

# Putin Joins Defense Minister Shoigu on Taiga Trek

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President Vladimir Putin joined Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu for a three-day hunting and fishing trip in the Siberian forests. According to the Kremlin, Putin made the stopover in Siberia while he was on his way back to Moscow from an economic forum in the Far East city of Vladivostok earlier this month — and before the Russian president went into self-isolation over Covid-19 cases in his inner circle. It was just the latest of many joint trips into the taiga for the president, who seeks to bolster his image as an avid outdoorsman, and the defense minister, who hails from the Siberian republic of Tuva. The pair's outings have become a regular fixture. Here's a closer look at their outdoorsy excursion:



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