



#### **Baikal Winter Tour**

#### Day 1.

Arrival in Irkutsk.



Group transfer from the airport or from the railway station to the Small Sea. The Small Sea is the strait that separates the famous island of Olkhon from the mainland. About four hours on the road.

An hour after departure from Irkutsk, a stop in the village of Ust-Orda, in which you will find a small tour of the ethnographic museum, as well as a meeting with a shaman who will conduct a cleansing ceremony for you. After a rich program of lunch in the cafe, where you will have the opportunity to taste Buryat cuisine - traditional buuzes and brick-tea.

Evening dinner where all participants can get to know each other better.

Accommodation at the hotel "Veter Stranstviy" (2 and 3bed rooms of the category "standard")

44

Lunch in a cafe, dinner in hotel

КМ

250 km by bus

## Day 2.

The day starts with early climbing for those who would like to meet the dawn. The hotel is located on the rocky shore, which offers a stunning view of the Small Sea, Olkhon Island and the rising sun.



After breakfast will be an instruction, then cars landing and START! You will spend the next three days crossing Baikal over ice on reliable **off-road jeeps**.

Movement on the ice will not be long but the day will be very full. You explore almost the entire waters of the Small Sea. Visit such iconic places as:

The ice grottos of Olkhon Island, in which you will see the impressive ice sokui. Sokui is one of the varieties of Baikal ice, frozen water splashes. Sokui impress with their size and transparency of ice.

Buddhist Stupa on Ogoy Island.

Cape Khoboy is the northernmost point of Olkhon Island. Cape Khoboy is famous for its grandiose hummock fields, which are formed annually in March on Lake Baikal.

In the evening banya.



Accommodation at the hotel on Olkhon (twin rooms of standard category)



Breakfast and dinner in hotels, lunch picnic on ice

### Day 3.

In the morning everyone can meet the sunrise at Cape Burkhan (Shamanka Rock). A one-way walk from the hotel will take about 10-15 minutes.



We go by hovercraft on a long journey to the Sandy bay.

On the way will be a stop at the white marble cliff Saga-Zaba, looking at ancient rock paintings.

The route we will take today is famous for the vast expanses of pure ice. For the whole day, you'll see enough of the black abyss of the blue Baikal ice, make gorgeous photos of the "ice cobwebs", with which the entire ice space of Baikal is strewn.

In the evening, arrival to Sandy Bay. Sandy Bay is one of the most famous and picturesque places on Lake Baikal which does not leave anyone indifferent. The bay is famous for its stilted trees, magnificent views of the lake from the rocks surrounding it.



Accommodation at the hotel at Sandy Bay (twin or triple rooms, shared facilities)



Breakfast and dinner in hotels, lunch picnic on ice

### Day 4.

Packing up after breakfast. A walk on the Baikal ice to a small but very picturesque island Baklaniy Kamen (Cormorant Stone). After the walk, continue the journey **by hovercraft**.



On the way, you will find stops in picturesque places such as the Sennaya creek valley.

A visit to a real Russian banya with treats (honey, jam, taiga tea from a samovar, birch brooms, sheets, slippers, felt hats and mittens).

Arrival in Listvyanka settlement.



Accommodation at the hotel Mayak (twin or double standard rooms)



Breakfast and dinner in hotels, lunch picnic

#### **Day 5.**

Do not skip buffet breakfast and eat tight!



Listvyanka touring. Rising by cable car to the observation deck, which offers a magnificent view of the source of the Angara, Shaman-Kamen and the mountains of Khamar-Daban.

Excursion to the Baikal Museum, where you will get acquainted with the flora and fauna of the great lake, with the history of the study of Lake Baikal.

After lunch, a trip by hovercraft on Baikal ice to the source of the Angara river, Baikal port, Circum-Baikal Railway, visit to the historic Seredina station. And go to cross Baikal!

The Circum-Baikal Railway is a unique historical and cultural complex, which includes historical monuments of engineering and nature, completely unique sights. The Circum-Baikal Road surpasses all the rail tracks built in the world and is considered to be among the railways of the world.

Then we move to the city of Baikalsk, which is located on the south-eastern side of Baikal.

In the evening you can organize a sauna / bath\* (not included).



Accommodation at the park hotel (twin or triple standard rooms)



Breakfast, lunch and dinner in hotels



for extra charge

# Day 6.

You will find a fascinating acquaintance with the charming Siberian Husky. These are race dogs that will be ready to give you a ride. Feel like a real musher!



Transfer Baikalsk - Warm lakes. A distance of 40 km, the way takes about an hour. These picturesque forest lakes are located at 7 kilometers from Lake Baikal.

After a short training course on snowmobiles we go on a small trip along the Snowy River to Strelka (an unusually picturesque place where the Selenginka River flows into the Snezhnaya). The kingdom of snow and sun in the foothills of the majestic Khamar-Daban takes us into the fabulous possessions of the snow queen, filling our hearts and souls with joy. Among the mountains of Khamar-Daban and the purest snow will be a wonderful day on March 8!

If you wish, you can organize ice fishing\* (the catch in these places is traditionally quite good). A picnic in the winter hut, a surprise will give you a lot of beautiful, truly unforgettable moments.

Transfer to Baikalsk. The day will finish with a real ice bath!



Accommodation at the park hotel (twin or triple standard rooms)



Breakfast and dinner in hotels, lunch picnic



for extra charge

#### **Day 7.**

Transfer from Baikalsk to Irkutsk. A distance of 160 km, on the road about 3 hours.



It's time to tell Baikal "Goodbye", make a wish and come back in summer, spring or autumn!

In the evening Irkutsk city tour.



Accommodation at a hotel of Irkutsk 3\* (twin standard rooms)



Breakfast in hotel. Lunch and dinner independent



160 km by bus

# Day 8.

Transfer from the hotel in Irkutsk to the airport or to the railway station.





Breakfast in hotel