



Mt Khuiten Mongolia 2012

21 July – 5 August, 2012

Trip Notes

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Adventure Consultants offers this expedition to climb Mt Khuiten 4375m on the far western edge of Mongolia, in the late spring / early summer each year. The climbing is straight-forward on the highest peak in Mongolia, Mt Khuiten and there is the opportunity to also ascend other peaks and combine trekking with exploring the region.

Mt Khuiten is part of a mountain chain called Tavan Bogd, meaning 'five saints' with each of the peak names representing simple meanings; Nairamdal – friendship; Malchin – herder; Burgd – eagle; Ulgii – cradle and Khuiten – cold. The peaks and associated glaciers are part of a National Park that borders Mongolia, China and Russia. A wild, remote, beautiful wilderness made up of spectacular flowering fields and vast open mountain tundra, inhabited only by traditional herding families and abundant wildlife. Such a place exists!

This expedition is an opportunity to experience remote mountaineering in a true wilderness landscape, meeting traditional peoples leading a seasonal lifestyle adapted to the harsh environment as well as taking in the more modern aspects of Mongolia.

Dates and Itinerary Overview

July 21 – August 5, 2012

- Day 1 - Arrive in Ulaan Baatar, met at airport, transfer to Hotel. Gear checks.
- Day 2 – Flight to Bayan Olgii in Western Mongolia. Transfer to Ger camp just outside Olgii.
- Day 3 – Tour Olgii sights.
- Day 4 – Drive to Tsagaan Gol Valley, camping.
- Day 5 – Trek to Basecamp, stay in Ger Camp.
- Day 6 – 12 Acclimatisation treks and climb Mt Khuiten 4375m (7 days).
- Day 13 – Trek to Tsagaan Gol Valley, camp.
- Day 14 – Drive to Olgii, camp outside town, attend Nadaam festival.
- Day 15 – Fly to Ulaan Baatar, overnight Hotel.
- Day 16 – Depart for home.

Itinerary details

Day 1 - Arrive in Ulaan Baatar, met at airport, transfer to Hotel. Gear checks.

Ulaan Bataar is the Capital City of Mongolia, a mix of Asian faces and Soviet-Bloc architecture. Transfer to your hotel, and depending upon the time of your arrival, we can visit the Dinosaur museum, attend a Cultural concert which is a mix of contemporary theatre and traditional throat singing, and eat Shashlik, or Kebabs at one of the local restaurants.

Day 2 – Fly West to Olgii town.

Flight out to the far West of Outer Mongolia, to Olgii town in the state or 'aimag' of Bayan Olgii. The town is a mix of small concrete soviet apartment blocks, Gers (yurts), horses and motorbikes with side cars. It lies on a high alpine plateau at 1700m, surrounded by brown and red hills which look amazing in the evening light.

In Olgii we will meet our drivers and transfer to a Ger Camp. From there we will go out to see the first day of the annual Naadam Festival, involving singing (including throat singing) dancing, traditional Mongolian wrestling and Archery competitions.

Day 3 – Tour Olgii sights and Nadaam Festival Horse racing.

The second day of Naadam Festival is the famous Mongolian Horse Racing, with the 25km overland race for horses over 2 years being the most important race of the whole day. In a country where children can learn to ride before they walk, the Naadam race carries the penultimate status. In Bayan Olgii it is children who ride the horses in the race, many bare-back in the effort to reduce weight. The horses are small and tough, galloping over rocks for much of the race. It is an amazing day to experience in this wild desert landscape.

Day 4 – Drive to Tsagaan Gol Valley, camping.

We start our journey to the mountains in Russian jeeps, driving over rolling hill terrain and through valleys, passing Ger camps where people live in summer grazing their animals. We do not drive on roads but routes and tracks through grasslands and seemingly desert terrain. Bayan Olgii countryside is inhabited mostly by Kazak people, and the families out grazing their herds run fat-bottomed sheep, goats, yaks and horses. You can watch as the half wild horses gallop to the crest of a hill, manes flowing, and following the stallion, sweep across the valley floor with their foals within the bunch.

Towards the road end we begin to see stunning geological formations called "Rock Glaciers". In areas of permafrost with low precipitation, glaciers can form composed of more rock than ice. Here in the Tsagaan Valley we see these unusual formations covered in red rocks striking against the green and brown landscape.

Once we reach the road end we will pitch camp for the night by a stream and enjoy the hospitality of a neighbouring Ger for some tea before our dinner.

Day 5 – Trek to Basecamp, stay in Ger Camp.

Today is a long day trekking to Base Camp, approximately 5 – 7 hours of walking. We are now in the National Park. Our loads will be carried either by horses or Bactrim (two humped) camels. We walk past rock glaciers, across broad grasslands, through wild flowers and alongside a river carved into red rock. Eventually we climb a small hill and gaze across to the five Kings of the Altai, the five highest peaks including the beautiful Mt Khuiten 4350m, which we have come to climb.

Our Basecamp is on grass amongst the wildflowers, right next to the Potani Glacier at 3100m. We will have a traditional Mongolian Ger as our base Camp tent, inside which the cook will prepare our meals and we can sit and eat.

Day 6 – 12 Acclimatisation treks and climb Mt Khuiten 4375m (7 days)

Over the following days we will rest and acclimatize, trek-climb Malchin Peak 4051m from Basecamp, returning along the Russian border and down through a tiny valley full of flowers. After some rest we will pack up one or two nights of food and move to an advance camp on the glacier underneath Khuiten Peak. From there we will climb the highest mountain in Outer Mongolia and stand on the borders of China, Russia and Mongolia, a dramatic vista.

If the weather is favourable and the conditions good we may be able to climb another King of the Altai on our last day, or we may prefer to rest, sunbathe, take photos and go for some gentle walks.

Day 13 – Trek to Tsagaan Gol Valley, camp.

The trek out is relaxed. With a little advance warning we can arrange for you to hire a horse and ride out to the jeeps. This can be loads of fun if you have any experience with horses, and we can ask for a "Good or Quiet Horse". Beware of the horses with a bundle of Owl feathers tied to their tail. This is good luck and good speed and shows that they have been racing at Naadam! At the camp you will find it is common for Mongolians to sit around, play a two string guitar and sing, and they will be keen for you to join in!

Day 14 – Drive to Olgii, stay in Ger Camp.

During the return journey we are happy to sit and take in the stunning scenery. We will stop in a "Sum" or village used by people living remotely as winter lodgings, and which looks very like a Western Town in a Cowboy movie. There is desert, dust, horses, and mud huts. Out of one of these huts a very beautiful Mongolian girl or woman may appear – they are some of the most beautiful people, even out in the desert, away from the sophistication of the city. Cast your eyes up and far in the distance you may see the white cap of a glaciated 4000m peak, enticing you to go on another adventure!

We can visit Olgii in the evening and check out the night life, or relax by the side of the river near town.

Day 15 – Fly to Ulaan Baatar, Hotel

The flight from Olgii to Ulaan Bataar departs around lunchtime, and we have a little time to go in search of Kazak Ger wall hangings (which are very collectable) and other mementoes of our journey into the Wild West.

We will arrive into Ulaan Bataar and be transferred to our hotel. That evening we can eat out at one of the many good restaurants in UB, and celebrate our adventure and climb.

Day 16 – Depart for home.

If your plane departs later in the afternoon or evening, it will be possible to go shopping in UB. Mongolia is famous for its Cashmere clothing and blankets, and has recently begun to make some amazing felt products, diversifying into some wonderful fashion. It is possible to buy evocative paintings depicting wild horses and Mongolian riders on the great plains of this country, by which to remember your visit. Or you may simply choose to visit a café famous for being the only place to buy espresso in Mongolia...

The Expedition Fee

The cost of the Mt Khuiten Expedition ex Ulaan Bataar, Mongolia is:

Dates July 21 – August 5, 2012

Price: US\$6,950 per person

This is an inclusive cost and covers the following:

- Mountain guide(s)
- Accommodation: 2 nights in hotel*** in Ulaanbaatar, 2 nights in a ger camp in Olgii and the rest in tents
- All meals and bottled water from dinner on day 1 through to breakfast on day 16
- English speaking interpreters in Ulaanbaatar and in Olgii
- Meals as listed + Daily supply of bottled water
- National park, border permits
- Cook for the camping days
- Transfers in Ulaanbaatar via minivan and 4WD Russian vehicles in Bayan-Olgii
- Airport-hotel transfers
- Ulaanbaatar - Olgii return flights + Tax (15kg free luggage only)
- Camels for portering in the mountains
- Visa support invitation letter if needed

The price excludes:

- International round trip airfare
- Travel Insurance + Visa cost
- Personal clothing and equipment
- Personal travel / trip cancellation insurance
- Excess baggage charges for the flights to / from Olgii
- Any rescue costs or costs of early departure from the expedition
- Gratuities
- Other optional activities such as horse/camel riding etc

Deposit

A deposit of US\$500 is payable to secure a place on the expedition.

Balance

The balance is payable by **21 April 2012**.

Payments

All payments should be made by bank transfer to the following bank and account:

Bank of New Zealand
Offshore Branch
Wellington
New Zealand

for the account of **Adventure Consultants Limited**

Account # 1000-594771-0000

The corresponding USA bank of the Bank of New Zealand is **Citibank**.

Or, we can accept a US Dollar bank check made out to Adventure Consultants Limited. We can also accept your deposit and balance payment via credit card (Visa, Mastercard, Amex only)

Please Note: All charges with bank transfers are for the remitters account.

Cancellation & Refund Policy

Once you have paid your deposit your trip is confirmed, subject to payment of the balance of fees owing 90 days prior to your trip commencement date. An expedition member may then cancel his/her participation on the following basis:

- Cancellations outside of 90 days will result in the loss of the trip deposit.
 - For cancellations made within 89-60 days of the trip commencement date we reserve the right to retain 50% of the full fee.
 - For cancellations within 59 days of the departure date a cancellation fee of 100% of the full fee applies.
 - We strongly recommend you take out trip cancellation insurance via your travel agent.
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Group Size

For the Mt Khuiten climb we will take a **minimum of 4 people with 1 guide** and a **maximum of 8 people with 2 guides** hence spaces are limited.

Visas

Team members will be required to obtain an entry visa into Mongolia prior to arriving in to the country. (The trekking and climbing permits are a separate matter dealt with by the expedition agent). A visa support letter can be supplied to submit with your visa application to the Mongolian embassy nearest to you.

Food

Food will be of the highest standard possible, given the remoteness of the situation. Please inform us if you have any special dietary requirements. In Olgii and during the approach trek we will be camping and have a mobile kitchen staffed by the expedition cook. At Mt Khuiten Base Camp we will be eating in a traditional ger. Our Basecamp equipment and ample, nutritious meals are always the best quality with nothing being overlooked.

Equipment List

Expedition trek members will be sent a list detailing all necessary clothing and equipment to be individually provided. On the approach to Basecamp all gear and equipment is carried by camels. There is only limited porter support on this expedition so the team and individual equipment will have to be carried to the high camp by the expedition team members, thus it is important that only the correct amount of gear is taken along.

Medical Examination

Expedition members will be provided with a medical questionnaire and asked to visit their family physician to receive a full medical examination. This information will be sighted only by our expedition doctor and treated with full confidentiality. Advice on immunisations will be provided at this time.

Documentation and Photographs

Expedition trek members will need to provide 3 passport-photographs for trekking permits and a copy of their passport bio-data page.

The advantages of trekking and climbing with us

Adventure Consultants is renowned for the quality of its service and strategy applied to our expeditions. Our reputation is attributed to meticulous planning and experienced logistics coordination. We have a philosophy of investing in every expedition to offer our trekkers the best possible experience.

We employ strong and specialised Expedition leaders and Sherpa staff, who are some of the most pre-eminent in the industry. We pride ourselves on operating with small teams, the best back-up and support available. This includes nutritious and ample quantities of food, comfortable base camp facilities, reliable communications systems and the necessary medical back up.

Many of our expedition members come to us because they have seen us in action on a previous trip and decide to opt for our level of service and proven experience. Others return because they know we do our very best to make expeditions safe and successful.

How to join this expedition

If you would like to join the expedition please request an **Expedition Application Form** and forward along with your climbing résumé and the deposit for the trip.

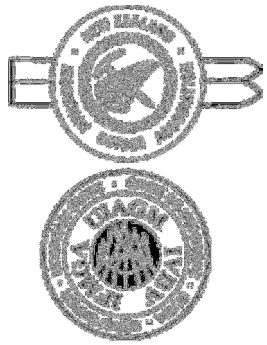
If you require more information please contact us at;

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	<p>Adventure Consultants – is affiliated to the New Zealand Mountain Guides Association (NZMGA), New Zealand Alpine Club (NZAC) and is a corporate member of the American Alpine Club (AAC).</p> <p>Adventure Consultants perform to IFMGA standards and are world leaders in high altitude guiding.</p>
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