

## Moscow - Magadan Expedition — Detailed description

Trip Length: 26   Group: 3-9   Departure: Fixed   Period: June - July

### Trip overview

Russia is the biggest country in the world with a surface of 17 125 191 km<sup>2</sup>. Each year, Russia welcomes around 30 million of foreign tourists and attracts more and more visitors thanks to its large open spaces, its cultural diversity, its unique History, its records and wild environment.

In 2017, the travel agency BaikalNature has decided to give tourists a new opportunity to see Russia from another angle, launching a new expedition-tour "Moscow-Magadan". The whole trip will be made in off-road vehicles.

This expedition will really lead you through the whole Russian territory. We will depart from Moscow to Magadan, for a 26-day adventure of 11 000 km, crossing nine time-zones. You will be able to experiment how this vast country changes from west to east: you will see the golden domes of the Kremlin and the huge buildings turn into small churches and wooden houses, a modern society at the cutting edge of innovation come back to its traditional roots and nature... The cities will be more and more far from one another to provide room for small villages and forests, while the internet and mobile connection will go more and more rare.

All along the road, we will spend night in hotels, inns and under the tent. This is what makes the whole spirit of this adventure where "flexibility" is the key word: everybody does as he or she wants (hotel or tent, meals or not). If you choose a night under the tent, the organizers will provide the necessary equipment: tents, mattresses, first-aid kit, kitchen tools, camping stove, etc... But in all cases, we will spend some nights on the shores of lakes and rivers where you can enjoy the beautiful scenery. We will also live according to the rhythm of the lively villages to the abandoned ones, a tour within the "real" Russia, a long immersion where men and equipments undergo the long distance. As long as the distance is concerned, our vehicles are the famous Land Cruiser from Toyota, and every one of them is equipped with a camera which will enable you to download the images on your computer or hard drive at the end of the day! Concerning the program itself, we will visit Russia's capital city ; the Golden Ring ; the Ural – natural border between Europe and Asia ; Siberia with the Baikal, deepest lake in the world ; Yakutia ; the Pole of Cold Oymyakon ; ghost towns and ruins from the Gulags. We will visit each city. Our expedition will go through the most popular rivers in Russia: Volga, Ob, Yenissei, Angara, Lena, Aldan, and Indigirka. But also, we will move across the famous mountains: The Ural Chain, the biggest mountain chains in Siberia and of the Okhotsk Sea. Finally, we will drive on the most well-known roads of the country: Amour (M-7, M-51, M-55), Lena (M-56) and Kolyma. The Lena highway (M56) is located on a territory stroke by the permafrost (soils are frozen permanently). The asphalt is only present on a small part of the road, in Tynda, Neryungri and Aldan. In some areas, there is no road surface and when the snow melts, or in case of heavy rain, it becomes difficult, even sometimes impossible to go around. That is why it was declared the most dangerous road in the world in 2006. The Kolyma highway links Yakutsk and Magadan (after that there is no road left, only the Kamtchatka region). We are going to the world's end and the length of this part of the road is 2032 km long. Its nickname "The Road of Bones", comes from the time of its construction under Stalin's dictatorship by the prisoners exploited by the Far-Eastern Russian mining operators. The entire process was made in awful working and living conditions, in the cold, while working hard and under the sadistic temper of the guards of this terrible enslavement working system. Needless to say that the mortality rate was very high and digging tombs was too hard for the already abused and tired prisoners who had to bury their fallen comrades under the same road they were trying to build. According to the legend, they actually became a part of the road themselves and the Kolyma became a mass grave for thousands of people, which inspired this terrible and mournful name...

The expedition route is already known but can also change (which is the spirit of an expedition) according to the weather, the state of the road or any unforeseen events and cases of force majeure. The flexibility of the trip makes it strength, as it is a real expedition. Regarding the nights under the tent, they are a reflection of the casual everyday life while camping, that is to say sharing the different tasks between the members of the expedition and participate to the proper upkeep of the camp (assembling/disassembling...).

And as adage says: we know where it starts, we know where it ends, and in between, there is only the adventure!

NB: This tour has no fixed group departure date. The price is available upon request.

### Highlights

- Trip from the capital to the eastern confines of Russia

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- Visit of "Gold ring of Russia"
- Discovery of the Baikal, the deepest lake on Earth
- Visits of ghost-towns
- Meeting with the first Russian folks
- Visit of GULAGs
- Trip through the permafrost and the Road of Bones
- Visit of the biggests Russian cities
- Crossing the border between Europe and Asia

**Tour type**

EXPEDITIONNATURE

**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.

**Program****Day 1 — Aquaintance with Russian capital**

11:00 — Transfer Airport - Hotel

12:00 — Accommodation in the hotel

13:00 — Lunch (Not included)

14:00 — Free time

19:00 — Dinner

Overnight in rthe hotel

**Day 2 — Cities of the Golden Ring of Russia**

09:00 — Breakfast in the hotel

10:00 — Departure for Sergiyev Posad

13:00 — Lunch (Not included)

14:00 — Departure to Pereslavl-Zalessky

16:00 — Departure to Suzdal

19:00 — Dinner (Not included)

Overnight in the hotel

**Day 3 — Kazan - capital of Tatarstan**

08:00 — Breakfast

09:00 — Departure to Kazan

13:00 — Lunch on the way (Not included)

18:00 — Arrival and accommodation in the hotel

19:00 — Dinner (Not included)

Overnight in the hotel

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**Day 4 — Aquaintance with Kazan**

09:00 — Breakfast in the hotel

10:00 — Kazan city-tour

13:00 — Lunch (Not included)

14:00 — Departure to Yekaterinburg

19:00 — Dinner

Overnight in the hotel

**Day 5 — Arrival to Yekaterinburg**

10:00 — Continuation of the trip towards Yekaterinburg

13:00 — Lunch on the way (Not included)

16:00 — Arrival and accommodation in the hotel

19:00 — Dinner (Not included)

Overnight in the hotel

**Day 6 — Border between Europe and Asia**

09:00 — Breakfast in the hotel

10:00 — City-tour to Yekaterinburg city-centre

12:00 — Lunch (Not included)

15:00 — Departure to Omsk

17:30 — Overnight stop in the Yalutorovsk city

Overnight

**Day 7 — Arrival to Omsk**

10:00 — Continuation of the journey to Omsk

17:00 — Arrival to Omsk

19:00 — Dinner (Not included)

Overnight in the hotel

**Day 8 — Aquaintance with the city**

09:00 — Breakfast in the hotel

10:00 — Visit of Omsk city centre

12:00 — Lunch (Not included)

13:00 — Departure to Novosibirsk

19:00 — Dinner (Not included)

20:00 — Arrival and accommodation in the hotel

Overnight in the hotel

**Day 9 — The biggest city of Siberia**

09:00 — Breakfast

10:00 — Novosibirsk city-tour

12:00 — Lunch (Not included)

14:00 — Departure to Krasnoyarsk

19:00 — Dinner (Not included)

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21:00 — Arrival to Krasnoyarsk  
Overnight in the hotel

#### **Day 10 — Aquaintance with Krasnoyarsk**

09:00 — Breakfast  
10:00 — Krasnoyarsk city-tour  
12:00 — Lunch (Not included)  
13:00 — Departure to Irkutsk  
19:00 — Dinner (Not included)  
Overnight in the hotel

#### **Day 11 — Road to Irkutsk**

10:00 —  
13:00 — Lunch in the cafe on road (Not included)  
17:00 — Arrival to Irkutsk  
19:00 — Dinner (Not included)  
Overnight in the hotel  
Hotels: Accommodation in the hotel Angara, Twin standard room  
Comfort: Comfortable accommodation, WC and bath / shower in room

#### **Day 12 — Acquaintance with the Baikal lake**

09:00 — Breakfast in the hotel  
10:00 — Irkutsk city tour  
13:00 — Lunch (Not included)  
14:00 — Departure to Ulan-Ude  
17:00 — Arrival to the Vydrino village  
19:00 — Dinner (Not included)  
Overnight in the tent

#### **Day 13 — Buryats' culture**

09:00 — Free time  
12:00 — Lunch (Not included)  
13:00 — Departure to Ulan-Ude  
18:00 — Arrival and accommodation in the hotel  
19:00 — Dinner (Not included)  
Overnight in the hotel

#### **Day 14 — Village of Old Believers**

09:00 — Breakfast  
10:00 — Departure for Chita  
13:00 — Lunch (Not included)  
14:00 — Continuation of the road towards Chita  
18:00 — Stop near the village Naryn-Talacha  
19:00 — Dinner (Not included)  
Overnight in the tent

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**Day 15 — Country of the permafrost**

10:00 — Departure to Skovorodino

19:00 — Dinner (Not included)

20:00 — Arrival to Skovorodino

Overnight in the tent

**Day 16 — Day on the road**

10:00 — Departure from Skovorodino to Aldan

13:00 — Lunch on the way (Not included)

19:00 — Dinner (Not included)

20:00 — Arrival to Aldan city

Overnight in the tent

**Day 17 — Departure to Yakutsk**

09:00 — Starting the road

17:00 — Arrival to Yakutsk

19:00 — Dinner (Not included)

Overnight in the hotel

**Day 18 — Acquaintance with Yakutsk**

09:00 — Breakfast in the hotel

10:00 — City tour

13:00 — Lunch (Not included)

14:00 — Excursions to the museums

19:00 — Dinner (Not included)

Overnight in the hotel

**Day 19 — Kolyma road**

09:00 — Breakfast in the hotel

10:00 — Starting of the road

13:00 — Lunch

15:00 — Continuation of the road

Night under the tent

**Day 20 — Next destination - Tomtor**

08:00 — Breakfast

09:00 — Starting of the passage

13:00 — Lunch (Not included)

19:00 — Arrival to Tomtor

19:00 — Dinner (Not included)

Night under the tent

**Day 21 — Pole of Cold and Ghost town Kadykchan**

09:00 — Excursion to Oymyakon

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13:00 — Lunch (Not included)  
15:00 — Visit of the town of Kadyktchan  
Night under the tent

#### **Day 22 — Reserved day**

09:00 — Free time  
15:00 — Visit of the Jack London lake  
Night under the tent

#### **Day 23 — Departure to the Sinegorye village**

10:00 — Starting the road  
15:00 — Arrival to Sinegorye  
Night under the tent

#### **Day 24 — Way to Magadan**

09:00 — Visit of the hydroelectric dam of the Kolyma  
11:00 — Departure to Magadan  
18:00 — Arrival to Magadan  
19:00 — Dinner (Not included)  
Overnight in the hotel  
Hotels: Accommodation in the Magadan hotel, Twin standard room  
Comfort: Comfortable accommodation, WC and bath / shower in room

#### **Day 25 — Acquaintance with Magadan**

09:00 — Breakfast  
11:00 — Magadan city-tour  
13:00 — Lunch (Not included)  
14:00 — Continuation of the excursion  
19:00 — Farewell dinner  
Overnight in the hotel  
Hotels: Accommodation in the Magadan hotel

#### **Day 26 — End of the programme**

09:00 — Breakfast  
11:00 — Transfer to the airport

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#### **Departures**

Start	End	Basic price per person
06.06.2021	01.07.2021	729300.00 RUB

#### **Note**

The price given is for a group of 3 people (for one car) Total number of vehicles: 2 to 4. If there are less than 3 persons in the car, the price of the expedition will be recalculated. The accommodation in a hotel room is booked for the following cities: Moscow, Suzdal, Kazan, Yekaterinburg, Omsk, Novosibirsk, Krasnoyarsk, Irkutsk, Ulan-Ude, Yakutsk (2 nights), Magadan. For the other nights, the accommodation

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will be negotiated between the members of the group, either under the tent (no extra charges), either in a hotel along the road (extra charges on spot). Meals included: breakfasts in the hotels (see the involved cities above), diners for the first (Moscow) and the last day (Magadan). All the other meals will be negotiated with the group members once on spot (additional charges). The itinerary of the expedition can be changed according to the road or weather conditions as well as unforeseen events.

## What's included

### Price includes

- English-speaking guide
- Russian-speaking guide
- Accommodation as per itinerary
- Meals as per itinerary
- Excursions and visits as per itinerary
- Tent rental
- Bathing in springs
- Airplane/ train tickets
- Letter of invitation
- Camping outfit rental

### Price does not include

- Personal expenses and tips
- Visa fees and travel insurance
- Optional activities
- Sleeping bag rental
- Airline tickets

## Checklist & Equipment

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### Recommended checklist

underwear, socks (several pairs)

comfortable shoes for the city

sunscreen and lip balm

towel

13

20

21

## 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.

## 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.

## Tipping

All persons who compose the BaikalNature travel team (guides, drivers, cooks, etc.) are paid a decent wage for their services and do not

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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.

### **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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