

## From Capital to Capital — Detailed description

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

### Trip overview

Siberia, Buryatia, Mongolia, these three words sound like a mysterious refrain hummed by the regular cadenza of the mythical Transmongolian. From taiga to steppe, from industrialized cities to wide wild areas, from Genghis Khan's to Stalin's heritage, you will experience heart of Russian, Buryat and Mongolian cultures and traditions.

Irkutsk, Ulan-Ude, Ulan Bator, Kharkhorin: four current or former capitals with their own history directly linked with the destiny of conquerors, explorers, builders, settlers and exiles who used to live in these areas.

We will begin our trip with a visit of Irkutsk, city which was known as «Paris of Siberia» in the middle of the 19th century. Then, we will set off to Listvyanka, small typical Siberian village, nestled on the banks of Lake Baikal. There we would taste the regional speciality: smoked omul. On the way, we will stop in Talsty to visit the museum of wooden architecture and to discover the locals' traditional life.

Early in the morning we will leave Irkutsk for Port Baikal where we will board the Circum-Baikal train. This unique railway with its ingenious architectural constructions is a unique monument of the beginning of the 20th century. From the train, we will have magnificent sceneries on the South of Lake Baikal.

By night, we will enter the territory of the Republic of Buryatia and we will overstop in its capital, Ulan-Ude. The main square of the city is dominated by the world's largest Lenin's head. As Buryats are known to be a Mongol people, our stay overthere will introduce us to mongolian way of life.

After a 17-hour journey by the Transmongolian train, our route will lead us to Ulan Bator, city of the red hero.

Last step of our trip, will take us to Kharkhorin, the ancient capital of Genghis Khan, the famous Mongolian conqueror. There, we will discover the ruins of the imperial city and the splendid monastery of Erdene Zuu.

### Highlights

- Historical and cultural exploration of Eastern Siberia and Mongolia through their capitals
- Excellent English-speaking guide during all your journey
- Acquaintance with Russian, Buryat and Mongolian cultures
- Discovery of three different religions: Shamanism, Buddhism, Orthodoxy
- Accessible to everyone
- On the route of the Transmongolian

### Tour type

NATURE

### Difficulty

Physical rating not assigned

### Comfort

Upgraded — all nights in comfortable rooms.

### Program

Day 1 — -

Уникальный внутренний номер документа: 1088742

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Day 2 — -

Day 3 — -

Day 4 — -

Day 5 — -

Day 6 — -

Day 7 — -

Day 8 — -

Day 9 — -

Day 10 — -

Day 11 — -

## Departures

New departures available soon

## Note

If the number of participants is less than 5, the following supplement is applied: + 4 680 RUB / pers. for the group of 4 participants + 15 320 RUB / pers. for the group of 3 participants + 21 880 RUB / pers. for the group of 2 participants Single supplement in Russian part 4 500 RUB

## What's included

### Price includes

- English-speaking guide
- Russian-speaking guide
- Accommodation as per itinerary
- Transport as per itinerary
- Excursions and visits as per itinerary
- Nature reserves and parks entrance permissions
- Letter of invitation
- Horse and equipment rental

### Price does not include

- Visa invitation and registration of passports (for foreign citizens, if necessary)
- Personal expenses and tips
- Visa fees and travel insurance
- Meals in train
- Airline tickets

## Checklist & Equipment

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.

We recommend you to pack all your stuff in two bags: a small backpack and a large travelling bag/suitcase.

**SMALL BACKPACK:** will be useful for carrying your personal belongings during the day (camera, phone, 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/SUITCASE:** must contain the rest of your stuff. It will be in the luggage compartment during the flight. It will be transported by vehicles.

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### Recommended checklist

underwear, socks (several pairs)  
rubber slippers

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### Meals

At restaurants and homestays in cities, traditional cuisine consists of local specialties.  
In the canteen at the inns, fresh local 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 questions regarding obtaining an electronic visa, please contact your tour manager.

You need a tourist visa to travel to Mongolia. 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.

Documents to provide consular services:

- a visa application form (completed on computer or with a black ballpen),
- a color photo for documents, 3.5 x 4.5 cm, to stick on the visa application form,
- invitation,
- travel insurance, provided by insurance company, which protects you throughout your trip .

For more information, please see "Do I need a tourist visa to travel to Russia or Mongolia?" of our FAQ.

### 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.

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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: +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

## 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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