

Circum-Baikal Rail Road — Detailed description

Trip Length: 1 Group: 1-100 Departure: Fixed Period: September

Trip overview

We invite you to take this one-day excursion by the Circum-Baikal Railway, unique monument of engineering art of the end of 19th century. Constructed on the south-western shore of the lake between Port Baikal and Kultuk settlement, a 84-km-long railway (52 mi) includes 424 engineering structures including 39 tunnels with a total length of 8994 m (5.6 mi). Tunnels and stone galleries of the Circum-Baikal Railway are unique because they were constructed upon non-typical projects and were not reconstructed later, so they keep the initial idea of architectures and engineers of the early 20th century.

With respect to volume, complexity and cost of works the Circum-Baikal Railway ranked second to none among railways of Russia. Before the Revolution of 1917 it was called "Golden buckle on the steel belt of Russia": buckle because it connected the Trans-Siberian Railway pulled apart by Lake Baikal, and golden because regarding the cost of works it excelled all railways existing in Russia. This name was also given to the Circum-Baikal Railway thanks to its unique, second to none in the whole world look that combines complex architectural constructions with extremely picturesque shore landscape of the lake.

Nice music sounds in train during the journey, friendly and attentive staff is of service to travellers, and guide tells a fascinating story of the Circum-Baikal Railway construction. On the way several stops are provided in the most interesting and beautiful places with leaving the train accompanied by guide.

Highlights

- Fascinating discovery of genius architectural constructions of the Circum-Baikal Railway
- Opportunity to enjoy enchanting Baikal sceneries all along the route
- Discovery of small traditional villages on the shores of Lake Baikal

Tour type

DISCOVERYNATURE

Difficulty

Easy - nothing more than normal walking while sight-seeing

Comfort

Standard — most of nights in comfortable rooms, some nights in tents or rooms with shared WC.

Begining / end of the tour

Tour starts: Irkutsk, End of the tour: Irkutsk

Program

Day 1 — Excursion by the Circum-Baikal Railway

07:45 — Departure of the train from Irkutsk-Passazhirsky station

10:00 — Breakfast (Not included)

10:20 — Arrival to Sludianka

10:30 — Excursion programme

13:00 — Lunch (Not included)

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17:20 — Arrival in Port Baikal
19:00 — Dinner (Not included)
20:00 — Arrival to Irkutsk

Departures

Start	End	Basic price per person
31.07.2020	31.07.2020	6800.00 RUB
02.08.2020	02.08.2020	6800.00 RUB
06.08.2020	06.08.2020	6800.00 RUB
09.08.2020	09.08.2020	6800.00 RUB
13.08.2020	13.08.2020	6800.00 RUB
16.08.2020	16.08.2020	6800.00 RUB
20.08.2020	20.08.2020	6800.00 RUB
23.08.2020	23.08.2020	6800.00 RUB
27.08.2020	27.08.2020	6800.00 RUB
30.08.2020	30.08.2020	6800.00 RUB
03.09.2020	03.09.2020	6800.00 RUB
06.09.2020	06.09.2020	6800.00 RUB
10.09.2020	10.09.2020	6800.00 RUB
13.09.2020	13.09.2020	6800.00 RUB
17.09.2020	17.09.2020	6800.00 RUB
20.09.2020	20.09.2020	6800.00 RUB

Note

THE TOUR IS AVAILABLE FOR BOOKING FOR ANY DESIRED DATES. PLEASE CONTACT US FOR MORE INFORMATION. DEPARTURES ON MONDAYS, WEDNESDAYS AND FRIDAYS ARE IN THE OPPOSITE DIRECTION. IN WINTER SEASON, THE EXCURSION IS MADE BY THE RAIL BUS. You can book a place near the window face Lake Baikal: supplement of 500 roubles / per person. In summer it is also possible to order meals at the following prices: breakfast - 400 RUB lunch - 700 RUB dinner - 700 RUB In winter, it's possible to ass a hot lunch: 700 roubles / per person.

What's included

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ООО «БайкалНейче» 664047, г. Иркутск, ул. Депутатская, 8

+7 (3952) 26-56-94

ИНН 3811110257 КПП 384901001 ОГРН 1073811003221 Р/с 40702810132120001891 в Филиале ПАО «БАНК УРАЛСИБ» в г.Новосибирск БИК 045004725 Кор. Счет 30101810400000000725

 baikalnature.com

 +7 3952 26-56-94

Price includes

- Russian-speaking guide services
- Transport as per itinerary
- Excursions and visits as per itinerary

Price does not include

- English-speaking guide
- Meals
- Administrative registration
- Personal expenses and tips
- Visa fees and travel insurance

Checklist & Equipment

You will need in Russia in winter:

- to protect yourself from the cold weather;
- to protect yourself from the wind;
- to protect your feet from moisture;
- to protect yourself from the sun's reflection from ice and snow.

Allow the system of "three layers":

- The first layer, called "second skin", determines the performance of the other two layers. It will transport sweat to the next layer and dry quickly to avoid cooling after exercise. Therefore forget the cotton retains moisture in the skin and choose underwear in synthetic fabrics.
- The second layer must keep the heat of the body as long as possible. Warm synthetic or mixed (wool or fleece turtleneck sweater) fabrics, that dry quickly, are preferable.
- The third layer should protect you against wind and moisture. Choose a jacket, long enough, 100% waterproof, preferably with hood.

It is hot in summer at Lake Baikal area. Nevertheless, you should always have something to put on, as weather in Siberia is very changeable.

If you plan your trip in May or September, please feel free to bring your hat, gloves and windjacket in case of snow or rain.

June is also pretty cool.

July and August are the hottest months, which offer you temperatures of 25 ° - 35 ° at daytime and 15 ° - 18 ° at night. On the shores of Lake Baikal, like in the Alps, you should wear T-shirts and shorts in the sunny afternoons, sweaters and jackets in the cool evenings.

Recommended checklist

Photo / video camera

Tour vouchers and programme

Visa

You need a tourist visa to travel to Russia. It can be issued for a maximum period of 30 days. Your passport has to be valid for at least six months after the expiry date of your visa and to have at least two blank pages.

BaikalNature offers visa support and has created "BaikalNature letter of invitation" package. If you buy a BaikalNature tour, this package is absolutely free; when you buy any other BaikalNature service, you will have to pay for this package.

For more information please contact your nearest Russian Embassy or Visa Application Center.

Money

The Russian currency is ruble. In all cities and many large villages of Russia, you can easily withdraw rubles, using a Visa or MasterCard, from ATMs, located in banks, department stores or hotel lobbies, some of them are open 24 hours a day. If you have euros or dollars with you, exchange offices will allow you to change them easily in the cities, seldom in the countryside. However, it can be difficult to exchange traveler's checks, even in cities.

Tipping

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All persons who compose the BaikalNature travel team (guides, drivers, cooks, etc.) are paid a decent wage for their services and do not expect any tips from you. So you have no obligation to leave anything. If you really want to express your satisfaction by leaving a gratuity, and if it is in foreign currency, be aware that torn or glued coins and banknotes cannot be exchanged. Anyway, thank you for your tips, left at your discretion in envelopes.

Health

No compulsory vaccination.

It is advisable to keep the following vaccines valid:

- diphtheria,
- tetanus,
- Polio.

Tick-borne encephalitis is present in areas of forest, taiga where ticks are the carriers of encephalitis between May and July. As of August, they are no longer carrying the virus. If you do not get vaccinated, you should follow the basic precautions, including:

- protective clothes
- use of repellents
- daily check of the skin.

It is also possible to take out special insurance covering the analysis of the insect and vaccines.

Provide a first aid kit that includes among other items:

- aspirin or paracetamol,
- anti-diarrheal pills,
- antiseptic,
- adhesive plaster,
- sterile pads.

If you have individual diseases, make sure you have taken your medications.

Emergency Contact

You can contact BaikalNature by phone: +73952 26 56 94.

In addition, your call will be forwarded to your manager, reachable 7/7.

Legal Mentions

Professional Guarantees: BaikalNature LLC (ООО "БайкалНейче"), United Federal Register of Tour Operators number: RTO 009402.

Financial Guarantee: "Gaide insurance company" JSC (АО "Страховая компания Гайде"). Insurance contract N 9302/19-49 from September 30, 2019. Amount of coverage: 500 000 RUB. Legal and actual address: BaikalNature LLC 119A Dekabrskikh Sobyti Str., office 13 664007 Irkutsk Russia

Travel Insurance

In addition to your personal insurance, you have an opportunity to purchase local insurance. Please, do not hesitate to ask us about our services.

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