

## Tiksi. Arctic Expedition — Detailed description

Trip Length: 14    Group: 4-5    Departure: Fixed    Period: December - January

### Trip overview

The Extreme North, the arctic tundra, the polar night and the northern aurora... These ideas are as far from the citizens, as the space exploration. The North doesn't like the casual passers and the Extreme North is too far from the common concept of tourism. However, the calm and tranquillity of these places is reachable. The North cannot be called "extreme" as there is no extremities!

In 2018 BaikalNature decided to open to its tourists a new opportunity – the unique expedition to the northern most village of the Yakutia region – Tiksi. The word "Tiksi" means "rendezvous, arrival". The real charm of this village is in its geographical position. The bay of the same name is considered as the Yakutia sea gates, situated north of the Arctic Circle in the Laptev Sea. The main peculiarity of the expedition is not the destination, but the trip itself. Only having got over more than 2 500 km by winter roads and frozen north rivers, we will arrive to this "bay of rendezvous". This bay is friendly only for those who dared to venture him physically and morally.

The expedition starts in Yakutsk. We will meet with arctic people and visit the Topolinoye village – the village of the reindeer's herders. Crossing the tundra and frozen rivers, we can observe the wild arctic animals such as birds, polar fox, reindeer, wolves and others.

The main part of the route passes to the North from the Polar circle and every day we will have possibility to observe the northern lights and make rare photos.

On the way there are no hotels, museums, cafes or other touristic places. Our tour is not about this... To try yourself in the face of full isolation, where you won't find roads, only directions to go. Our goal is to reach the place where the winter ramp over 8 months a year.

Our team and equipment ensure the security on the journey. There will be 2 off-road vehicles Toyota Land Cruiser, that proved their reliability during our expeditions such as "Pole of Cold" or "Baikal. 110th km". The vehicles will be followed from the satellite 24 hours a day. Also all participants of the group should be in good physical shape, ready for difficulties of the wild nature and not to have medical contraindications. We will be moved away from the civilization by the distance and the weather influence.

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

### Highlights

- Unique expedition to the Extreme North
- Visit of the northern most village of Yakutia - Tiksi
- Passage by the true winter arctic roads
- Acquaintance with the life of the polar people
- Possibility to observe the arctic animals
- Visit of the reindeer herders village - Topolinoye
- Possibility to pass the frozen Laptev sea
- Possibility to see the northern lights

### Tour type

EXPEDITIONNATURE

### Difficulty

Challenging - 5-7 hours of challenging physical activity daily

### Comfort

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

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## Beginning / end of the tour

Tour starts: Yakutsk, End of the tour: Yakutsk

## Program

### Day 1 — Acquaintance with Yakutsk

11:00 — Arrival to Yakutsk

13:00 — Lunch (Not included)

14:00 — Free time

17:00 — Meeting with the guides at the reception of the hotel

19:00 — Dinner in the hotel (Not included)

Overnight in the hotel

Hotels: Accommodation in the hotel Azimut Yakutsk, Standard twin room

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

### Day 2 — Khandyga and road of bones

09:00 — Breakfast in the hotel

10:00 — Departure to the Khandyga village

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

15:00 — Continuation of the road

19:00 — Dinner

Overnight in the homestay

### Day 3 — Village of the reindeer herders

09:00 — Breakfast (Not included)

10:00 — Departure to the Topolinoye village

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

14:00 — Continuation of the road

19:00 — Dinner

Overnight in the homestay

### Day 4 — Crossing the Arctic Circle

09:00 — Start of the itinerary

13:00 — Lunch (Not included)

14:00 — Continuation of the road

19:00 — Dinner (Not included)

Overnight under the tent

### Day 5 — Day on the journey

09:00 — Start of the route

13:00 — Lunch (Not included)

15:00 — Continuation of the road

19:00 — Dinner

20:00 — Arrival to Batagay village

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Overnight in the homestay

#### **Day 6 — Life of an Arctic village**

10:00 — Free time in Batagay

15:00 — Free time

Overnight in the homestay

#### **Day 7 — On the ice of the Yana river**

08:00 — Breakfast

09:00 — Start of the route

13:00 — Lunch

14:00 — Continuation of the road

19:00 — Dinner

Overnight under the tent

#### **Day 8 — Arctic tundra**

09:00 — Breakfast

09:00 — Start of the route

13:00 — Lunch

14:00 — Continuation of the route

19:00 — Dinner

Overnight under the tent

#### **Day 9 — Polar lights**

09:00 — Breakfast

09:00 — Departure to the the Severniy village

13:00 — Lunch

14:00 — Continuation of the route

19:00 — Dinner

Overnight under the tent

#### **Day 10 — Outlet to the Laptev sea**

08:00 — Route to the Hayir village

09:00 — Breakfast

13:00 — Lunch

14:00 — Passage to the Laptev sea

19:00 — Dinner

Overnight under the tent

#### **Day 11 — Testing by the North**

09:00 — Breakfast

09:00 — Passage by the Laptev sea

13:00 — Lunch

15:00 — Continuation of the route

19:00 — Dinner

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Overnight under the tent

#### Day 12 — Bay of rendezvous

09:00 — Breakfast  
09:00 — Route to the Tiksi bay  
13:00 — Lunch  
16:00 — Arrival to Tiksi  
19:00 — Dinner (Not included)  
Overnight in the hotel

#### Day 13 — Main sea port of Yakutia

09:00 — Breakfast in the hotel  
10:00 — Excursion in Tiksi  
14:00 — Passage by the Laptev sea ice  
Overnight in the hotel

#### Day 14 — Departure to Yakutsk

09:00 — Breakfast in the hotel  
12:00 — Transfer to the airport

#### Departures

| Start      | End        | Basic price per person |
|------------|------------|------------------------|
| 14.02.2022 | 27.02.2022 | 351000.00 RUB          |

#### Note

The price is given is for a group of 5 people. Total number of vehicles: 2. Accommodation is planned to be in hotel "Polyarnaya zvezda" in Yakutsk, in guest houses and homestay. Tiksi is the boundary territory and it's needed to have a special permission (preparation of the document takes about 60 days). The itinerary of the expedition can be changed according to the road or weather conditions as well as unforeseen events. The price includes the flight Tiksi - Yakutsk. ATTENTION: as Tiksi is situated on the Extreme North, it's possible that the flights will be carry forward 1 or 2 days because of strong weather conditions.

#### What's included

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**Price includes**

- Russian-speaking guide
- Bathing in springs
- Airplane/ train tickets
- Letter of invitation
- Sleeping bag rental
- Meals according to the program
- Accident insurance
- Excursions and visits as per itinerary
- English-speaking guide services
- Camping outfit rental
- Tent rental

**Price does not include**

- Personal expenses and tips
- Airline tickets
- Optional activities
- English-speaking guide

**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.

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**Recommended checklist**

comfortable shoes for trekking

raincoat / windproof and waterproof jacket with HOOD!

towel

comfortable winter boots (suitable for walking on ice and snow)

fleece jacket/sweater with collar

comfortable warm hat and scarf (snood)

ski mask

moisturizing cream

6

10

13

20

21

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

Expedition winter boots (Sorel or Baffin)

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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 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.

## Medical Form

A good physical condition is required.

## 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.

## Security

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