

# Great Baikal. Winter Version — Detailed description

Trip Length: 12 Group: 4-12 Departure: Fixed Period: February -

#### Trip overview

Once you have made a decision to go for a travel to Lake Baikal, you have thought a great deal about places to visit. We have elaborated for you the unique tour that allows trying and seeing everything! You will see all types of landscape, all essential landmarks and all types of the Baikal ice: snowy fields, unlimited polished ice rinks, ice hummocks, ice coves and others. The total distance of the itinerary is more than 2000 km! For understanding the immensity of this tour, just take a look at the map!

Symbolically the first meeting with Baikal will be held in the southernmost point of Lake Baikal and the tour will end in the northernmost part near the stele "Northern Baikal". When you will go on ice for the first time in the south part of the lake, you will get acquaintance with the Circum-Baikal railway. Moreover, you will pass by the Angara source by hovercraft. During this tour you will cross Lake Baikal twice. The first crossing will be in the deepest and widest central part of lake on the crystal ice fields. You will stay overnight in the BaikalNature Ice Camp in the geographical center of the lake. In the camp the unique activities are proposed: you can skate on the natural ice rink, to play ice hockey or to have a rest in Ice Bar. For those who want we propose to take Russian banya (sauna) and to dive in an ice hole. The second crossing will be in the north of Lake Baikal – the most under populated and hard-to-get part of the lake.

The special part of the tour is the rest in the Baikal corner of paradise far away from civilization – Khakussy hot springs. Besides that you will visit the symbolic places: Listvyanka village, Peschanaya bay, Olkhon island, Barguzinskiy and Chivikuysky golfs, Khakussy hot springs, Severobaykalsk city.

In the end of the tour you will go on train by the Baikal-Amur Mainline (BAM) - one of the biggest railway lines all over the world.

After this tour, you will be able to say that you know the winter Baikal!

# **Highlights**

- · Baikal crossing from the south to the north
- Overnight in the pre-prepared tent camp in the centre of Lake Baikal "BaikalNature Ice Camp"
- Visit of the symbolic places of Lake Baikal
- Visit of the northernmost and the southernmost points of Lake Baikal
- Double crossing of thelake in the central and the northern parts
- More than 800 km on the Baikal ice
- More than 2000 km of the total itinerary
- · Bathing in the hot springs
- Circular itinerary via the Republic of Buryatia and the Baikal-Amur Mainline

#### Tour type

DISCOVERYNATURE

#### Difficulty

Moderately Easy - 1-3 hours of physical activity daily

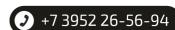
# Comfort

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

#### Begining / end of the tour

Tour starts: Irkutsk, End of the tour: Irkutsk

Уникальный внутренний номер документа: 565134





# **Program**

#### Day 1 — The southernmost point of lake Baikal

- 11:00 Meeting with group in the Irkutsk airport
- 11:05 Departure to the Kultuk village
- 13:00 Lunch in the cafe (Not included)
- 14:00 Departure by hovercraft to the Listvyanka village
- 17:00 Arrival to the Listvyanka village
- 19:00 Dinner in the hotel

Overnight in the hotel

Hotels: Accommodation in Usadba Demidova,

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

### Day 2 — On Baikal ice by hovercraft

- 09:00 Breakfast in the hotel
- 10:00 Transfer to the port
- 10:15 Departure by hovercraft to the MRS village
- 13:00 Lunch box
- 14:00 Continuation of the way to MRS
- 16:00 Arrival to MRS
- 19:00 Dinner at your resort (Not included)

Overnight at your resort

Hotels: Accommodation at the resort Naratey, Twin room

Comfort: Comfortable accommodation, WC and shower on the floor

#### Day 3 — The biggest island of the Baikal lake

- 09:00 Breakfast at your resort
- 10:00 Transfer to Olkhon island
- 13:00 Arrival to Khujir
- 13:30 Lunch at your resort
- 14:00 Visit of Khujir
- 19:00 Dinner (Not included)

Overnight at the resort

Hotels: Accommodation at the resort Lada, Chambre confortable Comfort: Comfortable accommodation, WC and bath / shower in room

### Day 4 — BaikalNature Ice Camp

- 09:00 Breakfast at the resort
- 10:00 Transfer to the ice camp
- 13:00 Picnic lunch
- 15:00 Arrival to the camp
- 19:00 Dinner

Overnight in the camp BaikalNature Ice Camp

Hotels: Camp on the ice of Baikal, Tent for 5-6 persons

Comfort:

Уникальный внутренний номер документа: 565134





# Day 5 — Baikal crossing

09:00 — Breakfast in the camp

13:00 — Lunch in the camp

14:00 — Time at leisure in the camp

16:30 — Departure in Ust-Bargouzin and accommodation in the guest house

19:00 — Dinner (Not included)

20:00 — Russian banya

Overnight in the guest house

Hotels: Accommodation in Ust-Barguzin, Twin room

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

#### Day 6 — Day at leisure in the Baikal village

09:00 - Breakfast

10:00 — Time at leisure

13:00 — Lunch

18:00 — Russian banya

19:00 — Dinner (Not included)

Overnight in the guest house

Hotels: Accommodation in Ust-Barguzin, Twin room

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

#### Day 7 — Along the Eastern coast of Lake Baikal

09:00 - Breakfast

10:00 — Transfer to Khakussy

13:00 - Lunch

14:00 — Continuation of the journey

18:00 — Arrival to Khakussy

19:00 — Dinner

Overnight at the resort

Hotels: Accommodation at the resort Laskoviy Bereg, Twin room Comfort: Comfortable accommodation, WC and bath / shower in room

### Day 8 — Hot springs in Khakusy

09:00 - Breakfast

10:00 — Free day in Khakussy

13:00 — Lunch in the resort

15:00 — Free time for bathing

19:00 — Dinner in the resort

Overnight in the resort

Hotels: Accommodation at the resort Laskoviy Bereg, Twin room

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

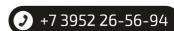
# Day 9 — The northernmost point of lake Baikal

09:00 — Breakfast

10:00 — Baikal crossing from the east to west

13:00 — Continuation of the road

Уникальный внутренний номер документа: 565134





14:00 — Arrival to Severobaykalsk

15:00 — Lunch in the hotel

19:00 — Dinner

Overnight in the hotel

Hotels: Accommodation in the hotel Olymp, Séverobaïkalsk, Twin comfort room Comfort: Comfortable accommodation, WC and bath / shower in room

#### Day 10 — Day in Severobaykalsk

09:00 — Breakfast in the hotel

10:00 — Time at leisure in the city

20:30 — Transfer to the railway station

Overnight in the train

Hotels: Overnight in the train, The 2nd class compartment

#### Day 11 — Baikal-Amur Mainline on train

11:00 — Day in the train

Overnight in the train

Hotels: Overnight in the train, The 2nd class compartment

Comfort:

#### Day 12 — Return to Irkutsk

12:10 — Arrival to Irkutsk

#### **Departures**

Start	End	Basic price per person
28.02.2023	11.03.2023	175200.00 RUB

# Note

Departure is guaranteed from 4 people. You can book the optional excursions in advance or on site with payment in cash.

### What's included

## Price includes

- English-speaking guide
- · Accommodation as per itinerary
- Transport as per itinerary
- Excursions and visits as per itinerary
- Railway tickets in 2nd class
- Sleeping bag in BaikalNature Ice Camp
- Letter of invitation
- · Guide in the trains
- Bathing in hot springs
- Meals according to the program
- · Ice studs for shoes

## Price does not include

- · Personal expenses and tips
- Visa fees and travel insurance
- Airline tickets
- Optional activities
- Transfers in Irkutsk
- Transfer to airport / railway station on last day

Уникальный внутренний номер документа: 565134





# **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

POLARTEC or similar pullover

Windproof waterproof pants and jacket (GORE-TEX, EVENT, SIMPA-TEX)

Long sleeve shirts or sweatshirts

T-shirts

Flip-flops for banya

Fleece jacket or warm sweater

Mountain boots for walking on ice and snow

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)

## 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 conact your nearest Russian Embassy or Visa Application Center.

Уникальный внутренний номер документа: 565134





#### 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**

No particular physical condition is required.

# **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:

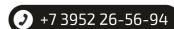
- more than 30 days before departure 15% of the tour price,
- 29 7 days before departure 30% of the tour price,
- less than 7 days before departure 50% of the tour price.

#### **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

Уникальный внутренний номер документа: 565134





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.

Уникальный внутренний номер документа: 565134