

CROSSING THE FROZEN LAKE BAIKAL

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, 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 are going to hear many stories about the life of Decembrists in Siberia. Visiting the central market with local products. Dinner.

DAY 2

Morning transfer to Listvyanka village which is situated beside lake Baikal 67 km away from Irkutsk city. On the way we are going to make the stop near the source of Angara - the only river running out of Baikal - and the sacred Shaman Rock. Afterwards 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 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. Take the chairlift to the Chersky Rock.

This is the perfect place to pause and appreciate the beautiful panorama of the lake.

Accommodation in a hotel. Russian sauna (banya). Dinner...

DAY 3

Departure to 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, religious and defence fortifications
- 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. Lunch. Workshop on the art of craft-making in the museum. Three-horses open sledding. On the way back to the city we'll have a traditional dinner in a Russian family. Return to Irkutsk...

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DAY 4

Traveling to Olkhon Island - the largest island on the lake. On the way visiting the Buryat village Ust-Orda with its ethnographic museum and a folk concert, followed by a meeting with the real shaman. Lunch.

Crossing the strait Maloe More (Small Sea) driving on the ice. Arrival to the village of Khuzhir. Accommodation in a local guest-house.

Exploring the village and its famous Shamanka Rock, a sacred site to the shamanism-practising Buryat.

Dinner...

DAY 5

Your day in Olkhon starts with a trip in a hovercraft to the northern part of the island - Khoboy Cape. On the way we are going to make photo stops in the most picturesque places: small islands of Male More (Small Sea), Three Brothers Rocks and in the end the Cape Khoboy. You will be conquered by magic transparency of crystal Lake Baikal ice kingdom – you will not return home without plenty of extraordinary photos! Lunch will be served on the ice. Transfer to the Kocherikovo village on the west coast of the lake. Accommodation in a local guest-house...

DAY 6

Transfer to Kotelnikovskiy cape spring driving a hovercraft on the transparent ice. While this breath-taking drive, you will enjoy the most panoramic views of the infinite space of Baikal ice kingdom. Here, be sure to have your camera ready to take unforgettable photos. Crystal clear blocks of Baikal's hummocked ice ridge and icy rocks will win your heart! Arriving to the holiday camp and time for leisure. Later we are going to swim in the hot springs...

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DAY 7

Today starts with swimming in the hot springs. Lunch. Transfer in a hovercraft to the Severobaikalsk, a town at the north end of Baikal. Accommodation in a hotel. Visiting the Baikal -Amur Mainline Development Museum, which was built as a strategic alternative route to the Trans-Siberian railway, especially vulnerable by its proximity to the Chinese border. Dinner at one of the local restaurants..

DAY 8

After breakfast we are going to see the famous tunnels of the Baikal-Amur Mainline which was cut under the mountain ridge not far from Severobaikalsk. On the length of 4287km the BAM has 8 tunnels of total length more than 30 km, more than 2000 bridges crossing 11 rivers, more than 1000 km of roads are built of permafrost. Lunch. Transfer to the Nizhneangarsk airport. Flight to Irkutsk. Transfer to the hotel..

DAY 9

Transfer to the airport of Irkutsk.

Conditions of the journey:

Confortable 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