



The Baikal Ice Express

Winter tour to Baikal



This program brings together the brightest highlights of a winter Baikal adventure, condensed into three immersive days on the ice. Give yourself or someone special a unique weekend getaway, complete with an unforgettable photoshoot amidst the frozen landscape.

Experiences you'll have

In just three days, you will have time to visit the lake's most beautiful spots and witness the incredible ice of Baikal in all its forms: in caves, grottos, splash formations, and across the vast surface. You won't be limited to the Small Sea area but will also venture onto the open expanse of Big Baikal aboard an hovercraft. These areas are renowned for having the most beautiful and pristine ice on the planet.

This trip is ideal for photographers, with enough time allocated for shooting in the most picturesque locations. It is also suitable for families with children over 8 years old. The program includes walks into ice caves, transfers in a heated amphibious vehicle, and comfortable accommodation.

On request, Chinese-speaking guide is available.

This tour can be organized for you in an individual format. The price depends on the number of people in your group. If you would like to book this tour in individual format for your group, please leave a comment in your application.

The cost of the tour depends on the group size. To find out price for a particular date and accommodation, please contact our managers.

Dates 21.02 - 24.02, 23.02 - 26.02, 05.03 - 08.03:
8 people — 1598 USD per person
6 people - 1620 USD per person
4 people - 1663 USD per person
2 people - 1792 USD per person

All the other dates:
8 people — 1521 USD per person
6 people - 1543 USD per person
4 people - 1586 USD per person
2 people - 1715 USD per person

New

Baikal

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Difficulty	
Age	from 8
Group size	from 2 to 16
Duration	4 days

Accommodation at the trip



3 nights

Языки



guide

from 1 974 EUR

Itinerary

Your journey begins in Irkutsk. You need to arrive there by 9:30 AM on the first day of the program.

Please note: The itinerary may change due to weather or other unexpected circumstances.

Day 1

You will be met at the airport or picked up from your hotel

(if you arrived the day before), and we will set off by minibus towards Lake Baikal. The journey will take you through the Tazheran Steppe, where you will see landscapes unusual for the taiga of Siberia. Along the way, we will make a stop at an ethnographic center. There, you will be treated to traditional Buryat cuisine and enjoy a folk performance.

At the Kurkut Bay, you will transfer to a UAZ vehicle, which

will take you across the ice of the **Maloye More (Small Sea) Strait**. Upon arrival in the village of Khuzhir, you will check into the hotel and have dinner on your own.

Please note: Before the official ice road to Olkhon Island

opens, the transfer across the Maloye More ice will be conducted by hovercraft.

Route length: 260 km by minibus, 50 km by UAZ vehicle or amphibious boat.

Day 2

You will spend the day exploring the Maloye More (Small

Sea) — the strait between the mainland coast of Baikal and its largest island, Olkhon.

After breakfast at the hotel, you will board a hovercraft (an

amphibious boat) and set out across the ice to discover the northern part of the strait. You will visit capes Zunduk and Aral, as well as Izhilhey Island. Along the way, we will make stops to explore ice grottos, intricate splash formations, and caves adorned with fantastical stalactites.

Lunch will be served at the "Boro-Boro" Ice Station - the

first arctic-style base on Lake Baikal. Here, you can learn about the region's geography and research, visit various photo zones, and even send a postcard from the very center of the lake. You will be treated to aromatic hot-smoked Angara trout, a hearty fish soup (*ukha*), and a selection of traditional Siberian pickles and preserves.

Afterwards, the journey continues to Olkhon Island, often

called the heart of Baikal. Here lies one of Asia's most sacred sites - the revered **Shamanka Rock (Shaman Rock)** at Cape Burkhan. Legends say that an invisible palace of the chief spirit, the Master of the Lake, stands upon this rock.

In the evening, you will return to the hotel for dinner on

your own.

Route length: 100 km by hovercraft.

Day 3

After breakfast, you will set out by hovercraft to the iconic

ice locations of the southern Maloye More. Your first stop will be **Ogoy Island**, home to the Buddhist **Stupa of Enlightenment**. Here, you can make a wish by walking around the stupa and photograph the stunning panoramic views of Baikal.

The journey continues to Khubyn Island and two other

picturesque capes. You will also stop at **Cape Kobylya Golova (Mare's Head)**, renowned for its fantastic and intricate ice splash formations.

Lunch will be served at a cafe on the shore of Baikal,

offering beautiful views of the **Olkhon Gate Strait**.

In the afternoon, you will venture onto the ice of Big

Baikal, visiting **Orso Bay**. This area is famous for its exceptionally clear ice, where you can see the legendary trapped methane bubbles, dramatic ice ridges (*torrosses*), and giant fissures.

Upon reaching Kurkut Bay, you will transfer to a minibus

for your return journey to Irkutsk. After checking into your hotel, you will have time to rest and have dinner on your own. You can end the day with a stroll through the city's historic center.

Route length: 120 km by hovercraft, 260 km by minibus.

► **Day 4**

After breakfast at the hotel, you will independently

transfer to the airport for your departure flight.

Accommodation at the trip

Please note: The hotels listed may be substituted with others of a similar category.

Hotel "Tochka Baikala" (Baikal Point) (2 nights)

Located on Olkhon Island, two kilometers from the village of Khuzhir. You will stay in comfortable twin/double rooms featuring a double or two single beds, an ensuite bathroom, TV, refrigerator, and a hairdryer.

Hotel amenities include a restaurant with a seasonal menu and dishes made from local produce. Mobile network coverage and Wi-Fi are available.

Hotel "Irkutsk" (1 night)

Located in the historical center of Irkutsk. You will stay in superior twin/double rooms with a double or two single beds and an ensuite bathroom.

Hotel amenities include a restaurant, café, lobby bar, and grill bar. Mobile network coverage and Wi-Fi are available.

FAQ

What will the weather be like

Daytime temperatures in February typically do not drop below -20°C. From the beginning of March, spring arrives at Baikal, and the temperature rises every day. However, sudden cold snaps and strong winds are still possible. The average daytime temperature in March ranges from -5°C to -15°C, while at night it can drop to -25°C.

What to bring with me

Documents:

- passport (for children — birth certificate)
- health insurance policy

Personal Items:

- a warm down jacket with a hood (we recommend brands like Bask, RedFox, Sivera, Marmot, Millet)
- warm, windproof, and comfortable trousers made of waterproof materials, suitable for walking
- comfortable and warm winter or demi-season boots with good synthetic insulation and a sole with a shallow tread made of "soft" rubber
- warm hats with windproof membranes (e.g., Windstopper, Windbloc)
- thin gloves made of fleece or Polartec and overmitts made of waterproof materials, plus woolen mittens
- a set of winter thermal base layers made of fleece or Polartec (we recommend brands like Guahoo, Red Fox, Virus, Bask)
- woolen socks
- winter trekking socks
- sunglasses with UV protection of at least category 2
- sunscreen with at least SPF 20
- personal toiletries

- a personal first-aid kit
- photo and video equipment with spare memory cards and batteries
- a power bank with a capacity of at least 10,000 mAh
- a headlamp with spare batteries
- a lightweight sit pad (for sitting on the ice)
- microspikes / ice cleats (optional)

Who will be my guide

Throughout the entire tour, you will be accompanied by an experienced Baikal guide.

Meals

Breakfasts at the hotels and lunches on days 1-3 are included in the price. Dinners are to be paid separately.

What transport is used on the route

Airport transfers and hotel transfers are organized in comfortable minibuses (Mercedes Sprinter or Toyota HiAce). Travel on the ice of Lake Baikal will be in a UAZ vehicle and a hovercraft.

Mobile connection and Wi-Fi

You will have network coverage throughout all days of the tour, but it may be unstable at times. During excursions on the Maloye More, the signal will periodically be lost. Wi-Fi is available at the hotels.

Booking

Baikal

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Age from 8

Group size from 2 to 16



Duration 4 days

3 nights

from 1 974 EUR

What's included in the price:

- double occupancy accommodation in hotels
- breakfast at the hotels, lunches on days 1-3
- airport transfer upon arrival and all transportation according to the itinerary
- guide services, interpreter services
- guided excursions per the program and a folk show at the "Golden Horde" Ethnopark
- recreation fees

Extra charge:

- airfare to Irkutsk
- dinners
- airport transfer on day 4 (departure)
- single occupancy at the hotels (+300 USD, on request)
- skates rental (+600 RUB per person per day)

23 feb 2026, mon — 26 feb 2026, thu

from 2 051 EUR

3 mar 2026, tue — 6 mar 2026, fri

from 1 974 EUR

9 mar 2026, mon — 12 mar 2026, thu

from 1 974 EUR



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