



3 DAY TSAGAAN NUUR / WHITE LAKE TOUR

USD\$225 PER PERSON



ARKHANGAI

Arkhangai is the central province in Mongolia, and is diverse in its landscape with wide open plains, craggy mountaintops, forested hillsides, lush river valleys and a myriad of lakes. It has been the home to nomadic herdsmen for millennia, who still live their ancient culture, in many ways revolving around the horse.



Photo Credit: Chris Wetherall

WHITE LAKE

Terkhiin Tsagaan Nuur, or White Lake in English, is a stunningly beautiful lake in a rugged volcanic area. The lake is at 2060m elevation, and is frozen over for much of the year, hence its name.

It is a large lake, extending 16kms east to west, and ranging between 4-10 kms across. It is possible to circumnavigate the lake, though there is a river to cross at both the eastern and western ends of the lake ... and no bridges close to the lake.

The lake does offer good fishing at the right time of the year, with a good population of Pike, Greyling, Lenok and even the elusive Taimen.

This has become a major tourist destination, and there are many tourist camps on both the southern and northern shores. The main concentration of camps is on the north-eastern corner, in the national park.



KHORGO VOLCANO

In the Terkhiin Tsagaan Nuur National Park is the extinct volcano – Khorgo Togoo – rising up to 2240 metres above sea level, 180m above the level of the lake.

The 200m diameter and 80m deep crater is well worth the climb to see.

The volcano is thought to have erupted around 7500 years ago, the lava flow from the eruption effectively damming the Suman River and creating White Lake

It is possible to climb down into the crater, though the route is a little treacherous so proceed with caution.

If you are exploring the area on foot, do not neglect to explore the lava field between the volcano and the lake, which is a fascinating area of basalt formations, caves, and sinkholes.



TOUR ITINERARY

Following is a proposed itinerary, beginning and ending at Fairfield Guesthouse in Tsetserleg. Your itinerary is 100% customisable, so please discuss your ideas and situation and we can tailor the itinerary to suit your individual travel plans.

DAY 1 – Depart Fairfield in a private vehicle and drive around 3-4 hours north-west to Terkhiin Tsagaan Nuur (White Lake). Stop enroute at Taikher Chuluu, a 20m tall rock with inscriptions that date back to the Turkish period in the 6th century. Read about the legends surrounding the rock. Stop again at the Chuluut Gorge, an impressive canyon, occasionally referred to as the 'Mongolian Grand Canyon'. Stay in a comfortable ger camp right on the lake edge.

DAY 2 – Spend the day on and around the lake. Swim if the weather is warm enough, or hike the lake edge or up into the mountains surrounding the lake. There are boats to hire, or horses to ride.



Photo: Taikher Chuluu

ITINERARY (CONTINUED)

DAY 3 – Spend the morning on the lake, then check out of your ger camp. If you did not visit the 'Cave of the Yellow Dog' previously, stop and explore this huge sinkhole in the lava field, then continue on to the base of the Khorgo Volcano. Climb the volcano and enjoy the view over the enormous crater, and back over the lava field to the lake.

Return to Fairfield Guesthouse to complete your tour.



Photo: Chuluut Gorge

CHECKLIST



Clothing – You need to be prepared for any weather conditions, from hot days in summer requiring shorts and t-shirts, to snow, which can occur at any time of year in Mongolia. The best strategy is to bring multiple layers, including fleece jackets and wind and rainproof shells.

Footwear – Sturdy hiking boots

Sleeping bag – Recommended for additional warmth - the temperature when sleeping in a ger can become quite cool in the night. (Sleeping bags are available for hire from Fairfield if required)

Protection – Sunglasses, sunscreen, insect repellent, personal medications

Insurance – Travellers are required to register travel insurance details with Fairfield prior to the horse trek

A more complete packing list is available upon request.

Photo: Cave of the Yellow Dog

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

Terms of Payment

Upon completion of refinement of the tour plan to suit, a final price will be confirmed. A 50% deposit is required to be paid prior to arrival. The balance of payment will be made upon arrival at Fairfield in local currency or by credit card.

What is included

- A private car and driver to and from White Lake, including all fuel costs
- Accommodation in a tourist ger camp on the edge of White Lake, including an evening meal upon arrival, three meals on day two, and breakfast on day 3.
- All accommodation and meal costs for your driver.
- National Park entry fees

What is NOT included

- Flights to and from Mongolia
- Mongolian entry visa fees (see notes re visa application following)
- Travel insurance. We recommend seeking travel insurance coverage prior to travelling
- Accommodation and activities before or after the tour
- Daytime meals during the driving days. Your driver will stop at a teahouse and you will be able to order directly from the menu.
- Personal expenses such as laundry, beverages, alcoholic drinks, telephone calls, optional activities, sightseeing or meals which are not included in the itinerary

Visas

Visitors from most countries require a tourist visa to enter Mongolia, and these are quite easy to obtain through a Mongolian embassy, consulate, consulate-general or honorary consul. We are able to provide an official letter of invitation to facilitate this process. Please request this if needed, and we will advise you of the information required to produce this letter.