Tourism

The beauty of landscapes of the grey-headed Urals attracts annually thousands of foreign and wild names, not impacted by civilization. Many forms of tourism are popular here: summer trips to routes in the forest and mountains, walking along the Mountainous rivers, water ski camps, last years climbing routes, bicycle and snowmobile tours are actively developed.

Yugyd Va National Park is not only ecological tourism. Scientific expeditions, and student’s practical trainings, international seminars and conferences, children’s ecological camps and field schools take place in the park annually.

Besides the main task – the conservation of natural complexes, the employers of the park are engaged in construction of shelters and parking areas, arrangement of tourist routes and tracks. Local residents as well as volunteers take active part in these activities.

Exhibitions and exhibitions, tours and competitions for children are regularly organized in visit centers. The published materials inform about natural, historical and cultural heritage.

In order to preserve the beauty of the Urals nature for people it is necessary to behave environmentally friendly. Hunting and fishing, tree felling, and traveling by heavy-roller vehicles are forbidden in the park. The preference is given to scientific and educational tourism, photo- and volunteer tours.

Taking into consideration the growing potential to the wild nature, to places not impacted by civilization, the ecological tourism in the park has a prosperous future.

Enjoy staying in the Park!

Yugyd Va National Park as the World Heritage Site

The UNESCO Convention for the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage was accepted in 1972 in Paris, or the 17-th session of the General Conference of the United Nations Education, Scientific, and Cultural Organizations meeting. The main purpose of this document is to preserve the outstanding universal value of the cultural and natural heritage for future generations.

At the heart of the Convention are two provisions:

- Cultural and natural heritage of our Planet is a heritage, which we must preserve and protect for future generations.
- Cultural and natural sites of the Earth belong not only to the state where they are located, but also to mankind.

Russia joined the Convention in 1988. Yugyd Va National Park was included in the UNESCO World Heritage List in 1995 together with Pechora-Ilychsky Natural Biospheric Reserve under the common name "Virgin Komi Forests". It is the first natural site in Russia, which was granted such a high status.

Later on, the following objects were included in the List, such as: "Lake Bubul" (1996), "Volcanoes of Kamchatka" (1996), "Golden Mountains of Altai" (1998), "The Western Caucasus" (1999), "Central Siberia - Altai" (2001), "Five Year Route" (2003), "Wringillia Island Reserve" (2004).

Virgin Komi Forests

Justification for the "Virgin Komi Forests" to be included in the World Heritage Sites List (from the Nomenclature)

The proposed territory meet a number of criteria allowing to consider it to be of the global importance:

- This area present a significant habitat of rare and extinct plants and forest species and a diminishing ecosystem of the virgin taiga.
- This area also notable for suitability of altitude zoning and axial belts of various types, forests and tundra types.
- This territory comprises unique geological formations. Non-carboniferous petrological and mineralogical nature formations and glaciers are the unique geological objects of Komi Republic.
- The territory comprises the places of extreme natural beauty.

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SOCIO-CULTURAL COUNCIL OF MINISTERS
MINISTRY OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION OF THE KOMI REPUBLIC

Yugyd Va 2008
Mountains

The landscape of the National Park stretches over 500 kilometers from north to south along the high western slope of the Urals ridge.

The park is located in three orographical zones: mountain, submontane and low-lying zone. The Ural Mountains have the specified impact on the park's outlook.

The wide spectrum of unique and typical mountain, plain and tundra landscapes is determined by the expressed vertical zoning.

Visitors are attracted by beautiful landscapes of the Urals: the Alpine meadows and mountain lakes, river valleys, canyons and falls, "rock cities" on the slopes and fantastic rocks on the river banks. Extensive areas on mountain slopes and highlands are occupied by montane tundras and scattered rocks - karstites.

The ridges of the Subpolar Urals, marked by traces of ice-sediments, form Alpine land forms: sharp peaks, deep canyons of rivers, vertical rock depositions, mountainous lakes and small glaciers. The width of mountain belt reaches 150 km and some peaks of ridges go up over 1800 m above the sea level.

The severe climate does the Subpolar Urals a genuine mountainous country, also known as "the Pole of Alpes" and "the Pole of Russia". The highest tops of the Urals Mountains are located here, in the central part of the Park.

The Northern Urals are low, with rounded taiga forested peaks, cut by river valleys. Here are situated the most inaccessible sites of modern Europe, a real paradise for animals and birds.

Forests

More than half of the Park's territory is occupied by virgin forests, the unique mansions of dark and light coniferous forests in Europe. They are called "uflage" of Europe.*

The predominant tree of the mountain wood landscapes is Siberian spruce (Picea obovata). In mountain forests of the southern part of the park the significant place occupies silver fir (Abies) and Siberian pine (Pinus sibirica). In the upper part of the mountain forest belt is spread larch open forest.

The National Park is a real taiga trinity: there is over 40 species of mammals, including brown bear, sable, elk and reindeer; 264 species of birds, including white-tailed eagle (Haliaeetus albicilla) and fish lark (Pardalax aquila) listed in the Red Book of Russia; 700 species of plants and fungi.

One of the major values of the park is water: crystal-clear, totally pure. It is reflected in the Park's name: "Yugan" means "clear water" in the Khanty language.

The territory is unique for quantity and variety of natural monuments: rocks and caves, lakes and waterfalls, fantastic rock pillars and mines, created by weathering process. In the mountains one can see displays of rock crystal and semi-precious stones. Many objects are considered as geological monuments.

Rare and wonderful

Vugan Va National Park is a unique place in Europe, where the wild nature is preserved almost unaltered.

The largest in Europe forest landscapes of primary beech forests are situated here.

The abundance and variety of flora and fauna are determined by the nature of the watershed of the main Urals ridge – the "collusion" place of east European and Siberian, Arctic and forest-steppe species.

Water

The main rivers of the park are the Khekar, the Kysya, the Vargin, the Sobolnaya Syya, the Shalkara and the Pudchelstra. The majority of rivers are spawning places for the well-known Pechora salmon. Cutting their ways through the undulating ridges (pomegranate), the rivers produce short steep cascades.

The National Park uses an unforgettable charm to the Urals. There are over 100 lakes in the park, the largest are Torugayevo, Gubinovsky-ty, and Pudchela-ty. The most picturesque lakes are of glacial origin, located high in the mountains.

In mountain areas of the park there are 38 small glaciers. The largest glacier, named after Hoffmann, is located on the Sibine ridge.

Historical and Cultural Heritage

The current territory of the park has been developed by people since times of Paleolithic. This land was used as a habitat and hunting area for malachitic populations: the Mansi, the Nenets, the Vogul, the Komi, the Russians and others.

Among historical and cultural sites are ancient sites and calcium places, sacred objects, related to the Mansi and Komi beliefs, remains of Old Believers settlements upstream the taiga rivers.

Reindeer breeding traditions go on for centuries at the Urals. Up to these days from the eastern slope of the Urals Mountains drive the Komi reindeer breeders their herds this way to summer pastures.