

## Enchanting Winter In Buryatia — Detailed description

Trip Length: Group: 2-8 Departure: Fixed Period: December - January

### Trip overview

Siberia, known as the land of exile for ages, gathered together people from various cultures, adherents of multiple religions, unique ethnic groups persecuted under tsarism and Stalinism. Today, this destination offers all the diversity of cultures and nationalities each with its own traditions and customs but which are however united by the respect for nature and Lake Baikal considered to be sacred.

This adventure is destined for those who are interested in discovery of the culture and the lifestyle of Buryat people and sumptuous nature of frozen Lake Baikal. On the menu of this journey you will find visiting the school of Buddhist monks, the only one in Russia, discovering of the factory producing traditional Russian boots, tasting of traditional dishes of Siberian cuisine, and, of course, walking on the crystalline ice of the Baikal.

Following the tracks of scenic Barguzin valley and those of the Baikal ice field, you will reach some villages lost in Siberian taiga and get to know the way of life of local people. You will visit the Barguzinsky nature reserve and meet forestry officers of Davsha and also discover the weather station on Ushkany Islands. Calm corners of sumptuous nature where nothing seems to interrupt a quiet life of their inhabitants...

### Highlights

- Acquaintance with the way of life of indigenous population
- Discovery of protected nature of reserves and national parks
- Discovery of multiethnic culture of Buryatia

### Tour type

NATURE

### Difficulty

Easy - nothing more than normal walking while sight-seeing

### Comfort

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

### Program

Day 1 — -

Day 2 — -

Day 3 — -

Day 4 — -

Day 5 — -

Day 6 — -

Day 7 — -

Day 8 — -

Уникальный внутренний номер документа: 1060872

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БИК 044525974 Кор. Счет 30101810145250000974

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Day 9 — -

Day 10 — -

## Departures

New departures available soon

## Note

### What's included

#### Price includes

- English-speaking guide
- Russian-speaking guide
- Accommodation as per itinerary
- Transport as per itinerary
- Meals as per itinerary
- Excursions and visits as per itinerary
- Nature reserves and parks entrance permissions
- Accident insurance
- Letter of invitation

#### Price does not include

- Visa invitation and registration of passports (for foreign citizens, if necessary)
- Personal expenses and tips
- Visa fees and travel insurance
- Bathing in springs
- Airplane/ train 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.

If you are traveling in the spring or autumn, please check with your manager for a list of recommended equipment and an approximate weather forecast.

## Recommended checklist

rubber slippers  
comfortable shoes for trekking  
raincoat / windproof and waterproof jacket with HOOD!  
sunglasses  
swimsuit / swim trunks  
towel  
trekking telescopic poles

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comfortable winter boots (suitable for walking on ice and snow)  
fleece jacket/sweater with collar  
warm mittens (for convenience, thin gloves and a second layer of mittens with fur) / ski gloves  
comfortable warm hat and scarf (snood)  
ski mask  
winter expedition boots (like Sorel or Baffin)  
winter expeditionary down jacket (up to -50°)  
fleece balaclava  
moisturizing cream  
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## Meals

At restaurants and homestays in cities, traditional cuisine consists of local specialties.  
Picnic for lunch and hot meal served at your accommodation in the evening.  
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 questions regarding obtaining an electronic visa, please contact your tour manager.

## Money

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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 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.

It is advisable to keep the following vaccines valid:

- diphtheria,
- tetanus,
- Polio.

Tick-borne encephalitis is present in areas of forest, taiga where ticks are the carriers of encephalitis between May and July. As of August, they are no longer carrying the virus. If you do not get vaccinated, you should follow the basic precautions, including:

- protective clothes
- use of repellents
- daily check of the skin.

It is also possible to take out special insurance covering the analysis of the insect and vaccines.

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: +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.

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