



MONGOLIA ALTAI TREKKING

Available between May-September 2016

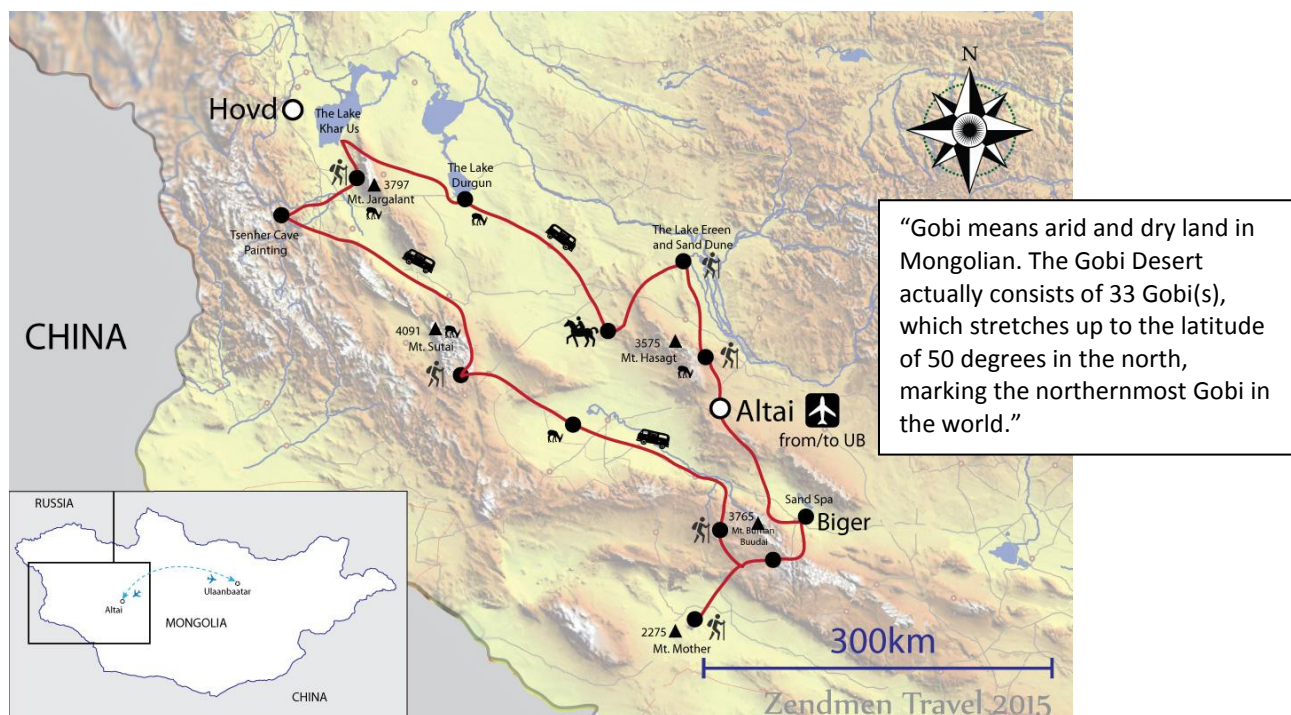
Trip Grade: Adventurous; 16 days, 2 nights in hotels, 13 nights camping,
Strenuous walking 4-5 hours, Wild life observation, Bird watching, Camping and Cultural
Explorations



Photo by Amka: Camel milking in Huis Gobi

Truly amazing epic landscape is begging for your exploration. You will have opportunities to trek in majestic, snowcapped Altai Mountains, up to 3,800m and scenic Gobi Desert, while meeting nomadic people, experiencing their cultures of horse and camel riding. Observing variety of wild species is one of the main emphases of the trip. You are likely to see Wild Ibex, Saiga Antelope and Black Tailed Gazelle. The Depression of Great Lakes is the remarkable wet land area in Mongolia and is famous for its marshal and desert birdlife (240 species) including Relic Gull, Cormorant, Pelican, Heron, Mandarin Duck, Whooper Swan, Arctic Tern, Lap Wing, Sand Grouse, Sand Owl,

Falcon, Steppe and Golden Eagle and many more. Also you will explore one of the tallest 'singing' sand dunes in the Mongolia. Some part of this trip is challenging that demands good physical strength.



NB: Tour map is slightly different to the current itinerary

Day 1. Ulaanbaatar

Mongolia's bustling capital city, Ulaanbaatar, has much to offer its visitors where felt *gers* coexist with modern high-rises. Explore Ulaanbaatar where you can spend your time at boutique shops, trendy restaurants, fashion shows, and folk and pop concerts. Buddhist culture has got strong presence in Ulaanbaatar. Also you could relax at a world class golf course at the foothills of stunning Mt Bogd Uul.

(Hotel****; B, L, D)

Day 2. Sand Spa at Biger



Photo by Zendmen Travel: Mt Burhan Buudai, a sacred mountain for locals

Your flight takes you to the provincial centre of Altai where our local crew will welcome you. The highest elevated town of Mongolia (2,181m), Altai is a provincial centre of Gobi-Altai province. The area is famous for its writers, poets and politicians in Mongolia. You will continue the trip towards the curative sand spa with an en-route exploration of the ruin of the Biger Monastery. Enjoy the tranquility of the wilderness area in the rest of evening.

(Camping, B, L, D)

Day 3. Ancient Burial sites & Water fall



Photo by Zendmen Travel: Burial ground from Hunnu period at the edge of Gobi Desert

See beautiful Tsagaan Haalga waterfall in the morning. After lunch, we travel through drive across Mongol Altai mountain range via a district of Tsogt with en-route stop at the burial sites of Hunnu period (BC 3C –AD 1C). The landscape will switch into dry gobi area later today. You will go camping with view of a stunning monolith of Mother Mountain.

(Camping, B, L, D)

Day 4. Mt Mother



Photo by Zendmen Travel: Mt Mother, a monolith in the Gobi Desert

You will explore beautifully eroded rock formations of Mt Mother, a monolith in the middle of the Gobi Desert. A unique throne shaped mountain contains many fascinating rock formations. Among all, nine craters, 'theatre seats', the Lama cave are the most fascinating. This is an edge of Great Gobi National Park home to endangered species of Gobi Bear, Wild Camel and Wild Ass. The area is also famous for its watermelon and mini-apple, grown in the Zahui Oasis.

(Camping, B, L, D)

Day 5. Mt Burhan Buudai

You will explore another fascinating area with stunning views of Mt Burhan Buudai (3,765m), a sacred place for Mongolian people that is home for many wild species including Ibex and Maral deer. You will drive across Altai mountain range.

(Camping, B, L, D)

Day 6. Camel Ride



Photo by Zendmen Travel: Camels in the Sharga Gobi

A unique experience of riding two humped Bactrian camel with local nomads in the Sharga Gobi, an incredible vast depression. There was Chinggis Khaan's army base of Chinhai in the area. The region is the lowest elevated area of the Great Lakes Depression at 750m a.s.l. The area is inhabited by Old ethnic group who remained

(Camping, B, L, D)

Day 7-8. Trekking in Mt Sutai region



Photo by Zendmen Travel: Trekking in Mt Sutai

You will trek in the snow capped Mt Sutai, 4,091m. The route is challenging involves mountain walking and scrambling in loose gravel, moraine, steep slopes, glacier and snow. You will aim to trek to Mt Baga Bogd, a parallel mountain range to Mt Sutai. Altai Snow Cock and Wild Ibex can be spotted whilst trekking.

(Camping, B, L, D)

Day 9. Prehistoric Burial Mound



You will see ancient burial mound dating back 7000 years, Bronze Age. Altai mountain range is home to ancient cultures of Scythians and Central Asian Nomads. The region is also rich in ancient rock drawings.

(Camping, B, L, D)

Day 10. Bird Watching in Throat singers' region



Photo by Zendmen Travel: The Lake Har Us

After a challenging mountain trek, you will relax on the Lake Har Us and Dorgon. The area is known as the Great Lakes Depression that is the remarkable wet land area in western Mongolia. The area is famous for its marshal and desert birdlife (240 species) including Cormorant, Pelican, Heron, Mandarin Duck, Whooper Swan, Arctic Tern, Lap Wing, Sand Grouse, Sand Owl, Falcon, Steppe and Golden Eagle and many more. In addition to that, you will have an opportunity to visit a renowned throat singer where you can listen to in very unique way of singing, 'Hoomii'- one of the key intangible cultural heritages of Mongolia.

(Camping, B, L, D)

Day 11. Saiga Antelope in the Huis Gobi

You will continue your journey to steppes of Dorgon and Huis Gobi, one of only three regions in Mongolia, where Saiga Antelope (*Saiga Tatarica Mongolica*) inhabits. Saiga Antelope is the only mammal survived through the Ice Age and is endemic species to Mongolia. The Huis Gobi is rich in various species of plants that sustain its wildlife and other endangered species.

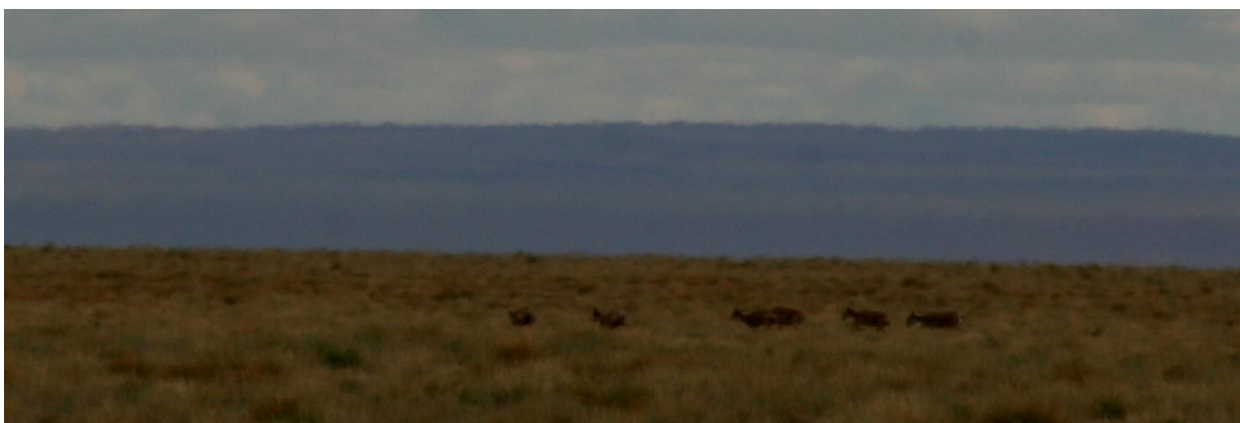


Photo by Zendmen Travel: Saiga Antelope in Huis Gobi



Photo by Zendmen Travel: Sand sediment in Huis Gobi

(Camping, B, L, D)

Day 12. Visit horse herding nomads



Photo by Zendmen Travel: Horse man in Western Mongolia-Horse culture is essence of nomadic living

You will visit a horse herding nomadic family and ride around their campsite. Here you can experience Mongolian nomads' daily animal husbandry chores of catching horses, herding and watering animals. You can also experiment how to distil 'milk vodka' from fermented milk. If you

find it comfortable, you can make visit a local school where children can get some inspirations of speaking in English from you.

(Camping, B, L, D)

Day 13. Singing Sand Dunes



Photo by Zendmen Travel: The Lake Ereen, surrounded by 'singing' dunes

You next adventure continues to the Lake Ereen, a stunning fresh water lake, surrounded by the large pyramid shaped singing sand dunes of the Mongol Els, which emits a humming sound upon its surface shifts. Local legend tells that a giant cow-like water creature lives in the lake and makes an appearance at the end of summer. Bar headed goose, Sand Owl, Kite, Sea gull and Buzzard is common here.

(Camping, B, L, D)

Day 14. Hasagt Hairhan National Park



Photo by Zendmen Travel: Trekking in Mt Hasagt Hairhan

Your next mountain trek is in a beautiful Hasagt Hairhan National Park, a home to many endangered species including Wild Horned Sheep, Ibex, Snow Leopard, Maral Deer and many more. You will trek at the approximate altitude of 2,500-3,000m. Your trek continues through challenging terrains of scree, steep inclines and possibly snow. Trek will be supported by local nomads and packhorses.

(Camping, B, L, D)

Day 15. Return to Altai and fly to Ulaanbaatar.

Today you will start driving early to take a domestic flight to Ulaanbaatar. Upon arrival, you will check in your hotel. In the afternoon, enjoy visiting Bogd Khan's Palace Museum where the Mongolia's last king Bogd resided. This is a magnificent symmetrical architecture offering elements of Mongolian and oriental architectures. Also magnificent royal jewellery and dresses are on display along with some fascinating presents from European and Asian countries. In the evening, enjoy the performance of a famous Tumen Eh folk ensemble followed by farewell dinner.

(Hotel****, B, L, D)

Day 16: Departure

After breakfast, transfer to the airport for departure.

(B)

Tour price:

USD 2,667 pp based on 12 pax

Tour price includes:

- Domestic ground transportation in Mongolia as described in the itinerary;
- Transfers on arrival and departure;
- All accommodations based on double occupancy in hotel rooms and in *gers*, and camping;
- Meals as noted in itinerary;
- Mineral water;
- Tea and coffee during camping;
- Toilet rolls during camping;
- All excursions, entrance fees, and visits as described in itinerary;
- English speaking guide throughout your stay;
- Driver;
- Fuel and road taxes;
- Camping gears including Thermarest mattresses and tent;

Tour price does not include:

- International airfare;
- passport and visa fees;
- medical and trip insurance;
- evacuation costs;
- airport taxes;
- excess baggage charges;
- photography and video fees;
- tips to drivers and guides;
- items of a personal nature;
- including alcoholic beverages;
- laundry and telephone calls;
- sleeping bags and towels during camping;
- domestic flight Altai– Ulaanbaatar approximately USD 220 per person (price according to availability and flight company)
- other items not specifically mentioned as included;

If you have any questions or concerns,
please do not hesitate to email us to :

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Or

Call us at:

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+976-9908 6302 (Muno)

Skype: **Zendmentravel**



Photo by Amka: Camping lunch



Photo by Amka: Meal at a Ger camp



Photo by Amka: Alan Guys's family trip with their Delica, 4WD MPV



Photo by Amka: Camping with a Vango all weather tent