

CHRISTMAS ON THE LAKE 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 tour guide. Transfer to the hotel. City tour: you will be introduced to the main places of interest, historic districts, ancient churches, the place where Irkutsk was founded by the cossack Yakov Pokhabov, cultural sites and monuments. Lunch. Next is the visit to the Historic Memorial Decembrists' Museum (house-museum of Decembrist Sergei Volkonsky), where you'll hear many stories about the life of Decembrists in Siberia. Going outside the city to visit the house of local Russian family and to enjoy a nice home-made dinner. Return to Irkutsk..

DAY 2

Morning transfer to Listvyanka village which is situated on the Baikal shore 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 defence - 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. Our next stop stop will be near the source of Angara - the only river running out of Baikal - and the sacred Shaman Rock. Lunch in Listvyanka village. Walking to the port with its local fish market and souvenir stores. Accommodation in a hotel. Russian sauna (banya). Dinner...

DAY 3

After breakfast we'll visit the Baikal limnological museum where you will be introduced to 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. Excursion to Nerpinarium, where you can see the Baikal seals (nerpa) - the only freshwater seal. Lunch. After it you will enjoy the snowmobile ride through the winter forest. All the necessary equipment will be provided. Return to the hotel. Some free time to rest before the party. In Russia, the New Year holiday trumps all other holidays. We believe that the way you meet new year is the way you will spend it, so we always try our best to serve the best dishes, to decorate everything around us and to get dressed as well as possible. Dinner party till midnight...

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DAY 4

The morning is yours to sleep after the party and relax till lunch . In the afternoon we are going to the riding centre for our next adventure - the dog sledging. The local experts will give you all the safety instruction and prepare you for the ride. Then we'll take the chairlift to the Chersky Rock to enjoy the panoramic view of the lake which opens from the top. Coffee break after the descent. Short boat or hovercraft trip on the Baikal lake. Russian sauna (banya). Dinner..

DAY 5

Early morning departure to Olkhon island, the biggest island of Baikal and one of the sacred shamanist centres, land full of legends and holy places. Lunch on the way in a local cafe. Crossing the strait Male more (Small sea) on a hovercraft Khivus (depending on the condition of the ice). Arrival to Khuzhir, the main village on the island. Accommodation in a mini hotel. The rest of the afternoon is yours to explore the village and to walk to the sacred rock Shamanka, called also Burkhan Cape, one of the nine most sacred places in Asia. Dinner...

DAY 6

Excursion around the northern part of Olkhon Island with Russian 4 WD jeeps UAZ, driving on the ice of Baikal lake and sightseeing ice caves and grottos located on some of the small Islands in the Maloe more (Small Sea) , visit picturesque rocks "Three Brothers" and the final point of the tour - Cape Khoboy. The transparently clear ice, grottos and marvellous icicles, frozen coastal rocks and ice caves will not leave you indifferent. In the afternoon return to the village. Some free time before dinner to admire the last sunset on the lake...

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DAY 7

On the way back to Irkutsk, you will visit Ust-Orda village famous for traditional Buryat culture. After the excursion in the local ethnographic museum we'll enjoy the folk program and take part in a real shaman ritual. Accommodation in a hotel. Dinner...

DAY 8

Transfer to the airport/ railway station of Irkutsk.

Conditions of the journey:
Comfortable accommodation.
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

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