

Great Baikal - winter version — Detailed description

Trip Length: Group: 5-10 Departure: Fixed Period: December - January

Trip overview

When speaking of Lake Baikal, it is impossible to do without superlatives. It is the oldest lake in the world, the deepest and the cleanest one. In winter it freezes over and offers access to inaccessible parts of its reserves and national parks. We invite you to enjoy routes of transparent Baikal ice and discover the wild north of the lake.

Travelling by Russian 4x4 - UAZ - adapted to local weather conditions we will explore the frozen Baikal overcoming piles of ice, cracks and snow storms. This is an exceptional adventure that will bring you from Olkhon Island to the north of the lake from where you will descend to the Barguzinsky Reserve and Buryatia.

During this journey you will hike a lot. Despite this it is not necessary to have a high level of fitness because all your luggage will be transported in 4x4 and you will only carry your things needed for the day. However, you should equip yourself with high spirits and sense of humor since in the north of the lake there are no good hotels, in fact there are no any. We will spend nights in huts of forestry officers and meteorologists without conveniences and even sleep on the floor, that is why sense of humor is indispensable. But important note: it is warm inside! And acquaintances made will be unforgettable!

Two weeks will allow you to discover all wild spots of the lake where nature has not been touched with human activity yet. You will bathe in numerous hot springs, taste Siberian cuisine, discover the way of life of local people. You will visit principle towns of the Baikal and learn their culture and history.

True adventure in the very heart of Siberia!

Highlights

- Meeting local people
- Discovery of inaccessible spots of the northern Baikal
- Trekking within everyone's reach among Arctic landscapes
- Journey to the very heart of Siberia, such as it's described in books
- Real adventure in perfect security

Tour type

NATURE

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.

Program

Day 1 — -

Day 2 — -

Day 3 — -

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Day 4 — -

Day 5 — -

Day 6 — -

Day 7 — -

Day 8 — -

Day 9 — -

Day 10 — -

Day 11 — -

Day 12 — -

Day 13 — -

Day 14 — -

Day 15 — -

Day 16 — -

Day 17 — -

Day 18 — -

Day 19 — -

Day 20 — -

Departures

New departures available soon

Note

Supplement for the group of 3 participants - 13 640 RUB / pers.

What's included

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 baikalnature.com

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Price includes

- English-speaking guide
- Accommodation as per itinerary
- Transport as per itinerary
- Meals
- Excursions and visits as per itinerary
- Reserves and national parks entrance permissions
- Ski rental
- Banya
- Letter of invitation
- Bathing in hot springs
- Railway tickets in 2nd class
- Ice studs for shoes

Price does not include

- Medical insurance
- 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
- Sleeping bag rental
- Airline tickets

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.

Crampons for walking on ice will be provided on the spot.

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

Sleeping bag rated from 0° C to +15° C

Thermal underwear

POLARTEC or similar pullover

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

Trekking socks

Trekking pants

Long sleeve shirts or sweatshirts

T-shirts

Headlamp

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Sunscreen for skin and lips
Sunglasses with filter
Pocket knife (to put in checked baggage)
Flask
Flip-flops for banya
Sewing kit
Down jacket
Fleece jacket or warm sweater
Comfortable pants
Mountain boots for walking on ice and snow
Thick socks
Wool gloves and winter cap
Warm gloves or mittens
Moisturizer
Lipstick
Bath towel
Important travel documents: Passport and visa, original or electronic airplane tickets (with a sets of photocopies kept separately), bank card
Wipes
Antibacterial hand gel
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.
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.

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.

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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

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 9302/19-49 from September 30, 2019. 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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