

BAIKAL WINTER FAIRYTALE

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. 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.

Lunch. After lunch we are going to visit the Historic Memorial Decembrists' Museum (house-museum of Decembrist Sergei Volkonsky), where you will hear many stories about the life of Decembrists in Siberia. You'll also see the central market with local products. Dinner.

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'll have the chance to get to know 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. You'll also get to see the source of Angara - the only river running out of Baikal - and the sacred Shaman rock.

Lunch in Listvyanka village. We'll head to the port with its local fish market and souvenir stores. Accommodation in a hotel. Russian sauna (banya). Dinner..

DAY 3

After the breakfast 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 opt for the virtual diving to the bottom of the lake to see it more closely. Excursion to Nerpinarium, where you'll set your eyes upon the unique and cute Baikal seals (nerpa) - the only freshwater seal. Lunch. After lunch we'll head to the Church of St. Nicholas, the unique

example of the 17th century wooden architecture. Then you'll continue you tour visiting a riding centre where the local experts will give you all the safety instruction and prepare you for the next big adventure - the dog sledging. After it you will enjoy the snowmobile ride through the winter forest. All the necessary equipment will be provided.

The group will be accompanied by the instructor. Overnight in the hotel..

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DAY 4

Today starts with departure to Buguldeika and exploring the west coast of the lake on board of hovercraft. Travelling on board of the hovercraft «Khivus» which can easily move on the transparent ice of the lake is the best way to explore Baikal. On the way from Listvyanka to Buguldeika we are going to make several stops in the most picturesque spots - Bolshoe Goloustnoe, Arch Cape, Peschannaya (Sandy) Bay famous for its caves, covered with splendid icicles. This is the unique chance to explore the fascinating caves of the lake Baikal full of frozen diamonds inside, something you won't be able to do in summer. Lunch on the ice trying the traditional Siberian tea with local herbs. Overnight in Buguldeika village in the picturesque valley of the western shore of Baikal Lake..

DAY 5

The morning begins with a drive on hovercraft to Olkhon island, the biggest island of the lake, its geographical, historical and religious centre, the land full of legends and holy places. During the trip you will enjoy a breath-taking panoramic view to endless spaces of the frozen lake Baikal - it's is a great opportunity to take impressive photos. We'll make the stop near the high gorgeous rocky cliff of Sagan Zaba bay known for its petroglyphs on crystalline limestone made in different periods and relate to the Bronze - late Iron Ages. (We will approach the cliff only if the ice conditions allow). Arrival to Khuzhir village. Accommodation in a mini-hotel. Walking in the village till the famous Shamanka Rock, called also Burkhan Cape, one of the nine most sacred places in Asia. Dinner..

DAY 6

Excursion around the northern end of Olkhon Island with Russian 4 WD jeeps UAZ, driving on the ice of Baikal lake. Here you will have time to wonder around ice caves and grottos located at some of the small islands in the Maloe more (Small Sea), to 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 we return to the village. Some free time before dinner to admire the breath-taking panorama of the last sunset on the lake...

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DAY 7

On the way back to Irkutsk, you'll 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 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