

## Winter Baikal by ATV and 4x4 — Detailed description

Trip Length: Group: 2-10 Departure: Fixed Period: December - January

### Trip overview

We invite you to undertake this Polar journey by ATV and 4x4 through the Baikal ice to discover incredible sceneries and to meet local people of our genuine region. This is an ideal tour to learn basics of driving ATV, which become more and more popular with local people since they are reliable and efficient. Stage by stage (50 to 100 km / 31 to 62 mi) we will traverse the ice-covered Baikal from south up to Olkhon Island to discover this sacred land of shamans. During this journey we will spend nights in homes of local people on the shores of Lake Baikal, have local meals, and, undoubtedly, make unforgettable acquaintances.

Crossing huge icy expanses sometimes covered with a thick layer of snow and overcoming piles of ice - hummocks - you will taste a real adventure while being in safety and driving quite new vehicles accompanied by a professional instructor.

On Olkhon Island we will take Russian off-roadster (UAZ) and the driver will take us northwards to show caves and rocks, covered with thin lace of ice.

### Highlights

- Fascinating activities and complete change of scenery
- Alternation of ATV, 4x4, and treks
- Discovery of the Baikal ice in all its manifestations
- Route highlighting life of local people

### 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.

### Program

Day 1 — -

Day 2 — -

Day 3 — -

Day 4 — -

Day 5 — -

Day 6 — -

Day 7 — -

Day 8 — -

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Day 9 — -

## Departures

New departures available soon

## Note

## 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
- 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
- Bathing in springs
- Airplane/ train tickets
- Ropeway to Chersky Rock
- Airline tickets

## 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)  
fleece jacket/sweater with collar

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warm mittens (for convenience, thin gloves and a second layer of mittens with fur) / ski gloves

comfortable warm hat and scarf (snood)

ski mask

fleece balaclava

moisturizing cream

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## Meals

At restaurants and homestays in cities, traditional cuisine consists of local specialties.

## 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.

## Tiping

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.

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## 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.

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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