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## New Year 2013 on Olkhon Island on Lake Baikal — Detailed description

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

### Trip overview

We invite you to undertake a journey to Lake Baikal and to share with us the greatest pleasures of Siberian winter. It is an exceptional opportunity to celebrate New Year's Eve in best local traditions in the heart of Siberia while discovering Lake Baikal at time when it freezes over ! In the very middle of the lake, on Olkhon Island, you will get immersed in particular atmosphere of Siberian winter. Discovery of sacred site of Buryat shamans, ice skating on the largest skating rink in the whole world which is Lake Baikal and celebration of the New Year's Eve, the most beloved holiday of all Russians will await you. Magic decoration of sumptuous landscapes will be enriched with discovery of the history and the customs of the region keeping in touch with locals during all the tour.

We will also enjoy dog sledding and snowmobiling in the south of Lake Baikal, will stay at welcoming farm of Krestovsky Cape, will visit the surroundings to see wild animals if lucky.

At night of the 31 of December we will gather for the New Year's Eve supper in the hotel located on the shore of the lake. We will play traditional Russian games, dance and sing with the Father Frost and the Snow Maiden, will taste local holiday dishes.

In the morning of January 1 everyone will find his / her gift under the Christmas tree left by generous Father Frost !

### Highlights

- Dog sledding and snowmobiling in snow-covered taiga
- Discover the warm and generous siberian soul
- New Year's eve on Olkhon island, sacred heart of Lake Baikal
- Taste traditional Siberian and Buriatian dishes
- Discovery of Lake Baikal when it freezes over

### Tour type

NATURE

### Difficulty

Easy - nothing more than normal walking while sight-seeing

### Comfort

Upgraded — all nights in comfortable rooms.

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### Program

Day 1 — -

Day 2 — -

Day 3 — -

Day 4 — -

Day 5 — -

Day 6 — -

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Day 7 — -

Day 8 — -

## Departures

New departures available soon

## Note

The price includes banya on Day 3. Single supplement 14 500 roubles. Minimum group size is 6 persons. If the number of participants is less than 6, the following supplement is applied: + 3 400 RUB / pers. for the group of 5 participants, + 8 400 RUB / pers. for the group of 4 participants, + 17 000 RUB / pers. for the group of 3 participants, + 26 000 RUB / pers. for the group of 2 participants.

## What's included

### Price includes

- Dog sled rental
- English-speaking guide
- Russian-speaking guide
- Accommodation as per itinerary
- Transport as per itinerary
- Excursions and visits as per itinerary
- Bathing in springs
- Airplane/ train tickets
- Celebratory dinner with alcoholic beverages
- Ropeway to Chersky Rock
- 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
- 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

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comfortable shoes for trekking  
raincoat / windproof and waterproof jacket with HOOD!  
sunglasses  
swimsuit / swim trunks  
towel  
fleece jacket/sweater with collar  
warm mittens (for convenience, thin gloves and a second layer of mittens with fur) / ski gloves  
ski mask  
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.  
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 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

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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

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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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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