

Great Baikal 2014 — Detailed description

Trip Length: Group: 6-10 Departure: Fixed Period: December - January

Trip overview

You wish to discover Lake Baikal from south to north, west to east ? you would like to get a glimpse into the diversity and uniqueness of its area? You enjoy hiking and would be glad to travel the most picturesque footpaths along the lake? Join the adventure!

Along those 18 days you will alternate 2 to 3 days treks and transfers by car, by boat or by train. During this outstanding journey around the whole lake, you will discover stunning sceneries: steppes, river delta, sand dunes, cliffs, taiga – preserved fauna and flora and the rough but generous soul of Siberians.

While trekking, your own luggage and the common staff will be carried by jeep or boat so that you only have to carry a small bag with you and enjoy the nature!

On the first day of our journey, we will discover by train the south of the lake, travelling the famous Circumbaikal railway, “The gold buckle of Russia’s steel belt”. The railway has been built in the 19th century very close to the shores and is truly an engineering masterpiece. In Port-Baikal, where the railway ends up, we cross Angara spring and arrive in Listvianka, a pretty siberian village.

From Listvianka, we hike 2 days trek through taiga and pasture, heading to Cape Kadilny.

We discover Pestchanaya sand bay, its pinewoods and its turquoise water on short walks.

We arrive on Olkhon Island – heart of the lake and buriat sacred land. During our 3 days trek, we discover the whole north of the island: steppe, sand dunes, cliffs and pasture.

We reach the North of the lake Baikal and travel the “Great Baikal Trail” 3 days long. Sand dunes and crashing waves let place to dense taiga, with moss and lichens as dominant ground vegetation.

We sail to Sviatoy Nos Peninsula, discover Chivyrkuy Bay, seabirds’ paradise!

Highlights

- Tour the whole Lake Baikal
- Bath in Baikal clear water
- Hike the most picturesque footpaths in the Baikal area
- Discover 80% of the lake's coastline
- Meet with locals and enjoy traditional food

Tour type

NATURE

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.

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Program

Day 1 — -

Day 2 — -

Day 3 — -

Day 4 — -

Day 5 — -

Day 6 — -

Day 7 — -

Day 8 — -

Day 9 — -

Day 10 — -

Day 11 — -

Day 12 — -

Day 13 — -

Day 14 — -

Day 15 — -

Day 16 — -

Day 17 — -

Day 18 — -

Day 19 — -

Departures

New departures available soon

Note

Supplement for accommodation in single room Days 1,3,6,7,11,15,17: 12 550 RUB If the number of participants is less than 6, the following supplement is applied: - group of 2 - 74 620 RUB / pers. - group of 3-4 - 23 820 RUB / pers. - group of 5 - 9 160 RUB / pers.

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
- Banya
- Luggage transport
- Letter of invitation
- Camping outfit rental

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
- Optional activities

Checklist & Equipment

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

If you plan your trip in May or September, please feel free to bring your hat, gloves and windjacket 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.

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

- Sleeping bag rated from 0° C to +15° C
- Raincoat or wind and waterproof shell jacket (with hood !)
- Large 60 litres backpack
- POLARTEC or similar pullover
- Windproof waterproof pants and jacket (GORE-TEX, EVENT, SIMPA-TEX)
- Trekking socks
- Trekking pants
- Long sleeve shirts or sweatshirts
- Shorts
- T-shirts
- Socks
- Cap or hat to protect against sun
- Foulard or tagelmust
- Comfortable walking shoes (like Vibram or similar)
- Comfortable shoes for city
- Headlamp
- Sunscreen for skin and lips
- Sunglasses with filter
- Mosquito net for face

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Toilet roll
Pocket knife (to put in checked baggage)
Flask
Flip-flops for banya
Sewing kit
Fleece jacket or warm sweater
Moisturizer
Lipstick
Bath towel
Swimsuit
Important travel documents: Passport and visa, original or electronic airplane tickets (with a sets of photocopies kept separately), bank card
Tick and mosquitoes repellent spray
Forceps for extracting ticks
Wipes
Wristwatch or pocket alarm clock
Charger and spare battery for camera/phone
Photo / video camera
Tour vouchers and programme
Laundry detergent to wash your clothes

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.

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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

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

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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