Oymyakon: The Coldest Inhabited Place on Earth



If you're a fan of unusual tourist spots, you might want to consider adding Oymyakon to your bucket list. But be warned: you're going to need every sweater in your closet — and your neighbors' closets — if you wish to stay warm in winter! Located in the Russian region of Yakutia, the village of Oymyakon holds the Guinness World Record for the coldest inhabited place on Earth.

During winter, it's common for temperatures to drop below minus 50 degrees Celsius. But for the village's 500 inhabitants, the bitter cold is simply a part of everyday life. The local climate makes it very difficult to grow crops, so most people eat a meat-based diet that includes reindeer meat and frozen fish.

Most homes have outdoor toilets, because indoor plumbing would simply freeze. And in order to get fresh water, Oymyakon residents cut out blocks of ice from the nearby river and melt them inside their homes. When the temperature falls below minus 52 degrees Celsius, children aged 7 to 10 don't have to go to school. Older students still have to attend classes unless the temperature drops below minus 55. The lowest officially recorded temperature was a frigid minus 67.7 degrees Celsius back in 1933.

Summers in Oymyakon are mild and often very warm, with temperatures reaching up to 30 degrees Celsius. Surprisingly, the locals often complain about the warmer weather! A good time to visit Oymyakon would be during the Pole of the Cold Festival, which takes place in the nearby village of Tomtor every year at the end of winter. You will get a chance to see lively celebrations in traditional costumes, watch deer-drawn sled races, try some ice-fishing, taste the local cuisine, and much more.

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Vocabulary

inhabited - Adjetivo

ɪnˈhæbɪtɪd
(of a place) with people living there

"Just Room Enough Island" in New York is the smallest inhabited island in the world.



bitter - Adjetivo

ˈbɪtər
(of weather) extremely cold and uncomfortable

The cabin is small, but it has been built to withstand the bitter cold of the Alaskan winter.



plumbing - Substantivo

ˈplʌmɪŋ
the system of pipes, tanks, etc. used for supplying, storing, and heating water in a house

It's going to cost us several thousand dollars to replace the plumbing in this house.



frigid - Adjetivo

ˈfrɪdʒɪd
extremely cold

The storm brought wind, rain, and frigid temperatures to many parts of the country.



mild - Adjetivo

maɪld
not very strong, intense, etc.

I think you have a mild fever, but it's nothing serious.



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spot - Substantivo

spɑ:t

a place, point, or position

This is my favorite spot to watch the sunset



Answer the questions below

1. Would you be interested in visiting Oymyakon? Why? Why not?

2. What's the coldest place you've ever been to? Did you enjoy your stay?

3. How cold does your town or city usually get in winter?

4. Do you think you'd enjoy living in a village with only 500 residents?

5. Have you ever gone fishing? Do you think you'd enjoy ice fishing?

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