

ANDREW PARKINSON

KAMCHATKA 2025

TRIP 1: 28th JULY to 7th AUGUST 2025

TRIP 2: 3rd to 13th AUGUST 2025

\$9995 PER PERSON

JOIN NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHER ANDY PARKINSON ON AN 11 DAY ADVENTURE TO ONE OF THE WORLDS' LAST, GENUINELY PRISTINE WILDERNESS AREAS, RUSSIA'S SPECTACULAR KAMCHATKA PENINSULA.



PRICE INCLUDES

- 4 nights hotel accommodation near Petropavlovsk including breakfast
- 3 nights accommodation in a shared tent at Kurilskoye lake with full board
- 3 nights accommodation in shared 4 person log cabins with full board
- All helicopter transport
- All airport/hotel transfers
- Reserve fees
- Interpreter services
- Private cook at both Kurilskoye and Kambalnaya
- Boat transfers on Kurilskoye lake
- Letter of invitation for Visas, FSB permit

PRICE EXCLUDES

- Flights, international and domestic (except helicopter flights which are included)
- Travel insurance
- Camera insurance
- Visa
- Guide gratuities
- Alcoholic drinks

TRAVEL AND ACCOMMODATION

On arrival in Petropavlovsk we shall be met by our hosts before travelling the short distance to our comfortable hotel. After a good nights' sleep we'll then transfer to the heliport for a flight of approximately one hour to our first base at Kuril lake. Accommodation for the next six nights will be basic and rustic. The first three nights shall be in large shared tents on the shores of Kuril lake, the second three nights will be in shared log cabins next to the remote Kambalnaya river. We'll then transfer back to our hotel near Petropavlovsk for the final three nights where we'll enjoy two individual day trips, one to the Mutnovsky volcano and a separate boat trip to Avacha Bay and the Starichkov Islands.

DEPOSIT

Your place can only be guaranteed on receipt of a non-refundable \$2500.00 deposit, the remaining balance then being due no later than twelve weeks prior to our departure.







JOIN NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHER ANDY PARKINSON ON THIS TRIP-OF-A-LIFETIME TO ONE OF EARTH'S LAST REMAINING TRUE WILDERNESS AREAS, THE REMOTE KAMCHATKA PENINSULA ON THE EAST COAST OF RUSSIA.

Home to as many as 14,000 of these enormous apex predators the Kamchatka Peninsula supports the highest density of brown bears of anywhere on Earth, and it'll certainly feel like it when you're there. We'll be working at all times with the most experienced guides, rangers who have lived and worked alongside these bears for many years and know them individually, their characters and their likely patterns of behaviour.

At Kuril Lake we'll travel short distances by boat, passing countless bears along the remote shorelines, to small river estuaries. It is at these places where the bears congregate to fish, often in large numbers of over 20 individual bears as our visit is designed to coincide with the salmon run. Against the spectacular backdrop of towering volcanoes we'll photograph the bears fishing, fighting, climbing trees, swimming, chasing through the water or

standing to gain a better vantage point. We'll photograph adult and sub-adult males, females with yearling cubs and females with spring cubs. We'll be able to shoot them front-lit, back-lit or with the muted tones afforded by overcast skies. At times we will have bears all around us but our Russian Park Rangers will keep us safe. In addition the bears here are familiar with and accepting of the presence of people. Our group will also be working alone and at any location that we work it will be just us, no crowds, no queues, just us and the bears.

From Kuril Lake it is then just a short fifteen minute helicopter ride over the high ridges to Kambalnaya River, another place that has to be seen to be believed. There are just three cabins here, two for us and one for our guide, a Ranger who has lived there for many years. From our cabins we overlook the river and morning, noon or night there will be bears in that river, often as many as

twenty in one sweep of our eyes. As at Kuril Lake our private cook will be preparing all of our meals and our wonderful translator Zhenya will be on hand at all times to assist us.

We will be sad to leave Kambalnaya and the bears behind but leave we must for our 1-1.5 hour helicopter ride back to our hotel. Here we'll rest up for the evening and prepare ourselves for a days' visit to the Mutnovsky volcano, an active volcano to which we will travel in specially modified 6 wheel drive vehicles.

Our last day will be a marine cruise of Avacha Bay and the Starichkov Islands where we'll see towering coastal seabird colonies, sea lion haul outs and the distinct possibility of seeing hunting killer whales. Come and join me for this once-in-a-lifetime experience to one of the last great wildernesses on Earth, Kamchatka, Land of Fire and Ice, and bears!

A NOTE ABOUT THE HELICOPTERS

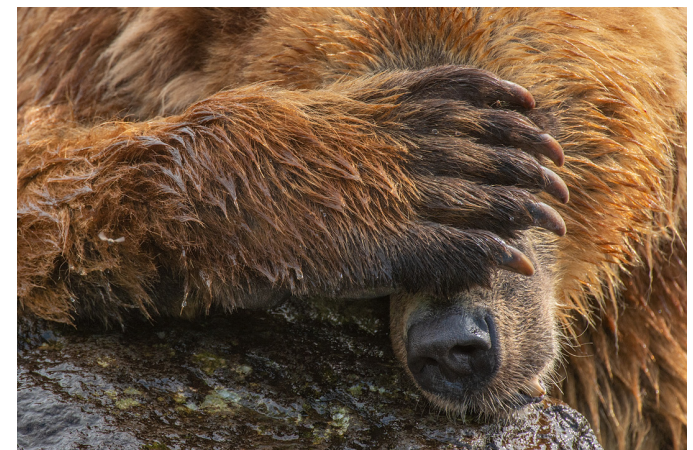
Kamchatka is like a great many of the Earth's true wilderness areas, remote, untamed and at times difficult to access. To date we have always managed to fly on the scheduled days but we remain at the mercy of the weather. Low cloud, strong winds and heavy rain will mean that the helicopters simply can't fly so we need to accept this as one of the risks. This might mean potentially losing a day with the bears, it might mean gaining a day. Nevertheless, we have the regions leading pilot with over 28 years of experience and over 15,000 flying hours in Kamchatka alone. If anyone can get us safely in or out then he can.



Andy will look to spend an equal amount of time with each of his guests but of course some people might prefer more guidance, others perhaps less. Either way he'll be on hand at all times to ensure that you're getting the very best from your photographic or natural history experience, receiving targeted and useful advice to maximise the photographic rewards from each and every wildlife encounter. Guests will always get the prime photographic spots and positions and if Andy does take any images he'll simply be shooting over the shoulder of guests, giving a running commentary (where needed or requested) of compositional, lighting or behavioural suggestions. He'll also be on hand in the evenings to answer any technical/ compositional questions that you may have relating to your days adventures.

He is one of Europe's most respected and awarded wildlife photographers and having been a full-time professional for over 20 years he will be able to offer you invaluable and incomparable help and assistance, wherever you are on your photographic journey.

- Nikon Ambassador (wildlife)
- *National Geographic* magazine contributing photographer
- Overall Winner of the 2020 Big Picture Natural World Photography Competition (USA)
- Overall winner of Bird Photographer of the Year 2016 plus 3 category wins
- 4 awards in Wildlife Photographer of the Year
- 5 awards in European Wildlife Photographer of the Year
- 31 awards featuring 40 images in the British Wildlife Photography Awards, 4 category wins
- Category winner in Nature's Best (USA)
- Category winner and category Runner-up in Nature Photographer of the Year
- Overall winner of Nature Photojournalist of the Year 2012
- Multiple category winner in Nature Images Awards
- Overall Winner of the 2017 IUCN Portfolio Award
- 9 photo features in BBC Wildlife magazine





THE ACCOMMODATION

Kambalnaya river represents probably the one of the greatest privileges that you can experience with true wilderness. Three small log cabins overlook a remote river that is filled with fishing bears. We will have this place completely to ourselves, a unique opportunity but the accommodation here is at best rustic. We'll be sleeping in small log cabins, four to a room and in bunk beds. The generator operates for about 6 hours per day, plenty of time to charge batteries but bringing plenty of batteries is still your best option. The toilet/washing facilities here are also extremely basic but it remains simply the best location that Andy has ever visited and the proximity to the bears means that you can capture detailed images like this.





To book online: www.andrewparkinson.com
To book via email: tours@andrewparkinson.com