

Skating on Lake Baikal



Level of proficiency

Tour skating and cross-country skiing skills, being ready to cold weather conditions

from 740 Euro

The nearest date: **11 - 18 February 2023**

8 days / 7 nights

Tour manager



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Unique adventure

Lake Baikal is a rift lake in Russia, located in southern Siberia, the deepest lake on the planet (1642 m) and the largest freshwater lake by volume in the world. From January to April the lake freezes almost entirely. By the end of the winter ice thickness reaches 1-2 m. Baikal ice is very transparent, and you can see the icy caves and spatters along the banks.

Skating tour across Lake Baikal is a unique chance to see the beauty of winter Baikal. While tour skating, you will pass about 200 km during 7 days. Cross-country skiing skills are more important here rather than ice skating ones. Our experienced instructors will conduct special training on the first travelling day, and you will have time to get used to a new skill.

Itinerary



Day 1 Arrival in Irkutsk. Morning flight S7 08:05, Aeroflot 08:25, meeting the group at the airport, transfer from the airport to Buguldeyka, overnight stop at a shelter or hostel, equipment fitting. Meeting the group, dinner included.



Day 2 The first travelling day. Transfer from the hostel to the lake. Training. 35 km from Buguldeyka to Akademicheskaya Bay. Overnight stop at the Baykal Dunes. Camping food: breakfast, lunch, dinner.



Day 3 The second travelling day. 35 km from Akademicheskaya Bay to Bolshoye Goloustnoye. Overnight stop at the shelter or hostel. Camping food: breakfast, lunch, dinner.



Day 4 The third travelling day. 40 km from Bolshoye Goloustnoye to the Chernaya River (Bolshiye Koty). Overnight stop in the tent or at the shelter. Camping food: breakfast, lunch, dinner.



Day 5 The fourth travelling day. 15 km from the Chernaya River (Bolshiye Koty) to Listvyanka. Overnight stop at the hostel "Baikaler" in Listvyanka. Meals at your own expense or camping food: breakfast, lunch, dinner.



Day 6 The fifth travelling day. Visiting The Seals Museum (Nerpinariy) and The Limnological Museum. Overnight stop at the hostel "Baikaler" (Listvyanka). Meals at your own expense.



The sixth travelling day. Transfer from Listvyanka to Irkutsk. Overnight stop at the hostel (Irkutsk). Food at your own expense.



Irkutsk. Departure.

Route

Irkutsk - Buguldeyka - Baikal - Listvyanka - Irkutsk

Documents required

International passport and visa

Accommodation/hotels:

Hostel accommodation in Irkutsk

Shelter accommodation on the route

One overnight stay in a tent in case of good weather conditions

Itinerary

This is not just a skating trip, it is a type of expedition using special equipment.

This journey might involve difficulties, cold weather conditions.

Price includes

All transfers

Camping meals (without one dinner in Listyanka and one day meals in Irkutsk)

Entrance tickets to excursions

Professional guide

Renting skates and a sledge

Navigator

Gas burners

Price does not include

Return ticket to Irkutsk

Extra meals

Transfer to the airport

Winter activities (ice skating) health insurance

Unexpected expenses

Special equipment

Skates. You must fit them and try to practice before the departure.

Ski poles (not plastic), long, suitable for skate skiing. The ferrules must be hard metal.

A 30-liter backpack for the down jacket and dinner, so that not to unpack the sledge every time.

A sleeping-bag. The comfort temperature must be -15°C , as it's -30°C at night! If you choose a synthetic bag, first pay attention to the weight (at least 2,000 g).

It is also good to combine two relatively cold sleeping bags, especially down and synthetic.

A bag or a 70-100-liter backpack.

A sleigh with a rope, elastics and shackle.

Hard mountaineering boots which fix the ankle joint well. Double plastic mountaineering boots, for example, is a good idea.