



Altai-Himalaya Expedition's Genghis Khan Riding and Adventure Camp, Mongolia

This fact sheet seeks to answer some of the most common questions about a stay at camp. If you have further questions please do not hesitate to get in touch with us on atl@altai-himalaya.com

Arrival/Departure

Your stay begins with your transfer to camp. We will pick you up from the airport or from your hotel, depending on your flight arrival time. If arriving on an early morning flight, we will collect you from there directly, and if you are arriving later in the day, and therefore staying at a hotel in Ulaanbaatar, we will arrange to pick you up from the hotel the following morning.

The drive to camp, Mongke Tengri, from Ulaanbaatar typically takes six hours though this may vary. We take a break for lunch about three hours outside of Ulaanbaatar and the final half hour of the journey is off-road, along the ridges and valley to camp.

Necessary for off-road driving, and extremely comfortable, we use 4x4 Toyota Land Cruisers, or equivalent, for our transfers. Each vehicle carries a maximum of four passengers with luggage and is equipped with air conditioning. Large groups will be split between two, or more, vehicles and child seats can be provided upon request - but please tell us in advance of your arrival.

Accommodation

Accommodation at the camp is in gers, the traditional Mongolian houses. The gers are lit by candle light and very cozy, each with their own wood-burning stove. The beds are made with mattresses, duvets, pillows, cotton sheets, and topped with cashmere blankets. Sleeping arrangements are flexible as we have gers accommodating a double bed (with one or two single beds for children if required), or two or three single beds. Sheets will be changed every three days (or upon request). Each ger is equipped with a gravity sink with a water jug, a camping toilet with curtain surround, clothes storage, a table, and seating.

Bathroom Facilities

In addition to the camping toilets inside the gers, the camp also includes a number of external toilet facilities. These are essentially 'long drops', covered with a toilet seat, enclosed by three walls, and with a lovely view of the valley and river below. The camp includes three bath gers, each with two wooden Japanese-style bathtubs. There are also stand-alone, wood enclosed, gravity showers overlooking the Orkhon River. All water is pumped from a well and heated by a wood fire.

Activities

The days are comprised of playing polo and/or riding across the breathtaking landscape, a morning yoga session with an expansive view over the steppes, mountain biking and hiking along the ridges and valleys, fishing in the Orkhon River, wildlife and birdlife spotting from the serenity of a kayak, and picnic lunches along a ridge covered in wildflowers. For insight into the vast history and culture of Mongolia, guests can visit the museum and monastery in Karakoram, Khar Balgas and The Bilge Khan Monument and Museum (read about them below). Rates are inclusive of all activities and riding and polo tuition can also be provided. More experienced polo players are welcome to join the chukkas or games.

Cultural day trips:

Erdenze Zuu monastery in Karakoram was established in 1578 and is the oldest surviving monastery in Mongolia. The monastery in the old capital of Karakoram and at one point housed more than 10,000 monks. Most of the monastery was destroyed in the early 20th century by the Soviets, but it has been restored and is now a World Heritage Site.

The **Karakoram museum** provides excellent information regarding the Mongol empire and its fierce rulers. There are artefacts dating back 4000 years and one can learn a lot about the Mongol and Proto-Mongol empire during a one to two hour visit to the museum.

The (now) ruined citadel of **Khar Balgas** was founded in the eighth century and was the capital of the Uighur world-empire, which predated the empire of Genghis Khan by 400 years.

The **Bilge Khan monument and museum** was recently built by the Turkish government because of the site's connection to a Turkic empire founded in the sixth century. Some present-day Turks have a historical affinity to this site as their tribes originated here before moving west to Anatolia.

These excursions provide a glimpse into the Mongolian, and other great empires' histories. We can provide reading lists for those who would like to learn more prior to their arrival.

Overnight treks/camping on horses or by vehicle:

"Edelweiss ridge" is a three-hour ride from camp to a ridge, covered in wildflowers, including the rare and beautiful Edelweiss, which offers sweeping views of the steppes. It's a fantastic location to camp, going to bed in the peacefulness that only comes with such a remote location, and waking up to a sunrise view over the hills and mountains.

Tövkhön Monastery was established in 1648, as the retreat monastery of Zanabazar, Mongolia's Official spiritual leader of Tibetan Buddhism at the time. Offering breath-taking views in an area steeped in history and spirituality this is a camping trip best done by car.

Meals

Breakfast is from 7am to 10am, with freshly ground coffee, a selection of teas, cereals, locally made yoghurt, and a full, cooked breakfast prepared for each guest by our chef and his team. Lunch and dinner are served in the dining ger and are from a wide array of international cuisine. Please let us know upon booking if you have any specific dietary requirements or food allergies. For those who travel out of camp for a day excursion, we provide packed lunches.

Drinks

We have a selection of soft drinks and fruit juices, along with freshly ground coffee and many varieties of tea. Please let us know in advance if you would like anything specific and we will do our best to provide it. The camp fee includes house wines and beers during meals but there is also a paid bar for those guests who would like spirits, cocktails, etc.

Water

All water is drawn directly from our well which is fed by a mineral spring; it is potable and completely safe for use.

Climate

Throughout the summer, the weather at camp is defined as an “alpine climate”. Spring starts at the beginning of June and rapidly transitions to summer by the end of the month. Hot days, as much as 30 degrees, but dry and not humid, and cool and comfortable nights, through the middle of August. Autumn begins at the end of August - still with pleasantly warm days, occasional winds, and cooler nights through September.

Clothing

Loose, light, summer clothing is normally appropriate during the day time and a jumper or fleece is a good idea for cooler evenings. Be prepared for many types of weather during your stay by packing layers and a windproof/waterproof. If you are at camp in Autumn, bring warm clothes for the chilly nights and mornings. Smart casual clothing is suggested for evening meals.

We ask that guests bring their own riding boots (with a ½ - 1 inch heel) and when possible, their own riding hats, though we have a selection of helmets and chaps at camp.

Internet Access and Mobile Coverage

The camp includes a tech ger where we have solar-batteries to charge phones/laptops/cameras, and limited Wi-Fi for essential emails. We have a landline phone in the camp for emergencies and at the top of the hill near the camp there is some mobile phone coverage. The closest town with high-speed 3G internet is a 30-minute drive from camp and a trip can be organized upon request.

Medical

The camp employs a camp doctor during the season and there are also hospitals in Hujirt and Karakoram - 25km away.

Emergency helicopter rescue service can be activated dependent on the client's prior arrangement with their insurance company. Contact SOS Medica Mongolia for more details - www.sosmedica.mn. SOS Medica Mongolia can also send out a doctor and an ambulance by road (six hour drive).

Visas

Visa requirements for Mongolia differ depending on the length of your stay and country of origin.

For more information, please visit:

<http://www.infomongolia.com/ct/ci/459/133/Visa%20requirements%20to%20enter%20Mongolia>

UK citizens see - <https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice/mongolia/entry-requirements>

US citizens see - <http://mongolianembassy.us/visa-information-for-us-citizen-only/>

The Genghis Khan Polo Club

All revenues go directly to the staff, the local nomadic families that host us, and to The Genghis Khan Polo and Riding Club (GKPRC).

Polo originated as a training method of the Mongol cavalry in the middle ages. And in a culture that so values horses and horsemanship, unbelievably, it was forgotten. GKPRC was established in 1996 to revive polo in Mongolia and to provide training and support for a young generation of Mongol riders with extraordinary equestrian skills.

Terms and Conditions

- Prices are quoted in USD and are valid from June to October 2018. Children between the ages of 3 and 18 will be charged at the quoted child rate. There is no charge for children under the age of three.
- Prices include a cooked breakfast, lunch and dinner, all soft drinks, tea/coffee and house wines and beers during evening meals.
- Price is inclusive of all activities
- For transfers to and from Ulaan Baator one vehicle will be used for up to four guests, unless otherwise requested (a supplement may be charged).
- We reserve the right to make changes to the guest's trip to take into account any changes in weather or other factors that may affect the trip.
- Clients are expected to have comprehensive travel and medical insurance including cover for events falling under 'Force Majeure' which means any event or circumstance or condition which is either unforeseeable or beyond our reasonable control.

Payment

50% payment is due upon booking. The remaining 50% payment is due 30 days prior to the start of the trip. If booking a trip that commences in less than 30 days, the full price must be paid upon booking.

Payment should be made by bank transfer to the following account.

Bank details:

United Overseas Bank Ltd

Coleman Street Branch

1 Coleman Street

#01-14 The Adelphi

Singapore 179803

Swift Code: UOVBSGSG

Account Nos.:

146-302-610-1 (SGD Currency)

146-900-462-2 (USD Currency)

All bank charges are to be borne by the payee.

Cancellation Policy

Cancellations made up to 30 days before the start of the trip will be refunded in full, less the transfer charges.

Cancellations made less than 30 days before the start of the trip, and 'no-shows', will be charged at full cost.