

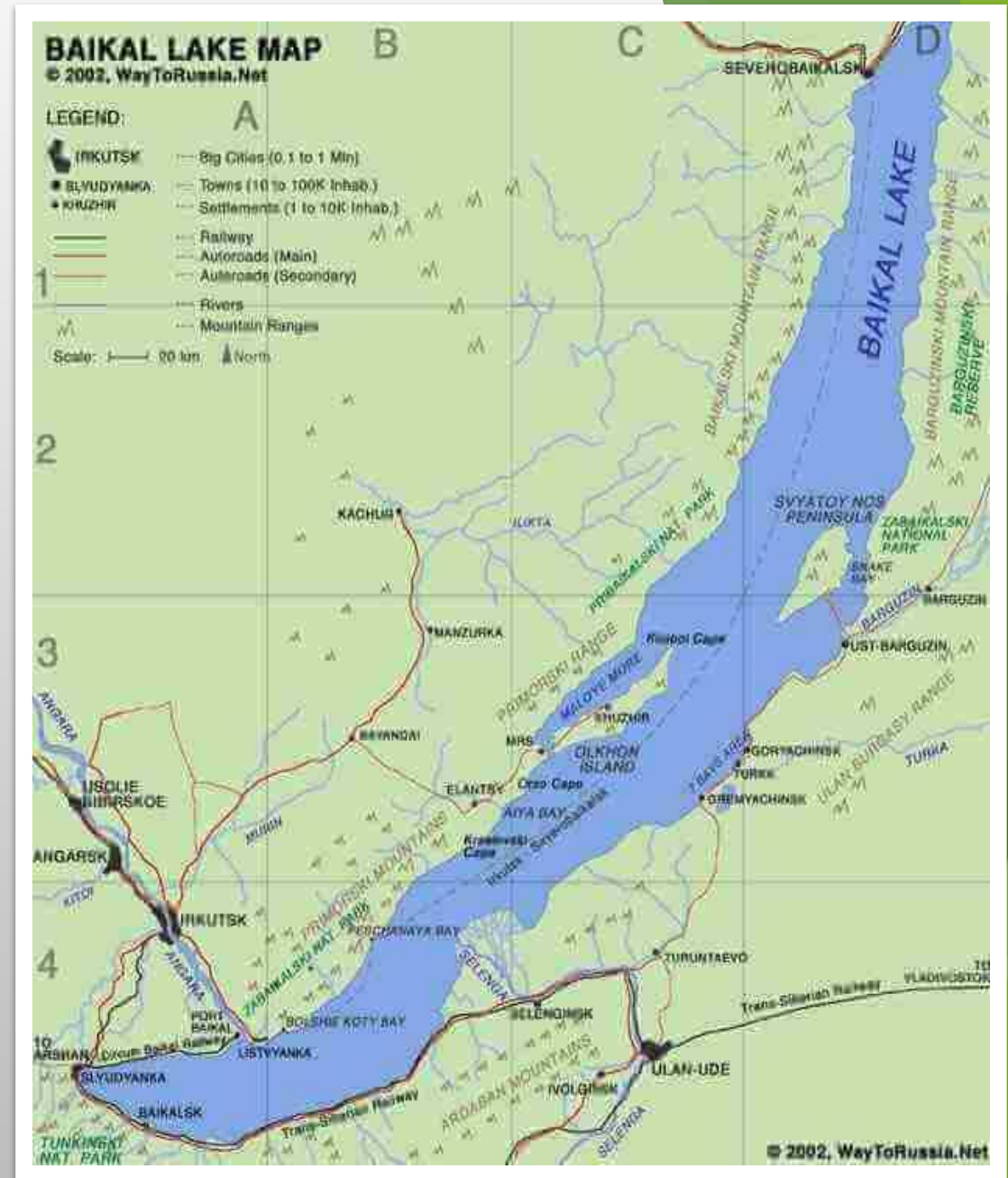
Lake Baikal



Lake Baikal is a rift lake in Russia, located in southern Siberia, between Irkutsk Oblast to the northwest and the Buryat Republic to the southeast.



Photo source: venuris.com



Lake Baikal is the largest freshwater lake in the world. The lake is completely surrounded by mountains. The Baikal Mountains and the taiga are technically protected as a national park. It contains 27 islands; the largest, Olkhon.

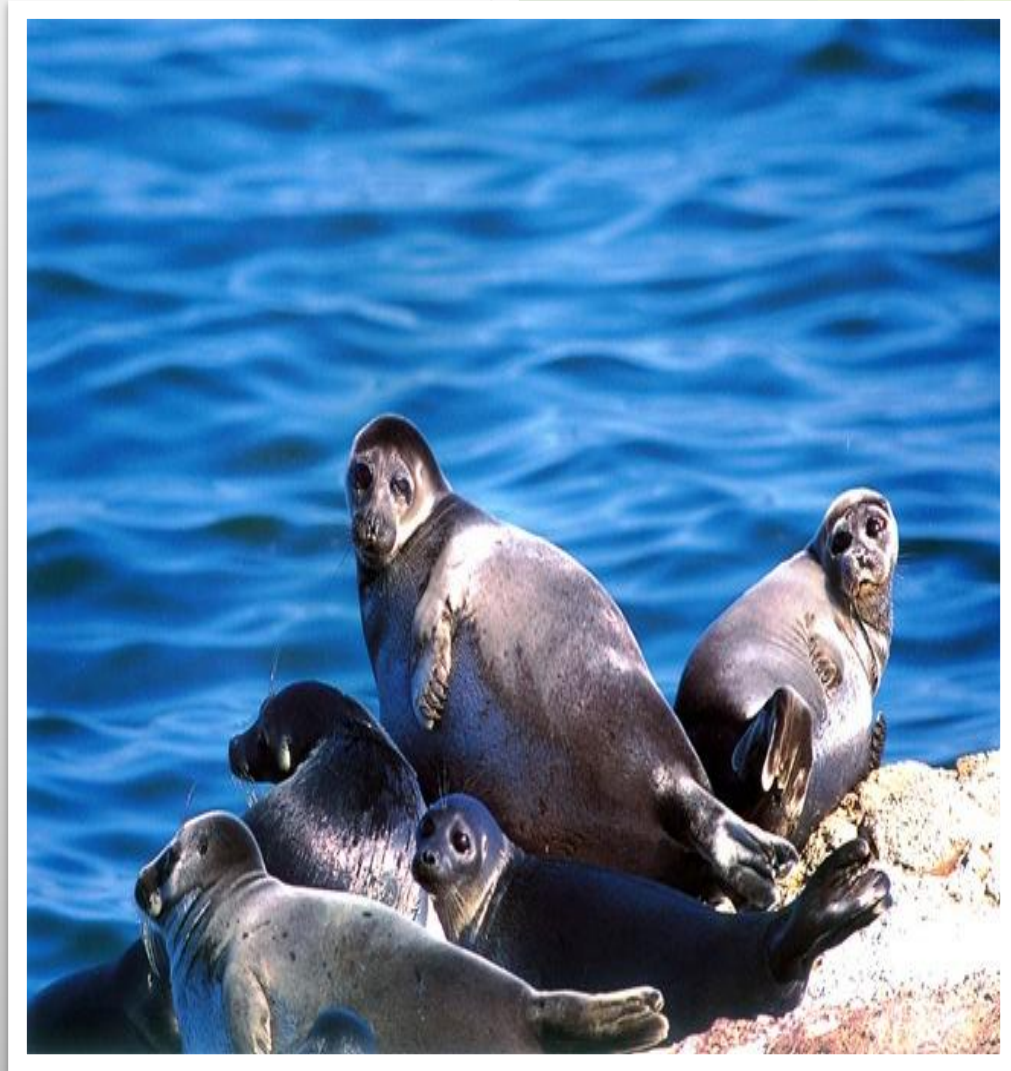


The Baikal is home to a greatest number of animals and plants. There are 1340 species of animals and 570 species of plants. The most important local species for fisheries is the omul.



Lake Baikal forms an ideal habitat for typical sea mammal – the nerpa. Scientists continue to discover more and more unknown species.

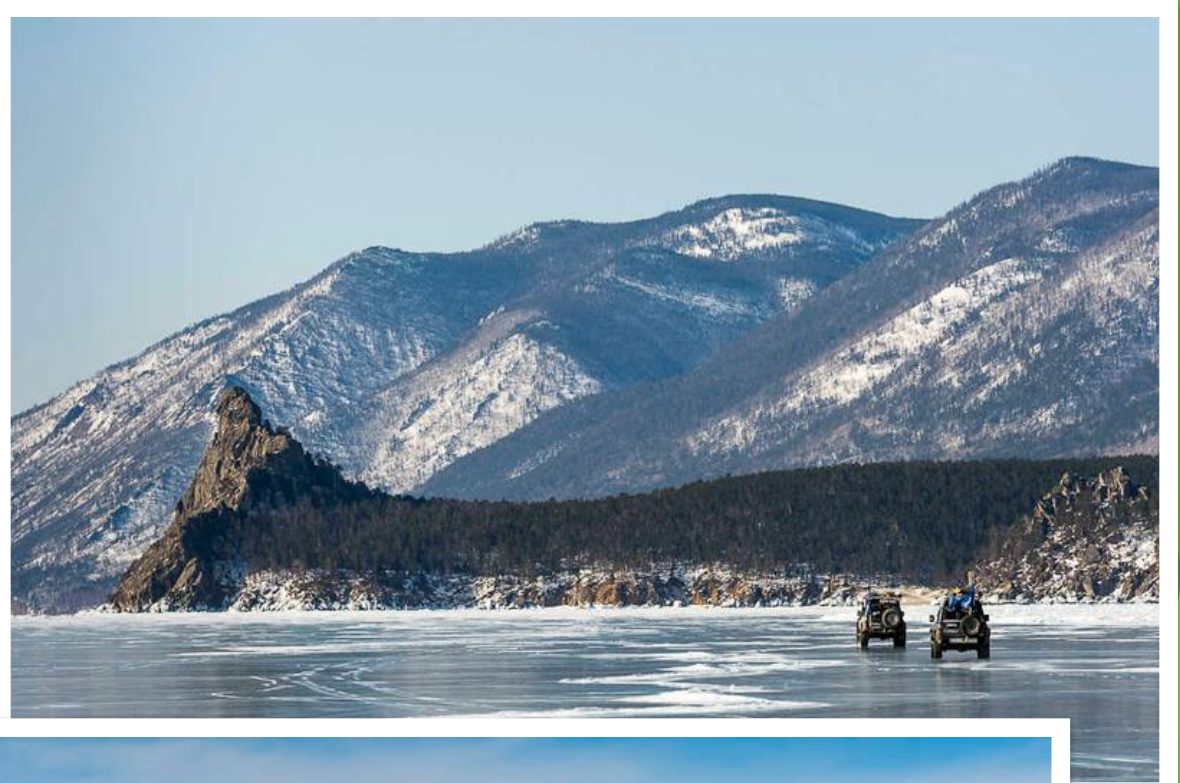
The lake, nicknamed "the Pearl of Siberia", drew investors from the tourist industry as energy revenues sparked an economic boom.



Ice in winter can be more than 1,5 meters thick and you can drive on it. There is a road for cars and even for lorries on Baikal in winter.



The ice road to Olkhon island is the only legal ice road on Lake Baikal. The route is prepared by specialists every year and it opens when the ice conditions allow.





An evening on Olkhon. Rock Shamanka.

Thank you
for attantion