



Gulag Trail - the Road of Bones

Explore Siberia's wild side on this fascinating journey across Russia's stunning trans-Baikal.

Russia's Far East is both mysterious and fascinating if you look at it on a map. It's big, seems remote and has a slightly scary reputation. The truth is Siberia has warm hearted folk and spectacular scenery which is just waiting to be explored.

On this touring style journey from Lake Baikal to Magadan we go off the standard routes to experience Siberia the Siberian way. Our journey includes Lake Baikal by Hydrofoil and a short journey by train on the Baikal Mainline. Along the way we'll uncover some scenic gems and experience the hospitality of remote communities.

ARRIVE EARLY ~ STAY LONGER

Talk to us if you would like to travel to Irkutsk by Trans Siberian train from Moscow or St Petersburg.

US\$ 9,500

Price is based on 4 persons travelling
Escorted by our Siberia based colleagues.
Single supplement US\$1025



Trip Details

DURATION - 21 days

AVERAGE TEMP - 5°C - 20°C

ACCOMMODATION STYLE
- hotels and homestays

SIGHTSEEING STYLE
- Included

GROUP SIZE STYLE
- 10

DATES OF TRIPS
Commence Irkutsk
21 August 2019

Concludes Vladivostok
10 September 2019

MEALS
Included

TRAVEL STYLE
Passenger Vehicle, train, 2 domestic flights, hydrofoil

Daily Itinerary

Day 1 - Arrive Irkutsk

Arrive Irkutsk. Transfer to the hotel. Our arrangements commence with dinner this evening

Day 2 - to Baikal

Today set out for a full day excursion on the Trans-Baikal railway. overnight at Listvyanka

Day 3 - Listvyanka

This morning we follow the Angara River downstream to Listvyanka. Along the way we visit the 'Angara' icebreaker museum and the Taltsy museum of wooden architecture. Things to see at Listvyanka include the Baikal Limnological museum and if time permits, a wander on the local forest trails

Day 4 - To Olkhon Island

We take the hydrofoil up the lake to Olkhon Island this morning. This is the world's fourth largest lake Island. The journey will take about four hours. On arrival check into the hotel at Khuzir and get orientated. There are local trails to walk or ride and great vistas to capture your imagination.

Day 5 - Olkhon Island

Today we'll make a vehicle supported tour of the Island to visit remote spots, have a picnic and make a few walks.

Day 6 - to Irkutsk

We'll be back on the road today returning to Irkutsk. Along the way stop at Ust Orda Buryat village to visit the ethnographic museum and experience a Buryat Shamanistic ceremony.

Day 7 - Irkutsk

Today we have arranged a full day sightseeing of Irkutsk to include the landmark buildings and historic precincts. Overnight in Irkutsk

Day 8 - To Severobaykalsk

This morning early transfer to the airport to take the flight to Nizhnefngarsk at the head of Lake Baikal and make the short road transfer to Severobaykalsk. Today we have scheduled a visit to the local thermal spring and visit the Baikal Mainline museum.

Day 9 - Severobaykalsk

Today we plan some countryside excursions from Severobaykalsk with a picnic lunch and dinner back in town before taking the evening train to Chara (12 hrs)

Day 10 - To Chara

The train arrives in Chara around mid day. Transfer from the station to the hotel and freshen up before visiting the local museum. The rest of the day at leisure.

Day 11 - Chara

Today set out by all terrain vehicle for a full day expedition to the stunning Chara Sand dunes. Overnight in Chara until 'wee hours' departure by train

Day 12 - To Tynda

Expect to arrive in Tynda late morning. After check in at the hotel set off for sightseeing to the B.A.M Railway museum and one time focal point of the railway construction

Day 13- To Aldan

This morning head off up the Lena Highway heading for Aldan. There is a fair distance to cover but we'll leave early and take regular breaks along the way.

Day 14 - To Yakutsk

We have another full day on the road today en route to Yakutsk across the Taiga. At Kachikattsy the road meets the mighty Lena river then follows it down stream to Yakutsk.

Day 15- Yakutsk

Today we will be out and about in Yakutsk. There is plenty to see but we'll take a relaxed approach visiting the Melnikov Permafrost Museum and Mammoth Museum as our main interest in Yakutsk, the planet's coldest city.

Day 16 - To Khandygar

This morning embark on the journey along the infamous 'Road of Bones', the gulag trail linking Yakutsk with Magadan some 2000km away to the east on the sea of Okhotsk. It is a long journey in a wild and remote region with few comforts and 'no frills'. Today the goal is Khandyga on the Aldan river. We expect to be on the road for most of the day.

Day 17- To Ust Nera

Today the road burrows into the Cherskiy mountain range and from now on it is possible to find the remnants of abandoned settlements and labour camps in the taiga. Although most lie on the route of the 'original' Road of Bones many of the communities along this section of the road face extreme conditions and considerable hardship.

Day 18 - To Susman

The road to Susman twists and turns through the foothills of the Kolyma Mountains. Along the way the abandoned city of Kachikattsy sits astride the road. This once upon a time Coal mining city housed 20,000 people but now lies in eerie abandonment. Continue to Susman.

Day 19 - To Magadan

The end of the journey is a long day's drive away at Magadan. There are still plenty of twists and turns ahead on the run to Magadan but at least we have the freedom to decide our passage, a right denied many thousands who perished in the camps and are now remembered in the Mask of Sorrow monument on the hill above Magadan.

Day 20 - Magadan

Today is an opportunity to reflect on the trip, stretch legs and visit some of the landmarks at Magadan, capital of Russia's Kolyma region and gateway to the Kolyma Gulag system.

Day 21 - Flight to Vladivostok

Today the Flight from Magadan to Vladivostok will arrive in Vladivostok at 8.50PM



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