

Heavyweight Champion Hunts Mythical Creature in Siberia

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Former heavyweight champion Nikolai "Beast from the East" Valuyev departed on a trip to track a yeti in Siberia's Kemerovo region, his expedition blessed by a shaman, local authorities reported Thursday.

Valuyev is accompanied by journalists from 16 media outlets on the two-day trip to the Azass Cave on Mount Shoriya, an alleged habitat of the so-called Kuzbass yeti, where it was reported to have been seen in 2009.

On departure from the village of Ust-Kabyrza, a local shaman led several helpers in a ritual asking forest spirits to help the two-time WBA champion, who is 38 years old and 2.13 meters tall, find the mythical creature.

The group is traveling across taiga in off-road trucks, but will have to travel in boats and walk part of the way, the region's administration [said](#) on its web site.

Though its existence was never confirmed, the Kuzbass yeti was made a trademark of the

Kemerovo region. The creature has an official web [site](#) and its own Twitter account.

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