

A scenic photograph of a sunset over a large body of water. The sun is a bright yellow circle just above the horizon, casting a long, shimmering reflection on the water's surface. The sky is filled with soft, orange and pink clouds. In the background, a dark silhouette of a forested shoreline stretches across the horizon. The overall mood is peaceful and natural.

Volunteering

in Nizhne-Svirsky

State Nature Reserve

Part 3: Visitors



Ecotourism

There are 5 ecological routes in the Reserve with their total length 93.5 km. Routes are organized so that visitors can get acquainted with the best natural features of the Reserve with minimal impact on its natural systems.



30-35 organized groups (2-3 of them foreign) per year visit the reserve. These are 250-340 people. Among them are students, biologists, members of social organizations, children's environmental camps, nature lovers and travelers.



**Ecological Expedition of school № 3
(Lodeynoe Pole)**



**Students of the ecological circle into
the practice**

Classes of Hydrobiology





**Participants of the school ecological expedition
in the Centre for Visitors**



In leisure hours are held cultural events. Author's version of the play "Snow White and the 7 Dwarves"



At the end of the expedition, the participants show the results of their performance.



Vasily Vichkunin

**An international team of students-ecologists
on probation in the Reserve.**



From the town Lodeinoe Pole to the village Kovkenitsy one can arrive by a comfortable bus.



On the Reserve's roads a bus-jep is the most reliable transport



Viewing platform on a steep bank of the river Svir.



Through a forest stream



Walkways through the Ladoga belt marshes



The observation tower at the edge of a raised bog



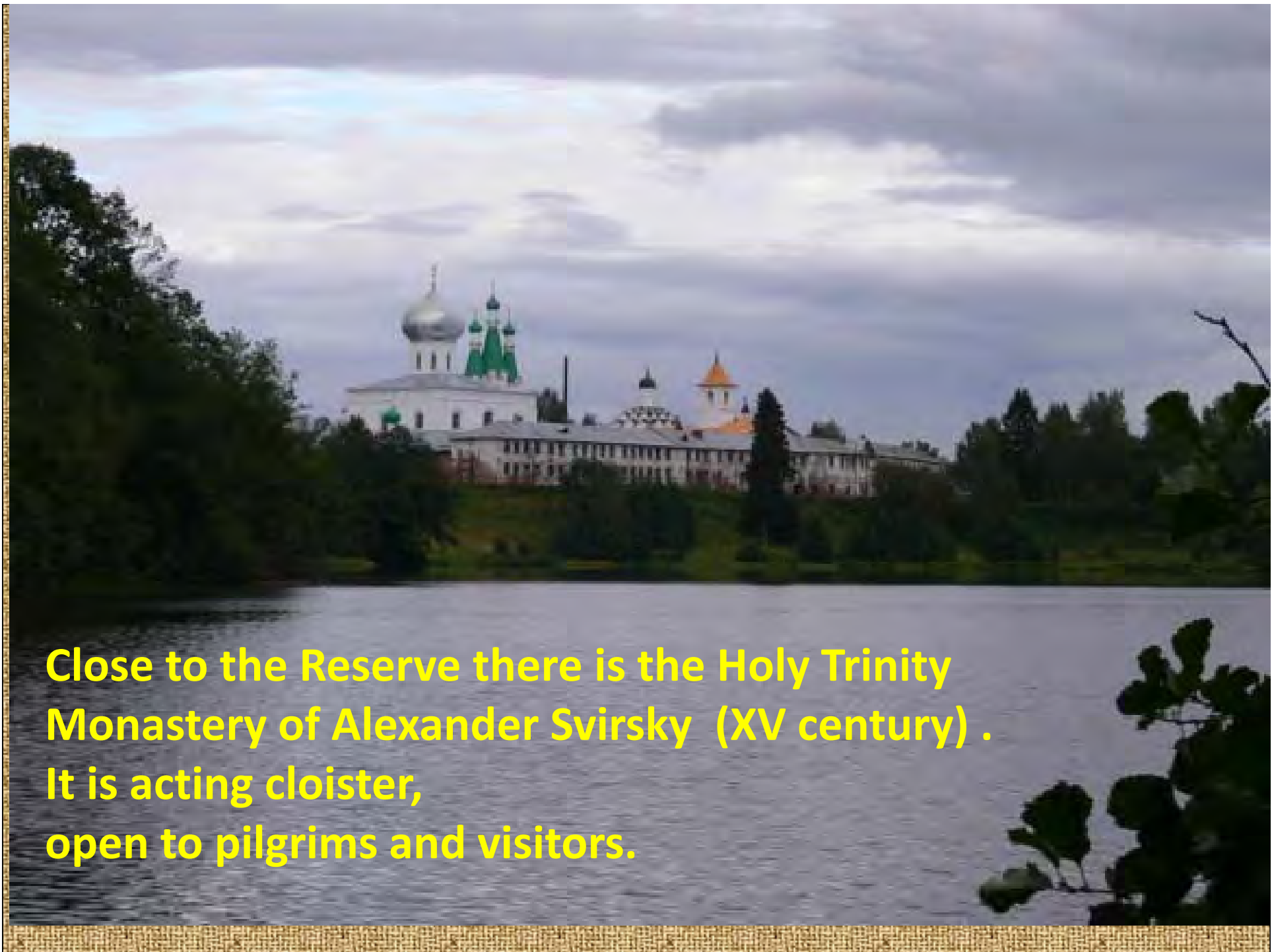
On the shore of the Lake Ladoga.



An excursion to the ornithological station.



**One of the ecological routes goes along the river Svir.
It is well in sunny weather.**



Close to the Reserve there is the Holy Trinity Monastery of Alexander Svirsky (XV century) . It is acting cloister, open to pilgrims and visitors.

Almost all of our guests provide the reserve a feasible help beyond their main purpose.



**Painting of the summer hotel
by the students**

**Volunteers repair a bridge across the rivulet
on an ecological path.**



A “chief” volunteer is a doctor Vladimir Komov from Moscow. He has been helping the Reserve for many years.



A perfect carver - he makes Fine art design details for nature trails.



Making a carved banner



Students from Moscow pick up stones and sand to repair workshops and design spring.



A spring, designed by volunteers



Volunteers repair wooden flooring of floating bridge over the river Pelchuzhnya.

ЭКОТРОПА ЗАПОВЕДНИК В МИНИАТЮРЕ



- 1 Гости в заповеднике
- 2 Выпускные в природе
- 3 Визитки — свидетели истории миниатюры
- 4 Взгляд из космоса
- 5 Кухня экологической
- 6 На берегу реки Среки
- 7 Зелёный класс
- 8 Родник — родниковые реки
- 9 Заповедные люди



Прикоснись
к природе



Полный —
интересно



Важно —
запомни



Видо-
аналитический

Participants of ecological expedition "Dersu Uzala" created the project of ecological mini path "Reserve in miniature."



...and they began to implement their vision.



"Dersu Uzala" conducted a survey among the residents of the village Kovkenitsy figuring out the modern attitude to the Reserve.



Members of the search group "Svirsky line" are on a halt.



Burial of the soldiers remains of the 2nd World War, found by the members of the search group in the Reserve.



**Members of the search group are repairing roof of a gazebo
on an ecological path**



Electrical wiring in a guest house on the ornithological station "Gumbaritsy" is made by volunteer.



Students from St.-Petersburg help sustaining forest sample plots. They brush up numbers on trees, make a description of the tree status by a special technique.



Sometimes, for more romantic atmosphere, volunteers organize a tent camp.

A fly in the ointment

All the reserves in Russia are state organizations. On the one hand, it is a positive factor. On the other hand it affects development. The reserve feels an acute shortage of the state support for all thirty years of its existence. It is not a secret, that financing of protected territories in Russia is carried out on "a residual" principle. This implies almost all the problems of the Reserve, including personnel. Its staff has never been fully completed. The reasons of it are low wages, difficult working conditions, lack of housing, kindergarten, school, medical unit, a shop ... One of the basic issues is transportation. Most of the boats have been used during more than 30 years, while their useful life is no more than 10 years. Most vehicles are worn out. The number of running cars is not enough.

For all these reasons, the reserve **certainly needs volunteers**. But on the other hand, **it is a great responsibility**. After all, employers and resources are needed for the good organization of the labor.

So, the help of volunteers in our reserve could be used in the following activities:

- Designing and creation of ecological routes,
- Repairing roads and trails,
- Economic, repair and construction works,
- Artistic-design and advertising work (including on the Internet),
- Organizing and conducting ecological expeditions,
- Carrying out environmental actions and propaganda of environmental protection and so on.

Do Reserve need one more route?

There are 5 routes for excursions in the Reserve. One would think that we have enough places for sightseeng, but the number of visitors is not great. This happens because the routes are neither difficult to access, nor having enough points of interest. So we really need a new one – rather short, easily accessible and well-organized. Volunteers could also be involved in the design and construction of this project.



In our place you can find not only natural objects. Here there is the living history of the Russian people, as well as Finnish. Many of the objects of war are well preserved. The Finnish veterans has been coming for many years to the Reserve. These places have been associated with the memories of their youth.





**The Reserve is grateful for the help
provided by volunteers and is ready to
welcome new ones!**



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Thank you for attention!