



Photos: Haroldo Castro

Hustai National Park Takhi re-introduction

*Hustai National Park is the site of a unique re-introduction scheme of Przewalskii's horse (*Equus przewalskii*), by Mongolians called Takhi. It became extinct in the wild in the 1960s, and has since 1992 been successfully re-introduced to Hustai and other parts of Mongolia, from zoos around the world. Hustai Nuruu (Birch Mountains) is relatively close to Ulaanbaatar and it is a conservation success story with numerous Marmots and the Red Deer population has increased to thousands, which have benefited a dense population of wolves. There are visible remains of Neolithic graves. Species that are in Hustai but usually not seen are Lynx, Argali Sheep and Roe Deer. Sometimes herds of Mongolian Gazelle are seen.*

Brief Outline Itinerary

Hustai National Park is located around Hustai (Birch) Mountain, north of the Tuul River some 2-3 hours drive west of Ulaanbaatar. You will be transferred by vehicle and when in Hustai there will be some shorter hikes supported by pack-horse.

Day 1: To Hustai

A.m. Pick up at your hotel in Ulaanbaatar and drive, when out of the city two hours, to Hustai National Park. We will make our way to the Hustai Ger Camp, operated by "Hustai Trust", on the northern borderline of the Hustai. Lunch at Hustai Ger Camp. P.m. Drive to the remarkable Neolithic graves of Öngüt, of the 6th or 7th century A.D. We will thereafter make our way to the Tuul River and its willows for some birding. Red-footed falcons are relatively easy to see here. In the evening we will take a game drive with a high probability of seeing some of the free roaming herds of the takhi. During the day they usually stay high in the mountains and are rather difficult to see, whereas very early and late in the day they usually come down into the valleys for water and to graze. Overnight in gers.



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Day 2: Hustai trek

Today we will make a trek through the varied habitats of Hustai National Park. Starting out from the ger camp we will hike the ridges with views over the distant Moltsog Sands as well as the partly forested Hustai Mountains. We will trek up a gully to incredible look-out points, while having a reasonable chance to see red deer, black vultures and other numerous raptors such as eagles and falcons. We will reach the backcountry camp at Moilt, which consists of simple houses. These have recently been somewhat refurbished to provide basic accommodation. The camp is located in an excellent spot next to the core area and is well suited for wildlife viewing on foot in the late evening. Transfer back to camp by vehicle and overnight in gers.

Day 3: To Ulaanbaatar

A.m. Visit to any of the community groups who inhabits the fringes of Hustai with their livestock, thus you is now given the opportunity to engage with the Hustai buffer zone program. We will enjoy a local lunch of buuz provided by the locals, partners in the conservation of Hustai.
P.m. Return to Ulaanbaatar.

Practicalities

Transport: This journey is supported by a jeep or minibus to and from Hustai National Park, as well as packhorse to carry some of the necessities of the trek.

Staff: Mongolian English-speaking local guide will accompany you at all times.

Meals: The meals will be provided at the ger camp, or as picnics.

Overnights: The gers have 2-4 beds in each, and they are furnished with beds, stools and a table. WC and showers are in communal shower blocks.

Combinations: This journey extends very well to Arburd Sands Ger Camp (see separate itinerary). You may transfer to Arburd Sands, instead of back to Ulaanbaatar at a total additional cost USD 80.

PRICE 2017 ex Ulaanbaatar:
USD 520 per person (2/6 members)

2d/1n: USD 380 per person

Single Supplement: **USD 80 per person**

Additional night at the camp: **USD 100**

Transport supplement by Japanese jeep: **USD 150 per vehicle**

Includes: Leadership, all meals outside Ulaanbaatar. Two overnights in ger camp. All local transport and transfers to/from Ulaanbaatar.

Excludes: Imported drinks. Transfers and hotel nights in Ulaanbaatar.

DATES ex Ulaanbaatar: Daily.

Reservations:

