Tourism in protected areas: The case of the Commander Islands Nature and Biosphere Reserve

Anastasia Kuznetsova
Director of the CINBR

December, 2021
Part of Protected Areas System
One of 108 state nature reserves
The largest marine nature reserve in Russia
Cruise travel is one of the main sources of tourists

Up to 3000 tourists per year visit the islands via cruise vessels
Aryi Kamen Island

Objects of interest – seabirds colony, harbor seals, sea lions

How to visit – tour on motor boat from the cruise ship
Duration – 30 minutes
Cost – 1500 rubles (if the boats are provided by the cruise company)
Toporkov Island

Objects of interest – tufted puffins colony (over 100,000 birds)

How to visit – tour with nature reserve staff
Duration – 1 hour
Cost – 2000 rubles (if the boats are provided by the cruise company)
Bering Island. Steller’s Arch

Places of interest – geological object, landscapes and rivers of Bering Island

How to visit – tour on motor boat from the cruise ship
Duration – 1.5 hour
Cost – 1500 rubles (if the boats are provided by the cruise company)
Bering Island. Nikolskoye Village, Aleut Local History Museum

Places of interest – buildings of Russian-American Company, modern life on the island, Local History Museum, Vitus Bering monument

How to visit – landing on motor boat from the cruise ship, free time or tour
Duration – 2 hours
Cost: excursion around the village - 1500 rubles, museum ticket – 360 rubles
Bering Island. Nikolskoye Village, the CINBR Visitor Center

Objects of interest – work of the nature reserve, educational exposition, talk about Aleutian tradition nature use, souvenir shop

How to visit – tour led by nature reserve staff, traditional teatime
Duration – 1 hour
Cost: 1000 rubles
Bering Island. Severo-Zapadnoye rookery of marine mammals

Objects of interest – northern fur seals, sea lions, harbor seals, sea otters, Georg Steller monument

How to visit – tour with nature reserve specialists
Duration – 1.5 hour
Cost: 2000 rubles
Bering Island. Buyan Bay

Objects of interest – landscapes of Bering Island, geological objects, introduction to a Nature Reserve Ranger program

How to visit – tour around the bay
Duration – 1.5 hour
Cost: 3000 rubles, including Aleut fish soup
Bering Island. Komandor Bay

Objects of interest – landscapes of Bering Island, necropolis of the Second Kamchatka Expedition participants, Vitus Bering’s grave

How to visit – tour around the bay
Duration – 1.5 hour
Cost: 1500 rubles without a guide
3000 rubles with a guide
Medny Island. Preobrazhenskaya Bay

Objects of interest – landscapes of Medny Island, old cemeteries, dug paths and protective structures

How to visit – tour around the bay
Duration – 1.5 hour
Cost: 1500 rubles
Medny Island. Sulkovskogo Cape

Objects of interest – Medny Island landscapes

How to visit – tour around the bay
Duration – 1.5 hour
Cost - free
Medny Island. Yugo-Vostochnoe rookery of marine mammals

Objects of interest – Medny Island landscapes

How to visit – tour around the bay
Duration – 1.5 hour
Cost - 1500 rubles
**General Rules:**
You will need permissions from Russian Federal Security Service and Border Guard

**Special Rules:**
Permission from the nature reserve and a signed agreement are required

To enter protected water area cruise tourists need to pay entering fee of 1500 rubles (regardless of duration of stay)
Thank you!

www.komandorsky.ru
@commanderislands