

Road of bones Expedition — Detailed description

Trip Length: 9 Group: 2-4 Departure: Fixed Period: December - January

Trip overview

Road of the bones Expedition, expedition on the Kolyma highway, expedition Magadan-Yakutsk or the Pole of Cold... None of the names we could have thought about would have been able to reflect the richness of this tour.

During this trip, you will visit the port town of Magadan, the popular Kolyma highway (or "Road of Bones"), the hydropower station of the Kolyma, ghost towns, the Pole of Cold, the capital city of Yakutia, the road of permafrost.

This route is the short version of the Moscow-Magadan expedition and was designed for those who have already discovered the European part of Russia, or simply those who have less free time for such a trip.

The Kolyma highway links Yakutsk and Magadan (after that there is no road left, only the Kamchatka 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.

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

Highlights

- Ghost town visits
- Visit of the GULAG camps
- Travelling through the permafrost and the Road of Bones
- Meeting with the indigenous people of Russia

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.

Begining / end of the tour

Tour starts: Magadan, End of the tour: Yakutsk

Program

Day 1 — Acquaintance with Magadan

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БИК 044525974 Кор. Счет 30101810145250000974

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12:05 — Arrival to Magadan
14:00 — Visit of Magadan
15:00 — Discovery of the monument "Mask of Sorrows" (Not included)
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 2 — Kolyma - Road of Bones

08:00 — Breakfast in the hotel
09:00 — Starting of the road
13:00 — Lunch in the road cafe (Not included)
14:00 — Continuation of the itinerary
19:00 — Arrival to the village Myaundja
Overnight in a hotel along the road

Day 3 — Ghost town Kadykchan

10:00 — Departure to Kadykchan
11:00 — Visit of Kadykchan
12:00 — Continuation of the road to Ust-Nera village
Overnight in the homestay

Day 4 — Tomtor - land of the cold

09:00 — Departure to Tomtor
18:00 — Arrival to Tomtor and accommodation
19:00 — 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 5 — Oymyakon - Pole of Cold

09:00 — Breakfast
11:00 — Visit of the Oymyakon village
13:00 — Lunch in the cafe en route (Not included)
16:00 — Return to Tomtor
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 — Continuation of the road

09:00 — Breakfast
09:40 — Transfer from Tomtor to Khandyga
20:00 — Arrival to Khandyga
Overnight in the homestay

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

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Comfort: Simple comfort accommodation, dry closet indoors, banya

Day 7 — Siberian rivers Lena and Aldan

08:00 — Transfer from Khandyga to Yakutsk

17:00 — Arrival to Yakutsk

19:00 — Dinner (Not included)

Overnight in the hotel

Hotels: Accommodation in the hotel Pole star, Standard twin room

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

Day 8 — Acquaintance with Yakutsk

09:00 — Breakfast in the hotel

10:00 — City tour and Mammoth Museum

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

15:00 — Excursion to the museum Kingdom Permafrost

19:00 — Festive dinner

Overnight in the hotel

Hotels: Accommodation in the hotel Pole star, Standard twin room

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

Day 9 — End of the programme

09:00 — Breakfast in the hotel

10:00 — Transfer to the airport

Departures

Start	End	Basic price per person
19.07.2020	27.07.2020	207200.00 RUB

Note

The departure is guaranteed for the group of 4. Of there are less than 4 persons in the group, the price will be recalculated. 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

- Accommodation as per itinerary
- Transport as per itinerary
- Excursions and visits as per itinerary
- Transfer from airport / railway station on first day
- Transfer to airport / railway station on last day
- 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
- Airline tickets

Checklist & Equipment

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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
Sleeping bag rated from 0° C to +15° C
Raincoat or wind and waterproof shell jacket (with hood !)
Large 60 litres backpack
POLARTEC or similar pullover
Long sleeve shirts or sweatshirts
T-shirts
Socks
Comfortable walking shoes (like Vibram or similar)
Mosquito net for face
Toilet roll
Slippers
Wipes
Antibacterial hand gel
Binoculars

Meals

In the canteen at the inns, fresh local products.

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.

At restaurants.

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

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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: +73952 26 56 94.

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 7902/20-49 from October 08, 2020. 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 30 days before departure - 15% of the tour price,
- 29 - 7 days before departure - 30% of the tour price,
- less than 7 days before departure - 50% 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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