

Buryat Legends of the Eastern Shore: The T

4 days / 3 nights · all_year · easy

This tour is not about lounging — it is a journey through the Buryat legends of Baikal's eastern shore: three places, three stories. First Turtle Rock, then the sacred hot spring of Goryachinsk, and finally the lighthouse in Turka, where endless Baikal opens up and, if you look closely, you can see the very stone where the Turtle's heart stopped thousands of years ago.

What awaits you:

— Turtle Rock — a natural monument, a boulder shaped like a turtle with an outstretched neck. Legend says the Great Turtle, a symbol of peace and kindness, guarded the White Pearl that protected Baikal from the Black Shaman. She defeated the shaman, took his Black Pearl and smashed it on the rocks, knowing she would turn to stone. The spirit of Baikal granted her one night a year — at the spring full moon — when she comes back to life.

— Goryachinsk hot spring — a siliceous thermal spring (+42...+54 °C) known since ancient times. A Buryat hunter once wounded his dog and a few days later found it by a hot stream with the wound almost healed. Since then Buryats have considered the spring sacred: they hold rituals here, ask for health and luck and tie coloured ribbons to the trees.

— Turka lighthouse — a working lighthouse on a cape and one of the best-known symbols of the eastern shore. Legend says the Turtle looked out over Baikal from here before her last battle, and Buryat fishermen brought gifts to the lake's master, Dair Sagaan Noyon (the White Lord), asking for a rich catch.

Who it is for:

Those who want to discover the real Buryatia — not just Baikal but its soul; lovers of legends, myths and shamanic stories; photographers.