

Tiksi. Arctic Expedition — Detailed description

Trip Length: 14 Group: 4-5 Departure: Fixed Period: December - January

Trip overview

The Extreme North, the arctic tundra, the polar night and the northern aurora... These ideas are as far from the citizens, as the space exploration. The North doesn't like the casual passers and the Extreme North is too far from the common concept of tourism. However, the calm and tranquillity of these places is reachable. The North cannot be called "extreme" as there is no extremities!

In 2018 BaikalNature decided to open to its tourists a new opportunity – the unique expedition to the northern most village of the Yakutia region – Tiksi. The word "Tiksi" means "rendezvous, arrival". The real charm of this village is in its geographical position. The bay of the same name is considered as the Yakutia sea gates, situated north of the Arctic Circle in the Laptev Sea. The main peculiarity of the expedition is not the destination, but the trip itself. Only having got over more than 2 500 km by winter roads and frozen north rivers, we will arrive to this "bay of rendezvous". This bay is friendly only for those who dared to venture him physically and morally.

The expedition starts in Yakutsk. We will meet with arctic people and visit the Topolinoye village – the village of the reindeer's herders. Crossing the tundra and frozen rivers, we can observe the wild arctic animals such as birds, polar fox, reindeer, wolves and others.

The main part of the route passes to the North from the Polar circle and every day we will have possibility to observe the northern lights and make rare photos.

On the way there are no hotels, museums, cafes or other touristic places. Our tour is not about this... To try yourself in the face of full isolation, where you won't find roads, only directions to go. Our goal is to reach the place where the winter ramp over 8 months a year.

Our team and equipment ensure the security on the journey. There will be 2 off-road vehicles Toyota Land Cruiser, that proved their reliability during our expeditions such as "Pole of Cold" or "Baikal. 110th km". The vehicles will be followed from the satellite 24 hours a day. Also all participants of the group should be in good physical shape, ready for difficulties of the wild nature and not to have medical contraindications. We will be moved away from the civilization by the distance and the weather influence.

NB: This tour has no fixed group departure date. The price is available upon request.

Highlights

- Unique expedition to the Extreme North
- Visit of the northern most village of Yakutia - Tiksi
- Passage by the true winter arctic roads
- Acquaintance with the life of the polar people
- Possibility to observe the arctic animals
- Visit of the reindeer herders village - Topolinoye
- Possibility to pass the frozen Laptev sea
- Possibility to see the northern lights

Tour type

EXPEDITIONNATURE

Difficulty

Challenging - 5-7 hours of challenging 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: Yakutsk, End of the tour: Yakustk

Program**Day 1 — Acquaintance with Yakutsk**

11:00 — Arrival to Yakutsk
13:00 — Lunch (Not included)
14:00 — Free time
17:00 — Meeting with the guides at the reception of the hotel
19:00 — Dinner in the hotel (Not included)
Overnight in the hotel
Hotels: Accommodation in the hotel Pole star, Standard 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
13:00 — Lunch in the cafe en route (Not included)
15:00 — Continuation of the road
19:00 — Dinner
Overnight in the homestay

Day 3 — Village of the reindeer herders

09:00 — Breakfast (Not included)
10:00 — Departure to the Topolinoye village
13:00 — Lunch in the cafe (Not included)
14:00 — Continuation of the road
19:00 — Dinner
Overnight in the homestay

Day 4 — Crossing the Arctic Circle

09:00 — Start of the itinerary
13:00 — Lunch (Not included)
14:00 — Continuation of the road
19:00 — Dinner (Not included)
Overnight under the tent

Day 5 — Day on the journey

09:00 — Start of the route
13:00 — Lunch (Not included)
15:00 — Continuation of the road
19:00 — Dinner
20:00 — Arrival to Batagay village

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Overnight in the homestay

Day 6 — Life of an Arctic village

10:00 — Free time in Batagay

15:00 — Free time

Overnight in the homestay

Day 7 — On the ice of the Yana river

08:00 — Breakfast

09:00 — Start of the route

13:00 — Lunch

14:00 — Continuation of the road

19:00 — Dinner

Overnight under the tent

Day 8 — Arctic tundra

09:00 — Breakfast

09:00 — Start of the route

13:00 — Lunch

14:00 — Continuation of the route

19:00 — Dinner

Overnight under the tent

Day 9 — Polar lights

09:00 — Breakfast

09:00 — Departure to the the Severniy village

13:00 — Lunch

14:00 — Continuation of the route

19:00 — Dinner

Overnight under the tent

Day 10 — Outlet to the Laptev sea

08:00 — Route to the Hayir village

09:00 — Breakfast

13:00 — Lunch

14:00 — Passage to the Laptev sea

19:00 — Dinner

Overnight under the tent

Day 11 — Testing by the North

09:00 — Breakfast

09:00 — Passage by the Laptev sea

13:00 — Lunch

15:00 — Continuation of the route

19:00 — Dinner

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Overnight under the tent

Day 12 — Bay of rendezvous

09:00 — Breakfast
09:00 — Route to the Tiksi bay
13:00 — Lunch
16:00 — Arrival to Tiksi
19:00 — Dinner (Not included)
Overnight in the hotel

Day 13 — Main sea port of Yakutia

09:00 — Breakfast in the hotel
10:00 — Excursion in Tiksi
14:00 — Passage by the Laptev sea ice
Overnight in the hotel

Day 14 — Departure to Yakutsk

09:00 — Breakfast in the hotel
12:00 — Transfer to the airport

Departures

Start	End	Basic price per person
14.02.2022	27.02.2022	351000.00 RUB

Note

The price is given is for a group of 5 people. Total number of vehicles: 2. Accommodation is planned to be in hotel "Polyarnaya zvezda" in Yakutsk, in guest houses and homestay. Tiksi is the boundary territory and it's needed to have a special permission (preparation of the document takes about 60 days). The itinerary of the expedition can be changed according to the road or weather conditions as well as unforeseen events. The price includes the flight Tiksi - Yakutsk. ATTENTION: as Tiksi is situated on the Extreme North, it's possible that the flights will be carry forward 1 or 2 days because of strong weather conditions.

What's included

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Price includes

- Accommodation as per itinerary
- Transfer from airport / railway station on first day
- Transfer to airport / railway station on last day
- Letter of invitation
- Sleeping bag rental
- Meals according to the program
- Accident insurance
- Excursions and visits as per itinerary
- English-speaking guide services
- Camping outfit rental
- Tent rental

Price does not include

- Personal expenses and tips
- Airline tickets
- Optional activities
- Visa

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 BACKPACK: must contain the rest of your stuff. It will be in the luggage compartment during the flight. You will bring it during some days of the trekking.

Recommended checklist

Thermal underwear

POLARTEC or similar pullover

Long sleeve shirts or sweatshirts

Headlamp

Sunscreen for skin and lips

Toilet roll

Pocket knife (to put in checked baggage)

Sewing kit

Wool gloves and winter cap

Bath towel

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

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Charger and spare battery for camera/phone
Photo / video camera
1 or 2 thermal lightweight sweater(s)
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

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.

Medical Form

A good physical condition is required.

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

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,

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

Security

First-aid kit, satellite phone, walkie-talkie are available at your guide.


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