

Soviet, Alaska flights to begin in summer

SEATTLE — Alaska Airlines will begin service on June 17 between Anchorage and two cities in the Soviet Far East — Magadan and Khabarovsk.

Three round trip flights per week will be offered through the summer.

Tour packages include round trip airfare from Anchorage, hotel accommodations, sightseeing, meals and assistance in securing necessary documentation.

There are three package options:

- Five days/four nights. Two days in Magadan followed by three in Khabarovsk. Price from Anchorage: \$1,145 per person.

- Six days/five nights. Three days in Khabarovsk followed by three in Magadan. Price from Anchorage: \$1,295 per person.

- Eight days/seven nights. Includes Khabarovsk and a third city in the region, Irkutsk, which will be accessed via a two-day trip by sleeper car on the Trans-Siberian Railroad from Khabarovsk. Price from Anchorage: \$1,795 per person.

Airfare by itself also is available. Round trip main cabin fares are \$1,000, Anchorage-Magadan, and \$1,500, Anchorage-Khabarovsk.

Magadan, a city of 150,000 on the

Sea of Okhotsk, is about 2,000 miles southwest of Anchorage. Flight time between the two cities is a little over four hours.

A closed city for decades, Magadan was the gateway to some of the most infamous of Stalin's labor camps. Today it is an administrative center and major port serving the northern region of the Soviet Far East.

Khabarovsk, a major commercial center and river port of about 700,000 people, is another 1,000 miles south of Magadan, near the Chinese border.

Irkutsk, known as the Paris of Siberia because of its tree-lined streets,

parks and architecture, is the capital of Eastern Siberia and serves as an industrial, cultural, trade and scientific center.

Additional information on ticket and package purchases can be obtained from travel agents or the Alaska Airlines Vacations desk, 1-800-468-2248.

The U.S. Department of Transportation awarded Alaska the route — one of four new passenger routes established in June with the new US-USSR bilateral air service agreement — on Nov. 8. Alaska is the only carrier planning a route over the Pacific.