

Old Railway, Listvyanka and Bolshiye Koty — Detailed description

Trip Length: Group: 1-10 Departure: Fixed Period: December - January

Trip overview

This programme will make you discover a picturesque line of the Old Circum-Baikal Railway and the two charming villages, different from each other - Listvyanka and Bolshiye Koty. You will love the leisurely pace of this cultural route of the south Baikal.

Called "Krugobaikalka" in Russian, this part of the Trans-Siberian, genius of architectural engineering, was constructed in the beginning of last century. The railway was inlaid into the steep shore of the Baikal, which boggles the imagination. Along with enjoying beautiful sceneries, you will also discover culture and history.

You will be able to visit the sights of Listvyanka, to enjoy your hike along the shore, and to go up the hill to admire a splendid view of Lake Baikal.

In Bolshiye Koty you will have a chance to see a small welcoming museum devoted to Lake Baikal, to climb a hill to meditate quietly enjoying an incredible panoramic view. The next day you will have time to reach Skriper cape, breathtaking viewpoint... In the village you will sleep with a local family. Your journey back will be done aboard hydrofoil "Raketa".

Highlights

- Manysided tour offering lots of discoveries in little time
- Journey by train along the shoreline of Lake Baikal

Tour type

NATURE

Difficulty

Physical rating not assigned

Comfort

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

Program

Day 1 — -

Day 2 — -

Day 3 — -

Departures

New departures available soon

Note

Single supplement - 2220 RUR On Wednesday and Saturday tour programme follows the itinerary. On Tuesday and Friday tour operates in the opposite direction: Irkutsk - Bolshiye Koty - Listvyanka - Circum-Baikal - Irkutsk. Departure from the riverside station from June 25 to August 30 at 9.00am; from May 23 to June 24 and from September 1 to 27 at 12.30pm. Meals included: lunch and dinner on Day 1,

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breakfast and dinner on Day 2, breakfast and lunch on Day 3.

What's included

Price includes

- Accommodation as per itinerary
- Transport as per itinerary
- Meals
- Letter of invitation

Price does not include

- Transfers in Irkutsk
- English-speaking guide
- Administrative registration
- Reserves and national parks entrance permissions
- Personal expenses and tips
- Visa fees and travel insurance
- Banya

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 BACKPACK: must contain the rest of your stuff. It will be in the luggage compartment during the flight. You will bring it during some days of the trekking.

Recommended checklist

- Raincoat or wind and waterproof shell jacket (with hood !)
- POLARTEC or similar pullover
- Windproof waterproof pants and jacket (GORE-TEX, EVENT, SIMPA-TEX)
- Trekking pants
- Long sleeve shirts or sweatshirts
- Shorts
- T-shirts
- Socks
- 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
- Toilet roll
- Pocket knife (to put in checked baggage)
- Flask
- Sewing kit

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Fleece jacket or warm sweater

Moisturizer

Lipstick

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

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

In the canteen at the inns, fresh local products.

Homestay cuisine based on fresh products.

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, 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,

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- 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 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.

Уникальный внутренний номер документа: 35470