



Cruise Following the Outgoing Baikal Ice

Day 1. Irkutsk, Small Sea

Meeting the participants at the airport or railway station



Transfer to pier(Irkutsk)

10.00 - Embarking and accomadation on board the motor-ships

in Irkutsk (the district «Solnechny»)

10.00-15.00 – the transition of the Angara River (Irkutsk reservoir)

15.00 – The passage of the source of the river Angara, Shaman-stone.

Passage of the tourist village Listvyanka

Tourist settlement Listvyanka is located on the southwest shore of Lake Baikal, 65 km away from Irkutsk, at the source of the Angara River. The city and the settlement are connected by picturesque asphalt road.

An hour later the next stop «Bolshiye Koty»

Bolshiye Koty a settlement situated on the western shore of Lake Baikal, 18 kilometers (11 mi) to the northeast of Listvyanka. The history of the settlement is closely tied to the beginning of gold mining near Baikal in 1842.

There are several versions of the origin of the name Bolshiye Koty. According to the dictionary by Vladimir Dal, "koty" means a trap for fish installed at the mouth of a river. Alternatively, the name of the settlement comes from the word "Kotky", or "Koty", a word used to call wooden shoes worn by "katorzhnik" - a forced laborer in katorga camps. For half a century in the area of Bolshiye Koty extracted more than 160 kilograms of gold.

20.00 - Passage to Peschanaya Bay. Arrival in Sennaya Bay which is a cordon of Baikal National Park is in the evening. In the evening one can visit Russian banya located on the shore of Lake Baikal.

Banya on the Bay shore (as an option at an additional cost)

Overnight stay on board the ship in Sennaya Bay.



Accommodation on the ship Sibiryak or Tatiana



Lunch and dinner on board



160 km by boat, 10 hrs

Day 2. The Peschanaya Bay

About 6 am the exit from Sennaya bay and the transition along the west coast to the north, to Olkhon Island (travel time is 8-10 hours).



Baikal is the blue heart of Siberia, and Olkhon is the heart of Lake Baikal. The island is the geographical, historical and sacred center of the lake - the center of ancient and historical legends.

Passage to the strait of Maloe More (the Small Sea)

Tour around the islands of Maloe More (the Small Sea)

There are 15 rocky islands on Maloe More (the Small Sea) including Olkhon Island. The islands Zamogoy, Ogoy, Oltrek and others are the largest of them.

Overnight stay on board the ship in one of the gulfs of the southern Olkhon's extremity.



Accommodation on the ship Sibiryak or Tatiana



Breakfast, lunch, dinner on board



7-8 hours

Day 3. Maloe More (the Small Sea)

Breakfast on the board.



12.00-14.00 Exit from the board to pier in the village of MRS (Sahurta) on the Small Sea.

Free time and walks around the village.

Passage through the strait of Maloe More (the Small Sea)

Dinner on board the ship

Further passage through the western coast on the North of Baikal

Supper

Overnight stay on board the motor-ship near Cape Zunduk (the northern extremity of the strait of Maloe More (the Small Sea))



Accommodation on the ship Sibiryak or Tatiana



Breakfast, lunch, dinner on board



11 hours

Day 4. Baikal-Lena Nature Reserve

Moving along the western coast to Cape Zavorotny



If the weather is favorable there are sightseeng stops near Cape Ryty and Cape Pokoiniki (meteorological station "Solnechnaya") which are territory of Baikal-Lena Nature Reserve

Cape Ryty is located in the Central part of Baikal on the West bank opposite the widest point of lake Baikal. There are no settlements, roads and even a trail along the coast. Locals studiously avoid visiting the cape calling it a cursed place. Something unexplicable still happens in Cape Ryty but the nature of it is still not clear for people.

Cape Pokoiniki is located in the northern part on the West coast of the lake at the foot of Baikal range. On the old map which was one of the first the cape has a name Cape Pokoiny. The fold near the Cape was called Pokoinaya. Then the name Pokoiny has gradually changed to terrible one – Pokoiniki (lit. decedents). These days Cape Pokoiniki is the part of Baikal-Lena Nature reserve. There is also one of the oldest Baikal meteorogacal stations called "Solnechnaya" and cordon of the reserve.

Dinner on board the ship

Rest on the shore

Supper

Overnight stay on board the motor-ship near Cape Zavorotny

In 1962 after the world's first discovering of microquarzite which is an abrasive material of very high durability used for mirror polishing of metal the enterprise "Baykalkvartssamotsvety" built a Settlement for geologists near Cape Zavorotny. These days only a few people live in the Settlement.



Accommodation on the ship Sibiryak or Tatiana



Breakfast, lunch, dinner on board



5 hours

Day 5. The transition to the east coast

Long passage to Chivyrkuisky gulf



Dinner and supper on board the ship

Overnight stay on board the ship



Accommodation on the ship Sibiryak or Tatiana



Breakfast, lunch, dinner on board



12 hours

Day 6. Bays of Chivyrkuisky gulf

Passage through Chivyrkuisky gulf



Visiting Zmeinaya Bay during the day

This bay is famous for its healing sulphurous baths with water temperature from +41 to +45 degrees.

Dinner on board the ship

Visiting islands of Chivyrkuisky gulf. Sightseeing of great cormorant nesting place from the water

Visiting Krohalinaya Bay

Supper

Banya on board the ship as an option

Overnight stay on board the ship in one of the bays of Chivyrkuisky gulf



Accommodation on the ship Sibiryak or Tatiana



Breakfast, lunch, dinner on board

Day 7. Ushkani Islands

Passage to Ushkan Islands



Tour around the islands

The rocky shores of the islands are rookery of the unique Baikal mammal Baikal seal or nerpa.

The largest Baikal rookery of nerpa is located on the western side of Tonkiy Island. According to scientists, the number of nerpas at the rookery ranges from 2,000 animals and it hasn't changed since 1934. Nerpa is cautious. If one speaks loudly and makes noise approaching nerpas, they dive from stones. Usually there aren't nerpas at the rookery right after storm or in case of waves on the water (as an option you can visit the island at an additional cost).

Dinner on board the ship

Further visiting the islands

Supper

Overnight stay on board the ship near Bolshoy Ushkaniy Island



Accommodation on the ship Sibiryak or Tatiana



Breakfast, lunch, dinner on board



2-3 hours

Day 8. Small Sea Islands, Olkhon Island

Passage to the strait of Maloe More (the Small Sea)



Tour around the islands of Maloe More (the Small Sea)

There are 15 rocky islands on Maloe More (the Small Sea) including Olkhon Island. The islands Zamogoy, Ogoy, Oltrek and others are the largest of them.

Sightseeing stop on Olkhon Island near Sarayskiy beach on the way, visiting Cape Burkhan (Shaman Rock)

Shaman Rock is one of nine shamanic shrines of Asia earlier called the "Stone Temple." A cave in the rock of this cape which is also called Shamanka is the most revered sacred place on lake Baikal. People have been making sacrifices and vows to the roch since the appearance of first shamans.

Visiting Ogoy Island is possible. In 2004 the Buddhist Stupa was built on the top of the island and one can observe spectacular view of Maloe More (the Small Sea) and Olkhon Island from there.

Dinner on board the ship

Further tour around the islands of Maloe More (the Small Sea)

Supper

Overnight stay on board the ship in one of the gulfs of the southern Olkhon's extremity.



Accommodation on the ship Sibiryak or Tatiana



Breakfast, lunch, dinner on board



Day 9. Sandy Bay

Breakfast



Passage to Peschanaya Bay

Passage the strait Malye Olkhonskye Vorota (Small Olkhon's Gate) on the way

If there are no waves on the water sightseeing stop at White Marble Rock "Sagan-Zaba" and viewing of rock paintings (petroglyphs) of III-V centuries AD are possible on the way. The academician Okladnikov says: "petroglyphs of Sagan-Zaba are the real pearl of ancient culture and art of the peoples of Eastern Siberia. They are the most complex of all known rock paintings in the entire territory from Ural to the Pacific ocean due to their composition, writing and diversity of scenes."

Dinner on board the ship

Tour around Peschanaya Bay surroundings

Peschanaya Bay is famous for its stilted trees and spectacular sea views from the surrounding

cliffs.

Supper on board the ship

Banya on the Bay shore (as an option at an additional cost)

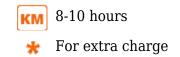
Overnight stay on board the ship in Peschanaya Bay



Accommodation on the ship Sibiryak or Tatiana



Breakfast, lunch, dinner on board



Day 10. Circum-Baikal Railway

Transition from Sandy Bay to the <u>Circum-Baikal Railway</u>.



Circum-Baikal Railway is the unique historical and cultural complex which includes historical, technical, and engineering art set against nature's monuments and absolutely amazing landscapes. Taking into consideration the various kinds of work done on every single kilometer of the rail line as well as the difficulty of their performance, the Circum-Baikal railway surpasses all the track lines in the world and is by right considered the most beautiful among the world's railways.

Walking tour on the abandoned tunnels and galleries of the early 20th century.

Overnight near the mouth of the river Shumiha. In the bay there is a small sandy beach, located near the small fishing village, which was found in times of the Circum-Baikal Railway construction.



Accommodation on the ship Sibiryak or Tatiana



Breakfast, lunch, dinner on board



6.5 hours

Day 11. Listvyanka village. The end.

From the Circum-Baikal Railway departure to <u>Listvyanka</u> <u>village</u>. The finish point of our expedition is the main pier of Listvyanka village (70 km far from Irkutsk). Listvyanka is a touristic village situated on southwest shore of Baikal near the source of <u>Angara River</u>. The city of Irkutsk and the village are connected by an asphalted road that goes through picturesque countryside.



From Listvyanka to Irkutsk you can take a public bus*, taxi* or book a transfer* in advance. We can recommend you to stay* longer in Listvyanka to look around. Irkutsk city tour* is also recommended.



Breakfast on board



Excursions, hotels in Irkutsk and Listvyanka and transfer from Listvyanka to Irkutsk are for extra charge