



Khuiten – Tavan Bogd 4 374m to the border of Mongolia, Russia, and China.

Tavan Bogd massif, literally « the Holy Five », is one of Mongolia's jewels. Located on the border of Mongolia, Russia, and China, the almost neighbour Kazakhstan can be seen from its top. This massif is composed of 5 summits reaching 4 000m and beyond : Malchin (4050 m), Narandal (4100 m), Narlag (4200 m), Khuiten (4374 m), and Orgyl (4100 m). 2 great glaciers : the Alexander and the Potanin, the longest glacier in Mongolia stretching over 19 km long. Mountains of a rare pristine nature, preserved thanks to a relatively hard access, they still hold a strong wildlife such as snowleopard, Ibex and Argalis... The Tavan Bogd will delight all the mountains fanatics.

Khuiten mount's peak has been reached officially for the first time in 1956.

the Tavan Bogd are located in a Kazakh area, with a strong culture turned toward eagle hunting, longing for many generations. Kazakh peoples live in a yourta, but although they build cabins to face the cold winter, they're less nomads than their Mongolian cousins. The Tavan Bogd foothills are also inhabited by one another minority ethnic group, the Tuvas, one of the most ancient of the country.

The ascent of the Khuiten mount, without being difficult technically, requires a good knowledge of alpine techniques, as the summit ascent shows some vertical iced paths and the Potanin offers sometimes some great crevasses to cross.



J1 : Arrival on UB.

Installation in your Hotel, and meeting with our team. Discovery of the city center and Gandan monastery, the «Buddhist heart» of Mongolia. There are 7 main monasteries in Ulaanbaatar, many temples and palaces...amongst them the most visited are Gandantegchilen and Bogd Khan Palace, or winter palace, built on the end of the 19th century.

Ulaanbaatar is built on the shores of the Tuul River, anciently called Urga, in honor of a great Mongolian lord's son.

The name of Ulaanbaatar was given to the capital of Mongolia during the communist revolution in 1921. The meaning is «Red Hero». Streets of the capital are far quieter in winter than summer, but there is a permanent activity till late in the night.

The town is divided in several districts which show a great diversity, and you can even see gers in the town center. The growth of Ulaanbaatar is surprising and you'll find in the capital all conveniences of a modern life...



J2 : Domestic flight to Ulgii, county town of the Aimag (province) of Bayan Ulgii.

Bayan Ulgii is the most western located aimag, at the border of China and Russia. Kazakh peoples make up 80% of the aimag's population, whereas they're only 5% amongst the total Mongolian population.

At foot of the Altay rank, live another minority ethnic group, less than 2000 peoples: they're Tuvas, speaking an old Turkish-related language and still holding shamanic beliefs. This area is the rockiest amongst the country, and the steppes, hills and plains along the Altay rank are quiet narrow and turn soon into totally desert areas which Mongolians call «Gobis».

Ulgii has been settled in 1921, and almost every services can be found there : shops, banks, hotels and guest-houses, a theater, a nice museum showing the way of life, goods and relics, of the Kazakh culture...there is of course a Buddhist temple, but also a Mosque, as the Kazakh peoples believe in a moderate Islam.

The Kazakh culture became famous through the eagle hunters festival: each year in October happen a festival with a contest of eagle hunting and the hunting season's starting celebration. Hunters show to peoples their knowledge and the skills of their eagles and falcons.

A little more than 4 hours, flying over 1 640 km, you'll admire magnificent sceneries of green landscapes and sandy deserts.



Arrival in Ulgii in the early morning. Breakfast and last shopping before to leave for the Tavan Bogd. Our Russian 4X4 will lead us through the difficult tracks of the Altai mounts over a 190 km step.

We'll cross the hamlet of Ulaan Khus, at the junction of Tsaagan and Sogoog rivers. Gorgeous landscapes surrounded by snow-covered peaks, no trees there, only rocks and stones, strangely reminding Tibet or Chilean deserts...

Reaching Tsengel, another hamlet, we'll have a lunch break in on of the small «guanz» (local restaurant), after while we'll go straight to Zagastnuur.

As we're crossing the Khovd and White rivers, the track is becoming more alpine and difficult, but this is compensate for the beauty of the sceneries, and after 8 hours driving to the heart of Tavan Bogd, we'll finally get to the very small hamlet of Zagastnuur.

Last locality before the Chinese border, this hamlet is gathered around a satellite-relay station...settled in the middle of nowhere.

Our arrival will interest Tuvas and Kazakh living there, and they maybe more puzzled than you as only few westerners mean to go through those lost valleys, in quest of the Khuiten.



Installation in our guest-house...quiet basic! A little hike, just to move your legs after such a long way, and the opportunity to drench your foot in Zagast lake, « The lake with fishes ».



J3 : Meeting Tuvas & Kazakhs

From Zagastnuur, a 50km track, rocks and passes in a high-mountain atmosphere, will lead us to our meeting with the local team.

High peaks, torrents, rocky slopes, some small emerald-colored lakes, nomadic camps...

Meeting with some families, Kazakh and Tuva, and if small wood and earth made cabins often replace ger, the welcome is still as warm as usual.

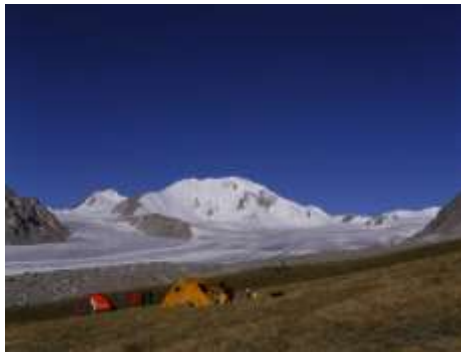
In the afternoon, arrival at our base camp, settled at the foot of the spit of ice coming down from Tavan Bogd.



Our base camp is made of several tents and our team (guides, porters, cooks and managers) stay there most part of summer. Tuvas especially, who spend the goods days at the foot of the Khuiten, will manage the carry with horses or camels.



We'll take the time for a first meeting with the team and their families, and share an evening at 3150m, with rare and warm human friendship, ones which you only can find in the most remote places, far away from any «civilization».



J4 : Khuiten base camp.

Breakfast before to set the packsaddle on horses.

Departure with the caravan to reach the high altitude camp, at 3500m.

Down the Malchin, a summit that face the Khuiten, from the other side of the glacier, we'll stop the caravan, and follow by feet to reach Khogno Togoit, a small hollow at the foot of the Khuiten. We'll set out camp there, face to the Potanin glacier.



J5 : Narandal ascent, 4100 m.

First ascent to enjoy this splendid massif, the Narandal does not offer any difficulty. A great snow-covered slope leads to the belvedere summit; witch offers a gorgeous panorama on the whole Altai, Russian and Chinese. Some more technical variants are possible to reach Narandal.

Way back to the base camp, after this 10 hours trek that will get us used to the high altitude.



J6 : Khuiten mount ascent 4 370m.

A 10 hours climb, rocks, ice and snow, without major technical difficulty by the North-West path. Depending on your technical knowledge, we may also climb the South-East path, with ice axes and crampons.

The summit offers sometimes some difficult weather conditions, strong wind and cloud.

Way back to the high altitude camp.



J7 : way back to the base camp.

Departure in the morning to the moraine down the Malchin, where the team is waiting with horses or camels.



We spend the evening at foot of the glacier, with our hosts Tuvas and Kazakhs, to enjoy last exchanges with those peoples from this Finis terrae, and celebrate the summit ascent.

J8 : A day rest at base camp.

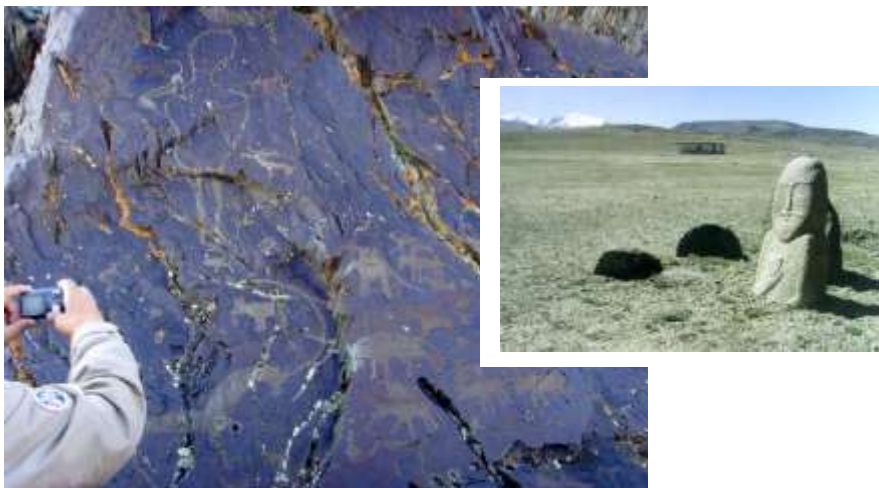
Last day to enjoy the sceneries of Tavan Bogd massif.

This day is necessary in case of ascent's planning changes, due to weather or any other security reason.



J9 : Way down toward Shivet pass.

Close to the base camp, several rock paintings dating from Neolithic adorn caves of the pass's area. Some others, more recent, like the human-shaped sculpted rocks, dates from the Turkish invasions.



Departure with our car, then soft trek to these relics of ancient ages. In the end of afternoon, we drive back toward Ulgii. Evening with our Kazakhs hosts, in the White river's valley. A nice day, between past and present cultures, in a magnificent site.

J10 : Back to Ulgii.

Last step with car, along the Tavan Bogd's tracks, heads full of memories, meetings and strong moments shared together.



Arrival in Ulgii and installation in the hotel. You'll enjoy having a hot shower there!

J11 : Domestic flight Ulgii/Ulaanbaatar.

Arrival on airport and installation at your hotel.

On the evening you'll enjoy a show with Mongolian traditional dances and music's.

J12 : Last day in UB.

Last shopping in the inescapable black market, you'll find there traditional Mongolian goods, and visit to the winter palace.

Farewell diner with team and translator.

J13 : International flight



LOGISTIC & PRICES

Dates : From June to September

Group: from 2 to 8 persons

Activity: Trek/Alpinism

Price : 1 000 €/pers for a 4 persons group

1 200 €/pers for a 6 persons group

Supplement for single room in Ulan Bator : 80 €

The price include:

- 1 alpinist guide
- 1 assistant guide
- 1 translator on base camp de base & altitude camp.
- Logistic & transfers
- Domestic flight Ulan Bator/ Ulgii/ Ulan Bator
- Bivouac equipment
- Hotel in Ulan Bator.
- Guest house in Ulgii
- Restaurant & meals
- Visits in Ulan Bator

The price don't include:

- International flight and airport taxes
- Extra kilo taxes on domestic flight
- Body insurance
- All is not specified in "The price include"

Map

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THE climbing trip on Khuiten - Altai - Tavan Bogd

Portfolio.

