

Grand Crossing Of Lake Baikal 2023 — Detailed description

Trip Length: 7 Group: 12-15 Departure: Fixed Period: February - March

Trip overview

Do you want to go for a real adventure on ice in Siberia? If that's so, our tour "Lake Baikal's Great Crossing" was made just for you! Cross the deepest part of the legendary Lake Baikal and find yourself 40 miles (60 km) away from any human habitation.

Drawing on our years of experience, we created a brand new tour, for those like you who wish to experience genuine adventures.

See the stunning, untouched landscapes spread before your eyes as you travel from Olkhon Island to Bargusin. From the western bank to the eastern bank, the lake is 30 miles wide. Crossing it doesn't imply any kind of physical training; nor do you need any special gear except from your personal belongings. The equipment needed for the group will be waiting for you on site, in Baikal Ice Camp. You will also be provided with an expedition sled and ice cleats so you can walk on ice safely.

In order that you find yourself as comfortable may be, your accommodations were specially designed to resist extreme conditions. Welcome to BaikalNature Ice Camp!

Your adventure:

- Spend two nights on the Lake Baikal ice at the very location where its depth reaches 5000 feet (1500 m);
- Experience the purest Baikal water in an ice-made bania;
- Play hockey on the clearest Baikal ice;
- Ice skate on the deepest lake in the world;
- Enjoy our Ice Bar its very special menu (payment on site).

The camp include:

- 5-6 persons heated tents in which you'll find a single bed, 2 bunk beds or 3 bunk beds, a mattress, a sleeping bag and 1 twin/double/singel tent with a double bed of 190x120 - for supplement 5 400 roubles / per night;
- a kitchen/dining room tent for 16 persons where your chef will cook you warm dishes;
- an ice-made bania;
- the guide's tent and the gear tent;
- the Ice Bar with Baikal vodka and other alcoholic beverages;
- toilet-tents;
- boots for walking in the camp - traditional Russian valenki.

This tour is organized in mid-February and in March when the weather on the lake is usually fair. However, it may happen that the temperature falls under 4°F (20°C), that a strong wind starts to blow or that the fog suddenly descends over the lake.

That's why each trek you do is registered in the Ministry of Emergency Situations. You are also insured in case of accident. Moreover, your trek is run by a seasoned guide who carries with him a GPS navigator in which your hike coordinates are previously entered and a satellite phone.

So, even if you are unlucky with the weather, you'll be able to return to the camp.

Chose this tour and experience feelings you never have before and that you shall never forget. Come back home with a thousand pictures of the clear, pure ice of the lake, memories from the nights spent upon this 1500 meters deep ice; having tested your moral and physical strength.

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Highlights

- Crossing of frozen Lake Baikal in its widest and deepest part
- Full day on the ice in the geographical center of Baikal
- Circular itinerary passing through Buryatia and Trans-Siberian
- Sleeping bags, ice-cleats and sleds are included
- Pre-prepared tent camp in the center of Lake Baikal - "Baikal Ice Camp"
- Ice bar in the middle of Baikal
- Ice hockey and skating on the natural ice
- Russian banya and ice-hole in the deepest place of the lake

Tour type

ACTIVENATURE

Difficulty

Challenging - 5-7 hours of challenging physical activity daily

Comfort

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

Begining / end of the tour

Tour starts: Irkutsk, End of the tour: Irkutsk

Program

Day 1 — Arrival to Irkutsk

- 11:00 — Transfer from the airport to the hotel
12:00 — Check-in the hotel
13:00 — Lunch (Not included)
15:00 — Meeting with your guide near the reception of the hotel
16:00 — Free time in Irkutsk
19:00 — Dinner (Not included)

Overnight in the hotel

Hotels: Accommodation in the hotel Angara, Twin standard room

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

Day 2 — Olkhon island - the heart of the lake Baikal

- 08:00 — Breakfast in the hotel
09:30 — Meeting with your driver and guide in the hotel
10:00 — Transfer Irkutsk - Khujir
12:00 — Lunch in the local cafe (Not included)
13:00 — Continuation of the way
16:00 — Arrival to Khujir
19:00 — Dinner in the resort

Overnight in the resort

Уникальный внутренний номер документа: 416701

Hotels: Accommodation at the resort Nabaymar, Chambre twin comfortable
Comfort: Comfortable accommodation, WC and bath / shower in room

Day 3 — Beginning of the crossing

07:30 — Breakfast

08:00 — Transfer Khuzhir - cape Khoboy

10:00 — Start of crossing

13:00 — Lunch on the open air

14:00 — Continuation of the trekking

17:00 — Arrival to the camp

18:00 — Hot dinner

19:30 — Tent banya

Overnight in the tent

Hotels: Camp on the ice of Baikal, Tent for 5-6 persons

Comfort:

Day 4 — Day on the ice

08:30 — Breakfast in the camping

10:00 — Free day in the middle of Baikal

13:00 — Lunch on the ice

15:00 — Free time

18:00 — Hot dinner

Overnight in the tent

Hotels: Camp on the ice of Baikal, Tent for 5-6 persons

Comfort:

Day 5 — Eastern coast of the Baikal

08:00 — Breakfast

09:00 — Continuation of the ice-trekking

13:00 — Lunch in the open air

17:00 — Finish of the trekking and transfer to Ust-Barguzin

18:30 — Check-in and russian banya

19:00 — Dinner

Overnight in the guest house

Hotels: Accommodation in Ust-Barguzin, Twin room

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

Day 6 — Ulan-Ude - the capital of the Buryatia

09:00 — Breakfast

10:00 — Transfer Ust-Barguzin - Ulan-Ude

13:00 — Lunch in the café of traditional buriat cuisine (Not included)

14:00 — Arrival in Ulan-Ude

15:00 — Visit of the Ivolginsky datsan

19:00 — Dinner (Not included)

22:30 — Departure to Irkutsk by night train

Night on board of the train

Hotels: Overnight in the train, The 2nd class compartment

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Comfort:

Day 7 — Return to Irkutsk

07:15 — Arrival in Irkutsk

07:45 — Transfer to the airport

Departures

Start	End	Basic price per person
25.02.2023	03.03.2023	88400.00 RUB
01.03.2023	07.03.2023	88400.00 RUB

Note

Banya is included on Day 5. Single supplement 6 500 RUB (only in the days 1,2 and 5). Supplement for the twin/double/single tent - 6 400 roubles / per night / per tent. Trips of 24/02, 02/03 and 08/03 are in the opposite direction. The price of the tour includes Accident insurance for persons under 75 years.

What's included

Price includes

- English-speaking guide services
- Accommodation as per itinerary
- Transport as per itinerary
- Excursions and visits as per itinerary
- Tent rental
- Transfer from airport / railway station on first day
- Transfer to airport / railway station on last day
- Letter of invitation
- Camping outfit rental
- Sleeping bag rental
- Railway tickets in 2nd class
- Valenky (felt boots; only in BaikalNature Ice Camp)
- Russian-speaking guide services
- Meals according to the program
- Accident insurance
- Ice studs for shoes
- Sleeping bag in BaikalNature Ice Camp

Price does not include

- Personal expenses and tips
- Visa fees and travel insurance
- 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":

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- 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.

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

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 BACKPACK: must contain the rest of your stuff. It will be in the luggage compartment during the flight. You will bring it during some days of the trekking.

Recommended checklist

POLARTEC or similar pullover

Windproof waterproof pants and jacket (GORE-TEX, EVENT, SIMPA-TEX)

Trekking socks

Trekking pants

Long sleeve shirts or sweatshirts

Headlamp

Sunscreen for skin and lips

Sunglasses with filter

Pocket knife (to put in checked baggage)

Flip-flops for banya

Sewing kit

Down jacket

Fleece jacket or warm sweater

Comfortable pants

Mountain boots for walking on ice and snow

Thick socks

Warm gloves or mittens

Lipstick

Bath towel

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

Charger and spare battery for camera/phone

Photo / video camera

Meals

In the canteen at the inns, fresh local products.

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.

Уникальный внутренний номер документа: 416701

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,
- adhesive plaster,
- sterile pads.

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

Medical Form

You should be physically fit enough for this tour.

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:

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- 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

First-aid kit, satellite phone, walkie-talkie are available at your guide.

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