

## Winter Crossing of Lake Baikal and snowmobiles — Detailed description

Trip Length: Group: 1-10 Departure: Fixed

### Trip overview

This is a marvellous adventure acceptable to anyone who is fond of hiking and not afraid of cold and overnight in tent on ice in the middle of the lake. Fantastic sunsets and sunrises, ice in all its manifestations and polar atmosphere await for you in this journey.

One night will be spent in tent on the Baikal ice, and others in the warm in traditional village of Bolshiye Koty and another completely different but not less pleasant village of Listvyanka. We will go snowmobiling from Bolshiye Koty passing taiga and the frozen Baikal to Listvyanka where we will visit the Baikal museum to discover its flora and fauna collection.

When trekking you will go with no luggage, which will be delivered in the evening and transported in the morning by our car.

### Highlights

- Winter adventure in the midst of Arctic landscapes
- Snowmobiling on the ice-covered Baikal
- Ice fishing with local fishermen

### Tour type

NATURE

### Difficulty

Moderately Easy - 1-3 hours of physical activity daily

### Comfort

Upgraded — all nights in comfortable rooms.

### Program

Day 1 — -

Day 2 — -

Day 3 — -

Day 4 — -

Day 5 — -

Day 6 — -

Day 7 — -

### Departures

New departures available soon

### Note

### What's included

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**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
- Tent rental
- Banya
- Ice studs for shoes

**Price does not include**

- Medical insurance
- Administrative registration
- Personal expenses and tips
- Visa fees and travel insurance
- Transfer from airport / railway station on first day
- Transfer to airport / railway station on last day
- Airline tickets

**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.

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.

Crampons for walking on ice will be provided on the spot.

**Recommended checklist**

Thermal underwear  
POLARTEC or similar pullover  
Windproof waterproof pants and jacket (GORE-TEX, EVENT, SIMPA-TEX)  
Trekking pants  
Long sleeve shirts or sweatshirts  
Headlamp  
Sunscreen for skin and lips  
Sunglasses with filter  
Toilet roll  
Pocket knife (to put in checked baggage)  
Flask  
Sewing kit  
Down jacket  
Fleece jacket or warm sweater  
Comfortable pants  
Mountain boots for walking on ice and snow

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Thick socks

Wool gloves and winter cap

Warm gloves or mittens

Moisturizer

Lipstick

Towel

Important travel documents: Passport and visa, original or electronic airplane tickets (with a sets of photocopies kept separately), bank card  
Wipes

Wristwatch or pocket alarm clock

Charger and spare battery for camera/phone

Photo / video camera

Tour vouchers and programme

Ice cleats

Down sleeping bag rated from -30°C to -20°C

## Meals

At restaurants and homestays in cities, traditional cuisine consists of local specialties.

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.

## 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.

## 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.

## 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,

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- adhesive plaster,
- sterile pads.

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

### 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 10383/18-49 from November 8, 2018. 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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