

Pole of Cold — Detailed description

Trip Length: 9 Group: 1-8 Departure: Fixed Period: January - February

Trip overview

Would you like to feel the real cold – total, wide-reaching and full-scale? Then this tour is for you! This time BaikalNature propose to you to visit Oymyakon village – the pole of Cold. In this region there are the lowest temperatures near the earth surface all over the world. The average monthly temperatures of the January are -50°C , during the coldest winters they reach -67°C . The lowest registered temperature was $-71,2^{\circ}\text{C}$. And it's not the Arctic and people live there all the year round.

After the two-days way by the Kolyma road, we will find ourselves in the middle of the winter wonderland, where the pure and severe beauty of the nature is side by side the kindness and hospitality of the local people.

We will know about the history of the region and the peculiarities of the Yakut nature that are understandable only for those who arrive to see them personally.

This tour is held in a format of expedition. Description of the itinerary presents only a common plan of the expedition. In case of any force majeure (such as bad weather conditions or any other unexpected and unpredictable events), the organizers reserve the right to make changes to the program.

Highlights

- Magic landscape, frosty frozen and aurora borealis
- Traveling at the temperature below -55°C
- Visit of Oymyakon village - the coldest village in the world, known as pole of cold
- Trip through the permafrost regions
- Meeting with the indigenous people of Russia
- Visit of Gulag camps

Tour type

DISCOVERYNATURE

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.

Begining / end of the tour

Tour starts: Yakutsk, End of the tour: Yakutsk

Program

Day 1 — Arrival to Yakutsk

11:00 — Arrival to the airport of the Yakutsk city

13:00 — Lunch (Not included)

14:00 — Meeting with your guide in the hotel

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15:00 — Discovery of Yakutsk

19:00 — Dinner (Not included)

Overnight in the hotel

Hotels: Accommodation in the hotel Tygyn Darkhan, Twin room

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

Day 2 — Khandyga and road of bones

09:00 — Breakfast in the hotel

10:00 — Departure to the Khandyga village

14:00 — Lunch in the cafe en route (Not included)

15:00 — Continuation of the road

19:00 — Homemade dinner

Overnight in the homestay

Hotels: Accommodation in the homestay Khandyga, Bed in the homestay

Comfort: Simple comfort accommodation, dry closet indoors, banya

Day 3 — Road to the Pole of Cold

09:00 — Departure to the Tomtor village. GULAG camps

14:00 — Lunch in the café en route (Not included)

15:00 — Continuation of the road

19:00 — Arrival to Tomtor

20:00 — Homemade dinner

Overnight in the homestay

Hotels: Accommodation in the homestay in Tomtor, Bed in the twin room

Comfort: Simple comfort accommodation, dry closet indoors, banya

Day 4 — Oymyakon - Pole of Cold

08:00 — Breakfast at the homestay

09:00 — Departure to Oymyakon

13:00 — Lunch at a roadside café

14:00 — Discovery of the village

16:00 — Return to Tomtor

19:00 — Russian banya

20:00 — Dinner at the guest house

Overnight in the homestay

Hotels: Accommodation in the homestay in Tomtor, Bed in the twin room

Comfort: Simple comfort accommodation, dry closet indoors, banya

Day 5 — Culture and ethnography of Yakutia

09:00 — Breakfast

10:00 — Excursion to the Ice Residence of Chyskhaan

13:00 — Lunch

15:00 — Excursion to the museum of the natural history

16:00 — Excursion to the GULAG Museum

19:00 — Dinner

Overnight in the homestay

Hotels: Accommodation in the homestay in Tomtor, Bed in the twin room

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Comfort: Simple comfort accommodation, dry closet indoors, banya

Day 6 — Acquaintance with the history of the Gulag

09:00 — Breakfast
10:00 — Departure to Tepy Kluch
13:00 — Lunch in the cafe (Not included)
14:00 — Continuation to the road
19:00 — Arrival to Tepy Kluch
20:00 — Dinner
Overnight in the homestay

Day 7 — Arrival to Yakutsk

11:00 — Transfer to Yakutsk
13:00 — Lunch (Not included)
14:00 — Continuation of the road
19:00 — Dinner
Overnight in the hotel
Hotels: Accommodation in the hotel Tygyn Darkhan, Twin room
Comfort: Comfortable accommodation, WC and bath / shower in room

Day 8 — Great rocks - Lena Pillars

07:00 — Breakfast in the hotel
09:00 — Excursion in the Lena Pillars Nature Park
19:00 — Festive dinner
Overnight in the hotel
Hotels: Accommodation in the hotel Tygyn Darkhan, Twin room
Comfort: Comfortable accommodation, WC and bath / shower in room

Day 9 — End of the program

09:00 — Breakfast in the hotel
11:00 — Check-out from the hotel and transfer to the airport

Departures

Start	End	Basic price per person
21.01.2023	29.01.2023	150100.00 RUB
04.02.2023	12.02.2023	150100.00 RUB

Note

The price given is for a group of 6 people. If there are less than 6 persons, the price of the tour will be recalculated. Take attention that in Yakutia the temperatures can be really low. Please, follow our check-list before the departure. All the not-included meals will be negotiated with the group members once on spot (additional charge). It's possible to book the plane tickets with us (additional expenses). The itinerary of the tour can be changed according to the road or weather conditions as well as unforeseen events.

What's included

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Price includes

- Accommodation as per itinerary
- Transport as per itinerary
- Excursions and visits as per itinerary
- Transfer from airport / railway station on first day
- Transfer to airport / railway station on last day
- Celebratory dinner with alcoholic beverages
- Letter of invitation
- Russian-speaking guide services
- Meals according to the program
- Accident insurance
- English-speaking guide

Price does not include

- Administrative registration
- Personal expenses and tips
- Visa fees and travel insurance
- Airline tickets
- Optional activities

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.

We recommend you to pack all your stuff in two bags: a small backpack and a large travelling bag.

SMALL BACKPACK: will be useful for carrying your personal belongings during the day (camera, film, personal medication, bottled water, etc.) You will also use it as hand luggage during air travel for all your heavy (to lighten the travel bag in the luggage compartment), fragile (camera, etc.) and necessary (toilet bag, etc.) things.

BIG TRAVEL BAG or BIG BACKPACK: must contain the rest of your stuff. It will be in the luggage compartment during the flight. It will be transported by vehicles.

Recommended checklist

T-shirts
Socks
Comfortable shoes for city
Fleece jacket or warm sweater
Comfortable pants
Thick socks
Wool gloves and winter cap
Lipstick
Towel
Swimsuit

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

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Wipes

Antibacterial hand gel

Expedition pants

Thermal socks

Furry mitts (big enough for wearing the wool gloves under them)

Expedition winter boots (Sorel or Baffin)

Expedition down jacket (up to -50°)

Fleece Balaclava

Meals

In the canteen at the inns, fresh local products.

Homestay cuisine based on fresh products.

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

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

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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 10058/21-49 from October 08, 2021. Amount of coverage: 500 000 RUB. Legal and actual address: BaikalNature LLC 119A Dekabrskikh Sobyti Str., office 13 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

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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