

# “Lena Pillars”

## Summer Eco-Geographical School with International participation



The Lena Pillars Nature Park was inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List in 2012. The Park gives a unique opportunity to look back into the past of the planet and presents the evidence of "Cambrian explosion" and a phenomenon of the permafrost karst.

The Nature Park covers a total area of 1353 hectares and is endowed with unique natural sights, the most famous of which are the Lena Pillars, Buotama pillars, Sinsk pillars, tukulans – the waving sand massifs- a piece of desert in the permafrost, and an archaeological monument of the ancient Paleolithic - Deiring Yuriakh.

The Lena Pillars Nature Park is included in the UNESCO World Heritage List on the basis of the VIII criterion: «The site being an outstanding example representing major stages of the Earth's history, including the record of ancient life, significant on-going geological processes in the development of landforms, or significant geomorphic or physiographic phenomenon».

The Summer school is scheduled from July 19 to August 2, 2016. The 2-week Summer Eco-Geographical School offers an ethnographic and natural-research components. School students will have an opportunity to get acquainted with the field research under permafrost conditions, visit the unique natural and cultural sites.





## Summer School program:

**July, 19 – 20**

Introductory stage

Venue: Yakutsk, NEFU Institute of Natural Sciences.

The program includes lectures on scientific research of the Lena Pillars by leading experts, geographers, paleontologists, geologists and biologists of Yakutia.

In the afternoon: visit to the Mammoth museum, khomus museum, underground laboratory of the Permafrost Institute.

**July, 21**

Trip to Khangalassky region with a visit to “Orto Doydu” - the world’s northernmost zoo. Ancient village Elanka. Visit to the museum of yamschiks (coachmen), hiking tour to location of ancient human drawings.

**July, 22**

Trip to the village Batamay.

"Ecosystems of permafrost" workshop.

**July, 23 – 25**

Trip to Labiya tourist center on boats. Climbing up to observation platform along the ecological path. A ceremony of Algys traditional Yakut ritual.

Workshops on:

- “Studies of geological structures and paleontological sections of Cambrian and Quaternary periods”;
- "Flora of the Lena Pillars",
- "Hydrology of small rivers of cryolitezone".

**July, 26**

Trip to Ogdokun cordon. Hiking to the karst lake Borulakh (length of the route 26 km).

**July, 27 – August, 1**

Ust-Buotama campsite.

Workshops on hydrological research on the river Buotama, limnological research of permafrost zone lakes, geobotanical tour to meadow ecosystems of the Nature Park, microclimatic research.

Excursions: «Ust-Buotama» farm of wood buffalos, Kysyl Elesin tukulan, Ancient human settlement Deiring Yuriakh.

**August, 1**

Return to Yakutsk

Number of credits: 2 ECTS

Number of participants (min-max): 10 – 20



### **Accommodation:**

1. In Yakutsk:- NEFU dormitory.

2. In “Lena Pillars” Nature Park: Elanka village, Batamay village, campsite Ust-Buotama and Labydja; tourist tents in Ogdokun cordon on the bank of the Lena River.

You are kindly asked to bring a tent, sleeping bags and other tourist equipment.

Meal: please note that meal will be organized under field conditions; food will be cooked on open fire. Also please note that due to local peculiarities we cannot provide a vegetarian menu.

Since the School program includes a large number of hiking, participation in scientific experiments under natural environmental conditions that require a certain physical activity, please, indicate your medical contraindications. Please, indicate if you have an allergy to any drugs, foods, insect bites. Please remember that one of the features of the northern summer is a large number of blood-sucking insects, mosquitoes and midges insects.

Participation fee (includes accommodation, transportation, excursions and field meal):

17 000 rubles (200 euros).

12 500 rubles (150 Euros)- for students from partner universities within bilateral agreements.

Target group: Bachelor, Master and postgraduate students who are interested in Natural Sciences and Tourism, Geography issues, Geology, Paleontology, Biology, Tourism, History, Ethnography, etc.



### **Duration:**

From July, 19 to August 1, 2016

Arrival in Yakutsk: July 18, 2016

Departure from Yakutsk: August 2, 2016

Language of Instruction: Russian (translation into English will be provided).

Registration deadline: 15.05.2016.



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