



23 Days

Mongolia

A Journey Across Big Sky Country

A school expedition to Mongolia really is an education. Mongolia is enormous and one of the highest countries in the world! This expedition brings us on a journey through the country by jeep, foot, kayak, horse and reindeer! We travel north to the remote Tsataan Reindeer Herders, take part in a community project whilst camping in traditional 'gers' and undertake a wilderness adventure by horse and kayak. We learn from meteorologists, shamans, local chiefs and volcano rangers. This is an unforgettable journey across wild open steppe and Mongolia's big sky country.



Recommended expedition itinerary

Day
1-2

Arrive Mongolia

Arrive Chinggis Khaan airport, Mongolia where we are met by our local STC Expedition Leader. After dropping off our bags at the hotel, we venture into Ulaanbaatar to visit the Gandan Monastery and National History Museum. Tonight we enjoy our first traditional meal.

Day
3-5

Uran Tagoo & Tulga's Extinct Volcanoes

Leaving the city, we begin our journey north. We explore Uran Tagoo and Tulga National Park and trek to the top of two extinct volcanos. Local rangers will teach about the unique natural geography of the park, the spiritual connection the local people have with this place and the volcanos importance to local shamans. This will also be our chance to sleep in a traditional Ger! A ger is a traditional round shaped yurt that have been used since the start of nomadic life.

Day
6

Hatgal

Continuing North we will spend the night in Hatgal Village on the southern tip of Lake Khovsgol, Mongolia's largest lake. On arrival we have some free time to explore the village, meet local people and also make preparations for our wilderness adventure that starts tomorrow.

Day
7-8

Kayaking on the Great Lake Khovsgol

Next we have a two-day kayaking trip up the western shore of the Great Lake Khovsgol, also known as the 'Blue Pearl of Asia'. We will start slowly with an introduction to paddling for those who haven't tried it before. Then, once practiced, we load up the kayaks and set off to explore the blue lake. Each day we are surrounded by beautiful surroundings, floating on top of the pearl blue waters of Lake Khovsgol and enjoying packed lunches on the shore. A support vehicle will carry our kit to wild camp spots in the mountain meadows that run along the Lakes shores.

Day
9-11

Horse Trekking

We arrive back on land to meet our next mode of transport—horses. Mongol wranglers meet us, give us a briefing and introduce us to our trusty steeds. The next three days are spent riding on horseback over the mountain pass. Scenery will change from wild open steppe to green woodland and rocky mountain paths. The terrain makes for challenging riding but we are well supported by experienced and local wranglers so the riding is suited to all abilities. The wranglers are master riders who will explain why there is such special connections between them and with each and every one of their horses. We will be hosted by local families to set up camp each evening.





Day
12

Renchkhumb

The trip pace slows down now while we venture further into remote areas of Mongolia, meeting local people and learning more about this ancient culture. Today, local Meteorologist and wrestling champion 'Champ' shows us how they make weather predictions in Mongolia's rural villages... it's probably a little bit more technological than what you are thinking! After that he will show us some traditional Mongolian wrestling moves and give us a demonstration before we try ourselves!

Day
13

'The Film Maker'

Today is a good day to take a break, relax and learn a little about the local Tsataan Reindeer herders. A talented filmmaker will show us a short documentary he made back in the 80's that will give us an idea of what's in store in the next couple of days. The film has only ever been shown to foreigners once, but it was quite popular in Mongolia in its day.

Day
14-16

Tsataan Reindeer Herders

A truly unique people, related to the reindeer herders of Siberia, these nomadic people live all year round with their reindeer herds in the high mountain plateaus near the Russian boarder. We will get to have a go at milking and riding reindeer as well as learning other traditional skills while we stay in rustic Tsataan tepees.

Day
17-19

Community Project

Working with a local organisation, the students will have the opportunity to help the community with a range of projects ranging from tending gardens to building polytunnels. The students can also interact with local children and help raise awareness of the other issues that the organisation promotes, including oral and general hygiene. On the last day of our volunteer project, we will arrange traditional games of camel and horse racing, "Buzkashi" (goat skin tug-o-war on horseback), "Kyz kuu" (often referred to as a kissing game on horseback), wrestling and archery.

Day
20-22

Travelling South

Before we begin our journey back to Ulaanbaatar, we have another opportunity to get back in the saddle. We follow the river to its source in the mountains, riding through woodland and spectacular wild flower meadows. Now we are all more experienced riders, we have the chance to step up the speed! The landscape is a geographers paradise and there are some great team photo opportunities today. On day 21 we begin travelling south. It is a long journey so we take our time with plenty of stops along the way including a night in Erdenet (Mongolia's second largest city).

Day
23

Return home Transfer to Chinggis Khan airport for our return flight to the UK.

Further information

Look what's included!

- International flights
- All accommodation
- All food
- All transportation and activities
- Bi-lingual, first-aid qualified local expedition leader
- Parent and student expedition launch evening
- Comprehensive pre-expedition training programme
- 1-day offsite safety INSET day for staff
- ATOL financial protection
- Medical Emergency / Repatriation Travel Insurance
- Group first aid kit and prescription meds pack
- BS8848 safety management and risk assessments
- Detailed pre-departure information and kit lists
- Comprehensive teacher travel packs
- Permanent operations team in your destination
- 24-hour UK operational support whilst overseas
- Carbon offsetting of all flights
- Free t-shirt for every participant and teacher

What's excluded?

- Transport to airport in UK
- Drinks (advice will be given on purification of water)
- Visas or tourist cards if required
- Any required inoculations
- Personal spending money
- Tips for guides, drivers and porters
- Airport departure taxes paid locally
- Cancellation and personal effects insurance

Your expedition timeline



Physical expedition rating:



Fitness is important at this grade, which compares to extended walking in mountainous terrain such as the Lakes or Snowdonia, for up to three to five days in a row. It is likely that significant sections of a trip will involve walking and trekking with some days up to eight hours. Some of the trip could be at altitudes of up to 4,500m, but the itinerary will be designed with appropriate acclimatisation in mind. Be prepared for significant possible variations in temperatures throughout the tour. There is not usually time to 'get fit' on these treks, so a two to four month fitness improvement programme would ensure you get the most out of the trip

Culture shock rating:



Students should expect extended periods in remote locations where little or no English is spoken (your Trip Leader will always be fluent in the local languages and English). Accommodation is likely to be basic with limited access to hot water or other services. Expect the food to be quite different to home. You should observe local customs so not to cause offence and large parts of the itinerary will be in poor or challenging areas. Tourism in places grade 5 is likely to be less common, so strong traditional cultures are still very much in evidence.



A journey of 1,000 miles...

Starts with a single step... Contact us now to start your expedition journey

1 Get your tailor-made proposal and further information

If this itinerary doesn't quite scratch your expedition itch then let us tailor-make one for you. Our wealth of experience and expert in-country contacts means we can design an itinerary just for you. Contact us for more information and a detailed quote.

2 Ask for risk assessments and marketing materials

We can provide initial risk assessments and destination threat assessments to help you with your expedition approval process. Ask for posters and your pre-booking information pack too.

3 Arrange an expedition launch evening at your school

This is a chance for students and parents to hear more about the expedition with a comprehensive information evening with opportunity for questions.



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