



KHAMAR DABAN

51°53'N, 103°60'E

Silvi Peshova



Imagine being in London Hyde Park, calmly enjoying your mid-late afternoon on a bench by the Serpentine. There is a virtual map in your hand equipt with all longitudes and latitudes on the planet. Zoom in to where you are sitting and remember the following six digit number - 51°30'36"N. It is the exact parallel you are at. Now... begin tracing it east with your finger. Eventually, you will reach a lake with the shape of a heart, itself lying at the heart of The Syberian Wild.

you could have traced it west and reached it as successfully. It would have simply taken slightly longer. That is the extraordinary thing about Earth. Whichever direction you take, there is a great chance ending up elsewhere, obverse to your current position. We as explorers have made it easier than ever. Supposedly, therefrom springs the saying 'It is a small world'. Yet, however small, it is full of beauty and endless possibilities for its disclosure.

That lake ... is where I stood not long ago. It is called 'Heart' for its shape but also for its unmeasured depth. Metaphorically, a heart is also source of much unpredictability. From just a place, it became a life altering experience. You will soon discover the 'why's behind this conviction, gradually paging through this booklet.

The further you go, the deeper it gets. But, as learned, fear has little place *when* it is deep. And *where* it is deep.

You won't see the physical lake, but you will experience it semantically. Follow the lettered thread all the way. seemingly laconic but actually the simplest path I managed to map, to lead to a lesson and come from my soul.

Meanwhile, feast on the overabundance of visuals. They are on every page, telling more with less.



There are two lakes in this story. One bigger in size, another greater in wisdom, but both infinite in meaning.

Lake Heart is for dessert, because I trust it to hold the most intimate speech. If you haven't guessed by far, it is the lake with 'wise' on its label.

Until then, let me tell you about the volume dominant, better known as the largest freshwater lake in the world. It entitles this pamphlet for the whole visual story is revolving around it...

BAIKAL

Called by some the lake of hope, a freshwater sea, more so a *juvenile ocean*.

And keeps growing bigger - the depression it fills, is expanding with approximately 2 cm each year. One might think 'Well, kids seem to grow fast' and so does Baikal. However, a kid doesn't grow around the clock, which is what this lake is and has been doing for over *25 million* year.

It holds several world records - the biggest, oldest, deepest and most exotic.

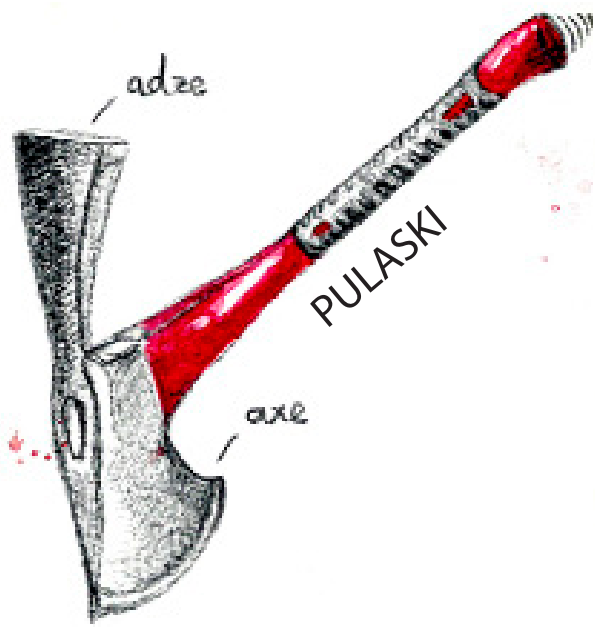
A treasury for one fifth of the global freshwater amounts, it matches Belgium by square metrics. 2 000 species inhabitants, one third of which nowhere else to be found. It is further fuelled by 330 rivers, only one of which flows out instead of in - Angara.

An aerial view would be similar to a solid tureen with crushed bread chunks. 27 islands within this enormous basin, some of which could easily be tiny countries of their own.

I bathed in Baikal just once at nighttime. Despite the darkness, its waters felt crystal. Jumps ended in smooth landings, as if on a surface of whole other kind.

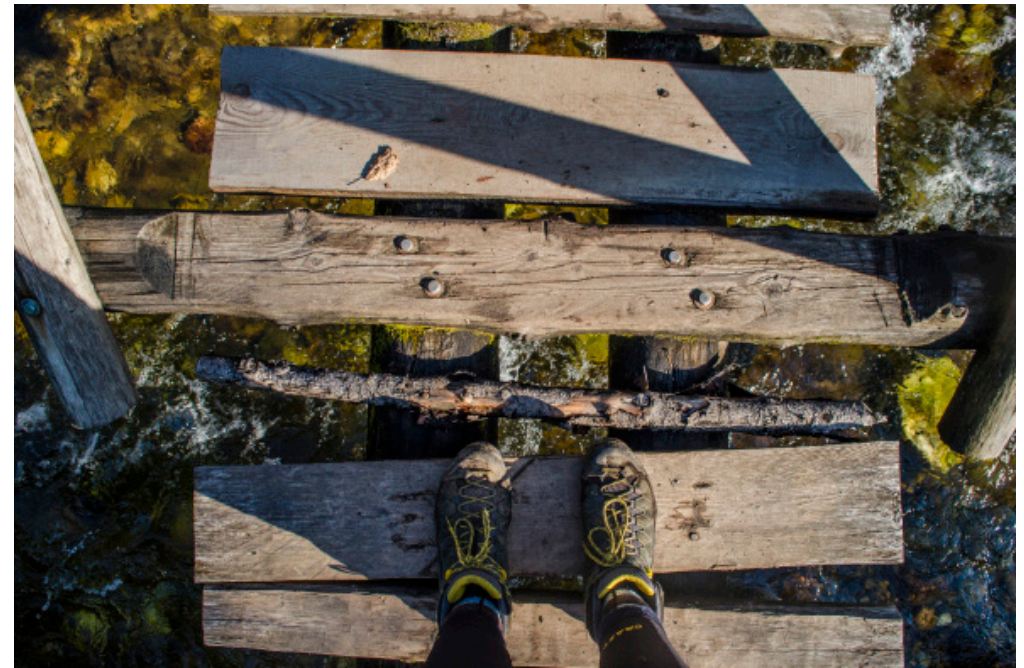
The lake silently articulated its seismicity via constant soft waves. There couldn't exist a more convincing ocean simulator.

In a way, the crux behind this venture was the connection of one lake to the other. Building a trail so these two distant altitudes could send explorers to each other - caressing their lives.









Khamar Daban is a mountain region in Syberia, Russia. It lies at the south western tip of the freshwater giant Baikal. though ostensibly chaste, its summit overlooks the lake at 2090 m height.

Our group consisted of twenty volunteers. The program was neat: tents, hiking equipment, food provisions, necessary tools in exchange for manual work amongst nature and quality conversations with open minded people.

We switched location during several stages of the trail construction. The base camp hid in a sheltered woody area on the outskirts of the small coastal village Kultuk at around 450 m, where we spent two and a half weeks.

Trekking took another week. The higher, the more frugal. Packing light and smart put a true smile on the faces of those who actually did. The alpine base emerged from scratch at 1700 m and sheltered us only for a few days. We were on an informal meeting with the real WILD. In the interim, there were other temporary settlements, imprinted nocturnally on the next few pages.

To the left are extensive marble dumps from what is known as 'Pereval Karier' /the marble quarry pass/. Marble with high contents of magnesium create these snowy piles mixed with other minerals like talk. Sylvan curtains mask another glory.









51°31'N, 103°35'E

The old weather station

Every mountain range has its few old shelters. More often than not they are worn out lodges or abandoned weather stations reminding of the one you see above. I have come across them just below summits in Bulgaria, Russia and elsewhere abroad.

Their positioning at the apex allows for extremal temperature measurements and other up-close surveillance. Sometimes disappointing first time visitors with their desolation, They become key saviours when seeking refuge from the ferocious war of elements.

camp site - a log cabin is roughly 4£/night

well - unreliable at the time

barrels - store fresh drinking rainwater

water stream - nearest source is 1,5 km down

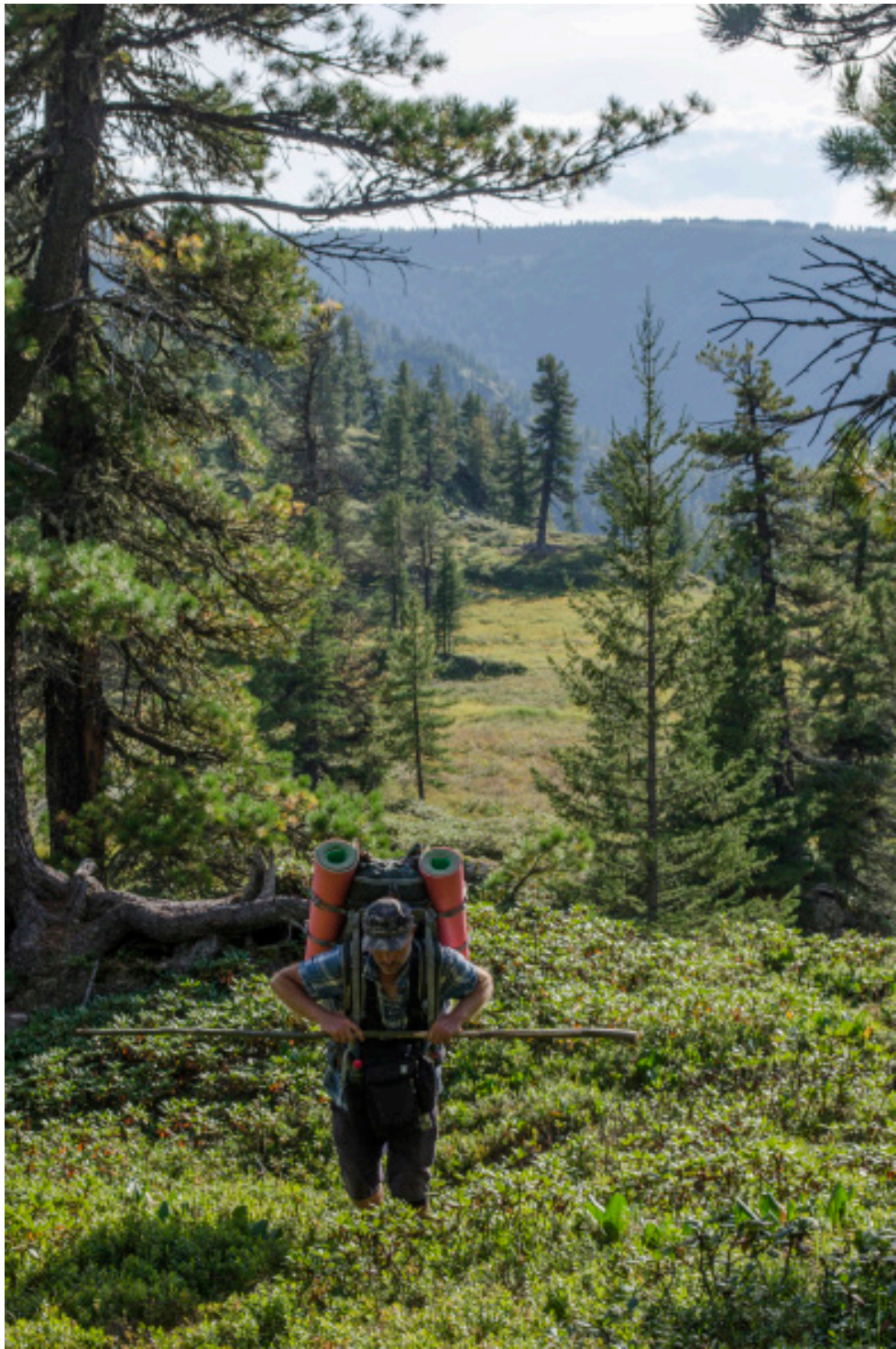
compote - locals offer whole pieces of stewed fruit in syrup

Nature expressed its full spectre of moods over the course of August in these mild subarctics. Delighted by the warm ascent to then be in for a slippery walk down in a 48-hour span of ceaseless showers. Little did I know about these climate fluctuations and the challenges they set upon.

As much as you read, hear, discuss, you remain a plain un-inked sheet. not before you decide to go, do and sink in. we percuade ourselves of material necessitation, possession of not only things but consequently feelings, moments, people. We stuff ourselves with security to cushion the blow of hardships. But stitches need constant resewing, materials need often reconsideration, 'stuffing' needs eternal mindfulness.

The outdoor filling of the indoor space is what makes us whole for oneself and real human beings with each other.

This booklet is a 'thank you' to the handful of people with whom all abreast... truly lived.





On the line

Skin on fire
Pulses on the rise
Slow submergence
in a 'heart of ice'.

Look aside
and feel the line
uniting pages
in a bind.

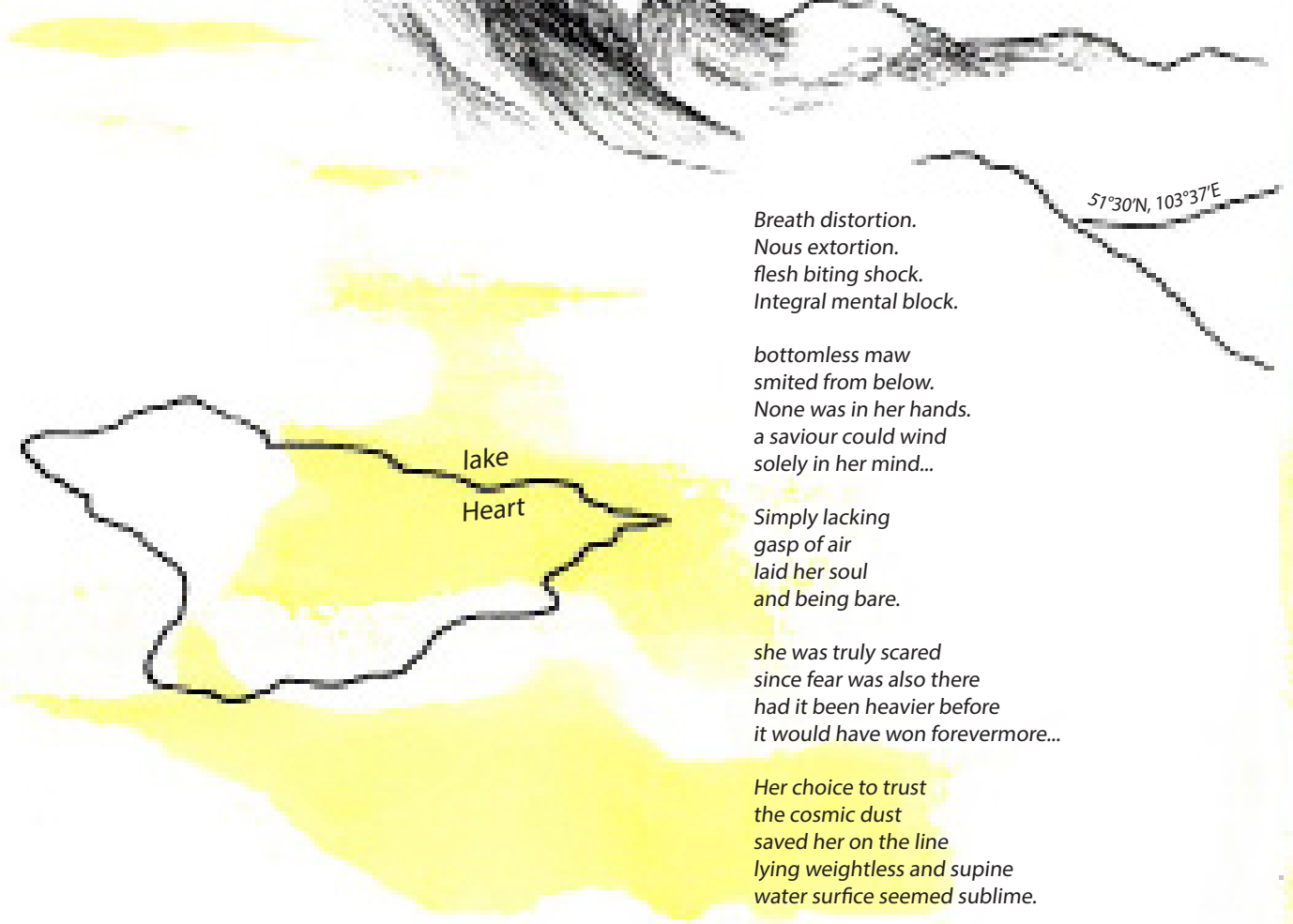
trace it to the centre
of the lake contour
where a tacit girl
managed to endure.

at the furthest right,
she entered unaccompanied,
aiming for the other side.
skin receptors soaking chill
such a catchy thermal thrill.

Breaststroking
forward crawl.
Waterlines
above her all.

Inner warmth,
rhythmic stroke.
A single moment
tuneful soak.

Then she stopped,
suddenly confined,
unwary... promptly
on the line.



Breath distortion.
Nous extortion.
flesh biting shock.
Integral mental block.

bottomless maw
smited from below.
None was in her hands.
a saviour could wind
solely in her mind...

Simply lacking
gasp of air
laid her soul
and being bare.

she was truly scared
since fear was also there
had it been heavier before
it would have won forevermore...

Her choice to trust
the cosmic dust
saved her on the line
lying weightless and supine
water surface seemed sublime.

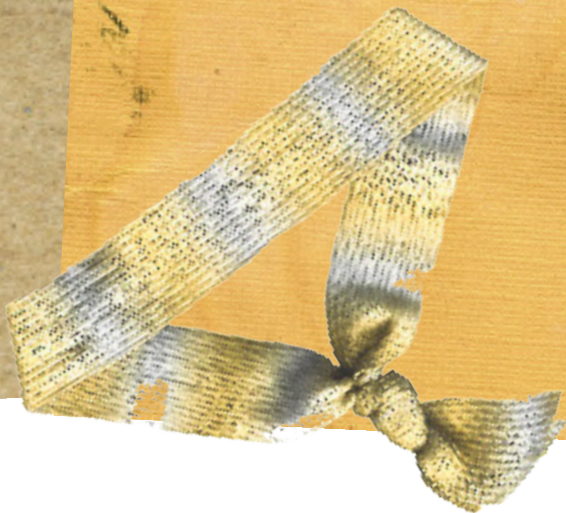
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Cepg40
C.H.

A journal is 'a lasting record of experience
and a road map for self-discovery'.

a life in hand,
Hannah Hinchman

Байкал
2018

Байкал
2018



ХАМАР-ДАВАН — горный хребт на южном и юго-вост. побережье оз. Байкал. Дл. 480 км (от устья р. Селенги до долины р. Прирты). Выс. до 2758 м. Склоны гнейсами, кристаллич. сланцами, известняками, базальтами. Сев. склоны покрыты пихтово-кедровой тайгой, южные — сосново-лиственнично-березовой тайгой, южные — сосново-лиственнично-березовой тайгой, южные — сосново-лиственнично-березовой тайгой. На высотах более 2000 м — горнотундровая растительность.

ОЗЕРО БАЙКАЛ
МАСШТАБ 1:1 000 000

на Байкал
имеется 93
островов
и группа
Завьяловых
островов
площадь
всех
островов
3442 км²
самые
крупные
острова:
Баргузинский (6)
Чивыркуйский (7)
Прованский (8)
Роводы
на поверхности
в открытом море
+93+12
Средняя
температура
летом +20°C

24 м. с. а. т. 1.

в стандартных словах. Вес 6 кг. 3,2; 3,6

озеро Байкал
САМОЕ ГЛУБОКОЕ ОЗЕРО
ЗЕМНОГО ШАРА...

ПЛОЩ.:
31,5 000
км²

Наибольшая
глубина
1742 м
(1040 м)

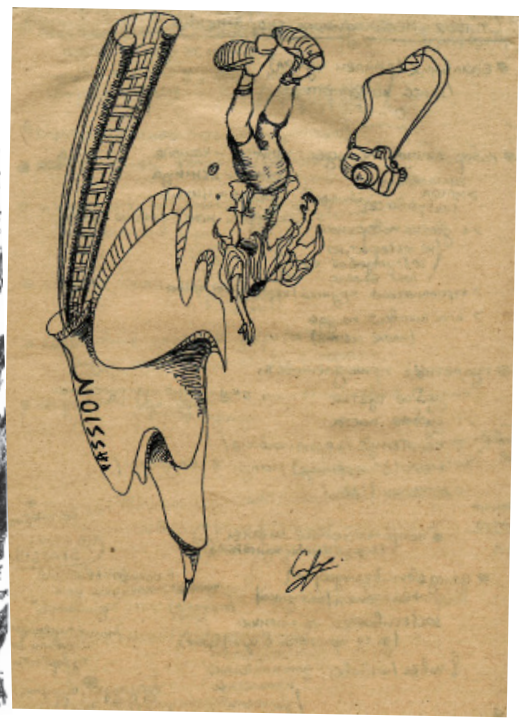
Средняя
отметка
уровня
454 м.
абс. выс.
над уровнем
моря (6)

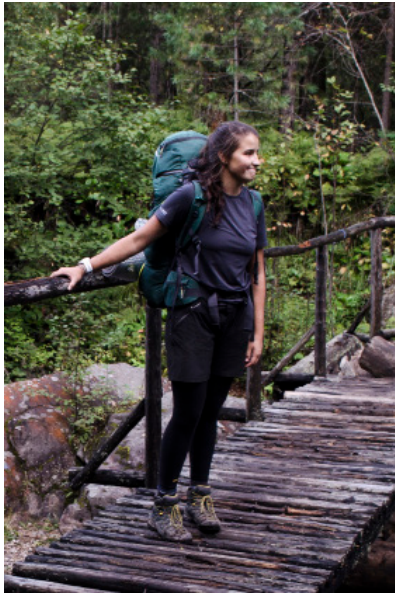
ЛЕНИТ В
ГЛУБОКОМ
ТЕКТОНИЧЕСКОМ
ВПАДИНЕ,
ОГРАНИЧЕННОМ
ГОРНЫМИ
ХРЕБТАМИ

В Байкал
впадает
~ 330 рек
наиболее
крупные
находящиеся
Селенга (1)
Баргузин (2) Борхан (3) |
Ангар (4) — впадение

КАРТА БАЙКАЛА

24.08/2018





Silvi



Pierre - Louis



Oleg



Tanya



Djamil



Sasha



Masha



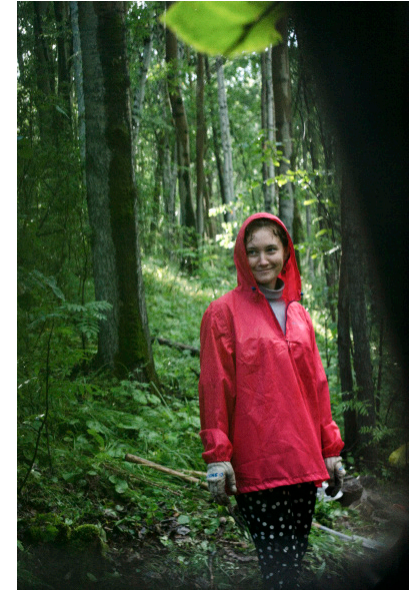
Sanya



Zhenya



Alisa



Vika

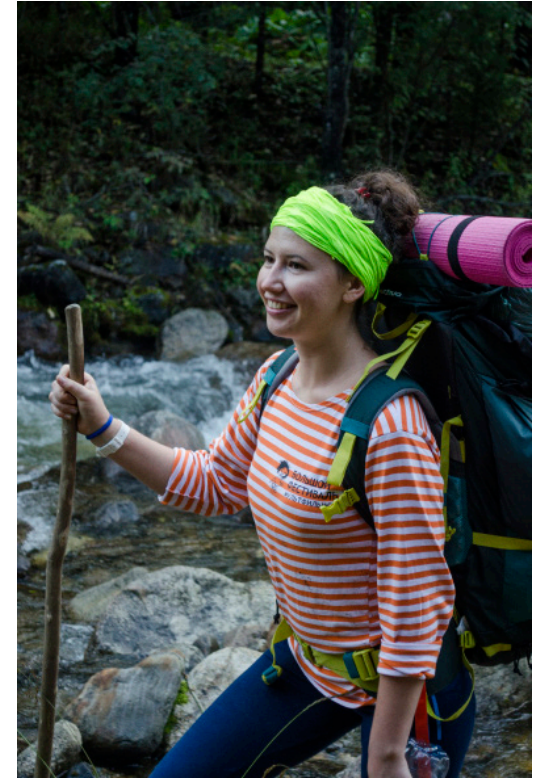
THE TEAM



Katya



Arnaud



Dasha



Lionel



Denis

