



Photo: Andrea Pregonan



Photo: Jan Wigsten



Photo: Mark Johnstad



Photo: Nomadic Journeys



Photo: Andrea Pregonan



Photo: Jan Wigsten

Jalman Meadows

Khan Khentii Strictly Protected Area

Just a three-hours drive north of the Mongolian capital Ulaanbaatar, yet remotely located in the uppermost parts of the Tuul River Valley, lies Jalman Meadows, a beautiful pasture teeming with wildflowers in the summer. It is located within the Khan Khentii Strictly Protected Area, which is one of Mongolia's true wilderness areas, extending all the way up to the Russian-Siberian frontier. The area constitutes the transition zone of steppe and the southernmost reaches of the boreal forests of Siberia. Hence, there are steppe valleys, lush meadows along the Tuul River, and extensive larch forests with patches of birch. Wildlife such as wolf, lynx, brown bear, red deer, gazelle, moose and wild boar are certainly present but hard to see during the summer. While to the south in Gorkhi-Terelj National Park, the southernmost extension of that wilderness area, conventional tourism has been allowed to develop, Nomadic Journeys' low impact ger camp, is located completely on its own, next to the Tuul River. The camp is put up for the summer season and taken away in the winter, leaving no traces anywhere. We use low-impact indigenous, thus appropriate, technology to offer lodging and sometimes also transportation with the assistance of yak carts or riding horses.

This self-guided journey is geared towards travelers who prefer to be as independent as possible, while allowing to reach their destination at the lowest possible cost. You share the transport to the camp and back with other travelers as well as staff and provisions. At the camp you plan your daily activities with our English speaking camp manager. There are fine hikes in the surrounding area and optional activities as described below.

Activities

Dayhikes: Hike to the lookout point of Hevtee Gatsaa for beautiful views over Jalman Meadows and the Tuul River. But really you can order a picnic lunch from camp and make day hikes in any direction.

Yak cart rafting: Load a lightweight inflatable catamaran-raft (or kayaks) onto a yak cart. A herdsman will follow with the cart as you trek for half a day up the Tuul River. You'll have your picnic lunch at noon and return by raft or kayak downstream through Jalman Meadows to camp. Life vests, paddles and picnic lunch are provided. USD 15 p.p. half day, USD 30 p.p. full day.

Swimming: The Tuul River is at its most pristine up here. The water may be cold, but usually pleasant during July and August. The river is mostly crystal clear and transparent with regular deep pools.

Reading: A small library on Mongolian culture, history and wildlife has been collected over the years and is available to guests in the Library Ger next to our Restaurant Ger. There are many recent additions. Most books are in English, Mongolian and Swedish, but a few are in German and French.

Horse riding: Rides for just an hour, half days or full days may be organized with local horsemen at an additional cost. Picnic lunches will be provided from the camp. There are a few hard hats and chaps available, but serious riders are best advised bringing their own. All rides should be preordered latest before dinner the evening before. USD 35 p.p. full day; USD 18 p.p. half day and USD 7 per hour.



Mountain biking: There are two mountain bikes available that may be rented for the day for excellent excursions in the area.

Riverside sauna: Bring a folded ger – loaded on to a yak cart - to the river bank by yak cart and build your own riverside sauna! USD 25 p.p. half day (min 2 persons). Each additional person USD 10.

Birding: You may admire the avifauna that comes in all sizes from azure tits to majestic steppe eagles. You will get 80 percent of Mongolian species with a European bird guide book. There is one in the library ger.

Conferences & lectures: At an additional cost for groups, seminars on contemporary, historical or natural Mongolia may be organized, along with subjects like traditional Mongolian medicine and music.

Additional trips: The relatively remote location of Jalman Meadows merits other extended trips deeper into the Khentii wilderness, such as our **Yak Trek** and **Mongol Horse Trails**. Both are based at Jalman Meadows since it is the common starting point for each of them. Please ask for details of these additional, interesting trips.

Low Impact Ger Camp:

Nomadic Journeys is committed to the principles of Sustainable Tourism. We bring additional jobs to the area, that are based on traditional livelihoods. These involve the provision of yak carts, pack horses, riding horses and labor. The camp purchases milk and yoghurt from the nearby herders. There is a maximum capacity for 30 guests in double occupancy gers. Vehicles are parked a short walk away from the gers. The entire camp is fully collapsible and does not have shower or WC blocks. The toilets are long drop style allowing for natural decomposition. Showers are housed in a small gers, water is heated on a wood burning stove. All trash is separated. Solar panels and windmills generate some electricity for refrigerator and kitchen use. The camp can be relocated leaving no more impact on the area than a herding family would. Jalman Meadows Ger Camp is indeed a fully collapsible hotel.

Practicalities

Transfers: Operates daily as shared transfer on fixed times. Departs 09:00 from UB and returns 14:00 from camp. You may - at a supplement cost - order a private transfer at any time suitable to you. The entire drive from Ulaanbaatar to Jalman Meadows is with a 4WD vehicle 3 hours and with a bus 3,5 hours.

Staff: Camp has an English speaker camp manager to assist you for activities around camp

Meals: The meals will be provided 3 times a day in the Restaurant ger, or as picnics on request.

Overnights: The gers have 2 beds in each and family gers with 1 double and 2 single beds. Bed may be added.

PRICE ex Ulaanbaatar:

3d/2n: **USD 290 per person**

4d/3n: **USD 415 per person**

5d/4n: **USD 540 per person**

Single Supplement: **USD 40 per night**

Additional night: **USD 125 per night**

Private transfer: **USD 80 per vehicle**

Children: 0-2 years free. 3-12 years 25-50%.

Includes: All meals at camp. All overnights in double occupancy ger. Transfer to and out of camp on scheduled times.

Excludes: Beverages. Transfers and accommodation in Ulaanbaatar. Air or train tickets in and out Mongolia. Activities at camp.

Transfer schedule: Daily mid May to end of Sep.

from UB: **09:00**

from camp: **14:00**

