

Sailing Far East Russia (by “Chamade” 2017)

Sailing the Far East coast of Russia is definitively a great adventure.

Apart from Vladivostok, no foreign sailing yachts were seen before 2017, when the French “Maewan” sailed Kamchatka and Kuriles (south bound) and the swiss “Chamade” and “Anthea” sailed the east coast, Sakhalin, Kuriles and Kamchatka (north bound). Everywhere the welcome was warm and people very helpful. But very few people speak English. Enough for basic contact. But to get deeper contact it’s a good idea to have a crew speaking Russian. It’s few sailing boat (apart Vladivostok) but everywhere the sailors are really happy to welcome you.

Formalities:

Warning:

Being the first is always difficult. The maritime Russian laws are done for big ship. For the Russian authorities, you are a big ship. A foreign big ship come and go to one port, load and unload, moor in the “international zone” in the harbor, the crews stay on board and that’s it. Nothing thought for a sailing yacht and its crew.

The authorities are always kind, but very strict and often fastidious. No suspicion, but the law is the law!

Immigration:

Visa is not an easy topic!

First, for the Russian authorities, each time you sail further than 12 NM from the coast, you leave the country. So you have to do a clearance and after a new entry in Russia each time, except if you sail along the coast. But sailing from Vladivostok to Sakhalin or from Sakhalin to Kuriles or Kamchatka is long distance. For that a multi entrance visa is necessary.

Second problem, under the Russian immigration law, there is only one or two entrances tourist visa. A multi-entrance tourist visa doesn’t exist. The one or two entrances tourist visa is reasonably easy to get. So you can manage your program to make only 2 stops (for example Sakhalin and Kamchatka)

To sail many destinations, you need a “multi-entrance humanitarian visa for sports events”. Really difficult to get it. Could be done thru the Russian Olympic committee or Russian Sailing Federation. We didn’t try; we got our visas thru old professional network.

Maritim Agents:

Remember, you are a “big ship” and so, you need to have a agent to make the formalities. Really expensive. Between 450\$ in Vladivostok and 2000\$ (!) in Kamchatka. In Severo Kurils’k or Kamchatka the price includes the mooring tax.

The agent prepare all the paper work for you (in Vladivostok I had to sign 32 different papers!) and usually it’s going fast and easy with immigration, customs, quarantine and coast guards.

Agents:

Vladivostok:

Genady at Osa Maritime +7 914 067 72 36 Speak English saprykin@osaco.ru

Korsakov:

Dmitry So +7 914 085 37 34 Speak English tdkservis@list.ru

Severo Kurils'k:

daniil: s-kmak@mail.ru 8 924 288 60 13 Speak English

For Kamchatka, it's possible to avoid the crazy price asked by local agent. Take contact with the Kamchatka's sailing federation (yes, they are 4 sailing boats at Petropavlovsk!).

-Andrei Podlas, president of the Kamchatka's sailing federation: podlas.eco@yandex.ru
WhatsApp +7 914 625 10 60 Speak basic English

-Alexei, member of that federation, working at the coast guard: alexei4584@gmail.com
WhatsApp +7 914 028 72 20. Speak English.

Andrei and/or Alexei will help you to avoid the agent, to make the formalities and to get a mooring in the small pontoon to the local "marina".

Harbors:

Vladivostok:

7feet marina: 43°06,493N/131°52,300E

Manager Ilya Ermakov: very nice guy. Speak perfect English +7 984 199 78 88
ermakov1219@gmail.com

You have to stop first at the Maritim Harbor Station for formalities. Genady, the agent will give you instructions.

Nakhodka: 42°46,823N/132°48,593E

Nice small marina will welcome you. It's not in the main harbor, but in a bay more east. Ilya from Vladivostok will help you to contact Dmitry in that marina (Dmitry don't speak English)
Taxi to the town. Supermarket in town.

Olga: 43°44,431N/135°16,846E

Very good protection in the "lagoon". You can anchor just in front of the small boats area on the beach. There is a watchman looking for you boat.

Small town, nice people, but don't speak English.

Many good shops in town for provisioning.

We did the clearance for Korsakov at the commercial harbor. Very difficult as they had never seen a sailing boat and didn't know what they had to do. They don't speak English.

Korsakov (south of Sakhalin): 46°37,436N/142°46,124E

Good protection but dirty harbor.

You stay in the "International zone"

Expensive: 300\$ for a week. But the agent Dmitry So will help you to get fuel by jerrycans.

We bought 300 liters of mineral water in small jugs. Only "technical water" on the quay.

Severo Kurils'k: 50°41,372N/156°08,386E

Good protection in a pretty dirty harbor. Amazing and interesting small town under an active volcano. No diesel, no water.

Petropavlovsk:

You need to get authorization from the Coast guards to enter the Avacha Bay.

First stop in the commercial harbor to do the paperwork.

Then, excellent protection in the GBF marina 52°57,751N/158°42,033E

where Andrei and Alexei will welcome you.

Big supermarket close to the marina. Diesel at the station close to the supermarket.

Ask Alexei to get water.