

# New Year 2013 on Olkhon Island on 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 best local traditions in the heart of Siberia while discovering Lake Baikal at time when it freezes 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, ice skating on the largest skating rink in the whole world which is Lake Baikal 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.

We will also enjoy dog sledding and snowmobiling in the south of Lake Baikal, will stay at welcoming farm of Krestovsky Cape, will visit the surroundings to see wild animals if lucky.

At night of the 31 of December we will gather for the New Year's Eve supper in the hotel located on the shore of the lake. We will play traditional Russian games, dance and sing with the Father Frost and the Snow Maiden, will 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**

- Dog sledding and snowmobiling in snow-covered taiga
- 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

Upgraded — all nights in comfortable rooms.

# **Program**

Day 1 — -

Day 2 — -

Day 3 — -

Day 4 — -

Day 5 — -

Day 6 — -

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Day 7 — -

Day 8 — -

### **Departures**

New departures available soon

#### Note

The price includes banya on Day 3. Single supplement 14 500 roubles. Minimum group size is 6 persons. If the number of participants is less than 6, the following supplement is applied: + 3 400 RUB / pers. for the group of 5 participants, + 8 400 RUB / pers. for the group of 4 participants, + 17 000 RUB / pers. for the group of 3 participants, + 26 000 RUB / pers. for the group of 2 participants.

## What's included

#### Price includes

- · Dog sled rental
- English-speaking guide
- · Accommodation as per itinerary
- Transport as per itinerary
- Meals
- · Excursions and visits as per itinerary
- Transfer from airport / railway station on first day
- Transfer to airport / railway station on last day
- Celebratory dinner with alcoholic beverages
- · Ropeway to Chersky Rock
- Banya
- · Letter of invitation

# **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.

We recommend you to pack all your stuff in two bags: a small backpack and a large travelling bag.

SMALL BACKPACK: will be useful for carrying your personal belongings during the day (camera, film, personal medication, bottled water, etc.) You will also use it as hand luggage during air travel for all your heavy (to lighten the travel bag in the luggage compartment), fragile (camera, etc.) and necessary (toilet bag, etc.) things.

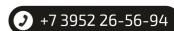
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#### Price does not include

- Medical insurance
- · Administrative registration
- · Personal expenses and tips
- · Visa fees and travel insurance
- Airline tickets

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BIG TRAVEL BAG or BIG BACKPACK: must contain the rest of your stuff. It will be in the luggage compartment during the flight. It will be transported by vehicles.

### Recommended checklist

Thermal underwear

POLARTEC or similar pullover

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

Trekking pants

Long sleeve shirts or sweatshirts

Sunscreen for skin and lips

Sunglasses with filter

Pocket knife (to put in checked baggage)

Flask

Flip-flops for banya

Sewing kit

Down jacket

Fleece jacket or warm sweater

Comfortable pants

Mountain boots for walking on ice and snow

Thick socks

Wool gloves and winter cap

Warm gloves or mittens

Moisturizer

Lipstick

Important travel documents: Passport and visa, original or electronic airplane tickets (with a sets of photocopies kept separately), bank card Wipes

Wristwatch or pocket alarm clock

Charger and spare battery for camera/phone

Photo / video camera

Tour vouchers and programme

Ice cleats

Evening dress/suit

### 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.

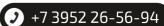
BaikalNature offers visa support and has created "BaikalNature letter of invitation" package. If you buy a BaikalNature tour, this package is absolutely free; when you buy any other BaikalNature service, you will have to pay for this package.

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For more information please conact 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

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 worsen during the trip, make sure you have taken all your medications with you.

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 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

# **Travel Insurance**

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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

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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