

## Sakhalin + Iturup, Pearl of the Kurils — Detailed description

Trip Length: 11    Group: 2-6    Departure: Fixed    Period: December - January

### Trip overview

Sakhalin is a region shrouded in secrecy, a place uniting oriental wisdom and mystifying Russian soul. This is exactly where our unique and unusual trip will take place.

During 11 days we will try to show you how immense and beautiful Sakhalin Island is with its abundant biodiversity. We will discover almost the whole territory of the island; see dozens of sights and fascinating landscapes. We will head for to the famous Aniva lighthouse, walk along the shores of the most beautiful bays of Sakhalin to discover all its diversity. Moreover we will be one of the firsts in Russia to meet the dawn as we will be on one of the easternmost subjects of the Russian Federation.

Sakhalin Island is also famous for its volcanoes and hot springs. During the tour we will have the opportunity to bath in those springs and see the volcanoes with our own eyes.

However, in spite of rich program on the Sakhalin Island, the pearl of our trip will be the Iturup Island that makes our voyage more exclusive. Being one of the largest in the Kuril chain of islands it has a remote and isolated location. So, we will have to take a plane in order to get there. But thanks to the same inconveniences in geographical availability, we will catch the opportunity to admire the pristine nature: volcanoes, waterfalls, geysers, lakes, hot springs and so on.

### Highlights

- All Sakhalin island in one tour
- Visit of the pearl of the Kurils - Iturup Island
- All types of Sakhalin landscapes: mountains, steeps, bays, islands and volcanoes
- Acquaintance with culture and untouched nature in one tour
- Visit a secret place not marked on many maps
- Excursion to the most inaccessible and beautiful lighthouse in Russia
- Discovery of one of the Itutup's symbol - White rocks
- Famous landmarks of Russian and Japanese Culture

### Tour type

DISCOVERYNATURE

### Difficulty

Moderate - 3-5 hours of physical activity daily

### Comfort

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

### Beginning / end of the tour

Tour starts: Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk, End of the tour: Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk

### Program

#### Day 1 — Acquaintance with Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk

09:00 — Arrival to Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk and meeting with your guide

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12:30 — Lunch (Not included)

14:00 — Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk city-tour

17:00 — Dinner in the cafe (Not included)

Overnight in the hotel

Hotels: Accommodation in the hotel Gagarin, Twin room

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

## **Day 2 — Along the east coast of Sakhalin**

08:00 — Breakfast in the hotel

09:00 — Departure to the Tikhaya bay

12:30 — Discovery of Tikhay (Silent) bay

13:00 — Lunch-picnic

14:00 — Time at leisure

15:00 — Return way to the city

19:00 — Dinner (Not included)

Overnight in the hotel

Hotels: Accommodation in the hotel Gagarin, Twin room

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

## **Day 3 — Sakhalin's most famous lighthouse**

06:00 — Breakfast

07:00 — Start of excursion to the Lighthouse Aniva

13:00 — Lunch

14:00 — Discovery of the lighthouse Aniva

15:00 — Continuation of the excursion

19:00 — Dinner (Not included)

Overnight at the resort

Hotels: Accommodation in the hotel Gagarin, Twin room

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

## **Day 4 — Bizarre arches, caves and grottoes of Cape Giant**

08:00 — Breakfast

09:00 — Departure to the cape Giant

11:00 — Exploration of the coastline

13:00 — Lunch-picnic

15:00 — Return to the city

19:00 — Dinner in the hotel (Not included)

Overnight in the hotel

Hotels: Accommodation in the hotel Gagarin, Twin room

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

## **Day 5 — Iturup -the pearl the Kurils islands**

08:00 — Breakfast

10:30 — Flight to the Iturup island

13:00 — Lunch in the hotel's cafe (Not included)

14:00 — Visit of Yankito Plateu

16:00 — Excursion and bathing in the springs

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19:00 — Dinner (Not included)

Overnight in the hotel

Hotels: Accommodation in the hotel "Ostrov", Iturup (Kurilsk), Twin room

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

## Day 6 — Baranskiy volcano

09:00 — Breakfast

11:00 — Excursion to the volcano Baranskiy

13:00 — Lunch-picnic

14:00 — Bathing in the hot springs (Not included)

19:00 — Dinner (Not included)

Overnight in the hotel

Hotels: Accommodation in the hotel "Ostrov", Iturup (Kurilsk), Twin room

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

## Day 7 — White rocks

09:00 — Breakfast in the cafe

10:00 — Start of the 4x4 excursion

13:00 — Lunch (picnic)

16:00 — Return to Kurilsk

19:00 — Dinner (Not included)

Overnight in the hotel

Hotels: Accommodation in the hotel "Ostrov", Iturup (Kurilsk), Twin room

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

## Day 8 — Kasatka bay and Pacific ocean

09:00 — Breakfast

11:00 — Departure to Kasatka bay

13:00 — Lunch picnic

15:00 — Visit of thermal springs (Not included)

19:00 — Dinner in the local cafe (Not included)

Overnight in the hotel

Hotels: Accommodation in the hotel "Ostrov", Iturup (Kurilsk),

Comfort: Comfortable accommodation, WC and shower on the floor

## Day 9 — Return from the Kuril Islands

09:00 — Breakfast

10:00 — Transfer to the airport

17:00 — Free time and rest

19:00 — Dinner (Not included)

Overnight in the hotel

Hotels: Accommodation in the hotel Gagarin, Twin room

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

## Day 10 — Reserve day

09:00 — Breakfast

11:00 — Day at leisure in Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk

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13:00 — Lunch (Not included)

19:00 — Dinner (Not included)

Overnight in the hotel

Hotels: Accommodation in the hotel Gagarin, Twin room

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

## Day 11 — End of the programme

09:00 — Breakfast

11:00 — Transfer to the airport

## Departures

Start	End	Basic price per person
06.08.2022	16.08.2022	212800.00 RUB

## Note

The price is given for the group of 3 persons. If the the number of participants in the group is less, the price of the tour is following: For a group of 2 people - 261 800 rubles / person For a group of 4 people - 198 700 rubles / person For a group of 5 people - 181 900 rubles / person For a group of 3 people - 161 900 rubles / person The flights Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk - Iturup and Iturup - Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk are included. \*\*\* IMPORTANT: For all foreign citizens, it is necessary to apply for special permission to enter the territory of the border zone - the Kuril Islands. The documents should be filed one month before the departure.

## What's included

### 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
- Railway tickets
- Letter of invitation
- Meals according to the program
- English-speaking guide services
- Reserves and national parks entrance permissions

### Price does not include

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

## Checklist & Equipment

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

Sunglasses

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Raincoat or wind and waterproof shell jacket (with hood !)

POLARTEC or similar pullover

Shorts

T-shirts

Cap or hat to protect against sun

Comfortable walking shoes (like Vibram or similar)

Swimsuit

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

Charger and spare battery for camera/phone

Photo / video camera

## Meals

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. 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

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.

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.

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## 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 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.

## 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

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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