Tour Overview

Western Mongolia holds some of Asia’s most beautiful and unspoiled wilderness where the snow-capped Altai Mountains tower above remote forests, lakes and rivers. Teeming with wildlife, including endangered snow leopards and antelopes, this region contains the most impressive of Mongolia’s mountain scenery and is a prime destination for adventurous climbers and hikers. Visitors with an interest in Central Asia’s ancient history are drawn by the burial markers and mysterious “stone men” found throughout the province, monuments to the tribes who roamed the Altai in ancient times. The frozen remains of a Scythian warrior were recently found near Altai Tavan Bogd Park, and a wealth of prehistoric rock paintings have been discovered in the caves and mountains of Mongolia’s ‘Wild West’.

Essential Information

Accommodation

As a Mongolian company we prefer to support Nomadic/local families financially, and help support their livelihoods. We are sure this resonates with our travellers who enjoy engaging with their culture in the mountains. It is therefore our preference to stay with these families if they have an extra Ger. As well as directly supporting local herders, you can experience this rich traditional way of life first hand.

Tour price-per person

- 1-person US$ 2,330 per person
- 2-people US$ 1430 per person
- 3-people US$ 1130 per person
- 4-people US$ 960 per person
- 5-people US$ 860 per person
- 6-people US$ 760 per person

Transport

- Russian Van: Steel Russian vans with seats facing each other, ideal for adventure seeking travellers (max 6 people)
- Japanese Van: Family type van with comfortable seats and air conditioning (max 4 people)
- Land Cruiser: Comfortable speedy ride with air conditioning (max 2 people)

Price Included

- Domestic flight
- Airport drop off and pick up
- Transport in Bayan-Ulgii
- English speaking Tour Guide
- Accommodation at nomadic family Gers and camping in the Altai Mountains
- Meals (Breakfast x 8, Lunch x8, Dinner x8)
- Entrance fees/Local Taxes/Border Permission
- Horse Riding
- Camping and Cooking Equipment
- Mineral water/Tea/coffee

Not Included

- Travel insurance
- International flights
- Alcoholic & soft drinks
- Any other personal expenses or additional services

Highlights

- Kasakh Eagle Huntress - family stay
- Explore Altai Mountains
- Shiveet Khairkhan Mountain
- Khoton Khurgan Lake
- Baga Turgen Waterfall
- Ulgii Town

Days Altai Mountain Trek
Day 1. Flight to Bayan-Ulgii (6:50, 3.5 hour flight)
We will organise a driver to meet you at the guesthouse and drive you to airport at 5am. Your flight to Ulgii town will depart at 6:50am, arriving at Ulgii airport at 9:10am. There is a one hour time difference between Ulaanbaatar and Bayan-Ulgii. You will meet the local driver and a guide at the airport and enjoy breakfast in a local café.
Bayan Ulgii province was established in 1940. Bayan-Ulgii is Mongolia’s ‘Roof of the World’, a remote land of high mountains, glaciers, steep slopes and rushing torrents. Visit the museum and drive out to stay with a Kasakh family, where you can help with daily herding life.

Day 2. Altai Tavan Bogd (Five Sacred) National Park
After a 7am breakfast, begin your adventure with the drive towards Altai mountains. Lunch will be at a Kasakh family ger, and we will stop at some archaeological sites to see petroglyphs, Turkic men stone and burial mounds. The final destination of the day is the base camp of Altai Tavan Bogd Mountain. In Tavan Bogd National Park, snow-capped mountains, glacial valleys, forests and beautiful lakes and rivers create a majestic setting. In the north of the park, Khuiten peak (4374m above sea level), the highest point of Mongolia, of the Altai Tavan Bogd Mountains and the Potanin Glacier (covering an area of 23km²) draw alpine enthusiasts from around the world. The park is host to argali, sheep, ibex, red deer, black vultures, elk, snow leopard, and many other endangered wildlife species, as well as rare, medicinal plants.
Stay at a Tuvan family home, and enjoy dinner together with the family.

Day 3. Trek begins in the Altai Mountains
After an early breakfast, begin the trek with local guides, who will prepare and pack the camels which will be carrying food and camping equipment.
Start hiking to Malchin peak of the Tavan Bogd mountain, take in the awe-inspiring views of other snow-capped mountains from the top of Malchin peak and enjoy being above the border of four countries. Stay overnight in a tent. (12km)

Day 4. Shiveet Khairhan
In the morning, after camp breakfast, trek back to base camp for about 4 hours (12km). Start driving by Shiveet Khairkhan mountain to see rock art from the Bronze Age. At the top of the mountain there is the 1000 Yongriin (a thousand ibex) lake. Camping here is refreshing with beautiful views. If you are lucky, you may spot a ibex early in the morning. Enjoy a camp dinner and the view of the magnificent sunset over Mongolia’s highest mountains.

Day 5. Khoton- Khurgan & Dayan Lake
After an early breakfast, drive down to other part of Altai Tavan Bogd National Park, formed from ice, and a fresh water lake depression area. The surrounding area is breathtaking with high glacier mountains. We will be hosted by a Kasakh Eagle Hunter family today, with a BBQ dinner prepared by the family. It is a picturesque location, ideal for taking landscape pictures.

Day 6. Baga Turgen Waterfalls
After a hearty breakfast, take the short drive to Baga Turgen Khurheree. This waterfall is formed from small glaciers up the Altai range mountain. An incredibly beautiful spot with mountain gorges, great for hiking through local Kazakh nomadic areas and observe their everyday activity, visit the waterfall, enjoy the perfect landscapes, and even swim under that waterfall. Horse riding to Baga Turgen waterfall valley, a picnic lunch, and a great spot for camping.

Day 7. Eagle Huntress
Today is all about meeting the Kasakh ethnic people. More than 100 herding families possess their own Golden Eagle, used for traditional hunting. Stay with an eagle hunting family with the opportunity to observe traditional Kazakh customs and activities such as the training of hunting eagles and the making of handcraft.
Last night in the national park area.

Day 8. Ulgii town via Tsengel sum
Enroute to Ulgii town, visit a local Tuvan throat singer, have lunch in the small town of Tsengel. The drive to Ulgii to have rest of the day exploring markets and shops, and a last dinner in Western Mongolia. Stay in a local hotel.

Day 9. Flight back to Ulaanbaatar
Depending on the flight time, after breakfast in the hotel, you will be transferred to the airport. If the flight is in the afternoon, you can wander around Ulgii town, visit the museum, market and shops for a local handmade goods and souvenirs. We will organise a driver to meet you the airport and drive you back to your accommodation.
Day 1
Kazakh Family (Ulaan Khus Sum)

Day 2-4
Altai Tavan Bogd

Day 5
Shiveet Khairkhan Mountain

Day 6
Khoton - Khurgan Lake

Day 7
Baga Turgen Waterfalls

Day 8
Sagsai Sum

Day 9
Back to UB

From Ulaanbaatar to Ulgii (2.5h)