

UPF-Russia apply for Lake Baikal Environmental Tourism project in Siberia

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UPF of Russia is accepting applications to participate in its annual Environmental Tourism project, to be held from July 10 to 24, 2017. The project will take place in southern Siberia, in the mountains near the beautiful Lake Baikal, the largest freshwater lake by volume in the world. The nearest city is Irkutsk.

Participants will make footpaths and build footbridges across mountain streams. They will receive training in leadership skills as well as in surviving in extreme conditions. They will walk extensively in the nature near Lake Baikal, visiting many scenic locations.

The annual Environmental Tourism project was launched in 2002 with the aim of promoting a values-oriented volunteer culture. It was initiated by UPF and supported by the Baikal research and rescue group of the Ministry of Emergency and several other organizations. In 2009 the project was recognized in the Ecology and Landscaping category of the all-Russia competition Volunteer of the Year 2009.

Representatives of youth and volunteer organizations are invited to participate, as well as those who desire to develop the volunteer movement and/or ecological tourism.

There is a policy of no smoking, no alcohol and no drugs during the project. Participants must be over 18 years and must be able to walk up to 15 kilometers (over 9 miles), while carrying a backpack, and to camp outdoors.

It is possible to participate for either one week (July 10 to 17) or two weeks (July 10 to 24). Participants will pay for their transportation to and from the city of Irkutsk. The registration fee for one week is \$400, and for two weeks is \$300.

Please read the following materials for lists of necessary equipment, which participants must bring with them, as well as optional equipment which will make the experience more comfortable.



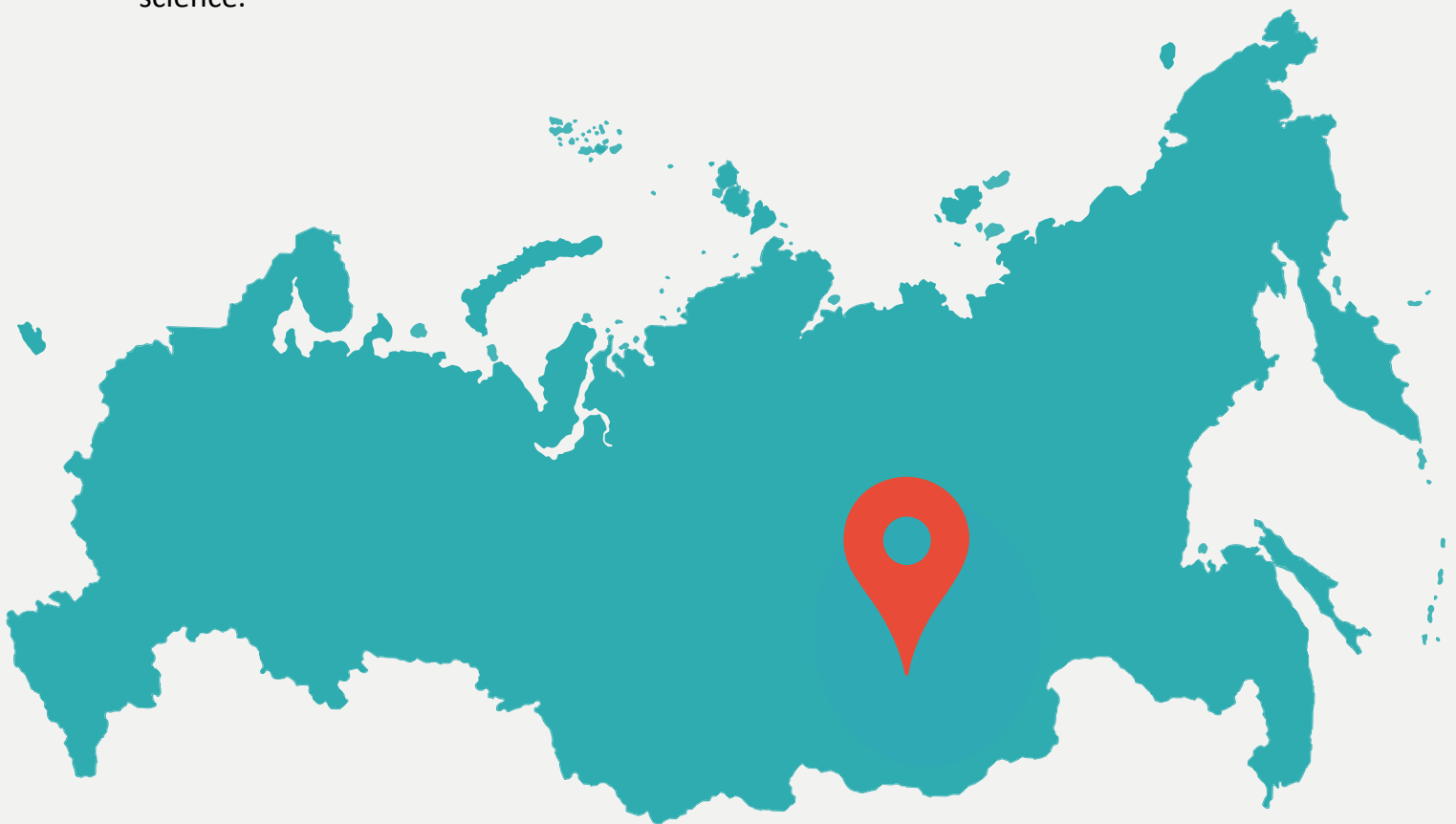
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Lake Baikal

Situated in south-east Siberia, the 3.15-million-ha Lake Baikal is the oldest (25 million years) and deepest (1,700 m) lake in the world.

It contains 20% of the world's total unfrozen freshwater reserve. Known as the 'Galapagos of Russia', its age and isolation have produced one of the world's richest and most unusual freshwater faunas, which is of exceptional value to evolutionary science.



It is also surrounded by a system of protected areas that have high scenic and other natural values.



History of the Project



The project was launched in 2002. It was conditioned, on one hand, by necessity of building mounting rivers crossings and improving the existing footpaths, on the other hand.

The project is also aimed at developing the value oriented volunteering and sharing experience in volunteers' activity. The project is initiated by the Universal Peace Federation and supported by the Baikal research-and-rescue group of the Ministry of Emergency and several other organizations.

In 2009, the project won in the nomination "Ecology and improvement" of the All-Russia competition "Volunteer-2009".

Summary of the Project

CONSTRUCTION

– building footbridges, improving the adjacent footpaths, equipping stops, putting information boards;

EDUCATIONAL PART

– talks, discussions and interactive classes on: organization of the volunteer activity, personal growth of a volunteer, ecological tourism, work in a team etc. Value-oriented volunteerism.

TOURIST TRIP

– visiting unique places on the spine of Hamar-Daban (peak of Chersky, waterfalls, Heart-lake).

Social Effect of Baikal 2017 Project

- Lowering the high level of traumatism on popular tourist routs;
- Creating conditions for family and children's tourism, and for some categories of people with limited faculties and elderly people;
- Involving young people and local community into solving ecological problems;
- Establishing regional contacts between volunteers;
- Improving the industry of tourism, preserving the territory through creating ecologically comfortable routs;



Requirements for participation:

- The anti-drug, anti-smoking, and anti-alcohol focus, orientation towards a healthy lifestyle.
- Active social position, experience in organizing or attending social projects.
- Sports and tourism training at the level of walking 15 km with a knapsack.
- Age of participants - over 18 years

Two possible ways of participation:

2-weeks participation

To arrive to Irkutsk: July 10th, 2017

To leave Irkutsk: July 24th, 2017

To pay: air tickets and \$300 registration fee.

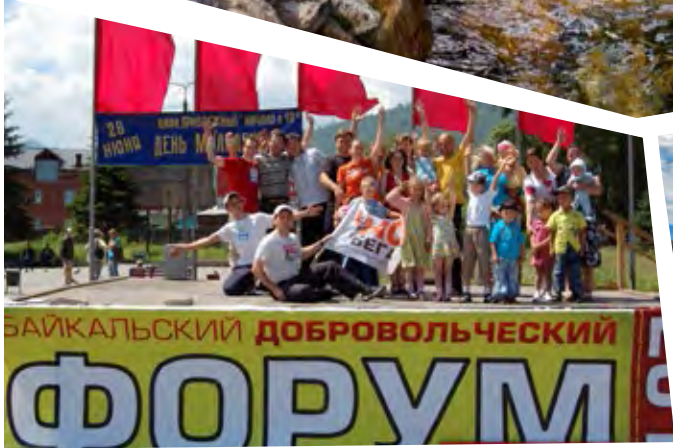
1-week participation - shortened attendance of the 2-week project with more tourist component

To arrive to Irkutsk: July 10th, 2017

To leave Irkutsk: July 17th, 2017

To pay: air tickets and \$400 registration fee.









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baikalproject.com

