

## Baikal Dog Sledding Journey to the Sabel Lake Fairytale



Have you ever dreamed of dog sledding, dog mushing, or Lake Baikal winter adventure travel vacation? Do you enjoy the taiga-wilderness, its majestic winter scenery, few people, and you don't want to rough it too much? Then choose one of the right places offered – real Lake Baikal enchanted in ice and snow, in its natural state with true Siberian people, their hospitality and ways of life. Mush from Listvyanka to the Sable Lake across Lake Baikal, or to Prospector's Lodge on lake Baikal with two champions of Russia – Kamchatka huskies Jazz and Bell- harnessed in your sleds... If you want to do an interesting dog mushing trip near the world's deepest Lake Baikal enchanted in ice and snow like no other on the planet, this trip is for you. Besides sledding, that can be combined with snowmobiling safari; this trip offers also a chance to get excited when catching Baikal fish through the ice-hole – another winter highlight! Experience True Lake Baikal Winter Adventure Travel At Its Best - on one-of-a-kind Baikal Dog Sledding Trails with Kamchatka Huskies...



The Kamchatka Huskies is a unique breed: developed by nature with no human intrusion. Severe climate conditions and primitive way of life have created a Kamchatka husky the way it is. Their warm coats do not require protection even in the coldest winters; they think nothing of the meanest blizzards. The fish they eat provides strength and stamina to pull heavy loads. These riding dogs have in the ancient past inherited their ancestors' – wolves' - exceptional quick-wittedness...And after few generations that were born on the shores of Lake Baikal these great outdoor dogs, surely, acquired another specific feature in their character: this is greatness of that Energy that Baikal grants any being one who comes with peace and love for the Mother Nature



The easier type of trails of the dog sledding trips will be through picturesque backcountry of Baikal Maritime National Park, en route passing the village of Bolshiye Koty and overnight in Prospector's Retreat lodge. Such a trip is a unique opportunity to experience mushing a dog team through the Siberian winter landscape with quite moderate winter temperatures in the end of February till March, end. We will provide you our trained sled dog team, an experienced guide in long-distance mushing, basic training on mushing, camping and survival in the Siberian Winter (though the latter skills you will not require during this trip 'cause the winter here in the months we recommend for the trip is very mild and not at all severe as many foreigners

perceive- lake Baikal has plenty of sunshine allowing it for visitors to get real Alpine sunburn!).



Weather permitting, dog sledding trips start from November, and we run through February and mid March. Baikal Dog Sledding Center offers a variety of trips to fit your individual sense of adventure. A day of extreme mushing is for those with a desire for speed and snow; single overnight trips and multiple daily types of dog sled excursions for those who want to experience the "real" backcountry. The number of participants is quite limited due to only 4 dog sleds available for this trip at the Baikal Dog Sledding Sports Center – the only one in the region. However, if you have more than 4 persons in a group we can still arrange this trip with use of snow mobiles making the trip a real good combination one.

You will love the great Baikal winter outdoors, its pristine wilderness, and spectacular scenery and dog mushing- all its wonders and we'd like to share our world enchanted in snow and ice with you. Please join us.

Below is an exclusive offer and dog sledding tour itinerary that will be operated during the 2013 "winter-spring" season only once ( Only one departure: February,15 –February, 22, 2013). However, shorter, less expeditionary and less costly dog sled itineraries are available).



**Highlights:** Wildlife, great views to the dogsled tour locations on ice across Lake Baikal en route the Old Round Baikal Railway, the virgin taiga-woods with snowy jungles of Khमार-Daban, Baikal Biosphere nature preserve , winter "fairytale" of the Sable's Lake. You may find after your dog sled trip is over that it is the dogs themselves and the special relationship you develop over three days that becomes the most meaningful part of your experience. Enjoy exciting trail and thrilling ride in the great outdoors with spectacular views of Baikal enchanted in snow and ice, led by Baikal only professional dog sledding musher and the owner of the Center- Oleg Tyurumin, and with 2 dog-champions of Russia – Bell and Jazz. Ride true and unique breed of The Kamchatka Huskies developed by nature with no an intrusion. These riding dogs have in the ancient past inherited their ancestors' – wolfs' - exceptional quick-wittedness...And after

few generations that were spent on the shores of Lake Baikal these great outdoor dogs ,surely, acquired another specific feature in their character ...This is greatness of that Energy that Baikal grants any being that lives in harmony with Mother Nature.

► **Logistics:** Each trip accommodates one group of 4 persons, if there are more than the trip is combined with snow mobile riding as well – each of the dog sledding tour goer will sometimes change a sled for a snowmobiles which , actually, proves to be very reasonable and nice variation. Under the expert guidance of mushers – Oleg Tyuryumin and his wife Natasha who're hooked on winter wilderness -you'll gain a good understanding of the basic commands, techniques and sled control. Emphasis will be placed on handling, feeding, harnessing and care of the dogs assigned to you for building up a good rapport with your team. Freight snowmobile sleds & dog teams, warm and safe overalls, sled bags for packing personal gear shall be provided.

🌀 Your guide will be **Oleg Tyurumin:** founder & the Guru of the Baikal Dog Sledding Center. Russia's leader in the long distance dog sled racing; the winner of the 338 km long "Kalevala" dog sledding race and the 230 km "Northern Hope" race; won the 2-nd place in the championship of Russia (170 km long)) and 5-th in the 400 km World Cup race; organizer of "The Ancestral Summons" special dog sled racing for "tough men" and the winter "Tea Caravan" expedition. Oleg is married, besides 45 or so dogs together with his wife Natasha (also an experienced dog musher) supports and raises 5 children.



🌿 **Duration/ trip dates/availability:** 8 days/7 nights; JUST ONE departure only in 2019 ( February 23 – March 01 ,2019; from one to four persons Trip cost: 1 pax – USD 3 794 p/p, 2 pax – USD 3 590 p/p, 3 pax – 3 410 USD p/p , 4 pax – 3340 USD per each person.





## Suggested tour itinerary

**Day 1** – Upon arrival in Irkutsk we meet you and assist with the luggage in the airport for further transfer to Courtyard by Marriott Irkutsk City Center hotel located in the heart of Irkutsk. Check in and time at leisure. Then have lunch at the hotel restaurant followed by city center sightseeing tour including visit to the central Orthodox Cathedral and embankment of the Angara River. Enjoy then a tour of the Decembrists’ Museum (former mansion of Prince Volkonsky). On return back to the Marriott have your evening meal and stay for this overnight.

**Day 2** - Breakfast. Departure to Listvyanka settlement located on Lake Baikal 62 km away from Irkutsk, at the source of the Angara river – the widest one in the world. En route take a guided tour of the “Taltsy” – the Open Air Museum of Wooden Architecture – a living legacy of the Siberian and Russian cultures that unfolds in a truly exiting exhibition of original wooden structures complete with housewares and home utensils. Then continue further to Listvyanka where the Angara outflows Lake Baikal. Check in Baikal Terema Hotel and lunch in a cozy wooden restaurant (fish and vegetarian menu’re available). Then have an orientation lecture on the upcoming dog sledding trip, and short training course at dog nursery of the Baikal Dog Sledding Sports Center to acquire skills and learn how to mush the Kamchatka huskies. Dinner and overnight back .

**Day 3** - This morning after breakfast -our final preparations for the dog sledding trip. Around 10:00 we start out on the ice of frozen Lake Baikal mushing, first, along the western shore passing by the capes of Listvyanka, Sityi and Tolstiy. En route this first portion of the full-day trip this day we shall stop a few times to have lunch at the Prospector’s retreat lodge in the Chornaya valley. Two or, perhaps, three more stops shall be made for taking pictures of spectacular ice grottoes and the cave that once was home to prehistoric people. Then we continue further - in the direction of the Meridian-105 and towards the eastern shore of Lake Baikal. Nothing compares to the thrill of driving the dog team through the spectacular winter scenery of Baikal enchanted in ice and snow. This day we will pass the distance of 50 km on our way to the ice camp of the Meredian-105 located in the middle of Lake Baikal. Upon arrival at the 105-Meridian we shall set up the tents both for ourselves and our sled-dogs.







After dinner prepared over the gas stove we shall overnight in the middle of Lake Baikal, in the dead of night often hearing the "chamber symphony" sounds of the living body of Baikal beneath the ice.

**Day 4** - After breakfast prepared by team work and upon feeding the dogs, we will be leaving from the Meridian-105 which crosses Lake Baikal right in the middle. We start out to the eastern shore, and our destination today is the "Warm Lakes" retreat lodge on the river of Snezhnaya (eastern shore). Have picnic-lunch en route, about the time when we can already see the snowy Khamar-Daban mountain range of the Baikal's eastern shore. Before dinner we shall be arriving at the Warm lakes camp, located in a spectacular valley of the Snezhnaya river, at the foothills of fancy Hat of Monomakh Mountain, 6 km from the shore of Baikal. Our last portion of dog-sled riding this day will proceed through the mixed coniferous forest containing many black relict poplar trees which trunks are very huge, possible to embrace only having 3-4 persons at a time. The retreat lodge is also surrounded by 3 small lakes - Fairytale lake, Emerald lake and Warm lake.

After setting up the camp for the dogs we check in at the retreat lodge to enjoy "banya" - Siberian sauna then dinner and warm overnight.

#### **Day 5**

After our breakfast, and feeding the dogs earlier, we will be starting out, mushing up the river reaches of the Snezhnaya towards the Sable lake located 640 meters above sea level in the Khamar-Daban mountain range. We shall have our lunch as picnic en route with hot tea/coffee. Total distance today is about 30 km. After setting up the camp, prepare dinner over the camp fire and overnight in the tents.

#### **Day 6**

Today after taking pictures of the beautiful winter surroundings we will be returning back to the Warm Lake retreat lodge for dinner and overnight.

#### **Day 7**

This day we spent riding sled dogs that became a great part of our team, and friends, backwards across Lake Baikal to reach the western shore in Listvyanka a couple of hours before dinner. Upon arrival we check in at the DEREVEN'KA lodge to enjoy, first, the 'banya' and then Gala Party in Siberian style featuring home made tasty entrees including, certainly, omul-fish cooked and prepared in various ways. The Dogs shall be likewise attending the Gala Party to give you special CERTIFICATES...

