

New Year on Olkhon Island, Lake Baikal — Detailed description

Trip Length: Group: 6-10 Departure: Fixed Period: December - January

Trip overview

We invite you to undertake a journey to Lake Baikal and to share with us the greatest pleasures of Siberian winter. It is an exceptional opportunity to celebrate New Year's Eve in the best local traditions in the heart of Siberia while discovering Lake Baikal when it is getting freezing over! In the very middle of the lake, on Olkhon Island, you will get immersed in particular atmosphere of Siberian winter. Discovery of sacred site of Buryat shamans and celebration of the New Year's Eve, the most beloved holiday of all Russians will await you. Magic decoration of sumptuous landscapes will be enriched with discovery of the history and the customs of the region keeping in touch with locals during all the tour.

At night of the 31 of December we will gather for the New Year's Eve dinner in the homestay located on the shore of the lake. We will play traditional Russian games, dance and sing with the Father Frost and the Snegurochka, his granddaughter and taste local holiday dishes.

In the morning of January 1 everyone will find his / her gift under the Christmas tree left by generous Father Frost!

Highlights

- Discover the warm and generous siberian soul
- New Year's eve on Olkhon island, sacred heart of Lake Baikal
- Taste traditional Siberian and Buriatian dishes
- Discovery of Lake Baikal when it freezes over

Tour type

NATURE

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.

Program

Day 1 — -

Day 2 — -

Day 3 — -

Day 4 — -

Day 5 — -

Day 6 — -

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Departures

New departures available soon

Note

The price is given for the group of 6 persons. If the number of participants is less than 6, the following supplement is applied: + 3 900 RUB / pers. for the group of 5 participants + 4 900 RUB / pers. for the group of 4 participants + 12 800 RUB / pers. for the group of 3 participants + 19 300 RUB / pers. for the group of 2 participants The price includes banya on Day 3 The price does not include breakfast on Day 1 Single supplement 7 000 roubles

What's included

Price includes

- English-speaking guide
- Russian-speaking guide
- Accommodation as per itinerary
- Transport as per itinerary
- Excursions and visits as per itinerary
- Bathing in springs
- Airplane/ train tickets
- Celebratory dinner with alcoholic beverages
- Accident insurance
- Letter of invitation

Price does not include

- Meals as per itinerary
- Visa invitation and registration of passports (for foreign citizens, if necessary)
- 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.

If you are traveling in the spring or autumn, please check with your manager for a list of recommended equipment and an approximate weather forecast.

Recommended checklist

comfortable shoes for trekking

sunglasses

swimsuit / swim trunks

towel

warm mittens (for convenience, thin gloves and a second layer of mittens with fur) / ski gloves

winter expedition boots (like Sorel or Baffin)

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fleece balaclava

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Meals

At restaurants and homestays in cities, traditional cuisine consists of local specialties.
In the canteen at the inns, fresh local products.
If you are a vegetarian or have any particular preferences, please let us know, so we could adapt the menu.

Laundry

Some hotels and inns offer laundry services for a variable sum of money. It is sometimes possible to use laundry services at homestay (when there is running water) for a fee.

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.

Tiping

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.

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

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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.

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

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.

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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