

Crossing of Lake Baikal — Detailed description

Trip Length: 7 Group: 4-8 Departure: Fixed Period: February - March

Trip overview

For all those who want not only to see Baikal in winter, but also to try themselves at real ice trekking, we offer the "Baikal Crossing" tour.

A route awaits you, connecting 2 regions and 2 shores of Lake Baikal. Ice caves, rocky shores and the main attractions of the western shore of Lake Baikal: Olkhon Island, Maloye More Bay, Cape Burkhan and Cape Khoboy. Then the passage of the lake in its geographical center, above the thickness of ice covering the deepest point of Lake Baikal. Having reached the eastern coast, we will find ourselves in the protected territory of the Republic of Buryatia.

Travel in a small group accompanied by an experienced guide. For your comfort: only individual transport, second-class train tickets, three meals a day. For safety: accident insurance, crampons for walking on ice.

! No special preparation is required. The participant must be in good physical shape.

Highlights

- Crossing Lake Baikal at its geographical center
- East and West: 2 regions and 2 shores of Lake Baikal
- The most picturesque places of winter Baikal
- Baikal ice in all its forms
- An active tour that does not require preparation

Tour type

ACTIVENATURE

Difficulty

Moderate - 3-5 hours of physical activity daily

Comfort

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

Beginning / end of the tour

Tour starts: Irkutsk, End of the tour: Irkutsk

Program

Day 1 — Arrival in Irkutsk and preparation for the tour

10:00 — Meeting at the airport or railway station of Irkutsk

14:00 — Check-in at the hotel

16:00 — Free time in the city

Overnight in the hotel

Hotels: Accommodation in the hotel Angara, Twin standard room

Comfort: Comfortable accommodation, WC and bath / shower in room

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Day 2 — Towards Baikal - Olkhon Island

09:00 — Breakfast in the hotel's restaurant

10:00 — The road to Olkhon Island

13:00 — Lunch at the cafe

14:00 — Olkhon island

19:00 — Dinner in the hotel

Overnight in the hotel

Hotels: Accommodation at the resort Nabaymar, Chambre twin comfortable

Comfort: Comfortable accommodation, WC and bath / shower in room

Day 3 — South of Olkhon and the Maloye More Strait

09:00 — Breakfast in the hotel

10:00 — Excursion to the south of Olkhon in UAZ

13:00 — Picnic on ice

17:00 — Russian banya (Not included)

19:00 — Dinner in the hotel

Overnight in the hotel

Hotels: Accommodation at the resort Nabaymar, Chambre twin comfortable

Comfort: Comfortable accommodation, WC and bath / shower in room

Day 4 — Lake Baikal Crossing

08:00 — Early breakfast

08:30 — Check-out and transfer to the north of the island

11:30 — Ice trekking

13:00 — Picnic on ice

17:00 — End of the trek and the east coast

19:00 — Homemade dinner

Overnight in the guesthouse

Hotels: Accommodation in Ust-Barguzin, Twin room

Comfort: Comfortable accommodation, WC and bath / shower in room

Day 5 — Chivyrkuisky Bay and the Svyatoy Nos Peninsula

09:00 — Breakfast

10:00 — Excursion to Chivyrkuisky Bay (Not included)

13:00 — Lunch

18:00 — Dinner

Overnight in the guesthouse

Hotels: Accommodation in Ust-Barguzin, Twin room

Comfort: Comfortable accommodation, WC and bath / shower in room

Day 6 — Ulan-Ude - the capital of of Buryatia

10:00 — Breakfast

11:00 — Transfer to Ulan-Ude

13:00 — Lunch in the cafe

15:00 — Arrival to the city

19:00 — Dinner in the city (Not included)

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Overnight in the train

Hotels: Overnight in the train, The 2nd class compartment
Comfort:

Day 7 — Return to Irkutsk

07:40 — Arrival to Irkutsk

Departures

Start	End	Basic price per person
25.02.2027	03.03.2027	218500.00 RUB

Note

The tour price is valid for a group of 5 people. For smaller groups, the tour price is recalculated: - Group of 4: tour price - 245,500 rubles. For individual tourists and groups of 2-3 people, price upon request. The price is fixed in rubles. Ice walking crampons are provided to each participant. The price includes a train ticket Ulan-Ude - Irkutsk (2nd class). If you are traveling with your family or a group, you can choose convenient dates (upon request).

What's included

Price includes

- Accommodation as per itinerary
- Transport as per itinerary
- Nature reserves and parks entrance permissions
- Accident insurance
- English-speaking guide
- Meals as per itinerary
- Visa invitation and registration of passports (for foreign citizens, if necessary)
- Ice crampons
- Railway tickets

Price does not include

- Personal expenses and tips
- Visa fees and travel insurance
- Airline tickets

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.

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Recommended checklist

underwear, socks (several pairs)
T-shirts, shorts
rubber slippers
swimsuit / swim trunks
trekking telescopic poles
winter (down) jacket and warm pants (windproof and waterproof) / winter suit
thermal underwear
comfortable winter boots (suitable for walking on ice and snow)
fleece jacket/sweater with collar
warm mittens (for convenience, thin gloves and a second layer of mittens with fur) / ski gloves
thermal socks
comfortable warm hat and scarf (snood)
moisturizing cream

Meals

If you are a vegetarian or have any particular preferences, please let us know, so we could adapt the menu.

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 questions regarding obtaining an electronic visa, please contact your tour manager.

Money

The Russian currency is ruble. The cost of travel and other services is always fixed in rubles. Please note that cards from foreign banks do not work in Russia at the moment. Tourists can obtain a bank card from a Russian bank in advance or travel with cash. If you have euros or dollars with you, exchange offices will allow you to change them easily in the cities. It is also worth noting that the exchange rate at airports is usually not the most favorable. It is better to exchange in big cities (you can check the current exchange rate online). Important! Only new banknotes without defects or any traces are accepted for exchange.

Tipping

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

You need to get a health examination before a great trip. Consult your doctor. Get a dental checkup. If you have health problems that could worsen during the trip, make sure you have taken all your medications with you.

Provide a first aid kit that includes among other items:

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

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

Medical Form

You should be physically fit enough for this tour.

Emergency Contact

You can contact BaikalNature by phone: +7 924 531 87 01 (What's App, Telegram, Viber)

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 4875/2422-49 from August 6, 2024. Amount of coverage: 500 000 RUB. Legal and actual address: BaikalNature LLC, 55 Dekabrskikh Sobyti Str., office 204.1 664007 Irkutsk Russia

Cancellation Options

The cancellation options are:

- more than 40 days before departure - 30 % of the tour price,
- 39 - 10 days before departure - 60 % of the tour price,
- less than 10 days before departure - 100 % of the tour price.

Security

Your safety is very important to us! During the trip we ask you to follow the guide's advice, read the instructions carefully and follow the group. If you have any questions or experience any discomfort, please notify your guide or tour-manager immediately.

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