

## New Year 2014 in Trans-Siberian train — Detailed description

Trip Length: Group: 2-10 Departure: Fixed Period: December - January

### Trip overview

If there are two countries in the world that changed dramatically in a few years, they are Russia and China. These two huge countries, two ancient cultures, despite their hard past, are now among the greatest nations of the XXI century.

Russia and China are now open to tourists from all over the world, who can discover inimitable cultural and natural heritage.

Moscow, the capital of Tsars, and Beijing, the capital of the Middle Kingdom, are two megacities where you will forget all your problems and plunge into their magical atmosphere.

On the occasion of New Year celebrations, BaikalNature not only offers an opportunity to experience these two civilizations, but also to enjoy the priceless luxury. Take your time to live, think calmly, serenely. Take your time to admire the landscapes, to see the changes. Take your time to meet new people and get to know them. And, of course, take your time to have a party!

The Kremlin and the Forbidden City are separated by 7622 km and we propose to win them on the Chinese train. You will travel for six days via the legendary Trans-Siberian Railway and the equally famous Trans-Mongolian Railway. Each stop is an opportunity to meet new people, taste local specialities sold alongside. The stations of Russia, Mongolia and China will welcome you till your final destination, Beijing. Train schedules in the program are likely to change slightly. Please, check with your provodnitsa (the hostess of the car) the arrival and departure in each city. At the end of the car please note the departure time, take your papers and your train ticket with you. If the stop is not long, do not stray too far from the car and be vigilant not to miss your train.

### Highlights

- Silvester night aboard the legendary Trans-Siberian train
- Journey rich in cultural encounters and discoveries
- Discovery of three majestic countries aboard the train
- Initiatorite escape of 7 622 km

### Tour type

NATURE

### Difficulty

Physical rating not assigned

### Comfort

Upgraded — all nights in comfortable rooms.

### Program

Day 1 — -

Day 2 — -

Day 3 — -

Day 4 — -

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Day 5 — -

Day 6 — -

Day 7 — -

Day 8 — -

Day 9 — -

Day 10 — -

Day 11 — -

## Departures

New departures available soon

## Note

### What's included

#### Price includes

- English-speaking guide
- Russian-speaking guide
- Accommodation as per itinerary
- Excursions and visits as per itinerary
- Letter of invitation
- Meals during excursions
- Breakfasts
- Ice crampons

#### 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
- Celebratory dinner with alcoholic beverages
- Optional activities
- Meals in train
- Guide in the trains
- Dinners

## Checklist & Equipment

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

**SMALL BACKPACK:** will be useful for carrying your personal belongings during the day (camera, phone, 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/SUITCASE:** 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

rubber slippers  
raincoat / windproof and waterproof jacket with HOOD!  
sunglasses  
towel  
trekking telescopic poles  
comfortable warm hat and scarf (snood)

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ski mask

winter expedition boots (like Sorel or Baffin)

winter expeditionary down jacket (up to -50°)

moisturizing cream

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## Meals

If you are a vegetarian or have any particular preferences, please let us know, so we could adapt the menu.

Half board: breakfast at your accommodation, lunch during excursions, dinner not included.

## 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.

You need a tourist visa to travel to Mongolia. 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.

Documents to provide consular services:

- a visa application form (completed on computer or with a black ballpen),
- a color photo for documents, 3.5 x 4.5 cm, to stick on the visa application form,
- invitation,
- travel insurance, provided by nsurance company, which protects you throughout your trip .

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For more information, please see "Do I need a tourist visa to travel to Russia or Mongolia?" of our FAQ.

To travel in China, you need a tourist visa. It can be issued for a maximum period of 30 days. Your passport has to be valid six months after the expiry of the visa and to have two blank pages.

Documents to provide consular services:

- a visa application form completed on computer or with a ballpoint pen,
- a color photo for documents, 3.5 x 4.5 cm, to stick on the visa application form,
- photocopies of return air/train tickets,
- tourist voucher, which we will send you by fax, stating that all travel services were paid in full,
- a work certificate or proof of income (bank statement the last 3 months)
- proof of travel insurance covers you throughout the entire stay.

For more information, please, see our FAQ: "Do I need a tourist visa to travel to China?"

## 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.

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## 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.

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,

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- 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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