

Pole of Cold Festival 2020 — Detailed description

Trip Length: 8 Group: 1-8 Departure: Fixed Period: December - January

Trip overview

In the coldest inhabited place of the planet, near the Yakut village Oymyakon, there is an annual «Pole of Cold Festival». This special event is held in the unique place where the lowest temperature of $-71,2^{\circ}\text{C}$ was fixed. Here the purity of the North nature is mixed up with the cultural sustainability of the Evenks and Yakuts.

The Pole of Cold Festival is a very special event with the intermixture of the Yakut and Evenk cultures almost unchanged. During this festival you will make the acquaintance of the everyday life, traditions, and culture: folk costumes, dances, songs and legends. You will see very spectacular races of the Evenks reindeer herders. The special part of the festival is a "Miss Pole of Cold" competition with the most beautiful Yakut girls. The gourmets can taste the national dishes proposed in the competition. You will meet Chyskhaan, "Guardian of the cold" and visit the Kingdom of the permafrost. You will be awarded by the certificates of reaching the Pole of Cold.

We propose you to dip into the culture of the native Yakutia people who live in the extreme climate but whose hearts are really hot and brave!

Highlights

- Visit of Oymyakon village - the coldest village in the world, known as pole of cold
- Trip through the permafrost regions
- Miraculous snowy landscapes
- Accommodation in the local family
- Meeting with the indigenous people of Russia
- Folklore performances and the annual Miss Pole of Cold contest
- Evenk and Yakut dishes tasting
- Races of the Evenks reindeer herders
- Public festivities and sport games
- Possibility to observe the northern lights

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

Program

Day 1 — Arrival to Yakutsk

11:00 — Arrival to the airport of the Yakutsk city

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13:00 — Lunch (Not included)
16:00 — Meeting with your guide in the hotel
19:00 — Dinner (Not included)
Overnight in the hotel (Not included)

Day 2 — Khandyga and road of bones

09:00 — Breakfast in the hotel (Not included)
10:00 — Departure to the Khandyga village
14:00 — Lunch in the cafe en route (Not included)
15:00 — Continuation of the road
19:00 — Homemade dinner
Overnight in the homestay
Hotels: Accommodation in the homestay Khandyga, Bed in the homestay
Comfort: Comfortable accommodation, shared WC and bath / shower

Day 3 — Road to the Pole of Cold

09:00 — Departure to the Tomtor village
14:00 — Lunch (Not included)
15:00 — Continuation of the road
19:00 — Arrival to Tomtor
20:00 — 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 4 — Oymyakon - Pole of Cold

09:00 — Breakfast at the homestay
10:00 — Departure to Oymyakon
13:00 — Lunch at a roadside café
15:00 — Return to Tomtor and participation in the festival
19:00 — Dinner at the guest house
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 — Continuation of the festival "Pole of Cold"

09:00 — Breakfast
11:00 — Reindeer sledge race
13:00 — Lunch
16:00 — Concert and "Miss Pole of Cold" competition
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 6 — Return to Khandyga

09:00 — Breakfast

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10:00 — Departure to Khandyga

13:00 — Lunch in the cafe (Not included)

14:00 — Continuation to the road

19:00 — Arrival to Khandyga

19:00 — Dinner (Not included)

Overnight in the homestay

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

Comfort: Comfortable accommodation, shared WC and bath / shower

Day 7 — Acquaintance with Yakutsk

10:00 — Return to Yakutsk

13:00 — Lunch (Not included)

14:00 — Continuation of the road

19:00 — Dinner (Not included)

Overnight in the hotel (Not included)

Day 8 — End of the programme

09:00 — Breakfast (Not included)

11:00 — Transfer to the airport

Departures

Start	End	Basic price per person
25.03.2020	01.04.2020	114000.00 RUB

Note

The price given is for a group of 6 people. If there are less than 6 persons, the price of the tour will be recalculated. Accommodation in Yakutsk is not included. Optionally, the accommodation in the hotels: "Polar star", "Sonata" or "Sterh". 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: 4-6; lunches for the days: 4-5, dinners for the days 2-5. All the other meals will be negotiated with the group members once on spot (additional charge). The itinerary of the tour can be changed according to the road or weather conditions as well as unforeseen events.

What's included

Price includes

- Russian-speaking guide
- Accommodation as per itinerary
- Excursions and visits as per itinerary
- Bathing in springs
- Airplane/ train tickets
- Letter of invitation
- Meals according to the program
- English-speaking guide services

Price does not include

- Personal expenses and tips
- Visa fees and travel insurance
- Optional activities
- Accommodation in the hotel of Yakutsk the 1 and 7 days
- Airline tickets

Checklist & Equipment

You will need in Russia in winter:

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- 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.

Recommended checklist

towel

water bottle/flask

spray against mosquitoes and ticks (for summer outdoor tours)

thermal underwear

2

3

6

9

10

12

13

Expedition pants

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

Expedition winter boots (Sorel or Baffin)

Expedition down jacket (up to -50°)

Fleece Balaclava

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.

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: +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

Cancellation Options

The cancellation options are:

- more than 40 days before departure - 30 % of the tour price,
- 39 - 10 days before departure - 60 % of the tour price,
- less than 10 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.

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