

## Great Baikal - winter version — Detailed description

Trip Length: Group: 5-10 Departure: Fixed Period: December - January

### Trip overview

When speaking of Lake Baikal, it is impossible to do without superlatives. It is the oldest lake in the world, the deepest and the cleanest one. In winter it freezes over and offers access to inaccessible parts of its reserves and national parks. We invite you to enjoy routes of transparent Baikal ice and discover the wild north of the lake.

Travelling by Russian 4x4 - UAZ - adapted to local weather conditions we will explore the frozen Baikal overcoming piles of ice, cracks and snow storms. This is an exceptional adventure that will bring you from Olkhon Island to the north of the lake from where you will descend to the Barguzinsky Reserve and Buryatia.

During this journey you will hike a lot. Despite this it is not necessary to have a high level of fitness because all your luggage will be transported in 4x4 and you will only carry your things needed for the day. However, you should equip yourself with high spirits and sense of humor since in the north of the lake there are no good hotels, in fact there are no any. We will spend nights in huts of forestry officers and meteorologists without conveniences and even sleep on the floor, that is why sense of humor is indispensable. But important note: it is warm inside! And acquaintances made will be unforgettable!

Two weeks will allow you to discover all wild spots of the lake where nature has not been touched with human activity yet. You will bathe in numerous hot springs, taste Siberian cuisine, discover the way of life of local people. You will visit principle towns of the Baikal and learn their culture and history.

True adventure in the very heart of Siberia!

### Highlights

- Meeting local people
- Discovery of inaccessible spots of the northern Baikal
- Trekking within everyone's reach among Arctic landscapes
- Journey to the very heart of Siberia, such as it's described in books
- Real adventure in perfect security

### Tour type

NATURE

### Difficulty

Easy - nothing more than normal walking while sight-seeing

### Comfort

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

### Program

Day 1 — -

Day 2 — -

Day 3 — -

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Day 4 — -

Day 5 — -

Day 6 — -

Day 7 — -

Day 8 — -

Day 9 — -

Day 10 — -

Day 11 — -

Day 12 — -

Day 13 — -

Day 14 — -

Day 15 — -

Day 16 — -

Day 17 — -

Day 18 — -

Day 19 — -

Day 20 — -

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### Departures

New departures available soon

### Note

Supplement for the group of 3 participants - 13 640 RUB / pers.

### What's included

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 [baikalnature.com](https://baikalnature.com)

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**Price includes**

- English-speaking guide
- Russian-speaking guide
- Accommodation as per itinerary
- Transport as per itinerary
- Excursions and visits as per itinerary
- Nature reserves and parks entrance permissions
- Ski rental
- Accident insurance
- Letter of invitation
- Bathing in hot springs
- Ice crampons
- Ice studs for shoes

**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
- Bathing in springs
- Airplane/ train tickets
- Sleeping bag rental
- 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.

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**Recommended checklist**

T-shirts, shorts  
comfortable shoes for trekking  
raincoat / windproof and waterproof jacket with HOOD!  
sunglasses  
sunscreen and lip balm  
swimsuit / swim trunks  
towel  
water bottle/flask  
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  
ski mask  
winter expedition boots (like Sorel or Baffin)  
fleece balaclava

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moisturizing cream

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## Meals

In the canteen at the inns, fresh local products.

Homestay cuisine based on fresh products.

Picnic for lunch and hot meal served at your accommodation in the evening.

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 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

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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

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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