



NETWORK RUSSIA



Siberian Links

Siberia is vast geographical region with no precise boundaries, 7.5 million km², mostly in Russia. As generally delineated, it extends east across N Asia from the Urals to the Pacific coast region known as the Russian Far East, and south from the Tundra regions along the Arctic Ocean margins, through the great Taiga forest zone, to the Steppes of Central Asia and Mongolia. Most of Siberia is sparsely populated, with Novosibirsk, Omsk, Tomsk, Novokuznetsk, and Irkutsk the principal cities. Russians and Ukrainians, migrating east from European Russia since the C13th, are now more numerous than indigenous ethnic groups. Transportation facilities are limited, the Lena, Ob, and Yenisei rivers (and their tributaries) serving as the principal north-south routes and the Trans-Siberian Railway (completed 1905) as the chief east-west route.



Extreme cold in the north and scanty, irregular precipitation in the south limit the region's agricultural potential, and most development is based on Siberia's rich oil, natural gas, coal, iron ore, gold, timber, and other resources. It probably sounds like just the place you want to visit and Jane Waley, who has links with firm friends there, is organising a visit to her Scouting friends next year. She would be delighted to here from anyone interested (contact details below) Her Siberian Scouting friends have already made several journeys to England, visiting International Friendship camps in 1992, 1996 and 2000.



The photo on the left show Scouts from Ust-Abakan, Western Siberia who visited camp at Kibblestone in 2000. 12 children and their leaders travelled the 4 day journey across the Trans-Siberian railway and then flight to the UK arriving at Stone in Saffordshire. They enjoyed 6 days home hospitality which included excursions and a special village party with special Russian dancing in the costumes below. After the Kibblestone camp they went off to Malton to experience the Yorkshire coastline, a first for land-locked Siberians. They all said they had greatly enjoyed their trip and had many happy memories.

**You can contact Jane Waley telephone on 01785 813430 or by post to:
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