



NONSTOP AIR SERVICE FROM ALASKA TO RUSSIA RESUMES IN JULY 2015

Yakutia Airlines Embarks on Fourth Season of Summer Service

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In July 2015, Russian air carrier **Yakutia Airlines** will launch its fourth season of scheduled air service between Alaska and the Russian Far East cities of Petropavlovsk-Kamchatskiy, on the Kamchatka Peninsula, and Khabarovsk. Flights will operate on Saturdays, July 11 to August 29 utilizing Boeing 737-700 aircraft; the flight time from Alaska to Russia is less than 4 ½ hours. The convenient flight schedule permits travelers from the US to make same-day connections at Petropavlovsk to Moscow, Vladivostok and other Russian cities. Tickets are now on sale through the InterPacific Aviation and Marketing web portal, **AirRussia.US**, most professional travel agents, and ticketing outlets across Russia.



The air service connects the US West Coast with Russia's Far East and Siberia, sparsely populated regions known for their abundant natural resources and natural wonders. Eastern Russia boasts five UNESCO World Heritage Sites, and is of increasing importance as a travel destination. A new branding initiative by the Russia's federal tourism agency, **Russia's Eastern Ring**, promotes itineraries that unite such unique features as Lake Baikal, the Lena Pillars (Yakutia), the Trans-Siberian Railroad and Kamchatka.

The Kamchatka Peninsula is a popular destination for outdoorsmen and adventure travelers. Thousands of miles of pristine rivers and streams flow from the scimitar-shaped peninsula's volcanic mountain ridges to the sea, forming ideal habitat for rainbow trout, salmon and

other fish species; for anglers worldwide, an expedition to Kamchatka is the trip of a lifetime. The region's active volcanoes, *Uzon* caldera and Geyser Valley are a must-see for visitors. Trekkers will appreciate the breathtaking landscapes, wildlife viewing, and a soak in one of the area's countless hot springs. Kamchatka's indigenous *Koryak*, *Even*, and *Itelmen* peoples welcome travelers to experience their rich culture first-hand at such events as the lively thanksgiving festival *Alkhalalalai*.

The city of **Khabarovsk** is an important crossroads of river, train and air transportation just a few miles from the Chinese border. The city's architecture, culture and nightlife give it a European ambiance. Travelers may connect here

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to the Trans-Siberian Railroad or to flights throughout Russia. Named for Cossack Yerofey Khabarov who explored the Amur River in 1651, Khabarovsk is one of the Eastern Russia's oldest and most picturesque cities.

Yakutia Airlines' seasonal service has also transformed **Anchorage** into the gateway to Alaska for Russian travelers. Same-day connections at Petropavlovsk-Kamchatsky from Russian domestic flights make this the most convenient route to Alaska for travelers, whether they're originating their travel in Moscow or Vladivostok. In the summer of 2014, the Anchorage Convention and Visitors Bureau, **Visit Anchorage**, and **AirRussia.US** invited travel agents from across Russia to explore Alaska and built the partnerships necessary

to promote it as a travel destination. The group traversed Alaska's heartland by train, explored Denali by small plane, went dogsledding on a glacier, and viewed wildlife from a cruise ship.

The Alaska-Russian Far East air service is synchronized with Yakutia Airlines' Japan service, enabling travel from Alaska to Japan via a connection in Kamchatka. Tickets are now on sale for both services.

Tour operators and outfitters experienced in travel to Eastern Russia offer trips to accommodate a wide range of interests, ranging from bear-viewing and volcano climbing to fishing and scientific expeditions. Major fly-fishing outfitters include *The Best of Kamchatka*, *The Fly Shop* and *Ouzel Expeditions*. Treks and cultural tours are available through such experienced operators as *Kamchatintour*, *MIR Corporation*, *Explore Kamchatka*, *50 Degrees North*, *Betchart Expeditions*, *Diligans Kamchatka*, and *56th Parallel*. Most operators are pleased to arrange custom trips upon request. Links to operator sites may be found at **AirRussia.US**. Expeditionary cruise ship operators, including *Zegrahm Expeditions* and *Heritage Expeditions*, explore Russia's wildest coastlines, from Japan to the Arctic.

US-based *Klondike Travel* specializes in trip packages for Russian traveling to Alaska, Hawaii, Seattle, and other US travel destinations.



Yakutia Airlines is a regional Russian airline headquartered in the eastern Siberian city of Yakutsk, capital of the Republic of Sakha. It maintains hubs in Yakutsk, Moscow and Krasnodar, near the Black Sea. The airline operates scheduled passenger service throughout Russia, Europe and Central Asia, carries more than 1,000,000 passengers per year, and employs more than 1400. In 2013, the airline won the prestigious "Wings of Russia" prize as the country's best regional air carrier. It operates a modern fleet, including Boeing 737-700/800, 757, Bombardier Dash-8 Q-300/400, and Sukhoi Superjet aircraft. The airline's maintenance facility at Yakutsk is designed to repair, maintain and test aircraft in the extreme cold winter conditions for which the region is known. In May 2012, Yakutia Airlines received authorization from United States authorities to serve Alaska, and successfully provided passenger and cargo service on the Anchorage – Petropavlovsk route for ten weeks that year.



InterPacific Aviation and Marketing, Inc. (Seattle, USA) finances and manages the Alaska – Kamchatka air service. It represents Russian air carriers in North America, and provides travel, air cargo, operational and promotional services. For more information, see its bilingual web portal **AirRussia.US**.

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