

"The Young Siberian Travellers"
Kaptyrevo school



Travel Time

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Visit Shushensky District

November, 2023

MEET: *Shushensky District*



Shushensky district is located at the junction of the Western Sayan Mountains and the steppes of the Minusinsk basin. Almost 80% of the territory of the Shushensky district falls on the mountainous region. Its geographical basis consists of the watershed Sayan ridge and the northern Dzhebash-Borus branch extending from it. The general direction of the ridges is north-east. The height of the ridges increases from south to north.

Shushensky district borders Minusinsky district in the north, Karatuzsky and Ermakovsky districts in the east, the Republic of Tyva in the south and the Republic of Khakassia in the west. It has developed economic ties with its neighbors. The climatic conditions of the district are considered very mild for Siberia – warm, even hot summers and not very harsh winters. This is due to the location of the area in the very center of the Asian continent, a wide variety of landforms and distance from the seas and oceans, as well as the predominance of south-westerly winds at all times of the year.

The territory of the district is 10140 km². The population is about 32 thousand people. The red spark in the coat of arms of the Shushensky district symbolizes the place of the three-year exile of the leader of the October Revolution, and the snow leopard is a unique animal world.

Shushensky district or “Siberian Switzerland” is what locals call it because of its mild climate, conducive to agriculture and fruit growing. People come here to conquer the highest point of the region - the Borus ridge - to plunge into the Siberian life of the late 19th century, to visit the place of Lenin's exile, to eat to their heart's content of strawberries, to explore the Sayano-Shushenskoye reservoir and simply to live a leisurely village life.

Fleming Ilya,

“The young Siberian travellers”

Water Resources of Shushensky District



Shushensky district is located in the Yenisei River basin which is its main waterway. The Yenisei is not only a large and very beautiful river of Siberia but also the greatest river on the Earth. The area of the Yenisei basin is 25 thousand square kilometers. The length of the Yenisei is 3487 km. Its depth is only 10 meters here. The current speed is up to 2,5 meters per second. There are many different islands on the Yenisei.

Many rivers and reservoirs flow into the Yenisei and this powerful river carries its waters into the Arctic Ocean dividing Siberia into two parts: Eastern Siberia and Western Siberia. The Yenisei never freezes in winter. The Evenkies called this river lonessy. It means a great river.

More than 30 small rivers flow through this area of the region. The largest is the Shush River. It has recreational and historical significance. Its name the river got in 1744 due to the Cossacks. Translated from Turkic "Shush" means "a bone". There are also six ponds in this area: Ermolaevsky, Sineborsky 1, Sineborsky 2, Subbotinsky, Idzhinsky and Lytkinsky.

*Puzynin Nikita,
"The Young Siberian Travellers"*

CENTERS OF SPIRITUAL CULTURE

St Eudokia's Church



On October 2, 1995 with the blessing of Patriarch Alexy II of Moscow and All Russia, a symbolic stone was laid at the site of the future church during a service. Essentially, the construction began from that day.

St Eudokia's Church began to be built as a chapel at the expense of Ivan Yarygin, a native of the village of Sizaya, an outstanding athlete, two-time Olympic champion in freestyle wrestling. Ivan Sergeevich asked Areg Sarkisovich Demirkhanov, the talented architect from Krasnoyarsk to make the project for the church in Sizaya.

“When Ivan Sergeevich saw the model of the church,” recalls Areg Sarkisovich, “his face lit up with a happy smile. He carefully examined the model and briefly remarked: “What a pity that mom won’t see this bright temple.” The church was consecrated in memory of his mother Evdokia Yarygina.

Shushensky Peter and Paul parish was opened in the 18th century. The stone church was built in 1791.

Since 2001 annual processions have been held in Shushenskoye. For more than 20 years in Shushenskoye the whole world was building one of the largest shrines in the south of the territory – the Church of the Holy Apostles Peter and Paul. Remembering all the difficulties associated with a large-scale construction project for the village some parishioners are surprised: "How was it possible to build such a beautiful church from scratch without initial capital?" And then they answer their own question: “With the power of faith and the help of God.”

St Peter and Paul's Church



Elijah the Prophet's Church



In 1862 the first wooden Elijah the Prophet’s Church was built in Kaptirevo. In 1885 the stone church was built with donations. And it was called the Temple of St. Elijah the Prophet. After the October Revolution in 1934 the temple was destroyed. The Big Bell split. In 2008 during excavations on the territory of the old church the residents found a bronze fragment weighing 8 kg. Now the bronze fragment is kept in the school Museum of Regional Studies. Since 2004 the church is located in the building of the former shop and restored with the help of parishioners' donations. In 2012 the bells were specially made in Moscow and donated to the church.

Holy Kazan Church



Subbotinsky Kazan parish separated from Shushensky parish. The first wooden church in the village was consecrated in 1864. It was majestic and very beautiful. After 40 years the construction of a new stone church begins with donations from parishioners; its consecration took place on July 10, 1908. In the 1920s the temple was closed and the priest was arrested.

At the end of the 1980s priests of the Spassky Cathedral began to perform divine services in the temple. In 1991 at the parish of the Kazan Icon of the Mother of God, a rector of the temple was appointed and divine services began to be held regularly.

St Nicholas Church



The temple in Sayansk was built in 1912 on the same place where St. Nicholas Church is located today. It was decorated with ancient icons, the main one of which was the icon of St. Nicholas the Wonderworker. When persecution of Orthodox churches began after the revolution, the temple was turned into a granary, then a club and after that dismantled into logs.

The construction of the new temple began in 2003. The rector of the Sizinsky temple Father Nikonor together with the Cossacks erected a cross in the place where the church once stood. This cross is a sign of worship of the descendants of the Cossacks who built the Sayan fort. The Cossacks decided to restore the Church of St. Nicholas the Wonderworker. In 2008, the foundation of the temple was laid and walls began to be erected. The temple was built at the expense of hereditary Cossacks, Sayansk-born brothers Nikolai and Yuri Soldatov. The walls of the temple were consecrated by Father George who is the rector of the temple in the village Sayansk. As in any temple, there is a guardian angel here. This is an icon of St. Nicholas the Wonderworker. He defends the village of Sayansk. No more than 25 people live in the village. The church holds prayer services, memorial services and confirmation.

The church is the heart and soul of every village. If the temple lives, the village lives. But if for some reason the life of the temple stops, then the village ceases to live a full and pure life, everything around collapses and dies.

Tolstikov Kirill,

«The Young Siberian Travellers»

Siberian cuisine

Nowadays about 150 nationalities live in the Yenisei River basin. Thus, Yenisei cuisine is supranational, very diverse, unusual and deeply regional.

The main core on which the cuisine rests is a special set of products, the main one of which has always been fish. Wild garlic has always been one of the favorite food. They love wild garlic natural, add it to salads and cold soup.

The Cossack diet is dominated by fish dishes. The Cossacks prepare grayling, bake fish pies. At the same time, they love to eat porridge, noodles, bread and pies which they wash down with broth (dried fruit compote) and bread kvass. They also prepare cabbage rolls and jellied meat.

What is the difference between Siberian cuisine and Russian cuisine? First of all, it's a selection of local products. Everything that lives in a neighboring river, taiga, field, or vegetable garden becomes the main object of local cuisine. Our territory has always been distinguished by fish and game, an excellent harvest of grains, especially rye, cabbage, an abundance of bird cherry, pine nuts, wild garlic.

Siberian cuisine is stylized as a restaurant from the late 19th century. The furniture is made according to historical samples and pottery and wooden dishes are made by the hands of museum craftsmen. On the shelf-bed and in the Sideboard there are valuable artifacts: porcelain from the Kuznetsov factory, bottles from the glass factory of the merchant Gusev, copper basins, pots, mortars.

The menu includes dishes of Siberian cuisine, simply but tasty and nutritious, prepared from environmentally friendly products: pancakes, aromatic tea with Siberian herbs, refreshing drinks from taiga berries. Girls in folk costumes serve guests.

For Program participants living in the complex New Village meals a day are provided. It is possible to order festive lunch or dinner which include up to 12 items.



Yan Olesya,

"The young Siberian travellers"

The animals of Shushensky district

The national park “Shushensky Pine Forest” is located in Shushensky district. It is the only one national park of Krasnoyarsk territory. It was founded on November 3, 1995 to save the unique nature.

More than 254 species of terrestrial vertebrates have been recorded in the park: 47 species of mammals, more than 270 birds, 5 reptiles, 4 amphibian species. The predominant species of mammals are: brown hare, squirrel, bear, fox, sable, red deer, roe deer, musk deer, elk, wild boar. There are also wolf, lynx, wolverine, weasel, ermine, steppe polecat, American mink, otter.

Due to its small number and habitat the snow leopard is a vulnerable species. It is listed in the Red Book and is under protection. Hunting snow leopards is prohibited. However, despite this fact snow leopards continue to disappear due to habitat loss and poaching.



These animals are listed in the Red Book of Russia. They no longer have the right to kill because you can get a big punishment.

In this picture you can see how a team of rescuers is saving a snow leopard cub.

The snow leopard or Irbis is a predatory mammal from the family of cats that lives in the mountains of Central Asia. It has a long, flexible body, short legs and a long tail. The color of the snow leopard fur can be different – from light grey to dark brown, with dark spots on the sides. The snow leopard is a solitary animal, it hunts mainly at night. The snow leopard's diet consists of mountain goats, argali and other ungulates.

Snow leopards are the only predators living high in the mountains. According to experts, their population now numbers no more than 90 individuals. In our country, snow cats live in the republics of Altai, Tuva, Buryatia, in the south of the Krasnoyarsk Territory and in the Irkutsk region. The graceful predator is one of the priority species of the federal project “Preservation of Biodiversity and Development of Ecotourism” of the national project “Ecology”.

The program “Snow Leopard - a Living Symbol of the Western Sayan” is designed to restore the number of snow leopards in the Sayano-Shushensky Biosphere Reserve and recreate a stable group of a rare predator on the northern border of the Russian range. In 2017, there was only one individual snow cat living there, but now there are nine.

Alexeeva Polina,

“The young Siberian travellers”

Festivals of Shushensky district

Cossack festival

The festival of Cossack culture has been held since 2006. The Cossacks from the south of Krasnoyarsk territory, Khakassia and Tyva take part in this festival. You can visit master classes on folk art and see Cossack courtyards. The best military patriotic clubs of youth are awarded. The ceremony of initiation into Cossacks is taking place. You can taste Cossack cuisine and listen to Cossack songs.



The World of Siberia Festival

The festival of Ethnic Music and Crafts "The World of Siberia" in Shushenskoye is a landmark event for all fans of ethno-music and folklore. For three days, guests can enjoy performances by musicians and creative teams from all over the world, participate in master classes and competitions, taste national dishes, dance, get acquainted with history and folk traditions.



Musina Marina,

"The young Siberian travelers"

Make your life brighter! Choose a sport!

Sport is an integral part of a healthy lifestyle of a person and a society as a whole. Sport has amazing properties, uniting and introducing people. With the help of sports, people develop skills such as speed, agility, reaction time, coordination, endurance, patience and power.



Various sports are popular in the Shushensky district, including freestyle wrestling, football, volleyball and hockey. Football develops team spirit, while volleyball attracts young people with its demands for growth and coordination of movements. Hockey is a winter sport that children and teenagers are fond of. Freestyle wrestling requires strength, endurance and discipline.

Freestyle wrestling is actively developing in the Shushensky district and is popular among local residents. There is a sports school named after Ivan Yarygin in the district where experienced coaches teach wrestling to both children and adults. Here young athletes learn perseverance, discipline and goal setting working to improve their skills. Competitions are regularly held to identify promising young wrestlers as well as events to promote and attract young people to a healthy lifestyle.

In November 2023 an event was held in the village of Sizaya as a part of the 75th anniversary of Ivan Yarygin, an outstanding Soviet and Russian freestyle wrestler, three-time Olympic world champion. The program included master classes in freestyle wrestling with famous athletes such as Alexander Karelin, Alexey Shumakov, Alexander Ignatenko, Viktor Alekseev and Zaur Bataev, a concert program "Evening in memory of Ivan Yarygin" and a tea party. The event was attended by pupils of sports schools of Shushensky, Ermakovsky districts and Abakan. The guys were able to communicate with great athletes, take memorable photos and get autographs.



Fleming Ilya,

"The young Siberian Travellers"