

Yakutian Expedition: From Verkhoyansk Mountains to Lena Pillars — Detailed description

Trip Length: Group: 5-6 Departure: Fixed Period: December - January

Trip overview

You like vast open spaces, untouched nature and exclusive tours?

Take part in our expedition in the very heart of Russian Far-East !

This 10 days tour is divided into two parts and will give you an insight into yakutian nature jewels. First, we will spend 4 days in the rather inaccessible Verkhoyansk Mountains. Then, we will spend a few days in the Lena valley to discover the outstanding Lena Pillars - Unesco listed.

On the day of arrival, we will visit Yakutsk, the capital city of Sakha Republic (official name for Yakutia) located 450 South from Polar Circle.

On following day, we will fly with a AN-2 biplane to lake Ilderkey, located in the South part of Verkhoyansk Mountains. In summer, the lake is only accessible by air. After meeting with reindeer and horse herders, who are going to guide during those few days in the mountains, we will have a walk around the lake. We will spend the next two days on horseback with the herders to track local animals (mouflon, moose, brown bear) in order to photograph them.

We will then fly back to Yakoutsk where we will spend the night before heading to Lena valley. We will go back in time, when Yakutia was covered with water which teem with life and much later on, during Neolithic times, when hominids settled on the shores of the Lena. We will go by boat until the impressive Lena Pillars, a natural rock formation along the banks of the Lena river. We will walk to their top in order to admire the beautiful landscape.

Our last evening will be organised in Yakutsk ethnographic centre, where a festive dinner based on both Yakutian and Russian meals will be served.

Highlights

- Untouched nature of Verkhoyansk Mountains
- Siberian wildlife: mouflon, reindeers, brown bear, moose
- "Lena Pillars" Unesco site
- Private flight in legendary sovietic biplane AN-2
- A region alive with History and authenticity

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.

Program

Day 1 — -


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Day 2 — -

Day 3 — -

Day 4 — -

Day 5 — -

Day 6 — -

Day 7 — -

Day 8 — -

Day 9 — -

Day 10 — -

Departures

New departures available soon

Note

What's included

Price includes

- English-speaking guide services
- Russian-speaking guide
- Accommodation as per itinerary
- Transport as per itinerary
- Excursions and visits as per itinerary
- Nature reserves and parks entrance permissions
- Bathing in springs
- Airplane/ train tickets
- Celebratory dinner with alcoholic beverages
- Letter of invitation
- Camping outfit rental
- Horse and equipment rental

Price does not include

- Meals as per itinerary
- Visa invitation and registration of passports (for foreign citizens, if necessary)
- Personal expenses and tips
- Visa fees and travel insurance
- Optional activities

Checklist & Equipment

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.

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Recommended checklist

underwear, socks (several pairs)
pants, long sleeve jacket/tracksuit
rubber slippers
comfortable shoes for trekking

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comfortable shoes for the city
cap/comfortable hat on head (for sun protection)
sunscreen and lip balm
swimsuit / swim trunks
sleeping bag
trekking telescopic poles
winter (down) jacket and warm pants (windproof and waterproof) / winter suit
thermal underwear
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
thermal socks
comfortable warm hat and scarf (snood)
ski mask
fleece balaclava
moisturizing cream

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Meals

At restaurants and homestays in cities, traditional cuisine consists of local specialties.
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 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.

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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.

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.

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

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

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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