



Photo: Haroldo Castro

Yak Trek in the Khan Khentii

You need to travel the same way and use the same modes of transport as the Mongol herdsmen themselves in order to get a real feel for, and personally experience, the pace and life-style of the local people. During this dramatic journey you will wander by foot into the Khan Khentii Strictly Protected Area, a beautiful wilderness close to the Khentii Mountains. If you are an experienced rider, a horse may be rented for you. We will be equipped as a true expedition, yak carts bringing the luggage. We will also supply all necessary provisions and also a cook, an assistant, plus a ger (yurt) to house our mobile restaurant unit. In connection with this you will get the experience of assembling this comfortable Mongol-style dwelling with our local herdsmen.

Brief Outline Itinerary

On this journey we use low-impact traditional modes of transport. Our equipment will be carried on carts, the same way the locals transport their own belongings as they move from one pasture to another. For this purpose we will use yaks and horses. We will also carry a ger, which is the traditional felt tent, in which most Mongols live even today. Essentially, this means we can use the services of the local people in the area where we are to travel. They are the experts and we will be able to get a first-hand experience of how to move a camp in the traditional Mongolian way.

DAY 1: To Jalman Meadows

After breakfast we leave Ulaanbaatar for the Upper Tuul River Valley in the Khan Khentii Strictly Protected Area some 110 km away; a three-hour drive by bus or car. We drive one hour on tarmac road, one hour through a beautiful steppe valley where there are many herdsmen with their livestock. The last hour we cross the ridge at Zamtiin Davaa, and, traveling through forests, we reach the Upper Tuul River Valley. Pitch camp next to the Tuul River. Overnight in tents.

DAY 2: Khan Khentii

We load our luggage onto the carts. Our first campsite is in a steppe valley, surrounded by the Hentii hills, which are covered with larch and birch forests. Herdsmen keep their livestock in the southern areas, following a lifestyle that has essentially been the same since the time of Genghis Khan. Overnight in tents.

DAY 3: Khan Khentii

We trek for three full days toward the Hentii wilderness area and soon we touch the limits of human habitation. We will use yaks to pull the traditional wooden carts on which all our equipment will be loaded and transported. Our Mongol staff will accompany us on horseback. No support vehicles will be required, nor are they practical in the area where we are to trek.



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The yaks will set the pace of our nomadic journey over easy terrain (max. 20 km per day). A cook who knows western and Mongolian cooking will be with us in the field. Members will be able to learn how to build a ger. This can be done very quickly if several people join in. Overnight in tents.

DAY 4: Khan Khentii

We are now in a scenic area, where rivers flow down broad steppe valleys. Around us are forested hills and mountains. Along the rivers there are wooded and alluvial meadows with broad-leaf forests. Today we will return back to the road.

DAY 5: To Ulaanbaatar

After breakfast transfer back to Ulaanbaatar (3½ hrs). In the afternoon free time to explore the city. On this day you may also choose instead to transfer to nearby Jalman Meadows Ger Camp, 8km further up the Tuul River Valley, and extend your stay in the zone. Please ask us for additional hotel reservations as needed in Ulaanbaatar. You have the choice to continue explore other parts of Mongolia or stay another day or two in Ulaanbaatar.

Nomadic Journeys Style Trek:

Transport: Mongolian families frequently move from one pasture to another using traditional wooden carts. These are hitched to the animals available in the region. Here we will use yaks and horses. The services of some herdsmen will be hired by the expedition and they will provide us with their animals.

Staff: A English-speaking Mongolian leader will accompany the group at all times. There will also be an assistant to the cook. In addition, the services of the local herdsmen will be hired, along with their animals.

Meals: Our cook will prepare the meals. We pride ourselves in having cooks adept at both western and Mongolian cooking on our trips. There are always vegetables available and we have no problem accommodating vegetarians. For breakfast we can usually buy fresh yogurt from the herdsmen in the local area.

Riding horses: There will be an opportunity for experienced riders at the time of booking to order a saddled riding horse, with a horse-man to follow. Mongolian horses are peculiar and horsemanship is somewhat different among the Mongols as compared to home. We suggest you bring your own riding hat with you, since none are available in Mongolia.

Naadam Special: Naadam Games takes place July 10 -12th. Pls ask for Ulaanbaatar Naadam Games itinerary.

PRICE ex Ulaanbaatar:

USD 590 per person (min 2 members)

Single tent supplement: **USD 120 per person**

Rent of riding horse: **USD 35 per day**

Private trip supplement: **USD 200 per person**

Additional nights at Jalman Meadows Ger Camp is USD 65 per person per night in double occupancy and all meals included.

Includes: Guide and all meals outside Ulaanbaatar. Camping equipment and all local transport.

Excludes: Imported drinks, rent of riding horse, transfers and accommodation in Ulaanbaatar. Air or train tickets in and out of Mongolia. Visa fee. Bring your own sleeping bag.

Additional: We can reserve hotels and transfers in Ulaanbaatar for you. Please make sure to arrive in Ulaanbaatar the day prior to departure. There will be a get together evening dinner that same evening.

DATES start in Ulaanbaatar 2012:

YAK01: 11-15May (Fr/Tu)
 YAK02: 21-25May (Mo/Fr)
 YAK03: 31May-04Jun (Th/Mo)
 YAK04: 10-14Jun (Su/Th)
 YAK05: 20-24Jun (We/Su)
 YAK06: 30Jun-04Jul (Sa/We)
 YAK07: 12-16Jul (Th/Mo)
 YAK08: 22-26Jul (Su/Th)
 YAK09: 01-05Aug (We/Su)
 YAK10: 11-15Aug (Sa/We)
 YAK11: 21-25Aug (Tu/Sa)
 YAK12: 31Aug-04Sep (Fr/Tu)
 YAK13: 10-14Sep (Mo/Fr)

Private departures: On request, and if available, the Yak Trek may operate on any day, at an additional cost of USD 200 pp as a private departure. Before or after the season an additional ger (instead of tent) is added, in order to provide warmth on the cold nights.

Family Treks: If you are a family with kids, book early, we are happy to set aside any date as a specific family departure.

Reservations:

