BAIKALNATURE

Reindeer herders of Yakutia — Detailed description

Trip Length: 10 Group: 4-10 Departure: Fixed Period: December - January

Trip overview

Willing to live a unique experience in winter fairy-tale, to see charming snow-covered nature of Yakutia and to be in seclusion from all civilization and entire immersion in nature? We propose you our tour adventure through the cold Siberian weather "Reindeer herders of Yakutia"!

During this trip you will make a travel by the Kolyma Highway which is also known as the "Road of Bones", you will see Black and Yellow Prizhim (part of the highway that horrified drivers some years ago), you will cross the Lena and Aldan rivers on the ice road. You will have a chance to know the real herders' life: learning to use a lasso for catching reindeer, preparing reindeers for journey, travelling on reindeer sled. You will apreciate staying with the locals themselves and the hospitality of extraordinarily welcoming people .

In Yakutsk you will make a city tour: The Mammoth museum and the complex "Kingdom of Permafrost" (ice tunnel with the head of the real mammoth and ice sculptures) and, of course, you will taste local food in the restaurant of ethno complex Chochur Muran.

ATTENTION: The tour requires good physical and mental preparation.

Highlights

- Visit of the Mammoth museum and of the complex Kingdom of Permafrost
- Travel by The Kolyma Highway which is also known as the "Road of Bones"
- Reindeer sledding through the Oymyakon valleys, forest, and mountains
- Discovery of reindeer herders' life
- Overnight in a tent in snow-covered taiga

Tour type

NATURE

Difficulty

Moderate - 3-5 hours of physical activity daily

Comfort

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

Program

Day 1 — Arrival in Yakutsk

09:30 — Transfer aeroport - hotel
10:30 — Check-in and rest
12:00 — Yakutsk city-tour
13:00 — Lunch (Not included)
16:00 — Free time
19:00 — Dinner (Not included)
Overnight in the hotel

Day 2 — Departure to Khandyga village

ООО «БайкалНейче» 664007, г. Иркутск, ул. Декабрьских событий, 55, офис 405.2

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+7 (3952) 26-56-94
ИНН 3811110257 КПП 384901001 ОГРН 1073811003221 Р/с 40702810110000700937 в АО "ТИНЬКОФФ БАНК"
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08:00 — Breakfast in the hotel
09:00 — Departure
13:00 — Lunch in the cafe en route (Not included)
14:00 — Continuation of road
18:00 — Dinner
19:00 — Arrival and installation in a little hotel
Overnight in the hotel

Day 3 — Raindeer herders' camp

09:00 — Breakfast (Not included)
10:00 — Transfer to the reindeer herder's camp
13:00 — Lunch (Not included)
14:00 — Continuation of the road
19:00 — Dinner in the camp
19:00 — Arrival and check-in
Overnight in the homestay

Day 4 — Starting the expedition

09:00 — Breakfast
11:00 — Preparation for the departure
12:00 — Lunch in camp
13:00 — Start of the reindeer sledding
18:00 — Arrival and installation of the camp
19:00 — Dinner
Overnight in tents

Day 5 — Return to the reindeer herders' camp

09:00 — Breakfast
10:00 — Free time
13:00 — Lunch
15:00 — Way on reindeer sled
19:00 — Dinner in the camp
Overnight in the homestay

Day 6 — Everyday life of the reindeer herders

09:00 — Breakfast in the camp
11:00 — Acquaintance with the life of the camp
13:00 — Lunch in the camp
15:00 — Free time
19:00 — Dinner in the camp
Overnight in the homestay

Day 7 — Return to the Khandyga village

08:00 — Breakfast in the camp
09:00 — Departure to Khandyga

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13:00 — Lunch
15:00 — Continuation of the road
19:00 — Dinner
20:00 — Arrival and installation in the hotel
Overnight in the hotel

Day 8 — Khandyga - Yakutsk

09:00 — Breakfast (Not included)
10:00 — Departure to Yakutsk
13:00 — Lunch (Not included)
19:00 — Dinner (Not included)
19:00 — Arrival and check-in in the hotel
Overnight in the hotel

Day 9 — Aquaintance of Yakutsk

09:00 — Breakfast in the hotel
10:00 — Yakutsk city-tour
13:00 — Lunch (Not included)
14:00 — Continuation of the excursion
19:00 — Dinner (Not included)
Overnight in the hotel

Day 10 — End of the programme

09:00 — Breakfast
11:00 — Check-out. End of the programme.

Departures

New departures available soon

Note

Guaranteed departure for a group of 4 persons. The price includes breakfast on Day 2, 4-7, 9,10; lunch Day 4-6 and dinner on Day 3-6. Single supplement 3500 RUB / pers. (days 1, 8, 9) We can switch the category of rooms or accommodation according to your request (days 1, 8, 9). Please contact us before your departure.

What's included

Уникальный внутренний номер документа: 1037872

Price includes

- English-speaking guide
- Russian-spaking guide
- Accommodation as per itinerary
- Transport a per itinerary
- Meals as per itinerary
- Excursions and visits as per itinerary
- Tent rental
- Bathing in springs
- Letter of invitation
- Guide during free days

Price does not include

- Personal expenses and tips
- Visa fees and travel insurance
- Sleeping bag rental
- 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.

If you are traveling in the spring or autumn, please check with your manager for a list of recommended equipment and an approximate weather forecast.

Recommended checklist

underwear, socks (several pairs)
rubber slippers
comfortable shoes for trekking
raincoat / windproof and waterproof jacket with HOOD!
sunglasses
sunscreen and lip balm
swimsuit / swim trunks
towel
trekking telescopic poles
comfortable winter boots (suitable for walking on ice and snow)
fleece jacket/sweater with collar
warm mittens (for convenience, thin gloves and a second layer of mittens with fur) / ski gloves
comfortable warm hat and scarf (snood)
ski mask
winter expedition boots (like Sorel or Baffin)
fleece balaclava

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Meals

At restaurants and homestays in cities, traditional cuisine consists of local specialties.
Homestay cuisine based on fresh products.
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 questions regarding obtaining an electronic visa, please contact your tour manager.

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 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

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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

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

Security

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Уникальный внутренний номер документа: 1037872