

Olkhon, Heart of Lake Baikal — Detailed description

Trip Length: 4 Group: 4-16 Departure: Fixed Period: December - January

Trip overview

Here is one of the best destinations if you have four days at your disposal. Discover Olkhon Island, it's discover the heart of Lake Baikal. This trip is a classical program to explore the largest island of the lake and enjoy of its incredible sightseeing above the lake.

The island represents the geographical, the historical and the sacred heart of the lake, the spot of legends and traditions. Olkhon is the biggest island of the lake. It is a part of the chain of mountains hiding in deep waters of the lake. Located in the centre of the lake close to its deepest point (1637m / 5370 ft), only Olkhon combines all the diversity of landscapes of Lake Baikal. It is a particular land with its microclimate, its perfect fauna and flora. The island is 72 km (45 mi) long and 15 km (9 mi) wide with the surface of 730 sq km (280 sq mi). Shoreline is an alternation of cliffs and sandy bays, forests change into steppes where the winds of Lake Baikal work like skillful artists...

Highlights

- Discovery of the largest island of Lake Baikal
- Visit to the sacred shamans' sites
- Tasting of endemic fish - Baikal omul

Tour type

PURENATURE

Difficulty

Easy - nothing more than normal walking while sight-seeing

Comfort

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

Begining / end of the tour

Tour starts: Irkutsk, End of the tour: Irkutsk

Program

Day 1 — Way to the biggest island of the Baikal lake

09:00 — Transfer Irkutsk - Olkhon island (scheduled bus)

13:00 — Lunch (Not included)

15:00 — Arrival to the island and check-in on the resort

16:00 — Discovery of Burkhan rock

19:00 — Dinner at the resort

Overnight in the resort

Hotels: Accommodation at the resort Lada, -

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

Day 2 — Discovery of the island

09:00 — Breakfast at the resort

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10:00 — Excursion to the south of Olkhon
13:00 — Outdoor lunch
18:00 — Come back to the resort and russian banya
19:00 — Dinner on the resort
Overnight on the resort

Hotels: Accommodation at the resort Lada, -
Comfort: Comfortable accommodation, WC and bath / shower in room

Day 3 — Northernmost point of Olkhon

09:00 — Breakfast in the resort
10:00 — Olkhon island excursion
13:00 — Outdoor lunch
14:00 — Walking around and come back
19:00 — Dinner on the resort
Overnight on the resort

Hotels: Accommodation at the resort Lada, -
Comfort: Comfortable accommodation, WC and bath / shower in room

Day 4 — Departure to Irkutsk

08:00 — Breakfast at the resort
09:00 — Transfer Olkhon island - Irkutsk (scheduled bus)
13:00 — Lunch (Not included)
15:00 — Arrival at the bus station of Irkutsk

Departures

New departures available soon

Note

THE TOUR IS AVAILABLE FOR BOOKING FOR ANY DESIRED DATES. PLEASE CONTACT US FOR MORE INFORMATION.
Supplement for comfortable accommodation, WC and bath / shower in room 4 500 roubles If you want to book additional nights before or after your tour, please contact us for further informations. We can switch the category of rooms or accommodation according to your request. Please contact us before your departure.

What's included

Price includes

- English-speaking guide
- Accommodation as per itinerary
- Transport as per itinerary
- Excursions and visits as per itinerary
- Reserves and national parks entrance permissions
- Banya
- Meals according to the program

Price does not include

- Administrative registration
- Personal expenses and tips
- Visa fees and travel insurance
- Transfer from airport / railway station on first day
- Transfer to airport / railway station on last day
- Visa

Checklist & Equipment

You will need in Russia in winter:

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- 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.

It is hot in summer at Lake Baikal area. Nevertheless, you should always have something to put on, as weather in Siberia is very changeable.

If you plan your trip in May or September, please feel free to bring your hat, gloves and windjacket in case of snow or rain.

June is also pretty cool.

July and August are the hottest months, which offer you temperatures of 25 ° - 35 ° at daytime and 15 ° - 18 ° at night. On the shores of Lake Baikal, like in the Alps, you should wear T-shirts and shorts in the sunny afternoons, sweaters and jackets in the cool evenings.

ATTENTION! The list of equipment varies with the season of travel!

Recommended checklist

Important travel documents: Passport and visa, original or electronic airplane tickets (with a sets of photocopies kept separately), bank card
Wipes

Wristwatch or pocket alarm clock

Charger and spare battery for camera/phone

Photo / video camera

Tour vouchers and programme

Ice cleats

Laundry detergent to wash your clothes

Meals

In the canteen at the inns, fresh local products.

If you are a vegetarian or have any particular preferences, please let us know, so we could adapt the menu.

Laundry

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

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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 at your discretion in envelopes.

Health

No compulsory vaccination.

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: +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 7890/22-49 from September 19, 2022. Amount of coverage: 500 000 RUB. Legal and actual address: BaikalNature LLC, 55 Dekabrskikh Sobyti Str., office 405.2 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

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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