

Cruise Golden Ring of Baikal lake

Day 1. Listvyanka village

12.00 p.m. Boarding the cruise ship in [Listvyanka village](#) (70 km far from [Irkutsk](#)).

Listvyanka is a touristic village situated on southwest shore of Baikal near the source of [Angara River](#). The city and the village are connected by an asphalted road that goes through picturesque countryside.



Accommodation in the cabins aboard. Familiarity with the ship's crew. Safety training and briefing on the rules of conduct on board the ship and at the Lake Baikal.

Transition towards the [Circum-Baikal Railway](#) (the journey takes about 2 hours).

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.

The route goes along the lake's shore in extremely beautiful nature. The starting point is Khvoinaia station (in translation "coniferous") - the only station that was totally closed after converting the railway into a dead ending line. There were few facilities: stone water-lifting building with a chimney, foundations of lost buildings. 4 buildings of the station are restored in the style of "Train Nicholas Empire".

Overnight aboard in one of suitable bays of Circum-Baikal Railway. Under adverse weather conditions for the solution of the captain, the ship can go to spend the night in the village of Bolshie Koty, which is located 40 km from the Circum-Baikal Railway.

Bolshie Koty is a village located on the western shore of Lake Baikal, 20 km north of

Listvyanka. The name of the village was the word "kotka" or "koty". Wooden shoes were called so in these places in the past, which were produced for the convicts. Bolshie Koty were founded as a village of gold miners, gold mining campaign was started here in 1842. For half a century the area brought more than 160 kilograms gold. In recent years the village has become one of the most convenient and popular tourist destinations. This is due to the closeness to Irkutsk and Listvyanka and sufficient isolation, allowing to preserve the picturesque local nature. In Bolshie Koty there is the Baikal Local Lore Museum and the Aquarium of the Biology Institute. Also in the local souvenir shops you can buy unusual souvenirs from the Baikal; make interesting walking tours.



Accommodation on the ship Sibiryak



Lunch and dinner on board



1.5 km on foot



Transfer from Irkutsk to Listvyanka for extra charge or independent

Day 2. Sandy Bay, a pearl of the Baikal

Around 6 a.m. departure from the overnight place and transition to Peschanaya Bay (Sandy Bay).



The bay is famous for "stilted" trees, splendid views of the lake from the surrounding rocks and an excellent sandy beach.

A two hour stroll to **Sennaya Bay** – a cordon of **Pribaikalskiy National Park** - along the picturesque mountain path winding above the lake's shore along the spurs of Primorskiy ridge (at your wish). On the way you will visit one of the most beautiful of the Baikal bays – Babushka Bay ("Grandmother's bay").

In the evening you can take a Russian banya* on the shore of Baikal. After a good “getting warm” in the banya you can swim in the cool waters of the Baikal.



Accommodation on the ship Sibiryak



Breakfast, lunch, dinner on board



100 km by ship, 6 hours

* For extra charge

Day 3. Petroglyphs of Sagan-Zaba rock


Around 6 a.m. departure from Sennaya bay and cruise along the west coast to the North - to Olkhon island, the largest island of the Baikal and one of the sacred places of Buryat nationality and [shamans](#).



The stop at the white-marble rock Sagan-Zaba, to view the petroglyphs of 3-4 century, is possible, if weather conditions are fine. The academician Alexey Okladnikov wrote: 'Sagan-Zaba petroglyphs are a real pearl of ancient culture and art of people of Eastern Siberia. Their composition, manner of writing and a variety of subjects are the most complicated of all known rock paintings on the entire space from the Urals to the Pacific Ocean'

A transition through the strait **Small Olkhon Gates** - a narrow strait between the island and the mainland.

Overnight at one of the bays of the southern tip of Olkhon island.

 Accommodation on the ship Sibiryak

 Breakfast, lunch, dinner on board

 120 km by ship, 8 hours

Day 4. Small Sea Islands


Water-stroll along [the Small Sea](#).



Around 2 or 3 p.m. new participants join the group.

Transition along the Small Sea from the southern tip of Olkhon Island to the northern one. On the way visiting Ogoi Island is possible if weather conditions are fine. On the top of Ogoi island overlooks a stupa (6.5 meters high) erected by Buddhists in 2005. In Buddhism any stupa incarnate Sumera mountain that join Earth, Space and Heaven.

Overnight at one of the bays of the Small Sea.

 Accommodation on the ship Sibiryak

 Breakfast, lunch, dinner on board

 70 km by ship, 5 hours

Day 5. The reserved Baikal


Around 5 or 6 a.m. departure from the Small Sea Strait. Long transition along the western shore to the Cape Decedent.



On the way visiting on the enigmatic **cape Ritiy** is possible if weather conditions are fine. The Cape is located in the central part of Lake Baikal on the west shore, opposite the widest place of the Baikal. There are no settlements here, no roads, not even trails along the coast. Locals diligently avoid visits to the Cape, calling it a cursed place. At the cape Rytiy there is still something inexplicable, but the nature of this events is not clear to people.

In the afternoon arrival to the **Cape Decedent**. The Cape is located on the western shore of the lake: Flat area of 2 × 8 km, on the one hand rests on the mountain Baikal ridge, and on the other hand - immersed in the clear icy waters. It's a corner of wilderness, untouched by civilization. Archaeologists find traces of ancient human settlements here - Russian, Evenks, Tungus, Buryats lived here. The Cape has always been a favoured place to live: sunny days per year similar to the Black Sea, a convenient bay, closed from storms and gale-force winds; on a nearby capes the nature is raging element, and nearby, on the Cape Decedent it's quiet and calm. As for the sinister name, so it's a legend, about which our guide will tell you. It's only 12 km far from the river Lena, just over the Baikal range. The area is a part of the Baikal-Lena Nature Reserve.

A fascinating tour to interesting places will be organized on the coast.

 Accommodation on the ship Sibiryak

 Breakfast, lunch, dinner on board

 80-90 km by ship, 5-6 hours

Day 6. Wild nature of Chivyrkuysky Bay


For all who want, a morning walking tour. Rest on the shore of the Baikal, photoshoot of magnificent views.



Departure from the cape Decedent through the open Baikal from the West to the East Coast to the [Chivyrkuysky Bay](#).

In the evening arrival to Chivyrkuisky Bay - one of the most unique places of the Baikal. The bay is shallow, warm and has vast biological resources.

Overnight staying in Zmeinaya Bay which is famous for its healing radon bath with water temperature from +41 to +45 degrees.

 Accommodation on the ship Sibiryak

 Breakfast, lunch, dinner on board

 50-60 km by ship, 5-6 hours

Day 7. Warmly welcoming Chivyrkuysky Bay

Rest in Chivyrkuysky Bay. Walking through the bays, fishing will be organized at your wish. Who is not interested in fishing, can spend a relaxing day, swimming or just go boating. Spinning fishing for pike, perch or carp is possible. Our cook will gladly prepare for you your caught dinner.


Water passage to the island Bolshoy Baklany (Big Gannet Island).



There are totally 7 islands in Chivyrkuysky Bay. The largest of these is the Island Big Gannet, is listed as state nature monument. It is located in the middle of the bay, close to its eastern shore. The larch forest goes down from the crest to the water's edge, sometimes interrupted by meadows. In the south-western part of the island stands a beautiful sheer cliff composed of Proterozoic granites. Previously, the island was settled by gannets. Currently grouse are found here that with the onset of the spring suit passionate grouse games. Sometimes you can meet elk here.

A walk around the island, we can organize spinning fishing for grayling or pike. For beach and sun lovers - a great beach and warm water.

Overnight in Chivyrkuysky bay.

 Accommodation on the ship Sibiryak

 Breakfast, lunch, dinner on board

 20-30 km by ship, 1-2 hours

Day 8. Mysteries of Ushkani Islands

Around 6 a.m. departure from Chivyrkuysky Bay, transition to the western coast of the Baikal, to the Small Sea.



On the way visiting to the Ushkani Islands.


Stony shores of the islands are the rookery of Baikal seal. According to scientists, the number of animals at the rookery ranges from 2,000 heads and is not changed since 1934. The seal is careful, and if you talk loudly and make noise on the way, the animals dive off the rocks into the water. During waves or immediately after a storm there are no seals on the rookery.

Ushkani Islands are a nature monument. On the Big Ushkani Island there is a permanent weather station and a cordon of the National Park. The total area of the islands - 10 km². The archipelago consists of four islands: Big, Thin, Round and Long.


In the evening return to the Small Sea. Stop at Sarayskiy beach, visit the Cape Burkhan (Shaman rock). Shaman rock, one of the nine holy places of Asia, formerly known as stone-temple. The most revered holy place in Baikal was a cave in the rock of Cape Shaman,

whose sacrifices and vows since the onset of the shamans.
Tour around the village Khuzhir (the main village on the Olkhon island).

Overnight staying at one of the bays of the Small Sea.

 Accommodation on the ship Sibiryak

 Breakfast, lunch, dinner on board

 120 km by ship, 8-10 hours

Day 9. Bays of the Olkhon island


Farewell, the cruise ends at 12 pm - 1 pm. The finish point is the village Sahyurta (also known as MRS, 250 km from Irkutsk).



Staying on a camp of the Small Sea is possible*.

Group transfer to Irkutsk.

 Breakfast on board

 20 km by ship, 2-3 hours, 250 km by bus

 Accommodation on the Small Sea for extra charge