

## Three Religions — Detailed description

Trip Length: 9 Group: 4-12 Departure: Fixed Period: December - January

### Trip overview

Baikal is one of the most amazing places in Russia! Tours to Baikal are not only an acquaintance with the nature of the great lake, because the Baikal region is also considered a place where many religions intersect, the most common of which are Orthodoxy, Buddhism and shamanism. The route of our tour is built around these three religions. You will learn how these religions have coexisted peacefully side by side for hundreds of years and how intertwined they are in the culture of the local people.

Of course, we did not ignore the nature of Lake Baikal. To comprehend the full power and grandeur of Lake Baikal, you must cross it at its widest and deepest place - in its central part. A change of all types of Baikal landscapes awaits you: taiga hills, desert steppes, sand dunes, mountain valleys and, of course, the expanses of the purest Baikal waters stretching into the horizon.

We suggest going on this tour during the most favorable summer period for travel, when the water is warmest, the sun is brighter, and there is practically no rain. To introduce you to the Baikal culture in all its manifestations, we invite you to walk along the streets of ancient Irkutsk, listen to the ringing of the bells of Orthodox churches, visit the Republic of Buryatia and the center of Buddhism in Russia - the Ivolginsky Datsan, and also attend a real ceremony of one of the shamans of the sacred lake. You will visit the real cradle of shamanism - on the island of Olkhon, where every sacred place is shrouded in hundreds of legends.

This tour is open to all ages and you can go alone, as a couple or as a family. Comfortable accommodation is provided throughout the route. All components of this tour are exclusive: no scheduled buses or ships are used on the tour.

We want to show you Lake Baikal in all its diversity, not only natural, but also cultural. Having come here once, you will definitely want to come back again!

### Highlights

- Tour with primary focus on the acquaintance with culture and spiritual life of the region
- Crossing of the lake in its widest and deepest part
- Possibility to see all types of the Baikal landscapes
- Acquaintance with the Republic of Buryatia and Olkhon island
- Participation in the shamanic ritual
- Comfortable accommodation all tour long
- Private boats and transports
- Tasting of the local cuisine

### Tour type

DISCOVERYNATURE

### Difficulty

Easy - nothing more than normal walking while sight-seeing

### Comfort

Upgraded — all nights in comfortable rooms.

### Beginning / end of the tour

Tour starts: Irkutsk, End of the tour: Irkutsk

Уникальный внутренний номер документа: 1104123

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## Program

### Day 1 — Discovery of the Irkutsk city

10:00 — Individual transfer from the airport to the hotel (private car)  
12:00 — Accommodation in the hotel  
13:00 — Lunch in the restaurant of the city  
14:00 — Excursion in the city centre of Irkutsk  
19:00 — Dinner in a restaurant (Not included)  
Overnight at the hotel

Hotels: Accommodation in the hotel Angara, Chambre twin confort  
Comfort: Comfortable accommodation, WC and bath / shower in room

### Day 2 — Taltsy museum and first meeting with lake Baikal

09:00 — Breakfast in the hotel  
10:00 — Transfer to the Listvyanka village  
11:00 — Excursion to Taltsy museum  
13:00 — Lunch in the restaurant  
14:10 — Lift on the Chersky rock  
16:00 — Arrival to Listvyanka  
16:30 — Walking in the village  
19:00 — Dinner (Not included)  
Overnight in the hotel

Hotels: Accommodation in the hotel "Undina", Listvyanka, Twin room  
Comfort: Comfortable accommodation, WC and bath / shower in room

### Day 3 — Meeting with a shaman and road to Olkhon island

09:00 — Breakfast in the hotel  
10:00 — Departure to the Olkhon island  
12:10 — Excursion to the ethnographic museum and meeting with a shaman  
13:00 — Lunch in the cafe en route  
17:00 — Arrival to Khujir  
19:00 — Dinner in the resort  
Night in the resort

Hotels: Accommodation at the resort Nabaymar, Chambre twin comfortable  
Comfort: Comfortable accommodation, WC and bath / shower in room

### Day 4 — Ogoy island and Buddhist Stupa

09:00 — Breakfast at the resort  
10:00 — Transfer to the port of Khujir village  
12:00 — Visite of the sacred water source Surkhaytor  
13:00 — Lunch  
14:00 — Excursion to Ogoy island  
16:00 — Return to Khujir  
19:00 — Dinner at the resort  
Overnight at resort

Hotels: Accommodation at the resort Nabaymar, Chambre twin comfortable

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

### Day 5 — Sacred site for shamans

09:00 — Breakfast at the resort

10:00 — Olkhon island excursion

13:00 — Outdoor lunch

14:00 — Stroll and return trip

19:00 — Dinner at the resort

Overnight at the resort

Hotels: Accommodation at the resort Nabaymar, Chambre twin comfortable

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

### Day 6 — Baikal crossing from west to east

09:00 — Breakfast at the resort

09:40 — Transfer to the port

10:00 — Navigation to Ust-Barguzin

13:00 — Lunch

14:00 — Continuation of the navigation

16:00 — Arriving on the island

19:00 — Homemde dinner

20:00 — Russian banya

Overnight in the guest house

Hotels: Accommodation in Ust-Barguzin, Twin room

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

### Day 7 — Barguzin valley and the Dancing Goddess

09:00 — Breakfast

10:00 — Full-day excursion by Russian 4x4 (UAZ)

13:00 — Lunch (picnic)

19:00 — Homemade dinner

Night in a guest house

Hotels: Accommodation in Ust-Barguzin, Twin room

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

### Day 8 — Centre of the Russian Buddhism and Buryat capital

09:00 — Homemade breakfast

10:00 — Transfer to Ulan-Ude

13:00 — Lunch

14:00 — Excursion to the Ivolginsky datsan

16:00 — Walking city-tour

22:30 — Departure to Irkutsk by night train

Overnight in the train

Hotels: Overnight in the train, The 2nd class compartment

Comfort:

### Day 9 — Return to Irkutsk

07:00 — Arrival to Irkutsk

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## Departures

| Start      | End        | Basic price per person |
|------------|------------|------------------------|
| 14.07.2024 | 22.07.2024 | 212400.00 RUB          |
| 04.08.2024 | 12.08.2024 | 212400.00 RUB          |

## Note

The departure is guaranteed for the group of 4 participants. If there are less persons in the group, the price can be recalculated. Single supplement – 24 900 RUB / pers.

## What's included

### Price includes

- English-speaking guide
- Russian-speaking guide
- Accommodation as per itinerary
- Excursions and visits as per itinerary
- Nature reserves and parks entrance permissions
- Bathing in springs
- Accident insurance
- Letter of invitation
- Meals according to the program
- Airplane/ train tickets
- Ice crampons

### Price does not include

- Meals as per itinerary
- Personal expenses and tips
- Visa fees and travel insurance
- Airline tickets

## 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 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.

## Recommended checklist

pants, long sleeve jacket/tracksuit  
raincoat / windproof and waterproof jacket with HOOD!  
towel  
wet wipes and antibacterial hand gel  
water bottle/flask  
sleeping bag  
trekking telescopic poles

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winter (down) jacket and warm pants (windproof and waterproof) / winter suit  
fleece jacket/sweater with collar  
warm mittens (for convenience, thin gloves and a second layer of mittens with fur) / ski gloves  
winter expedition boots (like Sorel or Baffin)  
fleece balaclava  
2  
11  
12

## Meals

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,
- adhesive plaster,
- sterile pads.

If you have individual diseases, make sure you have taken your medications.

## Medical Form

No particular physical condition is required.

## Emergency Contact

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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.

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