

# THE REAL ARCTIC

The world of the real people  
**CHUKOTKA**





# REAL PEOPLE

means the name  
of the Chukchi,  
the native people,  
in their language.



AREA OF THE CHUKOTKA  
AUTONOMOUS DISTRICT

**737,700**  
**km<sup>2</sup>**



POPULATION  
DENSITY

**0.07**  
**km<sup>2</sup>**



Welcome to Chukotka! A world of endless wildernesses, biting winds and stormy seas, a land of the tough and courageous – a people of few words, but always ready to lend a hand.

From **-41°C**  
to **-14°C**

AVERAGE TEMPERATURES  
IN THE CHUKOTKA  
AUTONOMOUS DISTRICT  
BY SUB-DISTRICT

This harsh northern land is awesome in its grandeur: a boundless expanse of tundra and enormous mountains, fast-flowing rivers and permafrost.

The climate may seem unsuitable for human habitation, and visitors to Chukotka will certainly feel the power of nature and life's precious fragility. The Arctic clears the mind and opens up new, snow-white horizons.

For thousands of years nature has kept these vast grounds pristine, blowing cold at any newcomers, chasing away all but special people, the honest, magnanimous and forthright.

**The experience of the Arctic is hard to express in words:** the extreme north is not only unforgettable, it is life-changing. Its penetrating frost strikes a flame in the human heart.

Chukotka is one of few places where you can observe the “Arctic Five” in the wild: polar bears, whales, walruses, musk oxen and reindeer. These beautiful animals are symbols of the subpolar region.



## Whales

Well-travelled tourists are familiar with the idea of the “Big African Five”, which refers to five mammals, traditional prize trophies of the African safari – the elephant, rhinoceros, ox, lion and leopard. Unlike Africa, the lands of the Russian Arctic are effectively sanctuaries, where rare animals live in their natural environment, and hunting is strictly forbidden.

Seeing these inhabitants of the north in the wild is both a stroke of luck and a chance to take home **some unique photographs**.



MORE THAN

# 740

**grayback whales**

WERE SEEN  
ON THE SHORES  
OF CHUKOTKA  
IN 2018



# THE ARCTIC **FIVE**





# THERE'S NOTHING **ELSE LIKE IT!**



Pevek is Russia's northernmost town and Chukotka's furthest northern port.

● PEVEK

● BILIBINO



MARKOVO ●

The world's largest walrus rookery spreads over **Cape Serdtse-Kamen**.



**Anuysky** is the northernmost volcano in Russia.



**Wrangel Island** is the northernmost UNESCO World Heritage site.



**The Pegtymel petroglyphs** are the only works of prehistoric cliff art in Russia north of the Arctic Circle.



**The Bering Sea** is the largest and deepest sea in the Far East.



Wrangel Island

Petroglyphs  
of Pegtymel



## The 180<sup>th</sup> meridian

crosses land in only two  
places, Chukotka and  
the Fiji Islands.

Cape Serdtse-Kamen

Cape Dezhnev

LAVRENTIYA  
Ratmanova  
island

EGVEKINOT

UGOLNYYE  
KOPI

PROVIDENIYA

ANADYR



**Anadyr**  
is Russia's  
easternmost  
city.



The world's tallest  
**statue of St. Nicholas**  
stands in the centre  
of Anadyr.



**Cape Dezhnev**  
is the easternmost point  
of continental Russia  
and Eurasia.



**The international  
date line** passes  
between Big  
Diomed (Russia)  
and Little Diomed  
(USA).

Chukotka is the house of the sun. Dawn begins at the 180th meridian, the opposite point from Greenwich, and the international date line also passes here. But the region's record breakers go further.



# THE BERING STRAIT

The strait, separating Asia and North America, is a goal for travellers. At its narrowest the channel is only 86 kilometres wide, but difficult and unpredictable weather makes the crossing very hazardous. But fans of extreme sports are unbowed – in different years they have attempted to cross it on skis, off-road vehicles, jeeps, kayaks and even simply by swimming. Cape Dezhnev and Big Diomedes are the last points on the map of Russia, where the country ends along with the continent. A new day is born beneath the low sky of the Arctic.

**A trip across the Bering Strait is a** magical combination of unique people, pristine nature and rare animals, with the wind and aurora borealis for background.

**4 km**

DISTANCE  
BETWEEN ISLANDS  
RATMANOVA  
AND KRUSENSTERN  
(BIG AND LITTLE  
DIOMEDE)

**86 km**

BERING STRAIT AT  
ITS NARROWEST

The main international tourist route in the Arctic crosses the Bering Strait. To journey just a few dozen kilometres, moving from one continent to another, is an unforgettable experience.

Eurasia

Uelen

Today

Wales

Tomorrow

America

Tourists have attempted to cross the Bering Strait on skis, by off-road vehicles, jeeps, kayaks, and even just by swimming.



Crossing the Bering Strait for a traveller is like climbing Everest for a mountaineer.



1979



1987



1989



1998



1999



2008



2010



2011



2013



# CAPITAL OF THE ARCTIC

The Cathedral of  
the Holy Trinity in  
Anadyr is the largest  
wooden church built on  
permafrost.

Nearly all “pilgrimages” across Chukotka begin and end in Anadyr. The city stands in radical contrast to the rest of the territory: it has hotels, cafes, cinemas and Internet connection. Its residents have tried to make up for the lack of sunlight in the Arctic by making their homes bright and hospitable.

One essential part of the tourist programme in summer is the **boat trip along the Anadyr Bay and Bering Strait.**





The easternmost city in Russia is definitely worth visiting: a trip to Anadyr will leave you with warm memories, regardless of the season.

The statue of **St. Nicholas** stands in the centre of Anadyr, and can be seen from both land and sea from a few kilometres away.

WEIGHT  
**4t**  
HEIGHT  
**10m**



**Boat trips** along the Anadyr channel are a great opportunity for sight-seeing.



**Mount St. Dionysius** looms over the Anadyr lowland, the River Kazatchka rising on its northern slopes.



The tundra around Anadyr teems with **wildlife**: you can spot arctic ground squirrels, as well as – with luck – bears, foxes, deer and other animals.



# SPEND



## IN THE DEER BREEDERS' CAMP



The native people live just like their ancestors did, in harmony with the merciless wintry climate, engaging with hard work and foraging.

Chukchi reindeer breeders travel across the tundra with their herds through the year, looking for better pastures. A breeders' camp has its own rules: in polar days and nights, with no permanent connection to the outside world, people discover a genuine connection with nature.



**198,000**  
**heads**

THE TOTAL  
NUMBER  
OF REINDEER  
IN CHUKOTKA.



**The yaranga,**

A TRADITIONAL  
NOMAD HOME.

**It is a unique adventure to spend a few nights in a breeders' camp.**

The Arctic sky is boundlessly deep, reindeer hooves smoothly thump by, and the northern lights glitter overhead.



# WITH SEA-HUNTERS

# A DAY

The **Beringia National Park** offers a chance to discover the culture of the sea-hunters.

The Beringia National Park encompasses an enormous array of archaeological sites representing the shore-hunter cultures, from Stone Age encampments to structures of whale jaws and bones. Among the better-known sites are Whale Alley, the Ekven tomb and Paypelgak camp. The modern customs of the Arctic people, as they preserve their traditions, are just as interesting.



**Native villages offer visitors dishes such as mantak (whale skin and fat), walrus meat and other Chukotka specialties.**

In all of Russia, only the native people of eastern Chukotka are allowed to hunt at sea.

up to whales  
**140**

ARE HUNTED FOR  
FOOD IN CHUKOTKA  
EVERY YEAR

The east of Chukotka is best visited during **the "Beringia" festival**, when **canoe races** are held.



**Carving whale and walrus bone** is a traditional craft of Eskimos and Chukchis.



[www.chukotka.travel](http://www.chukotka.travel)



# A LONG ROAD TO THE **DESTINATION**



## **Aviation**

is vital for passenger transport. Within the region,  
a number of airfields provide travel between  
sub-districts.

## off-road vehicles

journey across snow  
and swamp confidently.



## Kayaking

is fun and exciting.



## Quadrunners

are perfect for short trips.



It's challenging to explore Chukotka,  
with many means of possible transport –  
helicopters, motorships, bulk carriers,  
cutters, boats, kayaks, skis, snowmobiles,  
dog sleighs and, of course, off-road  
vehicles, the most reliable of all.

## Boat travel

is a great way to explore  
Chukotka's shoreline.



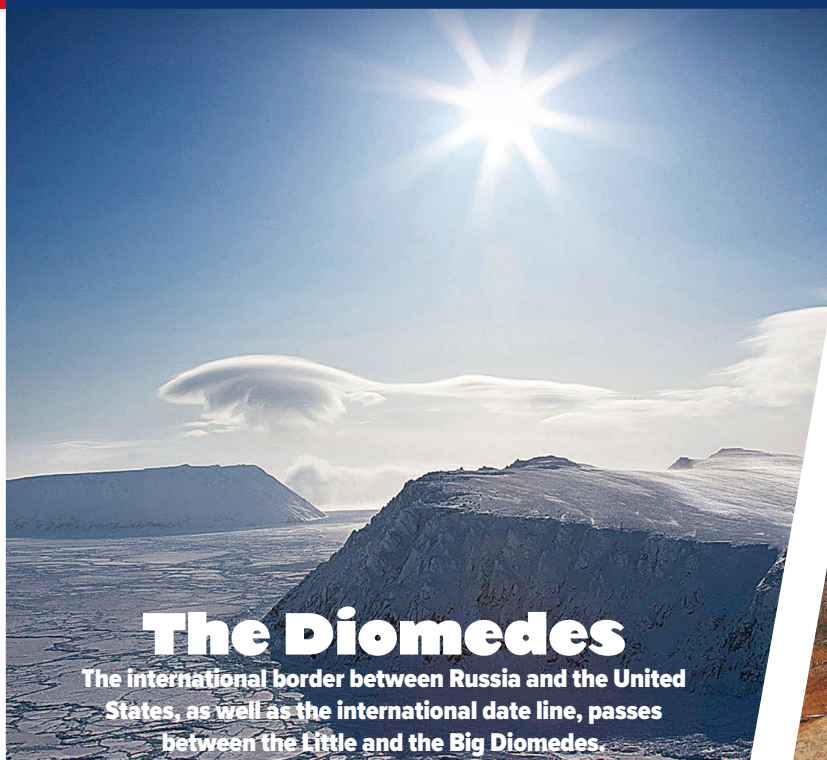
## Dogs – travelling old-style.



[www.chukotka.travel](http://www.chukotka.travel)

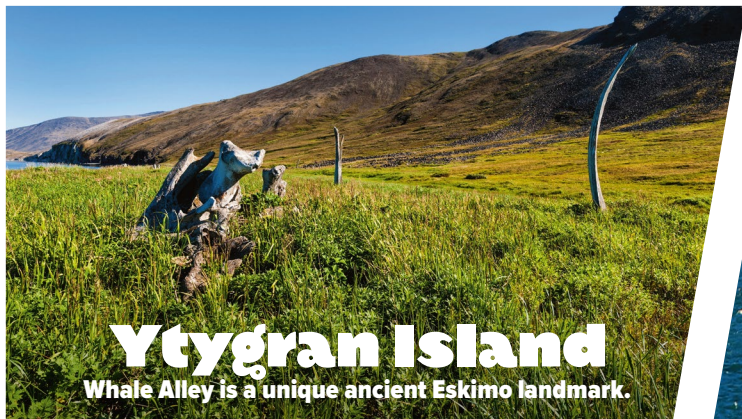


# SEA CRUISES



## The Diomedes

The international border between Russia and the United States, as well as the international date line, passes between the Little and the Big Diomedes.



## Ytygran Island

Whale Alley is a unique ancient Eskimo landmark.

From the air, you can admire the landscapes of the Arctic shore, observe bird colonies, and look for polar bears, whales and other animals. Crossing the Bering Strait passengers can enjoy views of the Big and Little Diomedes, and learn about the region's unique plants and animals and the lifestyle of the native people.

**Cruise operators** offer tours to all of the key places of interest in the region.



## Cape Dezhnev

is the high point of the trip, the easternmost point of Eurasia – where two oceans meet, the Arctic and the Pacific.



# Wrangel Island



A UNESCO WORLD  
HERITAGE SITE

The wildlife sanctuary's flora and fauna are unique for high latitudes, with 40 endemic species. Wrangel Island is also known as a “maternity ward” for polar bears.



## Hemispheres

come together on this island!  
The 180th meridian divides it  
almost exactly in half.  
All of the land is in the  
northern hemisphere.

up to  
**500** lairs with cubs



OBSERVED BY BIOLOGISTS  
ON THE ISLAND  
EVERY YEAR.



**Snow geese** have their  
only major rookery in  
Eurasia on the island.



**Musk oxen** are covered in  
wool that keeps the wind  
and moisture out, and are  
a natural element in the  
island's harsh terrain.

[www.chukotka.travel](http://www.chukotka.travel)

# **An Eskimo walrus-hide ball**

is an original souvenir, worth taking  
home from Chukotka.



The Arctic is unforgettable – harsh like nature itself. Just as the winters are cold, its people reach out to share the warmth of their hearts. Chukotka is a hospitable land open to guests. We await you!



# PASS ON **GOOD THINGS**

When polar night finally begins to wane and the sun starts to climb, spurring nature to regeneration, the new hunting season approaches. In Chukotka this significant moment has traditionally been celebrated with ball games – the ball symbolizes the sun, a sacred sign that unites worlds, seasons and the directions of the compass. To toss a ball to a friend is to share your heart's warmth and protection.

The ancient tradition survives in the region: the Eskimo ball today continues to symbolize **openness and ready generosity.**



[www.chukotka.travel](http://www.chukotka.travel)



## A tourist's checklist for Chukotka:

- Meet “real people” and discover their world
- See the “Arctic Five” animals
- Visit the local landmarks – places unique to the planet
- Cross the Bering Strait between continents
- Explore Anadyr, Russia’s easternmost city
- Spend a day with Chukchi deer-breeders and sea-hunters
- Try every mode of transport
- Cruise along the whole Arctic coast
- Share the memories, and the warmth of the heart that you have felt, with your loved ones

