Introduction
There are few places left on earth that can be described as genuine wilderness. One of them is Kamchatka – nine hours flight from Moscow on the Russian coast of the Bering Sea. This virgin peninsula is 1500 km long and has a population of 380,000 most of which live in the town of Petropavlovsk. Just 30 km out of town the asphalt road turns into gravel. If you are heading further into the wilderness you will need a four-wheel drive vehicle or a chopper. This is the land of geysers, hot springs, about 300 volcanoes (29 of which are active) and beautiful rivers full of fish – the biggest and the most plentiful in the world: King Salmon, Silver Salmon, Char, Rainbow Trout, Kumzha and many more swimming in huge shoals. This must be the ultimate experience of nature – extinct volcanoes in the background, fish swimming in crystal clear waters, a bear plodding along the river-bank and the cleanest air in the world. Big words but not too big. Naturally this enormous and unspoilt wilderness has an abundance of rare wild animals: herds of bears, wolves, Siberian elks, snow sheep, sables, minks etc. The bird life is also unique and many of the species are protected in vast sanctuaries on the east and the south coasts. Here we present this pearl of nature.

Special highlights
- Kamchatka - The Kamchatka peninsula, closer to Alaska than to Moscow (it lies 9 time zones from Moscow) as it juts down between the Sea of Okhotsk and the Pacific Ocean, represents a remote, outlying district in the east of Russia.
- Kamchatka is without exaggeration one of the most spectacular regions in Russia. It occupies an area of 470,000 sq. km, which equals the size of France, Belgium and Luxembourg combined, and separates the Sea of Okhotsk from the Pacific Ocean. One should not confuse Kamchatka with Siberia; this name is used for the peninsula itself and the closest part of the continent, including Karaginsky Island and the Komandorsky Archipelago. The mountain ridges - Sredinny, Valaginsky, Ganalsky and Kumroch - stretch from the north to the south giving the peninsula the shape of a giant fish.
- Petropavlovsk-Kamchatsky - is the industrial, scientific, and cultural center of Kamchatka. It was founded by the explorer Vitus Bering, who reached Avacha Bay in 1740 and laid the foundation stone for the port of Petropavlovsk, which is named after his two ships, the St.Peter and the St. Paul, built in Okhotsk for his second expedition. Because Petropavlovsk-Kamchatsky is the second largest city in the world that cannot be reached by road (there are no roads into Kamchatka from the outside world), travel here is extremely expensive but is growing in popularity because of the remarkable scenery throughout the peninsula.

Itinerary
Day 0 (04 Sept): Fly to Kamchatka via Moscow on Aeroflot.
Day 1: Arrive in Petropavlovsk.
Helicopter flight to the river (Vahil or Opala depending on the program).
/Dinner/

Days 2-9: Fishing and drifting. Daily schedule: Coffee at 8.00, breakfast at 8.30. Floating by 9:30 or so, lunch at app. 13:00. By about 18:00 we build a new camp, dinner is around 20:00. In the evenings we sit around the camp fire and our Russian guides might play guitar and sing Russian songs. It is a total experience.
/Breakfast, lunch, dinner/

Day 9: Helicopter flight to Petropavlovsk. Overnight in Avacha hotel.
/ Breakfast /

Day 10: Transfer to the airport. Departure
/Breakfast/

Accommodation and food: We stay in hotel with private facilities (day 10) and in camps with tents (rest days) on fullboard. On the river we have complete moveable camps. Our large dining tent affords us shade and shelter. Our aluminium boat boxes and large ice chests double as seats in the rafts and around our large dining table. We camp right at great fishing holes. It is a wonderful way to see the country and wildlife as we fish and enjoy the wilderness. You have lots of time for fishing as you’re on the river the whole time. We have a portable shower which we put up once or twice a trip. Water for it is heated over the fire. We sleep in high
quality tents, but you must put them up and pack them yourselves each day. If you want to sleep alone bring your own tent. The dining tent is taken care of by the guides. You need to provide your own sleeping bag and mattress. On the river we have excellent traditional Russian meals. In Petropavlovsk you can go to restaurants and the meals are excellent there too. Beer will be ordered and paid by everyone for the period for right before the rafting trip. Therefore please bring US$ in small notes.

Tour type: GT

Equipment and clothing
We provide the group with tents and cooking pots. You should bring with you: sleeping mat, sleeping bag; warm clothes (at night it gets chilly), wading costume (neoprene preferably), mosquito repellent or a hat with netting covering the face and the neck. For the full list with recommended items see “General”.

Fishing information:
There is excellent fishing for huge Rainbow Trout, 6 species of Pacific Salmon, Kumzha and Arctic Char. Rainbows average 55 cm. and we've caught them up to 75! Kamchatka has large Coastal Rainbow Trout which run from 2,2 to 5kg and enter the river from spring on. Summer Run Steelhead or Coastal Rainbows spend most or their lives in fresh water, spending only part of their lives in the ocean. Arctic Char are present all summer. Kumzha (East Siberian Char) are great fighters and commonly grow to 5kg! Salmon arrival times vary from stream to stream but generally arrive the same time in Kamchatka as Alaska. We fish for King Salmon from late June through July. Silvers arrive mid August and run through October. Chum & Sockeye Salmon arrive in July and August. Pinks run early August through September, but only strong on even numbered years.

Practical information:
Bringing home salmon - There is no safe way to bring home frozen salmon. But on the local market it is almost always possible to buy smoked salmon at around $ 5,00 a kilo. We had no problems keeping it fresh on the trip home.

Bears - There is a great chance to see one of the Kamchatka bears – unlike the bears in North America they are not considered dangerous and are very shy. Photographers are recommended to bring a 200-300 mm telephoto lens. Our guides are very experienced in handling bears.

Tips/gratitudes - It is customary to give a gratitude to the guides and cook after a good trip. We recommend around 75 US$ per guest. Gratitude is often collected and handed over to the chief guide.

Opala River - Located on the western coast. Imagine a clear watered small river, 30-70 meters wide and 0,5-1,5 meters deep flowing with a speed of 1,6-1,8 m/sec. Ideal for fly fishing. The length of the river is 161 km. The area of the headwaters is 4070 km². Besides the large population of Rainbow Trout, the Opala is filled with temptations for the fly fisherman. Each year few hundreds of King Salmon, 5-6 000 Sockeye Salmon, 5 000 000 Pink Salmon, 60 000 Dog Salmon, and 30 000 Silver Salmon do their best to fill up the river.

Opala has interesting attractions along the way: a huge volcano, hot and cold springs, gas springs, exciting white water rapids, and also many of the Kamchatka's amazing, shy and absolutely beautiful bears. It has lots of large Rainbows – the queen of the Kamchatka fishing, a big run of Malma and a few Arctic Char. The river is small at the top and gets medium sized near its end. It has a lot of islands, is fairly braided and great for wade fishing.

Vahil River – Vahil is among the most famous places for fly-fishing in Kamchatka. The river is 20-50m wide without white waters and currents, perfect for wading. The whole river valley enjoys tremendous views towards the mountains on the background. There is no Rainbow Trout and Arctic Greyling here, but Arctic Chars exceeding 60-70cm and weight of 3-5 kg are abundant. Kumzha is also numerous, being pretty big at the same time (up to 80cm and weight up to 5-6 kg). Silver Salmons weight on average 4-5kg. We have had records of up to 100 and more Silver Salmons per person per day.

Weather:
The weather is very changeable. Sunny and rainy weather change each other several times a day. Clouds are moving across Kamchatka peninsula between Pacific Ocean and Okhotsk Sea. Day temperature in July-August is 18-25°C and at while at night it is 14-20°C. Sometimes it is rather foggy or windy.

Group size: Min. 6 persons

The price includes:
Field program (raft + 1guide per 2 pax, all meals, cook, 1 or 2 tent accommodation), helicopter to the river and back, fishing licenses, overnight in hotel in Petropavlovsk after the fishing trip, visa invitation, airport transfers, truck for gear, city-tour guide-interpreter, rent a mini-van for the city-tour.

The price does not include:
Flights, Russian visa, tips, alcohol drinks, fishing tackle rental, personal expenses

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GENERAL
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TOUR TYPES & GRADES
We provide different varieties of tours as regards to their types and difficulty grades! Whether you will choose individual and group tours with a guide or combined tours with a guide for some part of the trip depends on you. We emphasize on using local experienced guides with knowledge of the local language, culture, history, art, etc. The tours are conducted in the English language. Guides in other languages are available upon request.

Tour types
Our tours are divided in different tour types, regardless of being guided or not or if someone travels alone or in a group. We have prepared your vacation so that you can concentrate on new impressions and experiences, awaiting you all the time.

Here is a description of the various tours:

GT: Group tours
There is a guide accompanying you throughout the whole trip, meeting you at the airport upon arrival and leaving you at the airport again for departure. We use well-trained and experienced local people with good knowledge of English. The group size is normally 6-12 people, if not especially mentioned.

Equipment and clothing:
Outside your fishing gear (bring large selection of flies, wobblers and spinners) we highly recommend you bring proper amount of warm clothes, sleeping bag and mat, wading costume, sunglasses with UV protection, mosquito repellents, torch, knife, wind and waterproof jackets and down clothes.

Vaccination:
Vaccinations for Typhoid, Hepatitis A & B, Diphtheria, Tuberculosis, Rabies, Japanese B encephalitis and Tick-borne encephalitis are sometimes recommended prior departure, especially for traveling in the countryside or in the nature. There are cluster regions with higher possible threat of disease thus we would suggest checking the latest requirements directly with your doctor.

Money and personal expenses
You will need some extra money to cover meals, drinks and extra trips not included in the tour price. Additional money for souvenirs and personal things could also be spent. The official currency of Russia is Rouble (RUB; symbol ₽) = 100 kopeks. Foreign currency should only be exchanged at official bureaux and authorised banks. It is wise to retain all exchange receipts. Bureaux de change are numerous and easy to locate. Large shops and hotels offer their own exchange facilities. All major currencies can be converted in big cities. Outside the main cities, travellers are advised to carry US Dollars or Euros. Major European and international credit and debit cards, including Visa and MasterCard, are accepted in the larger hotels and at foreign currency shops and restaurants, but cash (in Roubles) is more reliable. American Express cards are rarely accepted outside Moscow and St Petersburg. ATMs are widely available. If carrying traveller's cheques, major currencies are accepted in big cities, but US Dollars and Euros are preferred elsewhere. Here are some examples of comparative costs in Russia (NB: prices in mid-range restaurants!):

- Coffee, tea - 1 Euro
- Beer (0,5 l) – 1 Euro
- Bottle of water (0,5 l) – 0,5 Euro
- Three-course lunch – 8-10 Euro

Exchange Rate Indicators:
£1.00 = RUB 58.4; $1.00 = RUB249.33; €1.00 = RUB35.35 (Oct.2007)

Communications:
Having a cell phone with you while traveling within Russia is something you really should have. Roaming agreements exist with international mobile phone companies. All major cities are covered by at least one operator.

Electricity
In Russia two-pin sockets are normal. Voltage is 220 watts. If you come from the U.S. or UK you need to purchase an adapter, which is available only in Russia cities and biggest tourist resorts.

Brief about Russia:
Territory – 17 075 200 sq km
Coastline - 37,653 km
Terrain - broad plain with low hills west of Urals; vast coniferous forest and tundra in Siberia; uplands and mountains along southern border regions
Elevation extremes - lowest point:
Caspian Sea -28 m, highest point: Peak Elbrus 5,642 m
Border countries - Azerbaijan 284 km, Belarus 959 km, China (southeast) 3,605 km, China (south) 40 km, Estonia 294 km, Finland 1,340 km, Georgia 723 km, Kazakhstan 6,846 km, North Korea 19 km, Latvia 217 km, Lithuania (Kaliningrad Oblast) 227 km, Mongolia 3,485 km, Norway 196 km, Poland (Kaliningrad Oblast) 206 km, Ukraine 1,576 km
Population – 141 377 750 (July 2007)
Capital city - Moscow ( 10 409 200)
Biggest cities – Russia has 13 cities with over a million inhabitants (from largest to smallest): Moscow (10 409 200), Saint Petersburg (4 661 219), Novosibirsk (1 425 600), Yekaterinburg (1 300 000), Nizhniy Novgorod, Samara, Omsk, Kazan, Chelyabinsk, Rostov-on-Don, Of, Volgograd and Perm.

Form of government – federation
Religion – Russian Orthodox 15-20%, Muslim 10-15%, other Christian 2%
Ethnic groups – Russian 79.8%, Tatar 3.8%, Ukrainian 2%, Bashkir 1.2%, Chuvash 1.1%, other or unspecified 12.1%

Official language - Russian
Time zone – The Russian Federation is divided into 11 time zones: from +2h GMT to +11 GMT
Telephone code - 7

Protected areas - 32 national Parks, 98 Nature reserves

Weather
Kamchatka’s climate is decidedly continental - cool winters, warm summers. Summer and autumn months are by far the most popular (June-October) when max temperatures ranges from 15°C (59°F) to 30°C (86°F), but a growing trend in winter sports keeps tourism pulsing all the year-round.

Climatic variation is a startling phenomenon in Kamchatka. There are twenty distinct climate zones, divided along coastal, alpine and geothermal lines. The most startling variations occur in geothermally-active areas, where whole valleys are warmed by steam or geyser fields. You will find a moderate maritime zone on either coast, a continental zone in the central valley with four distinct seasons, and an arctic zone in the northern parts of the peninsula.