

With the numbers and types of classical Soviet-era aircraft disappearing at a fast rate of knots – and a recent Presidential Decree that any Russian airline operating scheduled services and flying less than 20 aircraft are to be closed down – time is running out.

This will possibly be the last time we can organise a tour over such vast distances around Russia and Siberia that will give you value for money: both in terms of cost, and what aircraft and airlines you will see.

Once again Steve Kinder, the well-known nomadic aviation photographer has come up with another jaw-dropping tour featuring the Siberian airports of Mirny (never visited before by an aviation group), Yakutsk, Irkutsk and Moscow's Scheremetyevo and Domodedovo - a total of 8 airports! All ramp tours are confirmed.



We are also offering an optional flight to Penza by Yakovlev Yak-40, and ramp tour! Based on 15 bookings the price per person will be approximately £225.00. Please annotate your booking form if interested.

Please note that this tour is on a Full Board basis, i.e. all meals are included!

The tour price is high, reflecting the huge increase in the cost of flights around Russia, however, our last Siberian adventure in 2009 was shorter and more expensive!

## PROVISIONAL ITINERARY (all times local)

### DAY 1: SUNDAY, 24<sup>th</sup> JUNE

Check in with British Airways in Terminal 5 at London's Heathrow Airport, then meet your Tour Manager Steve Kinder, and your fellow enthusiasts who will be stood by column G in the departures hall. Latest check-in time is 06:50 hrs..

→ Heathrow Airport, T5	Flight: BA 233	Departs: 08:50
→ Moscow Domodedovo Airport		Arrives: 15:25

After Immigration Control, Baggage Reclaim and Customs we meet our English-speaking guide in the Arrivals Hall. We then proceed to the domestic terminal and check in for our overnight flight to Siberia, on Alrosa's Tu-154 service, departing at 20:25 hrs..

### DAY 2: MONDAY, 25<sup>th</sup> JUNE

Arriving at 07:35 hrs. we first go to the Zarnitsa Hotel to freshen up and take breakfast. Website: <http://alrosa-hotels.ru/en/hotels/mirnuy/>

We then head off on a ramp tour of Mirny Airport, home base of Alrosa. Operating from here is: Alrosa Mirny Air Enterprise, UTair Aviation and Yakutia Airlines (all information quoted about airlines in this itinerary is subject to change).

### DAY 3: TUESDAY, 26<sup>th</sup> JUNE

Today we fly further into Siberia, to Yakutsk (in winter the coldest place on Earth!), by Yakutia An-24 or Tu-134. We stay 2 nights at the Polar Star hotel. Website: <http://alrosa-hotels.ru/en/hotels/yakutsk/>

#### DAY 4: WEDNESDAY 27<sup>th</sup> JUNE

A day spent visiting Yakutsk Airport (Alrosa, Eznis, Polar, S7, Transaero, Ural and Vladivostok Avia and Yakutia Airlines). And the city's second airport, Magan.

#### DAY 5: THURSDAY, 28<sup>th</sup> JUNE

This morning we fly to Irkutsk by either Yakutia Tu-154 or Iraero Canadair Regional Jet 200 (sorry!).

On arrival we tour the airport, the 5<sup>th</sup> largest in Russia. To be seen here are: Aeroflot, Air Arabia, Air Astana, Air China, Alrosa, Avianova, Belavia, Czech Airlines, Czech Connect, Finnair, Flydubai, Izhavia, Lufthansa, Nordavia, Nordstar, Rossiya, RusLine, S7, Sky Express, Tajik Air, Transaero, Turan Air, THY, Ural, UTair, Uzbekistan Airways, Vladivostok Air and Yamal Airlines.

We stay tonight at the Airport Hotel Vozdushnaya Gavan. Website: <http://airport.irkhotel.ru/english.php>

#### DAY 6: FRIDAY, 29<sup>th</sup> JUNE

In the morning we visit the second airport, Uktas Airport which is also a general aviation airfield with light planes and helicopters. Gazpromavia operate services to Moscow Vnukovo.

We then fly back to Moscow, staying 2 nights at the Aerotel Hotel at Domodedovo.

#### DAY 7: SATURDAY, 30<sup>th</sup> JUNE

Today we have ramp tours of Domodedovo and Scheremetyevo airports.

#### DAY 8: SUNDAY, 1<sup>st</sup> JULY

Today you have the fabulous option of flying to Penza by chartered Yak-40; on arrival we have a ramp tour before returning to Domodedovo and checking in for our flight back to London. Please annotate your booking form if you are interested in this flight which must be pre-booked: based on 15, the price will be approximately £220.00 per person.

Alternatively, free time at Domodedovo.

Latest check-in time for our BA flight back to Heathrow is 15:15 hrs..

→ Moscow Domodedovo Airport Flight: BA 873 Departs: 17:15  
→ London Heathrow Airport, Terminal 1 Arrives: 18:05

After UK Immigration Control we await our luggage in Baggage Reclaim and take the opportunity to bid each other farewell – until the next time: "Paka! Dosva Danya"!

PRICE PER PERSON FROM	TOUR: 227214
£ 3,849.00	Package price based on sharing a twin bedded room on a full board basis
£ 275.00	Single room supplement
On request	Land-only (includes Russian domestic services, but excludes flights to/from Moscow on Days 1 and 8) <i>PLEASE SPEAK WITH ONE OF OUR CONSULTANTS BEFORE BOOKING YOUR FLIGHTS</i>

## **TOUR PRICE INCLUDES**

- Economy class tickets on the scheduled services of British Airways (BA) from London's Heathrow Airport, Terminal 5
- Economy class tickets on the scheduled services of Russian airlines, as currently stated
- UK & Russian airport taxes and UK Passenger Service Charge, currently £86.23
- Coach transfers and transportation as stated
- 6-nights hotel accommodation in rooms with private facilities
- All meals (some lunches may be of the packed variety)
- Ramp tours at airports as stated
- Services of a local English-speaking guide
- Services of an Ian Allan Tour Manager

## **NOT INCLUDED**

- Optional Yak-40 flight to Penza and airport ramp tour
- Travel insurance – see General Information
- Tourist visa: required by all visitors – see General Information
- Personal expenditure, e.g. telephone calls, laundry, drinks, etc.
- Tips and gratuities

### Payment for Ian Allan Aviation Tours

A deposit of £250.00 per person per tour should accompany your Booking Form, with the balance due 10 weeks prior to the tour's departure. Please see your Booking Confirmation/Invoice for the exact date. Please note that a reminder of the payment date will not be sent.

### Passports and Visas

Citizens of the UK are required to be in possession of a Full UK Passport, which must be valid for at least 6 months beyond your intended departure date from Russia. Everyone requires a visa to enter Russia and the price varies according to how quickly you want your application processed. You may also refer to the World Travel Guide website: [www.wtgonline.com](http://www.wtgonline.com) for general information on passports, visas and health requirements.

For UK Passport holders/residents, the cheapest rate for a single-entry tourist visa is currently £50.00 (as of the 20<sup>th</sup> November 2011), based on a processing time of 5 working days; however, during the summer months it will take longer. In addition to the cost of the visa itself, there is also a Consular Admin Fee of £26.40 (plus £7.40 postage for Royal Mail Special Delivery postal applications). Please note that you cannot apply for a tourist visa more than 5 months in advance of your date of travel: i.e. no earlier than 24<sup>th</sup> January, 2012.

All visa applications in the UK have been outsourced by the Russian Consular (Visa) Section to a private company "Visa Services UK Ltd". Since October 2009 the application form, requirements and procedures have changed significantly; the main change being that ALL VISA APPLICATIONS MUST BE DONE ON-LINE; there are NO exceptions. After completing the application form you must then make a copy, sign it and either mail or take it to Visa Services Ltd who are located in central London, along with the necessary supporting documents which we will provide. Full details and the application form are on their website: <http://ru.vfsglobal.co.uk>

For UK Passport holders/residents we strongly recommend you take a look at the website of "ASLA Select", the specialist company with whom we have previously worked: they can usually get visas more quickly than the advertised time.

We also strongly recommend that you talk to ASLA before you start the process of completing the visa application form - which was revised in September 2011 (and further changes are in the pipeline) - as there are certain things you can and cannot do on the form: for example, there can be no mistakes whatsoever, no gaps between numbers (i.e. on telephone numbers). Their specialist staff will be able to answer any questions you might have. Details of charges and the application form can be seen on their website: <http://www.asla.co.uk/index.shtml>

You will also need to include with your application proof of travel insurance.

The necessary "Letter of Invitation" from the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and a tourist voucher, will be sent to you nearer the date of travel. UK residents/passport holders **should advise us** of how you intend to apply for your visa so that this documentation is forwarded either to you or ASLA.

If applying through ASLA please make sure that all the required documentation (check list is on their website), e.g. your completed, signed, application form; passport; photograph; copy of travel insurance, etc is **received at ASLA as soon as possible after booking on the tour.**

The Russian authorities can change the requirements for obtaining a visa, and/or the price, with no warning; however, the above is correct as of the 1<sup>st</sup> December 2011. Any changes can be seen on the websites mentioned.

## **Foreign & Commonwealth Office (FCO) Consular Advice**

The FCO's consular service is a major operation. Every hour of every day consular staff around the world are advising and helping British nationals. For up-to-date passport, visa and security information on the destination you intend visiting, we suggest you visit [www.fco.gov.uk/knowbeforeyougo](http://www.fco.gov.uk/knowbeforeyougo)

In addition, the Association of British Travel Agents (ABTA) provide an Information Line, telephone: 0901 201 505 (calls currently charged at 51p per minute).

## **Baggage Regulations – British Airways – Heathrow Airport**

**Hold baggage** – BA's baggage rules, for Economy Class, currently allow 1 piece in the aircraft's hold, up to a maximum weight of 23kgs (51lbs). Where it is clear that a passenger cannot manage one bag of 23kgs, they will be able to check-in an additional bag free of charge, as long as the sum weight of both bags when totalled does not exceed 23kgs. Any amount in excess of 23kgs and excess baggage charges are likely to be applied.

**Hand baggage** - Passengers departing from or transferring through Heathrow can take 2 standard-sized bags no bigger than 56cm x 45cm x 25cm (22" x 17.5" x 9.85") including wheels, pockets and handles. There is no weight limit for cabin bags, provided passengers can lift the bags, unaided, into the overhead lockers in the aircraft cabin.

Limited quantities of liquids (individual containers must not exceed 100ml or 3.5 fl oz), are now allowed as hand baggage but must be carried separately through security in a clear plastic, zip-top or re-sealable bag that does not exceed 20cm x 20cm (8 inches x 8 inches), or quart size. Items must fit in the bag comfortably and the bag must be completely closed.

The bag can only contain liquids such as shampoo, suntan lotions, creams, toothpaste, hair gel and hair spray, perfumes, cosmetics such as mascara and lip gloss, water and other drinks, soups and syrups and other items of a similar consistency.

Cigarette lighters are NOT permitted in hold baggage or through the security search. These may be purchased airside.

Hand baggage can also include electronic equipment such as mobile phones, digital cameras and MP3 players (such as i-Pods). Laptops must be removed from the bag for x-ray.

Prescription medicines in liquid form, e.g. diabetic kit can also be included.

At security all remaining items should be placed in the tray provided for screening, e.g. car keys and fobs, cash, solid food, books, newspapers, cigarettes and tobacco, belts and shoes. Pushchairs and walking aids are permitted but must be x-ray screened. All wheelchairs will be subject to search. Please note: you may be subject to a hand search by the security team and required to remove footwear to be x-ray screened.

## **Meals**

This tour is on a Full Board basis; breakfast, lunch and dinner each day (some lunches may be of the packed variety).

## **Health Requirements**

There are no known mandatory or recommended precautions for visiting Russia; however, we strongly recommend you consult your local doctor or health centre for the latest information.

## **Climate and Dress**

Siberia and Moscow in June should be warm and sunny (low - high 70s°F, so we recommend summer attire.

## **Travel Insurance**

For citizens of the United Kingdom, Ian Allan Travel Ltd can provide competitive and comprehensive insurance cover for the duration of your tour. However, if you do not wish to take out our insurance, you must ensure that comparable or greater cover is taken. The number of your Insurance Policy should be written, if known, on your Booking Form at the time of making the reservation, but no later than the date when final payment is due. A copy of the policy must be forwarded to Ian Allan Travel Ltd.

Individual insurance policies are arranged through CoverMore Insurance Services Limited; the premiums for which will vary according to your circumstances. Full details are available on request.

### **Wheelchair Assistance at Airports.**

Anyone requiring wheelchair assistance at airports must have this service requested and confirmed in advance. Airlines and/or airports can no longer provide this service without prior confirmation, therefore, please annotate your booking form accordingly.

### **Flexible Itinerary**

We are very happy for enthusiasts to take time away from the printed itinerary to pursue their own interests during multi-day stays in the same place, so long as they inform the Tour Manager. It will be the individual's responsibility to ensure that they re-join the group in the hotel at the stated time on the day of departure.

### **Land Only Price**

For enthusiasts who would prefer to join the tour in Moscow (instead of flying from the UK with the main group), we are very pleased to provide a 'Land Only' price. This price *does not* include international flights to/from Moscow at the start and end of the tour.

You are strongly advised to contact us before making your own flight arrangements to/from Moscow in the event that there has been a change to the published itinerary.

Please note that the 'Land only' price is based on you meeting the tour at Moscow Domodedovo Airport.

### **Pre-departure**

For connecting flights from UK regional airports - please call Ian Allan Aviation Tours on 01932 255625 for the latest special offers available.

Airport Hotel and/or Car Parking - we can offer special rates for the above at most UK airports, please ask for details.

**'Meet & Greet' Car Parking, London's Heathrow Airport:** from your home or overnight hotel, simply drive to Heathrow Airport and follow the signs to Terminal 5 1. Drive towards the pick-up and departure point, and as you go up the ramp you will see a sign for Short stay Car Park, on your right-hand side. Follow the signs for Short Stay Car Park but keep in the left-hand lane marked Fast track Business Parking. Drive to the Barrier and take a ticket, and then park in Zone L-M.

You then hand your car over to the waiting driver who will then take it to an off-airport, secure, car park. On your return, the driver and your car will be waiting for you in the same location. Simple and very convenient. Recommended by our Tour Managers. Call for details.

### **Flight Timings & Connecting Travel Arrangements to Departure Airport**

All flight departure and arrival times are correct at the time of preparing each itinerary; however, airlines may change these times with little or no prior warning. In practice such changes are only a few minutes either way and the final itinerary will show the actual times. Clients making their own arrangements to get to the departure airport by air, rail, coach etc., should bare the above in mind if purchasing non-refundable or non-changeable tickets. Ian Allan Aviation Tours cannot be held responsible for any changes to flight times and any privately arranged travel tickets to the airport becoming invalid.

### **Pleasure Flights – Disclaimer**

Should you decide to undertake any pleasure/sightseeing flights which have not been offered or sanctioned by us, Ian Allan Travel Ltd will not be held liable for any injuries or death resulting thereon.

### **Tours Affected by World Events or Unforeseen/Unplanned Circumstances**

In an ever-changing world, events may occur immediately before or during a tour that result in cancellations or changes to the tour itinerary. For example, an increase in security may result in an approved visit being cancelled by the host, etc.. Ian Allan Travel Ltd cannot be held responsible for any tour being cancelled, or itineraries affected, due to world events or circumstances beyond our control.

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