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Latest Dispatch

Magadan, the Russian Far East

21 Jul, 04

First reflexion of the Russian Far East -(which could be totally wrong, which in most cases it seems to be!)
No doubt about it, we've arrived at the end of the world!

One can only fly into Magadan. There's no railway and no road leading here. There is a harbour, though, the same one that Stalin used to ship millions of unfortunate campinmates to the deadly Gulags, which of the worst renowned was situated just outside Magadan. It seems the town is a leftover from the time before perestrojka. The red star and other sovjet signs are easily spotted all over town and Magadan seems badly run down. Times are known to be extremely hard. The unemployment is disastrous, the opportunities for decent future for somebody young are bleak and the infrastructure is on the verge of collapsing. This is what people in Moscow told us.



A left over from the Sovjet time

This tragic fact considered, I have to say one aspect of Magadan is truly great! It's the people! Already during the 8 hour flight east from Moscow, I realized that these folks belong exactly to the group of people we enjoy spending time with. They're down-to-earth, tell exactly what you want to know, whether you like it or not, easy to please, generous and they don't worry too much about the securityaspects on an airplane. I already sense we have a spectacular adventure coming up!
Don't have any more energy to write, we haven't slept for 28 hours...

Magadan, Nordöstra Sibirien, Regnigt, dystert och 10 plusgrader.

Vår första reflexion av den ryska Fjärran östern (vilken naturligtvis kan vara helt fel, och ofta är det!)

Visst känns det som man till viss del hamnat vid världens ände!

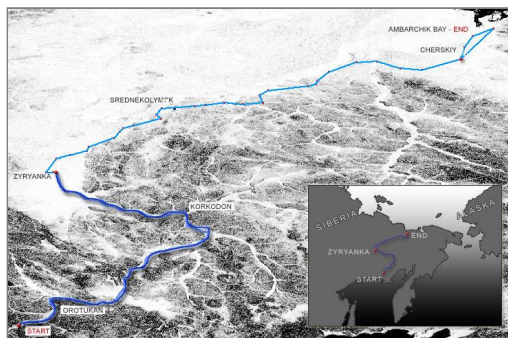
Hit finns vare sig järnväg eller väg, utan man måste flyga. Det finns också en hamn, vilken är densamma som Stalin använde för att ta in alla miljoner stackare som hamnade i hans dödsbringande koncentrationsläger, gulager. Magadan verkar vara en kvarleva från Sovjettiden. Den röda stjärnan och andra sovjetsymboler syns här och där i denna till det yttre mycket slitna stad. Tiderna sägs mycket svåra. Det finns inga jobb, väldigt små möjligheter till en dräglig framtid och infrastrukturen håller på att bryta ihop. Fullständigt. Det berättade åtminstone ryssar vi träffade Moskva.

Ändå är det en underbar plats! Folket är mycket fina. Redan på planet från Moskva insåg vi att det är precis den typ av människor vi trivs med. Jordnära, talar om vad du vill veta utan knussel, hjälpsamma, lättroade, inte så noga med planets säkerhetsdetaljer och mycket tillförlitliga. Redan nu känns det som om denna Expedition kommer att bli en riktig höjdare!

Orkar inte mer nu, har inte sovit på 28 timmar...

Expedition Tracking Center

[CLICK MAP TO ZOOM]



Previous Dispatches

Moscow, lots of impressions, nice people but far too much stress 18 Jul, 04

Written by Johan Ivarsson:

Russia is so much more than I could ever have expected. It's the people and the hospitality among everyone that I refer to. My idea about Russia and its people befo



Moscow. Humid, the odd rainshower, plenty of mosquitos, noise and heavy pollution. 17 Jul, 04

Jul, 04

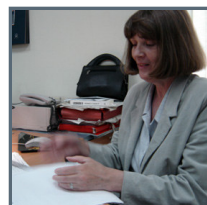
"No!" yelled our guide terrified, "I am not going with you into the Devils Nest!"

The guide was referring to the Mausoleum of the Bolshevik leader Lenin, one of the initiators of the Soviet Empire.



Moscow, cloudy, the odd rainfall, warm, noisy and strong smells of pollution. 16 Jul, 04

We've just spent the first night in weeks without waking up, worrying that something important has been forgotten regarding the logistics of what equipment we need and how to get it into Russia.



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