

Happy Camel Travel

Presents

**White Lake Central Mongolian
Grassland Trekking
(11 days)**

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WHITE LIKE CENTRAL MONGOLIAN
GRASSLAND TREKKING
(11 DAYS)

11 Days ♦ 6 Nights Tented Camp
♦ 2 Nights Ger Camp ♦ 2 Nights Family Stay



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 ♦ Karakorum ♦ Erdene Zuu Monastery
 - ◆ Karakorum New Archaeological museum
- ◆ Terkhiin Tsagaan Lake ♦ Darkhan Mountain
 - ◆ Man Stone ♦ Khorgo Uul Valcano
 - ◆ Family Stay



Trip Type: Rigorous White Like Central Mongolian
Grassland Trekking

QUICK ITINERARY REFERENCE

DAY 1: KARAKORUM

DAY 2: TSETSERLEG

DAY 3: FOREST TREKKING

DAY 4: TERKHIIN TSAGAAN LAKE

DAY 5: KHORGO UUL VOLCANO

DAY 6: RELAXING AND SWIMMING

DAY 7 AND 8: MAN STONE

DAY 9: DARKHAN MOUNTAIN

DAY 10: OGII LAKE

DAY 11: DRIVE TO ULAANBAATAR

MAP OF THE ITINERARY



DETAILED TOUR DESCRIPTION

DAY 1: KARAKORUM

Today we will set off for a driving day to Karakorum. Karakorum is the site of the 13th century capital of the Mongolian Empire created by Genghis Khan. The founding of Karakorum started on the ruins of Gokturk and Uigur cities in the Orkhon valley at the eastern end of the Khangai Mountains in 1220 by the Genghis Khan's order. It completed 15 years later during the Ugedei Khan's reign. The town was a very cosmopolitan and religiously tolerant place. The silver tree, part of Mungke Khan's palace has become the symbol of Karakorum. The highest peak of its prosperity was from 1220 to 1260. The specific feature of this stage is that Karakorum existed as the great capital of the Euro-Asian Empire with Mongolia as its core and as the centre of politics, economy, culture, religion, intellect, and diplomacy and the prominent tie of international relations.

At the arrival, we will visit one of the biggest Buddhist monastery Erdene Zuu. Now Erdene Zuu Monastery is all that remains of what once was a huge monastery of 100 temples and about 1.000 lamas residing there. We will explore the grounds of Erdene Zuu Monastery surrounded by its massive 400 m X 400 m walls. We will be guided around the 3 remaining temples: Dalai Lama, Zuu of Buddha and Lavrin Temple.

Another place we will visit will be **Karakorum's New Archaeological Museum**. It is a small museum but housed in a modern well-run building with good lighting and display cases with clear English labels. The exhibits include dozens of artefacts dating from the 13th and 14th centuries which were recovered from the immediate area, plus others that were found from archaeological sites in other parts of the provinces, including prehistoric stone tools. You'll see pottery, bronzes, coins, religious statues and stone inscriptions. There's also a half-excavated kiln sunk into the museum floor. Perhaps most interesting is the scale model of ancient Karakorum, which aims to represent the city as it may have looked in the 1250s, and is based on descriptions written by the French missionary William of Rubruck. Another chamber exhibits a Turkic noble tomb with wall paintings and artefacts, including gold items and jewellery. There is a short video of actual burial site.

We will also see the Turtle Rock and the Phallic Rock, visit little market behind walls exposing local arts by locals.

(Ger camp L, D)

DAY 2: TSETSERLEG

Today we will get up early for another driving day. We will pass through **Tsetserleg**, capital city of Arkhangai province. It is a lovely little town surrounded by forested hills. Here we will visit the **Buyandelgeruulekh Monastery**, the town main functioning monastery and the nice little Museum of Arkhangai located in Zayaiin Gegeenii Monastery. From the museum we will walk hill upward to a small abandoned monastery and

enjoy the beautiful view we have from there over Tsetserleg and the surrounding hills.

End of the afternoon we will reach the region of the **Terkhiin Tsagaan Lake** (the White Lake).

We will meet or wrangler family.

(Family stay B, L, D)

DAY 3: FOREST TREKKING

Arkhangai Province in Central Mongolia is a beautiful part of the country and has some exciting geographical features and a lot of nomadic families living the traditional lifestyle. It is an area suitable for easy to moderate hiking, there are few steep slopes to climb and for the most part we can walk on rough jeep tracks.

The White Lake and its surrounding area were influenced by volcanic activity thousands of years ago creating some dramatic sights.

This morning we start a six-day trek. Our first day will be a trek through beautiful **forest** and **canyon**.

(Tented camp B, L, D)

DAY 4: TERKHIIN TSAGAAN LAKE

The **White Lake** is one of the most beautiful lakes of the country. It is surrounded by extinct and craterous volcanoes, and was formed by lava flows from a volcanic eruption many millennia ago. As a result of the volcano eruptions the landscape is covered with black volcanic rocks.

(Tented camp B, L, D)

DAY 5: KHORGO UUL VOLCANO

We will climb the **Khorgo Uul Volcano** (2960 meters) and discover the area around the volcano. We will make an excursion to the top of Khorgo Uul Volcano and we will pass the gorges that lead from Tariat to the volcano. The volcano crater is 200 m wide and 100 m deep and is covered with trees at the back and around the opening of the crater. To the south of Khorgo there are numerous basaltic "gers" formed during the cooling of lava; some of the gers have gates and upper holes and reach 1.7 m high.

(Tented camp B, L, D)

DAY 6: RELAXING AND SWIMMING

Spend one day at the lake, relaxing and swimming and canoeing.

(Tented camp B, L, D)

DAY 7 AND 8: MAN STONE

We will have 2 more trekking days to reach the ancient **Man-Stone**.

(Tented Camp, B, L, D)

DAY 9: DARKHAN MOUNTAIN

Today we will visit a cave in the **Darkhan Mountain**.

In the evening we will stop at a nomad family and experience their warm hospitality. For dinner we will be offered a typical Mongolian barbeque that will be prepared by them. Those who want will have the opportunity to try the "airag" or fermented horse milk. Our guide - translator will help us to forge contact with the local population.

Tonight we will share the gers with the family.

(Family stay B, L, D)

DAY 10: OGII LAKE

Our trek being finished we will head back to Ulaanbaatar.

In the evening we will reach **Ogiin Lake**, a small but beautiful lake. A wonderful place for birdlife-cranes and ducks, swans. A lake is as well a fishing destination.

(Ger camp B, L, D)

DAY 11: DRIVE TO ULAANBAATAR

We will have a driving day back to Ulaanbaatar. Afternoon is free time for last minute sightseeing. 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

- Land transportation
- Ger camp stay
- Tented camp stay
- Family stay
- Meals 10B, 11L, 10D
- 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.
- 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 dairies 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.

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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.