



21 Days

Mongolia

Ghenggis Khan, Eagle Hunters & Gers

When you enter the home of a Mongolian (half the population live in Gers) don't bother knocking just shout out "Nokhoi khor" which literally means, "Hold the dog". Once inside, there is some etiquette to remember! Always receive gifts with your right hand, supported at the elbow by your left arm, leave weapons outside, avoid touching another person's hat and never spill milk - it is sacred. A school expedition to Mongolia really is an education. Mongolia is massive and one of the highest countries in the world! Whether on a camel adventure in the Gobi, trekking in the Altai Mountains or learning to hunt with eagles you are sure to return with a different view of their culture



Recommended expedition itinerary

Day
1-2

Arrive Mongolia

Arrive Chinggis Khaan airport, Mongolia. A one hour drive will take us to the Nomadic camp, our stop for the evening where we will experience our first night in a Gers - a traditional Mongolian yurt.

Day
3-4

Herding, safari & remote village visit

This morning, we will have an introduction to the Mongolian herder lifestyle. We will visit the Khustai Nuruu National Park where we will look out for Przewalski horses - a rare and endangered subspecies of the wild horse. In the evening, we will enjoy a safari to look for jerboas and other nocturnal life forms. Today we will transfer to the airport and fly to Ulgii, the most remote town of western Mongolia. On arrival, we will visit the local bazaar and museum and stay in a ger camp just outside the town.

Day
5-6

Trekking & camping, Tavanbogd

After breakfast, we will drive approximately 180km to the Altai Tavanbogd National Park. We will travel over desert mountain landscape and explore numerous petroglyphs and Turkic stones along the Sogoog River basin. We will also have the chance to meet local Tuvan people who look after the horses and camels which support our trek. Overnight in tents. Today, we will set off on a trek to the Tavanbogd massif and help to prepare the camels before starting our 16km trek towards the base camp of the snow-capped Tavanbogd massif. The trek will take approximately six hours and the landscape provides a stunning setting with the awe-inspiring massif of high snow capped peaks. Our overnight stop will be in tents.

Day
7-8

Summit climb & family visit

Today we will summit the Malchin Peak (4,050m). Dividing the Mongolian and Russian borders, it is a non-technical climb and the least high of the five peaks. Overnight in tents. A 14km trek will take us back to the Tsagaan Gol Valley which is where the Tuvan people spend their summer. In the evening we will visit a Tuvan family and get an insight into their culture. We will have the opportunity to sample local delicacies and look at the wonderful felt products that the Tuvan people also create. Our overnight stop will be at a camp near the village family homes.

Day
9

Petroglyphs

A hike to the Khara Airikh Valley, via Shiveet Hairhan Uul, will allow us to see the biggest petroglyphs from the iron and bronze ages. Here we may also have a chance to view Siberian Ibex (*Capra sibirica*). Our camp will be opposite beautiful snow capped mountains.





Day
10-11

Trekking & foraging

Today we will start crossing the Altai - about a 18km/7 hour trek. At the highest elevation of 3,600m we will have fantastic views across the Altai. Wild fruit like gooseberries, red and black currants as well as wild onions can be found here, which we will collect and use as ingredients for our evening meal.

Day
12-13

Tsagaan Us Valley & waterfall

Our trek down the valley will take us to Green Lake where we reach the mouth of the Tsagaan Us Valley, where panoramic views of the Hoton and Hurgan lakes can be seen below. Amazing views of larch forests, snow capped mountain ranges and blue glacial mountain lakes will be all around us. Our camp for the night will be by the Tsagaan Us Valley (5 hours/18km). Day 13 sees us embark on a half day drive to the Baga Turgen Valley via the Hoton Lake and Jagashtai River. We have the opportunity to stop and meet some traditional Kazakh nomadic families to experience their genuine hospitality. We then hike to the Baga Turgen Valley waterfall located just a few steps from the Chinese border. Our camp will be by the Baga Turgen River.

Day
14

Shohan

Today we will take the 70km drive (approx 4 hours) to Dayan Lake and visit "Shohan", one of the most famous Eagle Hunters, who lives in a large community of Kazakhs. Shohan's father is one of the legendary eagle hunters in the area, encouraging the next generation to follow this unique tradition. The students can help with the animals and learn the skills required to live in the steppe. Our overnight stay will be in private communal gers.

Day
15-17

Volunteer 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
18-19

Transfer to Ulgii

Drive to Ulgii via Khar Lake (Black Lake), stopping by some deer stones (bronze age monoliths) and balbals (Turkic stone man) en route. We stay in a ger camp near Ulgii and enjoy a traditional Kazakh concert and Beshbarmak, a delicious traditional Kazakh meal. On day 19 we transfer to the airport for our return flight to Ulaanbaatar. Our overnight stay will be in a local hotel.

Day
20

City tour

Today we will enjoy a city tour where we will take in the Gandan monastery and the National History Museum. We will also enjoy a concert of traditional music and dance before dinner.

Day
21

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

Further information

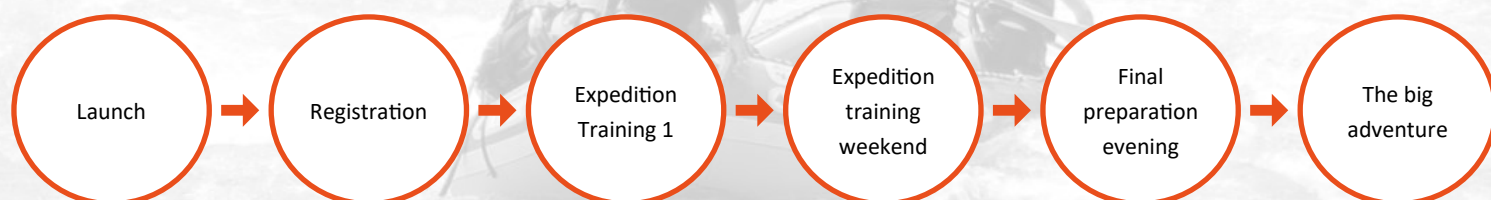
Look what's included!

- 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:

● ● ● ● ○ 4/5

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:

● ● ● ● ● 5/5

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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