

Happy Camel Travel

Presents

**Trekking in Darkhad Valley with
Tsaatan People
(12 days)**

Happy Camel Travel Co Ltd

Office location: 47.909875 106.8824722222
Post Office Box 13
Ulaanbaatar 46
Mongolia

Mobile / Whatsapp: +976 9911 8295
Mobile / Whatsapp: +976 9666 8295

E-mail: info@happycamel.travel
Web Page: www.happycamel.travel

TREKKING IN DARKHAD VALLEY WITH
TSAATAN PEOPLE
(12 DAYS)

12 Days ♦ 1 Night in Ger Camp
♦ 10 Nights in Tented Camp



Happy Camel invites you to discover the natural and cultural wonders of Mongolia, one of the last remaining seldom-explored countries. Largely inaccessible to the Western world until only recently, Mongolia offers a rare glimpse into an ancient nomadic culture that has changed little over the centuries.

The traveller will discover this untouched country by exploring the rare combination of ancient traditions of Buddhism, nomadic horse-based culture and natural beauties such as the high mountains, the grasslands and the more.



- ◆ Trekking ◆ Khuvsgul Lake
- ◆ Darkhad Valley ◆ Khoridol Saridag Mountain
- ◆ Arsain River ◆ Shishged River ◆ Monasteries
- ◆ Museums ◆ Tsaatan Family ◆ Reindeer



Trip Type: Rigorous Trekking in Darkhad Valley with Tsaatan
people

QUICK ITINERARY REFERENCE

DAY 1: FLIGHT TO MURUN

DAY 2: KHUVSGUL LAKE

DAY 3: JIGLEGIIN DAVAA

DAY 4 AND 5: KHORIDOL & SARIDAG MOUNTAIN

DAY 6: RENCHINLHUMBE VILLAGE

DAY 7 AND 8: SHISHGED AND KHOGIIN RIVER

DAY 9 AND 10: DARKHAD VALLEY

DAY 11: DRIVE TO MURUN

DAY 12: FLIGHT BACK TO ULAANBAATAR

MAP OF THE ITINERARY



DETAILED TOUR DESCRIPTION

DAY 1: FLIGHT TO MURUN

By plane from Ulaanbaatar we will reach **Murun**, capital city of Khuvsgul province. Depending on the arrival time we will stay here for the night or we will go on driving North to Hatgal village. On the way we will visit the **Uushig Deer Stone complex**. The Mongolian blue pearl, the **Khuvsgul Lake** is a huge 2.760 square km alpine lake (130 km in length and 40 km in width), surrounded by mountain chains of more than 2.000 meters high, thick pine forests and lush meadow with grazing yaks and horses. More than 100 small rivers and streams feed the lake with crystal clear water. Water exits the lake through only one river, the **Egiin**, whose waters eventually reach the Baikal Lake. The lake contains about 1.5% of the world's fresh water (excluding water contained in the icecaps). The lake and rivers are full of fish. Around a dozen species of fish inhabit the lake and rivers. The most well-known are the sturgeon, grayling, lennok, salmon, taimon, etc.

(Ger Camp, B, L, D)

DAY 2: KHUVSGUL LAKE

After breakfast we will start out trek. We will load all our gears on packhorses. For our first day trekking we will hike along the shores of **Khuvsgul Lake**. We will enjoy the unique views the lake offers.

(Tented Camp, B, L, D)

DAY 3: JIGLEGIIN DAVAA

Today we will start hiking up to the Darkhad valley. We will trek up the **Khoridol Saridag Mountain** to cross the **Jiglegiin Davaa pass**. The pass offers us a beautiful view of the lake. There is also an Ovoo at the pass where locals worship the spirits of the nature. During heavy rains, transport to and from that area can be hard, sometimes even impossible.

(Tented Camp, B, L, D)

DAY 4 AND 5: KHORIDOL & SARIDAG MOUNTAIN

For the next two days we will trek through the **Khoridol Saridag valley**. On your right you will see Delger Khan and Nart Mountain peaks, with sharp, snow-capped peaks. The landscape is clear evidence of glaciations, with steep sided valleys, cirques and moraines.

(Tented Camp, B, L, D)

DAY 6: RENCHINLHUMBE VILLAGE

Today we will trek towards **Arsain Sair**. We will cross the **Arsain Gol River** and reach later **Renchinlumbe village**. The village is located in the

Darhad Depression. The region is the strongest center of Shamanism. We will re-supply our foods. **Darkhadiin Khotgor Depression** originally formed as a glacial lake, is surrounded by several high mountains. Their peaks reach a height of almost 3.000 meters. The depression is home to over 150 alpine lakes.

(Tented Camp, B, L, D)

DAY 7 AND 8: SHISHGED AND KHOGIIN RIVER

The next two days we will trek through open valleys and plains. The steppe area is surrounded on both sides by the forests of the Taiga. We will cross the **Shishegt River** and come to the **Khogiin River**. The Shishid River is one of the most beautiful angling grounds of Mongolia. It flows through mountainous woodland and forms numerous islets. Its waters are the home of abundant lenok, grayling and trophy-sized taimen.

(Tented Camp, B, L, D)

DAY 9 AND 10: DARKHAD VALLEY

For two more days we will trek through the **Darkhad Valley**. The **Darkhad Valley**, located northwest of Khuvsgul Lake is situated between the Ulaan Taiga and Khoridol Saridag mountain ranges. It is at an altitude of 1600 m above sea level and covers an area of 4300 km². The valley is rich in lakes and rivers, the biggest of which are Tsagaan Lake and Shishged River, respectively. The area is famous for its natural beauty, but relatively remote and inaccessible even by Mongolian standards.

The depression is dotted by many small lakes in which different species of fish such as Taimen, Lenok, Siberian White Fish, Grayling, Freshwater Cod and others live.

(Tented Camp, B, L, D)

DAY 11: DRIVE TO MURUN

We will have a very long driving day to reach Murun. Enjoy your evening in the comfort of hotel.

(Hotel B, L, D)

DAY 12: FLIGHT BACK TO ULAANBAATAR

Flight back to Ulaanbaatar. We will drive back to Ulaanbaatar, the capital city. Our team will take you directly to your hotel. You may enjoy the free afternoon to catch up all the places you haven't visited yet. Opt to see the beautiful cultural show enjoy the colourful and rhythmic Mongolian dance, throat singing and admire the contortionists.

(B, L)

RESERVATION

Your trip will be confirmed after a deposit of 35% of the due amount is paid to our bank account. Once the payment is done, we will start organizing your trip and book the local flights if any.

INCLUDED IN THE PRICE

- Airport transfers
- Land transportation
- Domestic flight
- Tented camp stay
- Ger camp stay
- Meals 11B, 12L, 11D
- Tour guides
- Camping and kitchen equipment
- National park entrance fees/Museum and Monasteries entrance tickets

NOT INCLUDED IN THE PRICE

- Hotel in Ulaanbaatar
- City touring
- International transport
- Passport and visa costs
- Medical, trip insurance and evacuation costs
- International airport taxes, excess baggage charges. Local flights are limited to 10 kg.
- Alcoholic and soft drinks
- Meals not included in the itinerary
- Laundry
- Telephone calls
- Items of personal nature
- Other items not specifically mentioned as included

DELAYS

We are not responsible for any additional charges incurred arising from the delay or extension of a trip due to weather, equipment failure, illness, or other causes beyond our control. No refunds can be made for any unused services or accommodations on the trip.

TRANSPORT

Toyota Land Cruisers series 80, 100, 105 - have 4 passenger seats. Comfortable on our bumpy road, forward facing seats equipped with seat belts and has air condition and plenty space for luggage in trunk and on roof track.

Delica - Japanese 4X4 van. Delicas have 5 passenger seats. Comfortable on our bumpy road, bit slower on off-road than Land Cruisers. Forward

facing seats equipped with seat belts and has air condition. Panoramic view windows. Having not much space in trunk, luggage mostly put on roof rack.

Furgon - Russian military van. Furgons have 7 passenger seats. Mostly forward facing seats. It has plenty space. Furgons have no air condition and not equipped with seat belts. If you are in group and looking for adventure on tight budget it might be a good solution. Excellent vehicle on rough off-road condition. However less comfortable than Land Cruisers and Delicas.

FOOD

Traditional Mongolian food based on different type of meat: mutton, beef, goat, horse and camel. As well as we eat diaries and usually heavy meals due to our radical climate of cold long winter and hot dry summer. However nowadays our food culture is becoming more diverse and you can easily find international food in restaurants and buy diverse imported food at supermarkets. We will do our best to accommodate your food requirement. Please let us know in advance if you have any special food requirement.

ACCOMMODATION

In Ulaanbaatar we can book your hotel. We offer accommodation from guesthouse to the most prestigious 5 star hotels with suites.

All hotel we recommend are centrally located and in walking distances from restaurant, shops and museums.

While in the countryside, depending on the trip you choose, you will overnight in Ger Camps, Family Stay and Tented Camp.

Gers from Ger Camp are the traditional felt tents of nomadic herders. Each ger is furnished with a wood stove and beautifully painted furniture such as beds, a table and stools. Gers are based on double occupancy. Each ger camp has its restaurant, western style toilet and hot water showers. Most visitors find their stay in gers, which provide an authentic taste of Mongolian culture and adventure, their most enjoyable experience in Mongolia.

Family Stay. In summer time many nomads build extra Gers next to theirs and welcome guests. You will have mostly your private Ger. However, facilities stay basic and simple

Tented Camp is a camp build on a nice spot. The travellers will sleep in Western style tents. We will however do our best to offer you the best available service. We pride ourselves on the level of comfort we provide while camping in these remote areas, but camping is not for everyone. It is important to remain open-minded and physically willing.

Tented Camp is a camp build on a nice spot. The travellers will sleep in Western style tents. We will however do our best to offer you the best available service. We pride ourselves on the level of comfort we provide

while camping in these remote areas, but camping is not for everyone. It is important to remain open-minded and physically willing.

If interested, we also offer during your countryside trip a family stay. In some cases, (because of cold or lack of Ger Camp) you will have to overnight in a Mongolian nomad family.

REMARK

Mongolia is a developing country in terms of infrastructure. The standard of the roads is very low, with no tarmac outside the capital. As a result, be prepared for bumpy and dusty rides.

Travelling in a seldom-explored country, with very little infrastructure requires flexibility, tolerance, a spirit of adventure and respect and understanding for cultural differences. The trip itinerary is subject to changes due to weather, trail conditions, government restrictions, or other reasons beyond our control. We will however do every attempt to adhere to the given schedule.

PAYMENTS

Your trip will be confirmed after a non-refundable deposit of 35% of the due amount payable by bank transfer or visa.