

WONDERFUL 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. Lunch. City tour: historic districts of the city, the place where Irkutsk was founded by the cossack Yakov Pokhabov, ancient churches, cultural sites and monuments. Dinner.

DAY 2

Morning transfer to Listvyanka village which is located 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 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. 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. Explore the village with its fish market and the souvenir shops. Accommodation in a hotel. Russian sauna (banya).

DAY 3

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 Circum-Baikal is one of the picturesque sights of the area around Lake Baikal. The Circum-Baikal 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, 248 bridges and viaducts, and 268 retaining walls. We are going to enjoy a day trip on board of the train making several stops to admire tunnels, bridges and wandering along the coast of the Baikal lake with lots of wild flowers. Arrival to Irkutsk in the evening. Overnight in a hotel.

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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 with the local Buryat dishes. Crossing the picturesque Maloe more strait. 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. Accommodation in a guest-house. Dinner.

DAY 5

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 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. Free time before dinner. Enjoying the last sunset on the island.

DAY 6

Departure to Irkutsk. Lunch on the way in a cafe with the local Buryat dishes. 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. Arrival to Irkutsk in the evening. Accommodation in a hotel. Farewell dinner...

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DAY 7

Transfer to the
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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**

