

NLA 2026

IRKUTSK CULTURAL GUIDE

June 22-26, 2026 Irkutsk, Russia

Selected city ideas

A compact guide to museums, walks, local cuisine, restaurants and transport for guests of Irkutsk during NLA 2026. Russian names are included for easier search in local maps and websites.

Reference point

Travel-time notes are approximate and start from ISDCT SB RAS, 134 Lermontova Street. Check exact routes in 2GIS or Yandex Maps on the day.

FIRST ORIENTATION

Irkutsk in brief

Irkutsk is more than a transit point on the way to Lake Baikal. It has a recognizable Siberian urban character: wooden architecture, Decembrist history, strong museum collections, contemporary Buryat and Siberian art, and a local table built around Baikal fish, taiga products and Buryat-Mongolian cuisine.

ART

Dashi Namdakov and Siberian art

Даши Намдаков и сибирское искусство

Gallery Victor Bronstein is the most compact way to see a contemporary Siberian and Buryat visual layer in one visit.

HISTORY

Decembrist Irkutsk

Декабристский Иркутск

The Volkonsky and Trubetskoy houses preserve the city's 19th-century intellectual and exile history.

ARCHITECTURE

Wooden city

Деревянный город

130th Quarter and central streets give a quick impression of restored wooden Irkutsk and its urban texture.

UNUSUAL

Museum "On the Dump"

Музей «На свалке»

A distinctive open-air complex combining scrap-metal objects, popular fantasy imagery and military-technical exhibits.

BAIKAL

Fish and lake culture

Байкальская рыба и культура озера

Omul is the symbolic name, but sig, kharius, lenok and muksun also appear in regional menus.

FOOD

Buuzy, bukhler, taiga products

Буузы, бухлёр, таёжные продукты

Buryat dumplings, meat broth, pine nuts, berries, mushrooms, fern and herbs are clear local markers.

MUSEUMS, GALLERIES, WALKS

Places worth considering

GALLERY

Gallery Victor Bronstein

Галерея Виктора Бронштейна

approx. 20-30 min by taxi

Octyabrskoy Revolyutsii St., 3

Contemporary Siberian and Buryat art. The permanent highlight is *The Art of Dashi Namdakov and His Family*; the gallery also lists current 2026 exhibitions and has a shop, bistro and showroom.

ART MUSEUM

Irkutsk Regional Art Museum named after V. P. Sukachev

Иркутский областной художественный музей им. В. П. Сукачёва

approx. 15-25 min by taxi

central Irkutsk

The main art institution of the city, with the main building, Gallery of Siberian Art and Sukachev Estate. Good for a calmer museum visit and for Russian/Siberian collections.

HISTORY

Irkutsk Museum of Decembrists

Иркутский музей декабристов

approx. 20-30 min by taxi

Volkonsky and Trubetsky houses

Two historic houses devoted to the Decembrists and their families: exile, domestic culture, music, letters and the intellectual atmosphere of old Irkutsk.

SHIP

Icebreaker Angara

Ледокол «Ангара»

approx. 25-40 min by taxi

near the Angara water area

A museum ship connected with Baikal navigation and technical history; the engine-room visit is usually the main reason to go.

WALK

130th Quarter, Babr sculpture, Angara embankment

130-й квартал, скульптура Бабра, набережная Ангары

approx. 15-25 min by taxi

central walk

A convenient central route with restored wooden houses, cafes, the Babr symbol of Irkutsk, souvenir shops and the riverside.

UNUSUAL

Museum "On the Dump"

Музей «На свалке»

approx. 45-60 min by taxi

outside the centre

A famous, deliberately eccentric open-air museum on the landfill territory. It began around patriotic and military-technical themes, but has grown into a wider found-object environment: military equipment, field reconstructions, retro objects and large sculptures made from discarded metal and everyday materials. It is far from the centre and is best treated as a separate excursion.

LOCAL CUISINE

What to try in Irkutsk

For guests from other Russian cities and from abroad, the most distinctive food experience is the meeting point of Baikal fish, Buryat-Mongolian dishes and Siberian taiga ingredients.

BURYAT FOOD

Buuzy / pozy

Буузы / поэы

Steamed meat dumplings. The broth inside is part of the dish; they are usually eaten carefully, not cut open at once.

SOUP

Bukhler

Бухлёр

A clear, rich Buryat meat soup, usually associated with lamb or beef, onion and simple seasoning.

BAIKAL FISH

Omul, sig, kharius, lenok, muksun

Омуль, сиг, хариус, ленок, муксун

Look for smoked, salted, fried or lightly marinated versions. Availability depends on the restaurant and season.

FISH STARTER

Sagudai / sugudai

Сагудай / сугудай

Cold marinated fish with onion, oil and seasoning. One of the clearest "Baikal table" dishes to try in Irkutsk.

COLD FISH

Stroganina

Строганина

Thin slices of frozen fish or meat. More broadly Siberian/northern than strictly Irkutsk, but common in regional restaurants.

TAIGA

Pine nuts, berries, mushrooms, fern

Кедровые орехи, ягоды, грибы, папоротник

Try cedar nuts, sea buckthorn, lingonberry, cranberry, taiga herbs, mushrooms or bracken fern in starters, sauces and desserts.

Price key: ₪ simple / inexpensive · ₪₪ moderate · ₪₪₪ comfortable · ₪₪₪₪ higher-end · ₪₪₪₪₪ special occasion. The marks are approximate.

RESTAURANTS

Selected restaurants and local food

BAIKAL CUISINE

Lamu

Ламу

Krasnykh Madyar St., 50/2

approx. 20-30 min by taxi

₪₪₪₪

One of the strongest Irkutsk restaurants for Baikal cuisine: local fish, sugudai, stroganina, taiga herbs and regional ingredients in a contemporary setting.

BAIKAL FISH

Omulevochnaya

Омулёвочная

130th Quarter

approx. 15-25 min by taxi

₪₪

A new, very relevant local address in the 130th Quarter. The menu is built around omul and other fish: uha from Baikal fish, lightly salted omul and sig, smoked-omul starters and related dishes.

AUTHOR

Premiera

Премьера

Kozhova St., 38

approx. 15-25 min by taxi

₪₪₪

A refined Irkutsk restaurant with a theatrical atmosphere and an interpretation of Russian and Siberian cuisine using local products. Good for a quieter dinner.

RUSSIAN

Knyaz Gvidon

Князь Гвидон

Sukhe-Batora St., 18

approx. 15-25 min by taxi

₪₪₪₪

A new restaurant in the Pushkin hotel in the historic centre. More formal: author/Russian cuisine, seafood accents, wine list and elegant interiors.

SIBERIAN**Partizan**

Партизан

130th Quarter

approx. 15-25 min by taxi

₹₹₹

A visible central restaurant with a Siberian set: Baikal fish, sagudai, taiga dessert, fern, local meats and other ingredients of the region.

SIBERIAN**Okhotnikov**

ОХОТНИКОВ

Zvezda hotel area

approx. 25-40 min by taxi

₹₹₹₹

A classic Irkutsk choice for game, wild meat, fish and Siberian dishes. Better suited to a deliberate dinner than a quick meal.

MODERN**Komorebi**

Комореби

Karl Liebknecht St., 85

approx. 20-30 min by taxi

₹₹₹₹

Modern Siberian cuisine by the Angara; a more contemporary restaurant format with regional references and calmer presentation.

BURYAT**Kochevnik**

Кочевник

Gorky St., 19

approx. 15-25 min by taxi

₹₹₹

Mongolian/Buryat restaurant in the centre; a natural place to try buuzy and meat dishes in a thematic interior.

BURYAT**Ulus / Uluus**

Улус / Улуус

130th Quarter area

approx. 15-25 min by taxi

₹₹₹

Ethno-restaurant with Buryat and Mongolian cuisine; useful for regional dishes and a central location.

SIMPLE**Poznaya / buuznaya cafes**

Позные / буузные

various locations

₹

For a quick local meal, choose a well-rated nearby place specializing in pozy/buuzy.

TRANSPORT

Getting around Irkutsk

Irkutsk has buses, trolleybuses, trams and route minibuses. In the centre, walking plus a short taxi ride is often the most efficient combination; for places outside the centre, check the route and return options in advance.

PUBLIC TRANSPORT

Routes and schedules

2GIS and Yandex Maps show routes, stops, public-transport options and walking segments. Search by venue name rather than by transliterated address.

[2GIS Irkutsk](#)

[Yandex Maps transport](#)

TAXI

Saving time

For evening returns, restaurants, museums outside the centre and visits with limited time, Yandex Go / Yandex Taxi or another ride-hailing service is usually the simplest option.

[Yandex Go](#)

[Yandex Taxi](#)

TRAFFIC

Rush hours

Allow extra time on central roads and bridges in the morning and late afternoon, especially around 8:00-9:30 and 17:00-19:00.

REFERENCE

From the conference venue

All approximate travel-time notes in this guide are from ISDCT SB RAS, 134 Lermontova Street. Route times vary noticeably with traffic.

CURRENT LISTINGS

Selected events around the dates

A few listings are included as orientation points; city event schedules change quickly, so ticket availability and final details are best checked directly on the day.

23 Jun **Philharmonic listings: balalaika / film-music concerts, 18:30**

A possible evening music option in the city centre.

24 Jun **Soiree: *Sulamith*, 19:00**

A theatre / plastic-performance event listed on Afisha for Wednesday evening.

24-26 Jun **Philharmonic and chamber music listings**

Irkutsk listings include organ, romance and instrumental concerts on conference dates.

27-28 Jun **Food festival *Syty Babr* / «Сытый Бабр»**

For those staying after the conference: a city food festival announced for the weekend after NLA 2026, with local food, open-air food court and culinary events.

For restaurants, especially with several colleagues, reserve a table. For the Museum "On the Dump" and the Icebreaker Angara, check opening hours and route timing before leaving.

Sources used. Gallery Victor Bronstein official site; Irkutsk Regional Art Museum official site; Irkutsk Museum of Decembrists official site; Irkutsk museum/city listings; KP guide to the Museum "On the Dump"; Afisha.ru and Sibkassa listings; 2GIS and Yandex Maps; official restaurant sites/menus and public listings for Lamu, Omulevochnaya, Premiera, Knyaz Gvidon, Partizan, Okhotnikov, Komorebi, Kochevnik and Ulus.

Opening hours, ticket availability, route times and menus may change.