

## New Year's Eve 2020 at Pole of Cold — Detailed description

Trip Length: 9 Group: 6-11 Departure: Fixed Period: December - January

### Trip overview

The New Year is the most incredible time of the year. Why not spend this fantastic holiday in the most mysterious, coldest and at the same time largest region of Russia?

We offer you our most unusual New Year's tour. In this tour, you will be able to meet a real Ded Moroz –Chyskhaan, the Yakutian King of the Cold! You will visit the coldest inhabited place in the northern hemisphere – Oymyakon. The lowest temperature ever recorded here is - 71.2°C.

The tour begins in the capital city of the region, Yakutsk. From here, you will travel 1000 km along the famous Kolyma Highway – known as the Road of Bones – to Oymyakon.

You will celebrate the New Year in the family of locals. Their kindness and warmth are never affected by the most severe northern frosts. After a gala concert at the local house of creativity, you will celebrate New Year 2020 at the family table of the hospitable hostess. You will see fantastic fireworks after which you will leave for a nightclub at a local club.

In addition, according to tradition, you will pass through a purification ceremony, visit the Museum of Local Lore and the Permafrost Kingdom, receive a certificate for visiting Oymyakon and climb up the observation mountain, from where you can enjoy breath-taking panorama views of the noiseless white expanses of the Oymyakonsky tundra. The most courageous tourists among you will be offered to swim in a non-freezing stream, whose water temperature remains at around 2°C every year.

The purpose of this trip is not just to celebrate the New Year in an unusual, exceptional place, but also to feel the lowest possible temperatures that exist at the end of December or beginning of January. For example, in January 2018, temperatures dropped to -63°C.

The mind-blowing landscapes of a real snow-white fairy tale and the warmest hearts of hospitable locals are a New Year's impression that can give you warm emotions and positive impressions for the coming year!

This program is an expedition. Description of the itinerary is the general plan of the expedition. In the event of any force majeure or severe weather conditions, the organizers may make appropriate changes.

### Highlights

- New Year's Eve celebration in the coldest place
- Air temperature below 60°C and lower
- Visit of Oymyakon village - Pole of Cold
- Trip through the permafrost regions
- Accommodation in the hospitable family
- Magic landscape of frosty forest
- Kolyma road - Road of Bones

### Tour type

DISCOVERYNATURE

### Difficulty

Moderate - 3-5 hours of physical activity daily

### Comfort

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

### Begining / end of the tour

Tour starts: Yakutsk, End of the tour: Yakutsk

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## Program

### Day 1 — Acquaintance with Yakutsk

10:00 — Arrival to Yakutsk  
13:00 — Lunch (Not included)  
14:00 — Briefing  
19:00 — Dinner (Not included)  
Overnight in the hotel

Hotels: Accommodation in the hotel Orto Doydu, Yakutsk, Twin standard room  
Comfort: Comfortable accommodation, WC and bath / shower in room

### Day 2 — Khandyga and road of bones

08:00 — Breakfast in the hotel  
09:30 — Departure to the Khandyga village  
14:00 — Lunch in the cafe en route (Not included)  
15:00 — Continuation of the road  
Overnight in the homestay

Hotels: Accommodation in the homestay Khandyga, Bed in the homestay  
Comfort: Simple comfort accommodation, dry closet indoors, banya

### Day 3 — Road to the Pole of Cold

09:00 — Departure to the Tomtor village  
14:00 — Lunch in the café en route (Not included)  
15:00 — Continuation of the road  
19:00 — Arrival to Tomtor  
20:00 — Homemade dinner  
Overnight in the homestay

Hotels: Accommodation in the homestay in Tomtor, Bed in the twin room  
Comfort: Simple comfort accommodation, dry closet indoors, banya

### Day 4 — New Year's Eve au Pole of Cold

02:00 — Danses in the local community centre  
08:00 — Breakfast at the homestay  
09:00 — Departure to Oymyakon  
13:00 — Lunch at a roadside café  
15:00 — Return to Tomtor and rest  
19:00 — Festive dinner  
19:00 — Concert in the community centre  
Overnight in the homestay

Hotels: Accommodation in the homestay in Tomtor, Bed in the twin room  
Comfort: Simple comfort accommodation, dry closet indoors, banya

### Day 5 — Kingdom of Permafrost

11:00 — Late breakfast  
14:00 — Home-made lunch  
15:00 — Excursion to the Ice Residence of Chyskhaan  
16:20 — Rising to the viewing point  
19:00 — Dinner  
Overnight in the homestay

Hotels: Accommodation in the homestay in Tomtor, Bed in the twin room

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Comfort: Simple comfort accommodation, dry closet indoors, banya

## Day 6 — Culture and ethnography of Yakutia

- 09:00 — Breakfast
- 10:00 — Experiments with the cold
- 11:00 — Purification ceremony
- 12:40 — Excursion to the museum of the natural history
- 13:00 — Lunch
- 14:00 — Bathing in the non-freezing stream
- 16:00 — Excursion to the GULAG Museum (Not included)
- 19:00 — Dinner

Overnight in the homestay

Hotels: Accommodation in the homestay in Tomtor, Bed in the twin room

Comfort: Simple comfort accommodation, dry closet indoors, banya

## Day 7 — Return to Khandyga

- 09:00 — Breakfast
- 10:00 — Departure to Khandyga
- 13:00 — Lunch in the cafe (Not included)
- 14:00 — Continuation fo the road
- 19:00 — Arrival to Khandyga

Overnight in the homestay

Hotels: Accommodation in the homestay Khandyga, Bed in the homestay

Comfort: Simple comfort accommodation, dry closet indoors, banya

## Day 8 — Road to Yakutsk

- 10:00 — Return to Yakutsk
- 14:00 — Continuation of the road
- 19:00 — Dinner (Not included)

Overnight in the hotel

Hotels: Accommodation in the hotel Orto Doydu, Yakutsk, Twin standard room

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

## Day 9 — End of the programme

- 09:00 — Breakfast in the hotel
- 11:00 — Transfer to the airport

## Departures

Start	End	Basic price per person
28.12.2019	05.01.2020	127800.00 RUB

## Note

The price given is for a group of 5 people. If there are less than 5 persons, the price of the tour will be recalculated. Take attention that in Yakutia the temperatures can be really low. Please, follow our check-list before the departure. Meals included: breakfasts for the following days: 2,4-7,9; lunches for the days: 4-6, dinners for the days 3-6, 8. All other meals will be negotiated with the group members once on spot (additional charge). the approximate price of the meal in the cafe en route is 500-800 roubles, in the restaurant of the city 1000-1500 roubles. The itinerary of the tour can be changed according to the road or weather conditions as well as unforeseen events.

## What's included

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**Price includes**

- Accommodation as per itinerary
- Transport as per itinerary
- Excursions and visits as per itinerary
- Reserves and national parks entrance permissions
- Transfer from airport / railway station on first day
- Transfer to airport / railway station on last day
- Letter of invitation
- English-speaking guide services
- Meals according to the program
- Accommodation in the hotel of Yakutsk the 1 and 7 days

**Price does not include**

- 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.

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**

T-shirts

Socks

Comfortable shoes for city

Fleece jacket or warm sweater

Comfortable pants

Thick socks

Wool gloves and winter cap

Lipstick

Bath towel

Swimsuit

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

1 or 2 thermal lightweight sweater(s)

Expedition pants

Furry mitts (big enough for wearing the wool gloves under them)

Expedition winter boots (Sorel or Baffin)

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Expedition down jacket (up to -50°)  
Fleece Balaclava

## Meals

At restaurants and homestays in cities, traditional cuisine consists of local specialties.  
Homestay cuisine based on fresh products.  
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

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.

## 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 10383/18-49 from November 8, 2018. Amount of coverage: 500 000 RUB. Legal and actual address: BaikalNature LLC 119A Dekabrskikh Sobyti Str., office 13 664007 Irkutsk Russia

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### **Cancellation Options**

The cancellation options are:

- more than 60 days before departure - 10% of the tour price,
- 60 to 30 days before departure - 50% of the tour price,
- less than 30 days before departure - 100% 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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