

## Heart Of Lake Baikal Cruise — Detailed description

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

### Trip overview

This cruise operates aboard two cruise vessels, standard-class *Tatyana* and comfort-class *Sibiryak*, and takes part of the following itinerary: Listvyanka - Circum-Baikal Railway - Peschanaya bay - Olkhon - Maloye More - Olkhon - Chivyrkuysky Gulf - Maloye More - Peschanaya bay - Circum-Baikal Railway - Listvyanka. In accordance with their point of departure or arrival, they may be preceded or followed by stays on Olkhon Island, in Listvyanka, and other places of Lake Baikal.

The Heart Of Baikal Cruise is ideal for those who spent some time on Olkhon Island and wish to continue to discover the Baikal and participate in a small cruise. This itinerary will take you from Olkhon to Listvyanka from where you can easily get to Irkutsk. Over a short period of time you will visit the sites only accessible by water such as rock paintings of Sagan-Zaba and Peschanaya bay (Sandy bay). You will have the opportunity to enjoy true Russian banya (Russian baths) located on the very shore of the lake in one of the prettiest bays. The voyage will end in the south of the lake with the Circum-Baikal visit to discover this open-air architectural museum.

Extension suggestions:

Before the cruise : Olkhon Island, Ust-Barguzin and the Zabaikalsky National Park, Severobaikalsk.

After the cruise: old Circum-Baikal railway, Listvyanka and Bolshie Koty villages

### Highlights

- Discovery of scenic sites of Lake Baikal hardly accessible in summer
- Possibility to integrate the cruise with a land part of journey

### Tour type

NATURE

### Difficulty

Physical rating not assigned

### Comfort

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

### Program

Day 1 — -

Day 2 — -

Day 3 — -

### Departures

New departures available soon

### Note

The price is subject to change due to fuel costs. The trip is priced assuming accommodation in 4-berth cabin. Triple cabin supplement is

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2500 RUB per person. Twin cabin supplement is 6000 RUB per person.

## What's included

### Price includes

- English-speaking guide services
- Russian-speaking guide
- Accommodation as per itinerary
- Transport as per itinerary
- Meals as per itinerary
- Excursions and visits as per itinerary
- Nature reserves and parks entrance permissions
- Letter of invitation

### Price does not include

- Visa invitation and registration of passports (for foreign citizens, if necessary)
- Personal expenses and tips
- Visa fees and travel insurance
- Optional activities
- Transfers
- Airline tickets

## 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.

If you are traveling in the spring or autumn, please check with your manager for a list of recommended equipment and an approximate weather forecast.

## Recommended checklist

pants, long sleeve jacket/tracksuit  
rubber slippers  
raincoat / windproof and waterproof jacket with HOOD!  
sunglasses  
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)  
winter expeditionary down jacket (up to -50°)

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### Meals

Three meals a day on shipboard, cuisine, based on fresh products and caught fish.

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. 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).

### 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.

It is advisable to keep the following vaccines valid:

- diphtheria,
- tetanus,
- Polio.

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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: +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

## 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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