

## Baikal - Magadan Winter Expedition — Detailed description

Trip Length: 16    Group: 4-8    Departure: Fixed    Period: January

### Trip overview

Travel across the territory of permafrost, visit the capitals of Yakutia and Buryatia, undergo a ritual purification ceremony in the coldest village on Earth, visit the sites of the former Gulags and ghost towns and complete the path with observing the view of the Sea of Okhotsk from the city of Magadan - how about all this combined in one trip of 16 days in SUVs? Seems challenging but.. why not ? Now imagine that the entire journey from Irkutsk to Magadan will be held under extremely cold temperatures reaching -50 ° and sometimes even lower! It is not very easy to decide upon this kind of adventure, right? But not with BaikalNature! Here are the reasons why: with thoughtful approach to your comfort during the stay the agency provides you with comfortable off-road cars that are fully equipped for this kind of expedition, overnight stay in cozy hotel rooms and local guest houses, heated garages to put the cars in for every overnight - and this is just a brief glance at what we provide in order to make the conditions of the tour more comfortable.

During the trip we will ride along the famous highways: Amur (R-297), Lena (A-360) and Kolyma (R-504). The Lena highway goes mainly across the territory of permafrost and the Kolyma track, also known as the "Road of Bones" was built by labor camp prisoners.

Also, every participant of this expedition will receive a certificate upon visiting the Pole of Cold from the hands of the true Yakut Father Frost - Chyshaan, undergo a ritual purification ceremony according to local traditions and participate in ice fishing.

During the course of this expedition you will not only drive for over 5000 km but also you will have an opportunity to get acquainted with the history of the Soviet Union, visit the local museums, get a closer view on the daily life of indigenous people.

This tour is held in a format of expedition. Description of the itinerary presents only a common plan of the expedition. In case of any force majeure (such as bad weather conditions or any other unexpected and unpredictable events), the organizers reserve the right to make changes to the program.

NB: This tour has no fixed group departure date. The price is available upon request.

### Highlights

- More than 5500 km by road Moscow - Vladivostok, Lena and Kolyma (Road of Bones)
- Crossing of republics of Buryatia, Yakutia and Magadan Oblast
- Traveling at the temperature below -55 ° C
- Visit of GULAGs and of ghost-towns
- Visit of Oymyakon village - the coldest village in the world, known as pole of cold
- Meeting with the indigenous people of Russia
- Discovery of frozen lake Baikal
- Opportunity to drive the 4x4 Toyota Land Cruiser
- Magic landscape, frosty frozen and aurora borealis

### Tour type

EXPEDITIONNATURE

### Difficulty

Moderate - 3-5 hours of physical activity daily

### Comfort

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

### Beginning / end of the tour

Уникальный внутренний номер документа: 1019254

ООО «БайкалНейче» 664007, г. Иркутск, ул. Декабрьских событий, 55, офис 405.2

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ИНН 3811110257 КПП 384901001 ОГРН 1073811003221 Р/с 40702810110000700937 в АО "ТИНЬКОФФ БАНК"  
БИК 044525974 Кор. Счет 30101810145250000974

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Tour starts: Irkutsk, End of the tour: Magadan

## Program

### Day 1 — Discovery of Irkutsk

11:00 — Arrival in Irkutsk  
13:00 — Meeting with your guide at the hotel lobby  
13:30 — Lunch at a restaurant in the city center  
14:30 — Stroll in the city center  
19:00 — Dinner at a local restaurant  
Night in a hotel

Hotels: Accommodation in the hotel Imperia, -

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

### Day 2 — Road along the Lake Baikal

08:00 — Breakfast at a hotel  
09:00 — Departure to Ulan-Ude following the track named "Baikal"  
13:00 — Lunch at a roadside cafe (Not included)  
14:00 — Continuation of the way to Ulan-Ude  
19:00 — Dinner at a local restaurant serving Buryat cuisine  
Night in a hotel

### Day 3 — Visit of the village of old believers

08:00 — Breakfast at a hotel  
09:00 — Departure to Chita  
13:00 — Lunch at a roadside café (Not included)  
14:00 — Continuation of the way to Chita  
19:00 — Dinner at the resort  
Overnight in a hotel

### Day 4 — Amur highway Yerofey Pavlovich

08:00 — Breakfast at a hotel  
09:00 — Departure for the village of Yerofey Pavlovich  
13:00 — Lunch at a roadside cafe (Not included)  
14:00 — Continuation of the way to Yerofey Pavlovich  
19:00 — Dinner at a roadside cafe (Not included)  
21:00 — Banya at the inn  
Night in the inn (outdoor toilet)

### Day 5 — Amur-Yakutsk highway

08:00 — Breakfast at a roadside cafe (Not included)  
09:00 — Departure for Neryungri village  
13:00 — Lunch at a roadside café (Not included)  
14:00 — Continuation of the way to Neryungri  
19:00 — Dinner at a hotel

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Night at a hotel

#### **Day 6 — Area of permafrost**

08:00 — Breakfast at a hotel

09:00 — Departure for Tommot

13:00 — Lunch at a roadside café (Not included)

14:00 — Continuation of the way to Tommot

19:00 — Dinner at a roadside cafe (Not included)

Night in a guest house

#### **Day 7 — Yakutsk - capital of Yakutia**

08:00 — Breakfast (Not included)

09:00 — Departure for Yakutsk

13:00 — Lunch at a roadside cafe (Not included)

14:00 — Continuation of the way to Yakutsk

19:00 — Dinner at a hotel

Night in a hotel

#### **Day 8 — Discovery of Yakutsk**

08:00 — Breakfast at a hotel

09:00 — Tour around the city center

14:00 — Lunch (Not included)

15:00 — Free time to discover the city

19:00 — Dinner (Not included)

Night in a hotel

#### **Day 9 — Khandygskaya highway**

09:00 — Departure for the village of Khandyga (ex Gulag distribution point)

13:00 — Lunch at a roadside cafe (Not included)

14:00 — Continuation of the way to Khangyda

19:00 — Dinner at a roadside café (Not included)

Night in a guest house

#### **Day 10 — Road of bones**

08:00 — Breakfast (Not included)

09:00 — Departure for the village of Tomtor

13:00 — Lunch at a roadside café (Not included)

14:00 — Continuation of the way to Tomtor

19:00 — Dinner at a guest house

Night at a guest house

#### **Day 11 — Oymyakon - pole of cold**

08:00 — Breakfast at a guest house

09:00 — Departure for Oymyakon

13:00 — Lunch at a roadside café (Not included)

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14:00 — Participation in ice fishing

16:00 — Return to Tomtor

19:00 — Dinner at a guest house

Night at a guest house

#### **Day 12 — Road Starokolymskaya**

08:00 — Breakfast at a guest house

09:00 — Drive to Ust-Nera village

13:00 — Lunch at a roadside cafe (Not included)

14:00 — Continuation of the way to Ust-Nera

19:00 — Dinner at a roadside cafe (Not included)

Night at a guest house

#### **Day 13 — Ghost town Kadykchan**

08:00 — Breakfast (Not included)

09:00 — Departure for the village of Susuman

13:00 — Lunch at a roadside cafe (Not included)

14:00 — Continuation of the way to Susuman

19:00 — Dinner at a roadside cafe

Night in a hotel

#### **Day 14 — Kolyma highway**

08:00 — Breakfast (Not included)

09:00 — Departure for Magadan

13:00 — Lunch at a roadside cafe (Not included)

14:00 — Continuation of the way to Magadan.

19:00 — Dinner at a roadside cafe.

Night at a hotel.

#### **Day 15 — Discovery of Magadan. Mask of sorrow**

09:00 — Breakfast at a hotel

10:00 — Visit of the Magadan Regional Museum with its 5 exhibition halls that contain a number of informative displays on the history of the Gulag (Not included)

13:00 — Lunch (Not included)

14:00 — Excursion.

19:00 — Festive dinner at a local restaurant

Night in a hotel

#### **Day 16 — Departure from Magadan**

09:00 — Breakfast at a hotel.

11:00 — Transfer to the airport

### **Departures**

Start	End	Basic price per person
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15.01.2021

30.01.2021

605500.00 RUB

## Note

The price given is for a group of 3 people (for one car) Total number of vehicles: 2 to 4. If there are less than 3 persons in the car, the price of the expedition will be recalculated. Accommodation is planned to be in hotel rooms, guest houses and inns. Meals included: breakfasts for the following days: 2, 3, 4, 6, 8, 9, 11, 12, 15, 16; lunch for the day 1; dinners for the days 1, 2, 3, 5, 7, 10, 11, 15. All the other meals will be negotiated with the group members once on spot (additional charge). The itinerary of the expedition can be changed according to the road or weather conditions as well as unforeseen events.

## What's included

### Price includes

- Russian-speaking guide
- Accommodation as per itinerary
- Excursions and visits as per itinerary
- Nature reserves and parks entrance permissions
- Bathing in springs
- Airplane/ train tickets
- Letter of invitation
- English-speaking guide services
- Meals according to the program
- Accident insurance

### Price does not include

- Meals as per itinerary
- Personal expenses and tips
- Visa fees and travel insurance
- Optional activities

## 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.

If you are traveling in the spring or autumn, please check with your manager for a list of recommended equipment and an approximate weather forecast.

## Recommended checklist

towel  
water bottle/flask  
winter expedition boots (like Sorel or Baffin)  
winter expeditionary down jacket (up to -50°)

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16

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Expedition pants

Thermal wool underwear

Thermal socks

Furry mitts (big enough for wearing the wool gloves under them)

Expedition winter boots (Sorel or Baffin)

Expedition down jacket (up to -50°)

Fleece Balaclava

## Meals

In the canteen at the inns, fresh local products.

Homestay cuisine based on fresh products.

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

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.

Provide a first aid kit that includes among other items:

- aspirin or paracetamol,
- anti-diarrheal pills,
- antiseptic,
- adhesive plaster,
- sterile pads.

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If you have individual diseases, make sure you have taken your medications.

### Medical Form

A good 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.

### Security

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