



Ice festival at Khovsguul lake



Travel description:

The bear is dancing on the ice. A superlative ice festival in the north of Mongolia, not only in terms of temperatures. The ice festival of the nomads at Lake Khovsguul.



Normally they lead a lonely life in the grasslands and forests around Mongolia's largest lake. The temperatures are friendly - 45 ° C more than well below freezing. The water is hewn out of the lake in blocks. One sledge load is enough for four days. The next settlement is a good three riding days away. The days are short, the nights all the colder.



Only once in this harsh winter season, at the end of February, life changes for a short time in this region. Then the ice festival is celebrated. Not only nomads from the wider area come to the southern shore of the lake, but also relatives from the distant capital make the arduous journey to this unique festival.

The settlement, where people meet, counts just one ten wooden huts, most participants are more than 12 hours on the road to participate in the "winter games" of the nomads. The most important event is, of course, the horse race. For this race, the horses get extra "spikes" under their hooves, otherwise they wouldn't get ten meters on the glassy egg. The sumo wrestling is different, which looks very funny when the mighty sumo wrestlers have to pass the competition without "spikes". The same picture offers itself to the viewer with the traditional tug of war, where the teams come equal rows on the ice into sliding.

Shamans, who still have their firm place in the faith of the people in this area, draw their spiritual circles and dances around the competitors. Faith is an important component and also gladly replaces a good workout once in a while. Of course, the audience also appears in colorful costumes. Red, green and especially the sky-blue cloths of the nomads offer an interesting contrast to the glistening white of the snow and ice covered mountains around the lake.

It quickly gets dark in the evening. Then is the time of the big campfire. Dimly the ice sculptures, which were created during the day by the nomad families, are illuminated by the glow of the fire. Now is the time to also warm the body from the inside, not only with warm food.

The ice festival takes place every year at the beginning of March. The festival is reached by plane from the capital, then by four-wheel drive vehicle through the snow-covered landscape and finally several kilometers across the frozen Lake Khovsguul until the small settlement is built. Overnight is spent in cozy wooden huts, or in the amazingly chubby warm yurts. For the journey to the "warmly cold ice festival" one should take already one week with arrival and departure time..



Route:

Ulaanbaatar – Morön – Khatgal – Morön - Ulaanbaatar

Itinerary:

0. Day Arrival in Ulaanbaatar, airport transfer and a short city tour.
Accommodation and meals: according to the booking category you have chosen.
1. Day Today we will take the intercity bus from Ulaanbaatar to Morön. The journey takes us into the mountains of northern Mongolia. On the way we stop again and again for small breaks to eat or to stretch our feet. We reach Morön in the late afternoon. In Morön we change the vehicle and drive the remaining kilometers by minibus to Lake Khovsguul.
Unterkunft: entspr. der Buchungskategorie, die Sie gewählt haben., Mahlzeiten: F / M / A
2. Day Opening of the ice festival on Khovsguul lake. The festival is every year in a different place. We will experience the horse racing on the ice, wrestling (national sport). In between there will be always warm drinks to warm up. In the evening big bonfire with traditional dance and shaman rituals.
Unterkunft: entspr. der Buchungskategorie, die Sie gewählt haben. Mahlzeiten: F / M / A
3. Day Once again we go to the lake, today the sled race and the award ceremony is the highlight for us. Afterwards we have the opportunity to visit a reindeer herder family (Tsaarten) a bit away from the festival. The Tsaarten are a minority and live very scattered around the northern Khovsguul Lake. They live mainly from reindeer herding.
Unterkunft: entspr. der Buchungskategorie, die Sie gewählt haben. Mahlzeiten: F / M / A
4. Day In the morning, return by coach to Ulaanbaatar. We will arrive in Ulaanbaatar in the late afternoon. The rest of the day is then at leisure.
Unterkunft: entspr. der Buchungskategorie, die Sie gewählt haben. Mahlzeiten: F / M / -
5. Day Airport transfer and return flight
Mahlzeiten: F / - / -

Due to the conditions within Mongolia, there may be deviations in the exact itinerary. The tour description is only a guideline for the tour itinerary. The tour can be driven in reverse order due to e.g. adverse weather conditions or domestic flights.

Necessary equipment:

All technical equipment, such as tents, cooking equipment, etc. is provided by Steppenfuchs Reisen. You only need the things for your personal needs. The list given here is only limited to the things that are necessary from our point of view and is only meant to give an indication.

Personal laundry, T-shirt or similar, warm jacket, rainwear, sun hat or similar, warm sleeping bag, warm sleeping clothes for the night, sleeping mat, small pillow, washing utensils, towel, bathing clothes, sturdy shoes, good sunglasses, sunscreen, photo equipment, small flashlight, medicines, if available GPS device. Backpack, or large travel bag to accommodate everything. Suitcases are rather impractical for this type of travel.

Packing list suggestion: https://www.mongolei.com/pdf_datein/Packliste_EN.pdf

Performance description:

Accommodation in Ulaanbaatar and in the countryside, according to the price category you choose (see below). Airport transfer in Ulaanbaatar, tour guide German speaking, entrance fees for museums, national parks and cultural program, provision of off-road vehicles incl. gasoline and incidental expenses. Costs for horses and / or camels as shown in the program, full board in the country, in Ulaanbaatar according to the price category you have chosen.

Not included:

Costs for personal needs, costs for drinks, such as beer etc., dinner in Ulaanbaatar, travel souvenirs, health costs, film- photo fees (if necessary), tips, visa costs, or costs related to the visa regulations of Mongolia, possibly additional nights in yurt camps, vegetarian food in the country. Depending on the price category you choose, additional costs for accommodation and meals in Ulaanbaatar.

What else:

The reservation for the trip becomes valid only after the signed registration form has been returned to Steppenfuchs Reisen. We recommend the conclusion of a foreign health and travel cancellation insurance. You can book an insurance here: [Hanse Merkur Versicherung](#)

Weitere sehr nützliche Informationen zum Reiseablauf und zur Vorbereitung der Reise finden Sie unter folgendem Link: <http://www.mongolei.com/texte/Reiseinformationen.pdf>

Minimum number of participants: four people.

Termine:

Start	End	Year
01.03 Fr	04.03 Mo	2024
28.02 Fr	03.03 Mo	2025

Prices :

Price*		
Category	1. Pers	2. Pers
Standard	1.100 €	860 €
LUX Class	1.400 €	990 €
Domesticflight		--
Singleger**	450 €	

Kategorie / Category

Standard

Five nights in a multi-bed yurt. Three meals / day (arrival-departure two meals) Mongolian standard. Lunch on the way incl. milk tea (mongolian standard). Dinner incl. milk tea (Mongolian standard). Entrance and program fees. Guide

LUX Class

Five nights in a two-bedded yurt. Three meals / day (arrival-departure two meals) western standard. Lunch on the way incl. soft drink (western standard). Dinner incl. soft drink (western standard). Entrance and program fees. Guide.

* All prices in €

** Individual accommodation , where possible

Minimum number of participants 2 people

Comments:

All prices in EURO

Schedule information for **2022 / 23**

The travel prices for 2023 are not yet fixed. The travel price of 2022 can be taken as a guideline

Arrival / departure day in Ulaanbaatar

Price without flight plus current airfare MIAT, Aeroflot or Turkish Air

Individual dates are possible

The cheap flight to the trip

Benefit from the fact that Steppenfuchs Reisen has concluded a very favorable agreement with Mongolian Airlines (MIAT) for the necessary flights from Germany to Mongolia. In the season, several times a week directly from Frankfurt or Berlin Tegel to Ulaanbaatar.

Flights from 870 € pers. (if you use our flight dates) and from 950 € for individual flight dates. Please check our website for our flight offers (<https://english.mongolei.com>)

Helpful links:

Packing list suggestion:

https://www.mongolei.com/pdf_datein/Packliste_EN.pdf

Travel insurance

[Hanse Merkur Versicherung](#)

Travel information (german)

https://www.mongolei.com/pdf_datein/Reiseinformationen.pdf

Travel application

https://www.mongolei.com/pdf_datein/Steppenfuchs_Reiseanmeldung.pdf