains. The neighbouring **Tokay, Uti-ug** (Iron) and **Tri Bogatyrya** (Three Bogatyrs) Mountains surround Susuman from three sides, and the view from the



YURI SILYUNKOV



## Trust, but check you must

The Great Patriotic War was a severe test for the people of the North Mining Administration (now Yagodinsky District). "We mined tons of gold during the war. We realized that gold meant weapons, that by mining gold we fought the sacred war, and did our part to help defeating the enemy," recalled N. Strizhenko, the chief geologist of the Vodopyanov Mine. The gold was then exchanged for weapons and provisions shipments from the

West. In 1944, the US brought a delegation to Kolyma, compiled of experts in gold fields and headed by the US vice president Henry A. Wallace. The delegation was meant to verify the USSR's paying capacity and visited the Chay-Urinskaya Valley (Susumansky District), where, after taking the samples, the experts realised that Kolyma had lots of gold, dozens and hundreds of tons. The shipments started shortly thereafter.

top is mind-boggling: the town lies below, surrounded by the mountains, like in the palm of a hand, with the Berelekh River disappearing over the horizon. You can also see the neighbouring peaks – the Uti-ug Mountain, which extends for nearly 8 km, and the cone-shaped Tokay Mountain, with a memorial wooden cross mounted on top of it.

**The Mordzhot Mountain** 6 is a part of the Chersky range, but it stands aside, rising over 2,127 m above sea level. People ascending Mordzhot Mountain represented the beginnings of the Magadan tourism – it was conquered as early as the 1930s, and since then became the favourite route for the locals. Mordzhot is especially popular during the hot summer days, with the cool wind always blowing here, and the snow does not melt the whole year round.

**The Myaundzha village** 7, situated 80 km away from Susuman near Kolyma Highway

Arkagalynskaya regional power station



PAVEL ZHDANOV



PAVEL ZHDANOV

You can see a working dredge boat right from the road

on the route to Yakutia, is notable for its unique power asset – Arkagalinskaya Regional Power Station. The construction of the station started in 1950 and was carried out at a record pace.

**The Arkagalinskaya Power Station** was the first in the USSR to be constructed in the permafrost conditions. Over three thousand people worked at the site, and the construction was classified at

first. In January 1955, right as planned, the 25 MW turbo generator was commissioned, and the electricity brought light to the neighbouring villages.

Leningrad's "Teploproekt" and the local "Dalstroyproekt" Institute were planning to install four generators. The first condensing turbo generator arrived from Germany as a war indemnity. The fourth turbine came from Switzerland, and its number three "neighbour" – from Hungary.

Apart from the foreign developments, the station also received the home-produced AP-25 turbine, manufactured at the Leningrad machine-building plant. The turbine equalled its European counterparts, and even surpassed them in terms of reliability. Eventually, all the foreign-manufactured turbines were written off, while AP-25 is doing its job to this day.

The station served as the main source of electricity for the whole region before the



SERGEI KARPUKHIN

Lake Momontay

launch of the Kolyma Hydroelectric Station.

### Omulevka River 8

In the very north of Susuman-sky District, among many small lakes there lies a large one, called Lake Momontay. You can get here from Susuman, 60 km via a dirt road, and off the road the rest of the way. This natural reservoir is an amazingly picturesque place. The lake's watersides are formed by sand dunes left by a glacier thousands of years ago. The Momontay River takes off from the lake and falls into the Omulevka River.

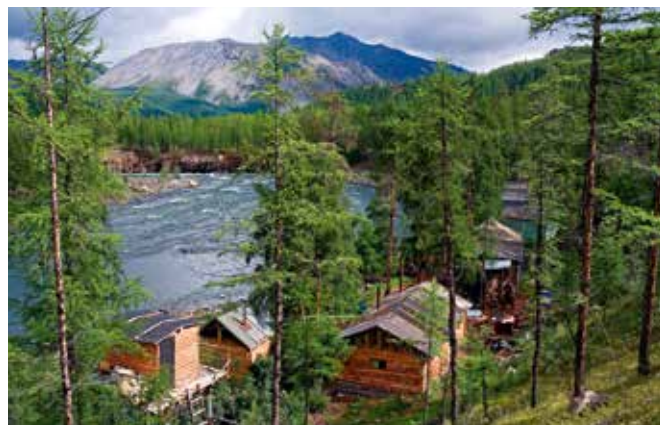
The Omulevka River originates in the Okhandzha Mountains, and it is one of the most beautiful rivers in Magadan Oblast. It stretches for 410 km and passes between Lake Momontay and Lake Darpir, crossing the Omulevsky Mountains and finally joining the Kolyma River.

Near the Omulevka's headstream, right before it enters

the Omulevsky Mountains, you can find Margaritto (last syllable stressed), a famous tourist centre. On its territory, you will find the caretaker's booth, a few guest cabins, a bathhouse and a granary. Viktor Margaritto, a famous Susuman photographer, fell in love with this place in the beginning of the 70s, which is how the centre got its name.

Because the Margaritto Centre is so far from main roads and hard to reach, it is seldom visited by the tour-

Tourist centre Margaritto



SERGEI KARPUKHIN



### Viktor Margaritto

(1923–1994) was a Susuman photographer and the founder of the Margaritto Tourist Centre. His lens immortalized many of the Kolyma sceneries, the local flora and fauna and the life of the Northern villages. Margaritto's photos were published in books, magazines and newspapers. He was brilliant at using the composite photograph technique, and one of the first to apply it in the USSR. The photographer collaborated with the Gornyak Severa ("The Miner of the North") newspaper, gathering the photographs of his beloved region, the best of which were published in Zolotaya Kolyma ("The Golden Kolyma") album (1983).

ists – the only way to get here is either by offroader or by helicopter, or on foot. Still, this place is so beautiful that it is a must-see.



SERGEI KARPUKHIN

The Omulevka River

Two kilometres downstream from the Margaritto Tourist Centre, the river enters the Omulevsky Mountains. Its emerald-green waters cross the mass of carbonaceous rock, forming a canyon 40 km long. This narrow and winding passage with vertical walls, which only stand 20 m apart, is considered to be the most beautiful part of the river. It is the most complicated stretch of the river as far as rafting is concerned, but also its most exciting part.

After passing the canyon, the river runs out to a plane, into a wide and calm basin, only to split into a multitude of smaller streams later. The multiple rocky shoals through which the streams lazily make their way stretch for about 80 km.

Then the river passes through the mountains again – not so tall, but equally picturesque. To make it through the Cherbynyinsky Range, the river gathers all the streams

into one again. Sometimes you can see the water frothing at the rapids, but you can pass these parts without major difficulties. The mountain stretch of the river runs for about 55 km, and after passing Omchikchan, a large left tributary of Omulevka, the river runs on a plane once more. Here, constant winds make the stream twist between the islands, and the river becomes deep. Before reaching the Kolyma River, Omulevka's

waters merge with the waters of the Yasachnaya River.

Omulevka is rich with large lenok (Asiatic trout) – a beautiful and tasty fish with pinkish meat. It fights back a lot more than the grayling when you catch it on the spoonbait. The Arctic omul used to inhabit these waters as well, which is how the river got its name. The omul used to go as far as 50 to 100 km upstream during the spawning season. However, nowadays its population is very thin.

Omulevka twisting through the mountains



SERGEI KARPUKHIN

# REEVALUATING THE RESOURCES AND INNOVATIONS

## Development prospects of the South



Magadan Oblast has made a significant contribution to the development of the national economy. That is why it is often called the Golden Kolyma. The region gave the country over 3,000 t of gold, dozens of thousands tonnes of tin, tungsten, silver and other minerals. Magadan Oblast is one of the ten Russian regions richest in potential mineral resources. Over 11% of Russia's stream gold and 15% hardrock gold is located on its territory, as well as 50% of the total volume of known reserves of silver in Russia. Besides, it is also rich in complex ores, iron, tin, copper, tungsten, molybdenum, brown and hard coal, and the Primagadansky shelf in the Sea of Okhotsk has extensive oil resources. The main development potential of Magadan Oblast are in the metal mining industry and energetics.

### Gold mining

In the last years, the precious metal mining industry, primarily gold mining, has been growing significantly in Kolyma. For instance, the production output here has grown by 9.5 t since 2008, and 24.1 t of gold was mined in 2014. This is a very significant number, taking into account that a lot has been said about depletion of gold reserves in Magadan Oblast. For example, at the dawn of gold mining in Kolyma, in 1937–1945, more than 50 t of gold was mined here every year. The maximum annual production in 1940 amounted to 79.2 t. In 1945–2002, the general output was 30–50 t, and the numbers were declining steadily since 2003, until reaching 10–15 t a year.

Today, Kolyma's gold resources have been re-evaluated, and the methods for extraction of raw materials are changing. Besides, the industry has enjoyed a number of technical and technological innovations. These measures will allow a significant increase of output volumes in gold mining in the future. The industry will rely primarily on the development of the deposits in Yano-Kolymsky gold ore province, situated on the border between Magadan Oblast and the Republic of Saha (Yakutia). It includes 14 large gold fields. The known and predicted gold resources here amount to almost 5,000 t.

For instance, a completely new technical procedure for gold ore processing was introduced in the Natalka gold field, a part of the Yano-Kolymsky gold ore province. Until recently, the underground mining method was used here. However, after 60 years of development, the technology became detrimental because of low concentration of gold in the ore. For this reason, the gold field was re-evaluated, and a new model for the development was introduced. The field reserves were re-evaluated after a follow-up exploration of the deep levels and flanks for open mining with its large extraction are in open-pit mines as deep as 500 m.

PREDICTED RESOURCES  
OF THE NATALKA GOLD  
FIELD EXCEED

1,000<sub>T</sub>



As a result, the predicted resources of the Nataika gold field now exceed 1,000 t of gold. It is considered one of Russia's largest gold fields and falls into the category of large-volume fields that have considerable resources with low gold content (lower than 2 g/t).

One condition to help make the development of such fields effective is changing the development technology, that is, abandoning the selective development of beneficiated sites and transitioning to their total development, which would constitute a technological innovation for this gold field. Moreover, because of depletion of the traditional-type placer mine resources, new types of placer mines are currently being developed, which requires a more complex mining technology.

The innovations allow returning to previously developed materials and extracting a significant amount of the so-called fine-grained gold – minor fractures that constituted the bulk of technological mining losses several decades ago due to primitive techniques and equipment.

Another way of supporting gold mining in old industrial regions is making sure the gold fields with low concentration of gold rise in profitability via complex extraction of all commercial components. This would allow starting mining on complex rare-metal ore and gold ore fields such as Chistoe, Delyankir, Myakit-Khurchanskaya and Burgachanskaya areas.

PLANT'S  
ELECTRIC POWER  
CONSUMPTION:

510<sub>MW</sub>  
PER DAY

PRODUCTION LEVEL:

200<sub>T</sub>  
OF HYDROGEN PER DAY

### Hydrogen as a source of energy

Another prominent branch of development in Magadan Oblast is its electric energy potential. The region already has a very noteworthy project for construction of a liquefied hydrogen production complex. A project like this is unique not only for Russia, but also for the rest of the world. While various companies are employing separate liquefied hydrogen producing technologies, the complete production chain will only operate in Magadan Oblast.

Hydrogen represents a new age in energy recovery. It carries more heat energy than any other known fuel. Hydrogen's low heating value is 28,806 kkal/kg, while methane's value is only half as high. Putting the liquefied hydrogen production complex into operation is important, because it will ensure the reliability and energy security of Magadan, Khasynsky and Olsky Regions of Magadan Oblast, Kolymsky Precious Metal Refinery and the Sokol Airport. Its operation will also raise the energy efficiency of mining companies, lower the cost of electricity for an average consumer and smoothen consumption peaks. It is also worth noting that the centre will allow for rational use of Kolyma and Ust-Srednekansky Power Stations' resources – right now, they are not working at full capacity, and the region suffers from energy excess.



The process of hydrogen manufacturing does not harm the environment. One of the most well-investigated ways of hydrogen manufacturing is through water electrolysis, breaking up H<sub>2</sub>O into H<sub>2</sub> and O<sub>2</sub>. This method allows for high purity of the resulting hydrogen. The simplicity of the manufacturing process and its continuity makes possible maximum automation. This method also allows extraction of valuable side products during the production process.

Japanese counterparts are expected to aid in the implementation of the project. The construction of a pilot complex with the estimated capacity of 12 t of liquefied hydrogen per day constitutes the first stage. The operation of the complex will demand 42.7 MW of electricity, which will be provided by Kolyma and Ust-Srednekansky Power Stations, among other sources. The production will be focused on export, mostly to Japan, as it is likely that it will be the first country to have the infrastructure for cars that run on hydrogen fuel. Apart from that, the hydrogen produced in the complex can be used in the aerospace field. The pilot complex is scheduled to be commissioned as early as 2019, and by 2028, the liquefied hydrogen production is expected to reach industrial scale. The capacity of the complex will be increased.

THE PILOT COMPLEX WILL  
START OPERATING  
AS EARLY

AS 2019

NORTH





## FALL IN LOVE WITH THE NORTH

The Russians are said to be the only nation that measures its territory in other countries. But the truth is, our country is too vast, and it explains it all. Magadan Oblast, for example, is about the same size as Spain, and its northern part, which we will talk about in this chapter, is as large as the whole of Germany. However, permafrost, extremely severe climate, no permanent road access and low population density determine the lifestyle of the region.

If you drive from Magadan along the highway, you will notice few right turns. There are four main routes east from Kolyma Highway – along the coast to Ola, to Talaya thermal springs resort, to Omsukchan and to Seymchan. The population is concentrated along these roads: small and large settlements are located there, and mineral deposits are explored.

The large-scale Ust-Srednekanskaya Dam power plant is being built on the way to Seymchan on the Kolyma River. This hydroelectric plant will provide regional industries with

sufficient electric energy. In these vast territories, there are deposits of gold, silver, coal, tin and other rare metals. Yuzhno-Omolonsky ore knot, for example, has over 900 mt of iron ore and coal. The Lunny silver mine produces about 45% of Russian silver output and contains the third largest silver reserve in the world.

Another curiosity of the North is its indigenous minority peoples. Magadan Oblast is one of the few regions that preserves aboriginal culture and customs, their language, holidays and traditional way of living. Most indigenous groups live in Severo-Evensky District. Their principle occupations are reindeer farming, hunting and handcraft. You can enjoy local Khebdenek and Baklydydyak holidays and the reindeer Farmers Rally, where you can learn a lot about the culture of the indigenous peoples. They will show you their houses, domestic objects, and well – crafted items made out of wood, bone, fur and beads. During these festivals, you must taste the national cuisine. You will never forget it.



Most areas of Srednekansky, Omsukchansky and Severo-Evensky Districts have no road access, and even trucks cannot get there. That is why the region is barely explored and developed. You will hardly meet anyone in an endless tundra, among mountain ranges and forests of Magadan Oblast. All the population is concentrated in small settlements and mining plants. Only indigenous inhabitants engaged in reindeer farming can be found here. However, even they get lost among numerous rivers, moors and lakes.

This vast and off the beaten track area is a paradise for wild nature lovers – anglers, hunters and tourists. Here, the nature is truly pristine. There are no roads or communication. Even to see an airplane leaving a track in the sky is a rare thing.

Inspired by Jack London's works, only adventurous and romantic people head to the north of Magadan Oblast. Here, you will make your own discoveries and watch wild animals in their natural habitat. It is not for nothing, that the three out of four clusters of the Magadansky Natural Reserve are located in this part of the region. These are Olsky, Yamsky and Seimchansky clusters. The natural conservation areas are perfect for photography.

There are few places left on our planet where you can see bears hunting on the river, curious foxes, careful Arctic foxes, and seals lying on the beaches.



Climb the mountains, ford the rivers, and be a pioneer and give names to countless hills and streams. You are very likely to make an interesting discovery and find, for example, an unknown stream, that is quite a common thing here. If you are out of luck, just go to the well-known Tavatumsky Springs, as hot as decades ago. There is nothing more wonderful and healthy than a warm bath after an exhausting journey.

If you are used to comfort, you will enjoy the year-round Talaya resort. The modern health resort offers special treatments, that will bring your senses back into focus and will help to regain your health. Talaya is a very popular destination. People from all over the region come to relax in this thermal springs resort.

"You'll see that you're right to call it "Extreme North", as it is all extremes". These words from a famous Russian song accurately describe this region. The north of Magadan Oblast is full of contrasts. It is industrial, with many deposits and quarries. At the same time, it is unique, with peacefully grazing reindeer herds. The North is also wild, unexplored with steep mountains and forestless tundra. Every time you see it, you cannot but fall in love with it.

# NORTH EAST FROM KOLYMA HIGHWAY

## In focus

### Urban areas:

- Omsukchan, 3,800 people (2014)
- Seymchan, 2,397 people (2015)
- Evensk, 1,565 people (2015)
- Gizhiga, 259 people (2014)

### Administrative divisions:

- Srednekansky, Omsukchansky, Severo-Evensky, Yagodninsky, Susumansky

### Rivers:

- Kolyma, Omulyovka, Omolon, Ola, Yama, Takhtayama, Nayakhan, Gizhiga, Paren

### Mountains:

- Yevrashkalakh, Cherge peak, Mayak, Aesop

### Transportation:

- air (helicopters, planes), bus, car

### Roads:

- P504 Kolyma
- 44K-5 – to Talaya
- 44H-3 Gerba – Omsukchan
- 44H-6 Avenirych – Seymchan



**Climate:**  
from sharply continental to monsoon

Average temperature*	
	<b>WINTER</b> -20...-9 °C
	<b>SPRING</b> -7...+2 °C
	<b>SUMMER</b> +5...+13 °C
	<b>AUTUMN</b> -6...+4 °C

\* Temperature changes significantly depending on a climatic zone



- on the map**
- 1 Yamsky cluster
  - 2 Seimchansky cluster
  - 3 Olsky (Koni peninsula)
  - 4 Kolyma River
  - 5 Talaya thermal springs resort
  - 6 Elikchany Lakes
  - 7 Peoples of the North

## Ice drift on the Kolyma River

Ice drift on a large northern river is a breath-taking natural spectacle. An incredible force cuts the frozen surface of the river like a knife and carries away the huge floes down the current. The floating pieces of ice crash with a loud cracking sound.

The process of river breakup is the opposite of freeze-up. In the upper reaches of the Kolyma River, ice cover breaks up at the

end of May – at the beginning of June. After that, spring meltwater enters the river, destroying everything in its way. The water level rises dramatically, and the flow carries ice, wood and rocks along with it. In the meanders and in the mouth of the river, you can often see clogs that cause massive flooding. Meltwater is a significant threat to roads, bridges and nearby villages. It can cause a serious damage to buildings.



SERGEI SHKLENIK

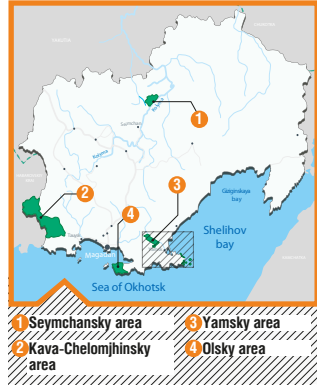
## Things to see

### Magadansky State Nature Reserve

The issue concerning the creation of a reserve in Kolyma was first raised in the 1940s, after forming the first expeditions (1941–1951). The idea of setting up a nature reserve belongs to a famous geologist and geographer Aleksey



Steller's sea eagles in the nest



Vaskovsky. He was the head of the Nature conservancy laboratory at Institute of Biological Problems of the North. In 1982, the borders of the conservation zone were defined.

The Magadansky Reserve is located on the northern coast of the Sea of Okhotsk in the southwest of the oblast and consists of four clusters with

total area of 883,000 ha: Kava – Chelomjinsky (see Chapter “South”), Olsky, Yamsky and Seimchansky. All the clusters are far away from each other and hard to reach. There are not any urban areas or transportation. All the four clusters differ in climate and terrain.

Specific ecosystems that can be found only in Northeast

Migration of reindeers



IVAN KISLOV



ALEXANDR ANDREEV

Yamsky Islands

Eurasia are under special control, e.g. continental larch woodlands, Bering cedar tundra, Alpine and sub-Alpine landscapes of the Kolyma plateau, mixed Erman's birch forests, and broad-leaf flood plain forests.

The Magadansky Reserve is concerned with developing ecotourism in its area. Despite the remote location, difficult transportation and severe climate, the reserve attracts many wildlife lovers from all over the world. There are a number of tour agencies that offer trips to the Koni peninsula and the

islands of Yamsky cluster. An excursion along the coast of preservation areas allows you to get off wherever you like.

During the excursion, you will enjoy unique landscapes of the Sea of Okhotsk, see numerous flocks of birds and find seals lying peacefully. If you are lucky enough, you will watch killer whales in the sea and bears on the shore.

The excursions are ingroups only and must be accompanied by the Reserve staff members.

**i Address:** 17 Koltsevaya Street, Magadan  
**Phone:** +7 (4132) 657 871

### Yamsky cluster 1

The Yamsky cluster can be divided into two parts – the continental and the Yamsky Islands, including the Pyagina Peninsula. The islands are especially interesting because they are a favourite habitat of millions of birds.

The archipelago, 10–15 km away from the shore, consists of two large islands – Matykil and Atykan, and three smaller islands – Baran, Khatamalnyu and Kokontse. The water area near the islands has a complicated bottom relief, huge

### Matykil Island

Matykil is the most explored island of the archipelago. Most part of it is steep rocks up to several hundred metres high. They form wonderful rock columns, walls and canyons. The best place to land is on the northern side of the island. There is a small bay, protected from the wind by a rocky cape from the North and Northeast. At different times, this bay was called “Severnaya”, “Tamara Bay” and “Lagernaya”.

The largest in the Natural Reserve bird colony lives on this island. There are 12 nesting species with a total population of 4.7 million. The majority of them are least auklets. On the east coast of the island, there is the northernmost sea lion rookery and haulout.





Horned puffin with prey

depth differences, a complex flow pattern and an extremely low water temperature.

It is always noisy here, because thousands of birds settle on the coast and nest on every rock. They constantly fly from one place to another, cry, fight and hunt...

The highest plankton concentration in the Sea of Okhotsk is near the Yamsky Islands. That explains the abundance of birds. Territories that are rich in food always attract birds. Now, their



PHOTOBANK LORY

Golden larches

total population is 6 million. As for the flora of the Yamsky Islands, there are 140 species of plants. They have successfully adapted for nesting

colonies conditions. On the slopes, grass meadows are covered with blue joint reed grass. Its plant foot can grow up to 1 m high. Lower parts of



**Pure vitamin**

You can gather plenty of Siberian dwarf pinecones in Magadan Oblast. Siberian pine nuts are very good for your health and contain a lot of nutrients: phosphorus, magnesium, potassium, sodium, calcium and vitamins A, B, C, D, E, P, amino acids and essential fatty acids. Just 100 g of nuts contain a recommended daily intake dose of manganese, copper, zinc and cobalt, providing 600 kcal of energy. Gathering the cones is not hard at all. However, to shell them is really challenging. In order to take the nuts out of a cone, you have to squeeze it in your hands, roll it, and then hit it. Kernels will fall out by themselves.



*To remove the outer hard shell, use one of the two methods:*

**METHOD 1:** Pour boiling water over the nuts. Let stand 10–15 min. The water will soften the shells and facilitate the process.

**METHOD 2:** Place the nuts into the oven (110 °C). Bake for 2–3 min to make the shells soft.

rocks are covered with golden roots forming the so-called "belt". It is birds' very favourite place for nesting.

The continental part of this cluster lies in the valley of the lower reaches of the Yama River. You can get here from a small settlement Yamsk that is 20 km away. The aim of this cluster is to protect the largest spawning grounds of chum and coho salmon in the Sea of Okhotsk.

The plants are also under protection. For example, Siberian spruce, despite being widespread in Siberia, grows only in the valley of the River Yama in Magadan Oblast. There are also relict plants that are inscribed into the Red Book of Magadan Oblast like May Lily and Chamisso's Honeysuckle. Another peculiar feature of the Yama Valley is Siberian Alder, which is quite a rare thing in Magadan Oblast. At the edges of alder forests, you will find hempleaf ground-

sels, filipendula and blue joint reed grass.

In the continental part of Yamsky cluster, there are birds native only to the Far East like black-billed capercaillie, black scoter, harlequin duck, Steller's sea eagle (white – shouldered eagle) and Pallas's warbler.

**Seymchansky cluster 2**

The only preservation area in the Kolyma basin, the Seymchansky cluster is 100 km down from Seymchan. This section of the Reserve protects the floodplains and ecosystems of the Kolyma River valleys.

The mountain taiga occupies most of the conservation zone's territory. There are several streams that take their sources in the Kolyma watershed and the Belaya Noch River. The riverbed, the island floodplains, the river terraces, and the valleys of small tribu-



ALEXANDER ANDREEV

Rock Ptarmigan

taries of the Kolyma River occupy a relatively small area. However, this is where you can observe the diversity of the local flora. A great number of rare plants grow in these remote places.

In floodplains, there are mostly larch and birch forests. In addition, you can find Japanese white birches, Asian hackberries and Siberian mountain ash.

Bear family is on the hunt





Taran Cape, Koni peninsula

SERGEI KARPUKHIN

Unlike other clusters, the Seymchan section has 25 species of fish. Most of them live in the waters of Siberia and can hardly be found in the Sea of Okhotsk rivers. In the Kolyma River and its tributaries you can find a pike, perch, burbot, Siberian suckerfish

Siberian dwarf pine



and dace. In mountainous tributaries, there are Siberian graylings. There is a population of the Yakut crucian carp and perch populate in some of the lakes.

In this area the indigenous taiga species nest, such as the wood grouse, the hazel grouse, the eagle owl, and some of migrating birds – the

red-flanked bluetail, the olive-backed pipit, and others.

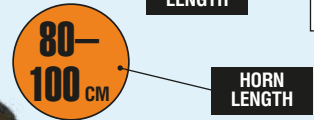
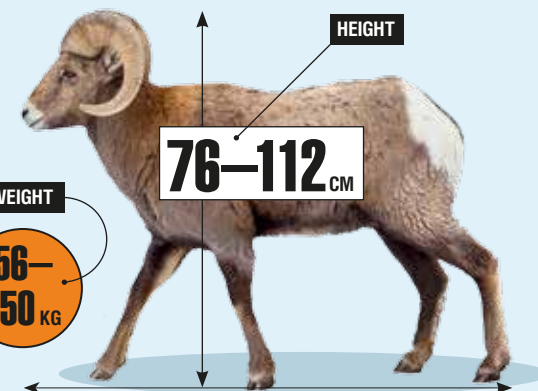
The mountain hare, northern pika, squirrel, chipmunk, grey red-backed vole, northern red-backed vole, fox, brown bear, wolverine, sable and the stoat are quite common here, and the local moose inhabiting this area is a representative of a large Kolyma subspecies.



PHOTOBANK LORY

# SNOW SHEEP

The snow sheep is one of the largest animals in Magadan Oblast. It lives in hard-to-reach areas and constantly moves from one place to another. Due to big horns, the snow sheep is considered a valuable hunting trophy.



Snow sheep has a peculiar trait. Unlike other sheep species, which have 54 or 58 chromosomes, the snow sheep has only 52.

This species has appeared on this planet

from **40 to 100** thousand years ago.

Their diet consists primarily of grass, but it also eats leaves, larch needles, lichens, berries and mushrooms.



When the snow cover is more than 40 cm, the area becomes unsuitable for living. That is why the snow sheep's habitat is relatively small.





### Ola site Koni peninsula 3

Ola site occupies the western part of the Koni peninsula, located 50 km from Magadan. The territory of the protected site is very picturesque: mountains covered with cedar elfin and rocky barrens with snowfields, amazing coastal views.

The landscape of this area is mountainous, but the hills are not too high – up to 1,500 m. The highest elevation, the Skalistaya Mountain, is 1,548 m above the sea level. The high

ridges, however, still have traces of ancient glaciations. Here, in the mountains, is where all the rivers of the peninsula originate from. Their streams are fast and with many rifts. The largest of them are the Hindzha and Burgauli Rivers. Many streams form waterfalls in the mountainous part of the reserve. Crystalline schist, protruding on the banks near the mouth of the Antara River, is a feature and a geological landmark of the site.

The inner part of the peninsula is interesting because of its pristine and untouched nature: this remote area, surrounded by slopes of high mountains, was not inhabited or developed by industrialists. People only lived here in the ancient times, which is proven by ancient man sites found there by the scientists. An amazing discovery was made by archaeologist Alexander Orekhov in 1999. He discovered six ancient settlements on the coast of the peninsula,

which were preliminary associated with the Atargan stage of Old Koryak culture (1,500 – 500 years ago).

The fauna of the reserve is numerous and very diverse. Among the most remarkable inhabitants of Koni, there are such species as the snow sheep, fox, Steller's sea eagle and, of course, the brown bears.

One can observe them practically everywhere, especially in summer during the spawning of salmon. Bears go to estuaries to eat plenty of humpback salmon. Interestingly, other types of Pacific salmon do not go into the rivers of the peninsula. At other times, bears hide in the river valleys, where poplar and chosenia grow and forests are rich in berries, mushrooms.

Other big fans of humpback salmon are the seals, which can often be seen by the water-side of the peninsula. There are three species of these animal common in this area – the spot-



PHOTOBANK LORY

Kolyma River

ted seal, the ringed seal and the bearded seal. Their most numerous rookeries are located at Alevina Cape, and they number up to 300–400 individuals.

Birds are the noisiest inhabitants of the peninsula. There are 48 colonies of birds on the coastal rocks, which are mostly the black-legged kittiwakes, pelagic cormorants, spectacled guillemots and the horned puffins.

### Kolyma River 4

The Kolyma River (Khalyma in the Yakut language) is the largest river in Magadan Oblast and the Republic of Sakha, with the total length of more than 2,513 km. The river flows through the settlement territory of the Even people, who used to call it Kulu; now the name of Kulu is only used for the right part of Kolyma – “Kula” is Even for the riverbank slope, facing north; the northern slope.

Kolyma is the main river of the region, fed from two sources. The left one is the rain-

and snow-fed Ayan–Yuryakh River, flowing down from the Halkan ridge in Magadan Oblast.

The Kulu River is the right tributary of the Kolyma River, which flows through this Oblast, as well as through Khabarovsk Krai. This river starts at a confluence of two smaller rivers further west in the granite glacial range of Suntar–Khayata.

More than half of the Kolyma's passes through Magadan Oblast, so “Kolyma” and “Magadan” became almost synonymous. A smaller part of the stream passes through Ya-

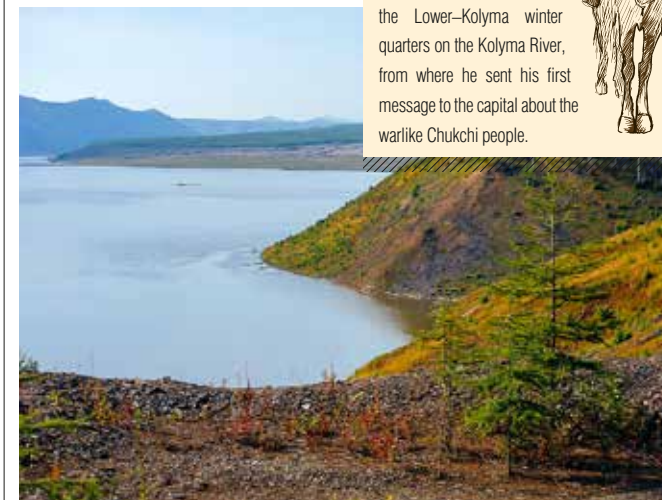
Russian Cossacks were the first to sail Kolyma in the early 1640s, after the discovery of the Indigirka and Alazeya Rivers. For instance, in 1644, Michael Stadukhin founded the Lower–Kolyma winter quarters on the Kolyma River, from where he sent his first message to the capital about the warlike Chukchi people.



View over the Pravilnoye Lake, Koni peninsula



IVAN KESLOV



EVBGENY RADCHENKO

# THE KOLYMA DOMINION

RIVER LENGTH  
**2129** KM

**1400** KM OF THEM FLOW THROUGH MAGADAN OBLAST

CATCHMENT AREA  
**643 000** SQ KM

WATER FLOW  
**3800** CU M / S

SOURCE – Okhotsko-Kolymskoye Upland

ESTUARY – Kolyma Gulf of the East Siberian Sea

Kolyma is the largest river of Magadan Oblast, which for a long time has been one of the main transport corridors of the region and has been used for the reclamation of this area. Gold mineralization of the river conditioned the rapid development of the Northeastern Russia. Later, after Kolyma Hydroelectric Station was built, hydraulic power was used to bring electricity to residential settlements and plants of the region. Today, the potential of the river is equally great – it remains a well-stocked and navigable river, while the second hydroelectric power station is being constructed on it the Ust-Srednekan Hydro Power Plant.



## Source

The source of the Kenelichi River, situated between the peaks of the Okhotsko-Kolymskoye Upland, is considered the source of Kolyma. However, sometimes the confluence of Ayan-Yuryakh and Kulu is considered the beginning of this river (in this case the length of the river is 2,129 km). The confluence of the rivers forming Kolyma is about 65 km southwest of Susuman – the closest town where it can be reached from.



Kolyma reservoir

## Kolyma reservoir

Kolyma reservoir formed after the construction of the Kolyma HPP dam is one of the largest in the world. The length of the reservoir is 148 km; its width equals 6 km and total area – 454.6 sq km.



## Seymchan

The settlement is located on the banks of Seymchan – a tributary of the Kolyma River. The bulk of its population is employed in the metal mining industry and gold mining. The settlement has a functioning airport.



## Seymchan site of the Magadan Reserve

The site of 117,839 hectares includes a coastal zone, a floodplain and a valley of the upper reaches of the river, as well as wetlands and mountain-taiga areas on the left bank of the Kolyma River.



## Ust-Srednekan HPP

Ust-Srednekan HPP is the second in the hydro-power station cascade of Kolyma. Its construction started in 1991. The full commissioning of its units is planned for 2016.

## Kolyma HPP

It took three decades to build this station, which shows how extensive and important this project was. The launch of the station allowed covering the demand for electricity throughout the region and providing resources for the development of mining plants.



Giziginskaya bay



## Sinegorye

The settlement of Sinegorye was built for construction and maintenance of the Kolyma HPP. Now it is an exemplary village with level roads and welcoming public gardens. Today nearly 3,000 people live in this village.

WATER TEMPERATURE  
IN SUMMER IS

10–15 °C



KOLYMA IS A WELL-STOCKED  
RIVER, WHERE ANNUALLY  
MORE THAN **100** TONNES  
OF FISH ARE CAUGHT

EVGENIY RADCHENKO

### Mother Kolyma

In local legends, the Kolyma River was compared to a beautiful woman who has raised up many children, the tributaries (about **35** more rivers of various significance). Having grown old, she gave them different tasks: to be full flowing, well stocked, and well forested – so that people would have a place to live, means to light a furnace and food to eat. She only asked the Omolon tributary to take care of her. And indeed, Omolon is the first to clear from ice and join Kolyma.

kutia. Here Kolyma flows into the Kolyma Gulf of the East Siberian Sea, which is covered with ice most of the time.

The right tributary, Kamenaya Kolyma, is navigable. The Kolyma River basin with its numerous tributaries covers a vast territory of Magadan Oblast, Khabarovsk Krai and Yakutia and equals 643,000 sq km.

The river is predominantly snow-fed. The high water

lasts from mid-May to September, when the fluctuation of the water level can reach 14 m.

In summer, the water level in Kolyma drops and rises only during the rainy season, causing short-term floods.

The water temperature in the river is low, about 10–15°C, so the river freezes in mid-October, or sometimes at the end of September.

In the East, the Kolyma River alley is limited by a branch of Stanovoy Range and Kolyma Mountains, stretching from southeast to northwest, between the Kolyma River and its main right tributary, the Omolon River.

On the left side of the Kolyma Valley, between itself and the Indigirka River, lies the Tomushkhaya Ridge, which

ends in the North at the Alazeya mountains. Further to the North, the left bank of the Kolyma grades into a lengthy low-lying plain and northern tundra.

The river has long been one of the main transport corridors of the region and has been of great economic importance.

Today only the part near the Bakhapcha estuary is considered navigable, but regular shipping starts at Seymchan. Therefore, the waterway mainly leads to the Yakut settlements of Zyryanka and Chersky.

Kolyma Hydropower Station, providing electricity to most of Magadan Oblast, is located on the river. Downstream, another station is being built, the Ust-Srednekan HPP.

The need for a second hydropower station began to be discussed as early as the 1970s, but the actual construction of the Kolyma station, which began in 1991, went into its active phase only in 2006. Now, RusHydro conducts the masonry and earth dam construction at the Ust-Srednekan HPP, as well as the installation of major and secondary equipment.

The water-retaining structures of the HPP form the Ust-Srednekan reservoir with the area of 265 sq km.

Commissioning of Ust-Srednekan HPP will provide developing mining plants of the region with low-cost energy, as well as help lowering the consumption of imported fuel and reduce the growth in electricity tariffs. Another important role of the station is to serve as a backup in case of an emergency at the Kolyma HPP.

The stock of biological resources of the river is also important – Kolyma is a well-stocked river, which produces



Construction of Ust-Srednekan HPP

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more than 100 tonnes of fish every year.

However, the main value of the Kolyma River is certainly its gold. There are many deposits in the river basin, which accelerated its development. The abundant reserves of the precious metal, discovered by Russian geologists, triggered the development of the region as well as the entire northeast of the country. Almost along the entire river, on both its sides, you can find mines, both closed down and operating.

Due to the harsh climate and the particularities of the

Russian legislation, there never were many private miners on the river. Mining has traditionally been carried out on an industrial scale in a manner that allows for keeping control of the ecological situation in the region.

The touristic potential of Kolyma is limitless – the river flows through the underdeveloped parts of the region, being a unique area for eco-tourism, fishing and hunting.

From May to October, cruises are organized on the Kolyma River, but most of the route goes through the territory of the nearby Yakutia. On their way



### Ust-Srednekan HPP

Ust-Srednekan HPP, the second power station on Kolyma, is now being built in Yagodninsky District of the region. The uniquely complex hydraulic structure is constructed on challenging terrain and in permafrost. The hydroelectric power station with rated capacity of 570 MW and the output of 2.56 billion kw/h, which is scheduled to be fully commissioned in 2016, will be the second largest in Magadan Oblast.





Buildings of Talaya Health Resort

tourists come across a large number of abandoned villages – Yermolovo, Nizhnekolymsk and others. The settlement of Chersky (Yakutia) is a popular tourist destination. It was named after a famous explorer; its former name is Nizhniye

Kresty. Here you can also visit the Nizhnekolymsky Museum of History and Culture of the northern peoples of Yakutia.

Rafting on the Kolyma is currently underdeveloped, mainly due to the severe climatic conditions and the diffi-

cult transport situation, as the river flows through remote areas of the region, and certain places are only reachable by helicopter. Routes have different complexity, depending on the areas of the river.

### Talaya Balneological Resort 5

The Talaya resort is located 250 km from the administrative centre of the Oblast inside the Arctic Circle, in the permafrost area. The resort is located on the northwest slope of the Kolyma ridge in the Talaya River basin, at 720 meters above sea level.

Around the small settlement of Talaya with a population of 300 people, there are no major settlements for hundreds of kilometres.

The valley is surrounded by 1,000–1,200 m high mountains, with slopes covered with dense forest rich in mushrooms and berries, and the notches of the mountains there are full of picturesque places with lakes.



Dining room in "Talaya" resort

The mineral spring of the resort was discovered in 1963 by explorer Afanasy Bushuyev. However, its waters have long been used by the local population for medical purposes. The water of the spring has properties of low-mineralized thermal waters (+91 °C) and high content of silicic acid.

The main attraction of the resort is the geothermal min-

eralized water source that runs from the ground. The waters of the Talsky spring formed before the Jurassic period hundreds of millions years ago, and are not of glacial origin. The formation is close to the waters of the ancient marine reservoirs, diluted with modern fresh water. These waters are located at ground depth close to the magma activity zone,

therefore, have temperature of about 900 °C.

The waters rise to the surface through fault zones from considerable depth of up to 2–3 km. The water of the Talsky spring is unique in terms of the number of chemical elements included in its composition: it contains an entire complex of substances beneficial to peo-

### Useful ice

Merchant Athanasius Bushuyev, who discovered the spring in 1863, found a way to sell the healing water to the entire region. The water from hot springs was frozen and transported to the point of sale – the climatic conditions promoted this method. Whether the useful properties of thawed liquid were preserved is unknown, but the popularity of Talaya resort was growing over the years.



### Prospecting

Prospecting (gold panning) is a peculiar kind of geological tourism is developing in Kolyma region. After obtaining a special license, travel agencies are obtain a right to gold mining. Tourists are taught to handle a placer jig and given an opportunity to pan gold dust in gold-bearing areas of the river valley.

Here, samples of gold grains, sealed in a glass tube, are offered as souvenirs and "certificates of miners" are issued. Geological routes and tours are organized by the staff of geological organizations.





Old staircase of the health resort

ple's health. According to the Moscow Institute of Balneology and Physiotherapy, this water has rare medicinal properties. It activates the metabolic processes in the body and favours cell regeneration. There are only two places on our planet with springs of similar composition: one is located in Khabarovsk Krai, and another in France.

Weather conditions of Talaya, despite their overall severity, compare favourably with the surrounding areas and are used for medicinal purposes. The beautiful surroundings of the resort, diverse landscape great for walking and skiing, silence and air transparency have a soothing effect on one's health and nerves.

Early spring and late autumn give those who spend time in this region bright, warm and sunny days, and in winter, one can ski in the snow-covered valleys. Guests from all over the country, who have once visited the resort, dream of coming back there again.

Active tourism fans from other countries come to take a tour through the Kolyma taiga, which has no marked trails and roads, only pristine untouched nature.

The uniqueness of the "Talaya" resort is proved by decades of successful treatment and a positive impact on various conditions. Hundreds of thousands of northerners have visited the resort and personally felt the healing power of this "pearl of the North".

# TALAYA HEALTH RESORT



In 2008, Talaya resort was reconstructed. Dormitory block, dining room, mud baths, sports and recreation unit were renovated.

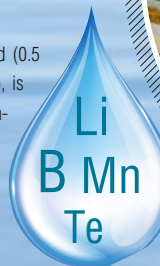
This helped to increase the number of places for guests from 200 to 500 and create a full-fledged resort area with advanced infrastructure. This does not put an end to the work being done there. The development program involves the construction of new buildings and further evolvement of the medical network.

THE RESORT RECEIVES **4,000** PEOPLE ANNUALLY, **1,000** OF THEM ARE CHILDREN



## Water composition

Hydrocarbonate sodium chloride, low-mineralized (0.5 g/l) with a high content of silicic acid (150 mg/l), is characterized by high alkalinity (pH – 9.0) and temperature (+91°C) and significant presence of trace elements – lithium, manganese, boron, tellurium, etc. The composition of this mineral water is constant and does not depend on the time of year.



MINERAL WATERS



MUD THERAPY



PHYTO SAUNA



HALOTHERAPY



### Talaya Health Resort

Talaya is the most popular resort in Magadan Oblast. Every year there about 4,000 people, including thousands of children, rest and undergo treatment here. After the recent renovation, the flow of tourists is expected to grow,

as the resort can offer all the conditions for comprehensive treatment, recreation and rehabilitation of health all the year round.

Due to its unique medicinal properties, geographical location, medical, material and technological base, the resort welcomes guests from oth-

er regions of Russia. People come from Yakutia and Chukotka for treatment and recreation.

Therapy here is primarily conducted with the help of siliceous nitric thermal mineral water with notable amounts of silicic acid and fluorine, which also includes selenium, lithium and strontium. A whole range of treatments is used: various baths ("pearl" and whirlpool baths, underwater massage, underwater spine traction), as well as showers and inhalation. All guests of the resort are welcome to use a swimming pool with mineral water.

For mud therapy, sapropelic mud is used, which is extracted near the resort from the bottom of the Nalimnoye Lake.

Patients are also offered all kinds of mud treatment, including galvanic mud therapy, electrophoresis of mud extract and others.

### Elikchan Lakes 6

The Elikchan River valley is located about 200 km from Magadan, a bit closer than the Atka settlement. Four lakes of various sizes and shapes are connected with a narrow channel, flowing into the Yama River. The lakes are situated on the right side of the road, just a few kilometres from the track.

The largest of them, Lake Grand, is also the furthest, located approximately 8 km from the road. In good weather, it can be reached by all-terrain car. There is an old pothole-ridden track along the lakeside, which, however, can be quite usable in dry weather.

The lake stretches for 3.5 km to the East, and its banks are very different from each other. The long side of the pond rests in the foothills of a low mountain range, crowned with a 600 m high barrow. The sough water-side is low-sloped and more convenient for making camp.

Elikchan lakes are very popular among locals, who come here for the weekend, both from nearby Palatka and from Magadan.

It should be noted that the lakes are very different from each other, despite being located so close together. They have different coastal configuration, vegetation and water temperature. The only thing common is the crystal clear water. On a nice day, you can see several meters deep, with even some fish visible swimming among the rocks.

Near the lakes, there are a lot of mushrooms and berries,

## KALINKIN'S CROSS



The first known instance of a cargo caravan passing successfully from the coast of the Sea of Okhotsk to the Kolyma River took place in the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. A retired Cossack Peter Kalinkin, his wife Anisya Matveevna and 130 laden reindeer set off from Ola at the end of February 1893. After a 32 days long journey the expedition reached Seymchan.

The journey back turned out to be twice as fast: Peter Kalinkin put four cross-shaped surveying posts along the caravan route. These signs were visible from afar, and showed the right way. The track explored by Cossack Kalinkin was used for more than 40 years, until the Kolyma route was completed.

In 2010, the pass on the road from Talaya to Elikchan lakes was named after the pioneering explorer. The height of the pass is 1,100 m above sea level, and it is located in Maymadzhinskiy Range, 25 km east of Atka. This pass is not far from the site where Kalinkin once set one of his crosses.

In 2015, a copy replaced the original milepost, which was brought down by time, and the relic passed to the Magadan Regional Local History Museum. The cross, badly battered by time and bad weather, reads: "1893. Set by Peter Nikolayev Kalinkin".



as well as large touses of honeysuckle, so you can get out for a picnic with your whole family to gather some for the winter.

At the same time, this place is a popular site for paragliding – one can go for a fairly long flight from the top of the hill above the lake.

Another point of interest located nearby is a large ice field. The snow mass occupies a vast territory, and does not melt during the summer. It

is a nice place to take a walk on a hot summer day, when the snow cools everything down, and there are numerous streams murmuring around.

### Peoples of the North 7

Today, Magadan Oblast is home to more than six thousand representatives of different minority ethnic groups of the North. Those are the Evens, the Evenks, the Koryaks, the Chukchi and the Kamchadals. The traditions,



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customs, and religion of the minorities of the Far North had a strong influence on the culture and life of the Magadan Oblast residents. Their national holidays, such as Khebdenek and Baklydydyak, became ingrained in the everyday life of the region and continue to attract more and more participants and guests every year. Representatives of indigenous northern peoples participate actively in various large-scale events, reverently preserving their cultural identity.

The Oblast has successfully implemented the re-

“Yukola” (sun-dried fish)



gional target program for socio-economic and cultural development of the northern indigenous peoples living in the territory of Magadan Oblast for 2010–2018 with a budget exceeding 820 million roubles.

One can learn more about the traditional culture of the indigenous peoples of Magadan Oblast in the Regional local history museum.

**Evens**

Evens or “eben”, as they call themselves, which stands for “reindeer people”, make up about one percent of the current population of Magadan Oblast. However, they were the people that influenced the culture of the region the most.

It is believed that the Tungus tribes arrived on the territory of Kolyma upland back in the Neolithic age. They were then still “deerless” as they say here, meaning nomadic people. At that time, Paleo-Asiatic

tribes were living on the coast of the Sea of Okhotsk. After a while, peoples with reindeer herds came here from the South, from the banks of the Lena. Modern Evens evolved from the assimilation of these groups, having formed a separate ethnographic group by the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

Traditional occupations of Evens are reindeer herding, fishing and hunting for deer, elk, mountain sheep and fur animals. They hunted riding deer or special skis – “kaisar” or “merengte” laid with fur.

Sometimes animals were ridden down, sometimes – lured with a domestic reindeer (“a deer decoy”). Coastal Evens mainly lived on fishing – they caught char, whitespotted char, and grayling. They were using hooks, since nets and seines became known to local residents only in early 12<sup>th</sup> century. They navigated on dug-outs bought from neighbouring nations. They sun dried and

soured the catch, and then grinded the dried fish to powder – “porsa”. The Evens, who lived far from the coast, engaged in reindeer herding. The domesticated hoofed animals were used for riding and carrying loads, and in Magadan Oblast they were harnessed in

a specific type of sledge, borrowed from the Chukchis and the Koryaks. Some families kept huge herds of deer and were engaged in meat production and currying.

Gathering berries, nuts, bark and cedar needles was also common. Men worked on

bone and wood, kept forges, braided belts, arcanes and harnesses of leather. Processing of hides and tanning of rovduga, or aspen suede were considered women’s occupation.

Before Russians arrived, the majority of Evens lived in

**Evens**



**Self - designation:** Eben, Yvyn, Evun  
**Languages:** Even, Russian, Yakut

**POPULATION IN MAGADAN OBLAST**

**2635\***  
**PEOPLE** \*as of 2010

**1,68%**  
**OF THE TOTAL POPULATION**



of the settled Evens were quite diverse, like Tungus tents with birch bark or rovduga coating, or Yakut awning. The cylindrical-conical tents, similar to the Chukchi-Koryak yaranga, was also quite common.

**Language**

Evens speak their own Even language, which still has about 20 dialects and sub-dialects, grouped in three dialect groups: Eastern, Central and Western. The most common dialect of Evens of Magadan Oblast is considered the Even literary language. In 1931, a Latin-alphabet-based writing system was created, and in 1936, the writing system was based on the Russian alphabet.

**Dwellings**

Evens have many traditional types of dwellings, which are often borrowed from other cultures, because of the geographical features of the settlement distribution. Nomads built mobile homes that could be moved from place to place, and arranged summer cattle stations “saylyk” no different from the Yakut ones. The dwellings

**Even costume**

Men’s and women’s outerwear coats, caftans, were sewn from fawn or rovduga (suede). The sides and the hem of this coat were trimmed with fur band, and that was the main difference of the Even caftan from the Evenk. The seam was covered with a strip ornamented with beads.

The sides of this coat did not converge on the chest, so there was a mandatory addition to caftan, a breast piece or “nel”, stitched together with a short, knee-length apron. For men’s breast piece, a narrow rovduga fringe was sewed at waist, the

lower part of women’s breast piece was decorated with ornaments, embroidered with beads or hair.

Rovduga fringe with numerous metal pendants was sewn to the hem. Decoration consisted of bells, copper alloy buckles, rings and silver coins. Hats, male and female, were tight – fitting head caps, embroidered with beads, women’s ones had more ornaments on them. In winter, large fur hat was worn on top of it. The clothes below the belt were natazniks or herks (trousers), nogovits (leggings) and unts (boots).



Images of the sun, riders and a bird on a shamanic Even costume

the spurs of the Verkhoyansk Ridge near the coast of the Sea of Okhotsk. Their population at the time was about 3,500 people. At first the natives resisted strangers, who burdened them with so-called "tributaries" tax, but gradual-

ly they reconciled and even began to feel the benefits of proximity to foreigners: it was possible to barter furs for food, weapons, jewellery and good fabric. By the way, the bead patterns that look so natural in the national costumes of the

northern peoples appeared only at that time. In 18–19<sup>th</sup> centuries the Evens began to gradually expand their territories, mastering the northeastern lands as their former fishing grounds became depleted. As is usu-

# KORYAKS



**Self-designation:** Nymylan, Chavchuyen, Alutor  
**Languages:** Koryak, Alutor

POPULATION  
IN MAGADAN  
OBLAST

**900\***  
PEOPLE  
\*as of 2010

**0,57** %  
OF THE  
TOTAL  
POPULATION



## Family

A big patriarchal family always was the basic economic unit of all Koryak groups. Sometimes there were cases of polygamy, but by the 19<sup>th</sup> century, this phenomenon was not widespread. The marriages were endogamous, meaning they were contracted within a local group. Levirate customs were followed, according to which after the death of a spouse the widow could only remarry a close relative of her late husband.

## Beliefs

Animism was the traditional outlook of Koryak tribes. It was a belief in animateness of the nature around – mountains, rocks, sea, stars, and plants. The universe was perceived in the form of five worlds: the Earth, inhabited by people, two worlds above it and two underground realms. In the upper world lived the Supreme Being, who was identified with the sun and all of nature in general. Between that dimension and the world of people lied the intermediate world. The underworld was divided among the dead, existing at the bottom, and evil spirits. Communication between neighbouring worlds was the duty of the shamans, who had cult objects such as anyapel stones for divination and made sacrifices.

## Yaranga

The only type of property of these reindeer herders was yaranga – a base frame of poles, which was covered with a tent of reindeer skins, with its short-cut fur ("flesh side") inside. The diameter of a yaranga was about 10 m, and its height was about 4 m. Inside, fur sleeping bed curtains were fastened to the walls – one for each family. Unmarried men and women lived behind separate bed curtains. Up to 25 people could spend the night in one of these houses.



## Koryak costume

A traditional Koryak costume consisted of a fur kukhlyanka shirt, trousers and a hood. Men's winter shoes with long and short tops were sewed of reindeer skins with fur outside. Inside the shoe, they put fur stockings. For travelling, they also wore kamleikas on top of kukhlyankas – a wide shirt of rovduga or simple fabric. Women wore overalls "kerker", fur shirts ("gagalya"), a hoodin place of a hat

and shoes with high tops. Traditional Koryak costumes were decorated with ornaments and pendants. Ornaments were bracelets, earrings, pendants, which were made out of old copper and silver items. Hairstyles and women tattoos were of magical significance. Men shaved their hair, leaving only a circle on the top or a narrow bezel around the head, and women braided the hair in tight braids.



Koryak shaman performs a song from a folk epos

ally the case in history, the Evens were not interested in vacant land, but in the territories occupied by other tribes, such as the Koryak people. The expansion of the Evens' habitat was accelerated due to the usage of firearms brought to the North by Russians. In the 17–18<sup>th</sup> centuries they even willingly took part in the campaigns of the Cossack troops "against non-peaceful Koryaks", pushing the latter farther to the northeast.

cording to the archaeological data, this ethnic group has a long history and has lived here longer than their neighbours. The Koryaks' population has been declining steadily over the last centuries. The most obvious reason for that is that they assimilated with the Rus-

sians faster than the other indigenous people. Almost all modern day Koryaks speak Russian, while the Koryak language is on the brink of extinction, and its alphabet is Cyrillic-based. Between the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries, they almost completely assimilated with the

## The Koryaks

The Koryaks have many names for themselves, such as "namylany" – from the Koryak "namylgyn" – "a local person", "chavchuyeny" – from "chavchu" – "one who owns a reindeer". The first references to the Koryaks date back to the 17<sup>th</sup> century. However, ac-



ROSSIYA.SEGODNYA



FRASUL MESYAGUTOV

Traditional Northern transport

Russians and became indistinguishable from them.

The Koryaks have always been divided into two groups: one that occupied itself with reindeer farming and was more culturally solid, and the coastal group, that lived on fishing. The coastal Koryak groups are so different from each other culturally, they sometimes are mistakenly seen as different ethnic groups (Kamentsy, Par-

entsy, Itkintsy, and Apukintsy). The most Northern group, the Kereks, is now officially recognised as a separate ethnic group of 100 people. The differences between these groups are reflected in their language – they speak different dialects, and in culture, for example in different types of trades: the Padantsy live primarily on fishing and the Kamentsy on hunting seals and

other sea animals. The coastal Koryaks' ways of life were the most affected by direct contacts with the Russians. The reindeer-farming group, on the other hand, still preserves many aspects of their ancient culture.

When they first met the Russians, the Koryaks had no gentile organization, and they lived in communal settlements, which preserved some primitive traits as late as the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The Parentsy, Itkintsy and Kamentsy often had so-called "canoe unions", which formed during seal hunting to make better use of the tools and the workforce. They united according to their clans – that is, only the members of the same family could be in one union. There were no consistent rules when it came to dividing the catch. Only when killing a whale, everyone in the settlement received an equal share.

The work and social life of the reindeer-farming Koryaks passed in the camping ground, where several smaller households normally were built around a larger one. One camping ground usually was home to about 50–70 people. The owner of the largest part of the herd was considered the head of the household. Several camping grounds could unite into groups if they were bonded by family, marriage or economic relations. An elder led such groups. The proprietary forms were different: while the pastures were communally owned, the reindeer herds had individual owners.

## KAMCHADALS



Traditional costume

*The Kamchadals is an ethnographic group of Russians, people of the modern territory of Magadan Oblast, Kamchatka Krai, Chukotka, that appeared as a result of contacts of Russian settlers with local natives. In the 19<sup>th</sup> century, the Ilmens were called Kamchadals.*

### Religion

Kamchadals combined the Christianity with pre-Christian beliefs (animism and elements of shamanism). Their life rites and calendar holidays were Christian. There was also a New Year tradition to dress up and go carolling. Giving offerings to inanimate objects (rivers, passes and mountains) was one of their other deeply seated traditions.

### Language

In 1930s, the Kamchadals had difficulties with the Russian language. The majority of them pronounced the words wrong, i.e. instead of zhelezo – zelezo, poshol – posol, pirozhok – pirosok. The Kamchadals' environment was to blame. As a rule, the Kamchadals spoke softly, softening sibilants and hard sounds (suba instead of shuba). They also spoke fast but lengthening the end

Languages: Russian (earlier with different dialects)

POPULATION  
IN MAGADAN  
OBLAST

280\*  
PEOPLE  
\*as of 2010

0,18%  
OF THE TOTAL  
POPULATION

vowels. Often they used such words as khot (khosh), odnako, izvol (introduction words), shibko (meaning very), khudo (bad) and divno (many), etc., which sounded slightly old-fashioned.

The situation changed after the WWII thanks to wide spread education. The local dialect was replaced by the academic language, and the transition was quite easy for the Kamchadals. At present, almost all Kamchadals know Russian.

### Craft

The main folk craft was summer salmon fishing with nets or siene that were made of nettles, horsehair or thread. In winter or spring, they fished for the Arctic char, graylings and saffron cod with siene, fishing rods or traps. Salmon was salted, dried or fermented. Dog breeding and transportation by dog sleds that consisted of ten to twelve dogs were developed as well. It was called



Kamchadals portraits

the East Siberian sledge type dog breeding. They hunted mostly on fur animals (squirrel, fox, sable and ermine), birds and other land meat animals. They used guns and different traps. To hunt the pinnipeds, such as the spotted seal or lakhtakh, and the Arctic fox, the Kamchadals used guns, nets and clubs. They practiced agriculture (grew potatoes and other vegetables, barley and oats) as well as cattle and horse breeding. The Kamchadals picked mushrooms, wild onions, ramsons, martagon lilies and berries. In summer, they used dugout canoes (bayuks and kayuks) for transportation, and in winter, dog sledges.

### Carved in bone



Bone carving is a traditional craft of the Northern nations, with more than a thousand year history. The ancient North-east people used this natural material to embody scenes from everyday life, mostly related to hunting and fishing. Today the region has a Bone Carving Artists Association. Viktor Vikhlyantsev, the most renowned bone-carving artist in the region, creates real masterpieces from the seal and walrus tusk and bones, and from bear teeth and claws. His works will amaze you

with precision and delicacy, and you can often find them in various traditional crafts exhibitions. The bone figurines are a traditional Magadan souvenir, which you should definitely bring back with you.



### Magadan calendar

It is no secret that the climate in Magadan Oblast is like nowhere else. The summer is short, fogs appear often, and the snow starts falling early. The indigenous people of the North have noticed this a long time ago. This is why there are six and not four seasons in their calendar. The Even folk calendar is almost a thousand years old, and it is based on life experiences of many generations of the locals. It not only reflects the knowledge of the weather changes in the region, but also conveys their agricultural knowledge and even a better understanding of their life. The folk calendar is an encyclopaedia of the Evens' everyday life, their household and traditions. The indigenous people of the North East followed the traditional understanding of the seasons as late as the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, although with some modifications, due to the influence of

A folk music group in Gizhiga



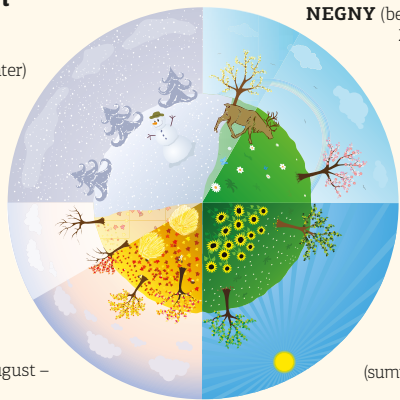
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### The Even seasons

**TUGENY** (winter)  
22 December – 21 February

**MONTELSE** (before-winter)  
22 October – 21 December

**BOLONY** (autumn) 22 August – 21 October



**NEGNY** (before-spring) – 22 February – 21 April

**NELKENY** (spring)  
22 April – 21 June

**DYUGANY** (summer) 22 June – 21 August

the Orthodox Christianity and the borrowings from other systems.

The Even new year is on 22 June, the day of summer solstice. This day the Evens celebrate Khebdenek, a holiday that marks the beginning of the hunting and fishing seasons. This is the day when the short Magadan summer, or “Dyugany” in Even, begins. The days

become warmer and the light day reaches its maximum.

The Even summer lasts only two months and in the end of August it is followed by autumn, or “Boloni” in Even. The weather changes in the blink of an eye, as the wind changes direction. The daily temperature ranges become more and more drastic, and soon the first snow falls. “Montelse”, “before-winter”, arrives with the first ground frost. During two months, from 22 October to 21 December the nature prepares for sleep, and the man for winter. The snow falls, the nights become longer, and the days shorten.

Winter or “Tugeni” is the hardest time of the year. It seems to last forever and brings melancholy with its constant cold and almost complete absence of the sun. The sea freezes over, the roads disappear under the snow and all you can do is wait. On 22 February, you can feel the



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During the holidays, the tourists can treat themselves to a dinner in a real yaranga

### Khedye

One of the key moments of the New Year celebration is the khedye national dance. The dance used to last three days, during the solstice period. To maintain the dance, dancers are replacing each other.

Khedye is a round dance. Big khorovod moves clockwise like the sun. Such dances you can find among other north people, for example Osuokhay (Yakut dance). That shows that ancient people worshiped the sun.

change of weather on your skin: the sun becomes warmer, and the days longer, and “before-spring”, or “Negny” is already here. The frost gradually gives way to thaw.

The first seagulls appear over the settlements to announce the coming of spring, or “Nelkeny”. From 22 April to 21 June the snow melts, the sea and the rivers shed their ice, the plants come out and the day becomes longer than night.

### Khebdenek

The Khebdenek Holiday, khebdenek meaning “joy” in Even, is celebrated on 22 June, the day of the summer solstice, and symbolises the beginning of a new year. This is the day when a new sun is born, and the nature awakes from its winter sleep. Almost all peoples in the North celebrate similar holidays with small modifications.

According to tradition, to celebrate Khebdenek the indigenous tribes used to gather in the estuary of the Dukcha River, where they put up small settlements. There they cooked fish soup and tea on an open fire to treat their guests later. When the sun rose, after a magic ritual of appeasing the spirits, the young men and the elders gathered in a circle dance to see off the old sun and welcome in the new.

After the USSR collapse, the holiday was reintroduced, and the Kolyma people have been happily celebrated Khebdenek for over 15 years. The representatives of various Northern ethnic minorities organizations take part in the festivities, as well as all the locals and the guests of the region.

The Even elders conduct traditional ceremonies, such as lighting the sacred fire, feeding the fire, and the ritual of welcoming the new sun, and absolution of the guests by the fire and smoke of juniper. According to the Even beliefs, a door between worlds opens on the day of summer solstice, which gives people an op-

# TERRITORY

WRITTEN IN  
**1975**

OVER **30**  
EDITIONS

TRANSLATED INTO  
**7** LANGUAGES

Territory is an emblematic novel for the residents of the North-east of Russia. Its author Oleg Kuvaev, who had a first-hand experience of working in the North, described the everyday labour of the geologists, who went to any lengths to find the gold their country needed. They worked to fulfil a dream and made amazing discoveries. The novel is mostly interesting because of how closely it follows real life: the events, organizations, and geographical points mentioned in the book are real. Even the characters can be easily traced back to their real-life prototypes.

## Oleg Kuvaev



(1934–1975) was a Soviet geologist, geophysicist and a writer, author of *Territory*. After graduating from the Russian State Geological Prospecting Ordzhonikidze Institute with a major in geophysics, he took part in the Tyan-Shan expeditions in the Amur headstream region.

In the following three years, he worked in Chukotka, where he supervised a geological survey party in Pevek village. He moved to Kolyma after the creation of Northeast Complex Research Institute in Magadan.

All the while Kuvaev worked on his literary projects and wrote short stories and essays. His most well-known works were written after he left his job to make several highly complex field trips to the North-east of Russia.

*Territory* posthumous first edition cover: "Sovremennik" editorial house, 1975.

## The characters prototypes

- ✓ VILLAGE: *Pevek*
- ✓ CITY: *Magadan*
- ✓ SEVERSTROY: *Dalstroy*



**Mongolov** – Vasily Kitaev, a famous discoverer of placer gold deposits in the Ichuveem River basin in Chukotka in 1949. Winner of the Lenin prize (1964).

**Ilya Chinkov** – a generalised character based on Nikolay Chemedanov, winner of the Stalin and later of the Lenin prizes (1964), and Nikolay Shilo, member of the Academy of Sciences and the then director of the Northeast Complex Research Institute.

**Robykin** – a generalised character based on two people: Izrail Drabkin, winner of the Lenin prize (1964), and the then supervisor of the North-east Geological Survey, and Ivan Mitravkov, the fifth director of Dalstroy (30 September 1950 – February 1956)

**Genrikh Furdetsky** – Igor Rozhdstvensky (1923–1993), the discoverer of the Severny ("North") uranium field during the Great Patriotic War.

**Katinsky** – German Zhilinsky. Kuvaev also used some facts of Yuri Bilibin's biography (1901–1952). Yuri Bilibin was a geologist, a corresponding member of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR, and a winner of the Stalin prize.

**Otto Kaldin** – Karl Springis, chief geologist of a Special Dalstroy Expedition. In 1950–1960, he was Dean of Latvian State University. He had a post-doctorate degree in Geological and Minerological Sciences. Karl Springis gave Kolyma more than 15 years of his life.

IN 2015, THE NOVEL WAS ADAPTED INTO A FEATURE FILM (directed by Alexander Melnik).



FASUL MESYAGUTOV

*Members of the Ener ensemble*

portunity make their requests heard by the higher forces. That is why the participants of the rituals make their wishes and each tie a ribbon on a special rope called "delburge". The Even circle dance, with the participants moving and lifting and lowering their arms to the sound of a drum, becomes a high point of the festivity.

Apart from watching, the shamans perform the magic rituals; the visitors are invited to a concert featuring folk music ensembles from all over the region. During the day, the visitors can try fish soup and other dishes of the North cuisine.

## Baklydydyak

Baklydydyak, or the First Fish Holiday (the name means "gathering" in Even) is tradi-

tionally celebrated in mid-July on the shore of the Okhotsk Sea. The most popular events take place near Ola Village.

The history of the holiday has to do with the tradition of annual spring gatherings on the shore of the sea, which took place during the spawning run of the salmon. The Taiga Evens and other indigenous nations of the North arranged to meet near the river's estuary and then gathered to prepare yukola, or sun-dried fish for the winter.

A number of traditions and customs were related to this significant event, and today they serve as a basis for the First Fish Holiday. The Evens used to abandon their settlements on a designated day, leaving the women and children to care for the reindeer, and

moved towards the sea, where they fished for several weeks. All the while, the young men on the shore held competitions in running, fighting, jumping, archery and lasso throwing.

The ancient holiday of Baklydydyak was revived in Magadan Oblast in 1992. More and more residents of Magadan Oblast go to the seaside every year to look at the traditional rituals of feeding the fire, the sea and the fish net, take part in cooking ringed seal meat and fish soup with freshly caught fish, and to watch the folk music ensembles perform.

## Ener traditional sing and dance ensemble







The issue of preserving the culture of the indigenous nations of the North is considered very important in Magadan Oblast. The world-renown Ener traditional sing and dance ensemble, founded in 1971, guards the musical and choreographic traditions of the region. The name of the group means "star" in Chukchi and Koryak languages. The group is headed by Lydia Baldayeva, a former professional ballet dancer.

At first, the ensemble consisted of the students who came her to study in the Magadan teachers college. The ensemble finally got their permanent members in 1979. The group was very successful both in Russia and abroad in Japan, Sweden and France, and in 1991, Ener was given the honourable title of the People's music ensemble.



# OMSUKCHAN

urban-type settlement (since 1953)

-  **District:** Omsukchansky
-  **Coordinates:** 62°55' N 152°23' E
-  **Population:** 3,800 (as of 2014)
-  **Dialling code:** +7 41346
-  **Distance from Magadan:** 570 km
-  **Travelling:**
  - by plane from Magadan (outbound flights every Monday and Wednesday),
  - travel time – 1 hour 30 minutes.



 **Founded in**  
1940



RASUL MESYAGUTOV

Omsukchan is an urban type settlement, the administrative centre of Omsukchan Urban District, located on the North-east of Magadan Oblast. This community is the most Eastern urban type settlement in Russia accessible by car from the European part of the country. The settlement was founded in 1940 and is related to the discovery of large deposits of coal and tungsten.



## Things to see

Omsukchan Village was founded by miners and geologists near an explored Kansky coal-field, and in the pre-war years it was just an obscure mining settlement. The locality, with about 50 people living there

at the time, consisted of ten houses, a radio station and a power station, and received all the supplies from the Pestraya Dresva Bay, where the cargo for geological survey groups and reinderdsmen was delivered during the summer navigation.

The situation started changing drastically after 1939, when a geological party led by Fyodor Pavlov, discovered large tungsten deposits.

The discovery made Omsukchan turn into a large industrial centre in the next two years. During this period be-

gan the development of the "Industrialny" and "Galimy" mines, the construction of Omsukchansky Integrated Mining Plant, and the growth of transportation infrastructure, connecting Omsukchan with the coast of the Okhotsky Sea.

In the mid-1950s, about 12,000 people lived in the region, which had three main mines, one coal pit and two enrichment facilities functioning there. By that time the region also counted with three schools, two boarding schools, three hospitals, three medical centres and six feld-



Omsukchan central square

RASUL MESYAGUITOV

### Pestraya Dresva Bay

The Pestraya Dresva Bay contributed to fast development of remote deposits of the North-Even region in the beginning of the 1940s. This place has a sad history, as this is where a "wind pole" is located, meaning that storms and strong winds occur here regularly for long periods.

Ivan Vasin was a witness to Nature's destructive force, when he was sent to Kolyma to serve his sentence as a political prisoner.

"In the autumn of 1939 a group of inmates was sent here on a Dalstroy steamboat, together with some horses, provisions, the necessary materials and the guards. They put up a settlement. <...> As October, November and December of 1940 passed, a strong wind started blowing from the continent, and rain and snow started falling. Ice covered everything. The wind was so strong it tore away the tents. The people got weaker, even the guards suffered a lot. The camp became unmanageable. <...> In some cases the wind knocked over a weakened inmate and drove him over the icy shore into the water of the Gizhigin bay. <...> Meringa labour camp was located 60 km away from the bay.



PHOTOBANK LORY

There is not a single tree or even elfin wood growing all the way from Gizhigin Bay to Mering. Pebbles cover the ground with nothing growing on them. In that place there is a small ravine called Truba ("pipe"). From October to November strong winds blow from this ravine towards the sea. When we came to Pestraya Dresva Bay in August 1941, we found only pits in place of the tents built there in the autumn of 1940, and the pillars left from the foundation."

sher's stations, a library and a club.

Nowadays Omsukchan Urban District is the most prominent in the region in the mineral extraction industry. The Dukat Silver Field, the largest in Russia and the third largest in the world, is located near Omsukchan. This silver field became a foundation for so-

called Dukatsky Hub, which unites several mines close to Omsukchan. The hub forms an important raw material base for precious metals production.

Today, more than 5,000 people live in Omsukchan. Mostly, the recent influx has to do with the developments in the industry, as new work places are created here every year. The settlement is also evolving, and the streets here underwent full repair in 2012, which cost a total sum of 50 million roubles.

You can start your walk around Omsukchan, surrounded by picturesque mountains, from **the Town Administration ❶** building, at 19 Lenin St. A small square in front of the Administration often hosts various holiday celebrations, rallies and public gatherings. Next to it you can find the **Stele in honour of defenders of Motherland and home front workers ❷** by Svetlana Martynova. The citizens lay flowers by the stele on commemorative dates.



Omsukchan residents

RASUL MESYAGUITOV

If you look at the administration while standing on Lenin St., to your right you will see the Zori ("Daybreaks") Restau-

rant. The hotel is situated in the same building. Going further down Lenin St., you will pass the two-story bank building

### The Great Martyr Barbara

St. Barbara in one of the most respected saints in the Orthodox Church.



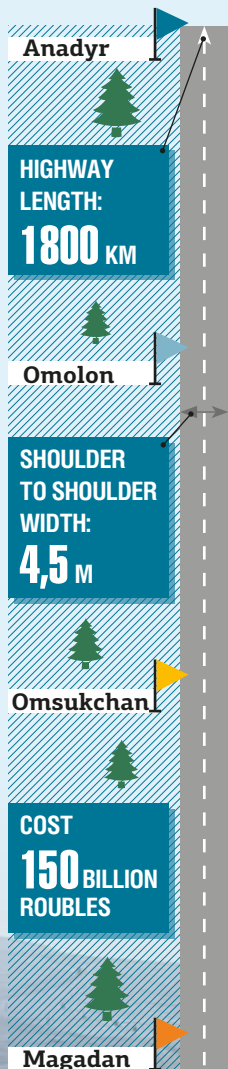
She is considered a patron of the miners. According to the hagiography, St. Barbara was born in the city of Heliopolis in the Byzantine Empire to the family of a rich pagan called Dioscorus. Barbara's strict father, not wanting anyone to see his daughter's staggering beauty, locked Barbara away in a tower.

According to the legend, the young woman, confined to complete solitude, came

to the realisation of the existence of one true God. After leaving the tower, while her father, loyal to the Roman gods, was looking for an appropriate husband for her, the girl secretly took baptism. Upon learning this news, Dioscorus was enraged and swore to punish his daughter. Barbara managed to escape and hid in a ravine, which appeared in a mountain as an answer to her prayers. However, Dioscorus manages to find her anyway. He and the town governor made her undergo torture, demanding that she renounces her faith, but even this torment did not make the young woman reject Christianity. Then Dioscorus had his daughter executed, and her body was thrown into a deep pit. Since then the miners and workers of other dangerous occupations pray to St. Barbara to protect them.

# MAGADAN – ANADYR ROAD

The local drivers take stories about Magadan – Anadyr road trips with a grain of salt, as anyone knows that even for an equipped freight truck this trip may be the last. However, the tale may become reality by 2030, when a highway will connect the two Northern capitals.



**CONSTRUCTION PERIOD 2015–2030**

Multiple passages, the steep sides of the mountains, fierce temperatures and unpredictable weather is only something you can expect from this area, not counting the accidents, that are bound to happen and can prove fatal. In any case, the construction of a permanent Omsukchan – Omolon – Anadyr highway with a total length of 1800 km is already underway. The materials are brought here from the central regions of the country, due to the permafrost. The new highway is scheduled to be commissioned by 2030. It will be a continuation of the Kolyma highway. For Chukotka, it would mean an all year round automotive access for the first time in history. Like Kolyma, the Anadyr Highway will not have an asphalt coating, as this material does not last long in this weather conditions. Instead, it will have a special snow protection hedges, signal posts and passing places. The highway is estimated to cost about 150 billion roubles. However, it would be worth it. The highway would not only permit smooth fuel and provisions supply to the remote settlements, but will make the development of large mineral deposits in Western Chukotka finally possible.

and on your right, there will be the Cathedral of Life-Giving Trinity ③.

Soon, the Cathedral of the Great Martyr Barbara will also be constructed in this place.

Bishop John of Magadan and Sinegorsk laid the foundation stone for the Cathedral in 2012. During the ceremony, he mentioned that St. Barbara has always been a patron of those who work underground, which directly concerns most of the Omsukchan population, who work in the development of the nearby gold and silver fields.

If you turn right to Mayskaya St. in front of the police station, on your left, you will see the printing office building and a residential four-story house – this is the first residential building that appeared here during the Soviet years. Now turn right one more time and continue walking down Mayskaya Lane, parallel to Lenin St.

The large building in front of you is the Club, and to its right on a small square with a patch of grass is the **bust of Vladimir Lenin** ④. If you walk further down Pavlova St. and turn around the hospital's corner, you will find yourself in the sports neighbourhood of Omsukchan. The Youth Sports School is located here, together with Metallurg ("Metallurgist") Gym Hall, where the local sportsmen spend their summer afternoons.

Turn back to Lenin St., and you are two steps away from the Central Square with its paved paths, perfect for strolling. On your left, you will see



the post office, and behind it, a pharmacy and a Sberbank branch.

If you continue walking in the same direction, on your left you will see the Kosmos department store and the local children's library.

## Nearby

A functioning civil **airport** ⑤ is located seven kilometres south of Omsukchan. The airport has a regular connection to Magadan. Regional air travel used to be well-developed here, but today only two destinations, Susuman and Omsukchan are available.

Dukat, a small village, which got its name from the homonymous gold and silver field, is located 40 km to the west. The field was discovered in the mid-1960s and named after an old coin. It was active-

ly developed in 1979–1995. During this time approximately 2.5 kt was extracted in total. In the 1990s the placer went through hard times, however,

after a re-evaluation in 2005, it became the first Russian and the third world highest in resources and production volumes.

## A Northern bus

You can access remote settlements of Magadan Oblast by taking a bus. This way you can get to Arman, Klepka, Ola, Omsukchan, Omchak, Palatka, Sinegorye, Susuman and Talaya settlements. The length of the trip is from 30 to 630 km. These modern crew cross-country bus models were created based on KAMAZ and URAL trucks. On average, one bus can take about 30 people.





RASUL MESYAGUTOV



RASUL MESYAGUTOV

Today, approximately half of the entire world's silver is mined in Dukat. The development is made by both open-cut and underground mining methods. An estimated producing lifetime with the current production levels surpasses 20 years. To make the production more efficient, the company decided to start co-processing the concentrate from Dukat and Lunnoe placings, which are 100 km apart.

Galimy ghost village is located 30 km Southeast of Omsukchan. This settlement got its name from an Even word "golim", or "wood place". On the banks of the nearby stream, you can find many dry logs that the peoples of the indigenous nations used to warm their houses.

The golden age of Galimy came and went in the 1970s, when almost 1,500 people lived

and worked here in the development of tin stone and stone coal deposits. The village's economy took a hard blow after the collapse of the USSR, and its population declined almost tenfold in the next 29 years. Since 2012, the village has no resident population.

**Kapranovsky pass ⑥**

The Kapranovsky pass is located 50 km away from Omsukchan. The pass owes its name to Evgeny Kapranov, a famous geologist, who worked and lived in Kolyma in the 1930s – 1940s of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. This is an extremely dangerous place, and even experienced drivers are wary of it. In winter, it snows heavily, and avalanches can happen, and in summer, there can be fogs and even snowstorms. Kapranov met his end here, when he was returning home on horseback, after visiting one of

the placers, and was caught in a snowstorm on the high point of the pass. It happened on 13 July 1949, and the pass was called Kapranovsky since then. The famous geologist's grave is on the highest point of the pass, more than 1,000 m above sea level.

Every year 50 to 70 cars are trapped on Kapranovsky Pass due to strong snowstorms and November winds. The most large-scale accident happened in 2001, when more than 100 cars were cut off from the rest of the world for more than two days.

*Kapranovsky pass*









RASUL MESYAGUTOV



**Tin stone** is a mineral ore, essential for tin production. It used to be called tin stone, lode tin and many other names. On average, tin stone contains about 78.5% of chemically pure tin. The mineral can form separate geometrically regular crystals, flakes, and solid congeries

# SEYMCHAN

urban-type settlement (since 1953)

	<b>District:</b>	■ Srednekansky
	<b>Coordinates:</b>	■ 62°55' с. ш. 152°23' в. д.
	<b>Population:</b>	■ 2,397 (as of 2015)
	<b>Dialling code:</b>	■ +7 41347
	<b>Distance from Magadan:</b>	■ 500 km
	<b>Travelling:</b>	■ service flights from Magadan (two times a week, travel time –1, 30 hours). ■ by bus from Magadan (travel time – about 8 hours)

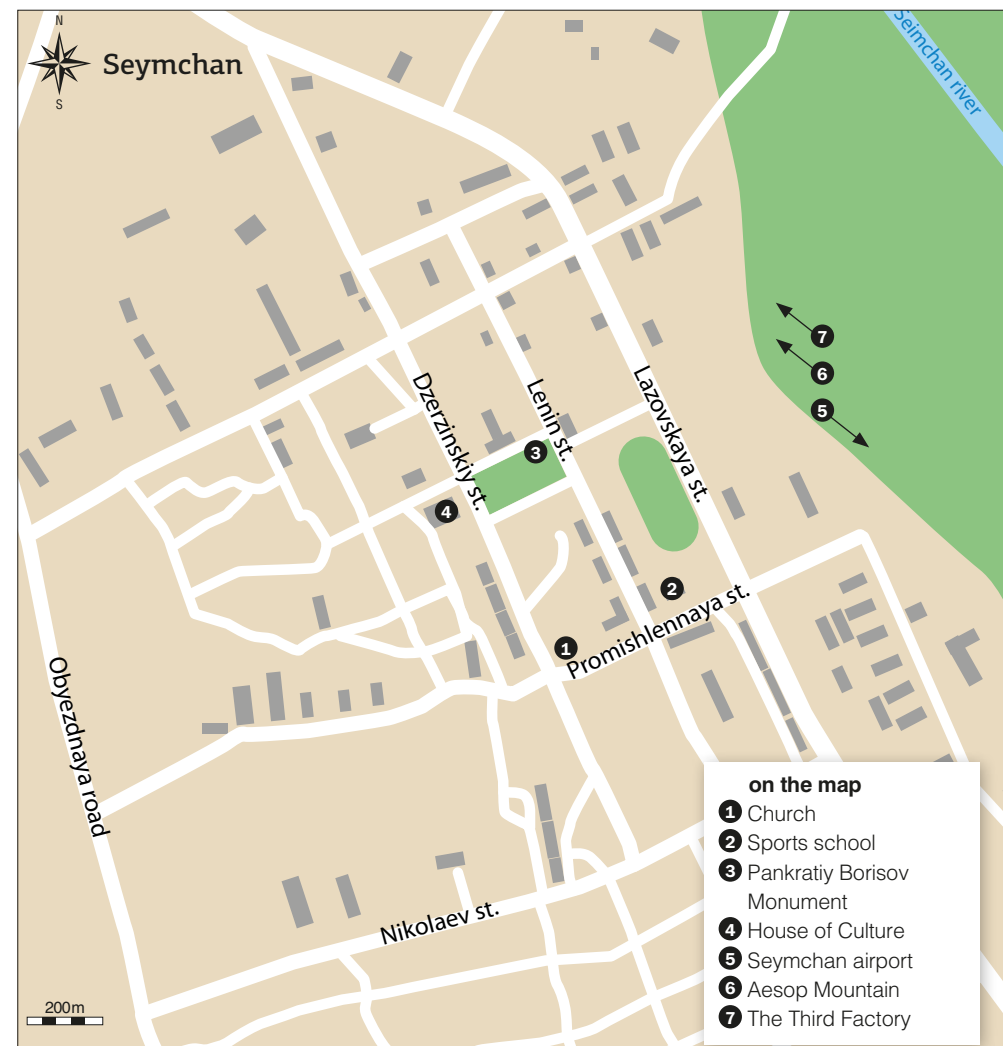


  
**Founded in**  
1931



PHOTOBANK LORY

Seymchan is located in the north-western part of Magadan Oblast, on the right bank of the Seymchan River, near its confluence with the Kolyma River. Seymchan is the administrative centre of Srednekansky District of Magadan Oblast. In the North, Seymchan borders with Yakutia and Chukotka Autonomous Okrug. The Srednekansky Districts' relief is a complex mix of plains, valleys, plateaus and mountain ranges, with altitudes of more than 2,000 metres.



## Things to see

The first permanent settlements appeared in the area in the 18<sup>th</sup> century. The majority of the population were Yakut hunters and reindeer herders. However, it is worth mentioning, that the word “Seymchan” originates from an Even word “heyimchen”. There are two

possible translations of the word. According to certain researchers, the name of the settlement should be translated as “ice hole”. For a long time, the groundwater springs of the Seymchan River emerged from below the surface, creating ice holes, which the nomadic tribes used as a means of navigation.

According to the other theory, “seymchan” means “sunny valley”, and this variant is apparently more welcomed by the Seymchan residents.

The industrial development of the region began only in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, when it became possible to deliver loads from the village of Ola in the lower reaches of the Kolyma River,



Administration building

down the Ola–Kolyma Trakt (route). By 1930, around 20 houses with 79 residents (hunters and reindeer herders) were situated in the Seymchan River valley. Nevertheless, Seymchan was not officially founded until 1931, when the First Congress of Soviets was held in the region.

The discovery of large gold deposits during the First Kolyma Expedition in 1928–1930 led

House of Culture



by Yuri Bilibin and his assistants Valentin Tsaregradsky, Sergey Rakovsky and others produced a considerable impulse in the development process of the region. Rich deposits were discovered in the Srednekan River basin and other tributaries of the Kolyma River.

In the winter of 1942, the first buildings and an airfield, which served as an important strategic location for ferrying

aircraft from the United States during The World War II, were built in Seymchan. There was also a church built in 1911, which was converted into a school soon after the formation of the Soviet government.

By the middle of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, the mining industry became noticeably prominent in the region. Construction, logging, air and water transportation were developing along with the mining.

The best way to explore Seymchan is to start your walk at the crossroad of Dzerzhinsky and Nikolayev streets.

Here you can visit the **Church of the Icon of the Mother of God Joy and Consolation ①**, which was consecrated in 2014. It is a beautiful redbrick building with golden domes, which stands out among others. The construction work of the Church lasted more than a year and a half. The materials were transported



The Seymchan Square

by barges and trucks through Yakutia.

The next point on our route is Lenin Street. Passing the Srednekansky District court on the right, we are now heading to the administrative area of Seymchan.

Diagonally on the right side, you can see the stadium and the **sports school ②**. There is a police department and ageological exploration building on the left, a store and the “Sunny Valley” restaurant on the right. There is a big park in front of the restaurant. At the entrance, overlooking Lenin street, there is **a monument to the “Seymchan enlightener” Pankratiy Borisov ③**. The small square in front of the park is also named after him.

On the north side of the square there is a post office and a wooden building, where the local administration office is located. Turning left through the green lanes of the park, you will find yourself at the **House of Culture ④**. It is a massive building with columns, built from the local brick in the

early 1950s. Nowadays, this structure may seem too big for a small village, but it is worth mentioning that in the late 1980s, the population of Seymchan was over 10,000 people.



The Church of the Icon of the Mother of God

## Nearby

To the south of Seymchan, there is a functioning **airport ⑤**, which was commissioned in 1942 as part of ALSIB in-



### Pankratiy Borisov

Pankratiy Borisov is one of the most prominent figures in the history of Seymchan. He was a descendant of the Russian settlers, who moved to Yakutia in the middle of the 19<sup>th</sup> century from The Chernigov Governorate. Pankratiy Borisov became one of the main enlighteners of the region. Since his arrival in Seymchan (he arrived in Nagaevo in 1930 and walked 400 km towards the settlement), he worked persistently to enhance literacy and distribute Russian culture among the indigenous people.

Despite the financial difficulties, the lack of funding and social security, Pankratiy Borisov managed to open a school and started teaching children. According to some reports, it was the first school in the mainland part of the region (current Magadan Oblast).

In 1983, after his retirement, Borisov founded a local regional museum, which operates up to this day (25 Dzerzhinsky Street). The museum's collection now counts with more than 1,500 items and includes fossil remains of buffalos and mammoths, unique mineral samples, paintings by local artists, models of dwellings of the Yukaghir, Yakuts and Evens and much more.

**i Address:** 3 floor, 10, Nikolayeva St.



The Lednikovoy stream glacier

PHOTOBANK LORY

rastructure development (the Alaska – Siberia air road). Seymchan was an air force base with a hotel for the third regiment ferry pilots during World War II.

The stele in memory of the ALSIB pilots



FRASIL MESYAGUTOV

A commemorative stele was set up in memory of the perished pilots.

On the way to the airfield, at the exit of the settlement, there is a monument to the Seymchan resident Filippenko, who perished in Afghanistan in 1988.

### Aesop Mountain ⑥

Aesop Mountain (2,041 m) is located 76 km away from Seymchan and is a geological natural monument. This used to be the place of the notorious Canyon cobalt mine, where prisoners worked. The mountain is about 2,000 meters high, but instead of a sharp peak, it has a dome-shaped even rounded hill on the top. This unusual height offers superb panoramic views of the surroundings – mountain landscapes, valleys and mountain passes.

In springtime, on the way to the mountain you can observe the interesting phenomenon of

### The Seymchan meteor shower



In June 1967, about 300 kg of meteorite's fragments were found near the tributary of the Khekandya River in the vicinities of Seymchan. Geologist Philip Mednikov discovered the rare find lying in the riverbed. During the study, it was established that the meteorite belongs to the rare stony-iron type (pallasite). Such meteorites typically consist of an iron-nickel alloy with olivine crystals. Shards and large meteorite pieces can still occasionally be found in the vicinities of Seymchan. The local residents along with the scientists take part in the search for fragments. Some local artisans even sell jewellery, smelted from the meteorite pieces.



PHOTOBANK LORY

Top of Aesop Mountain

a melting glacier on Lednikovoy stream bank.

A large layer of snow, reaching about two metres in height, melts gradually, while still preserving a smooth edge, as if cut by a knife.

The ice cracks in certain places, and sometimes streams flow on the surface of the glacier.

Depending on the amount of snow fallen during the winter, the glacier may not melt until autumn.



ALEXANDR KRYLOV

The Third factory

### The Third Factory ⑦

In the vicinities of the Aesop Mountain at the Lazo mine there used to be the Chapayev enrichment plant, which is better known as "the third factory". The plant was built for Cassiterite (tin ore) processing. By that time, there were several similar factories in the Kolyma region, but the third factory was the largest. Some of its buildings have been well preserved up to this day. Cartwheels, metal fragments and

nails can be found in the surrounding area.

There is a road leading to the former camp so it is possible to get to the camp on a jeep or a cross-country vehicle.



### Small aircraft revival




Regular flights between Magadan and other towns and settlements scattered across the Kolyma region came to a halt after the dissolution of the Soviet Union. For more than 20 years, people were forced to get to their homes and places of work located in remote villages by taxis and shift buses. Nowadays the situation is changing. Air travel costs have become almost equal to land transportation, the speed and stability of the former, however, is much higher. In the early August 2011, regular flights from Magadan to Seymchan were reintroduced.

The majority of the scheduled flights are operated by "SILA" (Siberian Light Aviation) airline. The following towns and settlements can be found on its destination list: Omsukchan, Susuman, Seymchan, Omolon and even Petropavlovsk-Kamchatsky.



# EVENSK

urban-type settlement (since 1962)

-  **District:** Severo-Evensky
-  **Coordinates:** 61°55 N, 159°14E
-  **Population:** 1,565 (as of 2015)
-  **Dialling code:** +7 41348
-  **Distance from Magadan:** 1350 km
-  **Travelling:** regular flights from Magadan (once a week, travel time – 1,30 hours). Travelling by winter roads through the settlements of Kubaka and Sopka Kwartseva will take around 19 hours.



 **Founded in**  
1959



RASUL MESYAGUTOV

Evensk is located on the coast of the Shelikhov Gulf of the Sea of Okhotsk near the Bolshaya Garmanda River estuary. The settlement was founded in this area due to the massive flooding in 1951, which destroyed the previous regional centre – the Nayahan Village. For this reason, it was decided that all the residents should resettle to a more convenient and safe area.



## Things to see

During the Soviet years, the majority of the population of Evensk were geologists. Experts from all over the Soviet Union flocked to this remote part of the Kolyma region to study the huge Severo-Evensky District, with a territory of more than 100,000 sq km. There are many rich depos-

its of mineral resources in the region, which apparently has great development prospects in the future. The figures, however, speak for themselves. In 1997, more than 80 tonnes of gold were produced and not less than 60 tons were exploited on location.

Until 1989, the population of Evensk was growing steadily,

approaching 5,000 people at its peak.

Perestroika had a grave impact on the well-being of the residents, resulting in a rural flight, which caused a sharp outflow of population, the closure of many facilities and living standards reduction.

The lack of permanent transportation system to con-





The coast of the Sea of Okhotsk

nect with the outside world has always been and continues to be the major obstacle to the development of the area.

The residents only rely on water and air transport most of the year. The winter road only functions from December to April, and only a few years ago it was made safe enough for the vehicles.

It is worth mentioning, that despite the remoteness and

inaccessibility, Evensk has real prospects for development and the experience of living in difficult conditions of north delivery.

For example, Severo-Evensky District is the only municipal economy in the region that almost completely preserved the reindeer herd, which these days counts with about 14,000 animal units.

The coastal waters are rich in fish, and there used to be

Lenin Square



### The radio tower of Revolution

In 1912–1913, to improve the connection of Okhotsk coast to Petropavlovsk, Yakutsk and Khabarovsk, the Okhotskaya and Nayakhanskaya radio towers were built. The stations were quite powerful for that period. During the Civil War, they received and spread the revolution's call signs.

In October 1920, the Okhotsk coast was seized by the White Guard detachment of Captain Bochkarev, who chose Gizhiga and Nayakhan as his residences. However, in April 1923, the expedition detachment of the Red Army that came from Petropavlovsk defeated Bochkarev close to the Nayakhanskaya Radio Tower. The Far Eastern Way newspaper offers its account of these events: "After thousands of kilometres of transitioning on dogs and skis, on 13 April the headquarters of Bochkarev and general Polyakov are consumed by a battle. On 15 April, all the commanders of expedition detachments summon a District Council. The Nayakhanskaya Radio Tower is bullet-riddled and vandalized by the White bandits, a full repair is required."

a fish-processing factory in Evensk. The year-round fish processing complex is planned to be rebuilt in the near future, and meanwhile a refrigerator with a seven hundred tonne deep freeze chamber has already been built.

Most administrative buildings are located near the airport in the west part of Evensk. Here you will find the internal affairs department, the building of the Severo-Evensky District's Administration, the **Local History Museum 1**



(1 Mira Street) and the **House of Culture 2**.

As for the cultural aspect, the settlement provides a diverse and eventful programme. For example, the Ngerin National Ensemble has been fascinating the public for more than 30 years. The Tyulipil Children's Dance Ensemble and the Achachgez Koryak Ensemble also perform regularly.

**The Lenin Square 3**, with a monument of the leader in full height, and Victory Street, leading right towards the sea, are located nearby. The locals sometimes jokingly call it Broadway Street because it is a popular place for mass-meetings, marches and simple evening walks.

On the way to the sea, there is also a post office, a kindergarten and a school.



Do not forget to see the monument of the Civil War hero Grigory Chubarov, located at the intersection of the street of the same name.

There are also several stores, a Sberbank branch office and a church. The local hospital with its brand new main building is located in the heart of Evensk and is considered exemplary..



### From roe to caviar in 5 minutes

Caviar is especially delicious while it is fresh, so it is essential to try it out during the fishing season. It is easy to process and salt roes at home. First, you will need to prepare the brine or "tuzluk".

You will require 300–400 grams of salt per litre of water and one potato. Boil for at least 15 minutes. "Tuzluk" is ready when there is a thin salt crust on the water and the potato begins to float. Then you divide the brine into two portions and leave it to cool. Meanwhile, pass the roe through a sieve to remove the membrane. Then rinse the roes to wash away impurities. After that, soak the roe in the first portion of brine, stirring constantly. Five minutes later pour the brine out through the colander. Soak the roe in the remained brine and wait another five minutes.

Your caviar is ready now.

Enjoy your meal!

### Reindeer Herders Meeting

The reindeer herders of Severo-Evensky District meet on their annual professional holiday, which comprises traditional sports, competitions and discussion of the industry problems along with their solutions.

Apart from herders, the event is attended by the representatives of the tribal communities of indigenous minority peoples, industry vets and national artisans. This lively and curious event will also be interesting for the tourists.



### Nearby

Due to severe climate conditions and costly delivery of building materials, there are virtually no permanent roads in Severo-Evensky District. The residents travel via trucks, cross-country vehicles and special tricycles. A few kilometres to the west of Evensk,

on the coast of the Sea of Okhotsk, you can find **Yaponsky Raspadok 5** – the favourite place for locals to go fishing and have a rest.

Garmanda village is located 45 km to the north of the district centre. The number of its inhabitants is constantly decreasing and now stands at 160 people. Verkhny Paren

village, just as low populated, is located 280 km to the north-east of Evensk. 166 out of 185 inhabitants in the village are the Koryaks, as of 2012. Not far from this settlement, you will find a reindeer brigade and **Lake Parenkoe 6**, the largest one in Magadan Oblast.

Sixteen production teams engaged in traditional crafts work in small settlements, located at different distances from Evensk. They work in leather and fur raw materials processing and manufacture national costumes and shoes. Besides, they occupy themselves with hunting and fishery.

### The Taygonos Peninsula 7

The Taygonos Peninsula lies 30 km east of Evensk. It divides the Shelikhov Gulf into Gizhigin Bay on the West and Penzhin Bay on the East. The coastline is heavily indented, and the peninsula itself is almost entirely covered by low mountains, the most prom-

#### Indigenous people



## ZIMNIK (WINTER ROAD)

The word zimnik means a temporary road, which can only be used at stable sub-zero temperatures. Most often, this is due to the territory's challenging terrain, the swampiness of the area or the absence of permanent crossings.



In Kolyma, winter roads usually operate from December to April. In this period, fuel and provisions are delivered to remote settlements that during the rest of the year can only be reached by air.

The infrastructure of these roads depends on how important or remote they are. Today, a well-equipped winter road is not just a lot of hard-pressed snow. Its complex construction can withstand the load of passing trucks carrying multi-tonne cargoes.



1. The construction of a winter road begins in October. First, swamp buggies pound the snow, creating a foundation for the future road.



2. Next, the track is levelled out and covered with earth by heavy vehicles, such as loaders, dump trucks and bulldozers.



3. When frosts set in, the prepared roadbed is watered to create a layer of ice crust.



4. After preparing the foundation, another layer of pounded snow is created with graders.



Road workers maintain the operation of a winter road throughout the season, removing the drifting snow, pounding road when necessary, and removing the ice crust.



Mobile emergency stations operate on complicated stretches of the road, moving along the track and assisting the drivers if necessary.



### Winter Road Omsukchan – Evensk

Recently, thanks to the smoothly running construction techniques, one of the main winter roads of the Omsukchan-Evensk region is ceasing to be an extreme highway, accessible only for well-equipped trucks. The experienced drivers can now pass this once insuperable stretch on jeeps or even passenger cars.

*This stretch of the road is all-season*

The route consists of three stages:





### Chosenia

This relict willow that survived the glacial period reaches a height of 20–30 m. It has a branchy crown and grows very fast. It is popularly called “the undressing tree”, because of its amazing ability to shed its bark in the full heat of summer. At the same time, the tree loses its bright colours and becomes darker. The wonderful properties of Chosenia were discovered by the Cossack pioneers, who settled in the basin of Anadyr. They used this fast-growing tree to build and heat their dwellings.

inent of which is the Taynyotsky Ridge, with the highest mark of 1483 m.

The peninsula hosts a homonymous state-protected natural reserve, an attractive sight for the tourists. Here you can find the ancient **Ust-Erebchan nomad camp**, about 5,000 years old. Every history lover should visit this place, where you can still find ancient constructions and cultural items of tribes that inhab-

ited this area long before the arrival of the pioneers.

More than half the area of the sanctuary is covered by forests, mostly softwoods. The main forest-forming species is the larch, and the long-boled trees, such as the poplar and the chosenia are found only in river floodplains. On the Taygonos Ridge, the altitude of

which reaches 1,100 metres, you will find the Siberian dwarf pine that can form an impassable thicket.

One of the main tasks of this natural reserve is to preserve the population of the Siberian bighorn sheep (or snow sheep) that inhabits the Taygonos Ridge. Other animals that are common in the region



The peninsula was visited for the first time in 1651 by Mikhail Stadukhin's expedition, when they were sailing from the Penzhina to the Gizhiga around this part of the land. Later the explorer Stepan Krashennikov wrote: “Between the Chondon and the Paren Rivers there is the Taynyotsky Cape, which extends so far out into the sea that the coast of Kamchatka can be seen from its top”. Indeed, it is from here that Russian navigators first saw the distant coast of Kamchatka. In fine weather, from the extreme end of the peninsula one can easily make out the outline of the distant coast, and some people will even describe the shapes of the volcanoes.

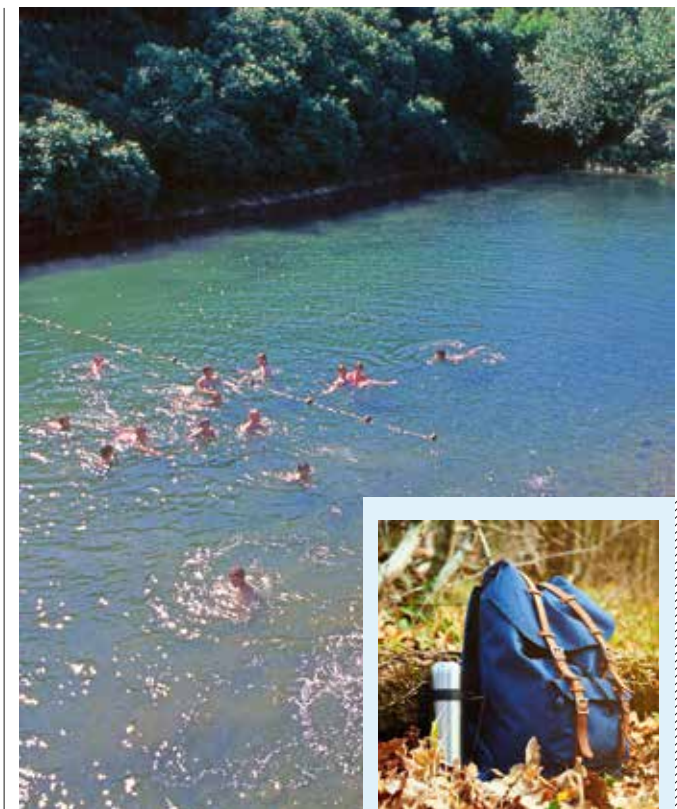
are brown bears, wild reindeer, elk, sable, ermine and mink. The most typical representatives of the avifauna are willow grouses, taiga bean geese, nutcrackers, earless owls. The peninsula is also rich in fish resources – almost all of its rivers are fit for spawning and serve for the reproduction of the biological resources.

### The Tavatum Hot Springs ⑧

The Tavatum hot springs is one of the attractions the region's northeast, located 90 km away from Evensk. The water temperature in the springs, which are situated in a magnificent area, is around +60°C. The small valley is sheltered from the harsh northern winds by mountain ranges. This place is especially pleasant in summer, with the Tavatum River, a wonderful chosenia and poplar forest, and a lot of berries and mushrooms.

Nowadays the Tavatum springs are less popular than the “Talaya” Resort, but every year the number of tourists is increasing: for those who are fond of swimming special routes lasting 4–5 days have been developed. Many of them pass through the Kolyma Range, along the Sea of Okhotsk coast, which makes it possible for a traveller to fully enjoy the wonderful nature of the Kolyma region.

The water of the sources contains chloride, calcium, sodium, marked by increased mineralization and most often used in the treatment of rheu-



### A Tourist Route

The most interesting summer walking route is designed for 4–5 days period. It passes through the Kolyma Range, along the coast of the Sea of Okhotsk and along some major rivers – the Nayakhan and the Bolshaya Garmanda. The route starts in Evensk. During the journey, the tourists can enjoy the wonderful nature of the tundra, have a rest near the mountain lake on the pass (800 m above sea level) and enjoy the beautiful views. The hot springs are the final point of the journey. You will have a lot of fun bathing and swimming in mineral water. In winter, the most daring travellers even alternate water treatments with rubbing their bodies with snow on the shore, which can improve your health and boost the immune system.

matism and joints and spine diseases. The healing properties of the water from the Tavatum hot sources so far have not been entirely studied, but they are a subject of legends and incredible stories. They say that after the Second World War a wounded soldier was brought to the sources. He could not walk, but he left this place on his own feet. Farther along the coast, at the mouth of the Shirokaya River you can find another hot spring. However, it can be extremely difficult to reach it, therefore, only the true adventurers get there.

PAVEL ZHDANOV

RASUL MESYAGUTOV

# ALL IS NOT GOLD THAT GLITTERS

## Development prospects of the North



### The Black gold of Kolyma

Offshore oil and gas deposits offer an attractive prospect for Magadan Oblast. The Magadan offshore was discovered to contain huge hydrocarbons resources. An estimated resource potential of only several areas is 14 bn t of oil and 892 trln cubic metres of gas. The most promising soon-to-be-developed projects are Magadan-1, 2, 3, Lisyanskiy and Kashevarovskiy, located in the northern part of the Sea of Okhotsk.

There is a number of difficulties related to the resources extraction, such as extreme climatic conditions, low hydrocarbons, logistics problems.

However, thanks to the modern technologies employed at the offshore site, the extraction is estimated to start in the nearest future – the first drill hole of Magadan-1 will be made in 2016.

The fields are developed in partnership with Statoil, a Norwegian company that has the necessary experience in similar fields in the northern seas, with Rosneft as the holder of the mining license. It is also planned to engage Japanese and Chinese counterparts in the nearest future, given that they already express interest in energy carrier shipments. The Pacific Rim countries are being optimistic about the development of the Magadan offshore zone, as shipping the energy resources from the Sea of Okhotsk will take less time, meaning it will be much cheaper. For the region itself, oil and gas development will mean lower fuel costs, apart from being a contribution to the budget. There are oil refinery projects already being commissioned in the region, which would permit Magadan produce its own fuel.

Special attention is being paid to the creation of new jobs for industry-related professionals. The region will provide all the necessary conditions to ensure the influx of qualified stuff and the increase in population, as they are essential to its growth. Ecological aspects will also be considered during the development of the shelf, as the Sea of Okhotsk is rich in biological resources, which should be protected from oil damage. For this reason, the projects have high environmental safety requirements, which comply with all the international standards.

ESTIMATED OFFSHORE RESERVE

1.4<sub>BLN T OF OIL</sub>

892<sub>MLN CUBIC METRES OF GAS</sub>



### Precious anthracite

The research have shown large output of extractable coal reserves in the Omsukchan coal-mining fields when using the open-cut mining method, 700 mt only in the known areas. Remarkably, the coal mined here is considered anthracite because of its qualities, and can be widely used in the energy and metallurgy sectors.

Anthracite is distinctive by its unique physical and chemical characteristics. In particular, it is highly carbonated, low in sulphur, volatile and ashy. This type of coal is used in various industries as a natural substitute of coking coal in steel and ferroalloys production, as well as in the non-ferrous industry and in production of electrode and cathode production. One of the major advantages of anthracite is its high calorific value. This type of coal is in high demand, and, as a rule, is not used in the power sector. About 70% of anthracite has non-power application as a replacement of coking coal in different industries.

Given the high quality of the raw materials and the strong demand for them, an integrated development of the deposit is planned. This means the construction of a four-season road and a coal terminal at the Sea of Okhotsk coast near Pestraya Dresva Bay. Thanks to industrialisation of the Omsukchan Basin and the construction of the transport infrastructure, the region will be provided with high quality coal, and the economic costs will be reduced, abandoning the need in imported fuel.

MORE THAN  
**700** MT OF  
COAL RESERVES SUITABLE  
FOR OPEN-CUT MINING



In the near future, the Omsukchan Basin coal will possibly be exported to the Pacific Rim countries. The port planned to be built in Pestraya Dresva Bay will be able to operate around 150 days a year without ice channelling, depending on the weather.

The Omsukchan coal cluster will create more than 1,000 new jobs and will be accountable for the annual 1.2 mln RUR of tax revenue. The transport infrastructure related to coal mining will have a positive effect on the growth of the related industries and launch of other subsurface resources management projects.

The construction of Omsukchan coal cluster and the related infrastructure is especially significant, considering the Kolyma – Omsukchan – Omolon – Bilibino – Komsomolskiy – Anadyr highway project. After creating the transport corridor that will connect the Far East territories with Eastern Siberia, a number of the region's mining projects can be re-evaluated for further development.

**1000**  
NEW JOBS

**1.2** MLN RUR  
IN TAX REVENUES



**KOLYMA**  
MODERN GUIDEBOOK  
TO MAGADAN OBLAST

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