

Three Religions — Detailed description

Trip Length: 9 Group: 4-12 Departure: Fixed Period: December - January

Trip overview

Lake Baikal is one of the most amazing Russian destinations. For travellers this great lake offers not only hundreds of natural sites. Also the Baikal region is considered as a confluence of different religions. The most spread of them are the Orthodoxy, the Buddhism and the Shamanism. Our itinerary is about them all. You will get acquaintance with the way they remain intact in the spirit of peaceful coexistence and how they are intimately entwined in the life of local people.

Besides the acquaintance with the culture, we have included the nature discovering of Lake Baikal. For realizing the true strength and immensity of the lake, it's necessary to cross it in its deepest and largest central part. The landscape changes: taiga-covered hills, desert steppes, sand dunes, mountain valleys and, of course, the sheet of the purest Baikal water lay going directly to the horizon.

We propose you to go for this tour in the best period of summer season when the water reaches the highest temperature, the sun is bright and the rains are rare. For getting acquaintance with the Baikal culture in all of its aspects, you will stroll about the old streets of the Irkutsk city, listen to the chime of the Orthodox Churches, visit the Buryat region and the Buddhist spiritual centre - Ivolginsky datsan, and participate in the true shamanic rite. You will visit Olkhon Island, this cradle of shamanism in Asia, where every sacral place keeps hundreds of legends and beliefs.

This tour is accessible for everybody: you can go alone, in pairs or with your whole family independently of the age. All over the itinerary there will comfortable accommodations. In Ust-Barguzin we propose to spend a night in the local family for steeping in the real everyday life of the Baikal village. All services of the tour are private: we don't use the scheduled bus or boats.

We want you to discover the lake in all its wide diversity – natural and cultural! If you visit Lake Baikal, you would definitely come back!

Highlights

- Tour with primary focus on the acquaintance with culture and spiritual life of the region
- Crossing of the lake in its widest and deepest part
- Possibility to see all types of the Baikal landscapes
- Acquaintance with the Republic of Buryatia and Olkhon island
- Participation in the shamanic ritual
- Comfortable accommodation all tour long
- Private boats and transports
- Tasting of the local cuisine

Tour type

DISCOVERYNATURE

Difficulty

Easy - nothing more than normal walking while sight-seeing

Comfort

Upgraded — all nights in comfortable rooms.

Begining / end of the tour

Tour starts: Irkutsk, End of the tour: Irkutsk

Уникальный внутренний номер документа: 367297

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Program

Day 1 — Discovery of the Irkutsk city

10:00 — Individual transfer from the airport to the hotel (private car)
12:00 — Accommodation in the hotel
13:00 — Lunch in the restaurant of the city
14:00 — Excursion in the city centre of Irkutsk
19:00 — Dinner in a restaurant (Not included)
Overnight at the hotel

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

Day 2 — Taltsy museum and first meeting with lake Baikal

09:00 — Breakfast in the hotel
10:00 — Transfer to the Listvyanka village
11:00 — Excursion to Taltsy museum
13:00 — Lunch in the restaurant
14:10 — Lift on the Chersky rock
16:00 — Arrival to Listvyanka
16:30 — Walking in the village
19:00 — Dinner (Not included)
Overnight in the hotel

Hotels: Accommodation in the hotel "Undina", Listvyanka, Twin room
Comfort: Comfortable accommodation, WC and bath / shower in room

Day 3 — Meeting with a shaman and road to Olkhon island

09:00 — Breakfast in the hotel
10:00 — Departure to the Olkhon island
12:10 — Excursion to the ethnographic museum and meeting with a shaman
13:00 — Lunch in the cafe en route
17:00 — Arrival to Khujir
19:00 — Dinner in the resort
Night in the resort

Hotels: Accommodation at the resort Nabaymar, Chambre twin comfortable
Comfort: Comfortable accommodation, WC and bath / shower in room

Day 4 — Ogoy island and Buddhist Stupa

09:00 — Breakfast at the resort
10:00 — Transfer to the port of Khujir village
12:00 — Visite of the sacred water source Surkhaytor
13:00 — Lunch
14:00 — Excursion to Ogoy island
16:00 — Return to Khujir
19:00 — Dinner at the resort
Overnight at resort

Hotels: Accommodation at the resort Nabaymar, Chambre twin comfortable

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

Day 5 — Sacred site for shamans

09:00 — Breakfast at the resort

10:00 — Olkhon island excursion

13:00 — Outdoor lunch

14:00 — Stroll and return trip

19:00 — Dinner at the resort

Overnight at the resort

Hotels: Accommodation at the resort Nabaymar, Chambre twin comfortable

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

Day 6 — Baikal crossing from west to east

09:00 — Breakfast at the resort

09:40 — Transfer to the port

10:00 — Navigation to Ust-Barguzin

13:00 — Lunch

14:00 — Continuation of the navigation

16:00 — Arriving on the island

19:00 — Homemde dinner

20:00 — Russian banya

Overnight in the guest house

Hotels: Accommodation in Ust-Barguzin, Twin room

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

Day 7 — Barguzin valley and the Dancing Goddess

09:00 — Breakfast

10:00 — Full-day excursion by Russian 4x4 (UAZ)

13:00 — Lunch (picnic)

19:00 — Homemade dinner

Night in a guest house

Hotels: Accommodation in Ust-Barguzin, Twin room

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

Day 8 — Centre of the Russian Buddhism and Buryat capital

09:00 — Homemade breakfast

10:00 — Transfer to Ulan-Ude

13:00 — Lunch

14:00 — Excursion to the Ivolginsky datsan

16:00 — Walking city-tour

22:30 — Departure to Irkutsk by night train

Overnight in the train

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

Comfort:

Day 9 — Return to Irkutsk

07:00 — Arrival to Irkutsk

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Departures

New departures available soon

Note

The departure is guaranteed for the group of 4 participants. If there are less persons in the group, the price can be recalculated. The price includes breakfast on Day 2-8, lunch on Day 1-8 and dinner on Day 3-6. Banya (Russian sauna) is included on Day 6. Single supplement – 15 800 RUB / pers.

What's included

Price includes

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

Price does not include

- Medical insurance
- Personal expenses and tips
- Visa fees and travel insurance
- Optional activities
- Airline tickets

Checklist & Equipment

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

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

POLARTEC or similar pullover

Long sleeve shirts or sweatshirts

Shorts

T-shirts

Cap or hat to protect against sun

Foulard or tagelmust

Comfortable walking shoes (like Vibram or similar)

Sunscreen for skin and lips

Sunglasses with filter

Flask

Flip-flops for banya

Fleece jacket or warm sweater

Towel

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Swimsuit

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 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

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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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