Leverhulme International Network

Exploring Russia’s Environmental History and Natural Resources

Lake Baikal, Ulan-Ude and Irkutsk
Siberia, Russia
25 July - 4 August 2015

Actual Programme

Group (ex Voicu who took the photo) at Shaman’s Rock, Olkhon Island, Lake Baikal

http://www.york.ac.uk/history/research/majorprojects/russiasenvironmentalhistory/
Day -2, Thursday, 23 July
Bryce Beukers-Stewart, Nick Breyfogle, Hazel Long and David Moon arrived in Irkutsk. Overnight at Hotel Europe.
Alan Roe arrived in Ulan-Ude. Overnight at Baikal Plaza hotel.

Day – 1, Friday, 24 July
Bryce, Nick, Hazel and David travelled on Trans-Siberian railway from Irkutsk to Ulan-Ude.

Dinner at Yurt restaurant with Alan.
Overnight at Baikal Plaza, Ulan-Ude.

Day 1, Saturday, 25 July
Alexandra Bekasova, Andy Bruno, Catherine Evtuhov, Boris Gasparov, Ekaterina Kalemeneva, Elena Kochetkova, Julia Lajus, Mark Sokolsky and Voicu Sucala arrived in Ulan-Ude. Breakfast at Baikal Plaza.

Lenin Head in Ulan-Ude
Afternoon: **Roundtable at Buryat State University**, Ulan-Ude. Co-organised and co-convened by Nikolay Tsypempilov, Dept of Buryat History, Buryat State University, and Nick Breyfogle.

Presentations by network members and series of talks by local scientists and specialists on nature conservation and environmental movement.

*Sergei Shapkhaev, Buryat Regional Union for Lake Baikal, 'The History of the Environmental Movement in Baikal in Events and Dates.'*

Dinner at Baikal Plaza with round table participants. Overnight in Baikal Plaza.
Day 2, Sunday, 26 July
Breakfast at Baikal Plaza, with Arkadii and Tat’yana Kalikhman.
Morning: drove north on bus to Monakhovo, on Lake Baikal: 320km.
Supermarket stop for essential supplies; Lunch stop on beach at Maksimikha.
Entered Zabaikal National Park at Ust-Barguzin.
Met Leonid Batorov, our local travel operator at Monakhovo, Chivirkuy Bay.

Boarded our boats, Grom and Sekret (24-meter-long, diesel-powered ‘Yaroslavtsy’)

Stopped at hot springs and had our first swim in Lake Baikal.
Dinner and overnight on boats en route to Davsha.

Day 3, Monday 27 July
Morning: Breakfast on board and disembarked at Davsha, Barguzinskii zapovednik.
Walking tour of Davsha and the lake shore with introduction to zapovednik by Alexander Ananin, scientific director.
Lunch in Davsha.

Afternoon: Visited zapovednik Museum with lecture by Alexander Ananin.

**Workshop in former House of Culture, Davsha.**

1. David Moon, thanks and introduction.

2. Arkadii & Tat’yana Kalikhman, presentation on their research on nature conservation and Lake Baikal.

3. Julia Lajus, ‘Environmental History in Russia and about Russia: Particularities of the 20-year-old start.’


Swim in Baikal at Davsha.

Evening: Dinner; Steering Group meeting; Overnight at Davsha.
Day 4, Tuesday 28 July
Breakfast in Davsha.

All-day hike, guided by Alexander Ananin, south from Davsha, along lake shore and through taiga to Cape Valukan.

Lunch on beach.

Swim in Baikal at Davsha: water at Davsha an unprecedented 18 C due to heat wave.

Dinner and overnight at Davsha.
**Day 5, Wednesday 29 July**

Breakfast at Davsha.

Morning: **Workshop in former House of Culture, Davsha**


4. Hazel Long, ‘Carbon cycling and CO2 fluxes between freshwaters and the atmosphere in the high latitudes, with particular reference to Greenland.’


6. Ion Voicu Sucala, Slide show of photos from the trip

Lunch in Davsha.

Afternoon: Hike led by Alexander Ananin through taiga to cliffs to north with view over Davsha.

Evening: Dinner in Davsha.

Left Davsha, reboarded Grom and Sekret. Overnight on board *en route* to Ushkanyi islands.
Day 6, Thursday, 30 July
Breakfast on board.

Visited rookery of Baikal seals (nerpa) at Tonkii island.

Lunch on board.

Afternoon: Workshop on board Grom. (Rearranged from day 10 so all could attend.)

1. Discussion of Katya and Alexandra’s paper from previous workshop.
2. David Moon, ‘Russian environmental history in recent Western scholarship.’
Evening: Sailed through Maloe More, between Olkhon Island and mainland. For the first time we were clear of the smoke from the forest fires around the lake.

Dinner on board.

Arrive at beach near Khuzhir. Disembarked. Visited Shaman's Rock and Khuzhir: our first encounter with 'civilization' since we left Ulan-Ude.

_Buddhist prayer flags on path to Shaman's rock._

**Day 7, Friday 31 July**

Breakfast on board.

Explored Khuzhir and vicinity: group photo at Shaman's Rock; visited the N. M. Revyakin Khuzhir local history museum; watched festival sponsored by Irkutsk power company (Irkutsenergo) to celebrate 10th anniversary of arrival of mains electric power – including wrestling tournament and Buryat and Russian folk dancing; walks along beach.

Dinner and overnight on board our boats for last time.
**Day 8, Saturday 1 August**

Disembarked boats in a hurry before 8 am as a storm brewing and crews needed to take the boats to calmer waters.

Alexandra, Lena and Julia left for Irkutsk and on to Japan to take part in conferences.

One of the UAZ vans got stuck in the sand. We spent an hour, under Arkadii’s supervision, digging it out and improvising a ‘road’ of stones and wood so the driver could reverse out, with some help from group. Probably the highlight of the whole trip.

The rest of the day was spent touring Olkhon island in the UAZ vans: including Peschanka Bay, Cape Khoboi, Cape Sagan-Khushun, with picnic lunch.

Dinner and overnight at Olga’s guesthouse (‘U Ol'gi’), Khuzhir.
Day 9, Sunday, 2 August
Breakfast as Olga’s guesthouse.

Bus with grumpy driver from Khuzhir to Irkutsk – 300 km - via ferry from Olkhon to mainland.

Dinner in Irkutsk.

Voicu left for airport for Japan for conference.

Overnight at Hotel Europe, Irkutsk

Day 10, Monday, 3 August
Breakfast at hotel Europe.

Tour of Irkutsk led by Arkadii.

Decembrist museum: the Trubetskoï house.
Day 11, Tuesday, 4 August
Rest of group depart Irkutsk.

The Group
University of York
David Moon – Dept of History
Bryce Beukers-Stewart - Environment Dept

University of Glasgow
Hazel Long – PhD student, School of Geographical and Earth Sciences
Voicu Sucala – PhD student, Central and East European Studies, School of Social and Political Sciences

Ohio State University, Columbus
Nicholas Breyfogle – Dept of History
Mark Sokolsky – PhD student, Dept of History

Georgetown University, Washington, DC
Catherine Evtuhov - Dept of History
Alan Roe – PhD. student, Dept of History

The European University at St Petersburg
Alexandra Bekasova - Dept of History
Elena Kochetkova - PhD student, Dept of History

The National Research University - Higher School of Economics, St Petersburg
Julia Lajus – Dept of History
Ekaterina Kalemeneva - PhD student, Dept of History

Additional members outside Leverhulme network
Arkadii and Tat’yana Kalikhman, Irkutsk
Andy Bruno – Dept of History, Northern Illinois University
Boris Gasparov - Columbia University
Taiga on Barguzinskii zapovednik

Maloe More between Olkhon Island and mainland
Baikal's famous clear water (Olkhon Island)

On our way back from Shaman's Rock
Map of Lake Baikal
(https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lake_Baikal#/media/File:Karte_baikal2.png)