

THE QUEST FOR SNOW LEOPARDS OF MONGOLIA

Winter: Dec 1-12, 2026; Feb 2-13, 2027

Summer: May 1-12, June 2-13, 2027

TRIP SUMMARY



Of the estimated 4,500-6000 left snow leopards left in the world today, scientists have recorded the largest numbers in China and Mongolia, of which the latter has the easiest access both politically and logistically.

This expedition takes you deep into the Altai mountain range, characterized by steep cliffs, rocky outcrops, and extreme altitudes, creating ideal conditions for snow leopards to hunt, move, and remain unseen.

Joining the journey is a local biologist who will serve as the trip leader, accompanied by local herder-rangers with extensive knowledge of the terrain. With deep field experience in snow leopard ecology and tracking, the biologist will guide daily activities based on fresh signs, camera trap data, and environmental conditions.

During the trip, you will encounter Argali sheep, and Siberian ibex. This tour is a rare opportunity to witness one of the world's most elusive cats while exploring one of Mongolia's most awe-inspiring ecosystems.

TRIP LEADER



Khuderchuluun Gantumur
MSc/BSc,
National University of Mongolia

Khuderchuluun is a young and promising Mongolian biologist, actively contributes to research and field studies while advocating for responsible wildlife-watching tourism.

Since 2017, he has gained extensive hands-on experience in biodiversity research and wildlife monitoring across Mongolia, working with national parks and leading conservation organizations such as World Wildlife Fund and The Nature Conservancy.

His fieldwork spans a wide range of species from small mammals to Argali sheep and the endangered Saiga antelope.

As your trip leader, Khuderchuluun will offer expert guidance, insightful instruction, and scientific context to deepen your understanding of Mongolia's remarkable wildlife and ecosystems.

ITINERARY

DAY 1. ARRIVAL IN ULAANBAATAR

Upon arrival, meet your guide and transfer to your hotel. After settling and resting in your hotel room, we will enjoy a welcome dinner at a fine local restaurant.

Overnight at hotel. (Hotel Kempinski or similar; D)

DAY 2. WESTERN MONGOLIA

Today, we will fly to the western most part of Mongolia. We will meet our local crew and after a quick stop at a local market, begin driving to the Altai mountains where our camp site is located. Enjoy dinner and overnight in tents or gers.

Overnight in field camp.

(B, L, D, Approx. 7 hours driving)



DAY 3-9. ALTAI MOUNTAINS

In the morning, we will hear a brief introduction on the region's conservation projects for snow leopard and other rare species. We will set out each day to one of the frequently sited valleys in search of the elusive cat. Packed lunch will be provided and we will enjoy dinner at the base camp by a warm fire site.

Overnight in field camp. (B, L, D)

DAY 10. HOVD CITY

In the morning, transfer back to the local town, Hovd, for our return flight back to Ulaanbaatar the next morning. **Overnight at local hotel. (B;L;D. Approx. 7 hours driving)**

DAY 11. ULAANBAATAR SIGHTSEEING



After our return flight back to Ulaanbaatar, transfer to your hotel located in the downtown. The rest of the afternoon is free for resting at your hotel or last-minute shopping. Lunch is independent. We will enjoy farewell dinner at a fine local restaurant. **Overnight at hotel. (Hotel Kempinski or similar; B, D. Approx. 2 hours driving)**

DAY 12. DEPARTURE

After breakfast transfer to the airport for your return flight home. (B)

B = Breakfast | L = Lunch | D = Dinner

Ger camp = The traditional portable, circular, wooden dwelling used by the nomadic peoples.

Field camp = A bit more sophisticated camping/glamping, more permanent in nature.

Tent camp = Expedition style, often moving regularly and smaller in size and scale.

MONGOLIA QUEST RESERVES THE RIGHT TO ALTER THE ABOVE ITINERARY IF DEEMED NECESSARY.

LAND PRICES

Based on 2 participants:	\$7,185 per person, standard twin occupancy;
Based on 3-5 participants:	\$6,725 per person, standard twin occupancy;
Based on 6+ participants:	\$5,925 per person, standard twin occupancy;
Domestic Flights:	\$450
Optional single supplement:	\$1,050

***Please note:** As a part of our effort to support international and Mongolian research and conservation efforts, Mongolia Quest may decide to subsidize the trip cost for one or two students or scholars in joining this expedition. **They will not influence the tier pricing and only fully paid participants will determine the final per person price.**

LAND PRICES INCLUDE:	LAND PRICES DO NOT INCLUDE:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Round-trip domestic airfare • Land transportation as indicated in the itinerary based on using a 4x4 van or cruiser jeeps; • Private accommodation based on a twin occupancy in a standard room at hotel and private gers in the countryside, with field toilet; • Airport arrival & departure transfers; • All meals indicated as B, L or D; • Park entrance fees as indicated in the itinerary; • Mongolia Quest’s English speaking guide throughout your stay; • Local biologist to accompany; • Contribution to local ecosystem research projects; • Supply of bottled and boiled waters throughout the trip. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • International airfare; • Personal laundry; • Drinks not mentioned in the itinerary; • Travel insurance; • Medical evacuation costs; • Excess baggage charges; • Visa fees; • Gratuities; • Photography and video fees • Any other item not mentioned as included.

HOW TO BOOK THIS TRIP

You may book any trip with us by filling out our Trip Application Form, which you can download using Adobe Acrobat Reader and can send to us as an electronic file via e-mail at

- **Info@MongoliaQuest.com**

All reservations are subject to deposit of \$400 per person. Deposits are refundable until 90 days prior to the start of the program less a \$250 administrative fee. Please arrange a wire transfer to Mongolia Quest bank account as per following instructions:

Beneficiary name: MONGOLIA QUEST LLC

Beneficiary's address:

Suite #1205, Dalai Tower, 1st Horoo, 13th Sud-district, Sukhbaatar District,
Ulaanbaatar 14230, Mongolia;

Tel: (976) 7000 9747

Email: info@MongoliaQuest.com

Beneficiary's account number: 3005111070

Beneficiary's bank name: Golomt bank

Beneficiary's bank address:

Monnis branch

3rd floor, Monnis tower, Chinggis avenue

Khoroo #1, Sukhbaatar district

Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia

Beneficiary's bank swift code: GLMTMNUB

Once we receive your trip application form, we will send you information about how to wire your deposit to us, and a confirmation letter with information related with visa and international airfare reservations. You will also receive our pre-departure Travel Guide, which will include information on weather, suggested reading list, a list of items to pack, etc.

About 4 weeks prior to your arrival date, we will send you Final Departure Information which will include your final itinerary along with any other necessary updated information regarding the logistics of your trip.

PAYMENT AND CANCELLATION POLICY

As mentioned above, a deposit of \$400 per person is required to reserve space for the trip that you have chosen. Full payment is due 90 days prior to the start of the trip. In the case of a cancellation, please contact us in written form.

Notification of cancellation must be received in writing by Mongolia Quest. At the time, we receive your written cancellation, the following penalties will apply:

- **Up to 90 days prior to departure: \$250 per person handling fee;**
- **89-60 days prior to departure: 20% of the trip cost per person;**
- **60-45 days prior to departure: 50% of the trip cost per person;**
- **44-30 days prior to departure: 75% of the trip cost, per person;**
- **29 days prior to departure, or after the trip starts: no-refund.**

Some airfares may be nonrefundable. Once an expedition has departed, there will be no refunds from MQ for any unused portions of the trip. The above policy also applies to all extensions and independent travel arrangements made in conjunction with this program.

Tier pricing

Our prices are based on tier pricing. At the time of booking, we will bill you for the amount based on the confirmed number of trip participants. In case the number of travelers increases at the last moment, we will reimburse the balance of your payment in accordance with the corresponding tier pricing, after you return home.

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TRAVEL NOTES

How to get to Mongolia

The official Mongolian international civil flight carriers Mongolian Airlines or MIAT. Currently it serves flights between Beijing, Seoul, Tokyo, Hong Kong, Bangkok and Frankfurt. Other popular airlines include Asiana, Pusan and Turkish airlines. South Korea is the most common international gateway city to Ulaanbaatar. Mongolian Airlines and Turkish Airlines fly daily to/from Istanbul. If you are coming from Europe, you may also find Turkish Airlines a convenient connection. During the summer season, if no seats are available on any of these major carriers, there are ways to fly to Mongolia through local cities in China and Russia. Please contact us for more information. The seats are usually in high demand and booking needs to be done well in advance.

Visa Information

U.S, Canadian, Japanese, Australian and citizens of most European counties are allowed to enter Mongolia without a visa for up to 30 days. All other nationals are required to get a visa before entering Mongolia.

THE LIST OF THE COUNTRIES TO BE EXEMPTED FROM VISA REQUIREMENTS TO VISIT MONGOLIA UP TO 30 DAYS IN THE YEARS OF 2023-2025

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|---|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Czech Republic • Republic of Austria • Kingdom of Belgium • Hungary • Hellenic Republic • Kingdom of Denmark • Kingdom of Spain • Italian Republic • Republic of Latvia • Republic of Lithuania • Swiss Confederation • Republic of Bulgaria • Republic of Ireland • Republic of Philippines | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Principality of Liechtenstein • Grand Duchy of Luxembourg • Republic of Malta • Kingdom of the Netherlands • Republic of Poland • Portuguese Republic • Slovak Republic • Republic of Slovenia • Republic of Finland • Republic of Croatia • Canada | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kingdom of Sweden • French Republic • Republic of Estonia • Kingdom of Norway • Republic of Iceland • Republic of Cyprus • Romania • Principality of Monaco • United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland • Commonwealth of Australia • New Zealand |
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Weather

Mongolia enjoys over 280 sunny days a year. However, because Mongolia has a continental weather pattern, weather can fluctuate drastically during any given day. We recommend packing warm clothes even if you are coming during the hottest months. Our pre-departure information will provide details regarding the weather along with a suggested packing list. Layering is the best plan to be ready for a wide array of Mongolian weather patterns.

Accommodation



Newly renovated Soviet era hotels are located at some of the best locations in downtown Ulaanbaatar. They offer comfortable rooms and friendly services. There are also newer hotels like Kempinski Khan Palace, Ramada Ulaanbaatar and Best Western Inn. The countryside accommodations are arranged in “ger camps,” which provide authentic nomadic felt tents with centralized bathroom and toilet facilities located nearby. They offer clean, comfortable beds and plentiful meals.

Safety

Mongolia is devoid of any political, religious and ethnic sectarian conflicts and is considered one of the safest countries in the world for international travelers. However, like in any other country, crimes do happen, so a good sense of caution and respect shown to the locals can help to avoid unnecessary confrontations. Mongolians are generally hospitable people who love to interact with foreigners.

Food



Mongolia’s capital, Ulaanbaatar, hosts an excellent collection of fine restaurants of international cuisine. In the countryside, tour establishments offer hearty meals with a balance of meat and vegetables. Meat in Mongolians excellent in that the whole country is essentially “free-range” terrain. Even your strictest dietary restrictions can now be met with proper information in advance and preparation by us.

Information about Currency and Payment Methods

Mongolia's national currency is called tugrik and the exchange rate is about 3,400 tugrik to a US dollar. Major currencies can be exchanged at the hotels and pawnshops, and ATM machines are widely available throughout Ulaanbaatar and provincial centers. However, Australian dollars can usually only be exchanged at banks. Traveler's checks can be cashed at banks and major credit cards are accepted at most places in the capital, but only Mongolian cash is accepted in the countryside. We recommend that you travel with Mongolian national currency equal to at least \$200 when touring in the countryside.

Souvenirs

Like any other places, Mongolia offers great souvenirs ranging from camel wool sweaters to cashmere scarves and traditional wooden puzzle games. Mongolian vodkas can be an excellent gift. At several stores, you can also find a range of traditional Mongolian musical instruments such as the famed Morin Khuur or "horse headed fiddle." Bargaining is not very customary; most items are sold for the price on their labels. If you plan to shop for souvenirs, we recommend purchasing locally as many items as possible since your purchases will be a direct contribution to the local community.

Travel Insurance

With Mongolia stretching over 1.5 million square kilometers and its population concentrated in the cities, we will be traveling through some remote areas away from good roads and medical facilities. We strongly recommend that you consider getting standard emergency medical evacuation insurance as a means to protect yourself from unexpected accidents that can happen during any trip. Nothing is better than traveling with peace of mind knowing that you have prepared for the trip as much as possible in advance

Traveling with Mongolia Quest

Because it is still a developing country, traveling in Mongolia requires a sense of humor and patience. New roads and bridges are being built every year, but the paved road system is still limited in the countryside. You may experience flight delays and find road conditions bumpy and dusty. But the experience of traveling in Mongolia will far exceed some personal compromises in comfort. We like to say that the best part of traveling in Mongolia is spontaneous events and interactions, which lead to unexpected interactions, discoveries, and experiences that will make your trip unique and memorable. At Mongolia Quest, we ensure the integrity of your overall itinerary but at the same time, will go out of our way to make necessary changes in order to enrich your travel experience with us.

ENJOY YOUR TRIP!