

Happy Camel Travel

Presents

**Kharkhira Mountain Trekking
(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

KHARKHIRAA Mountain Trekking
(12 DAYS)

12 Days ♦ 11 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 ♦ Kharkhira River
- ♦ Turgen Mountain ♦ Yamaatin Valley ♦ Three Colours Lake
- ♦ Goojuur Waterfall ♦ Monasteries ♦ Museums
- ♦ Shaazgai Lake ♦ Uureg Lake



Trip Type: Rigorous Kharkhira Mountain Trekking

QUICK ITINERARY REFERENCE

DAY 1: FLIGHT TO ULAANGOM

DAY 2: BLUE LAKE

DAY 3 AND 4: KHARKHIRAA RIVER

DAY 5: KHARKHIRAA PLATEAU

DAY 6: TURGEN MOUNTAIN

DAY 7: THREE COLOURS LAKE

DAY 8: YAMAATIIN VALLEY

DAY 9: GOOJUUR WATERFALL

DAY 10: SHAAZGAI LAKE

DAY 11: UUREG LAKE

DAY 12: FLIGHT BACK TO ULAANBAATAR

OPTION: DRIVE 6 DAYS BETWEEN ULAANBAATAR AND KHARKHIRAA

MAP OF THE ITINERARY



DETAILED TOUR DESCRIPTION

DAY 1: FLIGHT TO ULAANGOM

Today we will take the plane for **Ulaangom**, capital city of **Uvs province**. After 3 hours of flight, we will reach the airport of Ulaangom where our guides and vehicles will be waiting for us. **Uvs province** in the far north west of Mongolia is a spectacular region of permanently snow-capped mountains, glaciers, torrential rivers, salt-water and freshwater lakes, sand dunes and a fantastic variety of animals and plants. The local people use camels as well as horses as working animals, and we will be accompanied by local guides on horseback with their camels which carry all the luggage and equipment.

Our 8-day trek to Mount Kharkhiraa and Mount Turgen covers a distance of approximately 120km and includes two high passes at altitudes of 2930 metres and 2944 metres. A moderate level of fitness is required, but the hike is not too strenuous even at the higher levels. The weather is unpredictable in the mountains and we have to be prepared for everything, including snow, even though it is summer.

The foundation of the Ulaangom Monastery was erected in 1871 as Dechinravjaa Monastery. Historical evidence indicates that there were grain plantations in operation in late 17th century in the area of Ulaangom.

After our short visit of the Aimag capital city we will head for our trekking starting point, the **Blue Lake**.

(Tented Camp, B, L, D)

DAY 2: BLUE LAKE

After a good breakfast we will load our packs on the camels and horses.

We will start trekking along the shores of the **Blue Lake** and cross several small passes. The Blue Lake is a beautiful small alpine lake with crystal clean water. The area offers amazing views.

(Tented Camp, B, L, D)

DAY 3 AND 4: KHARKHIRAA RIVER

We will leave the Blue Lake behind us and trek along the **Kharkhiraa River**, upstream into the direction of Kharkhiraa Mountain.

For the next 2 days we will trek through a rocky mountain valley, leaving the fertile open pastures behind us. On the way we will pass ancient burial mounds.

(Tented Camp, B, L, D)

DAY 5: KHARKHIRAA PLATEAU

Today we will cross a pass to reach the open **Kharkhiraa plateau**, a plateau surrounded by glaciers. We will see several smaller lakes in that area. Those glaciers are the sources of the Kharkhiraa River.

(Tented Camp, B, L, D)

DAY 6: TURGEN MOUNTAIN

We will pass the glaciers and trek to the **Turgen Mountain**. We will cross the Kharkhiraa Mountain Pass, lying at 3000m above sea level to reach the **Yamaatiin valley**. The pass is located between the Kharkhiraa and Turgen glaciers, both over 4000m high. As we pass between the glaciers we will have spectacular views of both valleys on either side of the pass, and of the stunning white glaciers.

(Tented Camp, B, L, D)

DAY 7: THREE COLOURS LAKE

After more trekking we will reach the 110 lake area. One of those lake is named the **Three Colors Lake**. This wonderful valley has a flora and remarkable geological formations in complete contrast to earlier landscapes.

(Tented Camp, B, L, D)

DAY 8: YAMAATIIN VALLEY

We will continue trekking down **Yamaatiin Valley**. We will reach the Damjig canyon where we will trek for some time in the canyon.

(Tented Camp, B, L, D)

DAY 9: GOOJUUR WATERFALL

Today we will trek more to reach **Goojuur Waterfall**.

(Tented Camp, B, L, D)

DAY 10: SHAAZGAI LAKE

Our last trekking day will bring us to **Shaazgai Lake** where we will meet our vehicles.

(Tented Camp, B, L, D)

DAY 11: UUREG LAKE

Today we will head for **Uureg Lake**, which lies close to the Russian border and Siberia. It is a large, beautiful slightly salt-water lake surrounded by glorious mountains and some snow-capped 3000 meters plus peaks. The mouth of the valley leading into the lake is lined with nomad's summer

gers. The scene is breath-taking and so are the people. We will have the opportunity to visit some families.

(Tented Camp, B, L, D)

DAY 12: FLIGHT BACK TO ULAANBAATAR

Flight back to Ulaanbaatar. 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)

OPTION: DRIVE 6 DAYS BETWEEN ULAANBAATAR AND KHARKHIRAA

You could take the 6 days' trip to drive one way between Ulaanbaatar and west Mongolia. You will discover a variety of landscapes on the way. It's a great option for people who have more time in Mongolia.

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
- Meals 11B, 12L, 11D
- Tour guides/horse guide/Packing and Riding horses and camels
- 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 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.