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Russian Zapovedniks and National Parks
> Northern Russia
The list of Northern Russia Zapovedniks (Nature Reserves) and National Parks: This peculiar region comprises the polar archipelagos and islands (The Franz Joseph Land, Novaya Zemlya, Kolguyev, Vaigach and other islands), a fairly wide zone of plain and mountain tundra, and vast spaces of European taiga-from its northernmost types (including forest tundra) to the southern, which are replaced by mixed forests. The western part of the region on the Kola Peninsula and Karelia is characterized by highly undulating relief, small turbulent rivers and a plenty of diverse lakes. Quite different are the plain landscapes of the Arkhangelsk Region and Khanty-Mansi Autonomous Republic, where the rivers flow among boundless coniferous forests and oligotrophic moors (Pechora, P.ozon, Northern Dvina) with their large tributaries, although there are also small uplands there. In the Timanski chain of hills and the spurs of North Ural. Thanks to the Atlantic Gulf Stream current, the warmest Russian polar seas.
❖ **Barents and White Sea** ❖ affect not only the climate but also the tundra vegetation, which is distinguished by diversity and a number of thermophil❖ forms. Another important natural factor there are the consequences of the ancient glaciation, which determines the closeness of the bedrocks to the earth surface and also an unusual abundance of cliffs, boulders, big stones, either naked or hardly covered with a layer of moss, lichens or open woodland. The natural features include the lakes that are the largest in Europe.
❖ Lake Ladoga (17,7 thousand sq. km.), and Lake Onega (9,7 thousand sq. km.) and also the more southerly water bodies (lakes Chudskoe, Ilmen, Beloe, Kubenskoe and Rybinskoe Reservoir, etc.). The European dark coniferous taiga is the kingdom of somber spruce forests with the Siberian spruce, the birch, aspen and willows present ubiquitously. The pine forests are common throughout the entire European North, but in many areas they have been cut out heavily to be replaced by various derivative stands. In the southern part of the Region, in addition to coniferous species, there are broad-leaved, including the oak, linden, and maples, to create some complex and peculiar combinations. The most characteristic there are mixed small-leaved forests. In the east, closer to the Ural, forest species include Siberian larch, which lends the taiga a peculiar outlook. The most typical dwellers of north-European forests are such common species as the moose, brown bear, wolf, fox, marten, weasel, badger, squirrel, and the blue hare. Characteristic among the birds are the capercaillie, black grouse, European woodpecker, aspen and blue jays, Corvidae, and various species of thrushes, larks, and robins, and are common breeding grounds of eiders, gulls, black gull, and golden plover.
❖ **Central European taiga** ❖ is characterized by a high density of forest, whose species are very valuable. Numerous ❖ waterfowl, Galliformes, waders are constant objects of sporting and commercial hunt. The European North Ural is about 1 million km. (including their Arctic). Its population is about 12 million people. Situated there are Saint-Peterburg ❖ the "second capital of the Russian Federation, the biggest city and industrial center, and also such important northern ports as Murmansk and Arkhangelsk, the ancient cities of Pskov, Novgorod and Volodga. The Region abounds of famous monuments of history and culture (Solovki, Valaam, Kizhi, Puskhin Syatoyogye, Krillo-Belezorskiy Monastery) and many others. Situated there are numerous mining projects, integrated iron-and-steel works, atomic nuclear stations, military, rocket and nuclear testing grounds. The list of Northern Russia Zapovedniks (Nature Reserves) and National Parks:
> Page 2 Please put an active hyperlink to our site (www.rusnature.info) when you copy the materials from this page Russian Zapovedniks and National Parks > Zapovednik "Darvinsky" Address: 162723 Vologodskaya obl., Cherepovetskiy r-n., p/o Ploskovo, pos. Borok Darvinsky Zapovednik is situated in Yaroslavskaya and Vologodskaya Regions. The Zapovednik was founded in 1945 for the purpose of studying the stages of the Rybinskoye water reservoir's development and its influence on natural systems. The area is 112,6 thousand ha including 45,4 of reservoir. The relief is valley. More than 80% of the area is occupied by marshes and paludal forests. Most frequently occurring are high muskegs with light pine forests and a grass-bush belt formed of Chamaedaphne, Andromeda, Ledum palustre, blueberry, cranberry, Rubus. Pine forests include lichen, tupe moss, bilberry, and cowberry with an undergrowth of juniper. Birch forests are met, often paludal; spruce forests are less numerous. The zone of periodical inundation is covered by coastal water plants. For the water are risen peat islands are characteristic. Flora accounts for 590 vascular plant species including some which are rare (yellow lady's slipper, Epipogon aphyllum, etc.). Mammals include 32 species. Elk, wild boar, brown bear, wolf, badger, marten, ermine, mink, lynx and other are common. The ornithofauna includes more than 230 species of nesting and migratory birds. Haza grouse, woodcock, golden plover, meadow lark, and other species are met. The avifauna is numerous. Waterfowl is numerous, with ducks, gulls, and shorebirds. During migration white-fronted goose, bean goose, whooper swan stop in the Zapovednik. Rare species nest, particularly golden eagle, fish hawk, and white-tailed eagle. ❖ **Goshaile species** ❖ and common lizard are wide-spread. In rivers and lakes brown, zander, pickerel, and burbot live. There is a small forest area, where representatives of Far-East, Siberian, and Western- and Central-European flora grow (cedar, Manchurian walnut, Betula costata, large-leaved lime, etc.).
> Page 3 Please put an active hyperlink to our site (www.rusnature.info) when you copy the materials from this page Russian Zapovedniks and National Parks > Zapovednik "Kandalakshskiy" Address: 184040 Murmanskaya obl., Kandalaksha, Linyevnaya st., 35 Zapovednik Kandalakshskiy is situated on the South and North of Murmanskaya Region, partly in the Republic of Karelia. It was established in 1932. The Zapovednik has been existing within its present boundaries since 1977. Its area is 70,5 thousand ha, including 49,6 thousand ha of water area. The Zapovednik is situated on islands and Barents Sea shore and Kandalaksha Bay of the white Sea. The islands Ainovy, Gavrilovskiy and the Seven Islands Archipelago (Barents Sea) carry communities of the tundra zone, mainland and the islands of the Kandalaksha Bay.
❖ northern taiga. The cluster pattern of the Zapovednik determines its complex structure and great nature diversity. On the islands of the Barents Sea and narrow (500 m) shore zone (off the Seven Islands Archipelago) the maritime varieties of tundra vegetation are found. On the shore, stony-lichen and shrub-lichen tundras predominate without forming continuous cover. In depressions, shrub tundras are located, with crowberry, blueberry, black-berry, cowberry and dwarf birch. On the islands large areas are occupied by crowberry tundras with cloudberry. Where large bird colonies are, a thick peat layer is accumulated, formed by bird excretion products to give rise to a peculiar orthomitic vegetation with Kotic canonicus, scurvy grass, sornet, fescue. A peculiar feature of the islands is tall grasses and fern thickets. Tuva commoners with cowberry tundra also characterize the islands of some of the islands of the Kandalaksha Bay. In the Kandalaksha site of the Zapovednik various maritime forests of different types are common.
❖ from primary(on the sea islands) to well-developed (on the shore). To be found there are pine forests with cowberry and blackberry, occasionally with an admixture of spruce; pine-spruce forests with an admixture of birch; spruce forests being less frequent. More than 12% of dry land is occupied by mires, mostly by eutrophic fens. The littoral zone plant cover are flower plants and algae, in depth, thickets of Laminaria are abundant. The flora comprises 633 higher plant species. Among the rare plants listed in the Red Data Book of the Russian Federation are: Helianthemum arcticum, yellow lady's slipper, spurred coral root, etc. The Fauna of terrestrial vertebrates includes 160 species. The forest dwellers are: the moose, brown bear, red fox, blue hare, squirrel, marten, ermine. The wolf, volverine and lynx appear regularly. The birds are the capercaillie, black grouse, hazel grouse, willow grouse, kestrel, great gray owl, Ural owl, big owls (great gray owl, Ural owl), etc. On the island Kharlov (Seven Islands) there is a big population of Norwegian lemming. On the islands of the Barents Sea, the red fox and polar bear occasionally appear. Ainovy islands provide nesting grounds to the puffin, glaucous gull and herring gull, eider duck, Arctic tern. On the Seven Islands the density of bird colonies is high: common (black) guillemot and thick-billed guillemot, kittiwake, scot, puffin, Arctic tern. Practically at all sites of Zapovednik provide habitat to eider duck, red-breasted merganser, scoter. The constant aquatic mammal dwellers of the Kandalaksha Bay are: the bearded seal, ringed seal. The Kandalaksha Bay is home to more than 30 fish species, including the cod, White Sea herring, three-spined stickleback etc. Sea invertebrates are numerous. Five rare animals listed in the Red Data Book of the Russian Federation occur in the Zapovednik: gray seal, white-tailed eagle, osprey, shag, Arctic falcon. The Zapovednik has some archaeological sites.
❖ remains of one Russia's first silver mines. The Zapovednik is part of wetland of international significance.
> Page 4 Please put an active hyperlink to our site (www.rusnature.info) when you copy the materials from this page Russian Zapovedniks and National Parks > Zapovednik "Kivach" Address: 186200 Republic of Karelia, Kondopozhskiy r-n, pos. Kivach Zapovednik Kivach is situated in the southern part of Republic Karelia. It was established in 1931. Its area is 10,9 thousand ha. The Zapovednik is located northwest of Lake Onezhskoye between Lake Euindzero in the north and Lake Pertozero in the south. The topography features steep protrusions and a crystalline shield combined with hilly-marshy and flat water-glacier plains. The Zapovednik is named after the waterfall six km long. It ranks the second among tall waterfalls in Europe after the Rhine waterfall in the Alps, and is 1000 m high. The natural cover is mixed-taiga forests, pine forests prevailing on bedrock and pine-spruce forests on a hilly moraine and spruce forests on water-glacier deposits. There are numerous mires. The mammal dwellers are the brown bear, wolf, red fox, badger, marten, European polecat, otter. In the avian fauna waterbirds are the most abundant, including loons, Anseriformes and gulls.
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year). Yakutia, the Khabarovsk Territory, the Magadan and Kamchatka regions contain vast unpopulated areas. At the same time, the south of the Primorye Territory was well developed, with numerous enterprises, plants and mines, and famous port cities as Vladivostok, Hakhdodka, etc. In the 1930s in the previously desert locality on the left-hand bank of Amur, the plant city of Komsomolsk was built to send a railroad to the Pacific (Sovetskaya Gavan). Today this city is connected to the Ust-Kut and Taishet via the Baikal-Amur railroad. The sea northern city of Magadan in the upper reaches of the Kolyma River became notorious in the Soviet times as the area of penal colonies and exile (still earlier that notoriety was acquired by the Sakhalin Island). On Kolyma communication routes huge concentration camps were situated, and numerous enterprises and construction sites of Chukotka and Kolyma were created using the labor and human lives. The nature of the Far East is not only diverse, but also rich. Particularly distinct in this respect is the Primorye and southern Cis-Amur Region, which is determined by a combination of several different geographic provinces (Manchurian, Siberian, Pacific, etc.). The specific "Ussuri" flora and fauna occur only there and nowhere else. Only its individual representatives penetrate almost to the mouth of the Amur River. This fauna includes the Amur tiger, the Asiatic Black bear, Manchurian hare, Japanese crane, Chinese soft-shelled turtle, Manchurian black water snake, and numerous fish species. Lake Khanka is characterized by a particular abundance of fish and birds, however, rice crops and the use of chemical fertilizers have resulted in a heavy pollution of the water body. In Amur, a pulp-and-paper integrated mill was constructed, which was similar to the Baikal one, which has had a detrimental effect on the purity of the river and its dwellers. The large Sakhalin Island is essentially taken up by taiga, the Kuril, Commander and other smaller islands in the Pacific each have a peculiar appearance, each of which meriting study and description. The seas of the Far East are sources of the most valuable foods (fish, crabs, mussels, etc.), and not only for our country. The gigantic peninsula of Kamchatka is well know for its volcanoes, geysers, specific landscapes, which do not exist anywhere else, and an abundance of bears, which are the biggest in Russia. In southern Yakutia and the left-hand bank of Amur are the most hard of access and the most sparsely populated mountain ranges (Stanovoi, Jugdyr, Jugdshuri), north of them lie the Aidanskoe and Patomskoe (Prilenskoe) Uplands or Plateaus. The taiga is dominated by the larch, only in the southwestern Yakutia there occur cedar trees, but in the Primorye and Cis-Amur Region, large areas were taken up of the peculiar Korean pine (cedar) with very large nuts. Unfortunately, the main cedar forests in Primorye have been cut out to be replaced by derivative forests. In addition to the common spruce trees, the entire southern Far East features some specific species for deciduous trees (oak, lindens, maples, ashes, poplar, etc.). There are numerous fruit-bearing medicinal shrubs and even lianas (Actinidia, Amur grapes). The north-eastern Yakutia is occupied by large mountain ranges (Cherskii, Suntar-Khayata and others, whose altitude above the sea level exceeds 3000 m). Flowing between them are the broad rivers ♦ Yana, Indigirka, and Kolyma. The Verkhoyansk Territory is known ♦s the world center of cold and the lowest temperatures on the Earth. The biggest river of Yakutia is the biggest river of Asia ♦ the great Lena with its main tributaries (Vilui on the left, and Aldan on the right). The shore of the Arctic Ocean faces a wide tundra zone. The same landscapes, along with true polar deserts, dominate on the northern islands. On the whole our Far East is so interesting, vast and diversified that you can only feel sorry for people who have never seen it.
> Page 25 Please put an active hyperlink to our site (www.rusnature.info) when you copy the materials from this page Russian Zapovedniks and National Parks > National Park "Paanayarvi" Address: 186667 Republic Karelia, Loukhsky r-n, pos. Pyaozersky, Druzhyby st., 31 National Park Paanayarvi is situated in the Loukhsky District of Republic Karelia. The Park was founded in 1992. Its area is 103,3 thousand ha. The Park is located in the basins of lake Paanayarvi and the river Olanga, near the Russian-Finnish border. It comprises the most mountainous territories of Karelia with one mountain, Nuoru-nen, 577 m above the sea level, and several separated massifs situated above a plateau. The hydro-network includes about 600 large and small lakes, and 60 rivers and small rivers. Lake Paanayarvi is famous for its depth, the greatest in Karelia (up to 128 m). The plant cover is represented by northern taiga, mostly spruce forests, with an extra mixture of pine and birch, notable for its very good preservation due to the absence of felling in the past. Mountain tops are occupied by tundra. Flora makes up 550 vascular plant species. In lake Paanayarvi and the river Olanga there live brook trout, lake trout, grayling and cisco, whose life cycles move partly in the river Oulanka (the continuation of the river Olanga in Finland, located in the Finnish National Park with the same name). Along the eastern periphery of Paanayarvi the forest reindeer migration route passes. Of rare birds there are the golden eagle, the white-tailed eagle, and the fish hawk.
> Page 26 Please put an active hyperlink to our site (www.rusnature.info) when you copy the materials from this page Russian Zapovedniks and National Parks > National Park "Rusky Sever" Address: 161100 Vologodskaya obl., Kirillov, Siverskaya St., 9"а" National Park Rusky Sever is situated in the Kirillovsky District of Vologodskaya Region. The Park was founded in 1992; its area is 166,4 thousand ha. The Park is located within the Belozersko-Kirillovskaya mountain ridge between lakes Beloye, Vozhe, and Kubenskoye. Natural conditions are very diverse due to the complex landscape of the territory. Lakes are numerous in ancient river-glacier valleys and the lowlands between hills. Many lakes are connected by canals, which were used when the Severo-Dvinsky water route was being built. Lake Poreshnoye is the most interesting (area 1235 ha), being a model example of non-disturbed middle-taiga lake. Height changes are up to 100 m. The border between middle and southern taiga forests goes along the edge of the Park ♦s territory; spruce, pine, birch-spruce and birch-aspen forests prevail. Primary coniferous forests practically do not remain; on the most part of the territory natural secondary plantations are spread. Spruce forests of different age structure, characteristic for middle taiga forests, remained within the Shalgo-Bodunovsky forest (an ex-landscape zakaznik). Along the rivers and streams, on the lake-side terraces grass-gramineous meadows are spread, having appeared in place of the forests. The great diversity of flora encompasses a combination of taiga, arctic, Siberian and European species. The northern border of oak, hazel, maple, lime areas lies in the Park. More than 500 vascular plant species are noted, including rare ones (yellow lady's slipper, Epipogium aphyllum, Dactylorhiza baltica, lake quillwort, etc). 228 vertebrate animals are registered, including 48 mammal species and 161 bird species. On the Park ♦s territory there are historical-cultural monuments of world significance: the Kirilo-Belozerski, Feropontov and Goritsky monasteries, and the Nilo-Sorskaya hermitage. Monuments of wooden architecture, civil and country architecture, and of techniques of the past (for example the Marinskaya and Severo-Dvinskaya sluice systems) are numerous. Traces of ancient man are the oldest archeological monuments, dating from 5000 years B.C. (Pogostische I, II, and IV; Karavalkha; the pile settlement on the river Modlona). The most complete complex of Slavonic and ancient Russian monuments is found near Nefedovo village. A characteristic agricultural landscape is also presented.
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