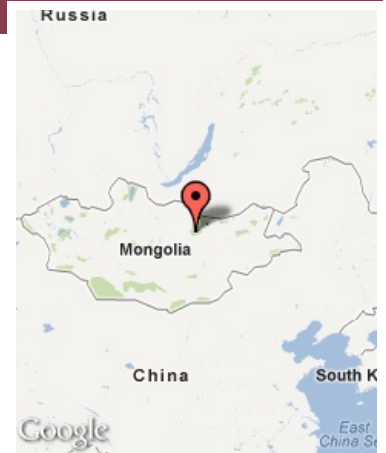


Winter Adventure Tour in Mongolia



Highlights

Sun, snow and spellbinding moonlight – there are few more enchanting experiences than mid-winter merriment, Mongolia-style! This four-day tour can be customised to include a whole host of seasonal activities, from bowling on ice to joining the migration!

From the mighty Altai Mountains to the sweeping sandscapes of the Gobi desert, Mongolia is a land of spectacular diversity! Marshes, salt lakes, forests and glaciers lie side by side with rolling pastures and wind-carved dunes, home to wild horses, Corsac foxes and the legendary Bactrian camel. One of the 20 largest countries in the world, Mongolia is also one of the most sparsely populated. Over a third of the country's three million inhabitants live in the capital Ulaanbaatar, while another third is engaged in nomadic or semi-nomadic pastoralism, a livelihood strategy unchanged in centuries. Thanks to its size and geographic isolation, Mongolia retains a truly unique cultural heritage, with indigenous forms of wrestling, horse-racing and throat-singing among the many ancient pastimes still practised today.

This four-day tour gives you the chance to experience the mirth, magic and moonlight of a Mongolian winter! As the snow and ice take hold of the steppes, the country's nomadic families migrate to (relatively) warmer climes before settling down for the season. This is a time of work (preparing the animals, collecting firewood, etc.) but also of play; frozen rivers host dancing and ice-bowling competitions, while shagai (a marbles-like game played with an old ankle bone) is popular whatever the weather! The highlight of the season is without doubt Tsagaan Sar ('White Moon') – the Mongolian lunisolar New Year festival. Families gather to prepare the traditional costumes and crafts before seeing in the new year with family, friends and food galore! This Mongolian winter adventure can be tailored to suit your needs and interests, with opportunities to partake in all the above and more!

Is it for me?

Even by our own high standards, these Mongolia tours are that little bit special! This is a serious adventure, closer in kind to explorations of old than to the well-trodden trails of the modern traveller. A winter trip to Mongolia guarantees an endless stream of unique experiences, from milking a mare to bonfires on ice, so these tours are best suited to adventurous types with wide-open minds (the kind of people who wouldn't say no to trying a horse steak, perhaps!). Needless to say, you'll also need to be in fairly good health to handle the cold – a beach holiday this is not! You'll get most from this trip if you're not afraid to try new things and even look silly in the process – we find that's the best way to make friends! Put yourself out there and you'll be rewarded with sites and insights that most folk can only dream of!

Accommodation

On this tour you'll be staying with Mongolian families in traditional gers (sometimes known as yurts), circular felt-covered tents used by nomads throughout the steppes of Central Asia. These wood-framed dwellings are carefully designed to protect inhabitants from the elements; whatever the weather outside, the ger remains warm and cosy within! You'll have cushions and blankets aplenty, and some stops have hot showers and laundry facilities on site. All meals are taken with the host families, offering a unique introduction to traditional Mongolian food. Standard fare includes meaty dumplings, noodle soups, hearty stews and sweet boortsog (a popular biscuit). You'll also have the chance to sample (and possibly prepare) some airag, the national drink made from fermented mare's milk!

Prices from

138 GBP (4 days) per person

Why book with Tourdust?

- ✓ The Best Local Operators
We handpick the best local operators
- ✓ Local Price Guarantee
Pay what you would locally with our Best Price Guarantee
- ✓ Secure Online Payments
Safe and easy online booking
- ✓ ABTA Bonding for your protection
We even throw in complimentary Supplier Failure Cover



ABTA No. L7477

Itinerary

There are a range of possible itineraries for this winter adventure tour. Options include:

- Winter migration with nomadic families
 - Winter preparation with nomadic families
 - Winter fun and games with nomadic families
 - Winter 'White Moon' preparation
 - Winter 'White Moon' celebrations
 - Breeding and cashmere combing season
-
- Spring migration with nomadic families

Details

Getting there

Road: Bus from Ulaanbaatar (66km)

Price includes

Food, accommodation, activities, some transfers

Price details

Additional In-Country Travel Expenses

UB to Terelj Park Bus Fee (approx.): \$2 USD

Booking & travel orientation w/ handbook: \$25 USD

National Park Fee: \$3 USD

Available

Oct—May

Typical Duration

4 days

Comfort level

Down to earth (hostels, camping, huts)

Experience required

A reasonable interest is all that is needed