

Kingdom Of Ice — Detailed description

Trip Length: 8 Group: 5-14 Departure: Fixed Period: February - March

Trip overview

This winter tour to Baikal can rightfully be considered our “pearl”. Breathtaking landscapes, rich culture of two regions, an incredible number of attractions and, of course, Baikal ice in all possible forms: endless ice surfaces, majestic hummocks and fabulous icy caves.

In just 7 days you will be able to truly learn and feel the greatness of winter Baikal! We start in the city of Irkutsk - the capital of Eastern Siberia. We head to the village of Listvyanka: here you will be immersed in the culture and history of the region, as well as your first meeting with Lake Baikal! Then we will make a fascinating journey on a hovercraft along the western coast of Lake Baikal to the Olkhon Gate Strait.

During the ice road, we will make stops in the most iconic places: ice fields for those who want to skate on the largest skating rink in the world, bubble ice for those who like spectacular photo shoots, Marble Canyon and petroglyphs for a complete immersion in the history of the region’s development. Then, you will get acquainted with the island of Olkhon - the pearl of Lake Baikal! Let’s continue our journey by crossing Lake Baikal in its widest part.

We will pass the geographical center of the lake on ice more than a meter thick, above its deepest point! Having reached the eastern shore of Lake Baikal, we will get acquainted with the life of fishing settlements and visit the territory of the Barguzinsky Nature Reserve - the Holy Nose Peninsula. To make your vacation memorable, we’ll swim in wild hot springs, and in the evening we’ll go to a real Russian bathhouse! We will move to the capital of Buryatia - the city of Ulan-Ude, where we will visit the Ivolginsky Datsan - the main Buddhist temple in Russia. Farewell dinner with the group and a night on the train along part of the Trans-Siberian Railway, passing at the very edge of southern Baikal.

The circular route of the tour is suitable for the most sophisticated travelers, because every day you will have a stop in a new place. For your convenience, only individual transport, comfortable accommodation, experienced guides and complete safety.

Highlights

- The most beautiful places in winter Baikal
- Ring route with a total length of more than 1300 km
- Visit to two regions: Irkutsk region and the Republic of Buryatia
- Tasting Siberian and Buryat cuisine
- Comfortable accommodation and complete safety
- Nature, history and culture of the Baikal region

Tour type

DISCOVERYNATURE

Difficulty

Moderately Easy - 1-3 hours of physical activity daily

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

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Program

Day 1 — First meeting with the lake Baikal

10:30 — Arrival in Irkutsk
11:00 — Departure to the Listvyanka village
12:00 — Excursion to Taltsy
13:40 — Lunch in the restaurant
15:20 — Lift on the Chersky rock
17:00 — Accommodation in the hotel and free time
19:00 — Dinner in the hotels restaurant

Overnight in the hotel

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

Day 2 — On Baikal ice by hovercraft

07:00 — Early breakfast in the hotel
10:15 — Departure by hovercraft to the MRS village
13:00 — Lunch box
14:00 — Continuation of the way to MRS
16:00 — Arrival to MRS
19:00 — Dinner at your resort

Overnight at your resort

Hotels: Accommodation at the resort Naratey, Twin comfort room
Comfort: Comfortable accommodation, WC and bath / shower in room

Day 3 — The biggest island of the Baikal lake

09:00 — Breakfast at your resort
10:00 — Transfer to Olkhon island
13:00 — Arrival to Khujir
13:30 — Lunch at your resort
14:00 — Visit of Khujir
19:00 — Dinner (Not included)

Overnight at the resort

Hotels: Accommodation at the resort Nabaymar, Twin room
Comfort: Comfortable accommodation, WC and shower on the floor

Day 4 — BaikalNature Ice Camp

09:00 — Breakfast at the resort
10:00 — Transfer to the ice camp
13:00 — Picnic lunch
15:00 — Arrival to the camp
19:00 — Dinner

Overnight in the camp BaikalNature Ice Camp

Hotels: Camp on the ice of Baikal, Tent for 5-6 persons
Comfort:

Day 5 — Baikal crossing

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09:00 — Breakfast in the camp
13:00 — Lunch in the camp
14:00 — Time at leisure in the camp
16:30 — Departure to Ust-Barguzin and check-in
19:00 — Dinner (Not included)
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 6 — Free day

09:00 — Breakfast
11:00 — Optional excursion (Not included)
13:00 — Lunch in the open air (Not included)
17:00 — Return to the village of Ust-Barguzin
19:00 — Homemade dinner (Not included)
Overnight in the guest house
Hotels: Accommodation in Ust-Barguzin, Twin room
Comfort: Comfortable accommodation, WC and bath / shower in room

Day 7 — Discovery of Ulan-Ude

08:00 — Homemade breakfast
09:00 — Transfer to Ulan-Ude
13:00 — Lunch
14:00 — Arrival and free time
22:30 — Departure to Irkutsk by night train
Overnight in the train
Hotels: Overnight in the train, The 2nd class compartment
Comfort:

Day 8 — Return to Irkutsk

07:15 — Arrival in Irkutsk
08:00 — Transfer to airport. End of the program.

Departures

Start	End	Basic price per person
22.02.2025	01.03.2025	179400.00 RUB
01.03.2025	08.03.2025	179400.00 RUB
10.03.2025	17.03.2025	179400.00 RUB

Note

The departure is guaranteed for a group of 5 persons (minimum). If there are fewer participants, the price of the tour will be recalculated. Single supplement - 14 200 rubles / pers. The tour can be organized individually on dates suitable for you from February 20 to March 15. For families with children, discounts are provided depending on the age of the child at the time of travel. It is possible to book additional

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services before, during or after the tour.

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
- Airplane/ train tickets
- Accident insurance
- Ice crampons
- Renting a sleeping bag for overnight stays in a tent
- Letter of invitation
- Meals according to the program
- Ice studs for shoes
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- Ropeway to Chersky Rock

Price does not include

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

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!

sunglasses

sunscreen and lip balm

swimsuit / swim trunks

towel

trekking telescopic poles

warm mittens (for convenience, thin gloves and a second layer of mittens with fur) / ski gloves

winter expedition boots (like Sorel or Baffin)

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fleece balaclava
moisturizing cream

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Meals

At restaurants and homestays in cities, traditional cuisine consists of local specialties.
Picnic for lunch and hot meal served at your accommodation in the evening.
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

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
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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

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.

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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