



Photos: Claes Grundsten

Western Mongolia Trek

- Camel Supported Trek on Tsambagarav Uul

The Altai Mountains, with eternal snowcapped peaks and glaciers, are the highest of the three major mountain ranges in Mongolia. Tsambagarav Mountain is a stand alone eternally snow capped mountain of the Altai between Hovd and Ölgii with the twin peaks of Tsast and Tsambagarav. The name Altai, in Mongolian Altain Nuruu, translates as "Mountains of Gold". The Altai Mountains has been classed as a World Heritage Site since 1998, due to the outstanding wildlife habitats here. In this remote region the traditional way of life has remained undisturbed and there are many nomads of different ethnic minorities residing. For example the Kazakhs who are Muslims and the Tuvans who are Buddhist and shamanistic. This trek will bring us to the Roof of Mongolia, the highest mountain region in the country, where we will trek supported by locals, horses and pack camels.

Day 1/Wed: Hovd - Tsambagarav Uul National Park

Arrive by air at Hovd airport. Visit the local museum with its comprehensive collection of flora and fauna of the region, as well as the colourful traditional costumes of the area.

After lunch we will drive for about 3-4 hrs until we reach the north side of Tsambagarav Uul National Park. The place is called Tavan Belcheer which means "Five Pastures".

Day 2/Thu: Tsambagarav Uul National Park

Tsambagarav Uul (4208m) is one of the most beautiful mountains in the Altai. It is permanently snowcapped and sits on the border of three provinces, Bayan-Ögii, Uvs and Hovd. The National Park was established in year 2000 and has a notable population of snow-leopards. Here you can see man made petroglyphs as well as wonderful waterfalls and crystal clear springs. You may even meet a Kazakh Eagle Hunter!

Days 3-4 /Fri-Sat: Trek

We now start our trek in the Altai Mountains where we will enjoy the amazing views of the snowcapped mountains surrounding you. We will load our equipment onto pack-camels and/or pack-horses - and trek for 6km toward our campsite at the base of the snow-capped mountains. We will then spend the following days trekking in this amazing landscape.

Day 5/Sun Ölgii

Short days drive to Ölgii. The Kazakh influence is strong in this town and it has bazaar instead of a market and a mosque instead of a Buddhist monastery. There are some interesting back street handicraft shops and a well-stocked local museum. We will spend the night in a Ger Camp.

Day 6/Mon Fly to Ulaanbaatar

End of services after breakfast. Transfer is included to Ölgii airport if you depart by air to Ulaanbaatar. Transfer to your hotel.



Practicalities

Transport: Local nomadic families frequently move from one pasture to another using pack-camels or pack-horses. The services of some local herdsmen will be hired by the expedition and they will provide us with their animals.

Staff: A Kazakh leader will accompany the group at all times in Bayan-Ölgii. The service will be in English. There will also be a 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 on our trips.

Alternative connections to Ölgii: If interested in entering or exiting across the land border with Russia, we can pick you up or leave you at Barnaul, in southern Siberia (Russia). It is a 3 days journey. Pls request the details from us.

Ulaanbaatar: Mongolian domestic flights might delay considerably why it is recommended to stay two nights in Ulaanbaatar before you take any onward international long haul non-refundable flights.

Includes: All meals. All overnights in ger camp (2n) and tents (6n), camping equipment and all local transport.

Excludes: Imported drinks, rent of riding horse. Flights. Visa fee. Domestic flights cost approximately USD 384 UB to Hovd one way and Ölgii to UB is USD 414 (price of 2010).

PRICE ex Hovd

USD 660 per person (min 2 members)

Single supplement USD 30 per night.

Private trip supplement USD 200 pp/night

DATES 2011 ex Hovd:

WMT01: 22-27Jun (Wed-Mon)

WMT02: 29Jun-04Jul (Wed-Mon)

WMT03: 20-25Jul (Wed-Mon)

WMT04: 27Jul-01Aug (Wed-Mon)

WMT05: 03-08Aug (Wed-Mon)

WMT06: 10-15Aug (Wed-Mon)

WMT07: 17-22Aug (Wed-Mon)

WMT08: 24-29Aug (Wed-Mon)

WMT09: 31Aug-05Sep (Wed-Mon)

WMT10: 07-12Sep (Wed-Mon)



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