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**Улан-Удэ — Steppe Nomad ethno-complex — Ivolginsky datsan — Tarbagatai — Ust-Barguzin village — Barguzin Valley — Barguzin bay — Ushkany Islands — Chivyrkuisky bay — The deepest point of Lake Baikal — Khoboi Cape — Maloye More (the Small Sea) — Ogoy Island — Shaman Rock — Peschanaya Bay — Irkutsk — Taltsy — Listvyanka — Irkutsk**  
**14.07.2022 - 23.07.2022**

**DAY 1**      14.07.2022, Thursday      Улан-Удэ, Steppe Nomad ethno-complex

**Улан-Удэ**

Arrival in Ulan-Ude. Transfer to the hotel.

Date:  
**14.07(THU)**

Check-in at the hotel.

Departure:  
**12:30**

Welcome to Ulan-Ude! Ulan-Ude, the capital of Buryatia, is located on a picturesque plateau surrounded by wooded hills.

In 1666, Russian Cossacks took a fancy to this place and built a fortified settlement here. Nowadays, Ulan-Ude is a large regional, cultural and economic center with well-developed infrastructure, very interesting museums and colorful sights, reflecting centuries-old history, traditions and religious preferences of several peoples of Russia living here.

The city center of Ulan-Ude is particularly interesting; it is spread out like an unusual amphitheater on the banks of two rivers – Uda and Selenga. Russian merchant classicism here neighbors with wooden houses richly decorated with carvings. Colorful mosaic panels and stained-glass windows with Buryat national ornaments of the buildings convey the carefully preserved traditions. The unusual buildings of the Buryat Drama Theater and the Opera and Ballet Theater stand out among the cultural attractions. There are world "celebrities" in Ulan-Ude, too – one of the most recognizable monuments of the city in the form of a huge head of Lenin not only became the biggest head of the country leader in the world, but also won several prestigious international awards, including the World Exhibition in Montreal.

## Steppe Nomad ethno-complex

Date:  
**14.07(THU)**

Arrival:  
**13:30**

Parking:  
**5ч. 00мин.**

Departure:  
**18:30**

The Steppe Nomad ethno-complex is situated in the picturesque setting of the Atsagat Valley at the foot of the sacred Tamkhita Mountain, on top of which the villagers of Atsagat perform a rite of veneration for the local masters. Guests are welcomed with a traditional rite of welcoming "Ugtamja" with Khadak, a symbol of hospitality of the Buryat people and white food, a symbol of prosperity and pure thoughts, a melodious song and welcoming speech. At the ethno-complex you will get acquainted with traditions, culture and way of life of Buryats, will play national games, visit real felt yurts, learn how to cook real juicy "buuz", plunge into countryside life of modern Buryats. Visit the unique "World in Faces" gallery.

Lunch at "Stepnoy Kochevnik" cafe (Buryatian traditional cuisine: bouzy, soup with home-made noodles, Buryat pastry for dessert, tea with milk).

Transfer to the hotel.

Dinner at the hotel.

## DAY 2

15.07.2022, Friday

Ivolginsky datsan, Tarbagatai

## Ivolginsky datsan

Date:  
**15.07(FRI)**

Arrival:  
**09:40**

Parking:  
**3ч. 00мин.**

Departure:

Today an exciting programme awaits you. You will visit the largest Buddhist complex in Russia and will get acquainted with the culture and life of the Old Believers of Transbaikalie region.

Ivolginsky datsan is the most famous datsan in Buryatia and an important place of pilgrimage for Buddhists not only in Russia, but all over the world. Ivolginsky datsan is the residence of the head of Buddhists of Russia. It is the largest Buddhist monastic complex and the spiritual capital of the Buddhist Traditional Sangha of Russia. The Ivolginsky datsan monastery complex now consists of ten buildings, including temples, a library, and Russia's only Buddhist university, where they study philosophy and traditional Tibetan medicine.

Breakfast at the hotel.

Transfer to the Ivolginsky datsan.

<b>12:40</b>	Visit of the Ivolginsky datsan with a tea ceremony and snacks.
<b>Tarbagatai</b>	You will meet the locals of Tarbagatai, one of the largest Old Believers' settlements in Transbaikalie region. It will be a real journey down the history lane. You will visit the Old Believers' Museum and the Old Orthodox Church, get acquainted with the rites, customs, unique polyphonic singing and the Old Russian cuisine.
Date: <b>15.07(FRI)</b>	
Arrival: <b>13:40</b>	You will get acquainted with Old Believers' folklore culture, participate in master class on cooking food in the Russian oven, try spinning, visit the house-estate, the Museum of Old Believers' Culture and Life and the Old Orthodox Church.
Parking: <b>5ч. 00мин.</b>	Lunch (dishes based on ancient recipes of local Old Believers in one of the most beautiful villages in the country).
Departure: <b>18:40</b>	Transfer to Ulan-Ude.  Dinner at the hotel.

**DAY 3**    16.07.2022, Saturday    Ust-Barguzin village, Barguzin Valley

<b>Ust-Barguzin village</b>	Breakfast at the hotel. Check-out from the hotel with luggage. Transfer to the recreation centre.
Date: <b>16.07(SAT)</b>	Check-in. Lunch at the recreation centre.
Arrival: <b>10:00</b>	

## Barguzin Valley

After lunch, we take the hovercraft down the Barguzin River to an amazing place, the Barguzin Valley.

Date:  
**16.07(SAT)**

The Barguzin Valley is located in Buryatia - an incredibly picturesque place. Mountains and forests, rivers and lakes, wild animals and fish, thermal and cold mineral springs, therapeutic mud - that's what people come here for. There are many sacred sites belonging to different tribes. The main attraction of Yarikta village is the face of goddess Yanzhima. The goddess is considered the patroness of arts, sciences, crafts, wisdom and prosperity. However, the main requests of the pilgrims who have been coming here for 13 years are related to children.

Arrival:  
**11:00**

Parking:  
**7ч. 00мин.**

Hovercraft transfer to Adamavo village.

Departure:  
**18:00**

Visit to the Barguzin settlement, the former place of exile and the center of gold trading in Eastern Siberia.

Dinner in the hotel.

Transfer to the recreation centre.

Free time (Russian sauna service (extra charge)).

## DAY 4

17.07.2022, Sunday

Barguzin bay, Ushkany Islands, Chivyrkuisky bay

## Barguzin bay

Today you'll get acquainted with the sights of the Barguzin and Chivyrkuisky bays, take a walk along the Great Baikal Trail, visit hot springs and watch Baikal seals - the local endemic, which are not found anywhere else in the world.

Date:  
**17.07(SUN)**

Breakfast at the recreation centre.

Arrival:  
**09:00**

Parking:

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**0ч. 20мин.**

Departure:  
**09:20**

### **Ushkany Islands**

Date:  
**17.07(SUN)**

Arrival:  
**11:00**

Parking:  
**1ч. 30мин.**

Departure:  
**12:30**

Barguzinsky and Chivyrkuisky bays are separated by the Svyatoy Nos (Holy Nose) Peninsula. It is a narrow mountain massif, which stretches for 53 kilometers along the shore of Lake Baikal in the form of a giant nose. Next to the peninsula is the Ushkany Islands archipelago. The four small islands of the archipelago are beloved by Baikal seals, waterfowl mammals, which live only on Baikal. They rest on rocks and cliffs, basking in the sun or playing in the coastal waters. We will watch them from a distance of 15-20 m from behind a special shelter - it's an unforgettable experience.

### **Chivyrkuisky bay**

Date:  
**17.07(SUN)**

Arrival:  
**14:30**

Parking:  
**2ч. 30мин.**

Another stop of the today's itinerary is the Chivyrkuisky Bay, famous for its warm water and picturesque shores. Gentle shores of the bay are densely forested and have a lot of bays and picturesque capes. The Snake Spring is located on the coast of Chivyrkuisky Bay, we will visit it, as well. The eco-trail runs along the picturesque slopes of the Svyatoy Nos (Holy Nose) Peninsula, which offers picturesque views of the bay. Upon arrival you will be able to bathe in one of the wooden baths with thermal water, the water temperature ranges from +28-45 ° C.

Visit to the hot springs.

Lunch-picnic.

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Departure:  
**17:00**

Visit of the observation deck.

Hovercraft transfer to the recreation centre.

Free time (Russian sauna service (extra charge)).

Dinner at the recreation centre.

## **DAY 5**

18.07.2022, Monday

The deepest point of Lake Baikal, Khoboi Cape, Maloye More (the Small Sea)

### **The deepest point of Lake Baikal**

After breakfast at the hotel we head for the Irkutsk shore of Lake Baikal!

Date:  
**18.07(MON)**

Moving towards the eastern shore, you will stop at a unique point of Lake Baikal - a place that is located above the deepest point of the lake at 1 642 m, which is comparable to the height of the five Eiffel Towers. The water here is so clear that visibility through the ice is 40 meters deep.

Arrival:  
**09:00**

During the stop, you will be able to taste the purest water of the lake and take memorable photos.

Parking:  
**1ч. 30мин.**

Departure:  
**10:30**

### **Khoboi Cape**

You will go to the Maloye More (the Small Sea) Strait, which is formed by the mainland and the island of Olkhon. Here you will have a stop at the famous Khoboi Cape.

Date:  
**18.07(MON)**

The Khoboi Cape is located near the widest place of Baikal, here its width is 79,5 km. If the weather is

Arrival:  
**10:30**

good, you can see the eastern shore from the cape – the mountainous contour of the Svyatoy Nos Peninsula. In Buryat language "Khoboi" means "fang" – cliffs abruptly dropping into the water resemble fangs. The main rock of the cape is called Maiden, as it resembles the outlines of a woman's body. The place is notable for the multi-voiced echo that echoes off the monolithic rock.

Parking:  
**1ч. 00мин.**

You will have a walking tour around the Khoboi Cape with and lunch.

Departure:  
**11:30**

### **Maloye More (the Small Sea)**

Date:  
**18.07(MON)**

The Maloye More (the Small Sea) Strait is located between the west coast of Lake Baikal and the Olkhon Island. On the west coast of the lake, from the Angara River to the Olkhon Gate Strait stretches the ancient and unique Tazheran steppe. The age of the Tagheran massif is about 400 million years. Tagheran is a hilly picturesque relief, steppe grasslands, an abundance of birds.

Arrival:  
**12:30**

There is a recreation center located in one of the beautiful bays of the Maloye More Strait.

In the evening, you'll take a hovercraft to the recreation center and enjoy a Siberian dinner at the restaurant.

**DAY 6**      19.07.2022, Tuesday      Ogoy Island, Shaman Rock

### **Ogoy Island**

Date:  
**19.07(TUE)**

The whole day will be dedicated to the sights of the Maloye More (the Small Sea). Local nature is no less impressive and fascinating – your photo hunt will be really successful!

Arrival:  
**10:30**

There is a small, uninhabited island in Baikal in the Maloye More (the Small Sea) Strait, and it is called Ogoy. The word "Ogoy" comes from the Buryat word, which means "waterless". The length of the island is 2,9 km, and the width is 0,6 km. It is the largest island in the strait between Olkhon Island and the mainland. About a hundred herring gulls nest on the Ogoy Island. There is also an endemic species of vole

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– the Olkhon vole. The local relict grasses are included in the Red Book. The island has never been inhabited by people, and this has helped preserve unique species of wildlife.

Parking:  
**2ч. 00мин.**

Departure:  
**12:30**

### **Shaman Rock**

One of the most mysterious and popular places on Lake Baikal is the Cape Burhan (also known as the Shaman Rock).

Date:  
**19.07(TUE)**

The name "Burhan" appeared at the end of the 17th century after Tibetan Buddhism came to the Baikal region. The Buryat Buddhists began to call the main deity of Lake Baikal by the word "Burhan". The cape is made of crystalline limestone with veins of quartz, and the adjacent shore is made of granite rock. The rock is covered with bright red lichens. The height of the near shore part of the rock is 30 meters, the height of the far part is 42 meters.

Arrival:  
**14:30**

Parking:  
**1ч. 30мин.**

Hovercraft transfer to the recreation centre.

Departure:  
**16:00**

Free time (Russian sauna service (extra charge))

Dinner at the recreation centre.

## **DAY 7**

20.07.2022, Wednesday

Peschanaya Bay

### **Peschanaya Bay**

Breakfast at the recreation centre.

Date:  
**20.07(WED)**

Hovercraft transfer to the Peschanaya Bay.

Peschanaya Bay is one of the most picturesque places on Lake Baikal. These places are so-called the

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Arrival:  
**11:00**

Parking:  
**5ч. 00мин.**

Departure:  
**16:00**

"Siberian Riviera". The bay is located on the west coast of the Baikal coast, closer to the south. The nearest settlement around the bay is the village of Bolshoe Goloustnoe. One of the attractions here are the stilted or "walking" trees, which grow in the northern part of the bay. Peschanaya Bay is the only place on the Baikal coast where you can see so big exposed tree roots – huge pines and larches have risen above the ground on their walking roots higher than a human height.

Photo-stop ("walking" trees).

Lunch-picnic.

Hovercraft transfer to the recreation centre.

Free time (Russian sauna service (extra charge)).

Dinner at the recreation centre.

**DAY 8**    21.07.2022, Thursday    Irkutsk

### **Irkutsk**

Date:  
**21.07(THU)**

Arrival:  
**13:00**

Parking:  
**4ч. 30мин.**

Departure:  
**17:30**

Welcome to Irkutsk! Irkutsk is a beautiful Siberian city, founded in the 17th century on the banks of the Angara River. Thanks to its good location at the crossroads of trade routes that connect Europe and Asia, Irkutsk quickly became the key city in Eastern Siberia. The Great Tea Road, which carried furs to China and tea, silk, and sugar back, used to pass here. When the "gold rush" began in Siberia, Irkutsk bore the title of a gold mining capital - ingots of gold and gold sand flocked here for sale.

Nowadays, you can see the greatness and wealth of that merchant Irkutsk, while walking along the embankments, squares and streets of this city. During your city tour, you will walk along the Lower embankment to the Moscow Gate, walk down the streets of Irkutsk Merchant Suburb.

Breakfast at the recreation centre. Check-out from the recreation centre with luggage.

Bus transfer to Irkutsk.

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Check-in at the hotel.  
Lunch.  
Irkutsk bus sightseeing tour.

Dinner at the hotel.

**DAY 9**      22.07.2022, Friday      Taltsy, Listvyanka

**Taltsy**

Date:  
**22.07(FRI)**

Arrival:  
**12:30**

Parking:  
**3ч. 00мин.**

Departure:  
**15:30**

Today we will visit the "Taltsy" open-air ethnographic museum. Unique monuments reflecting the history and culture of Russians, Buryats, Evenks and Tofalars living on this land. On the territory of the museum, you can see peasant houses and homesteads of wealthy villagers, a tavern, a parochial school, a parish board, blacksmith and pottery workshops, a cascade of watermills on the bank of a mountain stream and a watchtower, once guarding a medieval fortress. All the buildings have been preserved since the end of the XVIII century.

Breakfast at the hotel.

Bus transfer to the Taltsy museum.

Excursion to the Taltsy museum  
Lunch in a café

**Listvyanka**

Date:  
**22.07(FRI)**

Arrival:  
**15:45**

Lunch in a café.

Bus transfer to the Baikal Museum (Limnological Museum) in Listvyanka village.

A truly unique exposition is presented at the Baikal Museum. Here you will find aquariums, which are connected to Baikal by a running water system, which allows creating suitable living environment for its inhabitants. You will see sponges, large freshwater shrimps – gammarus, various fish, including omul,

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Parking:  
**3ч. 30мин.**

thymallus and Baikal sturgeon, but the highlight of this exposition is certainly seals – the only mammal of Baikal, a very cute, playful and curious animal.

Departure:  
**19:15**

Dinner at the hotel.

## **DAY 10**

23.07.2022, Saturday

Irkutsk

### **Irkutsk**

Last day in a beautiful Irkutsk. We're not saying farewell, we're saying "See you next time!".

Date:  
**23.07(SAT)**

Breakfast at the hotel. Check-out.

Arrival:  
**09:00**

Transfer hotel-airport.