

## Olkhon and the Ushkany Islands — Detailed description

Trip Length: Group: 5-8 Departure: Fixed Period: December - January

### Trip overview

This unique trip offers you to discover largest islands of Lake Baikal: Olkhon Island and the Ushkany Archipelago. By 4x4, boat and on foot you will explore the nicest places of the Baikal in summer, visit Chivyrkuysky Gulf and its hot springs.

Baikal Nerpa (endemic freshwater seal) observation takes an important place in the list of discoveries and we will watch over them closely having disembarked on one of the Ushkany Islands.

### Highlights

- Exploration of two largest islands of Lake Baikal
- Observation of endemic freshwater seal of the Baikal
- Various activities: trekking, 4x4, cruise

### Tour type

NATURE

### Difficulty

Physical rating not assigned

### 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 — -

### Departures

New departures available soon

### Note

Breakfast on Day 1, lunch on Day 1, 5 and dinner on Day 5 are not included. Disembarkation on the Ushkany Islands to see the seal colony is not paid. The amount to be paid on the spot is 2000 RUB per person.

### What's included

Уникальный внутренний номер документа: 35530

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**Price includes**

- English-speaking guide
- Accommodation as per itinerary
- Transport as per itinerary
- Meals
- Excursions and visits as per itinerary
- Banya
- Letter of invitation

**Price does not include**

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

**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

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

Trekking pants

Long sleeve shirts or sweatshirts

Shorts

T-shirts

Socks

Cap or hat to protect against sun

Foulard or tagelmust

Comfortable walking shoes (like Vibram or similar)

Comfortable shoes for city

Headlamp

Sunscreen for skin and lips

Sunglasses with filter

Toilet roll

Pocket knife (to put in checked baggage)

Flask

Flip-flops for banya

Sewing kit

Fleece jacket or warm sweater

Moisturizer

Lipstick

Swimsuit

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

Tick and mosquitoes repellent spray

Forceps for extracting ticks

Wipes

Wristwatch or pocket alarm clock

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Binoculars  
Charger and spare battery for camera/phone  
Photo / video camera  
Tour vouchers and programme  
Ice cleats  
Laundry detergent to wash your clothes  
Seasickness remedies

## Meals

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.

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

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

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- 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 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

### **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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