

Cruise Among Ice Floes — Detailed description

Trip Length: 8 Group: 6-12 Departure: Fixed Period: December - January

Trip overview

In May, the Baikal starts to free itself from its ice cover presenting an affecting spectacle. On the shores of the lake the nature wakes up and the land is covered with a green carpet of fresh grass. First snowdrops, globe-flowers of bright orange colour, violet bellflowers, and white anemones can be seen everywhere. Wild animals enjoy the arrival of spring and appear on the shores to regale themselves with insects and plants. At the same time ice slabs float in the water creating a polar atmosphere on the Lake Baikal. It is not rare to see a freshwater seal would watch us from afar having stretched itself on a floating ice slab.

We invite you to go on an amazing journey to contemplate breathtaking scenery, walk off the beaten path in national parks and nature reserves.

This cruise has the character of an expedition where the itinerary is given for illustration purposes to mark the main lines of the journey and the sites you are going to visit. However, it is important to realize that our tour will proceed depending on weather conditions and ice state. It may occur that it won't be possible to get to some locations marked on the route map because at night it may freeze so much that the access to our destination is blocked with the ice the boat is not able to break. In this case that point of sightseeing program will surely be replaced with other not less exciting discoveries. Do not forget that the only judge aboard a vessel is the captain whose task of prime importance is to provide our safety.

Highlights

- Navigation when the ice field thaws
- Visit of the difficult of access places
- Discovery of Baikal during unique period of nature awakening
- Baikal seals observation on Ushkany Islands
- Visit of the biggest Baikal island - Olkhon
- Opportunity to watch brown bears and other wild animals
- Get acquaintance with the Buryat traditions and shaman rites

Tour type

CRUISENATURE

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.

Beginning / end of the tour

Tour starts: Irkutsk, End of the tour: Irkutsk

Program

Day 1 — Arrival to Irkutsk

11:40 — Meeting of the participants in the airport and transfer to the hotel

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12:00 — Check-in in the hotel and rest

14:00 — Time at leisure and possibility to discover the city

Overnight in the hotel

Hotels: Accommodation in the hotel Angara, Chambre twin confort

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

Day 2 — Meeting with Baikal

08:00 — Breakfast in the hotel

09:30 — Departure to the Olkhon island

11:00 — En route excursion to the National Buryat museum of Ust-Orda

13:00 — Lunch in a Buryat cafe

14:00 — Continuation of the way to Olkhon island

19:00 — Dinner in the resort

Overnight at the resort

Hotels: Accommodation at the resort Shamanka,

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

Day 3 — Northernmost point of Olkhon

09:00 — Breakfast in the resort

10:00 — Olkhon island excursion

13:00 — Outdoor lunch

14:00 — Walking around and come back

19:00 — Dinner in the resort

Overnight at the resort

Hotels: Accommodation at the resort Shamanka,

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

Day 4 — Start of cruise

09:00 — Breakfast in the resort

10:00 — Sail to cape "Pokoiniki"

13:00 — Lunch on board

14:00 — Continuation of the navigation and arrival to the cape

19:00 — Dinner on board

Overnight on board

Hotels: Accommodation on boat, Cabin for 4 persons

Comfort: Comfortable accommodation, WC and shower on the floor

Day 5 — Crossing of Baikal

09:00 — Breakfast

10:00 — Departure to Chivyrkuiskiy Bay

13:00 — Lunch on board

14:00 — Visit of the Chivyrkuiskiy Bay

19:00 — Dinner on board

Overnight on board

Hotels: Accommodation on boat, Cabin for 4 persons

Comfort: Comfortable accommodation, WC and shower on the floor

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Day 6 — Ushkany Islands and Baikal seals

09:00 — Breakfast
10:00 — Discovery of Ushkany Islands
13:00 — Lunch on board
14:00 — Return to Khuzhir and check-in in the resort
19:00 — Dinner in the resort
Overnight in the resort

Hotels: Accommodation at the resort Shamanka,
Comfort: Comfortable accommodation, WC and bath / shower in room

Day 7 — Return to Irkutsk

09:00 — Breakfast in the resort
10:00 — Return to Irkutsk
13:00 — Lunch (Not included)
17:00 — Arrival to Irkutsk and check-in in the hotel
19:00 — Dinner (Not included)
Overnight in the hotel

Hotels: Accommodation in the hotel Angara, Chambre twin confort
Comfort: Comfortable accommodation, WC and bath / shower in room

Day 8 — End of the program

09:00 — Breakfast in the hotel
11:00 — Transfer to the airport

Departures

Start	End	Basic price per person
01.04.2022	08.04.2022	135900.00 RUB

Note

Guaranteed departure for a group of 6 persons. The price includes breakfast on Day 2-8; lunch Day 2-6 and dinner on Day 2-6. Single supplement 12 400 RUB / pers. (days 1-3, 6, 7) We can switch the category of rooms or accommodation according to your request (days 1-3, 6, 7). Please contact us before your departure. During our cruise we will sail an eight-cabin ship (one cabin for 4 people, 7 cabins for 2 people).

What's included

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Price includes

- Accommodation as per itinerary
- Transport as per itinerary
- Excursions and visits as per itinerary
- Reserves and national parks entrance permissions
- Letter of invitation
- Meals according to the program
- English-speaking guide
- Transfer from airport / railway station on first day
- Transfer to airport / railway station on last day

Price does not include

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

Checklist & Equipment

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

If you plan your trip in May or September, please feel free to bring your hat, gloves and windbreaker jacket 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

Sunglasses

Raincoat or wind and waterproof shell jacket (with hood !)

POLARTEC or similar pullover

Windproof waterproof pants and jacket (GORE-TEX, EVENT, SIMPA-TEX)

Long sleeve shirts or sweatshirts

T-shirts

Socks

Cap or hat to protect against sun

Comfortable walking shoes (like Vibram or similar)

Sunscreen for skin and lips

Sunglasses with filter

Flip-flops for banya

Fleece jacket or warm sweater

Moisturizer

Lipstick

Swimsuit

Meals

Three meals a day on shipboard, cuisine, based on fresh products and caught fish.

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.

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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

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.

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

Medical Form

No particular physical condition is required.

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 7890/22-49 from September 19, 2022. Amount of coverage: 500 000 RUB. Legal and actual address: BaikalNature LLC, 55 Dekabrskikh Sobyti Str., office 405.2 664007 Irkutsk Russia

Cancellation Options

The cancellation options are:

- more than 30 days before departure - 15% of the tour price,
- 29 - 7 days before departure - 30% of the tour price,
- less than 7 days before departure - 50% of the tour price.

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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Security

The travelers' security is our primary aim and also the long-term reputation of our travel agency. First-aid kit, adapted for this tour, is available at your guide.

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