

## New Year's Eve 2023 at Pole of Cold — Detailed description

Trip Length: 9    Group: 6-11    Departure: Fixed    Period: December - January

### Trip overview

The New Year is the most incredible time of the year. Why not spend this fantastic holiday in the most mysterious, coldest and at the same time largest region of Russia?

We offer you our most unusual New Year's tour. In this tour, you will be able to meet a real Ded Moroz – Chyskhaan, the Yakutian King of the Cold! You will visit the coldest inhabited place in the northern hemisphere – Oymyakon. The lowest temperature ever recorded here is -71.2°C.

The tour begins in the capital city of the region, Yakutsk. From here, you will travel 1000 km along the famous Kolyma Highway – known as the Road of Bones – to Oymyakon.

You will celebrate the New Year in the family of locals. Their kindness and warmth are never affected by the most severe northern frosts. After a gala concert at the local house of creativity, you will celebrate New Year 2022 at the family table of the hospitable hostess. You will see fantastic fireworks after which you will leave for a nightclub at a local club.

In addition, according to tradition, you will pass through a purification ceremony, visit the Museum of Local Lore and the Permafrost Kingdom, receive a certificate for visiting Oymyakon and climb up the observation mountain, from where you can enjoy breath-taking panorama views of the noiseless white expanses of the Oymyakonsky tundra. The most courageous tourists among you will be offered to swim in a non-freezing stream, whose water temperature remains at around 2°C every year.

The purpose of this trip is not just to celebrate the New Year in an unusual, exceptional place, but also to feel the lowest possible temperatures that exist at the end of December or beginning of January. For example, in January 2018, temperatures dropped to -63°C.

The mind-blowing landscapes of a real snow-white fairy tale and the warmest hearts of hospitable locals are a New Year's impression that can give you warm emotions and positive impressions for the coming year!

This program is an expedition. Description of the itinerary is the general plan of the expedition. In the event of any force majeure or severe weather conditions, the organizers may make appropriate changes.

### Highlights

- New Year's Eve celebration in the coldest place
- Air temperature below 60°C and lower
- Visit of Oymyakon village - Pole of Cold
- Trip through the permafrost regions
- Accommodation in the hospitable family
- Magic landscape of frosty forest
- Kolyma road - Road of Bones

### 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.

Уникальный внутренний номер документа: 1070361

ООО «БайкалНейче» 664007, г. Иркутск, ул. Декабрьских событий, 55, офис 405.2

+7 (3952) 26-56-94

ИНН 3811110257 КПП 384901001 ОГРН 1073811003221 Р/с 40702810110000700937 в АО "ТИНЬКОФФ БАНК"  
БИК 044525974 Кор. Счет 30101810145250000974

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## Beginning / end of the tour

Tour starts: Yakutsk, End of the tour: Yakutsk

## Program

### Day 1 — Acquaintance with Yakutsk

10:00 — Arrival to Yakutsk

13:00 — Lunch (Not included)

14:00 — Briefing

15:00 — Guided city-tour

19:00 — Dinner (Not included)

Overnight in the hotel

Hotels: Accommodation in the hotel Orto Doydu, Yakutsk, Twin standard room

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

### Day 2 — Khandyga and road of bones

08:00 — Breakfast in the hotel

09:30 — Departure to the Khandyga village

14:00 — Lunch in the cafe en route (Not included)

15:00 — Continuation of the road

20:00 — 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 3 — Road to the Pole of Cold

09:00 — Departure to the Tomtor village

14:00 — Lunch in the café en route (Not included)

15:00 — Continuation of the road

19:00 — Arrival to Tomtor

20:00 — Homemade 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 — New Year's Eve au Pole of Cold

08:00 — Breakfast at the homestay

09:00 — Departure to Oymyakon

13:00 — Lunch at a roadside café (Not included)

15:00 — Return to Tomtor and rest

19:00 — Concert in the community centre

22:00 — Festive 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

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### Day 5 — Culture and ethnography of Yakutia

02:00 — Dances in the local community centre

11:00 — Late breakfast

12:00 — Purification ceremony

14:00 — Home-made lunch

16:00 — Excursion to the museum of the natural history

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 — Day in the Yakutian village

09:00 — Breakfast

10:00 — Experiments with the cold

11:00 — Excursion to the GULAG Museum

13:00 — Lunch

14:00 — Visit of Tomtor village

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 7 — Return to Khandyga

09:00 — Breakfast

11:00 — Transfer to Khandyga

13:00 — Lunch (Not included)

15:00 — Continuation of the road to Khandyga

19:00 — Dinner (Not included)

Overnight in Khandyga

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

Comfort: Comfortable accommodation, shared WC and bath / shower

### Day 8 — Road to Yakutsk

10:00 — Return to Yakutsk

14:00 — Continuation of the road

19:00 — Dinner

Overnight in the hotel

Hotels: Accommodation in the hotel Orto Doydu, Yakutsk, Twin standard room

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

### Day 9 — End of the programme

09:00 — Breakfast in the hotel

11:00 — Transfer to the airport

### Departures

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Start	End	Basic price per person
28.12.2022	05.01.2023	125200.00 RUB

### Note

The price given is for a group of 5 people. If there are less than 5 persons, the price of the tour will be recalculated. 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: 2,4-7,9; lunches for the days: 4-6, dinners for the days 3-6, 8. All other meals will be negotiated with the group members once on spot (additional charge). the approximate price of the meal in the cafe en route is 500-800 roubles, in the restaurant of the city 1000-1500 roubles. 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
- Nature reserves and parks entrance permissions
- Bathing in springs
- Airplane/ train tickets
- Letter of invitation
- English-speaking guide services
- Meals according to the program
- Accommodation in the hotel of Yakutsk the 1 and 7 days

#### Price does not include

- Airline 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

water bottle/flask  
spray against mosquitoes and ticks (for summer outdoor tours)  
thermal underwear

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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

## Meals

At restaurants and homestays in cities, traditional cuisine consists of local specialties.

Homestay cuisine based on fresh products.

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 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 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,

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- 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.

### 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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