

MONGOLIA ADVENTURES

BY MONGOLIA FIXERS



2025 Uvs Province Trekking

July 15 - July 29, 2025 (Or by Group Request)

If you have ever wanted to take part in a truly off the beaten path expedition and would like to see some rarely seen parts of Mongolia, we have the trip for you next summer!

Mongolia remains one of the world's last truly undiscovered adventure travel destinations; a land steeped in the legacy created by the warriors of Chinggis Khan who created the largest Land Empire that the world has seen. Mongolia is a land of dramatic contrasts from rich colors of the Gobi Desert; emerald green seas of rolling grasslands dotted with herds of horses and the snowy white dwellings of today's nomadic herders.

During this 9 day exploration of the foothills and valleys of the Kharkhiraa and Turgen mountains, we will generally follow good trails used by the local nomads, their livestock and a tiny number of outside visitors. This is excellent trekking country, combining open steppe, riverside walks, forested areas and more rugged terrain on the climb to the Kharkhiraa Pass. We will be trekking for around 6 hours a day and some days will involve a significant amount of ascent (500 meters or so). This trek is given the MODERATE grade and is well within the capabilities of anyone who is a regular hill walker. For the young and energetic there will always be options to alternate their route by going up and following the ridge-lines parallel to our path. Overall this is a relatively low-level trek and altitude should not be a problem for anyone.





Day 1

We meet you on arrival at Ulaanbaatar (UB) airport and transfer to our hotel. We'll plan to have dinner together at one of UB's best restaurants, where you'll get a briefing from your guide and plan some evening activities for those interested. Overnight at UB hotel.



Day 2

Ulaanbaatar - We'll plan to meet in the morning, grab a coffee, break out the maps and go over our route plan. City Tour: we will visit the National History Museum, Zaisan Memorial where you can have a bird's eye view of the city, as well as "Tumen Ekh" Mongolian Folk Music and Dance Ensemble in the late afternoon. There will be time to take care of any last minute purchases and stock up on hard to find supplies, since things from here on out may be a bit more... rudimentary. Overnight at UB hotel.



Day 3

Flight to the West

In the morning we will fly to Ulaangom, the provincial center of Uvs aimag (province) and be treated to a view of Mt Kharkhiraa as the plane banks to land. Uvs is a province of spectacular diversity. As an example, it is the native land to more than 10 different ethnic groups and at Uvs Lake, the largest lake in Mongolia, home to a recorded 220 species of birds.

After arriving in Ulaangom midday, we will visit the local museum and the National Parks Center for an introduction to the natural heritage of this region. The Mount Turgan Strictly Protected Area (our destination) is famous for its raw natural beauty and is one of few remaining habitats for snow leopard. In the afternoon we'll drive south to Tarialan soum (35km) and another 7 km to the trailhead to set up our first night's camp along the banks of the Kharkhiraa River. Elevation – 1676 m.





Day 4

Trekking, Crossing the Kharkhiraa River

Our trek is supported by Bactrian (two hump) camels. This morning we meet our camels and load up for the first-time – the camel train is quite a sight. Progressing up the Kharkhiraa River we soon reach the turn and here we must cross the fast flowing Kharkhiraa River. The sturdy Mongolian horses are the most reliable means of transport and we will be ferried across the river on horseback! The river valley opens up after 10km and many herders' gers dot the hillsides. Tented camp overnight besides the Kharkhiraa River by the bottom of Mt.Ekhen Khoroo. Elevation – 1950 m. This day we will have walked approximately 16km.

Day 5

Trekking, Camels and Horses

The morning light hitting the surrounding mountains makes a beautiful start to the day. Herds of yaks and alpine camels will be grazing nearby in the lush green pastures of this region as we pack up camp and continue upstream. The Kharkhiraa valley is remote and seldom visited so the interest between the herders and us is mutual. This valley is a homeland for the Hoton ethnic group, which is one of the smallest ethnic minorities in Mongolia. Overnight camp besides the Kharkhiraa River after walking approximately 18km. Elevation – 2522 m.

Day 6

Source of the Kharkhiraa River

We have gained approximately 1,000m elevation over the past two days and are now nestled in a distinctly U-shaped valley at an elevation of 2,500m. The Kharkhiraa River now cascades over boulders in a ravine below us. We have not seen Mt Kharkhiraa since flying into Ulaangom, so it makes a spectacular sight when we round a major bend in the valley to see its cathedral-like ice cliffs towering above the glacial moraine. We continue past herds of yaks and horses to camp in the confluence of rivers that lead to Mt Kharkhiraa and Mt Turgen. Tented camp overnight after 11 km of trekking. Elevation – 2659 m.

Day 7

Rest Day

Our camp is a lush green river pasture, yet we are surrounded by glacial rivers, moraine and the peaks of Mounts Turgen and Kharkhiraa, which tower above us. These mountains are famous for hosting many wild animals including Snow Leopards. We rest for a day to explore the surrounding area, including hiking to the bottom of the glaciers on the northern side of Mt Kharkhiraa, the highest mountain in Uvs aimag. The mountain still keeps its wild nature thanks to its location and limited accessibility. Small glacial lakes dot the moraine and we may see some wildlife.



Day 8

Olon Nuur Depression

We travel across an alpine plateau beneath the massifs of Mt Kharkhiraa and Turgen. From this vantage we can see the Altai Tavan Bogd range, Mongolia's highest peaks, in the far distance. Picnic lunch on the shore of Blue Lake. We'll camp before the pass leading to the Yamaatiin Valley, home to many ibex. Distance 20km.

Day 9

Yamaatiin Valley

We cross a small pass to the Yamaatiin river valley and start hiking downhill rather than up. To both sides are steep grassy hills rising almost 1000m above us. It is a spectacular valley, wild, remote and undisturbed by domesticated animals. The Yamaatiin River flows from the permanent ice cap of Mt Turgen and this afternoon we'll take a short hike downstream to camp near the river bank. Today's walk approximately 12 km. Elevation – 2330 m.

Day 10

Yamaatiin River valley – Rest day

This morning we'll explore gorges in the side valleys of the Yamaatiin area. This area is known Snow Leopard habitat and an area of active research. Once again there are many options for the day. Hike to the top of one of the mountains to reach 3900 m above sea level; do a bit of horse riding; or just simply relax around the camp reading and relaxing.

Day 11

Downstream Yamaatiin River

Following the meandering river on its journey to the plains, we pass herder gers and the National Park Ranger station along the way. Cuckoos can be heard in the alpine forests. We'll camp near the mouth of the Yamaatiin valley. Distance – 18 km.

Day 12

Final trek day

In the morning we trek to the road, where we'll meet our vehicles at midday. With a measure of sadness we say goodbye to our team of camels and drive to Lake Uureg. The lake is nestled in a basin close to the Russian border. There are no permanent dwellings so we share the shoreline with herders. After our days on the trail, little invitation is needed to go for a swim in the clear, fresh water. Overnight camp beside the lake. Elevation – 1650 m.

Day 13

Subject to confirmed flight schedule

We break camp early this morning for the drive to Ulaangom, via Ulaan Davaa (Red Pass). We'll take the afternoon flight to Ulaanbaatar and arrive early in the evening. Overnight at the hotel, where you'll definitely enjoy the hot showers and cold beers.



Day 14-15 Return to UB & Departure

Return to Ulaanbaatar (backpack). Hopefully you'll stay in Mongolia for more adventure. If not, we'll take you to the airport and wish you Bon Voyage

Summary:

9 days hiking, including two half days. 10 nights tented camp, 3 nights hotel, subject to domestic flight schedule

Total distance 110 km



Your Guide

Ganerdene 'Gana' Yuljinsenge

Ganerdene has been guiding since 1993. He has traveled and guided in nearly all of Mongolia's provinces. Gana has led dozens of mountain biking trips, over a dozen trekking groups supported by camel caravan and has been driving/ guiding for numerous expeditions. He specializes in the Gobi and western Mongolia regions.



Additional Details

Accommodation: Participants will be spending 3 nights in Ulaanbaatar at a comfortable and centrally located tourist class hotel. The tour price is based upon double occupancy for these nights. It may be possible to book a single room for a surcharge and depending upon availability. The trek will have a total of 10 nights camping and each participant will have their own tent to use for the trip. If you prefer double occupancy during the trek, just let us know.

Meals: All meals on the trek are included in the trip price. Ulaanbaatar meals are the responsibility of the participant.

Temperature and Weather: Mongolia is a land of extremes. While winter temperatures can drop to -40C, summer daytime temps can rise to a pleasant 25C (77F). Weather conditions are similar to the European Alps, with long periods of high pressure and stable conditions, followed by relatively brief storms. July and August usually enjoy the warmest conditions, 25C during the day, falling to 5C at night. Any rain showers are usually short-lived and light.

The trekking day: A typical day starts with an early coffee or tea served in your tent at around 7am. After a hot breakfast, during which camp will be struck and the pack animals rounded up and loaded, we start walking around 9am. After 3-4 hours walking we stop for lunch, which usually takes an hour or two. After lunch, a further 2 hours walking is usual and we aim to pitch camp for the night well before dusk. During the day you are free to walk at your own pace, enjoying the scenery and taking as many photographs as you wish. We generally have dinner ready at around 7pm. Most dinners will be 3 course meals served in the mess tent. This is a great time of day for reliving the events of the trek so far and for general socializing. After dark, the temperature drops quickly and everyone will soon be tucked up in their sleeping bags.

Equipment: A detailed list of equipment recommendations and what is available for hire will be sent to clients on receipt of their booking for the trip and deposit payment. You will not need any specialty clothing for this trip, other than what you would routinely take on a winter walk in the hills and mountains in Northern Europe. However, you should make sure that you bring adequate warm clothing and that your water-proof outerwear is in good condition.

Spending money: Approximately USD100 should be allowed for miscellaneous expenses. You should allow a small amount for excess baggage on the domestic flights between UB andUvs province. If you intend to buy souvenirs, you should budget accordingly. Tips/gratuities for your trek crew are at your discretion and not included in the cost of the trip.



Travel Details

Pricing for the Uvs Province Trekking Expedition is inclusive of airport transfers, all in-country land travel, domestic flight from Ulaanbaatar to Ulaangom, hotel in Ulaanbaatar (max 3 nights), all countryside accommodations and non-restaurant meals. Tents will be provided. Expedition participants provide own sleeping bag, sleeping pad, specialty clothing, trekking poles (if desired), rain gear, pack and personal effects.

Dates: July 15 - July 29, 2025 (Or Dates by Group Request) Cost: \$2695.00*

Our 2025 trek will be limited to **12** adventurous souls. We are keeping the group small and looking for the type of people who have a truly adventurous spirit and love of a physical off the beaten path experience. But fear not, we've got your back. Your backup crew will consist of an experienced tour leader & guide, cook, drivers and translator to be there for you during your journey. Just be prepared to pitch your own tent! *Group discounts available for parties of 6 or more.

Roundtrip Airfare to UB - What to expect

Typical RT international airfare during the summer months falls into the \$900.00 - \$1700.00 range. This is not included in the price of the trek.



Evacuation Insurance

Our experience in Mongolia has taught us that having Emergency Evacuation and Medical Insurance is an absolute necessity. There are several providers we are familiar with, which service Mongolia adequately. These include Global Rescue and International SOS. You must get us your insurance details in advance of the trip, as we will have them on file with the local provider.

Contacts:

Global Rescue website: <http://www.globalrescue.com>
phone: +1 617 459 4200

Int'l SOS website: <http://www.internationalsos.com>
Contact though website

Contact us for further details and to book
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