

## Old Railway, Listvyanka and Bolshiye Koty — Detailed description

Trip Length: Group: 1-10 Departure: Fixed Period: December - January

### Trip overview

This programme will make you discover a picturesque line of the Old Circum-Baikal Railway and the two charming villages, different from each other - Listvyanka and Bolshiye Koty. You will love the leisurely pace of this cultural route of the south Baikal.

Called "Krugobaikalka" in Russian, this part of the Trans-Siberian, genius of architectural engineering, was constructed in the beginning of last century. The railway was inlaid into the steep shore of the Baikal, which boggles the imagination. Along with enjoying beautiful sceneries, you will also discover culture and history.

You will be able to visit the sights of Listvyanka, to enjoy your hike along the shore, and to go up the hill to admire a splendid view of Lake Baikal.

In Bolshiye Koty you will have a chance to see a small welcoming museum devoted to Lake Baikal, to climb a hill to meditate quietly enjoying an incredible panoramic view. The next day you will have time to reach Skriper cape, breathtaking viewpoint... In the village you will sleep with a local family. Your journey back will be done aboard hydrofoil "Raketa".

### Highlights

- Manysided tour offering lots of discoveries in little time
- Journey by train along the shoreline of Lake Baikal

### Tour type

NATURE

### Difficulty

Physical rating not assigned

### Comfort

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

### Program

Day 1 — -

Day 2 — -

Day 3 — -

### Departures

New departures available soon

### Note

Single supplement - 2220 RUR On Wednesday and Saturday tour programme follows the itinerary. On Tuesday and Friday tour operates in the opposite direction: Irkutsk - Bolshiye Koty - Listvyanka - Circum-Baikal - Irkutsk. Departure from the riverside station from June 25 to August 30 at 9.00am; from May 23 to June 24 and from September 1 to 27 at 12.30pm. Meals included: lunch and dinner on Day 1,

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breakfast and dinner on Day 2, breakfast and lunch on Day 3.

## What's included

### Price includes

- Russian-speaking guide
- Accommodation as per itinerary
- Transport as per itinerary
- Letter of invitation

### Price does not include

- Transfers in Irkutsk
- English-speaking guide
- Visa invitation and registration of passports (for foreign citizens, if necessary)
- Nature reserves and parks entrance permissions
- Personal expenses and tips
- Visa fees and travel insurance
- Accident insurance

## 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

pants, long sleeve jacket/tracksuit  
raincoat / windproof and waterproof jacket with HOOD!  
sunglasses  
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  
comfortable warm hat and scarf (snood)  
ski mask  
winter expedition boots (like Sorel or Baffin)  
moisturizing cream

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## Meals

In the canteen at the inns, fresh local products.  
Homestay cuisine based on fresh products.

## 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

No compulsory vaccination.

It is advisable to keep the following vaccines valid:

- diphtheria,
- tetanus,

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- 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.

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