

# ARCTIC: TERRITORY OF DIALOGUE NEWS DIGEST

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INTERNATIONAL  
ARCTIC FORUM  
ARKHANGELSK • RUSSIA • 2017

## KEY HIGHLIGHTS:

-  ▶ International Arctic cooperation prospects discussed in Moscow
-  ▶ Interview: Igor Orlov, Governor of Arkhangelsk Region
-  ▶ A guide to the 'Arctic: Territory of Dialogue' International Arctic Forum

Information about the Forum programme, business events  
and speakers is updated on the official Forum website at [www.forumarctica.ru](http://www.forumarctica.ru)

## INTERNATIONAL ARCTIC COOPERATION PROSPECTS DISCUSSED IN MOSCOW



On March 2, an expert roundtable meeting, 'The 'Arctic: Territory of Dialogue International Arctic Forum as a Platform for Discussion of International Economic Cooperation in the Arctic', was held in Moscow. The participants looked into matters of international collaboration in the Arctic, youth involvement in Arctic initiatives, development of transport links, and implementation of major investment projects in the region, and also called on other parties concerned to join in the constructive dialogue on these and other relevant issues at the forthcoming Forum.

Alexander Tsybulskiy, Deputy Minister of Economic Development of the Russian Federation: "The 'Arctic: Territory of Dialogue' International Arctic Forum will be a leading platform focusing on the issues and development outlook for the investment appeal of

this northern polar region. The Forum's business programme features 13 major events. In addition, the organizers have come up with a busy cultural programme. We expect approximately 1,500 guests from 14 countries, which highlights the Forum's high-profile international status."

Vladimir Barbin, Ambassador-at-Large for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, also stressed the need for an open discussion of the Arctic agenda at the international level: "The upcoming Forum to be hosted in Arkhangelsk has aroused profound interest among the global community."

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### We expect representatives of all Arctic states to attend

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In addition to the leaders of Finland and Iceland, the Vice Premier of China, and the Prime Minister of Sweden, the foreign ministers of Norway and Denmark have also recently confirmed that they plan to attend. It is important to note that these foreign guests will not simply be attending the Forum, they will be giving speeches. This proves that the Forum's business programme is relevant to the international agenda and confirms the commitment of the global community to a constructive dialogue on the Arctic."



**Dmitry Rogozin,**  
Chairman, State Commission  
for Arctic Development



**The Arctic is a unique region where international cooperation has remained free from the influence of any political context – as the laws of the Arctic suggest. So we expect the Forum to be attended by representatives of 14 states, including the Arctic states, India, China, Japan, and other non-Arctic countries. The 'Arctic: Territory of Dialogue' International Arctic Forum welcomes colleagues from all over the world who are ready to engage in open dialogue and a search for solutions factoring in the national interests of all parties.**

The full version of this interview is available on the Russia-24 YouTube channel at:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q6RnDQYjaiQ>



March 14, 2017, Lenta.ru

### **Novorossiysk icebreaker to be converted to hotel for International Arctic Forum**

"As many as 75 rooms on the *Novorossiysk* will be used to accommodate guests," Igor Orlov, Governor of Arkhangelsk region, said. Apart from the icebreaker, the Forum will offer guests a chance to view the equipment of the Ministry of Civil Defence, Emergencies and Disaster Relief and companies operating in the Arctic, as well as helicopters and other special purpose equipment on display for the occasion.

[https://lenta.ru/news/2017/03/14/hotel\\_novorossiya](https://lenta.ru/news/2017/03/14/hotel_novorossiya)

March 7, 2017, TASS

### **Arctic Forum speaker lineup to include potential investor in Belkomur**

An Arkhangelsk Region delegation led by Governor Igor Orlov has met with a Chinese delegation headed by President of Poly International Holding Lin Wang in Moscow. Mr. Lin Wang proposes to deliver a speech at the 'Arctic: Territory of Dialogue' International Arctic Forum highlighting his company's plans to invest in the Belkomur railway and Arkhangelsk deep-water sea port construction projects. According to Vladimir Shchelokov, General Director of Interregional Company Belkomur, China's Poly Group, which incorporates Poly International Holding is currently considered the sole to be the sole service provider.

<http://tass.ru/ekonomika/4077757>

March 6, 2017, Izvestia

### **Analyst Rustam Tankayev on prospects for Arctic development and exploration**

"The environment must remain a focus: companies setting out to develop shelf deposits must commit to the highest environmental standards out there. While such a commitment will substantially increase the costs associated with Arctic projects, even with all the requisite measures for preserving the fragile natural environment of the Arctic factored in, the rate of return on Arctic projects remains very high and investments will quickly pay off. All these questions will be considered by participants in the 'Arctic: Territory of Dialogue' International Forum."

<http://izisizvestia.ru/news/668868>

March 6, 2017, Regnum

### **Cultural programme in store for International Arctic Forum guests in Arkhangelsk**

On March 29 and 30, during the International Arctic Forum, more than 20 exhibitions, sightseeing tours and other events will be available for Forum guests to enjoy. On March 29, the Arkhangelsk Gostiny Dvor, historically a fortified complex and now an architectural monument, will throw open its doors for a gala reception hosted by the Arkhangelsk Region Governor. The reception will feature a performance by the State Academic Northern Russian Folk Choir and the Khayar folk song and dance ensemble. On March 30, the Pomorskaya Philharmonic will host a show by Yuri Bashmet and the Moscow Soloists in its Chamber Hall. During the Forum, participants will also be able to enjoy a night of organ music played by the resident musicians of the Pomorskaya Philharmonic, a theatre night featuring *The Strastoterptsy (The Passion Bearers)* performed by the Arkhangelsk Youth Theatre, the opening of the exhibition *The Russian North in the History of Arctic Exploration* and a folk festival *The North Rings with Russian Voices*. In addition, the A.A. Borisov Museum of Artistic Development of the Arctic, the Arkhangelsk Museum of Fine Arts, the Northern Maritime Museum and a number of other galleries will also be open to guests during the Forum.

<https://regnum.ru/news/society/2245761.html>

March 2, 2017, Russia Today

### **Putin to meet Icelandic and Finnish leaders at International Arctic Forum in Arkhangelsk**

"As is traditional, President Putin will take part in the plenary session of the Forum and is expected to deliver a substantive and detailed speech on the Arctic agenda. President of Iceland Gudni Johannesson and President of Finland Sauli Niinistö have also confirmed that they will participate. The Russian President will have bilateral meetings with the leaders of Iceland and Finland," Presidential Press Secretary Dmitry Peskov said.

<https://russian.rt.com/russia/news/363906-putin-arkticheskiy-forum>

## IGOR ORLOV

Governor, Arkhangelsk Region



**Most of the business programme for the 4<sup>th</sup> International Arctic Forum – 'Arctic: Territory of Dialogue' will take place on the premises of the Lomonosov Northern (Arctic) Federal University. Could you please tell us how the university is preparing to receive the high-profile guests? How will it use the newly-built facilities after the International Arctic Forum is over?**

The total area of facilities for hosting such a high-level event will be around 46,000 square metres, including the main and second buildings of Lomonosov Northern (Arctic) Federal University, and the venues completed expressly for the Forum – the Centre for Collective Use of Scientific Equipment, the exhibition pavilion, and a new dormitory. The Center for Collective Use of Scientific Equipment has a total area of 1,500 square metres and is linked to the university's main building by an elevated bridge. During the Forum, its ground and first floors accommodate a press centre and a food court, respectively. After the Forum, it will house state-of-the-art research equipment and labs. Additionally, a new exhibition pavilion with a total area of 1,500 square metres is under construction for the purposes of the Forum, which we could say is a result of a nationwide effort. This venue is

the product of crews from all over Russia: St. Petersburg, Moscow, Kaluga, Voronezh, Arkhangelsk, and Severodvinsk, as well as from Minsk in Belarus. During the Forum, it will feature an impressive display of promising Russian Arctic transport, shipbuilding, mining, forestry, fishing bioresource production, science and education, and tourism projects. When the Forum is over, the pavilion will be refitted to meet the university's need for a multipurpose sports hall. The hall is big enough for two indoor volleyball courts with related areas. A new university hostel for 474 students has also been completed. It boasts comfortable living quarters, spacious halls and lounges and gyms on every floor. The university's new intellectual heart, the science library, is also ready to welcome Forum participants for the events to be held on the sidelines of the Forum: conferences, workshops, public lectures and roundtables discussing the Arctic agenda.

**Which non-university venues have also been at the centre of attention during the preparations?**

Without a doubt, the Arkhangelsk Lomonosov Drama Theatre, which is scheduled to host one of the Forum's plenary sessions. It will also accommodate an exhibition of Russian Arctic art and national costumes of Arctic peoples. The A.A. Borisov Museum of Artistic Development of the Arctic is undergoing interior renovations, getting a new hall, and moving its main entrance. The museum will serve as one of the venues for the cultural programme. It will also be equipped to host business lunches during the Forum and presentations of the region's investment opportunities for business representatives. The Arkhangelsk Gostiny Dvor, a unique architectural and historical monument dating from the seventeenth to nineteenth centuries, is slated to become

another fixture of the cultural programme. The complex will get an entirely new look ahead of the Forum's gala events, with the organizers focusing particularly on impressive lighting and background sound solutions for the architectural monument. Arkhangelsk Airport (Talagi) is also being modernized ahead of the event. At this point, the project to link the two terminals into a single structure via a glass bridge is almost complete and the renovations on the second floor are nearly finished, too. The improvements will remain in place to serve the people of the region after the Forum.

**Now, as for guest accommodation: is everything already in place? What is the total capacity of local hotels?**

Twenty-six hotels in Arkhangelsk, Severodvinsk, Novodvinsk and Primorsky district are ready to welcome Forum guests. In total, 1,300 rooms have been booked to accommodate over 1,500 people. At this point, we are renovating hotel rooms, renewing hotel essentials and supplies, and training personnel. Given that Arkhangelsk Region is currently preparing to receive an unprecedented number of guests who need to be promptly accommodated and expect a certain quality of service, additional personnel will be engaged to handle the task.

**Could you elaborate on the prospective menu for Forum participants? Are local hotels and restaurants designing any special dishes?**

We would like to introduce our guests to the traditions of our northern cuisine. We have worked out a special Arctic menu including fish, venison, northern berries, herbal teas and drinks. We will offer our guests a varied menu of salmon, nelma, cod and venison dishes and other culinary delights. The

an catering concept, which meets key quality standards in terms of health, modern trends, originality and simplicity, has already been designed and approved.

### **How many local people and key organizations have been involved in the preparations ahead of the International Arctic Forum?**

This is the first time the Arkhangelsk Region has been called on to host an event of such a scale and level, with such high-profile participants. We must put our best foot forward to ensure that our guests are properly welcomed to our northern region. The task has required the combined efforts of many institutions: all levels of government, the science and education community, major businesses and organizations, restaurateurs, hoteliers, and volunteers. The preparations for the Forum have also involved representatives of law enforcement and regulators, the Ministry of Civil Defence, Emergencies and Disaster Relief, transport companies, cultural organizations, and real estate, road building and communications companies. We have accumulated vast experience in preparing for events at the highest level, in establishing cooperation between various entities to fulfil a major common task. We can use it to carry out other important projects to develop the region in future.

### **How many volunteers have been engaged to host the International Arctic Forum? What selection procedure was used?**

To ensure the success of the 'Arctic: Territory of Dialogue' International Arctic Forum events, around 220 volunteers will be engaged in 16 different areas. An additional 50 volunteers will be stationed at venues hosting the Forum's complementary programme. They will be selected from among 460 candidates who enlisted as volunteers for the Forum. The first of the volunteers will get started as early as March 20.

### **Could you please tell us more about the Forum's cultural programme? Apart from the business events, Corporate Arctic Games are also scheduled. What else is in store?**

Local residents and guests alike will enjoy a splendid opportunity to discover the special world of the Arctic through art. Exhibitions and performances by well-known groups are expected to impart the unique nature of the indigenous subarctic peoples and tell the history of our region. On the sidelines of the Forum, the renowned Northern Choir will give a performance, an evening of organ music *Organ Northern Lights* will give joy to listeners, and various museums in Arkhangelsk will host exhibitions. Even the Arkhangelsk Gostiny Dvor will take on an Arctic shade: it will proudly feature paintings by the Arkhangelsk artist Alexei Grigoryev in an exposition dubbed *Sedov: On to the Pole!* Guests will be able to enjoy an extended *Russian Arctic* exhibition and get acquainted with Arkhangelsk in the age of Peter the Great. The Gostiny Dvor will also feature an interactive exhibition entitled *Home of a Polar Explorer*, recreating the interior of a temporary polar station from the mid-twentieth century, complete with contemporary scientific equipment, domestic implements and exhibits relevant to the history of Arctic development. Arkhangelsk will temporarily welcome a unique find from Yamal, the baby mammoth Lyuba, who dates back some 42,000 years, according to experts. Lyuba was discovered in May 2007 by reindeer breeder Yuri Khudi on the upper reaches of the Yuribei river on the Yamal Peninsula. She was named after the Khudi's wife. With the baby mammoth as its main exhibit, the exhibition in the A.A. Borisov Museum of Artistic Development of the Arctic bears the name *A Discovery at the End of the Earth*. Another exciting event is to take place on the sidelines of the Forum: the Winter Arctic Games. These

will feature seven tournaments bringing together the key sports of the Russian north, from traditional games played on the shores of the White Sea in days gone by, to ice hockey and bandy, including its most democratic form, played in traditional Russian felt boots (valenki). Both the cultural and sporting programmes are packed with events, since our goal is to turn the Forum into a holiday for all local residents by involving them in this historic event.

### **What will the reception you are hosting be like? Who is expected to attend?**

The reception will be held in the Arkhangelsk Gostiny Dvor historical architectural complex. Two floors of the complex will be occupied with artistic displays, showcases and exhibition areas. Our primary aim is to show the best Arkhangelsk Region has to offer our guests and to stress its role in the Arctic's development. We expect around 500 guests, who will be able to join tours of the Gostiny Dvor halls. We are keen to introduce Forum participants to the highlights of folk, classical and contemporary music. We would like our guests to take back with them not only souvenirs but also the best possible impressions of our region as an astonishing and hospitable land that is a gateway to the Arctic zone. It is highly important that our Russian and foreign guests come back to visit us again and again with new business, research and social projects to be implemented in conjunction with local businesses and organizations, with support from the Arkhangelsk regional government.

**Do you personally plan to attend the Forum? If so, which sessions are you going to take part in and what issues would you like to discuss?**

Absolutely. I will attend various events: the plenary session, topical meetings, bilateral meetings to discuss the present and future of subarctic territories, strategic priorities and approaches to their development. Transport is another vital issue for us, since it is the key to economic growth in the Arctic. We would like to discuss our future projects with the participants in the transport panel and the panel on 'Integrating Efforts to Achieve Strategic Growth' moderated by the Ministry of Economic Development of Russia. Our region's representatives will attend all panels, spanning topics ranging from energy to culture, as well as the Northern Forum Governors' Meeting and the Arctic Municipalities Forum. The agenda includes a session of the State Commission for Arctic Development, business lunches with representatives of top Arctic businesses, *The Arctic. Made in Russia* International Youth Educational Forum, project launches, business meetings, agreement signings, exhibitions and, last but not least, the opening ceremony.

**What main sightseeing attractions would you recommend international participants, guests and journalists visit in Arkhangelsk?**

First off, I would recommend a visit to the museums offering new exhibitions dedicated to the Arctic. A visit to Russia's largest open-air museum of wooden architecture, Malye Karely, would also be a rewarding experience. The museum boasts over 120 architectural monuments representing the unique culture and traditions of the Pomors, a northern Russian people. Arkhangelsk is also rich in monuments to military and naval glory, old mansions, the Solovetsky Monastery compound, St. Nicholas Church and a favourite haunt of

locals – the Red Pier (Krasnaya Pristan). Prospekt Chumbarova-Luchinskogo offers visitors a good idea of what an Arkhangelsk full of wooden buildings might have looked like a hundred years ago, with sculptures dedicated to the artist and fairy-tale writer Stepan Pisakhov – the author of the tales of Senya Malina, to Russian women considered the guardians of hearth and home, and to the writer Boris Shergin, who eternalized the northern glory of our land. The organ hall of the Pomorskaya Philharmonic, now housed in the former Lutheran church, and the performance by the Northern Folk Choir will also be memorable experiences. And finally, guests are welcome to take back with them traditional souvenirs and gifts: Arkhangelsk roe-shaped gingerbread, traditional bird of happiness toys, various Kholmogory items crafted out of bone, Kargopol clay toys, and unique products made from Arkhangelsk seaweed.

**What tasks will the city face after the International Arctic Forum? When are preparations for the next Forum scheduled to start? What else will be changed or modernized?**

Arkhangelsk Region won the bid to host the 'Arctic: Territory of Dialogue' Forum biennially. We are proud of the trust that has been placed in us and aware of our responsibility. Obviously, after the Forum, the region and the city will have to review their performance in order to identify the strengths and weaknesses in its organization for the purposes of the next International Arctic Forum in 2019. Yet I am positive that the Forum will become a driver of growth for the Arkhangelsk infrastructure, will help to increase investment in the region and that use will be made of the available facilities to host other large-scale events and accommodate high-profile guests. Every year, a few dozen new tourist infrastructure facilities are put into operation in our region. In 2016 alone, 17 new hotels,

recreation facilities and hostels opened their doors. Today, the first ever world-class hotel in the Arctic – Novotel – is under construction in Arkhangelsk and is scheduled to open in late 2017. Two more major hotel chains are considering Arkhangelsk as a potential site. By the next International Arctic Forum, set for 2019, a major exposition centre with an area of 2,430 square metres, equipped to host exhibitions, forums, conferences, seminars and sports events will be built in the region's capital. We are planning to use the new expo centre as one of the Forum venues. Thanks to this major event, Russian Railways has undertaken to modernize Arkhangelsk railway station. This is a long-term project but work is set to start as early as 2017. Also in 2017, we have to factor in spending on top-priority projects to build and repair roads, bridges, utility networks, and community facilities in our three-year budgets. We believe one of these facilities could be an Arctic Park outlining the geographical composition, history and culture of Russia's Arctic regions. We also anticipate completion of the Cathedral of Archangel Michael, a modern traffic-free promenade on the embankment and buildings in the Arctic architectural style, alongside improvement of the adjoining areas.

### ‘Arctic: Territory of Dialogue’ International Arctic Forum:

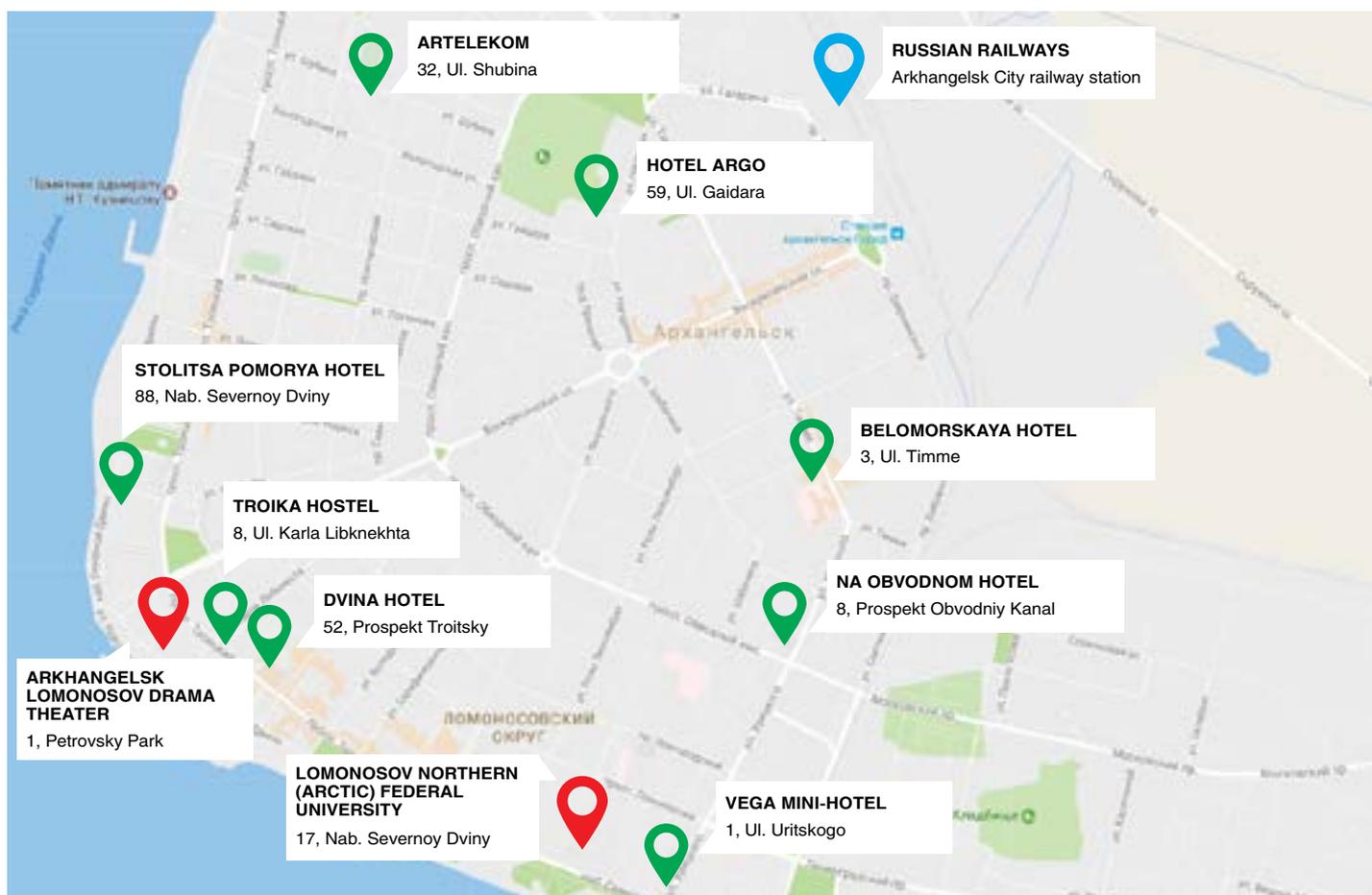
- ▶ 1,500 participants from 14 countries
- ▶ Key venues: Lomonosov Northern (Arctic) Federal University and Arkhangelsk Lomonosov Drama Theatre
- ▶ 4 thematic pillars
- ▶ 13 business programme events
- ▶ Over 20 cultural and sports events

### Hosted with the help of:

- ▶ 40 hotels and hostels
- ▶ 270 volunteers
- ▶ 300 vehicles

## KEY CULTURAL PROGRAMME CALENDAR

March 29	March 30
<p><i>Organ Northern Lights</i> An evening of organ music (venue: Pomorskaya Philharmonic)</p>	<p>Moscow Soloists Chamber Orchestra and Yuri Bashmet performance (venue: Pomorskaya Philharmonic)</p>
<p><i>The North Rings with Russian Voices</i> festival (venue: Arkhangelsk College of Music)</p>	
<p><i>The Russian North in the History of Arctic Exploration</i> exposition (venue: Dobrolyubov Arkhangelsk Regional Scientific Library)</p>	



## USEFUL INFO:

- ▶ Arkhangelsk International Airport (Talagi):  
Tel.: +7 (8182) 631 600  
Email: [airport@arhaero.ru](mailto:airport@arhaero.ru)
- ▶ Arkhangelsk Railway Station  
Tel.: +7 (800) 775 0000 (Russian Railways help desk)  
Address: 2, Pl. Shestidesyatiletiya Oktyabrya Lomonosovsky District
- ▶ Lady-Taxi  
+7 (8182) 272 727, 625 555, +7 (911) 582 2002
- ▶ Nashe Taxi  
+7 (8182) 640 000
- ▶ Ok! Taxi  
+7 (8182) 200 000
- ▶ Russkoye Taxi  
+7 (8182) 219 219
- ▶ Arkhangelsk Taxi  
+7 (8182) 270 000, 625 757, 275 572, 243 303

### IMPORTANT NOTICE FOR CONFERENCE PARTICIPANTS:

During the Forum, the organizers will provide a shuttle service between all official hotels and the main Forum venue (Lomonosov Northern (Arctic) Federal University). A shuttle service will also be in place between the plenary session venue, Lomonosov Arkhangelsk Drama Theatre, and Lomonosov Northern (Arctic) Federal University.

**The shuttle schedule is available on the official Forum website at [www.forumarctica.ru](http://www.forumarctica.ru).**