Nomadic Expeditions

ADVENTURE TREKKING IN THE ALTAI MOUNTAINS

July 23 – August 2, 2016
August 14 – 24, 2016
About this Exceptional Adventure…

One of the last true unspoiled wilderness areas of Asia, the dramatic beauty of the Altai Mountains - Mongolia’s highest, with several peaks reaching upwards of 14,000 feet - will be the backdrop for this extraordinary adventure. The backcountry of Western Mongolia is still relatively unexplored and this trek offers a remarkable experience for active travelers.

Recommended For:

Active trekkers who want to explore Western Mongolia’s majestic Altai Mountains, and who are comfortable with moderately strenuous hikes on uneven terrain at altitudes of up to 9,500 feet.

Highlights:

- The Golden Eagles of the Kazakhs
- Visits to local families
- Tolbo Lake
- Spectacular Altai Mountain scenery
- 3-7 hours of trekking per day

Accommodations:

- 3 nights at hotels in Ulaanbaatar
- 7 nights in tents

A highlight of any trip to the Altai is the chance to interact with local nomadic families and learn about the unique cultures that have been preserved in this remote region. Among these is that of the Kazakhs, famous for their tradition of hunting with Golden Eagles and renowned for producing colorful textiles.
Detailed Itinerary

Day 1   Arrival
The contrast between ancient traditions and a 21st century democracy is most visible in Ulaanbaatar, where traditional gers and Buddhist monasteries sit side by side with modern high-rises. Upon arrival at the airport our travelers are welcomed by their Nomadic Expeditions guide and transferred to a centrally located hotel within walking distance of various museums and shops.

(Shangri-La Hotel)

Day 2   Ulaanbaatar | Ulgii
Transfer to the airport for the flight to Ulgii (3 hours), capital of Bayan-Ulgii, Mongolia’s westernmost province. Ninety percent of the population of Bayan-Ulgii is Kazakh, and there will be ample opportunity to meet local families and discover the unique Kazakh culture. The language and traditions of the Kazakhs have been preserved for generations in this isolated region, which features some of the most spectacular scenery in Mongolia.

Upon arrival in Ulgii, drive through stunning mountain valleys, following the Hovd River and arriving at the Khatuugin Mountain valley and the forested banks of the Khatuugin River. Explore the surrounding area on foot, including granite hillsides bearing petroglyphs from the early-Bronze Age and late-Neolithic periods depicting ibex, Argali mountain sheep, and other animals.

During the trip, our guides will set up a tent camp each day with large three person tents for every two people, outfitted with sleeping bags and mats. Today’s campsite is situated on the banks of the Khatuugin, a river that winds through a beautiful valley. Overnight in tents.

(Tent Camp; B, L, D)

“I did not tell half of what I saw, for no one would have believed me.”

-Marko Polo, 1324
The Kazaks of Western Mongolia are renowned for their extraordinary skills using Golden Eagles to hunt small prey. Unfortunately, this centuries-old hunting tradition is on the verge of extinction.

In 2000, Jalsa Urub-shurow, President of Nomadic Expeditions, founded the Golden Eagle Festival in order to help revive this remarkable tradition and promote it among the younger generations.

Sponsored jointly by Nomadic Expeditions and Altai Tour, a local tour operator, the festival is arranged by locals who are committed to preserving their traditional Kazakh heritage.

Day 3  Tsambagarav Mountain | Namarjin Valley
Drive 5 – 6 hours towards permanently snow-capped Tsambagarav Mountain (13,783 ft.), arriving in the Namarjin Valley. Stop along the way at a Turkic stone monument dating back to 7-9 A.D. Two ethnic minorities live near Tsambagarav Mountain, the Uuld and the Kazaks. This valley is the autumn pasture of the Uuld, Mongol-speaking people who are part of the Oirat ethnic group. To this day, the Uuld use animals for transportation. They are also very proud of their rich history and the Uuld king Amarsanaa Khan, who led the rebellion against the Qin Dynasty’s invasion of Mongolia. Overnight in tents.

Namarjin Valley is the summer home of the Uuld families. They typically settle down in the valley sometime from mid June through end of August. Please note that weather related changes are possible to the itinerary due to rivers overflowing in the region.

(Tent Camp; B, L, D. Average altitude is 6000 feet.)

Day 4  Tsambagarav Mountain/ Tavan Belchir Gorge
After breakfast, meet the Uuld horsemen and begin the fully animal-supported trek along the northwest side Tsambagarav Mountain, continuing for 5-7 hours via Hoh Sair Spring and Huren Asga Pass (9000 feet.) Following a strenuous hike up
through Huren Asga Pass, camp in the nearby Tavan Belchir Gorge. Overnight in tents. (Terrain: dry, grassy, mostly flat, some portions have undulating hills and steep hikes; it is necessary to cross two springs using horses or pass through large boulders; average altitude is 8000 feet.)

(Tent Camp; B, L, D)

Day 5  Tsambagarav Mountain | Har Asga Camp
After breakfast begin the gradually ascending trek to Tavan Belchir Pass, stopping along the way to visit a local Kazakh family. After 5-7 hours of trekking we will camp at the high plateau of Har Asga Valley. The snow-capped peaks of mountains such as Kharkhiraa and Turgen will be visible from the campsite. Overnight in tents. (Terrain: dry, grassy, mostly flat, some portions have steep downward hikes; it is necessary to cross one spring using horses; average altitude is 9000 feet.)

(Tent Camp; B, L, D)

Day 6  Tsambagarav Mountain | Maraat Valley
Trek today through the foothills of Tsambagarav Mountain, covered with glacier, boulders, and grassy hills. After 5-7 hours of trekking we camp in the foothills of Maraat Pass. The fertile Maraat Valley is one of the only forested areas in the province. (Terrain: dry, rocky, some portions have steep downward hikes; it is necessary to cross one spring using horses or pass through large boulders; average altitude is 8000 feet.)

(Tent Camp; B, L, D)

Day 7  Hike to Had Uzuur Bridge
Begin the last day of trekking by passing over Maraat Pass and hiking down to Bayangol Zuslan. Following 3-5 hours of trekking, we meet the vehicles and camp nearby the Had Uzuur Bridge. (Terrain: dry, rocky, some portions have steep downward hikes; average altitude is 8000 feet.)

(Tent Camp, B, L, D)

Day 8  Tolbo Lake
Drive to crystal-clear Tolbo Lake, which mirrors the dramatic Khunquina Mountains. This saline lake attracts numerous birds such as swans and gulls, and is home to over eight different types of fish. Spend the day trekking along the eastern shore of the lake, visiting Kazakh families along the way.

Many Kazakhs still hunt with trained Golden Eagles in the winter months, a tradition passed down from their Turkic ancestors. Female eagles are preferred for their aggressiveness and size; weighing as much as fifteen pounds, the females are nearly one-third heavier than the males. During our travels there will be opportunities to see these magnificent birds, whose vision is eight times more acute than a human’s. There will also be a chance to

©Nomadic Expeditions, Inc. Contact us at (800) 998-6634 or info@nomadicexpeditions.com
visit a traditional Muslim burial tomb, a walled compound built from adobe and stone, and for an optional visit to an Uriankhai family, who are famous for their archery skills. Overnight in tents on a lakeshore.

(Tent Camp, B, L, D)

Day 9   Ulgii | Ulaanbaatar
In the morning drive from Tolbo Lake back to Ulgii. Today, fly back to Ulaanbaatar (4 hours) and transfer to the hotel. In the evening enjoy dinner at a fine local restaurant. Overnight at the hotel.  * Optional Extension to the Golden Eagle Festival begins on this day (for participants in September departure only.)

(Shangri-La Hotel; B, L, D)

Day 10   Ulaanbaatar
Begin the day with a visit to Gandan Monastery, the seat of Buddhism in Mongolia. Woven through Mongolia’s nomadic culture is a rich Tibetan Buddhist tradition in which ancient shamanist practices are still evident. Strolling through the monastery grounds, hear the low tones of the horns used to call the lamas to the temple and observe daily rituals including the reading of sutras and the teachings of the Buddha. Visit the Chenrezi and Kalachakra Temples, as well as the magnificent statue of Migjid Janraisig, “the lord who looks in every direction.” This 82-foot high statue, gilded in pure gold and clothed with silk and precious stones, completely fills one of Gandan’s temples.

Continue exploring the National History Museum for an excellent overview of Mongolia’s history and culture. The newly remodeled museum displays traditional implements of daily nomadic
life, including Stone and Bronze Age artifacts, historical costumes of Mongolia’s minority tribes, sacred religious relics, and agricultural, fishing, and hunting equipment.

In the afternoon, drive to Zaisan Memorial, built by the former Soviet Union to commemorate fallen soldiers of World War II. Those who climb the 300 steps are rewarded with a beautiful panoramic view of the capital city and the Tuul River meandering through the valley below. In the evening, enjoy a performance featuring traditional Mongolian dancers and khoomi throat singers, followed by a farewell dinner at a fine local restaurant.

(Shangri-La Hotel; B, L, D)

Day 11  Departure
After breakfast transfer to the airport for departure.

(B)

B=Breakfast    L=Lunch    D=Dinner

Nomadic Expeditions reserves the right to alter the above itinerary if deemed necessary.
Why Travel With Us?

Unrivaled Experience
Crafting the trip of a lifetime has been our specialty since 1992, and our experience exploring Mongolia and beyond is rivaled by no other travel company. Among others, Condé Nast Traveler Magazine named Jalsa Urubshurow, the founder and president of Nomadic Expeditions, as the “Top Travel Specialist for Mongolia” in 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012 and 2013. We have offices in the USA and Mongolia and our operations are vertically integrated. For adventurers, this means direct communications and access to expedition specialists who have first hand experience with our trips.

Our personable guides are professionally trained in the culture and natural history of Mongolia and our other destinations, and each is expert in the skills necessary for leading rewarding adventure travel. These talents and abilities ensure that an adventure undertaken with Nomadic Expeditions will be exciting, enriching, enjoyable, and safe – an experience likely to exceed your expectations.

Many individuals and organizations that have traveled with us would be happy to share their experiences with you—just ask.

Responsibility
Our commitment to responsible travel means that every expedition is undertaken with the greatest respect for the lands we explore and the local people we meet. Those who travel with Nomadic Expeditions do so with the assurance that the preservation and protection of the ecosystems and cultures we visit is of the utmost importance to us, both as individuals and as a company. Respect for the places we travel to is at the heart of everything we do.

Real Travel, True Adventure
Mongolia is one of the last frontiers of genuine adventure travel, where an incredible diversity of ecosystems and traditional cultures await discovery by those with an appreciation for the world’s truly wild places. To journey into the desert, steppe, and mountains of Mongolia is to travel back to a time before “tourist industries,” when there were no detailed maps indicating “points of interest,” and one had to rely on the knowledge and kindness of locals to discover the hidden corners of the world. We at Nomadic Expeditions are those friends in a far-off land, whose knowledge of the places we travel to can guide visitors to exceptional adventures giving each traveler personal and enriching experiences of these remarkable lands and their people.

Why Not Extend Your Adventures?
Make the most out of your journey to Asia and join one of our extension trips!

Journey south into the legendary Gobi desert on our Pre-Trip Extension to the Gobi. Discover the biodiversity, dramatic rock formations, and renowned fossil sites of this hauntingly beautiful area.

To fully experience the landscape and culture of the Altai Mountains, join our Post-Trip Extension to the Golden Eagle Festival, a celebration of the Kazakhs’ honored Golden Eagle and traditional heritage. Extension is only available for September departure. Contact one of our Expeditions Specialists for more information.
**Land Price:** $5,395 per person based on double occupancy

**Internal Airfare:** $485 per person (subject to change by airlines)

**Single supplement:** $1,100

---

Land Price includes:

- Ground transportation in Mongolia as described in the itinerary;
- Transfers on arrival and departure;
- All accommodations (hotel rooms and tents) based on double or twin occupancy;
- Sleeping bags and pads while tenting;
- All meals in Mongolia including a camp cook while tenting;
- All excursions, entrance fees, and visits as described in itinerary;
- Extensive pre-departure notes, reading list, map, luggage tags and travel tips;
- Bilingual Nomadic Expeditions guide throughout your stay in Mongolia.

Land Price does not include: International airfare; internal airfare is quoted separately and subject to change by airlines; passport and visa fees; comprehensive medical and trip insurance; airport taxes; excess baggage charges; photography and video fees; tips to guides and drivers; food and beverages not included in the group meals; items of a personal nature, including alcoholic beverages, laundry and telephone calls; other items not specifically mentioned as included.

**Single Supplements**

Single supplements guarantee single accommodations in hotels and gers. If single travelers wish to share accommodations, every effort will be made to match them with a roommate. If a suitable roommate is not available at the time of booking, a single supplement fee will be invoiced. A refund will be issued if a share situation subsequently becomes available.

**International Airfare**

The most popular gateway cities to Mongolia’s capital Ulaanbaatar are Beijing (Air China or Mongolian Airlines), Seoul (Korean Air or Mongolian Airlines), Moscow (Aeroflot or Mongolian Airlines) and Tokyo (Mongolian Airlines). Additionally, there are weekly flights from Berlin (Mongolian Airlines) and Hong-Kong (Mongolian Airlines) and Istanbul (Turkish Airlines) as well. Due to the time difference, passengers originating from the USA or Europe, will have to leave 1-2 days prior to the trip commencement date.

Please indicate on your Trip Application Form if you would like us to assist you in booking international flights. Flight availability and pricing is subject to change and Nomadic Expeditions cannot guarantee the availability of flights close to the departure date, so it is in the client’s best interest to make reservations as early as possible in the trip planning process. Airline ticketing fees will be applied to tickets purchased through Nomadic Expeditions.
It is imperative that you send a copy of your international flight itinerary to Nomadic Expeditions at least 30 days prior to departure so that we may arrange for any additional services and/or airport transfers.

**Visa requirements**
U.S. citizens do NOT require a visa to enter Mongolia. However, if you are traveling to Mongolia via China, you are only permitted 72 hours or less in Beijing or Shanghai without a visa. If you plan to travel to other cities or extend your stay beyond 72 hours, it is imperative that you obtain a double-entry Chinese visa in advance.

Most other nationalities, including Canadian and European, do NOT require a visa to enter Mongolia. Please contact us if you need more information on Mongolian visa application.

**Reservations for Group Departure**
Reserve your space on this trip by completing our Trip Application and mailing it to us with a $500 deposit per person ($200 deposit per person for extensions.) Please mail to:

Nomadic Expeditions  
1095 Cranbury South River Road Suite 20A  
Monroe Township, NJ, USA, 08831

Once we receive your Trip Application and deposit, we will send you written confirmation of your reservation and our extensive pre-departure information packet, which includes our Travel Guide, recommended reading, insurance information, cultural and environmental guidelines, medical information, and travel tips. This information should answer most of the questions you may have about your upcoming adventure. However, if any other questions arise, please do not hesitate to contact us. We will also include an invoice for the balance of your trip payment, which will be due 90 days prior to your departure date, payable by check, credit card, money order or wire transfer to Nomadic Expeditions, Inc. (Please note that there is an additional fee for payment by wire transfer to cover bank service charges.)

Approximately three weeks prior to departure, after receipt of full payment, we will send your final departure package, which includes a participant list, final itinerary, contact numbers, luggage tags, map and air tickets (if applicable.)

**Reservations for Independent Departure**
Most of our itineraries can depart with a minimum of two travelers on dates of the travelers’ choice. There is an additional non-refundable Independent Departure Fee of $750 per person. All booking and cancellation policies and procedures, as outlined under the general terms and conditions of the Trip Application, apply. Solo departures are possible for some itineraries; additional costs would be assessed based on a single traveler.

**Ger Accommodations**

**Ger Camps**
Made of a latticed wood structure covered with layers of felt and canvas, each ger is heated by a wood stove and furnished with beautifully painted wood-framed beds.
The camp restaurant and western-style toilet and shower facilities are located in a central building found a few hundred feet from the gers.

Gers provide an authentic and memorable taste of Mongolian culture and allow you to visit areas which otherwise lack traveler accommodations. Most visitors find their stays at ger camps to be among their most enjoyable experiences in Mongolia.

**The Three Camel Lodge**
The Three Camel Lodge is Mongolia’s premier eco-lodge and expedition camp. Built in the Gobi according to environmentally and culturally sustainable guidelines, the camp offers an extraordinary combination of adventure and sophistication, combining traditional style with superb service.

The Three Camel Lodge was built to complement its natural surroundings and to utilize renewable energy sources, using both wind and solar power. Local artisans and workers crafted the roofs of the building in accordance with the canons of Mongolian Buddhist architecture, without using a single nail.

The Three Camel Lodge is more than an award-winning travel destination. It is also a center of education in the Gobi region. The Lodge funds and organizes nature conservation clubs for children in local secondary schools and serves as a base for scientific research and wildlife monitoring in the fragile Gobi eco-system.

**Cancellation Policy**
All cancellations must be submitted in writing to Nomadic Expeditions. Cancellation charges are based on the number of days from the date we receive the written cancellation notice until the main trip departure date.

**Cancellation charges:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Days</th>
<th>Charge</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>90 days or more</td>
<td>Deposit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>89-60 days</td>
<td>25% of land</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>59-30 days</td>
<td>50% of land</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29-0 days</td>
<td>No refund</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>After trip departs</td>
<td>No refund</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In addition, any unrecoverable charges or fees imposed by suppliers or vendors on advance payments will be assessed. Airfares are refundable in accordance with the policy of the airline carrier being used, subject to a $50 handling charge.

If full payment is not received 90 days prior to departure, Nomadic Expeditions reserves the right to consider this a cancellation. A Late Payment Fee will apply to all payments made less than 90 days prior to departure.

Nomadic Expeditions reserves the right to cancel or postpone any travel services prior to departure for any reason, including insufficient number of participants. In the event that a trip cannot depart on the dates specified due to unforeseeable events that render the itinerary inoperable or inadvisable, Nomadic Expeditions reserves the right to postpone services until such time as it is deemed appropriate by Nomadic Expeditions. Trip payments will be held by Nomadic Expeditions, and subject to the same conditions as for the original scheduled trip.
Nomadic Expeditions is not responsible for any unrecoverable expenses incurred by trip participants due to trip cancellation or postponement, including non-refundable airline tickets, medical expenses and visa fees, or additional arrangements, made either through Nomadic Expeditions or another provider, purchased to coincide with this scheduled departure.

This trip is subject to cancellation, refund, and other policies set forth under the general terms and conditions of the Trip Application. We urge you to read this information carefully and call us if you have any questions.

**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.

**What to Expect**
The rewards of visiting a seldom-explored country require traveling with flexibility, a spirit of adventure, and a willingness to accept local standards of amenities and services. Mongolia is a developing country in terms of infrastructure; delays or changes in the itinerary are possible, and indeed likely. Accommodations are comfortable and clean and include first-class hotels in major cities and traditional nomadic gers in the Mongolian countryside (dome-shaped tents constructed of latticed walls, covered by felt and canvas.) There is a greater diversity of food choices nowadays in Mongolia; however, meals are typically meat-based. Transportation is by bus and four-wheel drive vehicle; most roads are unpaved and are very bumpy and dusty.

It is very important that travelers contact Nomadic Expeditions with any special needs, such as dietary or medical restrictions, as soon as possible so that every effort can be made to accommodate special needs. However, it is ultimately the responsibility of the client, in conjunction with their health care provider, if necessary, to determine whether their needs can be met sufficiently to allow for a safe and comfortable journey.

Please note that most scheduled flights originate in Ulaanbaatar, so to fly from one destination within Mongolia to another, you will almost always return to Ulaanbaatar first. Also, it is not possible to arrive in Ulaanbaatar and connect with another flight on the same day. Therefore, you must overnight in Ulaanbaatar for at least one night before flying to another destination. Scheduled flights to the various destinations in the countryside do not operate everyday, and sometimes only once or twice per week. Therefore, the number of days spent in a destination may be dictated by the flight schedule.

All itineraries should be taken as an approximate schedule of events, though every attempt will be made to adhere to the given schedule. Itineraries are subject to change due to weather, airline schedule changes, road conditions, and other reasons beyond our control. When changes occur in routing or activities, we do our best to provide the best alternatives possible to accommodate all of our clients.
Cultural and Environmental Responsibility
In our rapidly changing and shrinking world, travel is increasing to destinations that were once inaccessible. Contact between unique cultures, such as the traditional nomadic horse-based culture of Mongolia, and the outside world can have a definite impact on both sides. By promoting cultural interaction based on mutual respect and an understanding of cultural differences, we strive to maintain a delicate balance, neither accelerating the modernization of ancient cultures, nor suppressing their natural evolution.

Nomadic Expeditions is committed to making positive impact on the destinations it visits and to giving back to those who dwell there and thus encourage our travelers to participate in our philanthropic activities. Ask your Expedition Specialist about how you can be part of our efforts aimed at sustainable tourism, conservation and cultural preservation.

About Nomadic Expeditions
Nomadic Expeditions has been arranging exceptional adventures to Mongolia since the country’s democratic transition in 1990 and the true opening of its borders to western visitors. Our objective is to create an unforgettable experience for our travelers, and our staff is dedicated to providing insight and guidance so that time in this remarkable country will be memorable and rewarding.

With full-time staff, operations, and offices in the United States and our affiliate office in Mongolia, Nomadic Expeditions brings a unique and enriching cross-cultural perspective to travel to Mongolia. Our offices are staffed both by native Mongolians and Americans with a genuine love of Mongolia and her culture. Our approach to business includes extended exchange programs for our employees, ensuring that each member of our staff is aware of the expectations and sensitivities of our clients and also has an understanding of the Mongolian spirit and way of life. An underlying requirement for anyone involved with Nomadic Expeditions, be they staff, suppliers, or guides, is a respect and love for Mongolia’s environment and people.

Our foremost commitment is to Mongolia and her people. Nomadic Expeditions’ commitment is a reflection of our founder and president, Jalsa Urubshurow, a Mongolian-American with a deep love and respect for his ancestral homeland. Having traveled much of the globe, he believes that Mongolia is one of the world’s last unspoiled treasures and is dedicated to the preservation of its natural and cultural wonders. We believe that Mongolia can benefit greatly from the development of an ecologically conscientious and sustainable approach to tourism, as well as research and exploration that could reduce the demand and need for industrial development and exploitative mining of Mongolia’s precious natural resources.

We believe that one of Mongolia’s greatest treasures is its pristine environment and we are deeply committed to its conservation. As members of the Ecotourism Society, we are dedicated to providing sustainable travel in Mongolia through working to eliminate the negative effects of tourism, while enhancing the positive. By maintaining an ongoing dialogue with non-profit, university, and government organizations we hope to reinforce to Mongolians and visitors alike that in the long term, the environment is most valuable to us all when it is in a healthy, balanced state.
Nomadic Expeditions Recent Awards:

2015  **Wendy Perrin WOW** List – Trusted Travel Expert for Mongolia (Jalsa Urubshurow)
2015  **National Geographic Unique Lodges of the World** – Founding Member (Three Camel Lodge)
2015  **Transformational Travel** – PURE Life Experiences Award (Nomadic Expeditions)
2013-2008  **World’s Top Travel Specialist for Mongolia**- Condé Nast Traveler Magazine (Jalsa Urubshurow)
2013  **“25 World’s Best Lodges”** National Geographic Traveler (Three Camel Lodge)
2013  **“50 Tours of a Lifetime”** – National Geographic Traveler
2013  **“50 Dream trips”** – Travel and Leisure Magazine