

Summer Youth Camp: Cultural and Natural Heritage of the Russian North

September 5-9, 2008

Kenozersky National Park, Arkhangelsk Region, Russia



Welcome to traditional communities of North-West of Russia!

International Summer Youth Camp: Cultural and Natural Heritage of the Russian North welcomes young adults from Russia and all over the World to participate in the traditional knowledge and nature conservation Camp in the village of Maselga in Kenozersky National Park in the Arkhangelsk Region.



Where the Camp is organized?

Kenozersky National Park is one of the most picturesque areas in the North-West of Russia. It preserves historical and cultural habitat of traditional Russian communities where unique natural objects such as beautiful lakes with crystal water, taiga forests, peat bogs, northern orchids and sea-eagle habitats, and many cultural artifacts which are a blend of early Christian and traditional pagan beliefs of ancient Russia reflecting the history and lifestyles of the Russian North: sacred groves, wooden chapels, unique crafts and traditions.



Why the Camp is organized?

The idea of the Camp is to bring together local and international youth to study together nature and traditions of this beautiful area in order to preserve the harmony of sustainable use of natural resources by local communities. At the Camp various master-classes will be provided by local crafters and Elders. Participants of the Camp will learn a lot about traditions, dances, songs, legends, traditional use of herbs for food and medicine by local communities. We believe, that sharing traditional knowledge by local people and scientific knowledge by biologists and environmentalists about the nature of the area and ways of its preservation with local and international youth will contribute to the major goals of building tolerance to local communities rights, their traditions and knowledge, and preservation of unique biodiversity of this area.

During the Camp you will see, that local communities are struggling through serious economical and social problems. Lack of small business development opportunities, low connections with markets, lack of local employment creates diverse problems for communities. Organizers believe that international Camp participants could generously share their knowledge and skills to brainstorm and follow up on new ways to help these areas.



Who are the Camp organizers? The Camp is organized under the aegis of the IUCN – The World Conservation Union Office for Russia and CIS www.iucn.ru and www.iucn.org, ProSibiria E.V., Administration of Kenozersky National Park (<http://www.kenozero-park.ru>), Association of Zapovedniks and National Parks of the Russian North-West, local communities and many other groups, organizations and volunteers.



Who are participating at the Camp? Some international participants and motivated local young adults would be selected for the participation at the Camp through a competition. We are planning to involve participants from Fair Trade organizations to promote marketing of local NTFPs in Europe. Moreover university students and young adults of 18 – 35 years old are eligible for the Camp. It would be required to have fluent English, some knowledge of Russian is a SERIOUS advantage, though interpretation will be provided. Biologists, sociologists, ethnographers, natural resource managers and people linked to sustainable, organic and fair markets for traditional crafts and wild foods have the priority. To apply for the Camp it is necessary to fill in the form provided by organizers and e-mail it by July 1, 2008.

Participants are responsible for acquiring their Russian visas. The participants would be selected through the screening process. The number of vacancies is limited. The working languages of the Camp are Russian and English.



How housing and food will be organized?

In the Kenozersky National Park Camp participants will live in the village of Maselga. Wooden peasant-style houses are provided by administration of the park. Married couples are provided with tents. Traditional food will be cooked in field by local chiefs. Traditional Russian sauna (*bania*) is available. The Camp has the constant rescue ranger's service and a medical attendant.



How to get to the Kenozersky Camp?

After arrival to Moscow by the international flight, you will go by train to Nyandoma station (Arkhangelsk Region). Organizers will help you to organize your transfer\short stay in Moscow if needed. In Nyandoma the Camp organizers will meet you.



What to take to the Camp? The early fall in Arkhangelsk region is rather changeable. The beginning of September are usually fresh with average temperature 14 °C above zero. Usually the season is not very rainy, but still rains are possible. Please take warm clothes, a waterproof raincoat, water-proof boots. It is advised to have a hiking gear with long sleeves and long trousers for hiking routes, as well as a t-shirt and shorts for the Camp. There will be no laundry service provided. It is advised to take swimming suits, as there are some sunny and warm days in September to swim in lakes.. It is advised to take a rucksack and a tourist knife (please do not forget to put it into a checked-in luggage).

We recommend you to take with you medicines you use for everyday therapy as well some medications for indigestion, allergy, and flue. Please consider the fact that most of the activities of the Camp are held at the remote and wild places with no\poor road system and transportation opportunities, so we do not recommend participation to the individuals, which need regular medical treatment and/or having dangerous chronic disease. We highly recommend taking the mosquitoes and flies sprays you are not allergic to. Please take hygienic materials you usually use. In Archangelsk Region it is not possible to use credit cards or travel check so please take cash. There will not be an opportunity to change currency in the national park, so it is better to do in Moscow.



What are the costs involved? Every international student pays € 300 and people of other professions 500€ to be accepted into the Camp, this money has to be paid in cash upon the arrival. This money is used to cover food, supplies, local transportation of participants, salary of guides and trainers. The Camp is a non-commercial initiative, it makes no profit. Part of the costs involved are covered by IUCN.

Camp participants are responsible for cost of their transportation to Arkhangelsk Region (via Moscow or directly to Arkhangelsk). Participants are responsible for expenses in Moscow, if needed, for the health insurance and visa costs.



What is interesting in the Camp's agenda?

From Nyandoma you will travel by bus (3.5 hours) to the village of Maselga through Kargopol and the village of Morshchikhinskaya. Kargopol is an old town where you'll have an opportunity to see local sights and museum of culture and history and also local hereditary potters Shchavelevi's museum. Some days of the Camp will be dedicated to biological excursion to provide you with knowledge on local ecosystems, rare and endangered species. Using traditional wood oar boats, made by local masters, you can raft along one of the most interesting and beautiful **water routes** of the national park. Participants will go at the **Khizhgora hill** – the highest point of the area, where the **temple of Saint Alexander Svirsky** is situated. The "Ancestors' Path" – is a water and hiking route along which one can pass by **Nikolas boulder**, dated back to XII-XIV centuries. It has a hollow with rain water which never dries out and considered to be the Gift of God. Following The "Path of Ant Hills" you'll see the **Chapel of God's Mother and Kseniya Peterburgskaya**, a sacred tree and **Mesolithic camp** of the ancient men.

The major focus of the Camp are master-classes where participants can learn traditional craft skills. **Kargopol toy clay sculpturing** has been kept by small group of local hereditary potters. Scientists believe the Kargopol toy to have come from ancient times as its forms look like heroes of old Russian tales. **Traditional knitting and weaving** with use of special northern ornaments will be provided by masters from different parts of the region. **Weaving and painting of baskets from wood chips** is prevalent only in the North-West of Russia. By your

own hands you'll make utensils from **birch bark** to produce authentic artifacts of traditional Russian culture. One more master-class will be dedicated to **baking traditional Teterki cookies, meeting with local beekeepers and producers of herbal teas. Kenozersky folklore choir** presents traditional songs and stories, kept for centuries through the oral tradition of local Kenozersk communities



Previous experience?

In 2005 IUCN together with ProSiberia E.V. and many local partners organized an International Youth Summer Camp on Kamchatka, the Russian Far East. 12 international participants, including students and young professionals from the USA, Canada, Switzerland, Germany, Italy and France participated. In 2006 the Camp was held in the Kemerovo Region, the Southern Siberia.

In 2007 IUCN together with ProSiberia and Administration of Kenozersky National Park organized a youth ecological camp in Maselga. About 30 participants took part in the event. Master-classes by traditional crafters on birch bark weaving, Kargopol toy clay sculpturing, traditional weaving and knitting from different parts of Russia – Archangelsk, Kamchatka, Khanty-Mansysk and Karelia have been organized.



Limitation of responsibility. The Camp staff and organizers will do whatever possible for safety of participants. However, we bear no responsibility for any threat or damage for participants' property, health or lives.

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