

Heart Of Lake Baikal Cruise — Detailed description

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

Trip overview

This cruise operates aboard two cruise vessels, standard-class *Tatyana* and comfort-class *Sibiryak*, and takes part of the following itinerary: Listvyanka - Circum-Baikal Railway - Peschanaya bay - Olkhon - Maloye More - Olkhon - Chivyrkuysky Gulf - Maloye More - Peschanaya bay - Circum-Baikal Railway - Listvyanka. In accordance with their point of departure or arrival, they may be preceded or followed by stays on Olkhon Island, in Listvyanka, and other places of Lake Baikal.

The Heart Of Baikal Cruise is ideal for those who spent some time on Olkhon Island and wish to continue to discover the Baikal and participate in a small cruise. This itinerary will take you from Olkhon to Listvyanka from where you can easily get to Irkutsk. Over a short period of time you will visit the sites only accessible by water such as rock paintings of Sagan-Zaba and Peschanaya bay (Sandy bay). You will have the opportunity to enjoy true Russian banya (Russian baths) located on the very shore of the lake in one of the prettiest bays. The voyage will end in the south of the lake with the Circum-Baikal visit to discover this open-air architectural museum.

Extension suggestions:

Before the cruise : Olkhon Island, Ust-Barguzin and the Zabaikalsky National Park, Severobaikalsk.

After the cruise: old Circum-Baikal railway, Listvyanka and Bolshie Koty villages

Highlights

- Discovery of scenic sites of Lake Baikal hardly accessible in summer
- Possibility to integrate the cruise with a land part of journey

Tour type

NATURE

Difficulty

Physical rating not assigned

Comfort

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

Program

Day 1 — -

Day 2 — -

Day 3 — -

Departures

New departures available soon

Note

The price is subject to change due to fuel costs. The trip is priced assuming accommodation in 4-berth cabin. Triple cabin supplement is

Уникальный внутренний номер документа: 383519

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

+7 (3952) 26-56-94

ИНН 3811110257 КПП 384901001 ОГРН 1073811003221 Р/с 40702810110000700937 в АО "ТИНЬКОФФ БАНК"
БИК 044525974 Кор. Счет 30101810145250000974

 [baikalnature.com](https://www.baikalnature.com)

 +7 3952 26-56-94

2500 RUB per person. Twin cabin supplement is 6000 RUB per person.

What's included

Price includes

- English-speaking guide services
- Accommodation as per itinerary
- Transport as per itinerary
- Meals
- Medical insurance
- Excursions and visits as per itinerary
- Reserves and national parks entrance permissions
- Letter of invitation

Price does not include

- Administrative registration
- Personal expenses and tips
- Visa fees and travel insurance
- Optional activities
- Transfers
- Airline tickets

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 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.

Recommended checklist

- Raincoat or wind and waterproof shell jacket (with hood !)
- Universal AC power outlet
- POLARTEC or similar pullover
- Windproof waterproof pants and jacket (GORE-TEX, EVENT, SIMPA-TEX)
- 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
- Toilet roll
- Pocket knife (to put in checked baggage)
- Flask

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Slippers
Sewing kit
Fleece jacket or warm sweater
Moisturizer
Lipstick
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
Binoculars
Charger and spare battery for camera/phone
Photo / video camera
Tour vouchers and programme
Ice cleats
Laundry detergent to wash your clothes

Meals

Three meals a day on shipboard, cuisine, based on fresh products and caught fish.
If you are a vegetarian or have any particular preferences, please let us know, so we could adapt the menu.

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

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,

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- 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

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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