

## Three Religions 2014 — Detailed description

Trip Length: Group: 6-12 Departure: Fixed Period: December - January

### Trip overview

Siberia is a multiethnic land where on 4,200,000 km<sup>2</sup> (1,622,000 mi<sup>2</sup>) territory more than 100 nationalities peacefully coexist representing different religions and confessions. This itinerary is named like that as during one tour we will discover the cohabitation of three religions best presented in the region - Buddhism, Orthodoxy and Shamanism. We will take you to meet Siberians, Buryats, Old Believers to let you discover their unique culture and way of life. We will start with Irkutsk and its Orthodox churches, then we will visit Olkhon Island, this cradle of shamanism in Asia, where the discovery of landscapes will harmonize with acquaintance with shamanic customs and visit to a Buryat village. Boat cruise across the Great Lake will bring us to Buryatia, to the village of Ust-Barguzin where we will discover the beauty of Chivyrkuysky Gulf and the Barguzin valley.

In Ulan-Ude we will visit the Ivolginsky Datsan, centre of Buddhism in Russia, and devote a whole day to discovering the village of Old Believers. By the Trans-Siberian train we will go to the south of the lake and reach "Siberian Alps", the Sayan Mountains, and Buryat village of Arshan. Located at the foot of the Eastern Sayans this village shelters many thermal springs. This is the place where we will see local Buddhist temple, Datsan, the marble bottom of the Kyngarga River and its waterfalls. Our journey will end with the Circum-Baikal Excursion by old famous railway and the discovery of its tunnels, bridges, arches, and viaducts constructed on the very coastline of Lake Baikal in the end of the 19th century.

### Highlights

- Cultural approach to the discovery of the country
- Cruise and crossing of Lake Baikal in its widest part
- Discovery of the Republic of Buryatia
- Acquaintance with different cultures: Buryat, Russian and that of Old Believers
- Discovery of local cuisines
- Various and accessible to everyone activities

### Tour type

NATURE

### Difficulty

Physical rating not assigned

### Comfort

Upgraded — all nights in comfortable rooms.

### Program

Day 1 — -

Day 2 — -

Day 3 — -

Day 4 — -

Day 5 — -

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Day 6 — -

Day 7 — -

Day 8 — -

Day 9 — -

Day 10 — -

Day 11 — -

Day 12 — -

Day 13 — -

Day 14 — -

Day 15 — -

## Departures

New departures available soon

## Note

Single supplement - 10 400 RUB / pers. The price is given for the group of 6 persons. If the number of participants is less than 6, the following supplement is applied: + 7 290 RUB / pers. for the group of 5 participants + 13 090 RUB / pers. for the group of 4 participants + 24 090 RUB / pers. for the group of 3 participants + 62 500 RUB / pers. for the group of 2 participants

## What's included

### Price includes

- English-speaking guide
- Russian-speaking guide
- Accommodation as per itinerary
- Transport as per itinerary
- Excursions and visits as per itinerary
- Visa invitation and registration of passports (for foreign citizens, if necessary)
- Nature reserves and parks entrance permissions
- Bathing in springs
- Accident insurance
- Letter of invitation

### Price does not include

- Meals as per itinerary
- Personal expenses and tips
- Visa fees and travel insurance
- Airplane/ train tickets
- Optional activities
- Ropeway to Chersky Rock
- Bathing in hot springs

## Checklist & Equipment

For summer travel, we recommend preparing:

- comfortable clothes for hot and sunny weather - we advise you to give preference to natural fabrics, be sure to have sun protection (comfortable hat, SPF protection cream, sunglasses);
- protection from rain and wind - a long raincoat with a hood, for active tours - a waterproof cover on a backpack, the second pair of

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shoes (the ability to dry a second pair if they get wet);

- clothing in case of bad weather - when the temperature drops (in mountainous regions, on the coasts, in the evening), we recommend taking a light jacket, a warm sweater and pants

In different regions of Russia there can be significant temperature fluctuations in the summer. If you do not have experience traveling in similar regions, please contact your manager to pick up the necessary things and find out about the weather forecast in the place where you are planning your trip.

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

pants, long sleeve jacket/tracksuit

rubber slippers

raincoat / windproof and waterproof jacket with HOOD!

sunglasses

swimsuit / swim trunks

towel

wet wipes and antibacterial hand gel

water bottle/flask

sleeping bag

trekking telescopic poles

winter (down) jacket and warm pants (windproof and waterproof) / winter suit

thermal underwear

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

thermal socks

ski mask

winter expedition boots (like Sorel or Baffin)

fleece balaclava

moisturizing cream

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### Meals

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

### Laundry

Some hotels and inns offer laundry services for a variable sum of money. It is sometimes possible to use laundry services at homestay

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(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

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.

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### 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.

### 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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