

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: 34604

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ИНН 3811110257 КПП 384901001 ОГРН 1073811003221 Р/с 40702810132120001891 в Филиале ПАО «БАНК УРАЛСИБ» в г.Новосибирск БИК 045004725 Кор. Счет 30101810400000000725

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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
- Accommodation as per itinerary
- Transport as per itinerary
- Meals
- Excursions and visits as per itinerary
- Reserves and national parks entrance permissions
- Letter of invitation
- Horse and equipment rental

Price does not include

- Administrative registration
- Personal expenses and tips
- Visa fees and travel insurance
- Meals in train
- Airline tickets

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.

You will need in Russia and Mongolia in winter:

- to protect yourself from the cold weather;

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- 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.

It is hot in summer at Lake Baikal area and in Mongolia. Nevertheless, you should always have something to put on, as weather is very changeable.

If you plan your trip in May or September, please feel free to bring your hat, gloves and windbreaker jacket in case of snow or rain.

June is also pretty cool.

July and August are the hottest months, which offer you temperatures of 25 ° - 35 ° at daytime and 15 ° - 18 ° at night. On the shores of Lake Baikal, like in the Alps, you should wear T-shirts and shorts in the sunny afternoons, sweaters and jackets in the cool evenings.

ATTENTION! The list of equipment varies with the season of travel!

Recommended checklist

Sunglasses
Universal AC power outlet
Wristwatch or pocket alarm clock
Charger and spare battery for camera/phone
Photo / video camera
Tour vouchers and programme
Currency in euros, dollars
Ice cleats
Laundry detergent to wash your clothes

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 more information please contact your nearest Russian Embassy or Visa Application Center.

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.

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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. 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.

The Mongolian currency is Tugrik. In Ulan Bator, you can safely withdraw tugriks, using a Visa or MasterCard, from ATMs, located in banks, department stores and hotel lobbies. You also will exchange your euros or dollars easily in many exchange offices. However, it can be very difficult to exchange traveler's checks. Outside of Ulan Bator, even in towns, money withdrawal and exchange are much more difficult.

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

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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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