

## Olkhon, Heart of Lake Baikal — Detailed description

Trip Length: 4    Group: 4-16    Departure: Fixed    Period: December - January

### Trip overview

Here is one of the best destinations if you have four days at your disposal. Discover Olkhon Island, it's discover the heart of Lake Baikal. This trip is a classical program to explore the largest island of the lake and enjoy of its incredible sightseeing above the lake.

The island represents the geographical, the historical and the sacred heart of the lake, the spot of legends and traditions. Olkhon is the biggest island of the lake. It is a part of the chain of mountains hiding in deep waters of the lake. Located in the centre of the lake close to its deepest point (1637m / 5370 ft), only Olkhon combines all the diversity of landscapes of Lake Baikal. It is a particular land with its microclimate, its perfect fauna and flora. The island is 72 km (45 mi) long and 15 km (9 mi) wide with the surface of 730 sq km (280 sq mi). Shoreline is an alternation of cliffs and sandy bays, forests change into steppes where the winds of Lake Baikal work like skillful artists...

### Highlights

- Discovery of the largest island of Lake Baikal
- Visit to the sacred shamans' sites
- Tasting of endemic fish - Baikal omul

### Tour type

PURENATURE

### Difficulty

Easy - nothing more than normal walking while sight-seeing

### 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 — Way to the biggest island of the Baikal lake

09:00 — Transfer Irkutsk - Olkhon island (scheduled bus)

13:00 — Lunch (Not included)

15:00 — Arrival to the island and check-in on the resort

16:00 — Discovery of Burkhan rock

19:00 — Dinner at the resort

Overnight in the resort

Hotels: Accommodation at the resort Lada, -

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

#### Day 2 — Discovery of the island

09:00 — Breakfast at the resort

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БИК 044525974 Кор. Счет 30101810145250000974

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10:00 — Excursion to the south of Olkhon  
13:00 — Outdoor lunch  
18:00 — Come back to the resort and russian banya  
19:00 — Dinner on the resort  
Overnight on the resort

Hotels: Accommodation at the resort Lada, -  
Comfort: Comfortable accommodation, WC and bath / shower in room

### Day 3 — Northernmost point of Olkhon

09:00 — Breakfast in the resort  
10:00 — Olkhon island excursion  
13:00 — Outdoor lunch  
14:00 — Walking around and come back  
19:00 — Dinner on the resort  
Overnight on the resort

Hotels: Accommodation at the resort Lada, -  
Comfort: Comfortable accommodation, WC and bath / shower in room

### Day 4 — Departure to Irkutsk

08:00 — Breakfast at the resort  
09:00 — Transfer Olkhon island - Irkutsk (scheduled bus)  
13:00 — Lunch (Not included)  
15:00 — Arrival at the bus station of Irkutsk

## Departures

New departures available soon

## Note

THE TOUR IS AVAILABLE FOR BOOKING FOR ANY DESIRED DATES. PLEASE CONTACT US FOR MORE INFORMATION.  
Supplement for comfortable accommodation, WC and bath / shower in room 4 500 roubles If you want to book additional nights before or after your tour, please contact us for further informations. We can switch the category of rooms or accommodation according to your request. 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
- Accident insurance
- Meals according to the program

### Price does not include

- Visa invitation and registration of passports (for foreign citizens, if necessary)
- Personal expenses and tips
- Visa fees and travel insurance
- Bathing in springs
- Airplane/ train tickets
- English-speaking guide

## Checklist & Equipment

You will need in Russia in winter:

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- 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.

For summer travel, we recommend preparing:

- comfortable clothes for hot and sunny weather - we advise you to give preference to natural fabrics, be sure to have sun protection (comfortable hat, SPF protection cream, sunglasses);
- protection from rain and wind - a long raincoat with a hood, for active tours - a waterproof cover on a backpack, the second pair of shoes (the ability to dry a second pair if they get wet);
- clothing in case of bad weather - when the temperature drops (in mountainous regions, on the coasts, in the evening), we recommend taking a light jacket, a warm sweater and pants

In different regions of Russia there can be significant temperature fluctuations in the summer. If you do not have experience traveling in similar regions, please contact your manager to pick up the necessary things and find out about the weather forecast in the place where you are planning your trip.

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## Recommended checklist

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## Meals

In the canteen at the inns, fresh local 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.

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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

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.

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 Dekabrskih Sobyti Str., office 204.1 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

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services.

## 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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