

Great Baikal. Winter Version — Detailed description

Trip Length: 11 Group: 3-12 Departure: Fixed Period: December - January

Trip overview

Having decided to come to Baikal in winter, you are probably tormented by the choice of places to visit. We have developed a unique tour for you that allows you to see and try everything! You will see all types of landscapes, all iconic places, ice in all its manifestations: snow fields, endless polished ice rinks, hummocks, ice grottoes, etc. The total length of the route is more than 2000 km! To understand the grandeur of this journey, just look at the map!

Having been on such a tour, you can say with complete confidence that you know winter Baikal and understand its true greatness!

Highlights

- Baikal crossing from the south to the north
- Visit of the symbolic places of Lake Baikal
- Visit of the northernmost and the southernmost points of Lake Baikal
- Double crossing of the lake in the central and the northern parts
- More than 800 km on the Baikal ice
- More than 2000 km of the total itinerary
- Bathing in the hot springs
- Circular itinerary via the Republic of Buryatia and the Baikal–Amur Mainline

Tour type

DISCOVERYNATURE

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.

Beginning / 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 — Departure by hovercraft to the Listvyanka village
17:00 — Arrival to the Listvyanka village
19:00 — Dinner in the hotel
Overnight in the hotel

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Hotels: Accommodation in Usadba Demidova,
Comfort: Comfortable accommodation, WC and bath / shower in room

Day 2 — On Baikal ice by hovercraft

09:00 — Breakfast in the hotel
10:00 — Transfer to the port
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 (Not included)

Overnight at your resort

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

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

Day 4 — Baikal crossing

09:00 — Breakfast
11:00 — Crossing Lake Baikal
13:00 — Lunch
16:00 — Arrival in Goryachinsk
19:00 — Dinner

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 5 — Chivyrkuisky Bay and hot springs

09:00 — Breakfast
10:00 — Excursion to Chivyrkuisky Bay
13:00 — Lunch (picnic during the excursion)
19:00 — Dinner

Overnight in the guest house

Hotels: Accommodation in Ust-Barguzin, Twin room
Comfort: Comfortable accommodation, WC and bath / shower in room

Day 6 — Along the Eastern coast of Lake Baikal

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09:00 — Breakfast

10:00 — Transfer to Khakussy

13:00 — Lunch

14:00 — Continuation of the journey

18:00 — Arrival to Khakussy

19:00 — Dinner

Overnight at the resort

Hotels: Accommodation at the resort Laskoviy Bereg, Twin room

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

Day 7 — Hot springs in Khakusy

09:00 — Breakfast

10:00 — Free day in Khakussy

13:00 — Lunch in the resort

15:00 — Free time for bathing

19:00 — Dinner in 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 — The northernmost point of lake Baikal

09:00 — Breakfast

10:00 — Baikal crossing from the east to west

13:00 — Continuation of the road

14:00 — Arrival to Severobaykalsk

15:00 — Lunch in the hotel

19:00 — Dinner

Overnight in the hotel

Hotels: Accommodation in the hotel Olymp, Séverobaïkalsk, Twin comfort room

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

Day 9 — 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 10 — 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:

Day 11 — Return to Irkutsk

12:10 — Arrival to Irkutsk

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Departures

Start	End	Basic price per person
24.02.2026	06.03.2026	415100.00 RUB
01.03.2026	11.03.2026	415100.00 RUB

Note

Departure is guaranteed from 3 people. When recruiting a group of more than 5 people, the cost will be recalculated downwards: - in a group of 5 to 8 people: 369,400 rubles / per person - in a group of 9 to 12 people: 296,200 rubles / per person For individual groups of tourists, departures are possible on convenient dates (from February 20 to March 15 - ice season). You can book the optional excursions in advance or on site with payment in cash.

What's included

Price includes

- Accommodation as per itinerary
- Excursions and visits as per itinerary
- Ice crampons
- English-speaking guide
- Transport a per itinerary
- Meals as per itinerary
- Visa invitation and registration of passports (for foreign citizens, if necessary)
- Nature reserves and parks entrance permissions
- Bathing in springs
- Railway tickets

Price does not include

- Personal expenses and tips
- Visa fees and travel insurance
- Airplane/ train tickets
- Accident insurance

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.

Recommended checklist

underwear, socks (several pairs)
T-shirts, shorts
pants, long sleeve jacket/tracksuit

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rubber slippers
swimsuit / swim trunks
water bottle/flask
trekking telescopic poles
winter (down) jacket and warm pants (windproof and waterproof) / winter suit
thermal underwear
comfortable winter boots (suitable for walking on ice and snow)
fleece jacket/sweater with collar
warm mittens (for convenience, thin gloves and a second layer of mittens with fur) / ski gloves
thermal socks
moisturizing cream

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 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

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

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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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