

Expedition to the Shantar Islands — Detailed description

Trip Length: 13 Group: 10-20 Departure: Fixed Period: September

Trip overview

The Shantar islands are the unique place that might be considered as one of the wonders of Russia. Relatively few people have heard about this destination and even less visited it. This archipelago is destined for those who seek adventure and dare to test the forces in the ruthless waters of Okhotsk Sea.

We propose to you the real expedition to the islands that are distant from the civilization. There are only 4 men on the islands, they work at the weather station. However, the flora and fauna are really varied. You have possibility to see: thousands of birds, including the « landlord » of this territory – Steller's sea eagle, killer whale, whale, seal, bear, zibeline and others.

The nature and landscapes are really diverse: gentle banks, rocks, taiga, mountains, rivers and lakes – we will see everything that the nature allows to us.

Meet the nature. The pure nature that was waiting for you for millions of years...

Highlights

- Visit of the unique archipelago - Shantar islands
- The real expedition far away from the civilisation
- Acquaintance with the flora and fauna: brown bears, killer whales, seals, Steller's sea eagle
- Navigation in the bays of the Okhotsk sea
- Fishing on the Russian Far East
- Pure nature far away from the urban life

Tour type

PURENATURE

Difficulty

Moderate - 3-5 hours of physical activity daily

Comfort

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

Begining / end of the tour

Tour starts: Khabarovsk, End of the tour: Khabarovsk

Program

Day 1 — Acquaintance with Khabarovsk

08:00 — Arrival to Khabarovsk

14:00 — Free time

Overnight in the hotel

Hotels: Accommodation in the hotel Khabarovsk city Boutique Hotel, Twin standard room

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

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Day 2 — Day on the road

08:00 — Breakfast
09:00 — Departure to Nikolaevsk-on-Amur
11:00 — Departure to the coast of Okhotsk sea
14:00 — Continuation of the road
18:00 — Arrival to the Wrangel bay
19:00 — Dinner
Overnight in the tent of the bank
Hotels: Camping,

Day 3 — Wrangel bay

08:00 — Breakfast
10:00 — Free time
13:00 — Lunch prepared on the fire
15:00 — Walking along the coast
19:00 — Dinner prepared on fire
Overnight in the tent
Hotels: Camping,

Day 4 — Okhotsk sea

09:00 — Breakfast
11:00 — Whale observation
13:00 — Lunch (picnic)
15:00 — Time at leisure
19:00 — Dinner
Overnight in the tent
Hotels: Camping,

Day 5 — Whale observation

09:00 — Breakfast
11:00 — Whales observation
13:00 — Lunch
15:00 — Time at leisure
19:00 — Dinner in the camp
Overnight in the tent
Hotels: Camping,

Day 6 — Bay and cape Ongochan

09:00 — Breakfast
10:00 — Navigation to the Ongochan bay
13:00 — Lunch
16:00 — Arrival to the Ongochan bay
19:00 — Dinner
Overnight at the base
Hotels: Accommodation at the Ongochan base, House for 4-6 people

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Comfort: Simple comfort accommodation, toilet outdoors, banya

Day 7 — Shantar islands

09:00 — Breakfast

10:00 — Navigation to the Grand Shantar island

13:00 — Lunch (picnic)

15:00 — Exploration of the Grand Shantar island

18:00 — Return to the tourist base

19:00 — Dinner

Overnight at the tourist base

Hotels: Accommodation at the Ongachan base,

Day 8 — North strait crossing

09:00 — Breakfast

10:00 — Departure to the Feklistov island

13:00 — Lunch

14:00 — Arrival on the island

16:00 — Return to the base Ongachan

19:00 — Dinner

Overnight at the tourist base

Hotels: Accommodation at the Ongachan base, House for 4-6 people

Comfort: Simple comfort accommodation, toilet outdoors, banya

Day 9 — Feklistov island

09:00 — Breakfast

10:00 — Visit of the Fekistov island

12:00 — Visit of the Arka (Arch) island

13:00 — Lunch

19:00 — Dinner

Overnight at the tourist base

Hotels: Accommodation at the Ongachan base, House for 4-6 people

Comfort: Simple comfort accommodation, toilet outdoors, banya

Day 10 — Return way to the Wrangel bay

09:00 — Breakfast

10:00 — Departure to the Wrangel bay

13:00 — Lunch

16:00 — Arrival to the Wrangel bay

19:00 — Dinner

Overnight in tents

Hotels: Camping,

Day 11 — Departure to Nikolaevsk-na-Amure

09:00 — Breakfast

11:00 — Way back by boat

13:00 — Lunch

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15:00 — Arrival and transfer to the hotel

19:00 — Dinner (Not included)

Overnight in hotel

Day 12 — Return to Khabarovsk

09:00 — Breakfast

11:00 — Departure to Khabarovsk by plane

15:00 — Transfer to the hotel

19:00 — Dinner (Not included)

Overnight in the hotel

Hotels: Accommodation in the hotel Khabarovsk city Boutique Hotel, Twin standard room

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

Day 13 — End of the programme

09:00 — Breakfast

12:00 — Check-out and transfer to the airport.

Departures

Start	End	Basic price per person
03.08.2020	15.08.2020	217600.00 RUB
11.08.2020	23.08.2020	217600.00 RUB
19.08.2020	31.08.2020	217600.00 RUB
01.09.2021	13.09.2021	255900.00 RUB

Note

The price is indicated for the group of 10-12 persons. If the group's size is smaller, the price can be recalculated. The service of the English-speaking guide is 115 000 roubles. Bath every day at all bases. SUB - boards and rowing boats for swimming with whales are included. All camping equipment is furnished. As the road to the Nikolay bay is very long and mostly gravel, it's possible to feel fatigue and discomfort.

What's included

Price includes

- Accommodation as per itinerary
- Transport as per itinerary
- Reserves and national parks entrance permissions
- Transfer from airport / railway station on first day
- Transfer to airport / railway station on last day
- Letter of invitation
- Russian-speaking guide services
- Tent rental
- Camping outfit rental
- Meals according to the program

Price does not include

- English-speaking guide
- Medical insurance
- Personal expenses and tips
- Visa fees and travel insurance
- Airline tickets
- Optional activities

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Checklist & Equipment

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 TRAVEL BAG or BIG BACKPACK: must contain the rest of your stuff. It will be in the luggage compartment during the flight. It will be transported by vehicles.

Recommended checklist

- Sunglasses
- Raincoat or wind and waterproof shell jacket (with hood !)
- Thermal underwear
- Sleeping bag rated from -10° C to +15° C
- Windproof waterproof pants and jacket (GORE-TEX, EVENT, SIMPA-TEX)
- Trekking socks
- Trekking pants
- Long sleeve shirts or sweatshirts
- Shorts
- T-shirts
- Cap or hat to protect against sun
- Comfortable walking shoes (like Vibram or similar)
- Toilet roll
- Pocket knife (to put in checked baggage)
- Flip-flops for banya
- Fleece jacket or warm sweater
- Bath towel
- Swimsuit
- Tick and mosquitoes repellent spray
- Wipes
- Antibacterial hand gel
- Binoculars

Meals

Cold lunch and hot dinner, cooked on an open fire in the evening.

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 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

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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

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

A good physical condition is required.

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 7890/22-49 from September 19, 2022. Amount of coverage: 500 000 RUB. Legal and actual address: BaikalNature LLC, 55 Dekabrskikh Sobyti Str., office 405.2 664007 Irkutsk Russia

Cancellation Options

The cancellation options are:

- more than 30 days before departure - 15% of the tour price,
- 29 - 7 days before departure - 30% of the tour price,
- less than 7 days before departure - 50% 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

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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