

TOFALARSKIY FEDERAL NATURAL RESERVE

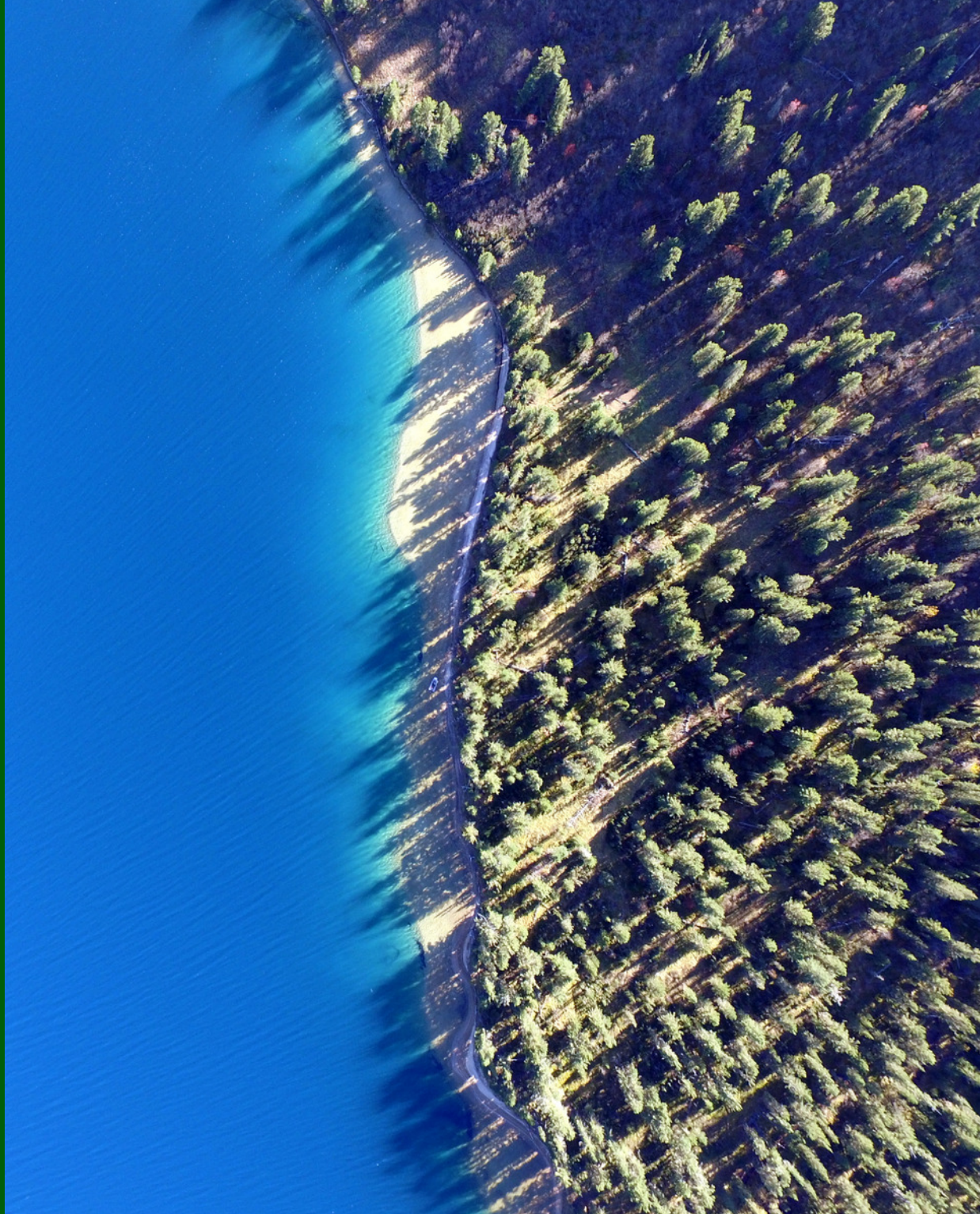
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TOFALARSKIY FEDERAL NATURAL RESERVE

An aerial photograph of a mountainous landscape. The foreground is dominated by a dark blue lake. In the middle ground, a small, forested island or peninsula juts into the water. The background consists of steep, rocky mountainsides covered in dense coniferous forests. The trees show some autumnal color, with yellow and orange leaves interspersed among the green ones. The overall scene is rugged and natural.

The Tofalaria Natural Reserve has been created in 1971, inside a large territory, protected since the last years of Imperial Russia, in the eastern area of the Sayan Mountains. It is a natural coffer larger than 1000 square kilometers, speckled by mountains and forests, crossed by rivers and crystalline lakes. Between the borders of the regions of Irkutsk and Krasnoyarsk, the Reserve has become a sanctuary for the resettlement of the Siberia Wildlife.



TAIGA

With the term Taiga are considered the big forests of the north hemisphere, that in Russia cover the most of the territory. Real green lung of the Planet, Taiga is formed by coniferous (firs, pines, larches) and by trees resistant to the climatic excursions like birches, willows and alders. In the Reserve the Taiga occupies the whole territory, except the alpine meadows and the perpetual snows; in its forests live deers, bears, wolves, sables, and many other wild animals. Mostly during fall the trees of Taiga give their best, larches and birches transform in large yellow spots alternated to the different shades of green of the evergreens.

An aerial photograph of a large, winding lake nestled in a valley between forested mountains. The water is a deep blue-grey color, reflecting the sky and surrounding greenery. The mountains are covered in dense evergreen forests. The sky is filled with white, fluffy clouds. The overall scene is a beautiful natural landscape.

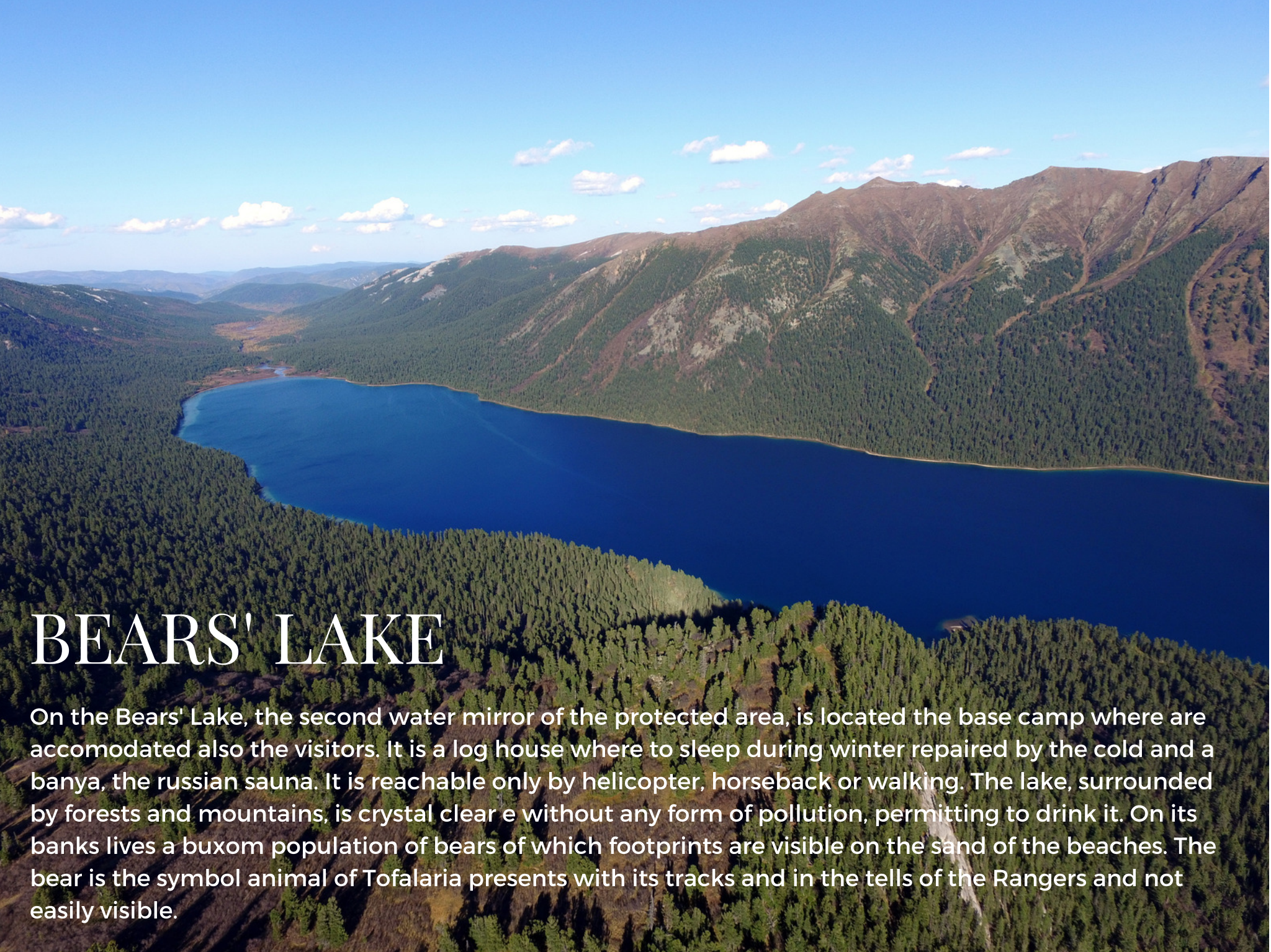
AGUL LAKE

The show of the alpine lakes of which the reserve is speckled is measurable by the transparency and in the shades. The sun, the moon and also the stars are reflecting without filters in the crystalline air. Reachable walking along the path created by the big animals, by boat along the network of rivers or with stunning flight by helicopter, the lakes of Tofalaria are natural oasis in which you can be absorbed in the regenerating force of the primordial Nature.



AGUL RIVER

The Agul River is the largest of the protected area. It collects the waters of many creeks and streams coming from Sayan mountains before arriving in the Kham river, tributary of the immense lenissei river. Observing him by the sky is a show, while it design curve by curve an irregular line that proceed in the Taiga. The river is a real highway for the Reserve Rangers that tread out with special boats that slide on the water and the wet rocks. Do not exist any road or path so the big river represents, as in the past, the best communicaton way.



BEARS' LAKE

On the Bears' Lake, the second water mirror of the protected area, is located the base camp where are accommodated also the visitors. It is a log house where to sleep during winter repaired by the cold and a banya, the russian sauna. It is reachable only by helicopter, horseback or walking. The lake, surrounded by forests and mountains, is crystal clear e without any form of pollution, permitting to drink it. On its banks lives a buxom population of bears of which footprints are visible on the sand of the beaches. The bear is the symbol animal of Tofalaria presents with its tracks and in the tells of the Rangers and not easily visible.

GUTARA



The tiny capital of one of the smallest ethnic minorities of the huge Russia, is a village of log houses absorbed in the Taiga. Ethnic island built in the '30s at seven days of march from the Transiberian Railway, the village of the Tofa people, reindeers shepherds and forest hunters , it was the winter camp along their route of transhumance between the north and the south Siberia.

An aerial photograph of a vast mountain valley. In the upper center, a small, calm lake is nestled in a high-altitude basin. A thin, dark line representing a waterfall descends from the lake's edge down a steep, rocky slope. The surrounding mountains are rugged and covered in sparse vegetation, with patches of snow or ice visible in the higher elevations. The lighting is soft, suggesting early morning or late afternoon, creating a serene and majestic atmosphere.

KINZELYUK

People says that Kinzelyuk is the highest waterfall of all Russia, others says that is the second. What it is sure that is one of the best kept natural secrets of our times. To deserve the show to see it in the loneless of these remote places and to be catched by its magic it is true, you have to walk a lot. Some hours of march along creeks and screes, along windy ridges, up to the solitary plateau where the show indulge.



The Tofalaria Natural Federal Reserve is located in the South Center Siberia in between the two regions of Krasnoyarsk and Irkutsk.

The area of the Tofalaria Natural Federal Reserve is about 1,400 sq kms large and located about 300 kms South East (136 degrees) of Krasnoyarsk and 550 kms North West West (293 degrees) from Irkutsk.

There are few ways to reach it as you can see in the Russia Trekking Itinerary Sheets.



Tofalarsky Natural Federal Reserve

DURATION: 12 days

PERIOD: June, September

ACCOMODATION: Refuge, tent, hotels


TRASPORTATION: Airplane, helicopters, fan boats, motorboats, minivan

MEALS: Prepared by professional Chefs in the refugees, fast snacks during trekking

DIFFICULTY': new itineraries of medium difficulty, challenging up mountains for some stretches

VISA AND VACCINATIONS: Russia Trekking takes care of the preparation of the request of the Russian Visa. No vaccinations needed.

STRELKA CAMP

An aerial photograph of a campsite situated on a rocky riverbank. The camp features several structures: a large log cabin with a dark roof, a smaller log cabin with a green roof, a white tent-like structure, and a building with a corrugated metal roof. A central area contains a fire pit and other camp equipment. The surrounding forest is dense with trees showing vibrant autumn colors in shades of yellow and orange. In the foreground, a rocky shore meets the water, with a few people and several small boats (one green and white, one blue) visible. The river flows from the bottom left towards the right.

Going up from Nova Marishka for about 200 kms along the Agul River we reach the Strelka Camp that is located at the confluence between the small and large Aguls. The camp is the unique water gate to the reserve being not any other accesses except the helicopter. The camp is composed by some log houses and a banya and it is one the sites of the Rangers.

BEARS' CAMP



When reached the Bears' Lake it is possible to sleep in the large refuge with a lovely terrace with the lake view or in the tents in the meadow nearby. The refuge is endowed by a banja that can be used also as dressroom. From this camp it is possible to reach the Kinzelyuk waterfalls and the lakes of the surroundings mountains.



We will enjoy the Siberian Cuisine of only selected natural food as fish and meat, vegetables, cheese and sausages, soup, rise, pasta prepared by the chef of the team. Breakfast will be salty or sweet with tea or coffee, biscuits, chocolate. Water is collected on site being pure and totally healthy. During the stay will be possible to know the food resources of the forest as mushrooms, blueberries, different herbs and plants and the way to prepare them. We will catch in the lake our daily fish.



TRANSPORTATION



In the Reserve there are no roads. We will use amazing and unusual different kind of transportation vehicles. From the Russian Piranha fan boat that can drive along rivers with few fingers of water to the helicopter Mi-8 masterpiece of Russian aviation fro cargo and passengers. We will have horses to bring our luggages in some places to have our walk lighter. Using a car when you will be back home it will be a surprise....

THE TEAM



We are a very strong team of people with a long experience of leaving outdoor and that love Mother Nature. We will show you the jewels of this mysterious place enjoying the forest, the wildlife and the stories of people that live here also during the cold winter.

In the Picture Ekaterina, Roberto, Anton, Vladimir, Sasha, Nikolay, Umar, Artjom, Oleg, Sergej, Valery, Masha, Alexander



Russia Trekking is a brand of the Russian Tour Operator "VK Sokol" and is presenting itself to the western countries nature lovers that want to discover amazing areas of the oriental Russian very special.

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