

Great Baikal 2014 — Detailed description

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

Trip overview

You wish to discover Lake Baikal from south to north, west to east ? you would like to get a glimpse into the diversity and uniqueness of its area? You enjoy hiking and would be glad to travel the most picturesque footpaths along the lake? Join the adventure!

Along those 18 days you will alternate 2 to 3 days treks and transfers by car, by boat or by train. During this outstanding journey around the whole lake, you will discover stunning sceneries: steppes, river delta, sand dunes, cliffs, taiga – preserved fauna and flora and the rough but generous soul of Siberians.

While trekking, your own luggage and the common staff will be carried by jeep or boat so that you only have to carry a small bag with you and enjoy the nature!

On the first day of our journey, we will discover by train the south of the lake, travelling the famous Circumbaikal railway, “The gold buckle of Russia’s steel belt”. The railway has been built in the 19th century very close to the shores and is truly an engineering masterpiece. In Port-Baikal, where the railway ends up, we cross Angara spring and arrive in Listvianka, a pretty siberian village.

From Listvianka, we hike 2 days trek through taiga and pasture, heading to Cape Kadilny.

We discover Pestchanaya sand bay, its pinewoods and its turquoise water on short walks.

We arrive on Olkhon Island – heart of the lake and buriat sacred land. During our 3 days trek, we discover the whole north of the island: steppe, sand dunes, cliffs and pasture.

We reach the North of the lake Baikal and travel the “Great Baikal Trail” 3 days long. Sand dunes and crashing waves let place to dense taiga, with moss and lichens as dominant ground vegetation.

We sail to Sviatoy Nos Peninsula, discover Chivyrkuy Bay, seabirds’ paradise!

Highlights

- Tour the whole Lake Baikal
- Bath in Baikal clear water
- Hike the most picturesque footpaths in the Baikal area
- Discover 80% of the lake's coastline
- Meet with locals and enjoy traditional food

Tour type

NATURE

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.

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Program

Day 1 — -

Day 2 — -

Day 3 — -

Day 4 — -

Day 5 — -

Day 6 — -

Day 7 — -

Day 8 — -

Day 9 — -

Day 10 — -

Day 11 — -

Day 12 — -

Day 13 — -

Day 14 — -

Day 15 — -

Day 16 — -

Day 17 — -

Day 18 — -

Day 19 — -

Departures

New departures available soon

Note

Supplement for accommodation in single room Days 1,3,6,7,11,15,17: 12 550 RUB If the number of participants is less than 6, the following supplement is applied: - group of 2 - 74 620 RUB / pers. - group of 3-4 - 23 820 RUB / pers. - group of 5 - 9 160 RUB / pers.

What's included

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Price includes

- English-speaking guide
- Russian-speaking guide
- Accommodation as per itinerary
- Transport as per itinerary
- Excursions and visits as per itinerary
- Nature reserves and parks entrance permissions
- Accident insurance
- Luggage transport
- Letter of invitation
- Camping outfit rental

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
- Bathing in springs
- Airplane/ train tickets
- Optional activities

Checklist & Equipment

For summer travel, we recommend preparing:

- comfortable clothes for hot and sunny weather - we advise you to give preference to natural fabrics, be sure to have sun protection (comfortable hat, SPF protection cream, sunglasses);
- protection from rain and wind - a long raincoat with a hood, for active tours - a waterproof cover on a backpack, the second pair of shoes (the ability to dry a second pair if they get wet);
- clothing in case of bad weather - when the temperature drops (in mountainous regions, on the coasts, in the evening), we recommend taking a light jacket, a warm sweater and pants

In different regions of Russia there can be significant temperature fluctuations in the summer. If you do not have experience traveling in similar regions, please contact your manager to pick up the necessary things and find out about the weather forecast in the place where you are planning your trip.

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Recommended checklist

T-shirts, shorts
pants, long sleeve jacket/tracksuit
comfortable shoes for the city
raincoat / windproof and waterproof jacket with HOOD!
sunglasses
sunscreen and lip balm
swimsuit / swim trunks
towel
wet wipes and antibacterial hand gel
water bottle/flask
spray against mosquitoes and ticks (for summer outdoor tours)
sleeping bag
trekking telescopic poles
winter (down) jacket and warm pants (windproof and waterproof) / winter suit
thermal underwear
comfortable winter boots (suitable for walking on ice and snow)
fleece jacket/sweater with collar
warm mittens (for convenience, thin gloves and a second layer of mittens with fur) / ski gloves
thermal socks
comfortable warm hat and scarf (snood)
ski mask

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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.

Cold lunch and hot dinner, cooked on an open fire 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 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

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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

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