

LAKE BAIKAL



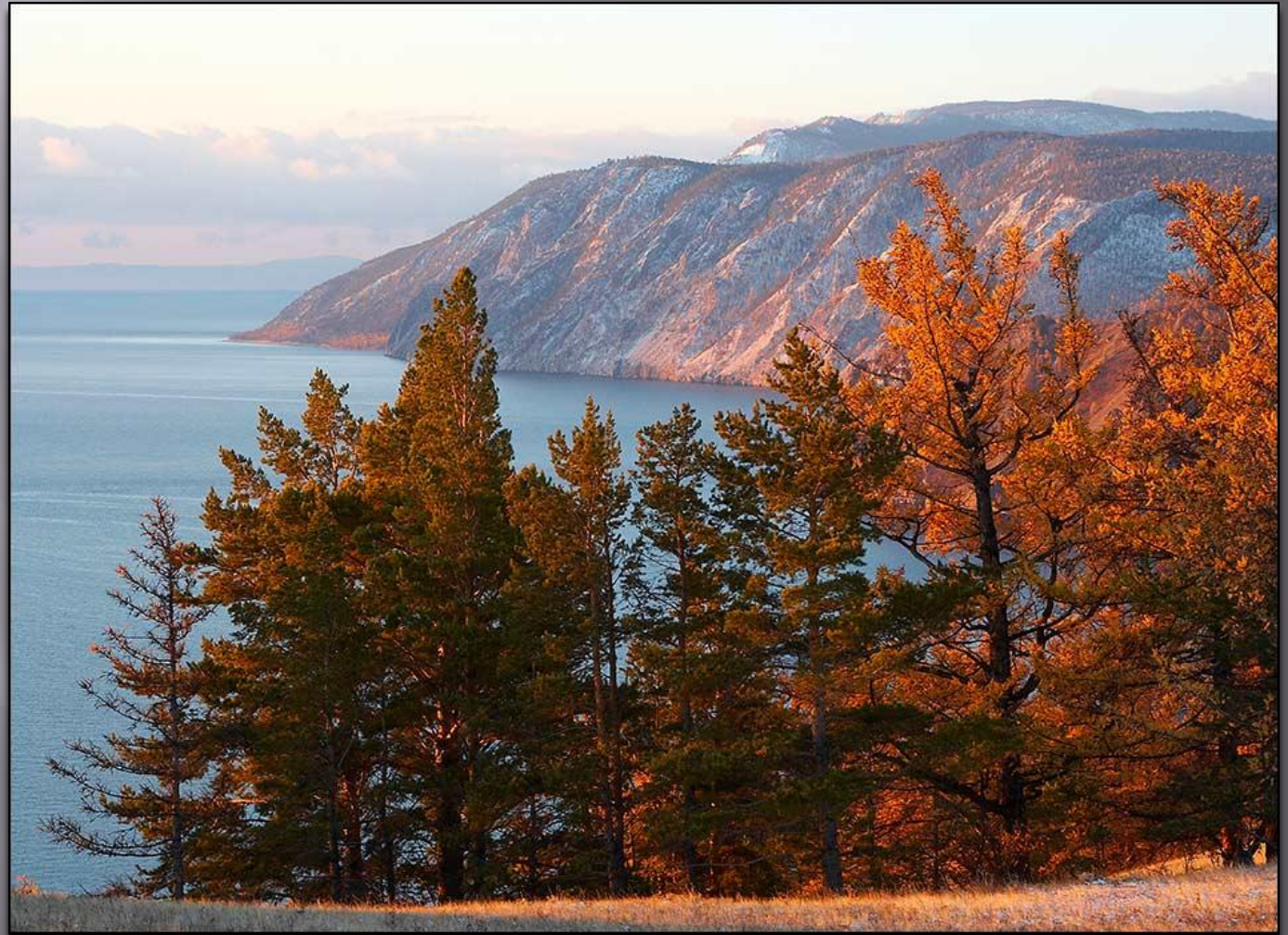
Lake Baikal is the world's oldest and deepest lake in the world. It contains 20 % of all fresh running water on the planet, making it the single largest reservoir.



- **Lake Baikal is 30 million years old. Its average depth is 744.4metres. It is the second most voluminous lake after the Caspian Sea.**



. Located in the south of the Russian region of Siberia, between Irkutsk region to the northwest and the Buryat Republic to the southeast.



Lake Baikal was formed as an ancient rift valley, having the typical long crescent shape with a surface area of 31 722 sq km





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Baikal is home to more than 1 700 species of plants and animals, two third of which can be found nowhere else in the world and was declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1996.



Lake Baikal was known as the “North Sea” in historical Chinese text. It was situated in the then Xiongnu territory. Very little was known to Europeans about the lake until the Russian expansion into the area in the 17th century. The first Russian explorer to reach Lake Baikal was Kurbat Ivanov in 1643



Baikal is one of the most biodiesel lakes on Earth, with 1340 species of animal and 570 species of plant.



The landscape surrounding the lake, with its mountains, forests, tundra, lakes, islands and steppes is exceptionally picturesque.



The lake is completely surrounded by mountains. The Baikal Mountains on the north shore and the taiga are protected as a national park. It contains 27 islands; the largest, Olkhon, is 72 km long and the third-largest lake-bound island in the world.



The lake is fed by as many as three hundred and thirty inflowing rivers. The main ones are the Selenga River, the Barguzin River, The Upper River, the Turka River, The Sarma River and the Snezhnaya River. It is drained through a single river, the Angara River. It is named the daughter of Baikal.



