

Around Baikal Expedition — Detailed description

Trip Length: 14 Group: 2-7 Departure: Fixed Period: December - January

Trip overview

People think that it is not possible to make a car trip around lake Baikal in the summer. But not everyone knows about an old abandoned road connecting the village Novyi Uoyan and Barguzin valley. This road was named after the only road marker pole at km 110. Built in 1974-75 as a temporary road to provide the BAM employees with supplies. This road was then abandoned which resulted in all constructions and bridges slowly fall apart until today where they are totally destroyed and unusable... For 4x4 enthusiasts/drivers this road is considered one of the hardest and ranks in the highest category of difficulty.

Road 110 crosses Barguzinsky mountain range through numerous passes, rivers and wetlands. Part of the road go through the beautiful Dzherginsky nature reserve. And what contributes to its uniqueness is that it is hard to access, unpopulated, totally off the grid, intense elevation changes, untouched wilderness (both fauna and flora) !

During the expedition we will visit the upper section of the Lena River, drive along the BAM - one of the most expensive infrastructure project in the history of our country, you will see the northern point of Lake Baikal, Barguzin Valley, the Svatoy Nose peninsula and Barguzinsky and Chivyrkuisky gulfs.

An important part of our trip is to 'touch' the rich history of Russia. We will make a few in interesting stops, such as key construction points of BAM, old abandoned village, a labour camp site - Akukan Gulag. But you will also bathe in hot springs where the water temperature of reaches 50 degrees! You will spend a night on the largest peninsula of the Baikal lake, visit the village of Old Believers - Tarbagatay - and go to the heart of Buddhism in Russia – datsan of Ivulginsk. Finally in its last stretch the expedition will be driving along the southern shore of the Baikal and at the same time, along the Trans-Siberian railway.

For your transportation during the trip we provide specially prepared off-road vehicles, known for their power and 4x4 capabilities. You can also drive our 4x4 if you can demonstrate your offroad driving experience (conditions apply).

Highlights

- Discover the wildest section of the Baikal lake
- Cruise along the shores of the biggest Baikal islang - Olkhon
- Itinerary along the famous "road 110"
- A 2500km trip Around Baikal
- Enjoying natural & hidden hot springs
- Wild animals spottings
- Tent overnights by the Baikal lake and in the heart of taiga forest
- Visit of the Svyatoy Nos peninsula & the Old Believers' village
- Itinerary along the Trans-Siberian and Baikal-Amur Mainlines railway
- Visit of Center of Buddism in Russia - Ivulginsky Datsan
- Visits of the two Baikal regional capital cities: Irkutsk and Ulan-Ude in Buryatia

Tour type

EXPEDITIONNATURE

Difficulty

Moderate - 3-5 hours of physical activity daily

Comfort

Basic — most of nights in tents or rooms with shared WC, some nights in comfortable rooms.

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Begining / end of the tour

Tour starts: Irkutsk, End of the tour: Irkutsk

Program

Day 1 — Acquaintance with Irkutsk

11:00 — Arrival to Irkutsk airport

13:00 — Lunch in the restaurant

14:00 — Walking city-tour

Overnight in the hotel

Hotels: Accommodation in the hotel Imperia, -

Comfort: Comfortable accommodation, WC and bath / shower in room

Day 2 — First meeting with the lake

09:00 — Breakfast in the hotel

10:00 — Departure to the Maloye More strait

17:00 — Arrival and installation at the resort on the Baikal shore

19:00 — Dinner

Overnight at the resort

Hotels: Accommodation at the resort Naratey, Twin comfort room

Comfort: Comfortable accommodation, WC and bath / shower in room

Day 3 — The biggest island of the lake

09:00 — Breakfast at the resort

10:00 — Embarkation on the ship and excursion on the lake

13:00 — Lunch

17:00 — Return to the resort

19:00 — Dinner

Overnight at resort

Hotels: Accommodation at the resort Naratey, Twin comfort room

Comfort: Comfortable accommodation, WC and bath / shower in room

Day 4 — First day of the road

08:00 — Breakfast

09:00 — Departure to Zhigalovo

13:00 — Lunch (Not included)

16:00 — Arrival in Zhigalovo

19:00 — Dinner

Overnight in tents

Hotels: Camping,

Day 5 — Road along the Baikal-Amur Mainline

08:00 — Breakfast

09:00 — Departure to Goudzhekit hot springs

16:00 — Arrival at our 'cabin camp' in the evening and check-in


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19:00 — Dinner

Overnight in a cabin

Hotels: Accommodation in the resort Hozyain, -

Day 6 — Famous road "110th"

09:00 — Breakfast

10:00 — Departure to Nizhneangarsk

13:00 —

19:00 — Dinner prepared on fire

Overnight in tents

Hotels: Camping,

Day 7 — Continuation of the road "110km"

09:00 — Breakfast

10:00 — Continuation of the road 110th km

13:00 — Lunch (picnic)

16:00 — Setting up of the camp

19:00 — Dinner near the fire

Overnight in tents

Hotels: Camping,

Day 8 — Umhey passage

09:00 — Breakfast

11:00 — Continuation of the trip on Road 110

13:00 — Lunch

15:00 — Setting up of the camp

19:00 — Dinner

Overnight in tents

Hotels: Camping,

Day 9 — Alla river pass

09:00 — Breakfast

10:00 — Departure to Alla hot spring

13:00 — Lunch

15:00 — Check-in at the cabin resort

19:00 — Dinner

Overnight in the cabin resort

Day 10 — The biggest peninsula of Baikal

09:00 — Breakfast

10:00 — Start of the road

13:00 — Lunch

17:00 — Setting up of the camp on the lake's shore

19:00 — Dinner

Overnight in tents

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Day 11 — Free day on the Baikal shore

09:00 — Breakfast
11:00 — Free time
13:00 — Lunch (picnic)
15:00 — Free time
19:00 — Dinner
Overnight in tents
Hotels: Camping,

Day 12 — Ulan-Ude - the capital of Buryatia

09:00 — Breakfast
10:00 — Departure to Ulan-Ude
11:30 — Visit the Old Believers' village of Tarbagatay
13:00 — Lunch
15:00 — Visit of the Ivolginsky Datsan
17:00 — Arrival to Ulan-Ude
19:00 — Dinner in the restaurant
Overnight in the hotel
Hotels: ,
Comfort: Comfortable accommodation, WC and bath / shower in room

Day 13 — Return to Irkutsk

00:00 — Breakfast in the hotel
09:00 — Departure to Irkutsk
16:00 — Arrival to Irkutsk
19:00 — Farewell dinner
Overnight in the hotel
Hotels: Accommodation in the hotel Angara, Standard business twin room
Comfort: Comfortable accommodation, WC and bath / shower in room

Day 14 — End of the programme

09:00 — Breakfast in the hotel
10:00 — Transfer to the airport

Departures

Start	End	Basic price per person
23.06.2019	06.07.2019	372700.00 RUB
24.08.2019	06.09.2019	372700.00 RUB
20.06.2020	03.07.2020	399300.00 RUB
22.08.2020	04.09.2020	399300.00 RUB

Note

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The price given is for a group of 2 people (for one car). Total number of vehicles: 1 to 3. All the meals are included in the price of the program, except for: breakfasts on day 1, lunches on days 2, 4-6,13,14 as well as dinners on days 1, 5, 14. • One lunch in a café along the road : 300-400 RUB

What's included

Price includes

- Russian-speaking guide
- Accommodation as per itinerary
- Nature reserves and parks entrance permissions
- Bathing in springs
- Airplane/ train tickets
- Celebratory dinner with alcoholic beverages
- Letter of invitation
- Tent rental
- Bathing in hot springs
- English-speaking guide services
- Meals according to the program
- Accident insurance

Price does not include

- Personal expenses and tips
- Visa fees and travel insurance
- Sleeping bag rental

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.

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

underwear, socks (several pairs)
T-shirts, shorts
pants, long sleeve jacket/tracksuit
raincoat / windproof and waterproof jacket with HOOD!
water bottle/flask
spray against mosquitoes and ticks (for summer outdoor tours)
sleeping bag
winter (down) jacket and warm pants (windproof and waterproof) / winter suit
comfortable winter boots (suitable for walking on ice and snow)
fleece jacket/sweater with collar
winter expedition boots (like Sorel or Baffin)
fleece balaclava
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14

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Meals

In the canteen at the inns, fresh local products.

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.

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. 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).

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

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.

Medical Form

You should be physically fit enough for this tour.

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

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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 7890/22-49 from September 19, 2022. Amount of coverage: 500 000 RUB. Legal and actual address: BaikalNature LLC, 55 Dekabrskikh Sobyti Str., office 405.2 664007 Irkutsk Russia

Cancellation Options

The cancellation options are:

- more than 30 days before departure - 15% of the tour price,
- 29 - 7 days before departure - 30% of the tour price,
- less than 7 days before departure - 50% of the tour price.

Security

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