

WEST COAST OF BAIKAL LAKE

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. 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, ancient churches, cultural sites and monuments. Visit to the central market. Accommodation in a hotel.

DAY 2

Transfer to the railway station where we will board the Circumbaikal train and travel on the old Trans-Siberian line which goes along the lake shore. Until the middle of the 20th century the Circumbaikal railway was part of the main line of Trans-Siberian Railway; later on, however, a duplicate section of the railway was built. Sometimes called a unique achievement in engineering, the Circumbaikal is one of the picturesque sights of the area around lake Baikal. 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 the coast of the Baikal lake with lots of wild flowers. Arrival to the port Baikal in the evening, ferry trip to Listvyanka village. Accommodation in a hotel..

DAY 3

Exploring Listvyanka village with its port and fish market. Visiting the church of Saint Nicholas. Excursion in 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. Lunch. Taking the chairlift to the Cherskiy Rock with its panoramic view of the lake. Visiting the Nerpinarium, where you will see the unique Baikal seals (nerpa). Return to the hotel. Relaxing evening in the russian sauna (banya)..

DAY 4

We'll spend the day exploring the most beautiful place on the lake - Peschannaya (Sandy) bay. Sandy bay is a unique place, considered the monument of nature, withers famous trees which thanks to the strong winds have open roots and it seems like they are standing on stilts. The bay is enclosed by two picturesque rocks, which look like bell-towers and it's well protected from the wind. The annual temperature here is + 0.4 ° C and the sun is shining almost all year around. In the morning we will start our trip on board of the fast boat navigating along the west coast of the lake with its magical forests. Arriving to the bay, walking on its sandy beaches. Lunch. Return to Listvyanka village in the evening.

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DAY 5

Morning departure to the Talsty Museum of Wooden Architecture where you will learn the history of native people of Siberia. 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. Departure to Irkutsk. Traditional lunch in a Russian family. Arrival to Irkutsk. Visit to the Historic Memorial Decembrists' Museum. Accommodation in a hotel..

DAY 6

Morning departure in direction towards Olkhon island. On the way we'll visit the Buryat village Ust-Orda with its ethnographic museum, where we are going to enjoy the folk programme and take part in an authentic shaman ritual. Next, you can see the Datsan (buddhist temple) and try the traditional Buryat cuisine. Arriving to the picturesque Maloe more strait. Male more (Smaller sea) is a 90 km strait which separates Olkhon island and the mainland, surrounded by many cozy bays from where opens a very nice view of the opposite shore. Accommodation in a hotel. Dinner..

DAY 7

Boat trip to Ogoy island - one of the 24 islands on the lake, the largest island on the Maloe more strait. Ogoy island is considered to be the holy buddhist place because of the symbol of Buddhist faith - Stupa of Enlightenment, which is situated there. Pilgrims come here from all over the world. We are going to climb the rock to see the Stupa. On the top we can enjoy the beautiful view of Maloe more (Small sea) strait and Olkhon island. Coming back to the hotel in the afternoon.

DAY 8

Ferry trip crossing the strait and heading to Olkhon island, the largest island of Baikal and one of the sacred shamanist centres, land full of legends and holy places. Exploring the southern part of the island with its steppes, small lake Khankhoy and many beautiful places. Arriving 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.

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DAY 9

Morning excursion to 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 excursion 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. Enjoying the last sunset on the island.

DAY 10

Free time in the morning. Departure to Irkutsk. Accommodation in a hotel. Farewell dinner.

DAY 11

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