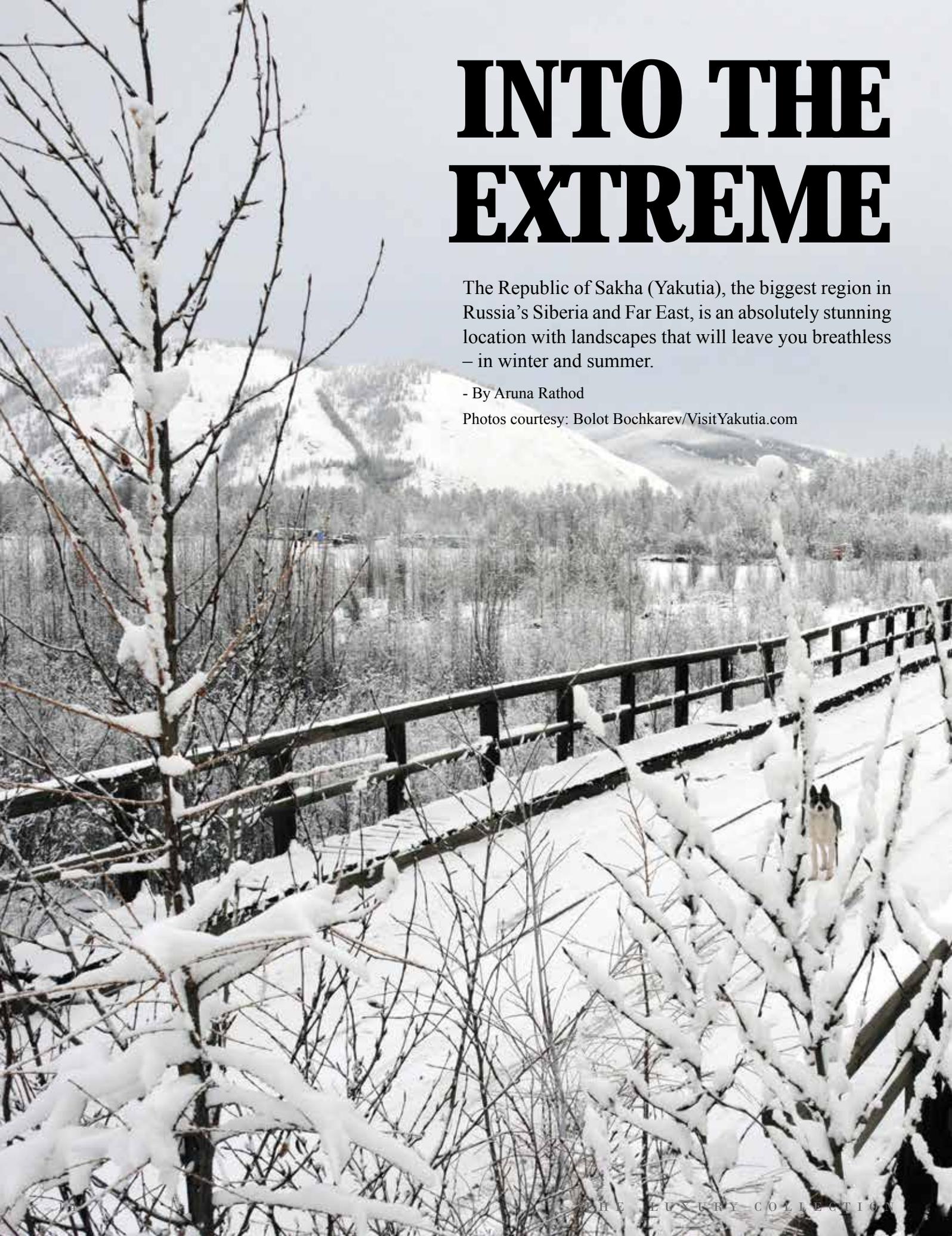


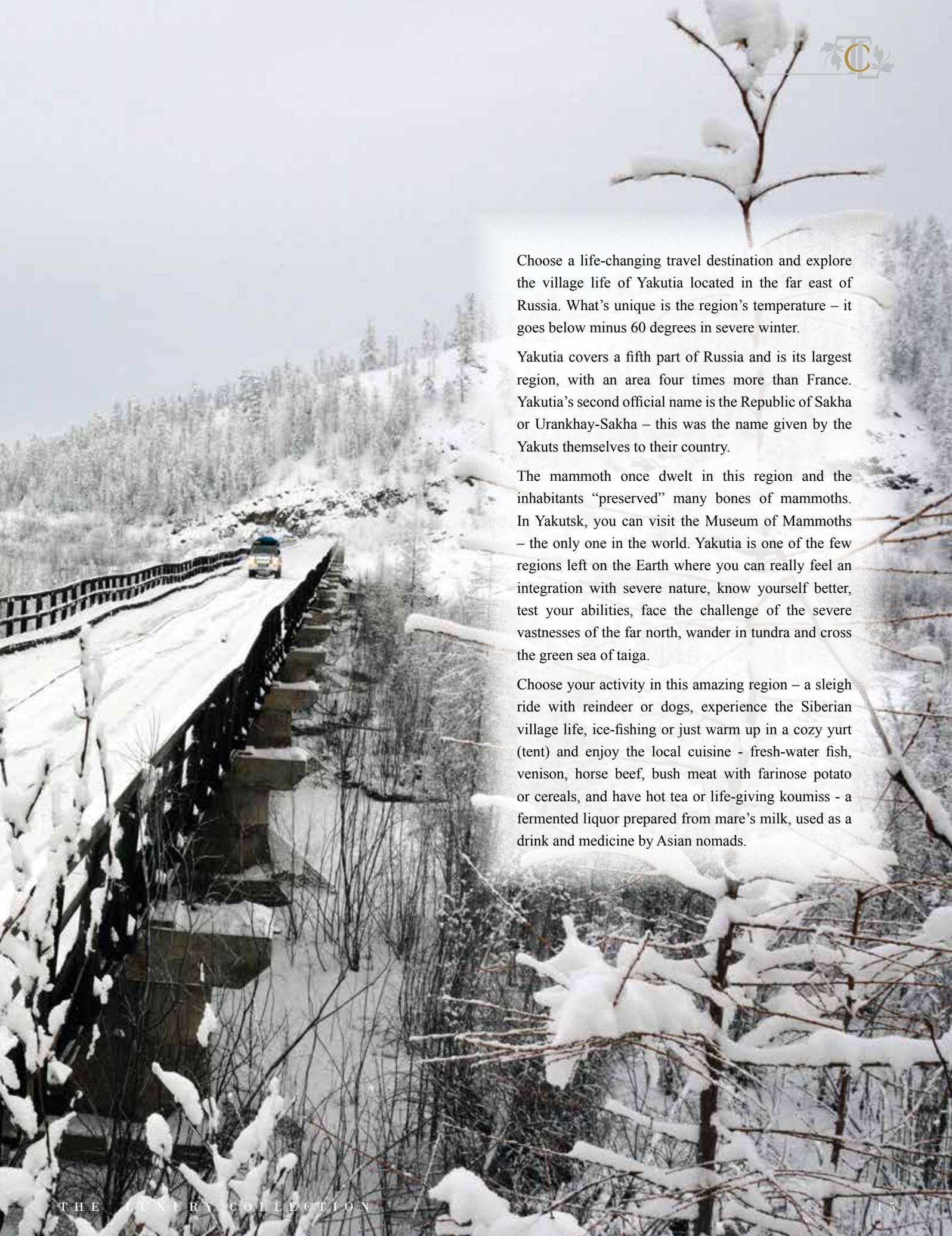
INTO THE EXTREME

The Republic of Sakha (Yakutia), the biggest region in Russia's Siberia and Far East, is an absolutely stunning location with landscapes that will leave you breathless – in winter and summer.

- By Aruna Rathod

Photos courtesy: Bolot Bochkarev/VisitYakutia.com





Choose a life-changing travel destination and explore the village life of Yakutia located in the far east of Russia. What's unique is the region's temperature – it goes below minus 60 degrees in severe winter.

Yakutia covers a fifth part of Russia and is its largest region, with an area four times more than France. Yakutia's second official name is the Republic of Sakha or Urankhay-Sakha – this was the name given by the Yakuts themselves to their country.

The mammoth once dwelt in this region and the inhabitants “preserved” many bones of mammoths. In Yakutsk, you can visit the Museum of Mammoths – the only one in the world. Yakutia is one of the few regions left on the Earth where you can really feel an integration with severe nature, know yourself better, test your abilities, face the challenge of the severe vastnesses of the far north, wander in tundra and cross the green sea of taiga.

Choose your activity in this amazing region – a sleigh ride with reindeer or dogs, experience the Siberian village life, ice-fishing or just warm up in a cozy yurt (tent) and enjoy the local cuisine - fresh-water fish, venison, horse beef, bush meat with farinose potato or cereals, and have hot tea or life-giving koumiss - a fermented liquor prepared from mare's milk, used as a drink and medicine by Asian nomads.

YAKUTIAN HORSE BREEDING FARM TOUR – An authentic Siberian Village Life Experience

Spend 1-2 winter days with Yakutian villagers and horse breeders in the Siberian wilderness and learn more about the Yakutian horse, a unique breed originated in the Republic of Sakha-Yakutia and accustomed to surviving in the extreme cold. This can be a one- or two-day trip and it is open throughout the year. As it involves crossing the Lena River, the mode of transport depends on the season. For summer, it's transport ferry; for autumn, it's a passenger hovercraft and in winter, one has to go on the ice road!

The tour involves visiting the Maya village with the Regional Museum, and traditional Sakha (Yakut) villages; Yakutian cuisine at the village family home; Sakha village life; Yakutian horses roaming in the wilderness; horse breeders and farm; horse sleigh ride; horseback ride; snow machine ride; overnight in a wooden house and a refreshing sauna.

Hunting can be included, but it requires an extra day.

YAKUTSK – OYMYAKON

- Travel to the World's Coldest Inhabited Place

Oymyakon, Russia's Siberia is the world's coldest inhabited place located in the Eastern part of the Sakha Republic (Yakutia). Adventure tours to Oymyakon, Russia's Siberia, are done from the end of November till early April. The coldest period is the mid and end of December, January, and the first half of February.

The route would be Yakutsk – Khandyga – Oymyakon – Khandyga – Yakutsk involving 2000 kilometres on road.





DOG SLEDDING - Siberian Winter Adventure Tour with Blue-Eyed Yakutian Laikas

Experience the local original sled dogs, in the forest and on the ice of the Lena River.

This tour requires 8 days/ 7 nights. The sled dog tours are for 7 days, including one full day for sled dog training, half a day for the city tour and 4 full days for dog sledding through the dense Siberian forest and on the ice of the Lena River to Sottintsy. The sled dog breed is the Yakutian Laika, a real Siberia-originated sled dog. You can befriend the blue-eyed Yakutian Laika dogs, learn to drive a dog sled on your own, see the beauty of Siberian winter forest, and the majestic Lena River, learn the history and culture of the Republic of Sakha (Yakutia) in the unique museums of Yakutsk and Sottintsy village, experience local life during overnights in a hunting hut and a traditional Yakut balagan (small wooden house). And try the finest traditional cuisines of the Northern peoples at the restaurant of the “Chochur Muran” ethnographic complex.

ICE FISHING TOUR IN YAKUTSK, RUSSIA'S SIBERIA

Experience ice-fishing on the Lena River near the world's coldest city!

You can fish any day between November and April. The local fisherman monitors the Lena River daily and knows exactly where the best bites are.

During the winter days, fishing is done in the morning bite from 6 am to 1 pm; the evening bite from 3 pm to 8 pm and the night bite. The adventure includes transport and fisherman and stay in a warm tent with a stove for warmth; ice fishing accessories; snacks, hot tea and yes, the temperature might be as low as minus -30C and -55C.



OYMYAKON REINDEER SLEIGH RIDE TOUR

Drive through the Verkhoyansk Mountain Passes for 350 km, it takes 9-10 hrs to arrive at the reindeer's winter base. Stay overnight in a stove-heated wooden cabin at the herder's place.

The Reindeer Sleigh Expedition includes preparing for the start of the reindeer sleigh ride. The distance of the ride is 30 km with

a halt at the temporary overnight spot. Then, the tents are set up, you have dinner in a tent and stay overnight in a tent. The reindeer sleigh ride on the way back to the herder's place is on a different route and covers 50 km.

Activities can include lasso throwing training; hiking and riding (by reindeer sleigh or snowmobile), some hunting and other daily activities of herders in the nearby mountain area.