

Great Baikal. Winter Version — Detailed description

Trip Length: 12 Group: 4-12 Departure: Fixed Period: February - March

Trip overview

Once you have made a decision to go for a travel to Lake Baikal, you have thought a great deal about places to visit. We have elaborated for you the unique tour that allows trying and seeing everything! You will see all types of landscape, all essential landmarks and all types of the Baikal ice: snowy fields, unlimited polished ice rinks, ice hummocks, ice coves and others. The total distance of the itinerary is more than 2000 km! For understanding the immensity of this tour, just take a look at the map!

Symbolically the first meeting with Baikal will be held in the southernmost point of Lake Baikal and the tour will end in the northernmost part near the stele "Northern Baikal". When you will go on ice for the first time in the south part of the lake, you will get acquaintance with the Circum-Baikal railway. Moreover, you will pass by the Angara source by hovercraft. During this tour you will cross Lake Baikal twice. The first crossing will be in the deepest and widest central part of lake on the crystal ice fields. You will stay overnight in the BaikalNature Ice Camp in the geographical center of the lake. In the camp the unique activities are proposed: you can skate on the natural ice rink, to play ice hockey or to have a rest in Ice Bar. For those who want we propose to take Russian banya (sauna) and to dive in an ice hole. The second crossing will be in the north of Lake Baikal – the most under populated and hard-to-get part of the lake.

The special part of the tour is the rest in the Baikal corner of paradise far away from civilization – Khakoussy hot springs. Besides that you will visit the symbolic places: Listvyanka village, Peschanaya bay, Olkhon island, Barguzinskiy and Chivikuysky golfs, Khakussy hot springs, Severobaykalsk city.

In the end of the tour you will go on train by the Baikal–Amur Mainline (BAM) – one of the biggest railway lines all over the world.

After this tour, you will be able to say that you know the winter Baikal!

Highlights

- Baikal crossing from the south to the north
- Overnight in the pre-prepared tent camp in the centre of Lake Baikal - "BaikalNature Ice Camp"
- Visit of the symbolic places of Lake Baikal
- Visit of the northernmost and the southernmost points of Lake Baikal
- Double crossing of the lake in the central and the northern parts
- More than 800 km on the Baikal ice
- More than 2000 km of the total itinerary
- Bathing in the hot springs
- Circular itinerary via the Republic of Buryatia and the Baikal–Amur Mainline

Tour type

DISCOVERYNATURE

Difficulty

Moderately Easy - 1-3 hours of physical activity daily

Comfort

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

Begining / end of the tour

Tour starts: Irkutsk, End of the tour: Irkutsk

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Program

Day 1 — The southernmost point of lake Baikal

11:00 — Meeting with group in the Irkutsk airport
11:05 — Departure to the Kultuk village
13:00 — Lunch in the cafe (Not included)
14:00 — Departure by hovercraft to the Listvyanka village
17:00 — Arrival to the Listvyanka village
19:00 — Dinner in the hotel
Overnight in the hotel

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

Day 2 — On Baikal ice by hovercraft

09:00 — Breakfast in the hotel
10:00 — Transfer to the port
10:15 — Departure by hovercraft to the MRS village
13:00 — Lunch box
14:00 — Continuation of the way to MRS
16:00 — Arrival to MRS
19:00 — Dinner at your resort (Not included)
Overnight at your resort

Hotels: Accommodation at the resort Naratey, Twin room
Comfort: Comfortable accommodation, WC and shower on the floor

Day 3 — The biggest island of the Baikal lake

09:00 — Breakfast at your resort
10:00 — Transfer to Olkhon island
13:00 — Arrival to Khujir
13:30 — Lunch at your resort
14:00 — Visit of Khujir
19:00 — Dinner (Not included)
Overnight at the resort

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

Day 4 — BaikalNature Ice Camp

09:00 — Breakfast at the resort
10:00 — Transfer to the ice camp
13:00 — Picnic lunch
15:00 — Arrival to the camp
19:00 — Dinner
Overnight in the camp BaikalNature Ice Camp

Hotels: Camp on the ice of Baikal, Tent for 5-6 persons
Comfort:

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Day 5 — Baikal crossing

09:00 — Breakfast in the camp
13:00 — Lunch in the camp
14:00 — Time at leisure in the camp
16:30 — Departure in Ust-Bargouzin and accommodation in the homestay
19:00 — Dinner
20:00 — Russian banya
Overnight in the homestead
Hotels: Accommodation in Ust-Barguzin, Twin room
Comfort: Comfortable accommodation, WC and bath / shower in room

Day 6 — Day at leisure in the Baikal village

09:00 — Breakfast
10:00 — Time at leisure
13:00 — Lunch
18:00 — Russian banya
19:00 — Dinner
Overnight in the homestay
Hotels: Accommodation in Ust-Barguzin, Twin room
Comfort: Comfortable accommodation, WC and bath / shower in room

Day 7 — Along the Eastern coast of Lake Baikal

09:00 — Breakfast
10:00 — Transfer to Khakussy
13:00 — Lunch
14:00 — Continuation of the journey
18:00 — Arrival to Khakussy
19:00 — Dinner
Overnight at the resort
Hotels: Accommodation at the resort Laskoviy Bereg, Twin room
Comfort: Comfortable accommodation, WC and bath / shower in room

Day 8 — Hot springs in Khakusy

09:00 — Breakfast
10:00 — Free day in Khakussy
13:00 — Lunch in the resort
15:00 — Free time for bathing
19:00 — Dinner in the resort
Overnight in the resort
Hotels: Accommodation at the resort Laskoviy Bereg, Twin room
Comfort: Comfortable accommodation, WC and bath / shower in room

Day 9 — The northernmost point of lake Baikal

09:00 — Breakfast
10:00 — Baikal crossing from the east to west
13:00 — Continuation of the road

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14:00 — Arrival to Severobaykalsk

15:00 — Lunch in the hotel

19:00 — Dinner

Overnight in the hotel

Hotels: Accommodation in the hotel Olymp, Séverobaïkalsk, Twin comfort room

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

Day 10 — Day in Severobaykalsk

09:00 — Breakfast in the hotel

10:00 — Time at leisure in the city

20:30 — Transfer to the railway station

Overnight in the train

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

Comfort:

Day 11 — Baikal–Amur Mainline on train

11:00 — Day in the train

Overnight in the train

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

Comfort:

Day 12 — Return to Irkutsk

12:10 — Arrival to Irkutsk

Departures

Start	End	Basic price per person
25.02.2021	08.03.2021	144600.00 RUB

Note

You can book the optional excursions in advance or on site with payment in cash. Single supplement (except an overnight in Baikal Ice Camp) - 13 500 roubles.

What's included

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ООО «БайкалНейче» 664007, г. Иркутск, ул. Декабрьских событий, 55, офис 405.2

+7 (3952) 26-56-94

ИНН 3811110257 КПП 384901001 ОГРН 1073811003221 Р/с 40702810110000700937 в АО "ТИНЬКОФФ БАНК"
БИК 044525974 Кор. Счет 30101810145250000974

 baikalnature.com

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Price includes

- English-speaking guide
- Accommodation as per itinerary
- Transport as per itinerary
- Excursions and visits as per itinerary
- Railway tickets in 2nd class
- Sleeping bag in BaikalNature Ice Camp
- Letter of invitation
- Guide in the trains
- Bathing in hot springs
- Meals according to the program
- Ice studs for shoes

Price does not include

- Personal expenses and tips
- Visa fees and travel insurance
- Airline tickets
- Optional activities
- Transfers in Irkutsk
- Transfer to airport / railway station on last day

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.

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

POLARTEC or similar pullover

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

Long sleeve shirts or sweatshirts

T-shirts

Fleece jacket or warm sweater

Mountain boots for walking on ice and snow

Wool gloves and winter cap

Lipstick

Towel

Swimsuit

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

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1 or 2 thermal lightweight sweater(s)

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

You should be physically fit enough for this tour.

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 7902/20-49 from October 08, 2020. Amount of coverage: 500 000 RUB. Legal and actual address: BaikalNature LLC 119A Dekabrskikh Sobyti Str., office 13 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.

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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