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Vladivostok Air has cancelled their 2009 summer flight service between Anchorage, Alaska and Petropavlovsk, Kamchatka. The current global economic climate has had a significant impact on Vladivostok Air ticket sales, not just on the fly fishing side, but in other markets that were counted on to secure a break-even occupancy level, including Russian expatriates, ecotourism, trophy hunting, energy and exploration companies, academic research, commercial fishing, etc.

However that does not mean that Kamchatka fly fishing is dead. With just a bit more time and effort, Kamchatka, the greatest wilderness-trout fishing destination left on the planet, can be accessed through Moscow. In fact, the trip through Moscow is no more taxing than flying to Tierra del Fuego (where we send nearly 300 anglers every year and have a waiting list), is easier than the Seychelles and no more difficult than New Zealand or Australia. Kamchatka may be more of an effort to get to now, but ask anyone that has been there and they'll tell you it's worth it – in spades!

There are a number of advantages of flying through Moscow and none of which may be more significant than the fact that there are three flights a day seven days a week on Aeroflot from Moscow to Petropavlovsk. That means the anxiety of missing the once week a week charter back home, due to weather induced helicopter delays is over. Too, Moscow is a wonderful cultural and historic travel destination and anyone old enough to remember TV images of military parades in Red Square or Khrushchev's shoe pounding outburst at the 1960 UN General Assembly has to see it to believe it.

We suggest people spend a couple nights in Moscow and at least a full day of touring the Kremlin, Red Square, the Armory and such on the front end of their trip as it makes a great travel buffer and opportunity to acclimate to the Russian culture and people.

Since 2006 and 2007 when we flew through Moscow to Kamchatka there have been some significant travel developments, namely, new direct flights from Chicago and Houston to Moscow. The latter is with Singapore Air - probably the finest air service in the world - and both flights transfer at the new, modern and English-friendly Domodedovo Airport in Moscow. Domodedovo makes the previously-used Sheremetyovo Airport look like a gulag. No terminal transfers to jump to facilitate the flight from Moscow to Kamchatka, and the baggage and flight connections are reliable. Our staff flew this route in 2008 without a hitch.

The price of advance purchase tickets is normally less than \$2,000 for economy class. And with many major airlines flying from the US to Moscow, you should be able to find both first-class seating as well as opportunities to use mileage awards.

2009 Moscow Sample Itinerary

- Day 1 – Wednesday: Connect in Houston or Chicago for evening flight to Moscow.
- Day 2 – Thursday: Arrive Moscow Domodedovo early afternoon, connect to 6 pm flight to Petropavlovsk, Kamchatka.
- Day 3 – Friday: Arrive Kamchatka 12:35pm, connect by helicopter to river. Fishing depending on remaining daylight.
- Day 4 – Saturday: Full fishing day.
- Day 5 – Sunday: Full fishing day.
- Day 6 – Monday: Full fishing day.
- Day 7 – Tuesday: Full fishing day.
- Day 8 – Wednesday: Full fishing day.
- Day 9 – Thursday: Full fishing day.
- Day 10 – Friday: Fishing most of the day, late afternoon return to Petropavlovsk. Overnight.
- Day 11 – Saturday: Depart for Moscow early afternoon, arriving same day, same time. Overnight (there is a nice hotel right at the Moscow DME airport.)
- Day 12 – Sunday: Depart for US late morning. Arrive same day, same time. Continue home.

We are currently building a new schedule of operating weeks for the 2009 Kamchatka Season. If you are even remotely interested in experiencing for yourself the greatest wilderness trout fishing destination on the planet, please contact us immediately.

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