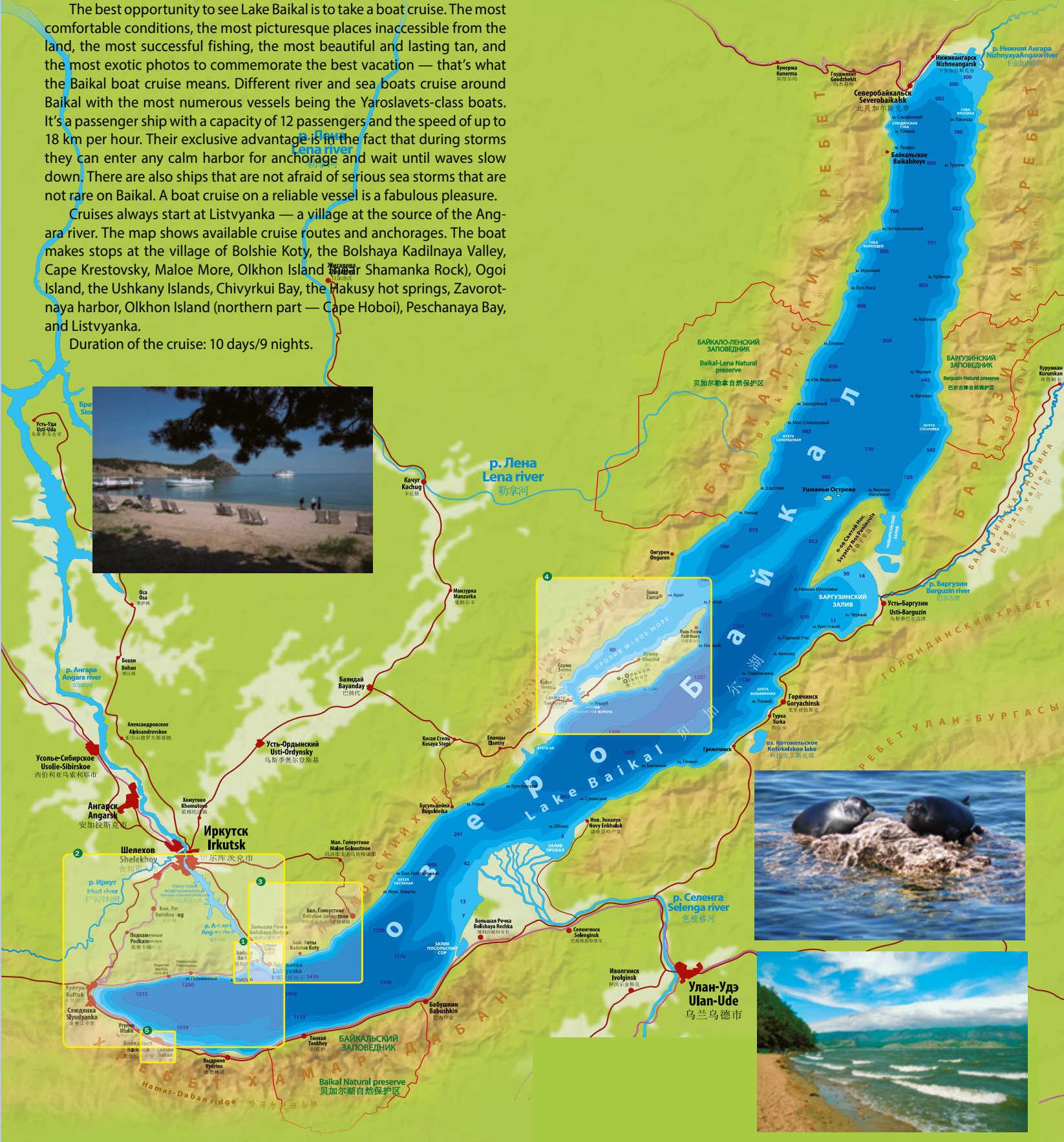


BOAT CRUISES ON LAKE BAIKAL

Карта озера Байкал и байкальских территорий
The Map of Baikal Lake and Baikal Region



- 1. LISTVYANKA:** The first Russians came to this place in 1645. That year, the flat-bottomed boats of the Cossack leader Ivan Galkin docked at the Angara river bank about four kilometers up from Lake Baikal. No matter from which side one looks at this Glorious and Sacred Sea — whether this be the deeds of early explorers, the history of scholarly research, or the development of great commercial routes of Siberia — one will inevitably encounter a reference to Listvyanka. The history of Listvyanka is also the history of steamship navigation and ship building on Lake Baikal. Back in the day, a customs house once stood at the narrowest place of the beach where mountains come right to Baikal. This place is still called the Customs Turnpike.
- 2. BOLSHIE KOTY:** The Baikalsky Museum and the Aquarium of the Institute of Biology, The Sennaya Valley and an old gold mine. Skriper Mountain with a cave.
- 3. THE KADILNAYA VALLEY:** Unique Alpine flora and karst occurrences in the form of niches, apertures, and small caves. A prehistoric camp site was discovered in Chasovnya Cave.
- 4. CAPE KRESTOVSKY:** Remnants of an early medieval fortress of the Kurykans (6-11 centuries AD). The white marble rock of Sagan Zaba with petroglyphic engravings is about 5 km from the cape. The earliest petroglyphs of Sagan Zaba date to Neolithic times and the Early Bronze Age (second millennium BCE).
- 5. MALOE MORE** (The Small Sea) is a sound in the central part of Lake Baikal separated from the lake's main water body by Olkhon Island. The aquatic area of Maloe More is part of the Pribaikalsky National Park. On topographic maps and atlases, Maloe More is classified as a strait.
- 6. OLKHON ISLAND** is the biggest island of Lake Baikal. It is rich with archaeological monuments, historical tales, and ancient legends. Among Olkhon's places that are venerated by the local people as especially sacred are Cape Hoboi, Virgin Rock, Sagan Hushun Rock, Zhima Mountain, and Cape Burkhan with its Shamanka Rock. An endemic specie of Astragalus — the Olkhon Milkvetch — grows on vast sand dunes. The whole island is part of the Pribaikalsky National Park.
- In 2005, the Buddhist Stupa of Enlightenment was erected on **OGOI ISLAND**.
- 8. THE USHKANY ISLANDS** are an archipelago consisting of four islands: Big Island, Thin Island, Round Island, and Long Island. All the islands are part of the Zabaikalsky National Park. Access to the islands is restricted. The largest breeding ground of the Nerpa, the Baikal freshwater seal, is on Thin Island.



THE ELEMENTS OF BAIKAL

Tour route: Irkutsk-Taltsy-Listvyanka-the Circum-Baikal Railroad-Baikalsk-Sobolinaya Mountain-Tanhoi-Irkutsk. Duration of the tour: 5 days/4 nights.

- 1. SIGHTSEEING TOUR OF THE HISTORICAL QUARTER OF IRKUTSK.** Since its founding in 1661, trade was quickly developing in Irkutsk. Local merchants brought books, machines, objects of art, and state-of-the-art technologies of the day from the fairs held in the Russian capitals and in Nizhny Novgorod — one of the biggest trade fairs in old Russia. As the years went by, Irkutsk was coming closer to major European cities in terms of grandeur and development.
- 2. TALTSY** is the architectural and ethnographic open-air museum with a unique collection of historical monuments, architectural objects, and ethnographic exhibits dating to the 17-19 centuries. The Taltsy museum sits on a picturesque bank of the Angara on the 47th kilometer of the Baikal Road. The museum retrospectively reconstructed four historical and cultural zones of the Baikal peoples: Russians, Buryats, Evenks, and Tofalars.
- 3. LISTVYANKA:** On the access road at the source of the Angara — a view point to see the source of the great river (the width of the river at this place is about 1,000 m), the legendary Shaman Rock, and Port Baikal on the opposite river bank. The tour continues with visits to Listvyanka's major points of interest:
 - Cable lift to Chersky Rock to get a bird view of the source of the Angara and the whole southern part of Baikal. In winter — skiing or snowboarding down the slope.
 - Visit to the Baikal Museum, the only museum in Russia fully dedicated to Lake Baikal and its unique ecosystem. Visitors will see aquaria with the Baikal fish and Nerpas, walk through the exhibitions about the deep-sea research conducted by submersible research vessels Piskis and Mir that reached the bottom of the lake, and admire the Kamenskushki Arboretum.
 - Watching the Baikal Nerpa Show at the Nerpanarium.
 - Riding quadrunners on the winding Taiga trails.
 - Boat ride around Listvyanka Bay.
- 4. THE CIRCUM-BAIKAL RAILWAY.** This unique historical and engineering complex built in the late 19th — early 20th centuries is often called the Golden Buckle of the Steel Belt of Russia. From Listvyanka visitors take a year-round ferry to Port Baikal across the source of the Angara that never freezes and then hop on a comfortable excursion train. On a 72-kilometer-long train ride, the passengers discover 582 engineering landmarks and 172 architectural monuments including 38 tunnels, 57 galleries, 326 support pillars, and 469 water discharge structures. The train makes several stops to take a walk in the abandoned tunnels or relax on the beach. Duration of the trip is about 10 hours. The passengers arrive to the train station of Sludyanka.
- 5. BAIKALSK** is famous for its Sobolinaya Mountain Ski Resort — one of the best in Siberia. A chairlift takes alpine skiing enthusiasts 900 meters up to the top of Sobolinaya or Sable Mountain. From the top, one can enjoy a panoramic view of the Hamar Daban mountain range and southern Baikal. On the mountain, there is a ropes course with the total length of 360 m. Its highest element is 15 m above the ground. Open all year round it's great for family and corporate recreation.
- 6. THE VILLAGE OF TANHOI** is the starting point for exploring the Baikalsky Biosphere Reserve in the Republic of Buryatia. The Reserve operates a multi-functional visit center and a small museum of nature. The visit center features interactive exhibitions, runs different environmental programs, and hosts cultural events. It also has an interesting historical complex dedicated to the history of Tanhoi and the Baikal lake crossing. The complex includes the old railway station, which hosts different exhibitions, soldiers' train cars of the early 20th century, a commemorative pillar devoted to the Beijing-Paris Car Race held in 1907, and many other memorabilia. The Baikalsky Biosphere Reserve has eco-trails built as wooden walkways and accessible for individuals with reduced mobility. The trails wind in the cedar forest and gradually head to mountain lakes, waterfalls, and the natural habitats of wild animals and birds. Don't forget to take your camera!



BAIKAL IN WINTER

Tour route: Irkutsk-MALOE MORE-CAPE KOTELNIKOVSKY-HAKUSY-MALOE MORE-IRKUTSK. Duration of the tour: 9 days/8 nights.

- 1. SIGHTSEEING TOUR OF THE HISTORICAL QUARTER OF IRKUTSK.** Irkutsk is an old city with the 359-year history. The city was founded on the crossroad of historic and trade roads. It's not a coincidence that locals affectionately call their city "The Center of the Earth". The 130th Quarter or the Irkutsk Village, an area with historic buildings and cultural centers, is the tourist mecca of the region's capital. It's a favorite place for both locals and visitors alike. Old wooden buildings with historic value have been restored, while lost buildings are being recreated anew. Besides historic buildings, the 130th Quarter is home to new and modern hotels, art galleries, and cultural centers. Strolls in this quarter can be called "the old town walks". The key element of the atmosphere in the 130th Quarter is the spirit of the old days. It has not been artificially invented, as Irkutsk is permeated with it.
- 2. MALOE MORE** or the Small Sea in Russian lies about 250 km from Irkutsk. Its length is about 70 km, width — 5-16 km, and depth — up to 210 m in the northern part. The Primorsky mountain range with peaks reaching 1,746 m hugs the north-western coast of the Small Sea. In the south-west, Maloe More is connected with Baikal's main water body by the strait called the Olkhon Gates. There are 10 islands in this inner Baikal sea with the largest being Ogoi, Oltrek, Hubyn, Edor, Harantsy, Zamogoi, and Izhlilhei. All of them are uninhabited. The rocky shores of the islands are home to gulls and Black Cormorants. One of the islands, Ogoi, has become a true pilgrimage destination thanks to the Buddhist Stupa of Enlightenment, which was erected on the island a few years ago.
- The Siberian banya (sauna) with an ice hole. Ice rides on the Hivus-class air cushion vessels or SUVs. Unique opportunity to take photos of ice grottoes, crystal-clear ice, and vast hummock fields. Visiting the Buddhist Stupa of Enlightenment on Ogoi Island. Lunch on the Baikal ice.
- 3. THE KOTELNIKOVSKIE HOT SPRINGS** are the only hot springs on the western shore of Baikal. Water temperature in winter and summer reaches +81oC. There are two spacious pools built near the hot springs. Tourists take a 250-kilometer-long ice ride to Cape Kotelnikovsky on the Hivus air cushion vessel making stops on the way to stretch their legs and take photos in the most beautiful places. The traditional Siberian banya is waiting the travelers upon their arrival to Cape Kotelnikovsky. Hot air balloon rides are available depending on weather.
- 4. THE HAKUSY HOT SPRINGS** are located in Hakusy Bay on the eastern shore of Lake Baikal. In winter, these hot springs can be accessed on the air cushion vessel. There is a hydrotherapeutic center. Magical baths in the hot springs and fresh air make it an ideal spa — the Baikal way!
- Return to Irkutsk — by the Hivus vessel to Cape Kotelnikovsky on the Small Sea then by a car to Irkutsk. Dinner with Buryat flavors on the way back: tasting traditional Hushurs (meat pies) and Buuz (steamed dumplings).



DISCOVER BAIKAL

Tour route: Irkutsk-Baikalsk-Tanhoi-Arshan-Taltsy-Listvyanka-Irkutsk. Duration of the tour: 8 days/7 nights

- 1. SIGHTSEEING TOUR OF THE HISTORICAL QUARTER OF IRKUTSK.** Visitors to Irkutsk are often enchanted by the beauty of this old Siberian city and its preserved period architecture. The capital of Eastern Siberia is famous for its old wooden houses and mansions with carved decorations and numerous historical monuments. Visitors will definitely enjoy the show featuring trained Nerpas.
- 2. BAIKALSK** lies about 150 km from Irkutsk. Eastern Siberia's largest ropes course is located on Sobolinaya Mountain.
- 3. TANHOI** is a village about 75 km north of Baikalsk. The Baikalsky Biosphere Reserve features state-of-the-art interactive exhibitions — the Many-Faced Baikal, Man and Baikal, and Reserves of Russia. There is an open-air enclosure for the real Barguzin Sable. A 900-meter-long wooden walkway goes from the central office of the Reserve to a traditional log cabin.
- 4. THE GUIDED TOUR TO CHERTOV PALETS** (Devil's Finger) offers a rare opportunity to see the real wildlife of Southern Baikal region. Almost untouched by humans this area is home to many endemic species. The tour is guided by the Reserve's biologist. Conclusion of this tour — a picnic and a workshop on how to cook traditional Siberian food and make aromatic tea using freshly collected Siberian wild herbs.
- 5. GUIDED TOUR TO THE TUNKA VALLEY AND ARSHAN.** From the north-west, the Tunka Valley is framed by the Eastern Sayan mountain range; from the south — by the Hamar Daban range. The mountains surrounding the valley with sharp rocky peaks called Goltsty reach the height of 2,500 meters. From September to June, these peaks are capped with snow. Take a hike along the Kyngarga river canyon to the famous waterfall, taste the Arshan mineral water, explore the local souvenir and Mongolian goods market, visit the Buddhist temple, and try some traditional Buryat food. At the end of the day — a trip to the extinct volcanoes of the Tunka Valley and the River of Stones. Return to Irkutsk.
- 6. GUIDED TOUR TO LISTVYANKA**, a village on the shore of Baikal about 75 km from Irkutsk. Visit the architectural and ethnographic open-air museum Taltsy on the way to Listvyanka. Sightseeing tour of Listvyanka with visits to Shaman Rock, the fish market, and the Svyato-Nikolskaya Russian Orthodox Church. Take a cable lift or hike to the vista point at the top of Chersky Rock (755 m).

Conclude the day with a short cruise on Lake Baikal on the Yaroslavs-class vessel or a speed boat.



THE ELEMENTS OF BAIKAL

BAIKAL IN WINTER

DISCOVER BAIKAL

BOAT CRUISES ON LAKE BAIKAL

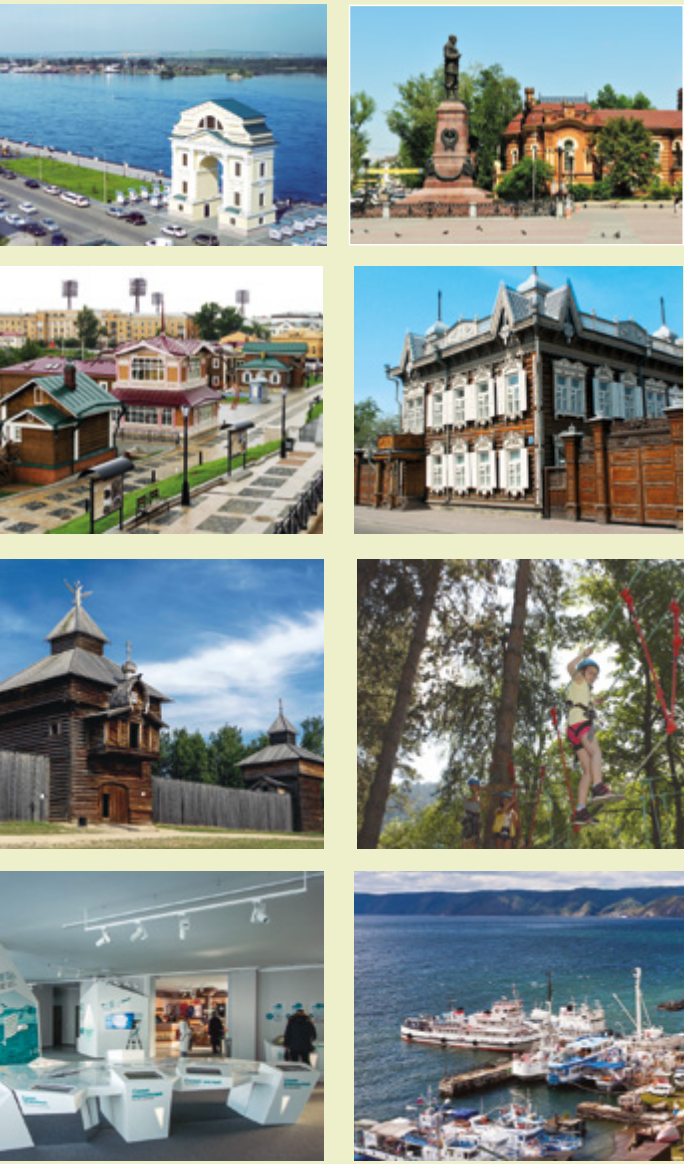
THE GREAT BAIKAL TRAIL

THE CIRCUM-BAIKAL RAILROAD

THE ROAD OF MEMORY AND GLORY

Ordered by: Tourism Agency of the Irkutsk Region
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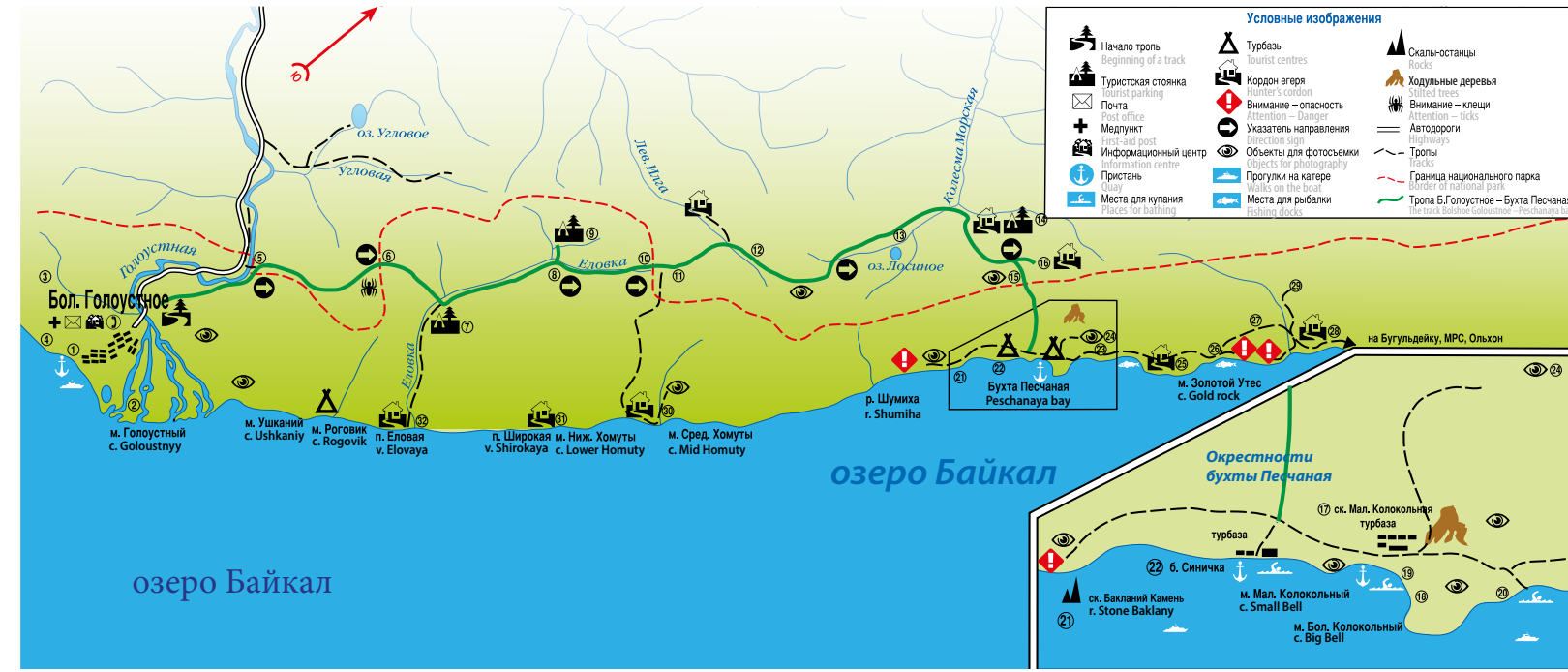


THE GREAT BAIKAL TRAIL (GBT) is a hiking trail along the coast of Baikal. Smaller sections of the trail can be hiked in one day or even a shorter period. Hiking the whole trail is a full-scale trekking adventure and takes at least a week. Usually, hikers take the GBT from May to September. In winter, the most interesting thing is Lake Baikal itself. This time of the year, there are many riding tours on snowmobiles and the Hivus-class air cushion vessels from Listvyanka. You can experience the GBT in several ways:

- Short hike — arrive to Bolshie Koty or Peschanaya Bay by boat and hike along the coast for 3-5 km
- One-day hike — the section of the GBT running from Listvyanka to Bolshie Koty can be easily hiked in one day. If you wish, you can camp overnight and during the next daylight hours reach the village of Bolshoe Goloustnoe. This option is more difficult and it's harder to get back.
- Multi-day trekking — pick any segments of the GBT or the whole trail. It's easier to hike near Listvyanka, but harder once you approach Peschanaya Bay and Buguldeika.

As the trail runs through the Pribaikalsky National Park, it is required to get a permit to visit the park, which costs 100 rubles per person (as of 2019). It's possible to apply for the permit online (preferable 3 to 5 days in advance) by sending a message to @baikal-tr.ru or tourpark@list.ru. Please read carefully the rules for visiting the park and strictly comply with them. Compliance with these simple rules and requirements when you visit this specially protected natural area helps preserve the unique nature of the Baikal region and will make your hiking experience more comfortable.

If you choose to hike for more than one day, please don't forget to take a minimum survival kit — a hiking gas burner, sleeping mats, and a first aid kit. Camp fires are allowed only in specially designated places, and it's far from certain that you will be able to find fire wood. A light tent wouldn't hurt as well. In any case, even if you plan to hike just for one day, please take some food with you — you won't be able



1. Церковь
2. Часовня
3. Сухое озеро
4. Стоянка для автотуристов
5. Брод на р. Голостунная, устье пади р. Черемшанка
6. Перевал Еловый
7. Стоянка на Еловой
8. Пещера Академическая
9. Стоянка у зимовья «Большое»
10. Вертолетная площадка
11. Перевал Илли
12. Стоянка на р. Илга
13. Зимовье на Лосином озере
14. Зимовье Центральное
15. Перевал Кедровый
16. Стоянка на Харгино (не проходима)
17. Скала Малая Колокольная
18. Скала Большая Колокольная
19. Ходульные деревья
20. Бухта Бабушка
21. Остров Бакаланий Камень
22. Бухта Синичка
23. Кедр «Мужество жизни»
24. Скала Обзорная
25. Бухта Сенная (жордон егера)
26. Бухта Сухая
27. Перевал Харгинский
28. Жордон егера Харгино
29. Хвостовый карьер в Харгино
30. Жордон егера в с.р. Хомулах
31. Жордон егера в пади Широкой
32. Жордон егера в пади Еловой

Trip options: Irkutsk — Bolshoe Goloustnoe — Cape Kadilny — Bolshie Koty — Listvyanka — Irkutsk. Total length: motor way — 170 km, hiking — 46 km. Duration: 3 days/2 nights

DAY 1: Transfer to the starting point of the trip — Bolshoe Goloustnoe, 111 km (about 2-hour drive).

Trekking for 18 km to Cape Kadilny. The trail follows the coast of Lake Baikal. Lunch on the trail. There is a cordon of the Pribaikalsky National Park on the cape, which is manned by park rangers all year round. There is also a camping site for visitors with a guest house, a mess hall, and a banya. The Kadilnaya Valley is a protected area. Visiting this valley is regulated by the law on specially protected territories. The origin of the name of the cape — Kadilny or Burnt in Russian — is connected with the old limestone mine located nearby. In the old days lime was burnt in the kilns for extraction. The remains of this mine and kilns can be seen even today. Staying overnight at the cordon of the National Park.

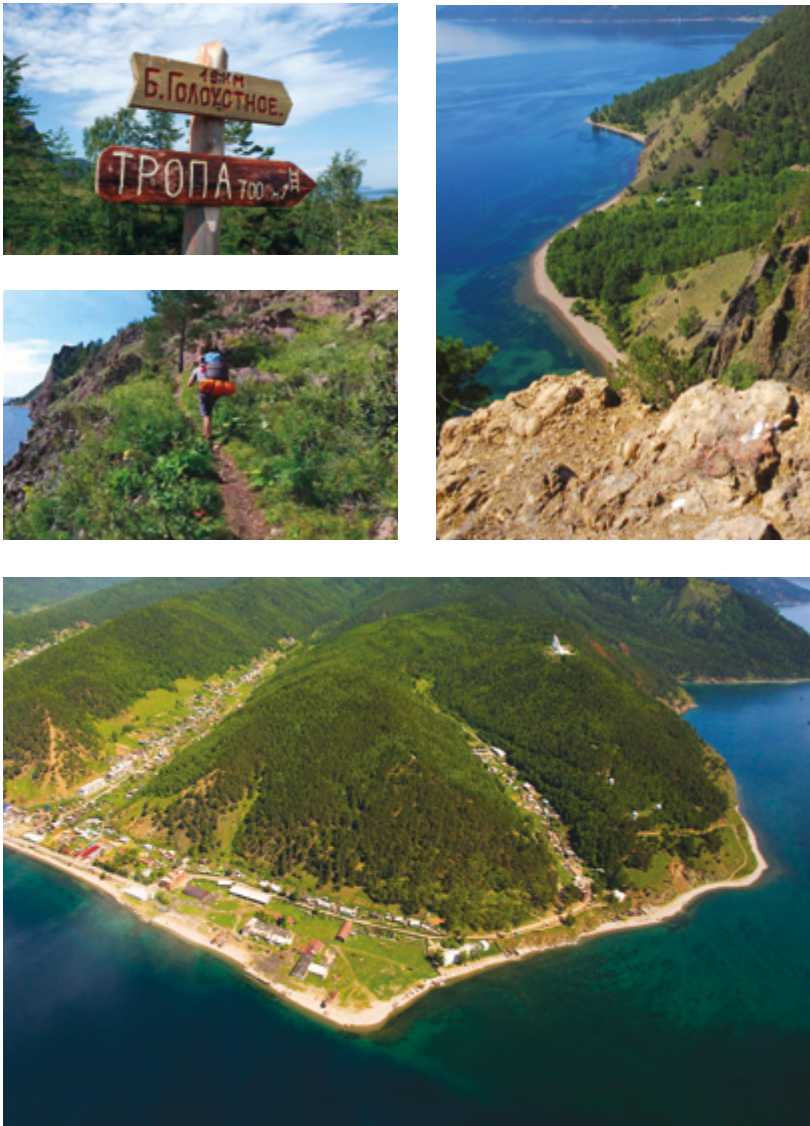
DAY 2: Trekking 10 km to Bolshie Koty. This village hidden in the deep Taiga forest is quite popular among hikers. In summer, the only ways to get here are by boat and via the Great Baikal Trail. There are no roads connecting Bolshie Koty with other communities. In winter, an ice road for vehicles is built along the lake shore, and it's still possible to get to this village in winter by hiking the winter trail.

On the way to Bolshie Koty — hiking up to Skriper Mountain — a stand-alone massif created by the Jurassic conglomerate, which has the form of sandy rock with water-worn pebbles. At the top of the mountain one can spend hours admiring the panoramic views of the western coast of the lake shore and the water of Baikal. Skriper Mountain has a small cave at the height of 200 m, where archaeologists found ancient tools, pots, and decorations.

The day will be concluded in Bolshie Koty with a bonfire and guitar songs.

DAY 3: Trekking 18 km to Listvyanka. The trail winds in the forest and leads to a meadow or a stream or crosses the rivulet winding up the hill and then running down into a glen. The most beautiful things on this trail are the picturesque Siberian Taiga and the panoramic views of Lake Baikal from the Cherny (or Black) mountain pass. For the entire length of the trail hikers are accompanied by the aromatic smells of larch and pine needles, wild flowers, and the joy of interacting with nature. The hike should be done by 6 or 7 PM.

Transfer to Irkutsk upon arrival to Listvyanka.



THE CIRCUM-BAIKAL RAILROAD (CBR) TRAVEL



THE CIRCUM-BAIKAL RAILROAD (CBR) is the architectural and engineering landmark built in the early 20th century. It used to be part of the Trans-Siberian Railroad and is sometimes called the Golden Buckle of the Steel Belt of Russia. From 1902 to 1904, the railroad builders created over 400 engineering facilities: support walls, galleries, aqueducts, and 38 tunnels with the total length of 9,063 m.

In the mid-20th century, during the construction of the Irkutsk Hydroelectric Dam, the Angara's water level increased and the river flooded the section of the CBR between Irkutsk and Port Baikal. A new railroad was built from Irkutsk to Slyudyanka, which shut down the 89-kilometer section from Port Baikal to Slyudyanka. Today, the CBR has four active train stations — Kultuk, Maritui, Ulanovo, and Baikal, and one passing loop — Kilometer 137. There are 38 tunnels with the total length of 9,063 m (the longest one pierces through Cape Polovinnny and has the length of 777 m), 15 stone galleries with the total length of 295 m (currently, only 5 are still in use) and 3 galleries with apertures built using reinforced concrete, 248 bridges and overpasses, and 268 support pillars. In Russia, the CBR is unmatched in terms of the number of engineering facilities and structures. It holds one of the top places in the world in this category. The tunnels and stone galleries of the CBR are unique due to the fact that they were built using non-typical designs and were not reconstructed in later years thus preserving the original ideas of the architects and engineers of the early 20th century.

A guided tour on the CBR takes the whole day. Early morning, an excursion train leaves Irkutsk for Slyudyanka — the starting point of this magical train journey. In Slyudyanka, the train starts its way on the CBR and follows the coastline of Baikal making stops in the most picturesque places. In the evening, the train arrives to the train station in Port Baikal. This train station has a museum dedicated to the construction of the CBR. From Port Baikal, travelers cross the source of the mighty Angara on a ferry and disembark at Rogatka Pier in Listvyanka. From there they take comfortable buses to Irkutsk. A trip on the Circum-Baikal Railroad is one of the most interesting and popular excursions on Lake Baikal.



2020 is a special year for Russia — the 75th Anniversary of the Capitulation of Nazi Germany. 75 years ago, the Great Patriotic War was won. Irkutsk forever etched its name into the history of military glory of Russia.

Learn about the glorious deeds of Siberians during World War II to understand that “indisputably, there are very few other warriors in the world who are better than Siberians”.

To honor the 75th Anniversary of the Victory in the Great Patriotic War, the year of 2020 has been officially declared the Year of Memory and Glory in Russia. Trip options: The Eternal Flame Memorial, Monument to General Beloborodov, Monument to Marshal Zhukov, Veterans' Alley, T-34 Tank Monument “The Irkutsk Komsomolets”, exhibition of military equipment at the Officers' House, the Patriot Military and Patriotic Park, the Soldiers of the Fatherland branch of the Sibiriyakov History Museum of Irkutsk.

1. THE ETERNAL FLAME MEMORIAL was unveiled at the Lower Riverfront before the celebration of the Victory Day in 1975. It is dedicated to soldiers from Irkutsk who died during the Great Patriotic War. The fire was passed directly from the Eternal Flame at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier near the walls of the Moscow Kremlin. Half of the soldiers from Irkutsk never returned home from the war, but the memory about them is forever kept alive in the family and folk memorabilia and the recollections about hero soldiers who perished, survived, and are forever alive in national memory.

2. MONUMENT TO AFANASY BELOBORODOV who was twice decorated with the country's top honor, the Hero of the Soviet Union. Born in the Irkutsk region, he fought in the Russian Civil War as a member of a partisan unit. During the Great Patriotic War, Afanasy Beloborodov first commanded a rifle division, then in May 1944, he became the commander of the 43rd Army. In the first years of the war he was awarded the first title of the Hero of the Soviet Union. He received his second Golden Star medal of the Hero of the Soviet Union after the successful siege of Königsberg. For his combat service Afanasy Beloborodov was awarded with 30 orders and medals in total. He devoted his whole life to the military service. He died peacefully in 1990 and was buried, in accordance with his wish, near the mass grave of soldiers killed during the Battle of Moscow.

3. MONUMENT TO GEORGY ZHUKOV AND THE VETERANS' ALLEY At the initiative of veterans of Irkutsk, the Monument to the famous Russian marshal Georgy Zhukov was unveiled on May 8, 2005, in the Solnechny district of Irkutsk, right on Zhukov Avenue. There are six granite steles in the Veterans' Alley describing the participation of Siberians in the Great Patriotic War. History scholars collected facts for these texts in archives of Irkutsk, Moscow, and St. Petersburg. This information is unique and extremely interesting for Siberians. Here's one of the excerpts from the text on one of the steles: “In 1941, the population of Siberia and the Far East comprised only 4% of the total population of Russia. Nevertheless, Siberians formed 82 divisions, 2 corps, 12 brigades, and 2 regiments. At the end of the Great Patriotic War, Siberians made up a third of the elite Soviet Guard troops”. In 1941, Moscow was defended by 15 Siberian divisions, 2 brigades, as well as separate regiments and ski troops battalions. 6 Siberian divisions and 2 Siberian brigades were awarded the honorable title of Guard troops for their outstanding military efficiency in defending the Russian capital.

4. THE IRKUTSK KOMSOMOLETE'S TANK is the monument dedicated to the first tank column called the Irkutsk Komsomolets, which was funded by members of the Komsomol (Young Communist League). The monument is located at the corner of Dekabrskiy Sobytiy and Sovetskaya streets. Tank T-34-85 with serial number 4100855 built in 1944 was installed on the pedestal on May 9, 1967. With the beginning of the Great Patriotic War, the grass-roots movement to fund the construction of military equipment started in Irkutsk. It was the initiative of members of the Young Communist League working at the Kuibyshev Heavy Machinery-building Plant in Irkutsk. In the Irkutsk region alone, over 12.3 million rubles were pooled to build tanks. The tank commemorated by the monument took part in heavy combat and reached Prague in the Czech Republic.

5. EXHIBITION OF MILITARY EQUIPMENT AT THE OFFICERS' HOUSE — it's an open-air exhibition of different military equipment: the T-62 main battle tank, BMP-1 infantry fighting vehicle, BTR-70 armored personnel carrier, M-30 howitzer, PM-38 mortar, BM-13 Katyusha rocket launcher, and the S-75 high-altitude air defense system.

WHAT WE KNOW ABOUT LAKE BAIKAL

25 MILLION YEARS At 25 million years Lake Baikal is the oldest lake on Earth, which was formed in the late Paleogene. During that time, the first steppes appeared in Asia, the ancestors of rhinos, camels, and horses emerged, and Australia and South America finally split from Gondwana.

Baikal is the largest freshwater reservoir in the world holding one fifth of all liquid freshwater reserves of the planet. Every year, the lake produces 60 km³ of pure and biologically active water. The water gets to the World Ocean via the Angara and the Yenisei rivers.

The total volume of water in Lake Baikal is about 23,000 km³ — it's more than in the five North American Great Lakes (Superior, Michigan, Huron, Erie, and Ontario) combined. The lake's surface area is 31.5 thousand km². It makes Baikal the sixth largest by area lake on Earth.

Baikal is the deepest lake in the world. The deepest point of Baikal — 1,642 m — is located at 53°14'59"/108°05'11". This depth equals to the height of 5 Eiffel Towers. The water surface of Baikal is at the elevation of 456 m above sea level, so the deepest point of the lake is 1,187 m below sea level. The average depth of Baikal is also quite significant — 744.4 m. Only two other lakes on Earth have depths exceeding 1,000 m: Lake Tanganyika (1,470 m) and the Caspian Sea (1,025 m).

There are over 2,600 species and sub-species of water animals, over half of which are endemic and found nowhere but in this lake.

Endemics of Baikal include about 1,000 species, 96 genera, and 11 families and sub-families. 27 species of fish are found nowhere, but in Lake Baikal.

One of the endemic species of copepods — Epischura Baikalensis makes up about 80% of the biomass of Baikal's zooplankton and is the most important link in the feeding chain of the lake. These copepods also serve as a natural filter by intaking and purifying water.

THE ROAD OF MEMORY AND GLORY



6. THE PATRIOT MILITARY AND PATRIOTIC PARK is a private museum located at 38 Shiryayeva Street. The opening of this museum is timed to coincide with the 75th Anniversary of the Victory in the Great Patriotic War in May 2020. The park has an area of one hectare and will have a shooting range, an open-air exhibition of military equipment, a field kitchen, and an air-raid shelter featuring different radiation, chemical, and biological defense equipment. The main landmark in this park is the Russian Army Museum. The museum's exhibitions are dedicated to the Russian Army and its units based in the Irkutsk region. In particular, one exhibition hall will tell about the history of the Irkutsk Dragoon Regiment that took part in the Napoleonic war of 1812. There will also be exhibitions dedicated to the work of the Irkutsk plants and factories during the Great Patriotic War and the creation of the action movie entitled “The 321st Siberian” about this Siberian division, which was formed in this region, and the history of this division. Some exhibit items are gifts to the museum including the legendary Polutorka truck (a 1.5-ton truck, which was a true workhorse during the war) and a lathe of the war period.

7. THE SOLDIERS OF THE FATHERLAND BRANCH OF THE SIBIRYAKOV HISTORY MUSEUM OF IRKUTSK is located at 5 Chaikovskiy Street on the left bank of the Angara. The museum has three exhibition halls: the Sons of the Fatherland, which tells a story about soldiers from Irkutsk who fought in the wars of the 19th and 20th centuries and military institutions in Irkutsk of that time. The second exhibition hall is dedicated to World War I and in particular to the combat operations on the Eastern Front, as well as to the life in the home front Irkutsk of that period. The third exhibition hall features rotating exhibitions dedicated to those who keep and preserve the memory about the Great Patriotic War.

