

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 km² (1,622,000 mi²) 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 — -

Уникальный внутренний номер документа: 35491

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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
- Accommodation as per itinerary
- Transport as per itinerary
- Meals
- Excursions and visits as per itinerary
- Administrative registration
- Reserves and national parks entrance permissions
- Transfer from airport / railway station on first day
- Banya
- Letter of invitation

Price does not include

- Medical insurance
- Personal expenses and tips
- Visa fees and travel insurance
- Transfer to airport / railway station on last day
- Optional activities
- Ropeway to Chersky Rock
- Bathing in hot springs

Checklist & Equipment

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.

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We recommend you to pack all your stuff in two bags: a small backpack and a large travelling bag.

SMALL BACKPACK: will be useful for carrying your personal belongings during the day (camera, film, personal medication, bottled water, etc.) You will also use it as hand luggage during air travel for all your heavy (to lighten the travel bag in the luggage compartment), fragile (camera, etc.) and necessary (toilet bag, etc.) things.

BIG TRAVEL BAG or BIG BACKPACK: must contain the rest of your stuff. It will be in the luggage compartment during the flight. It will be transported by vehicles.

Recommended checklist

Raincoat or wind and waterproof shell jacket (with hood !)

Universal AC power outlet

POLARTEC or similar pullover

Windproof waterproof pants and jacket (GORE-TEX, EVENT, SIMPA-TEX)

Trekking pants

Long sleeve shirts or sweatshirts

Shorts

T-shirts

Cap or hat to protect against sun

Foulard or tagelmust

Comfortable walking shoes (like Vibram or similar)

Comfortable shoes for city

Headlamp

Sunscreen for skin and lips

Sunglasses with filter

Mosquito net for face

Pocket knife (to put in checked baggage)

Flask

Flip-flops for banya

Sewing kit

Fleece jacket or warm sweater

Lipstick

Swimsuit

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

Tick and mosquitoes repellent spray

Forceps for extracting ticks

Wipes

Wristwatch or pocket alarm clock

Charger and spare battery for camera/phone

Photo / video camera

Tour vouchers and programme

Ice cleats

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 (when there is running water) for a fee.

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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, 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.

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: +73952 26 56 94.

In addition, your call will be forwarded to your manager, reachable 7/7.

Legal Mentions

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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 7902/20-49 from October 08, 2020. Amount of coverage: 500 000 RUB. Legal and actual address: BaikalNature LLC 119A Dekabrskikh Sobyti Str., office 13 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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