

## ISAM 11 (2020) SCHEDULE & EXCURSIONS

2.08.2020. **Arrival to Gorno-Altaiisk airport & town:** Check into Hotel "Igman".

3.08.2020. **First day of ISAM:** Opening ceremony, plenary lectures and welcome party in the Gorno-Altaiisk State University.

4.08.2020. **Road from Gorno-Altaiisk town to Aktash village:** Check into Hotel Rasul (50.3103 N, 87.5982 E, 1300 m a.s.l.).

5-9.08.2020. **Expeditions around Aktash village.**

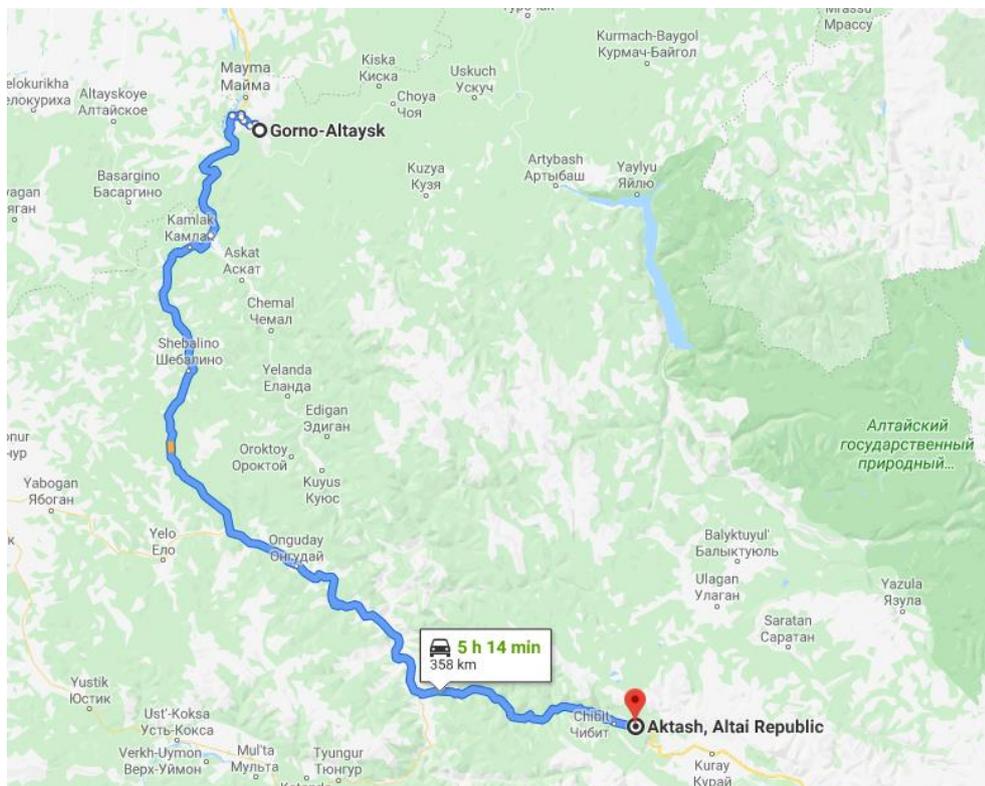
10.08.2020. **Back to Gorno-Altaiisk town:** Check into Hotel "Igman".

11.08.2020. **Flight back home from Gorno-Altaiisk airport.**

*It is also possible to visit both pre- and post symposium excursions.*

**N.B.!** All participants must decide in advance whether they want to participate in pre- and/or post symposium excursions because it is necessary to pre-book places at tourist camps, as well as places at the "Igman" hotel (Gorno-Altaiisk).

During post-congress excursions, we can visit new places for us, as well as where we already worked, but due to lack of time we did not collect enough material.



**Figure.** Road from Gorno-Altaiisk to Aktash village (distance about 358 km and 5 h 14 min).



**Figure.** Hotel Rasul in Aktash. Residence of ISAM participants.

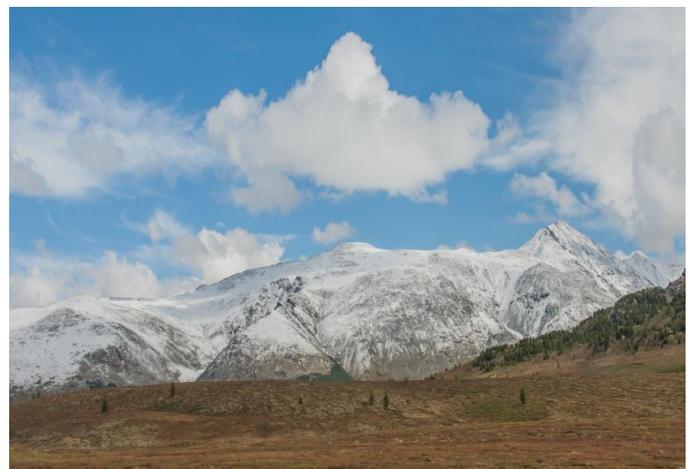
Please visit the website of the Rasul Hotel (<http://rasulka.ru/>) and select which rooms you want, or write to us and we will reserve you a place. Please choose rooms inside the two-story main building. In any case, let us know about your choice. We will reserve rooms by the Organizing Committee. Wooden houses are not available.

### **Places we will visit during ISAM, around Aktash village.**

For excursions in the mountains we will rent large off-road cars that are able to pass along mountain roads. We are thinking about the possibility of renting a helicopter for a one-day trip to the Ukok plateau. But in the mountains, the weather often changes quickly and therefore, the direction of the daily trip may change. That is why it is also impossible to say on which day the helicopter flight is possible.

### **The preliminary plan of our excursions (one day trips):**

**5.08. Tundra around an Alpine lake** (50.4559 N, 87.6761 E, 1800-2700 m a.s.l.). Alpine vegetation. 20 km of Aktash village. Beautiful wet tundra, floodplain vegetation of high mountains, subalpine Siberian pine forests, perennial snow fields.



**Figures.** Views around an Alpine lake.

**6.08. Aktru Glacier and its surroundings and Yeshtyk-kel Plateau** (50.0739 N, 87.7681 E, 2500-3500 m a.s.l.). Alpine vegetation. The travelling takes about 3 hours by off-road cars in one direction. Alpine vegetation of first stages of succession under the Big Aktru Glacier and wet tundra and tundra-steppe on the plateau.



**Figures.** Big Aktru Glacier and Yeshtyk-kel Plateau.

**7.08.** (One day trip by helicopter) **Ukok Plateau** (49.2542 N, 87.8001 E, 2300-3100 m a.s.l.). Tundra-steppe vegetation. Ukok Plateau - the last house for the legendary Siberian Ice Maiden ([https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Siberian\\_Ice\\_Maiden](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Siberian_Ice_Maiden) ). The plateau is protected by WWF, like the untouched tundra-steppe and glacial flora and fauna, including such rare species as the snow leopard (<https://wwf.ru/en/resources/news/altay/storonniki-wwf-podarili-prirodnomu-parku-zona-pokoya-ukok-avtomobil-uaz/>).



**Figure.** Ukok Plateau.

The price of the helicopter flight is around 480 000 rubles. This includes: the helicopter flies from the Gorno-Altaysk airport one hour to the village of Aktash, where it takes us, and another hour to the Ukok plateau. Therefore 4 hours in both directions are

needed. So, if we collect 480000 rubles, the crew can afford the cost of a flight of 120,000 rubles per hour. This was the price in 2016. Now it maybe more. However, the exact prices are known in March-April. It is also not clear yet if we have to pay for the helicopter when it is waiting for us on the plateau while we are picking fungi! As soon as the information becomes clear, I will publish it on this website. In any case, the organizing committee needs to know who agrees to fly by helicopter. Mi-8 helicopter can take on board 18-20 people.

In 2019, we drove to the Ukok plateau by a big off-road car: it took one day to get there, spend the night in tents, one day of picking fungi, the second overnight in tents, and the whole third day were turned back to the village of Aktash.

**8.08. Sofia Glacier** (49.8031 N, 87.8119 E, 2400-3000 m a.s.l.). Alpine and tundra-steppe vegetation. The way takes 4 hours by off-road cars in one direction. Untouched alpine landscapes framed by glaciers of the South-Chuya ridge.



**Figures.** Sofia Glacier surrounds.

**9.08. Mountain and valley close to Aktash, the radio transmitter** (50.3298 N, 87.7564 E, 2300-2500 m a.s.l.). Alpine vegetation. 20 km of Aktash village.



**Figures.** Surroundings of Aktash's Radio transmitter.