

Great Baikal — Detailed description

Trip Length: 12 Group: 4-8 Departure: Fixed Period: July - August

Trip overview

You wish to discover Lake Baikal from south to north, west to east? You would like to have an idea about the diversity and uniqueness of its area? Join the adventure! It's our greatest tour to Lake Baikal in summer. This tour includes the visit of the key Baikal places. During 12 days you will alternate transfers by car and by boat. In this outstanding journey around the whole lake, you will discover stunning sceneries: steppes, river delta, sand dunes, cliffs, taiga - preserved fauna and flora and the rough but generous soul of Siberians. You will visit the southernmost and the northernmost points of Lake Baikal and cross the lake three times in its southern, central and northern parts. The total distance of the itinerary is more than 2000 km. For understanding the immensity of this tour, just take a look at the map!

Though there are a lot of excursions during the tour you will be able to relax and enjoy peace of Baikal beauties. You will taste the local cuisine and get acquaintance with culture and history of the region.

In the end of the tour you will go on train by the Baikal–Amur Mainline (BAM) – one of the biggest railway lines all over the world.

This tour is available for everyone. No particular physical condition is required.

After this tour, you will be able to say that you know the summer Baikal!

Highlights

- Meeting with locals and tasting of traditional food
- Circle tour of Lake Baikal
- Water transport is largely used during the tour
- Perfect combination of the price and the tour scale
- Bathing in the hot springs
- Visit of the northernmost and the southernmost points of Baikal
- Triple Baikal crossing

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

Program

Day 1 — The southernmost point of lake Baikal

11:00 — Meeting with group in the Irkutsk airport
11:05 — Departure to the Kultuk village
13:00 — Lunch in the cafe (Not included)
14:00 — Continuation of the journey to Tankhoy village
16:00 — Baikal crossing in its south part

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17:00 — Arrival to Listvyanka village

19:00 — Dinner

Overnight in the hotel.

Hotels: Accommodation in the hotel "BaikalCedar", Twin room

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

Day 2 — The biggest island of the lake Baikal

09:00 — Breakfast in the hotel

10:00 — Departure to the Olkhon island

13:00 — Lunch in the cafe en route

16:00 — Arrival to Khujir

19:00 — Dinner in the resort

Night in the resort

Hotels: Accommodation at the resort Lada, Chambre comfortable

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

Day 3 — North part of the Olkhon island

09:00 — Breakfast at the resort

10:00 — Olkhon island excursion

13:00 — Outdoor lunch

14:00 — Walking around and come back

18:00 — Dinner at the resort

Overnight on the resort

Hotels: Accommodation at the resort Lada, Chambre comfortable

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

Day 4 — Day at leisure on the Olkhon island

09:00 — Breakfast on the resort

10:00 — Time at leisure on the Olkhon island

13:00 — Lunch (Not included)

18:00 — Dinner on the resort

Overnight in the resort

Hotels: Accommodation at the resort Lada, Chambre comfortable

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

Day 5 — Crossing of lake in its widest part

09:00 — Breakfast on the resort

09:30 — Transfer to the port

10:00 — Navigation to Ust-Barguzin

13:00 — Lunch

14:00 — Continuation of the navigation

15:00 — Arriving to Ust-Barguzin and transfert to homestead

19:00 — Homemade dinner

20:00 — Russian banya

Overnight in the homestay

Hotels: Accommodation in the homestay, Twin room in the homstay

Comfort: Simple comfort accommodation, toilet and shower outdoors

Day 6 — Free day in the Baikal village

09:00 — Breakfast

10:00 — Free time

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13:00 — Lunch

14:00 — Walking around the village

19:00 — Dinner

Overnight in the homestay

Hotels: Accommodation in the homestay, Twin room in the homestay

Comfort: Simple comfort accommodation, toilet and shower outdoors

Day 7 — Along the eastern shore of the lake Baikal

08:00 — Breakfast

08:30 — Transfer to the Monahovo village

12:00 — Outdoor lunch

13:00 — Departure to the resort Khakussy by private boat

17:00 — Arrival to Khakussy

19:00 — Dinner at the resort

Overnight in the resort

Hotels: Accommodation at the resort Laskoviy Bereg, Twin room

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

Day 8 — Hot springs of the lake Baikal

09:00 — Breakfast at the resort

10:00 — Free time at the resort

13:00 — Lunch

14:00 — Free time

19:00 — Dinner

Overnight in the resort

Hotels: Accommodation at the resort Laskoviy Bereg, Twin room

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

Day 9 — The northern part of the lake

09:00 — Breakfast

10:00 — Departure to Severobaikalsk

12:30 — Arrival to Nijneangarsk

13:00 — Lunch in the hotel

19:00 — Dinner

Overnight in the hotel

Hotels: Accommodation in the hotel Olymp, Séverobaikalsk,

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

Day 10 — Day in Severobaykalsk

09:00 — Breakfast in the hotel

10:00 — Time at leisure in the city

20:30 — Transfer to the railway station

Overnight in the train

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

Comfort:

Day 11 — Baikal–Amur Mainline on train

11:00 — Day in the train

Overnight in the train

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

Comfort:

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Day 12 — End of the programme

09:00 — Breakfast

12:10 — Arrival to the railway station of Irkutsk

Departures

Start	End	Basic price per person
16.07.2018	27.07.2018	122600.00 RUB
06.08.2018	17.08.2018	122600.00 RUB

Note

The price includes breakfast on Day 2-10; lunch on Day 2-3, 5-9; dinner on Day 1-9. Banya is included on Day 5-6. Single supplement 12 100 RUB.

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
- Letter of invitation
- Railway tickets in 2nd class
- Guide during free days
- Bathing in hot springs
- Meals according to the program

Price does not include

- Personal expenses and tips
- Visa fees and travel insurance
- Optional activities
- Airline tickets

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.

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 !)

POLARTEC or similar pullover

Long sleeve shirts or sweatshirts

Shorts

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T-shirts
Socks
Cap or hat to protect against sun
Comfortable walking shoes (like Vibram or similar)
Sunscreen for skin and lips
Sunglasses with filter
Flip-flops for banya
Fleece jacket or warm sweater
Bath towel
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
Seasickness remedies

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 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

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

You should be physically fit enough for this tour.

Emergency Contact

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In Siberia, you can contact BaikalNature by phone: +7 499 705 65 58 or +7 800 555 73 54 — toll-free within Russia
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: "Yakor' insurance company" JSC (АО Страхование Общество «ЯКОРЬ»). Insurance contract N 7100 -000591- 07/18 from May 31, 2018. Amount of coverage: 500 000 RUB. Legal and actual address: BaikalNature LLC 119A Dekabrskikh Sobyti Str., office 13 664007 Irkutsk Russia

Cancellation Options

The cancellation options are:

- more than 60 days before departure - 10% of the tour price,
- 60 to 30 days before departure - 50% of the tour price,
- less than 30 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

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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