

PHOTO TOUR: AUTUMN BAIKAL

Prepared by
LTD Colors of Baikal
Irkutsk 2020

DETAILED PROGRAMME 2020

DAY 1

Arrival in the airport/railway station of Irkutsk.
Meeting your English-speaking guide.
Transfer to the hotel. Lunch. A city tour takes you to the historic districts of the city, the place where Irkutsk was founded by the cossack Yakov Pokhabov, ancient churches, cultural sites and monuments. Exploring the local market. Dinner..

DAY 2

Morning transfer to the lakeside Listvyanka village. On the way we are going to visit the open air architecture museum Taltsy. Talsty museum opens its doors to all visitors wishing to enjoy the beauty of different types of old wooden constructions - civil, religions and defensive - from the 17th to the 20th centuries. You will also learn a lot about the cultural heritage of Russian, Buryat, Tofalar and Evenks people. Arriving to Listvyanka we'll make the stop near the source of Angara - the only river running out of Baikal - and the sacred Shaman Rock. Lunch. Afterwards we'll visit the Baikal limnological museum where you will learn a lot about the unique flora and fauna of the lake. If you don't suffer from dizziness you can also enjoy the virtual diving to the bottom of the lake to see it more closely. Explore the village with its fish market and the church of Saint Nicholas. Dinner. Take the chairlift to the Chersky Rock to enjoy the panoramic view of the lake which opens from the top. Return to the hotel..

DAY 3

Ferry trip to the Port Baikal where we'll board on the Circumbaikal train to make a day trip on a former Trans-Siberian railway along the lake shore. The Circumbaikal contains thirty eight tunnels with a total length of 9063 m (the longest of them, a tunnel through cape Polovinnyj, is 777.5 m long). There are also 15 stone galleries and 3 ferro-concrete galleries with apertures, 248 bridges and viaducts, and 268 retaining walls. We are going to enjoy a day trip on board of the train making several stop to admire tunnels, bridges and to wander along the coast of the Baikal lake with lots of wild flowers. The train arrives to Sludyanka village in the evening. Then we head to Arshan village for the overnight in a local hotel..

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DAY 4

We'll spend the day exploring the Arshan village, a small picturesque village located in the republic of Buryatia at the foot of Eastern Sayan mountains. It's known as «Little Siberian Switzerland» because of its healing hot springs that rise to the surface near Kyngarga river. Walking in Tunkinsky National Park. Short trekking to the Kyngarga waterfall. Lunch. Visiting the local market and a small buddhist datsan (monastery), hidden in the forest..

DAY 5

Departure to the southern coast of Baikal through the Tanhoy natural reserve, situated on the lake shore on the foot of Chamar-Daban mountains. The main aim of the reserve is to support the natural cedar forest. In the reserve you'll find the museum of Nature with the Ethnic theme park with more than 50 species of rare plants and 250 species of birds. Return to Irkutsk in the evening.

DAY 6

Early morning departure to Olkhon island, the largest island of Baikal and one of the sacred shamanist centres, land full of legends and holy places. On the way we are going to have lunch in a local cafe with Buryat typical cuisine. Ferry or hovercraft trip (depending on the water/ice conditions) across the Maloe more (Small sea) strait. Arrival to the main village on the island, called Khuzhir. Walking in the village to the famous Shamanka rock. Accommodation in a guest-house.

DAY 7

Morning excursion at the northern end of Olkhon island. On the way we are going to make several stops in the most picturesque places: the cliff Three Brothers, the Love cape and many other. The final point of our tour is the cape Khoboy. This is a place where the smaller and bigger seas meet and form the widest place of the lake of 79.5 km. From the top of the cape open a breath-taking panoramic view. Return to the village in the afternoon. Free time before dinner to enjoy the last sunset on the island. with Buryat typical cuisine. Ferry or hovercraft trip (depending on the water/ice conditions) across the Maloe more (Small sea) strait. Arrival to the main village on the island, called Khuzhir. Walking in the village to the famous Shamanka rock. Accommodation in a guest-house.

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DAY 8

Excursion around the southern part of Olkhon island with Russian 4 WD jeeps UAZ, driving on the ice of Baikal Lake and making stops in the most picturesque places with the great views to Khuzhir village and Maloe more strait. Making stop near the Khankhoy lake and exploring the eastern coast of the lake. Ferry trip crossing the strait. Return to Irkutsk. Accommodation in a hotel. Dinner.

DAY 9

Transfer to the airport/railway station.

Conditions of the journey:

Comfortable single accommodation (except for one night in Buguldeika where you will have single room with shared WC).
All meals included.
Private transport.
English speaking guide.

Price includes the following services:
excursions mentioned
the entrance fee to all mentioned museums and the national park
the rent of the hovercraft

Price doesn't include:
Visa fees
Insurance
Extra drinks off menu
Luggage service
Personal expenses
Tips