

## The Joys Of Winter Baikal — Detailed description

Trip Length: Group: 3-10 Departure: Fixed Period: December - January

### Trip overview

Winter on Lake Baikal is an ideal time to get a gulp of fresh air and take pleasure in the joys of the frozen lake. On the menu of this journey: dog sledding and snowmobiling, cross-country skiing and ice skating, cultural discoveries and excursion by 4x4. We invite you to follow the Baikal ice field and the paths of the Pribaikalsky National park and leave for meeting sumptuous sceneries and local population of Siberia.

Your journey will start in Listvyanka where you will visit main museums to get acquainted with the history of Lake Baikal, its unique flora and fauna and to take an unforgettable dog sled ride. The other part of your journey will be held in the very centre of the Baikal - on Olkhon Island, holy land for Buryat shamans. Discovery of sacred sites of the island by 4x4, cross-country ski-trekking, ice skating on the world's largest ice rink that is Lake Baikal, and tasting of omul, fish indigenous to the Baikal, - are the essence of this splendid travel. Days full of emotions are over, you will sleep in comfortable inns (except that one of Chernaya valley during the dog sled ride) and enjoy real Siberian banya.

### Highlights

- Most get-to-know-local-people journey
- Discovery of breathtaking sceneries
- Multi-active travel in the heart of Siberia

### 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 — -

Day 7 — -

Day 8 — -

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## Departures

New departures available soon

## Note

Banya is included on Day 3 and 7.

## What's included

### Price includes

- English-speaking guide
- Russian-speaking guide services
- Russian-speaking guide
- Accommodation as per itinerary
- Transport as per itinerary
- Excursions and visits as per itinerary
- Nature reserves and parks entrance permissions
- Ski rental
- 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
- Ice skate rental
- Bathing in springs
- Airplane/ train tickets
- Optional activities
- Ropeway to Chersky Rock

## 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

rubber slippers  
comfortable shoes for trekking  
raincoat / windproof and waterproof jacket with HOOD!  
sunglasses  
sunscreen and lip balm  
swimsuit / swim trunks  
towel  
comfortable winter boots (suitable for walking on ice and snow)

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fleece jacket/sweater with collar  
warm mittens (for convenience, thin gloves and a second layer of mittens with fur) / ski gloves  
winter expedition boots (like Sorel or Baffin)

fleece balaclava  
moisturizing cream

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## Meals

At restaurants and homestays in cities, traditional cuisine consists of local specialties.  
Picnic for lunch and hot meal served at your accommodation in the evening.  
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.

## Tipping

All persons who compose the BaikalNature travel team (guides, drivers, cooks, etc.) are paid a decent wage for their services and do not

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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: +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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