

Seven Wonders of Russia — Detailed description

Trip Length: 21 Group: 4-6 Departure: Fixed Period: July

Trip overview

In 2008 the Russian Television Network "Rossiya" organized a national competition "7 Wonders of Russia". After 10 months of voting on its official site the 7 winning leaders were announced: the **Valley of Geysers** on the Kamchatka Peninsula, **Lake Baikal** in the south of Siberia, **Man-Pupu-Nyor** (or Manpupuner) in the Ural Mountains, the **Peterhof Palace** in Saint-Petersburg, **Saint Basil's Cathedral** on the Red Square in Moscow, the **Motherland Calls in Mamayev Kurgan in Volgograd**, **Mount Elbrus** in the northern Caucasus mountains.

The tour operator BaikalNature dared this adventure and united all the Wonders in one general trip, the sites which are commonly visited as separate or even dreamt to be visited...

Making a 21-days journey from the Kamchatka Peninsula to Mount Elbrus, you will cross the whole Russia by making a visit to these 7 places, which are very different from each other and characterize the country. You will make one of the fortunate visitors who have a chance to discover these treasures of Russian national heritage. Take a look at a map to realize the scale of this adventure!

Imagine as well the contrast between the wild nature and the famous cultural sites that you are going to experience: one day you have a dinner in front of volcano, the other day you are having lunch in the imperial palace of Peterhof; one evening you admire the sun setting on the inaccessible shelf of Man-Pupu-Nyor, the other one you are passing in one of the most dynamic capitals in the world – Moscow.

Our journey "7 Wonders of Russia" is not simply a visit to Russian places of interest, this is a unique chance to see the wild nature, immerse yourself in the culture of different people of Russia, to touch the history of the past. You will have a walk through the "earth of fire", observe wild animals and take a part in a shamanic ritual. Also, you will make a visit to main cities of Russia; take a taste of a caviar and omul – endemic Baikal fish, the Caucasian BBQ (shashlik). You will enjoy the greatness of Lake Baikal, the fineness of the Peterhof Palace and the beauty of Saint Basil's Cathedral. You will sense a thrill facing the highness of giant Man-Pupu-Nyor pillars and the Mamayev Monument, the Kamchatka volcanos and Mount Elbrus!

And that`s just a small part that may be described with words. Like it is sung in the popular Russian song: "Until you see it, you will never understand it".

This exclusive trip is fully designed and organized by BaikalNature team. Today it represents our flagship product. BaikalNature is also the first tour operator to bring this itinerary to life. The itinerary crosses nine time zones, and in order to minimize the jet lag the route runs from east to west. The tour starts in the Petropavlovsk-Kamchatskiy airport (PKC) and finishes in the airport of Volgograd (VOG).

Highlights

- Visit of "7 Wonders of Russia", including the most famous cities
- Whole Russia in one trip - more than 13,000 km covered
- Authentic culture and cuisine of different regions
- Various means of transportation: planes, helicopters, trains, off road vehicles, ferry, hydrofoil, cars
- Different activities: cultural exploration, ascension, skiing, swimming, fishing and other activities
- Kinds of accommodation: from a luxurious hotel to a refuge at 3750 meters above sea level
- All types of landscapes: mountains and volcanoes, lakes and rivers, wild taiga valleys

Tour type

DISCOVERYNATURE

Difficulty

Moderately Easy - 1-3 hours of physical activity daily


Comfort

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Upgraded — all nights in comfortable rooms.

Beginning / end of the tour

Tour starts: Petropavlovsk-Kamchatsky, End of the tour: Volgograd

Program

Day 1 — Arrival to Petropavlovsk-Kamchatsky

10:30 — Arrival to airport and transfer to the hotel

12:00 — Check-in in the hotel and rest

15:00 — City-tour

19:00 — Dinner (Not included)

Overnight in the hotel

Hotels: Accommodation in the hotel "Petropavlovsk", Twin room

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

Day 2 — Valley of Geysers

08:00 — Breakfast in the hotel

09:00 — Transfer to the heliport

10:00 — Excursion to the Valley of Geysers

13:00 — Lunch

17:00 — Return to the hotel

19:00 — Dinner (Not included)

Overnight in the hotel

Hotels: Accommodation in the hotel "Petropavlovsk", Twin room

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

Day 3 — Free day

09:00 — Breakfast in the hotel

10:00 — Free time

13:00 — Lunch (Not included)

15:00 — Free time

19:00 — Dinner (Not included)

Overnight in the hotel

Hotels: Accommodation in the hotel "Petropavlovsk", Twin room

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

Day 4 — Departure to Irkutsk and first meeting with lake Baikal

09:00 — Breakfast

12:00 — Check-out

16:30 — Boarding on the plane from Petropavlovsk to Irkutsk

19:10 — Transfer flight in Khabarovsk city

20:00 — Dinner on the board

23:30 — Arrival to Irkutsk

Overnight in the hotel

Hotels: Accommodation in the hotel "BaikalCedar", Twin room

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

Day 5 — Along the west coast of lake Baikal

07:00 — Breakfast in the hotel

07:50 — Transfer to the berth

08:30 — Departure to the Olkhon island

17:00 — Arrival to the Zagli bay

19:00 — Dinner at the resort

Overnight at the resort

Hotels: Accommodation at the resort "Baikalov ostrog", Twin room

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

Day 6 — Sacred site for shamans

09:00 — Breakfast at the resort

10:00 — Olkhon island excursion

13:00 — Outdoor lunch

14:00 — Walking around and come back

19:00 — Dinner

Overnight at the resort

Hotels: Accommodation at the resort "Baikalov ostrog", Twin room

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

Day 7 — Day at leisure in the Baikal village

09:00 — Breakfast

10:00 — Walking in Khujir village

13:00 — Lunch at your resort

19:00 — Dinner

Overnight in the hotel

Hotels: Accommodation at the resort "Baikalov ostrog", Twin room

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

Day 8 — Meeting with the Shaman

09:00 — Breakfast

10:00 — Return to Irkutsk

12:00 — Excursion to the National Buryat museum of Ust-Orda

14:00 — Lunch in a Buryat cafe

16:00 — Arrival to Irkutsk

Overnight in the hotel

Hotels: Accommodation in the hotel Angara, Twin standard room

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

Day 9 — Departure to Perm

06:00 — Breakfast

07:00 — Transfer to the airport

16:00 — Arrival to Perm

Overnight in the hotel

Hotels: Accommodation in the hotel "Ural", Perm, Standard twin room

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

Day 10 — Man Pupu Nyor - mointain of the idols

04:00 — Early breakfast
04:30 — Transfer to the helipad in the Nyrob village
09:15 — Beginning of the helicopter excursion
10:45 — Landing on the mountain of the idols
12:30 — Lunch (picnic)
13:30 — Return to Nyrob village on helicopter
14:00 — Transfer to Perm by bus
20:00 — Arrival to the city and rest
21:00 — Dinner (Not included)
Overnight in the hotel

Hotels: Accommodation in the hotel "Ural", Perm, Standard twin room
Comfort: Comfortable accommodation, WC and bath / shower in room

Day 11 — Free day in Perm

09:00 — Breakfast in the hotel
10:00 — Free time
13:00 — Lunch (Not included)
15:00 — Free time
19:00 — Dinner (Not included)
Overnight in the hotel

Hotels: Accommodation in the hotel "Ural", Perm, Standard twin room
Comfort: Comfortable accommodation, WC and bath / shower in room

Day 12 — Departure to the Saint-Petersburg

04:00 — Transfer to teh airport
05:25 — Flight to Saint-Petersburg
05:50 — Arrival and transfer to the hotel
11:00 — Free time and rest after the flight
15:00 — Sightseeing around the city
19:00 — Dinner (Not included)
Overnight in the hotel

Hotels: Accommodation in the hotel Rossi, Saint-Petersburg, Standard room
Comfort: Comfortable accommodation, WC and bath / shower in room

Day 13 — Peterhof Museum Reserve

09:00 — Breakfast
10:00 — Transfer to the quay
11:00 — Excursion to Peterhof
13:00 — Lunch
16:00 — Return to the hotel
19:00 — Dinner (Not included)
Overnight in the hotel

Hotels: Accommodation in the hotel Rossi, Saint-Petersburg, Standard room
Comfort: Comfortable accommodation, WC and bath / shower in room

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Day 14 — Departure to Moscow

09:00 — Breakfast
10:00 — Free time
14:00 — Transfer to the railway station
15:30 — Boarding on the train Saint-Petersburg - Moscow
19:00 — Arrival to Moscow
19:00 — Dinner (Not included)
Overnight in the hotel
Hotels: Accommodation in the hotel Boudapest, Moscow, Juiniior suite

Day 15 — Acquaintance with the capital of Russia

09:00 — Breakfast
12:00 —
13:00 — Lunch (Not included)
19:00 — Dinner (Not included)
Overnight in the hotel
Hotels: Accommodation in the hotel Boudapest, Moscow, Juiniior suite

Day 16 — Treasures of Caucasus

07:30 — Breakfast
08:30 — Transfer to the airport
10:20 — Flight to Mineralnye Vody
12:45 — Arrival and transfer to Pyatigorsk
14:00 — Lunch
15:30 — Arrival
16:00 — Pyatigorsk city-tour
19:00 — Dinner
Overnight in the hotel
Hotels: Accommodation in the hotel "Bristol", Pyatigorsk, Twin standard
Comfort: Comfortable accommodation, WC and bath / shower in room

Day 17 — At the bottom of Mount Elbrus

08:00 — Breakfast
09:00 — Departure to Djili-suu
12:00 — Walking in the surrounding area
13:00 — Lunch (picnic)
15:00 — Transfer to the hotel
18:00 — Arrival and accommodation in the hotel
19:00 — Dinner
Overnight in the hotel
Hotels: Accommodation in the hotel Ozon Cheguet, Classic room
Comfort: Comfortable accommodation, WC and bath / shower in room

Day 18 — Mount Elbrus

08:00 — Breakfast
09:00 — Lift to Mount Elbrus

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14:00 — Free Lunch

15:00 — Departure to Yessentuki city

19:00 — Dinner (Not included)

20:30 — Transfer to the Mineralnye Vody railway station

22:00 — Boarding on the train to Volgograd

Overnight in the train

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

Comfort:

Day 19 — Acquaintance with Volgograd

14:00 — Arrival to Volgograd

14:20 — Transfer to the hotel

15:00 — Lunch

16:00 — Check-in in the hotel, rest

19:00 — Dinner (Not included)

Overnight in the hotel

Hotels: Accommodation in the hotel Volgograd, Twin room

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

Day 20 — Mamayev kurgan

09:00 — Breakfast

11:00 — Bus city-tour

13:00 — Lunch (Not included)

15:00 — Return to the hotel. Rest.

19:00 — Festive dinner

Overnight in the hotel

Hotels: Accommodation in the hotel Volgograd, Twin room

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

Day 21 — End of the program

09:00 — Breakfast

11:00 — Check-out and transfer to the airport

Departures

Start	End	Basic price per person
02.07.2019	22.07.2019	489200.00 RUB

Note

The price is given for the group of 3-4 persons. If there are 2 persons in the group, there will be supplement - 67 700 roubles/ per person. Airline tickets are included within Russia (Petropavlovsk- Kamchatsky - Irkutsk, Irkutsk - Perm, Perm - Saint-Petersburg, Moscow - Mineralnye Vody). Railway tickets are included: Saint-Petersburg - Moscow (sapsan, business class) and Mineralnye Vody - Volgograd (2nd class, 4 bed in the compartment).

What's included


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Price includes

- English-speaking guide services
- Accommodation as per itinerary
- Transport as per itinerary
- Meals
- Excursions and visits as per itinerary
- Administrative registration
- Reserves and national parks entrance permissions
- Transfer from airport / railway station on first day
- Transfer to airport / railway station on last day
- Celebratory dinner with alcoholic beverages
- Letter of invitation
- Railway tickets
- Mountain guide
- Airline tickets

Price does not include

- Optional activities
- Meals in train
- Guide in the trains
- Beverages

Checklist & Equipment

It is hot in summer at Lake Baikal area. Nevertheless, you should always have something to put on, as weather in Siberia is very changeable.

If you plan your trip in May or September, please feel free to bring your hat, gloves and windjacket in case of snow or rain.

June is also pretty cool.

July and August are the hottest months, which offer you temperatures of 25 ° - 35 ° at daytime and 15 ° - 18 ° at night. On the shores of Lake Baikal, like in the Alps, you should wear T-shirts and shorts in the sunny afternoons, sweaters and jackets in the cool evenings.

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

Long sleeve shirts or sweatshirts

Shorts

T-shirts

Cap or hat to protect against sun

Comfortable walking shoes (like Vibram or similar)

Sunscreen for skin and lips

Flip-flops for banya

Comfortable pants

Warm gloves or mittens

Bath towel

Swimsuit

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

Tick and mosquitoes repellent spray

Photo / video camera

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Tour vouchers and programme

Currency in euros, dollars

Seasickness remedies

Meals

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

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 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.

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.

In Western Russia, you can contact BaikalNature by phone: +7 499 705 65 58

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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 9302/19-49 from September 30, 2019. Amount of coverage: 500 000 RUB. Legal and actual address: BaikalNature LLC 119A Dekabrskikh Sobyti Str., office 13 664007 Irkutsk Russia

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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