

## Phototour with Viktor Balaguer — Detailed description

Trip Length: 10   Group: 10-15   Departure: Fixed   Period: February - March

### Trip overview

Hello, my name is Viktor. Come with me in the heart of Siberia to discover the beauty of the Baikal lake and surrounding area for a trip about discovery and photography.

I will be present at every moment of the stay to give you my advices and tips about photography.

This trip will give you the opportunity to try several types of photography.

We will see together how to approach the different shooting techniques:

- Technical bases of photography
- How to use your camera properly in different kinds of situations
- Work the composition
- Doing photography with difficult exposures (strong contrast as we can see in winter)
- Long exposure technique
- How to create a story with your photos
- Night photography (if weather permitting, there will be night sessions and also sunrise/sunset)
- Street photography
- And of course landscape photography in this magical place that is Baikal lake.

There will also be group sessions where we will talk together about photo editing with lightroom and review of photos from participants taken during the stay.

We will also have the chance and the privilege of sleeping in the ice camp which is located in the middle of Lake Baikal, it's a unique experience to live and also a chance for photography.

I'm waiting you to explore the Baikal lake and share our passion: photography.

### Highlights

- Tour with the experienced professional photographer
- Discovery of the most stunning places of winter Baikal
- Crossing Lake Baikal by 4x4 in its widest part
- Overnight in the Baikal ice camp in the geographical center of lake
- The circular itinerary
- Visit of the Republic of Buryatia

### Tour type

DISCOVERYNATURE

### Difficulty

Moderately Easy - 1-3 hours of 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

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## Program

### Day 1 — First meeting with the lake Baikal

10:30 — Arrival in Irkutsk

11:00 — Departure to Listvyanka

11:00 — Excursion to Taltsy museum

13:40 — Lunch in the restaurant

15:40 — Lift on the Chersky rock

19:00 — Dinner (Not included)

Overnight in the guest house

Hotels: Accommodation in the hotel "BaikalCedar", Standard twin room

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

### Day 2 — On Baikal ice by hovercraft

09:00 — Breakfast in the hotel

10:00 — Transfer to the port

10:15 — Departure by hovercraft to the MRS village

13:00 — Lunch box

14:00 — Continuation of the way to MRS

16:00 — Arrival to MRS

19:00 — Dinner (Not included)

Overnight at your resort

Hotels: Accommodation at the resort Naratey, Twin comfort room

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

### Day 3 — Trip to the islands of the Small Sea

09:00 — Breakfast at your resort

13:00 — Picnic on the open air

19:00 — Dinner (Not included)

Overnight at your resort

Hotels: Accommodation at the resort Naratey

### Day 4 — The biggest island of the Baikal lake

09:00 — Breakfast at your resort

10:00 — Transfer to Olkhon island

13:00 — Arrival to Khujir

13:30 — Lunch at your resort

14:00 — Visit of Khujir

19:00 — Dinner (Not included)

Overnight at the resort

Hotels: Accommodation at the resort Nabaymar, Twin room

Comfort: Comfortable accommodation, WC and shower on the floor

### Day 5 — BaikalNature Ice Camp

09:00 — Breakfast at the resort

10:00 — Transfer to the ice camp

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13:00 — Picnic lunch

15:00 — Arrival to the camp

19:00 — Dinner

Overnight in the camp BaikalNature Ice Camp

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

Comfort:

#### **Day 6 — 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 7 — Baikal crossing**

09:00 — Breakfast in the camp

13:00 — Lunch in the camp

14:00 — Time at leisure in the camp

16:30 — Departure to Ust-Barguzin and check-in

19:00 — Dinner

20:00 — Russian banya

Overnight

Hotels: Accommodation in Ust-Barguzin, Twin room

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

#### **Day 8 — Barguzin valley and the Dancing Goddess**

09:00 — Breakfast

10:00 — Full-day excursion by Russian 4x4 (UAZ)

13:00 — Lunch (picnic)

19:00 — Homemade dinner

Night in a guest house

Hotels: Accommodation in Ust-Barguzin, Twin room

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

#### **Day 9 — Discovery of Ulan-Ude**

08:00 — Homemade breakfast

09:00 — Transfer to Ulan-Ude

13:00 — Lunch

14:00 — Arrival and free time

22:30 — Departure to Irkutsk by night train

Overnight in the train

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

Comfort:

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## Day 10 — Return to Irkutsk

07:15 — Arrival in Irkutsk

08:00 — Transfer to airport. End of the program.

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## Departures

Start	End	Basic price per person
19.02.2022	28.02.2022	125900.00 RUB
28.02.2022	09.03.2022	125900.00 RUB

## Note

The price is indicated per person in a group of 10 people. Single supplement - 12 300 RUB / pers. The price includes breakfast on Day 2-9, lunch on Day 1-9 and dinner on Day 5-8. The category of the room or accommodation can be changed according to the type you want. Please contact us before your departure.

## What's included

### Price includes

- English-speaking guide
- Russian-speaking guide
- Accommodation as per itinerary
- Excursions and visits as per itinerary
- Nature reserves and parks entrance permissions
- Bathing in springs
- Airplane/ train tickets
- Accident insurance
- Ice crampons
- Renting a sleeping bag for overnight stays in a tent
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- Ropeway to Chersky Rock
- Ice studs for shoes
- Meals according to the program

### Price does not include

- Meals as per itinerary
- Personal expenses and tips
- Visa fees and travel insurance
- Airline tickets
- Optional activities
- Accident insurance

## 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.

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- 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/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**

comfortable shoes for trekking

raincoat / windproof and waterproof jacket with HOOD!

sunglasses

sunscreen and lip balm

swimsuit / swim trunks

towel

warm mittens (for convenience, thin gloves and a second layer of mittens with fur) / ski gloves

winter expedition boots (like Sorel or Baffin)

fleece balaclava

moisturizing cream

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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.

Picnic for lunch and hot meal served at your accommodation in the evening.

### **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

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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.

## **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.

## **Medical Form**

No particular physical condition is required.

## **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

## **Cancellation Options**

The cancellation options are:

- more than 40 days before departure - 30 % of the tour price,
- 39 - 10 days before departure - 60 % of the tour price,
- less than 10 days before departure - 100 % of the tour price.

## **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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