We invite you to join us for this wonderful opportunity to explore Moscow and Lake Baikal, traveling on board the 30 passenger M/V Vampilov on Lake Baikal.

Leading the expedition will be Dr. Victor Kuzevanov along with a team of Russian scientists.

Our 13-day journey will begin in Moscow where we will discover the enchantment of Moscow’s Kremlin, with its frescoed Archangel Cathedral, Armory Museum, political offices, and historic buildings. We will have a special visit to Star City, where Russia’s cosmonauts and astronauts from many countries train.

We will then fly to Irkutsk, the “Paris of Siberia,” with striking gold-domed churches and wooden homes with blue and green shutters.

At Lake Baikal, we will board M/V Vampilov, a comfortable ship with modest accommodations for 26 participants plus leaders.

We will venture more than 250 miles up Lake Baikal. The Russian “Galapagos Islands,” Baikal is the single richest location in Russia for endemism, a fabulous reservoir of unique flora and fauna. Lake Baikal is the oldest

...and deepest lake in the world, and stores nearly 20% of the freshwater on earth. It contains more than 1,500 species unique to Baikal, and hundreds of species that live nowhere else.

Our visit will include Pribaikalsky National Park, the “Layered Lakes” of Lake Baikal, the “deep sea” of Olkhon Island, to visit the fishing headlands of Baikal’s famous Olkhon Island, to visit the fishing headlands of Baikal’s famous Islands, “Shaman Rock” and explore the Maloe More, the “small sea” and “solar eye” of the world’s oldest lake.

In Irkutsk, we will visit the “nameless trees” in the “Northern Home,” home to the broadest species diversity, with 1,592 species of plants and 10,142 species of animals. We will explore the “northern flora” of Siberia, the “northern forest” of Siberia, and the “northern lake” of Siberia.

Dr. Victor Kuzevanov is a renowned Russian naturalist, biologist, and archaeologist. He is the director of the Botanic Garden of Irkutsk State University, and the director of the Botanic Garden of Irkutsk State University. His expertise is in the diversity, diet, and health of Siberians.

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Dr. A. Golovko is a renowned Russian naturalist, biologist, and archaeologist. He is the director of the Botanic Garden of Irkutsk State University, and the director of the Botanic Garden of Irkutsk State University. His expertise is in the diversity, diet, and health of Siberians.
ACS & Sigma Xi Expeditions would like to see our enthusiastic travelers on a six-day ecological journey of discovery, with a special visit to the “Galapagos of Siberia,” with striking Ushkanyi Islands, home to the “nerpa” seals of Lake Baikal.

Our visit will include Pribyalskiy and Zabaikalsky National Parks; Maloe More, the “small sea” and Olkhon Island, to visit the fishing village, school, and museum. We will walk along the marble headlands of Baikal’s famous “Sharman Rock” and explore the Ushkanyi Islands, home to the “nerpa” seals of Lake Baikal.

Join us... as we discover the delights of Moscow and Siberia!

Best regards,

Margaret
President,
Betchart Expeditions Inc.
for AAAS, Sigma Xi & ACS

and deepest lake in the world, and stores nearly 20% of the freshwater on earth. It contains more than 1,500 species unique to Baikal, and hundreds more endemics on the surrounding mountainsides.

Our visit will include Pribyalskiy and Zabaikalsky National Parks; Maloe More, the “small sea” and Olkhon Island, to visit the fishing village, school, and museum. We will walk along the marble headlands of Baikal’s famous “Sharman Rock” and explore the Ushkanyi Islands, home to the “nerpa” seals of Lake Baikal.

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Lake Baikal 2013

Our 13-day journey will begin in Moscow and Lake Baikal, where we will discover the enchantment of Moscow’s historic buildings. We will have a special visit to the Solar Observatory, historic buildings. We will have a special visit to the Solar Observatory, Armory Museum, political offices, and the enchantment of Moscow’s Armory Museum, political offices, and the enchantment of Moscow’s Kremlin, with its frescoed history and home to the “herpa” seals of Lake Baikal.

We invite you to join us for this comfortable ship with accommodations two to a cabin with private bathroom. The ship is “best available” for an educational group fare with Aeroflot including international flights and land and ship transportation, group airport transfers; accommodations twin share; most meals in Russia; entrance fees; baggage handling; leadership, permitting and insurance.

Dr. Victor Kuzevanov, Director of the Botanic Garden of Irkutsk State University, and Dr. Aleksey Golovko, a Solar Astronomer. Both scientists have led Lake Baikal Expeditions for us since 1994 to wide acclaim, including the 2004 Transit of Venus Lake Baikal Expedition and 2008 Total Solar Eclipse in Novosibirsk.

Dr. Kuzevanov specializes in endangered Siberian alpine plants and is expanding the number of fruit and vegetable seeds available to improve the diversity, diet, and health of Siberians.

Dr. Golovko studies the sun. He will coordinate your visit to the Solar Observatory overlooking Lake Baikal.

Siberia and Lake Baikal
Days 1–2: New York to Moscow
Depart New York’s JFK International Airport for Moscow, arriving on Day 2. Transfer to the 35-story Hotel (3-night). Enjoy an afternoon for rest and leisure. Welcome Dinner. D

Day 3: Kremlin
Today we will explore the splendors of the Court period in Moscow. We will visit the Kremlin, first built over 800 years ago and once the center for the Russian church as well as state. The Cathedral of the Assumption is the most outstanding of the Kremlin’s older buildings, designed by an Italian master. We will also stroll to Red Square and the lance-like St. Basil’s cathedral, erected in 1551 and the most photographed cathedral in Russia. B, L, D

Day 4–5: Star City & Moscow to Irkutsk
Today we will visit the center of the Russian space training program, the Gagarin Cosmonaut Training Center at Star City, just outside of Moscow. We will be welcomed by the staff and have an introduction to the facilities where Russian cosmonauts and other astronauts train before taking a space flight to the International Space Station. We will see the Neutral Buoyancy Laboratory and the 18-meter simulators to simulate G-loads. The next day, we will have additional time in Moscow for museum visits. Transfer to the airport for our evening flight to Irkutsk. B, L, F

Day 6: Irkutsk—The “Parks of Siberia”
We will arrive in Irkutsk this morning. Irkutsk was founded as a Cossack fort and trading post in 1641. In the 18th century, the Decembrists were exiled here, bringing a high standard in education and the arts. The discovery of gold in the Lena River basin in the 1680s brought wealth; grand brick buildings were built beside the classic Russian wooden homes, creating the “Parks of Siberia” we enjoy today. We will have a city tour, and then a special visit to the Irkutsk Bataim Garden to learn about their work with plant species unique to the Baikal ecosystem. Depart for our hotel at Lake Baikal in late afternoon. B, L, D

Day 7: Solar Observatory & Baikal Museum
This morning, we will depart for the Solar Observatory high on a mountainside overlooking Lake Baikal’s sky-blue waters, hosted by Dr. Golevko. We will then visit the Baikal Museum, situated on the lakeshore, to see the imaginative exhibits, including a pond for the Baikal seal.

We will board M/V Vampilov this afternoon, and begin our six-day ecological journey of discovery of Lake Baikal. B, L, D

Days 8–12: Lake Baikal Expedition
During our journey on Lake Baikal, we will travel north for more than 200 miles, stopping at points of special interest along the shore:
- Peschanaya Bay & Sagann-Zaba, Pribaikalsky National Park. Peschanaya Bay lies along the coast of Pribaikalsky National Park. It is

Photos courtesy of David Morrison & Victor Kuzevanov.

Lake Baikal Expedition, Cupertino, CA 95014-5345

I/we want to join the Lake Baikal 2013 Expedition offered by SIGMA XI & ACS

Please reserve ______ space(s). As a deposit, I/we enclose a check for $______________ ($500 per June 21–July 3, 2013,

Yes! I/we want to join the Lake Baikal Expedition, Cupertino, CA 95014-5345

I/we will check and mail the following:

 Tobacco Preference: _____ Nonsmoker _____ Smoker

Accommodations Preference:

Citizenship: _____ USA _____ Canada Other: _____________________

Work (________) ________________________________________

Address: ________________________________________________

City: ____________________________________ State: ____ Zip: __________

Email Address: ___________________________________________

Telephone: ____________________________

Mail Line: ____________________________

Indicate your tour group:

Yes! I/we enclose a check for $______________ ($500 per

Day 6: Irkutsk—The “Parks of Siberia”

Day 7: Solar Observatory & Baikal Museum

Day 8–12: Lake Baikal Expedition

Days 1–2: New York to Moscow

Day 3: Kremlin

Days 4–5: Star City & Moscow to Irkutsk

Thank you for your interest in this expedition. Please be assured that your tour leader will exercise every care possible. However, we can assume no liability for injury, damage, delay, loss, accident or irregularity in connection with the services of any airplane, ship, motor coach, or any other conveyance used in carrying out the arrangements of any expedition.

The ACS (Academic and Scientific) act only as agents for the passenger with respect to transportation and hotels, and any act, omission, or event during the time passengers are not on board their plane and the airline concerned. The airlines concerned are not to be held responsible for that the air ticket when issued shall constitute the sole contract between the passenger or reserve the right to cancel any tour prior to departure, in which case the entire will have to be borne by the passenger, as tour rates provide for arrangements only for terrorism, acts of God, or other causes beyond our control. All such losses or expenses delay or changes in air or other services, sickness, weather, strike, war, quarantine, or conveyance.

The following terms and conditions shall apply:

1. Passenger must be able to travel on the published dates. No extensions allowed. No exceptions.

2. Balance due 45 days prior to departure. No refunds of monies paid if you cancel within 45 days of departure. No exceptions.

3. No substitutions allowed. No exceptions.

4. Aircraft charter or any other transportation is subject to change. No exceptions.

5. No refunds of monies paid if flight is canceled. No exceptions.

6. No credits allowed for early or late departure. No exceptions.

7. No credit for unused portions of tours. No exceptions.

8. Flights included in your tour or reserve the right to change or substitute any airline. No exceptions.

9. In case of flight cancellations, we reserve the right to substitute another leader of similar expertise. No exceptions.

10. Any other changes in transportation, museum, or hotel arrangements are subject to change. No exceptions.

11. Any agent of the ACS is not a ngônу to you and your personal circumstances.

12. The ACS is not responsible for any additional expenses incurred by you or your personal circumstances.

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a sheltered bay with massive stone peninsulas at each end. Nearby, Balkunka (Grandmother) Bay has less golden sand and another stone outcrop that offers commanding views. Also nearby are the petroglyphs at Agan Zaba. The twisted figures of deer, fox, man, and archaeological remains give credence to the belief that the early inhabitants of the area were the ancestors of the first colonizers of North America.

• Khonkhor Island & Khuzhir Village. We will awaken in the most sheltered part of Lake Baikal, the Khonkhor More and its many islands.

The islands are isolated for the herring and moss gulls, great cormorant, lake-ringed plover, and red-breasted merganser.

We will move north along Khonkhor Island, the largest island in the lake to visit the picturesque Shamann Rock and the isolated village of Khuzhir. The village will give you a glimpse of the life of the Baikal omul fisherman and their families. There is an excellent small museum.

• Chiyrykansky Bay in Zabaikalsky National Park. Chiyrykansky Bay is sheltered by the Holy Nose Peninsula and protects numerous islands. The morning walk will be along sandy beaches and then into dense taiga. In the afternoon we will explore the wet taiga, with shorter trees, few understorey plants, and massive development of sphagnum moss growing over a lag. In the late afternoon we will visit the geothermal hot pools at Snake Bay for a relaxing soak, take a plunge in Lake Baikal, and have a barbecue along the lakeshore.

• Ushkansky Islands, Zabaikalsky National Park. The four Ushkansky Islands rise above the Academic Ridge, to redden up the length of Baikal and protect it in Zabaikalsky National Park. These marble islands are heavily forested with Siberian pines and firs and are the summer breeding and resting grounds of the “nerpa,” the world’s only freshwater seal.

• Talanka & Aya Bays, Talanka Bay lies below a high, rocky ridge, part of the Buryat Range. Below the bay are sand dunes that were once ancestral homes to nomadic man. This site has yielded many stone tools, fragments of sunflowers and bones. At mid-day, we will cruise the lake and visit Aya Bay, a most picturesque location with a small village.

Our exact route will depend on weather and sea conditions and will be subject to change. The Russian scientists speak English to varying degrees and some use of interpreters is necessary. Return to Irkutsk
and our hotel on the afternoon of Day 11 for a special dinner in celebration of our journey. R.L.D.

Day 13: Tekhnik in Moscow & USA.
Fly to Moscow and New York for the end of our adventure. B.
Discover Moscow & Star City... 

Explore Siberia & Lake Baikal! 

June 21–July 3, 2013

COSTS & CONDITIONS

Expedition Fee: $3,300 per person, all-inclusive of air fare of $1,455 per person from New York, both in business and first class, round trip to Moscow, all ground transportation, accommodations (twin share with private bath in group); airfare does not include luggage handling, meals, permits, or personal insurance.

Expedition Fee Does Not Include: 

- Land and ship transportation, food or provisions, accommodations (ships, hotel rooms, meals, insurance for loss, baggage handling, leadership, administration).
- Expedition Fee Does Not Include: 

- Airfare quoted is a special fare during lectures, or meals.)

On the Web: 

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(800) 252-4910

(408) 252-4910

Staten Island, NY

Permit No. 169

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