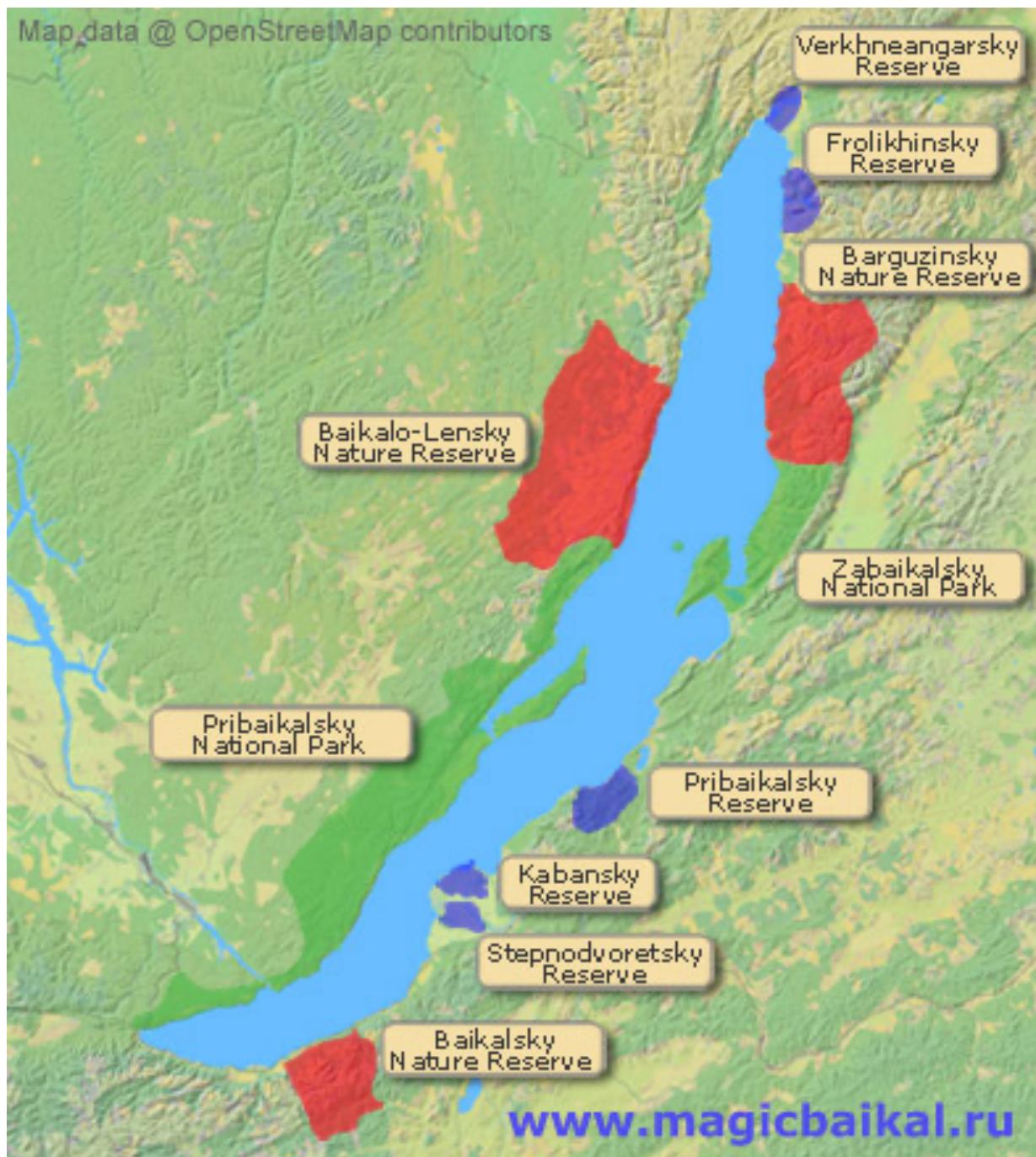


Pribaikalsky National Park is a major protected area in Russia, covering approximately 417,000 hectares along the southwestern shore of Lake Baikal. Established in 1986, the park was created to preserve the unique ecosystems of Lake Baikal and its surrounding landscapes (Wikipedia, 2025). The park plays a critical role in the conservation of Lake Baikal, which is the world's deepest and oldest freshwater lake, holding roughly 20% of the planet's unfrozen freshwater supply (UNESCO, 1996).

Geographic Location: Pribaikalsky National Park is situated in Irkutsk Oblast, southeastern Siberia, Russia, along the southwest coast of Lake Baikal. It stretches from the settlement of Kultuk in the south to the Olkhon Gate strait in the north, covering over 470 kilometers of shoreline (Wikivoyage, n.d.). The park's approximate central coordinates are 51.85N and 104.88E (Wikidata, n.d.). Its landscape includes the Primorsky and Baikal Mountain ranges, with elevations ranging from 456 meters at lake level to peaks exceeding 1,700 meters above sea level (Wikipedia, 2025).

Governance Structure: Pribaikalsky National Park is managed by FGBU Zapovednoe Baikal, a federal state budgetary institution responsible for the protection, monitoring and development of the park (Wikipedia, 2025). The park is subdivided into ten foresteries or administrative sectors, including Baikalsky, Ongurensky, Listvyansky and Pribaikalsky foresteries, each of which is responsible for patrols, environmental education and enforcement of conservation laws (Wikivoyage, n.d.). The park's management is guided by multiple layers of legislation. At the international level, Lake Baikal is designated as a UNESCO World Heritage Site, which requires the park to maintain the Outstanding Universal Value of the site through monitoring and sustainable practices (UNESCO, 1996). Nationally, the park falls under the Russian Federal Law No. 33-FZ on Specially Protected Natural Areas, which defines its zoning (strictly protected core areas, regulated tourist areas and economic zones). Federal Law No. 94-FZ "On the Protection of Lake Baikal" sets special rules for industrial activities, water quality standards, and waste management (Wikipedia, 2025). At the local level, there are regional and municipal programs that regulate tourism infrastructure, camping sites and waste collection under initiatives like the 'Trash Free National Parks' project (WWF Russia, 2021).

Ecological Characteristics: Pribaikalsky National Park is in the East Siberian Taiga biome, featuring boreal forests dominated by Siberian pine, larch, fir, spruce and birch (Blue Planet Biomes, n.d.; Wikivoyage, n.d.). The park's climate is classified as moderately continental (Köppen Dwb), characterized by long and cold winters with short and warm summers, together with average annual temperatures near 0 C and annual precipitation of 600-650 mm, much of which falls in summer (Wikipedia, 2025). The park hosts exceptionally high species richness: more than 1,385 vascular plant species, including 557 endemic species found only in the Baikal region, as well as hundreds of mosses, lichens and fungi (WWF Russia, 2021). Wildlife is equally diverse, with brown bears, lynx, sable, moose and reindeer among the large mammals. Bird species include the rare black stork, golden eagle and osprey, while Lake Baikal provides habitat for the endemic Baikal seal (nerpa) and unique cold-water fish such as the omul (UNESCO, 1996). Geologically, the park contains steep cliffs and ridges of the Primorsky Range, glacially carved valleys and numerous bays and capes (Wikivoyage, n.d.). Notable features include the picturesque Peschanaya Bay (often called the "Siberian Riviera"), dramatic rock formations and Olkhon Island's sacred sites important to Buryat culture (Wikipedia, 2025).



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