

# Skitouring on Kamchatka



## Level of proficiency

Good physical and skiing preparation, skitouring experience

**from 1 750 Euro**

The nearest date: **11 - 18 March 2023**

**8 days / 7 nights**

10 days of Kamchatka nature, skitouring on the wild slopes of snow-covered volcanoes. We will go and ski in two regions, the Paratunka river valley, near the Viluchinsky volcano and the Avachinsky group of volcanoes, namely, Avachinsky and Koryaksky volcanoes. Drop of ascents/descents is up to 1800 m per day. Snowmobile transfer is provided to the skitour area.

Take the ascent to two volcanoes, Vilyuchinsky and Avachinsky volcano, 2741 m, one of the most active volcanoes of the peninsula and make a cool descent from their peaks. In the second half of the tour you will relax every day in the pool with thermal water, in one of the best lodge of Kamchatka &ldquo;Snow valley&rdquo;. Admire the Kamchatka nature, ride through the forest of rocky birches, and see the power of the Pacific ocean.

## Itinerary



Meeting at the airport. Moving to area № 1, to bottom of the Avachinsky volcano. 20 km by car and 20 km by snowmobile (sledge). A beautiful view of the Avachinsky valley, a huge Koryaksky volcano, Mount Verblud (Camel) - welcome to Avachinsky Pass! In the afternoon make a light ski tour on the Verblud (Camel) mountain. Briefing. Preparation, equipment check. Ski tour on the Verblud: 250 m drop. Skinning/skiing: 1-2 hours.



Short course on avalanche safety, 2 hours on the mountain. The course is an obligatory part of our program, conducted by ski guide certified by the CAA (Canadian Avalanche Association). Test climb / descent. During the test ascent/ descent we determine the level of training of participants. Elevation: 500 m. Skinning / skiing: 4 hours.

In the afternoon we organize a ski tour on the slopes of the Avachinsky volcano, making an ascent to the ancient spurs of the volcano. After lunch -

preparation for the ascent/climbing to the volcano, checking, adjusting the gear, briefing. Elevation: 800 - 1000 m. Skinning/skiing: 4 hours.



Climbing on the Avachinsky volcano, 2741 m. Ski tour.  
Avachinsky volcano - the most beautiful volcano of Kamchatka, it is a pleasure to climb on it, and to ski is another, a drop of 1800 m! One of the most active volcanoes of the peninsula. Because of the ideal, smooth cone, surrounded by the remnants of an ancient volcano and constantly smoldering muzzle is a calling card of Kamchatka - very beautiful! Its activity doesn't stop for a moment. Climbing is not technically difficult, but requires skills of use of crampons (we practice one day before). The climb is not steep, quite comfortable, but in the upper part, on the cone, firm - hard snow and sastrugi are possible. At the top of the sulfur fields, fumaroles - an active manifestation of volcanic activity. Beautiful views of the Pacific Ocean, valleys and other volcanoes.  
Elevation: 1800 m. Climbing/skiing: 7-8 hours.



Reserve day. Ski tour on the pass (on the Koryaksky volcano).  
In case of bad weather this day is a backup for the ascent of the volcano Avachinsky. In case of good weather and successful ascent of Day 7, we conduct an easy ski tour on the slopes of Koryaksky volcano. Elevation: 400 -1000 m. Skinning/skiing: 4 hours

Special offer:

This day is possible to climb Koryaksky volcano, 3456 m! Elevation is 2500 m. Technically it is more difficult in comparison with Avachinsky and requires good physical and technical skills from climber/skier! The climbing gear must be used during Koryaksky climbing: crampons, Ice axe, Harness, rope etc. Koryaksky climbing cost: 300 eur/pers. Guide/client ratio: 1/3. Must be booked/paid in advance. Min group: 2 climbers/skiers. It's really COOL!



Transfer to the area No 2, under the Vilyuchinsky volcano, to the base "Snow Valley", 60 km by truck. Accommodation in a comfortable base. Walk around the neighborhood, easy ski tour. Swimming pool with thermal water, rest. Elevation: 200 m. Skinning /skiing: 3 hours.



Heli-ski, full day (paid separately).

In the morning or the night before we go through the training, get Airbag (included in the cost) and from about 11:00 we begin heli-ski day! A full break on the slopes of volcanoes!

-Minimum guaranteed number of descents: 4, with a total drop of 3500 m. Actually, 4-8 can be done, with a drop of 4000 m.

For those who don't use heli-ski day: skitour on Goryachaya Mt. 721 m. Elevation: 1400 m. Skinning /skiing: 6 hours.



Skitour on Babiy Kamen (Women's Rock) hill, 870 m. Transfer to the location by snowmobile (sledge). Ascent on the north-eastern slope about 1000 m. In case of good physical form we can organize a descent on the opposite side and get to the Karamshin base. Elevation: 1000 m. Skinning /skiing: 6 hours. Snowmobile transfer: 1 hour.



Ski tour on the Viluchinsky volcano. Climbing.  
A beautiful volcano of cone shape with numerous couloirs! Height above sea level is 2173 m. The ascent is technically not complicated, but requires the use of crampons and an ice axe (as a rule). From the top you can see the Pacific Ocean, the volcanoes Mutnovsky, Gorely, Opala, Asacha, as well as the Avachinsky group of volcanoes. Descent from the Vilyuchinsky volcano is interesting with a variety of the descending couloirs, it is almost always possible to find good snow. In the end of the day you'll see a spectacular frozen water fall, 50 m high – amazing visiting card of Viluchinsky volcano.

2/3 of the climb, and sometimes the entire volcano can be done on skis. However, in the upper part, when you reach the summit ridge, the slope is quite steep and you have to use crampons and an ice axe.

Up to a height of 400-500 m you're being taken to the foot of volcano and back to the base by a snowmobile, in tow.

Ascent / Skiing: 1500/2000 m. Duration: 8 hours. Snowmobile ride: 1 hour.

In the second part of the tour you may swim in the wimming pool with thermal water. It's a great pleasure to rest after a hard day.

## Price includes

Transfer from/to the airport

Auto transport, all group transfers

Snowmobile (approach to the ski-tour area)

Course of avalanche safety

Accommodation during entire program

Visiting the pool with thermal water

Ski guide, mountain guide (ACC, Avalanch-1, Ski tour-1, member of RMGA), mountain rescue officers during entire program

Avachinsky volcano, 2741 m climb with a guide

Vilyuchinsky volcano, 2173 m climb with a guide

Meals for the whole program (except for the evening of the 9th day and the morning of the 10th day)

Excursion to the Pacific Ocean on dog sleds

## Price does not include

Air travel

Heli-ski day. It is paid separately, 700 eur/person/day

Insurance

Personal equipment

Meals in the city (one day)

## Route

Moscow – Petropavlovsk-Kamchatsky – Moscow

## Documents required

Visa. We support you to get Russian visa. Being an official tour operator we are able to submit travel voucher, contact us.

## Safety

Winter climb on volcanoes (Vilyuchinsky, Avachinsky, Koryaksky) is a complex exercise. Before the ascent the guide will give an assessment and recommendations to the members of the group regarding the climbing tactic etc.

Depending on the weather conditions and snow conditions, the guide determines the days and places of the ski tour, and some adjustments are possible. Our task is to make sure that you can ski safely and make the most of it!

Of course, we are in the mountains. But if you follow our guide's advises the risks will be minimized and their effects will be avoided. Besides, a compulsory avalanche course will be provided on the second day of your travel. It is made by ski guide, approved by CAA (Canadian Avalanche Association), level Avalanch-1. All the travelers should have their avalanche transceivers, probes and shovels. If you don't have those we could rent them out.

## Additional information

Booking of the program (without heli-ski) is to be done by advance payment (300 eur). Bank commission lays on a client's side.

Heli-ski day is spent at favorable weather in one of days 2-5. It is paid and booked separately and in advance.

Reservation is made with 50% prepayment. 100% payment shall be made no later than 15 days before the start of the program. If you cancel the heli due to bad weather, the prepayment for the heli-ski is returned.

Terms of refund for unfulfilled heli-ski day:

-For groups that don't fly to the skiing areas. In case of non-fulfillment of the day program, the money for the "uncompleted" program is returned in full;

-Group-participant of the heli-ski day can insist and fly to the area of skiing against the recommendation of guides and in conditions of unstable weather. This decision is made jointly with the crew, taking into account the Rules and requirements of flight safety and a real weather forecast. In case of non-fulfillment of the program of such skiing in real weather conditions, security conditions, etc. refund is not provided;

-Refund for uncompleted descents for other reasons (for example: a malfunction of the inventory, physical condition, late arrival or early return caused by the participant's fault) is not provided.

To get to Kamchatka we recommend direct flight from Moscow made by Aeroflot every day. Round flight Moscow – Petropavlovsk-Kamchatsky – Moscow would cost 360 eurs about only.

Attention! In area № 1, Avachinsky Pass often has bad weather, so we foresee a reserve option (in case of strong winds), namely, in the event of bad weather, we spend 1-5 days in the Nachiki district, accommodation in a new base(hotel) \*, a ski tour on the Gorelaya hill, Mirror, maybe the Vachkazhets volcano. At the same time, the surcharge will be 50 eur / person / day.

Ski-tourists with experience of a ski tour from 10 days can take part in the program. You must be ready to make the ascents according to the program. Keep in mind, skinning/climbing is made slowly, in a comfortable mode. Tourist/ guide ratio: 6/1.

220V sockets will be every day. In days 1-5 in the evenings only!

The mobile network coverage will be almost everywhere, but not stable, on the mountain, where the freeride is held, it may not be at all. Operators: MTS, Megafon, Beeline, in some places can receive TELE2 signal. Internet in Kamchatka is slow.

We provide VHF radios, 1 station per 2 participants. However, if you have your own, we recommend that you take it.

## Accommodation/hotels:

Days 1-5, area № 1: 8-beds lodge (arctic barrels), although they are at an altitude of 1000 meters above sea level, on the pass, in the snow, they are quite comfortable, cozy and warm, double-deck soft beds, wood stove heating - use it ourselves, sleep in sleeping bags. Separate dining room. Electricity in the evenings and in the afternoon upon request.



The toilet is outside, cold. There is a shower.

Days 5-9, area № 2: comfortable snow base "Snow Valley". Rooms for 4-5 people, beds are two-level. Shower and toilet are in the room. A restaurant. At your request, for an additional fee, you can book a double accommodation.

Day 10: Night in the city. Hotel, double occupancy. The rooms have TV, shower, toilet. At your request, for an additional fee, we will book you a superior or deluxe room.

\* - Days 1-5, in case of bad weather, when there is no way to go to area № 1: the new base (hotel) Nachikinsky.

Comfortable double rooms, TV, shower, toilet in the room. A restaurant. There is a swimming pool with hot thermal water. The surcharge will be 50 eur / person / day, in case of such circumstances. At your request, you can book deluxe or suite.

## Weather conditions

15.02. - 30.03.: high probability of powder snow. It is quite cold, on average about 15 to -20C in the afternoon, with the wind. Snow, as a rule, is frozen in February, and can be heavy in March.

01.04. - 10.04.: Possible powder snow, especially in the upper part of the descent. Downhill rather hard snow from the morning, and after dinner slightly released (in some places, on the southern slopes). Pretty cool, about -10.

10.04-20.04.: No powder, but possibly hard snow. The temperature at the downhill in the afternoon can be above zero. Sometimes you can even sunbathe.

20.04.-05.05.: In the upper part of the descent the snow is released in the afternoon, in the morning it is hard. Downhill after lunchtime - slush, the snow is wet. The temperature in the daytime on the mountain is near zero, at the bottom above zero, in windless weather, as a rule, it is very warm!

05.05. - 20.05.: at the bottom is very warm, the snow is wet and at night it doesn't freeze. On the mountain, in the morning, the snow is hard, after the sunrise is released and after lunch turns into slush. Very warm.

Keep in mind that it's an average detail. The weather is very unstable and vary from one year to another.

In the days of bad weather, we try to spend time interestingly and profitably, we hold mountain training classes, various master classes such as "save a comrade caught in an avalanche" and even dig a snow cave!

## Meals

3 meals a day included into the program, but if you wish, in first half of the program (in "Snow Valley" base) you may get additional service in the restaurant (for additional payment). During long ski tour day, for example, when climbing, lunch is in the form of a snack on the route (hot tea, sandwiches, snacks).

## Equipment rental

1. Avalanche:

avalanche transceiver: 60 eur / tour.

snow shovel: 30 eur / tour.

avalanche probe: 30 eur / tour.

kit (transceiver, shovel, probe): 100 eur / tour.

2. Crampons.: 30 eur / tour.

3. Ice ax: 30 eur / program.

4. Poles: 30 eur / program.

5. Windproof jacket, breathable (membrane): 30 eur / program.

6. Ski-tour kit (skis (Ski Trab Freerando) with mounts (Silvretta), skins, boots (42, 44 size): 150 eur / program.

Please feel free to contact us in case of any queries regarding the required equipment/outfit, we will be happy to help you.