

SIBERIAN SUMMER ON BAIKAL

Prepared by
LTD Colors of Baikal
Irkutsk 2020

DETAILED PROGRAMME 2020

DAY 1

Arrival to the airport/railway station of Irkutsk, meeting with your English-speaking guide.

Transfer to the hotel. Lunch. Your city tour will introduce you to the historic districts of the city, the place where Irkutsk was founded by the cossack Yakov Pokhabov, its ancient churches, cultural sites and monuments. Next is the visit to the Historic Memorial Decembrists' Museum (house-museum of Decembrist Sergei Volkonsky), where you are going to hear many stories about the life of Decembrists in Siberia. Dinner.

DAY 2

Morning transfer to Listvyanka, a lakeside village 67 km away from Irkutsk city. On the way we are going to visit the Talsty Museum of Wooden Architecture and Ethnography. 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. If you feel like it, you can try a typical Russian entertainment - a cowhide toboggan. We then travel a little further to see the source of Angara - the only river running out of Baikal - and the sacred Shaman Rock. Upon arrival to Listvyanka, first we have lunch, then we continue our tour visiting 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. The day is concluded with one more adventure - taking the chairlift to the top of the Chersky Rock which delivers spectacular view of the lake. Return to the hotel.

DAY 3

Boat trip to the village Bolshie Koty 18 km away from Listvyanka. On the way you'll enjoy the view of the cliffs with its beautiful forests. Back on dry land, we'll explore the village. Lunch. Short trekking to Sennaya valley. This beautiful path goes by the lake, forming the route full of extraordinary views of Baikal. The boat will be waiting for us in the end. Take a well-earned rest as you travel back to Listvyanka village. Overnight in a hotel..

SIBERIAN SUMMER ON BAIKAL

Prepared by
LTD Colors of Baikal
Irkutsk 2020

DETAILED PROGRAMME 2020

DAY 4

Early morning departure to Olkhon island, the largest island on the lake and one of the sacred shamanist centres, land full of legends and holy places. Lunch on the way. You'll have the chance to try the local Buryat dishes. Next we are going to make a stop in the Buryat village Ust-Orda and visit its ethnographic museum. Here you'll watch the folk programme and take part in an authentic shaman ritual, once-in-a-lifetime experience! Enjoy the scenic journey across the picturesque Maloe more (Small sea) strait. Arrival to Khuzhir, the «capital» of Olkhon. Accommodation in a mini hotel. Walking to the main symbol of the island - the famous Shamanka Rock, one of the 9 sacred places of Asia. Dinner.

DAY 5

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 others. The final point of the tour - 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 breathtaking panoramic view. Return to the village in the afternoon. Spend some further time relaxing or wondering around in the village. After dinner you'll have the chance to admire the last sunset on the island..

DAY 6

Boat trip crossing the lake in its widest point. Leaving the island we will pass by the same sights we saw the previous day: island of Maloe more strait, Three Brothers cliff and the cape Khoboy, but now we can enjoy its view from the water. Passing by the picturesque ridge of the Svyatoi Nos (Holy Nose) peninsula. Arriving to the village Ust-Barguzin in the republic of Buryatia. Accommodation in a guest-house. Exploring the surroundings: beautiful cedar forest, sandy beach in Barguzin bay. Russian sauna (banya). Dinner.

DAY 7

The whole day tour to Barguzin valley. We will see the small villages of the province, the Barguzin river that cuts the valley in two parts, the ridge of snow-capped Barguzin mountains, the buddhist temple of the goddess Yanijma. Return to the village in the afternoon..

SIBERIAN SUMMER ON BAIKAL

Prepared by
LTD Colors of Baikal
Irkutsk 2020

DETAILED PROGRAMME 2020

DAY 8

Departure by car/minibus to Ulan-Ude, the capital of the republic of Buryatia. The road goes near the Baikal lake, then turns to the mountains. You can relax, recline in your seat to catch all these breath-taking landscapes of Buryatia. Lunch on the way. Arriving to Ulan-Ude, the capital of the republic. Accommodation in a hotel. Next, you'll stroll across the city, visiting the museum of the Buryat history, that narrows the history of the republic of Buryatia and of the buddhist religion on this lands. In the afternoon you will enjoy the guided walk around the highlights of the city, including the Opera house and the Arbat street.

DAY 9

After breakfast, it's time to visit the buddhist temple Ivolginsky, the largest buddhist centre in Siberia with the imperishable body of Lama Itigelov. Locals make the journey to the monastery regularly looking for different kind of consultations: the best time for starting a new business or a place of education, a name for a baby or a date for a wedding, etc. Next, we proceed our journey to the village of old believers. Old believers are Eastern Orthodox Christians who maintain the liturgical and ritual practices of the Eastern Orthodox Church as they existed prior to the reforms of XVII century. You'll have the chance to know their culture and local customs and they are going to serve you a traditional homemade lunch. Return to Ulan-Ude in the evening. Overnight on board of the train on the way to Irkutsk..

DAY 10

Arrival to Irkutsk. Welcome ceremony on the station. Breakfast and transfer to the airport.

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