



MONGOLIA

Dog sledding adventure In KHENTII range mountain.

Terelj is located in the Gorkhi-terelj national park, at 80 km from the capital, the park is located next to national park of Khan Khentii, that includes a big part of mountains Khentii.

Terelj region is part of a mountain range with summits up to 2700 m. Covered with large forest areas, Terelj is also a shrine for wild fauna.

The park is endowed with zones of steppes and of splendid rocky structures, among which the most known is Mekhii Khad, an erratic block reminding the form of a turtle, that is the origin of its name. This natural monument is one of the most visited by the Mongolians.

A place favored for this adventure between nature and culture, you will drive yourself a sled pulled by 5 - 6 dogs on the meanders of rivers Tuul and Khagiin. Meetings with our nomadic friends and discovery of a timeless life and famous nomadic "hospitality".

" Winter in Terelj is strict and cruel, between - 25°C to - 35°C, but very dry air and with an adapted equipment, this adventure journey can be possible for everybody.

Cold and pure air give an unbelievable ambience, the ice sublimated by cold, floats as a smoke, up to the ice which frosts over in the slightest contact, ice of the river, compressed by cold, arches the back, twists, curls, letting seep through some water which continues passing under her, going back up to the surface and changing the landscape from day to day... level of the river goes up every day, narrow passages between 2 rocks are transformed in few days into a broad lane and glides."

Unforgettable and intense journey ...

Your adventure land.

The river Tuul, the same that runs in the middle of the capital, takes its source in the centre of the Khenty massif, it is on her ice cordon that you will slide during a part of this route.

On its junction with the river Khagiin, you will leave Tuul, to goup in altitude towards the black lake.

This zone is particularly wild, fauna is abounding but you'll probably see only traces left by the wolves, elks, musk deer, gluttons, lynx, variable foxes and hare....Quiet a frustration ...



Your guide: Joël Rauzy

Experienced musher, with more than 20 years of practice as a professional, Joël participated in some expeditions and "premiere" in several places of the world. He works on the lake for 7 years, knows all corners, knows how to check the compression crests and to judge the best routes according to the winds.

« Our 2 circuits on Khuvsgul are for me privileged moments, with intense feeling, The lake in winter is nice, splendid ... but much, there is there, a kind of magic created by the elements.

Certainly, the 9 days circuit remains the one I prefer, but other the 6 days is some time more difficult, the dogs do not have any day rest and it is frequent to have to cross zones of rather difficult ice for them as for the musher.

During the 2 months we spend in Khuvsgul, we see the lake changing, evolving, its ice to be transformed, ice cracks to open or to close up, the compression crests growing or to become easier to cross, each circuit is unique and we must conjugate with the fads of the lake, the ice, the winds.

Even if "adventure" word became a fashion support and lose its senses, I think that these 2 circuits on the lake of Khuvsgul are a true adventure which I try to propose to neophytes and to more experienced travelers, to make those few days living together with our dogs, unforgettable instants, for the customers, but also for us ».



The dogs : Alaskans & Greenland's dogs

The main part of them are Alaskans Huskies, amazing dynamism and kindness, always ready for job, as hard it can be, always in research of contact with the musher, what also one of the important point of the journey.

In the team, there are some Greenland dogs, more rustic and more wild than Alaskans, but they have their own good sides.... just need to know how to approach them.

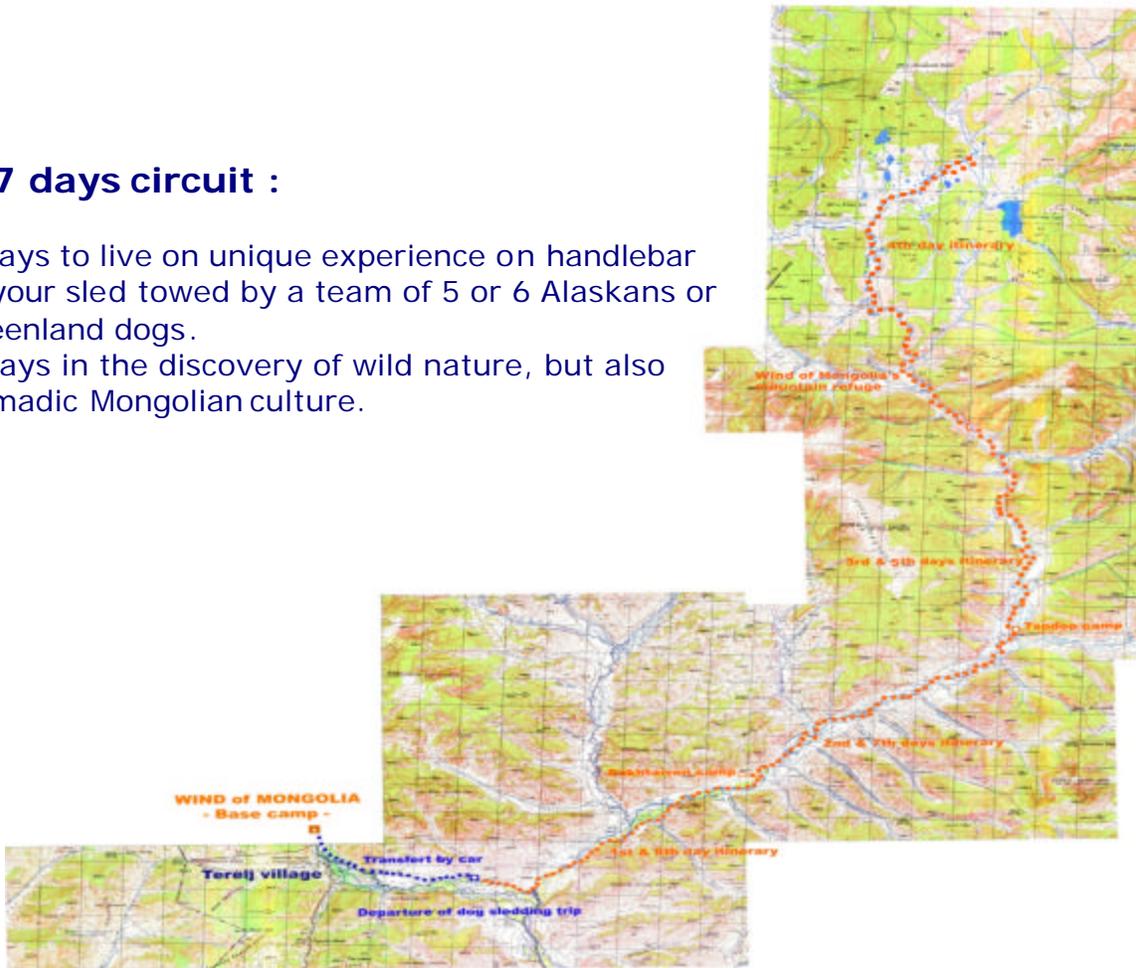
On the sleds, teams are constituted from 5 to 6 dogs, whom every apprentice-musher will have to drive and manage during the trip. For other things, to put the harness, to prepare the equipment, to feed this friendly & noisy band, it will be up to you to take in charge or let us do and admire quietly the beauty of landscapes.



A 7 days circuit :

7 days to live on unique experience on handlebar of your sled towed by a team of 5 or 6 Alaskans or Greenland dogs.

7 days in the discovery of wild nature, but also nomadic Mongolian culture.



Day 1. Oulan Bator - Reception in the airport - Terelj

Short city tour and visit to the great Gandan monastery. There are in Oulan Bator 7 main monasteries and several temples and palaces, the most visiting of them are Gandan and Bogdo Khaan, the winter palace, which was started to build in 1890.



Oulan Bator is located on the riversides of the river Tuul, in the past, it was called Uрга, in honor of the son of a great Mongol Khan. The name of Oulan Bator was given to the capital of Mongolia, during the 1921's revolution. This name means "red here".

The streets of the capital are much less eventful in winter than in summer, but it reigns a permanent agitation, also late at night. The city is divided into several quarters with large diversity, it's possible to see yurts in center town. The growth of Oulan Bator is amazing and you will find in the capital all facilities of modern life ...

& Reception on our Terelj Base Camp

After lunch, departure by car to reach our base camp in Terelj.

Free time, walk around.

Wilderness and nomads Before joining the warm ger.

At sunset the temperature drops quickly and after 16h, a comfortable ger is welcome.



Jour 2 - Khentii – Departure for the dog sledding adventure Itinerary on Tuul river.

Departure pour 7 days dog sledding, do not forget anything in the base camp !

Try to think about all... And "hop", go on!

We will follow during the first few miles by car, Terelj River, before reaching the point of departure on the trip, on junction of the rivers Terelj and Tuul.

Next, we'll continue on the Tuul, up the valley towards to Khagiin Khar Nuur (Khagiin Black Lake).

Several families of nomads living in this valley. Wildlife is never far away and silence reinforced by the cold create an unreal atmosphere.



Ice on the river Tuul is amazing and changing: blue one day, it can darken to become black crackle is perceptible, under the pads, causing strange noises ... Sometimes the water of the River seeps through its cracks and form small ponds of open water above the ice.

In winter, nature is queen of the place.

We reach for the night Bosgiin Guur, a small hamlet, a group of several families where Enkhtaivan and Mungoo live.

Is in their little wooden cabin we'll spend the night.



The nomads do not move in the winter and build their winter camp of wooden shelters to protect cattle from the winds and cold. In spring they come down closer to the river and return to settle in the same place after the winter. This is a seasonal migration cycle.

Share moments in a ger with nomads is an unforgettable experience.

Discovery of another culture, which combines tradition and modernity harmoniously.



Jour 3: Bosgiin Guur - Khar Us (Last nomads camp of the valley)

Go on to Khar Us

On this route, the course of the Tuul River becomes quieter, divided into several branches some of them will disappear in endless maze. After a picnic break, we will reach on afternoon, the Khar us (the black waters) camp.

Live there, four or five families together for a more efficient protection against the rigors of winter.



We will be greeted by Tsodoo and his family and will spend the overnight in his guest ger.

The camp is one of the last of the Tul valley, more far; only one other family has built its winter camp a few miles upstream and then.... only wildlife to haunt these beautiful places.

Comfort of a ger host that Tsodoo and his wife sated up right next to theirs. Nomad by heart, Tsodoo never misses an opportunity to follow us in our tours, it will be probably member of the team that will join us to carry with pack horses, camping equipment.



Jour 4:– Junction Khagiin and Khar Us rivers – Urtin Bulag

The stage today will drive us in some more rocky area in the mountains, ever closer to the Khagiin Black Lake.

The landscape becomes increasingly wild, reminiscent of Alaska.

There is no more nomads in these areas, but it can happen to encounter a little group of horse riders who cut through the mountains to move from one valley to another.

A 40 km itinerary to reach the junction with the Tuul and Khagiin rivers, then we will continue a little further on Khagiin gol, to join Urtin Bulag Just a name on a map ... but that's where we'll put our camp.
A place of incredible natural beauty



Tsodoo or Azaa probably would wait us there, but all will depend on snow conditions.
Somewhere close to the river, will be the tent and for sure the stove will already make the tent warm...
Overnight on tent.

.... **The tent:**

The word could make afraid any traveler in winter...

But it is a tent specially made for us

Doubled by felt and offer really good isolation.

Inside, a small stove for cooking facilities and specially to quip warm all along the night.



Jour 5: Urtin Bulag - Khagiin Ovuur - Urtin Bulag

Magic Itinerary... .. we will continue to go up on the river Khagiin gol, that become more as a mountain stream than a plain river Splendid landscape, to reach a kind of open plateau.



Following the meandering or cutting through the trees, we'll reach the end of plateau and depending on weather and snow condition; we'll reach....maybe the little lake, among a group of 20 lakes.... But whatever, we reach; this day will for sure be the more beautiful of the trip...

It's pretty rare to see travelers in this far place, only come so far in the mountains fishers for trout or perch but only ...in summer



In these places of wilderness, live elk and musk deer, but so rare to see, even from far, like wolves or wolverines ...But prints are every where. Back to our camp in the middle of the afternoon, where will wait the Mongolian team.

Prepare soup for the dogs, chopping wood ... and finally sipping hot tea ...

Day 6: Urtin Bulag - Khar Us

It's always hard to leave this place ...on the end of the world...

But we will resume our way to the Tsodoo camp.

Night in a ger and last night with our "guides" for those last days.

Festive evening in the ger!!!



+ 30°C inside & - 30°C outside!!

Day 7 : Khar Us - Bosgiin Guur

35 km to reach the Enkhtaivan camp, further down the valley. Dogs are always eager to run on the ice, without any apprehension, sniffing here and there wolves' traces.

To join the camp, we take the same route as the outward journey on the River. This gives us the opportunity to better observe around us, prints, landscape ...



Installation in Enkhtaiven & Mungo's wooden house or in the ger close to their own.



At Mungono's ger, as we say, the atmosphere is always cheerful, and as soon as we arrive, our guests start working to prepare a copious meal, enough to recharge our batteriesand enjoy Mongolian food.

Day 8 : Bosgiin Guur - Uliin Bulan - Terelj

Departure from Bosgiin Guur.

Again, we slip on the Tuul, to the junction with the Terelj. Only a few kilometers to reach our end point, where will wait vehicle and trailer.

Last moments of sledding and encounters with nomads.

Arrival at Terelj Base Camp in afternoon.

Overnight in Wind of Mongolia's Camp.

Day 9 – Departure to Oulan Bator.

In the morning, transfer by car Tereelj/Ulaanbaatar.

Installation in hotel.

In winter, not a lot of possibilities of visits except a museum and some monasteries, but a loop through by the big market city is really interesting, everything sell, from the little spoon for baby to the ancient silver cup.

Diner in town

Day 10 – Oulan Bator/international flight.

Departure to airport.

International flight.



DETAILS & PRICE

Dates : From December 2011 to end of February 2012

Group: 2 to 5 persons, + Joël, the musher. One person per sled.

Activity: 7 days dog sledging

Price : ... \$/pers

Supplement single room in UB

Price include :

- Musher French, English and Spanish speaking. Mountain leader and professional musher, with 20 years experience on dog sledging expeditions.
- Logistic & transfers
- All equipment for dog sledging
- Hotel in Oulan Bator.
- Overnight on camps and nomadic families
- Restaurant & al meals
- Visit in Oulan Bator
- Driver & English speaking guide in Oulan Bator

Price doesn't include:

- International flight & airport taxes
- Personal insurance
- Private consummations
- All isn't specified on "Price include"

PORTOFOLIO

