

IMG Mongolia Expedition 2021

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Mount Khuiten (14,350 ft) and Nairandal Peak (13,714 ft)

This is a program that we researched for many years, and in July 2017 we finally did it. Mongolia has now become a favorite that we look forward to running every year. The 2021 trip will be our fifth to climb Khuiten, and we have also personally done the various fun extensions for those who have a little extra time to explore!

We have designed a fun itinerary with a nice mix of touring, trekking and climbing. The trip starts with your arrival in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia where you will meet your IMG and Mongolian guides. After getting settled in and doing our gear checks, we have a day exploring



this fascinating city, with a trip to the market, shops, the famous Genghis Khan memorial, and some nice local restaurants for our team Welcome Dinner. Then, it's off to bed for an early start the next day.

The team will fly via Mongolian domestic airline across the country to the city of Bayan Ölgii in the far west. From there we transfer to Russian vans (the ubiquitous form of transportation) for the drive to the trailhead, where we will spend the night and will meet our local porters and their camels.

It's a beautiful trek to our Base Camp on the Potaniin Glacier of the Tavan Bogd Massif. Our loads will be carried by Bactrian (two humped) camels which can carry up to 200 kilos each. This part of the Altai Mountains is very near to the border with Russia and China.

Base Camp will be our home for several nights as we acclimatize and do some glacier travel training. Then, it's time to move up the Potaniin Glacier to the High Camp. Down low it is "dry" glacier (hard ice with no snow) and higher up we cross the into glacial snow zone. Porters will carry food and camp gear to the high camp, and members will carry their personal gear (personal porters are also available at additional cost).

The summits of Mount Khuiten (14,350ft) and Nairandal Peak (13,714ft) are the "[Triple Point](#)" where China, Russia, Mongolia come together in the Altai Mountains. Our goal is to climb both! These are spectacular climbs in a wild and remote part of the world with amazing views. If you have Mt Rainier climbing skills (crampons, ice axe, roped glacier travel) then you will enjoy these peaks.

We've uploaded some fantastic photos of this expedition on our website [here](#) – have a look!

This is going to be a fun trip. Hope you can join!

Greg Vernovage
Everest@MountainGuides.com

IMG Mt. Khuiten Mongolia Expedition

Dates and Landcost: July 14 – 27, 2021 \$5,550

Single Supplement: \$500

2021 IMG Mt. Khuiten Mongolia Expedition Itinerary	
Wednesday, July 14, 2021	Arrive in Ulaanbaatar, transfer to hotel
Thursday, July 15, 2021	Tour the city
Friday, July 16, 2021	Fly to Bayan Olgii, Jeep to Tavan Bogd region, camp in the lower alpine meadows
Saturday, July 17, 2021	Hike the tundra to the pass, for great views of the Altai mountains. Descend to the Potaniin Glacier, establish base camp
Sunday, July 18, 2021	Acclimatization hike and training, camp
Monday, July 19, 2021	Ascend Potaniin Glacier to high camp, near to the Russian border
Tuesday, July 20, 2021	From high camp, ascend the North Ridge directly to the summit of Mt Khuiten (14,350ft / 4375m) the highest point in Mongolia. This is a 3000ft moderate to steep snow ridge often broken with crevasses. Return to high camp
Wednesday, July 21, 2021	Climb nearby Nairandal Peak (13,714 ft / 4,180 m) the tri-border highpoint for China, Russia, Mongolia. Return to Base Camp
Thursday, July 22, 2021	Contingency Day (climb Malchin Peak/Russian Border)
Friday, July 23, 2021	Trek to White River and camp
Saturday, July 24, 2021	Return to Bayan Olgii, transfer to hotel
Sunday, July 25, 2021	Flight to Ulaanbaatar
Monday, July 26, 2021	Contingency Day (Bayan Olgii or Ulaanbaatar souvenir shopping)
Tuesday, July 27, 2021	Depart

Costs included in Mt. Khuiten trip fee:

- Transfers between hotel and airport in Ulaanbaatar
- 2 nights at hotel (sharing, w/breakfast) in Ulaanbaatar beginning of stated itinerary; 2 nights at end
- Domestic flights
- Permit fees
- All meals in Mongolia for the stated itinerary
- Ground transportation
- Group camping and climbing gear
- Satellite phone
- Camels to Base Camp
- Porters to high camp for the food and camp gear
- Medical kit

Costs not included in Mt. Khuiten trip fee:

- International round-trip air fare and travel expenses to/from Mongolia
- Single supplement accommodations
- Lunch and dinner in Ulaanbaatar
- Personal gear (suitable for Mt. Rainier)
- Personal Porter (\$50)
- Excess baggage charges
- Airport taxes and Mongolia entry visas (currently no visa is required for trips under 30 days)
- Tip pool (\$300 per person)
- Internet and satellite phone (\$3.00 per minute for usage)
- Personal sundries and beverages
- Costs incurred as a result of delays or events beyond the control of IMG
- Additional hotel nights if you arrive early, and at the end of the trip after returning from Bayan Olgii
- Required insurance coverage (medical, rescue/repatriation)

2021 Mongolia Extension Options

1. **Naadam Festival Extension: July 10 – 14, 2021** **\$1,550**
Single Supplement: \$200

Our Mongolia Expedition start date is right after the famous [Naadam Festival](#) that occurs in Mongolia each year. If you would like to head to Mongolia early and take in the sites of the Festival, we can put this extension together for you. The dates for the Naadam festival are July 11-15, 2021. Arriving to Ulaanbaatar on July 10, 2021 will allow you to see the whole Festival and then meet the team on July 14. The Naadam Festival is also a fun experience for your nonclimbing friends and loved ones. Let us know if you would like to have them join you for the Festival before you head out to the mountains.

2021 IMG Naadam Festival Itinerary		
1	Saturday, July 10, 2021	Arrive for Naadam Festival
2	Sunday, July 11, 2021	Grand Opening Ceremonies-Dancers, athletes, horse riders, Wrestling, archers, horse racers and musicians
3	Monday, July 12, 2021	Drive to Hui Doloon Hudag for Horse Racing, archery and wrestling
4	Tuesday, July 13, 2021	Day 1 of trip to Terelj National Park (sleeping in Ger's)
5	Wednesday, July 14, 2021	Day 2 of the Terelj National Park/return to Ulaanbaatar/Climbers Arrive in Ulaanbaatar, transfer to hotel

Costs included in Naadam Festival trip fee:

- 4 overnights at 4-star Bayangol hotel in Ulaanbaatar with meals (based on double occupancy)
- 1 night in Ger camping at Terelj National Park
- Drinking water
- Naadam ticket
- NP and sightseeing fee, all visits
- Vehicle with driver and English-speaking guide

Costs Not Included in Naadam Festival trip fee:

- Travel insurance
- Optional activities
- Food outside of breakfast, lunch and dinner
- Single supplement accommodations
- Drinks outside of water
- Gratuities



(Opening Ceremonies at the Naadam Festival (Ang Jangbu Sherpa))

2. Gobi Desert Extension: July 27 – August 1, 2021 \$1,600
(based on a minimum of 2-3 people)

We have also had climbers interested in visiting the Gobi Desert after the climb from July 27-August 1, 2021. Normally people drive from Ulaanbaatar to the Gobi Desert. This is a very long drive so we have done is put together an itinerary that will help make less driving in the car. You will note that we are planning on having anyone who wants to visit the Gobi Desert fly in/out for the very reason of limiting the amount of time driving.

2021 IMG Gobi Desert Extension Itinerary		
1	Tuesday, July 27, 2021	Fly to Dalanzadgad and drive to Yol Valley. Eagle Canyon (Lammergeyer valley), is located in the "Three Beauties" mountain range. The canyon shelters a small glacier which remains frozen until July despite the hot desert temperatures. Wild Goats scale the steep cliffs. At the canyon entrance, there is a small museum displaying samples of the area's animals.
2	Wednesday, July 28, 2021	Drive to Khongor sand dunes (Singing Dunes). The dunes are 120km long and 3 to 15km wide. From the foothill to the crest of the highest dunes is a good 200 meters. Local people refer to them as the "Singing Dunes" due to the distinct propeller hum heard on windy days. Settle into a local ger camp and later when the temperature drops, ride Bactrian camels or just walk the lower slopes. The evening light creates beautiful landscapes.
3	Thursday, July 29, 2021	Leisure day at the Khongor sand dunes. You can climb the dunes or ride a two humped camel (Bactrian). Back in camp, enjoy the night sky with all the stars that will create a phosphoresce dome in the Gobi sky.
4	Friday, July 30, 2021	Drive to Bayanzag (flaming cliff). This is a paleontology fossil site where the first samples of dinosaur eggs were found intact in their nests as well as hundreds of dinosaur skeletons. Among the bones, several new species were discovered by Americans in 1920ies. You will hike the eroded ravines of red sandstone and try and make your own discovery. A picnic lunch will be served with the cliffs as the backdrop. You will also take a short trip to view a saxaul grove nearby. Saxaul is a desert bush that grows to a height of 2 meters and is a valuable soil supporting agent. The Saxaul is the most popular fuel of local herders.
5	Saturday, July 31, 2021	Fly back to Ulaanbaatar after breakfast. Free afternoon to explore UB and buy souvenirs.
6	Sunday, August 1, 2021	Depart for Home

Costs included in Gobi Desert trip fee:

- 1 overnight at 4-star Bayangol hotel in Ulaanbaatar with meals (based on double occupancy)
- 4 nights in Ger Camps
- Drinking water
- Internal flights from Ulaanbaatar to Dalanzadgad (round trip)
- NP fee and sightseeing fees
- Overland transportation with English Speaking Guide
- Airport transfers and pickup

Costs Not Included in Gobi Desert trip fee:

- Travel insurance
- Meals outside of breakfast
- Single supplement accommodations
- Drinks
- Gratuities
- Other optional activities

Additional Information

Return to Ulaanbaatar: Delays are not uncommon for flights departing Bayan Olgii so we recommend departing Mongolia on July 27th. This will give team members a cushion in case of flight delays, and some additional time for souvenir shopping and relaxing. If you choose to make your Ulaanbaatar departure flight on the 26th, make this reservation for an evening flight, to give yourself the best chance of making it.

Tips: We will collect for a tip pool and ask climbers to please contribute \$300. We will collect this in Ulaanbaatar and distribute this during/after the trip on behalf of the team as a thank you gift to our porters, drivers, and Mongolian staff. You may also wish to provide additional tip to your IMG guides.

REQUIRED rescue insurance

You are required to have Travel Insurance (evacuation/repatriation/medical expense coverage) for your Mongolia Trip. More info: mountainguides.com/travel-insurance.shtml . If you need assistance with the various insurance options, give Becky Kjørvestad a call in the IMG Office (360 569 2609) or email becky.kjorvestad@mountainguides.com.

Fee Payment Schedule for 2021 Mt. Khuiten Mongolia Expedition:

Payment Due Date	Mount Khuiten	Naadam Festival	Gobi Desert
Application Fee	\$1,500	\$1000	\$1000
90 Days before trip	Balance	Balance	Balance

All IMG program fees are quoted in US dollars. All fees and payments are non-refundable and non-transferable. Payments must be received by IMG on or before the due dates noted above. Failure to submit payments on or before these due dates will result in forfeiture of fees paid and loss of program reservation. Our bank does not charge for incoming bank wires, however, please include wire fees charged by your bank or correspondent banks.

Expedition Organization and Leadership

International Mountain Guides

IMG is the oldest and most respected high-altitude climbing service in the world and its three principals, Eric Simonson, Phil Ershler, and George Dunn, have led and organized hundreds of expeditions worldwide since 1975. Each is an AMGA Certified Alpine Guide with Himalayan expedition experience including Everest, K2, Kangchenjunga, Shishapangma, and Cho Oyu. IMG's Mongolia Program is directed by Greg Vernovage, a veteran of dozens of climbs and expeditions around the world. For more information, please do not hesitate to contact us.

References

Joining a high-altitude trek or expedition is a serious decision. You should be completely confident in the organization and leadership before you make that decision. Many of you have climbed with us before, and because your experience with us was good, you're considering another climb with us. For those of you who haven't climbed with us before, we strongly encourage you to interview us thoroughly and talk to our past clients. When you're ready to make the decision, we'll be happy to provide you with a complete list of references.

Air Travel

Many of the group will fly from Seoul Korea to Ulaanbaatar on Korean Air. International Mountain Guides has worked for many years with Ms. Pirjo Dehart and her staff at CTT Destinations to provide travel service for participants in our programs. We urge you to contact Pirjo at 800/909-6647 or img@cttdestinations.com for help with your plans.

Mt. Khuiten Mongolia Expedition Personal Equipment List

This equipment list is meant to help you compile your personal gear for a high-altitude climbing trip. Most items are required. Please consider each item carefully and be sure you understand the function of each piece of equipment before you substitute or delete items from your duffel. Keep in mind that this list has been carefully compiled by the IMG Guide Team. Don't cut corners on the quality of your gear.

Travel Items

- Duffel Bags: You need 2 pieces of luggage on this trip. One large, sturdy, waterproof duffel with name written on it (in case tag is lost) will accompany you on the trek and climb. Bags with wheels are nice for the airport, but the porters and camels don't like to carry them, so don't bring a wheeled duffel bag. A second duffel or suitcase will stay in Ulaanbaatar where you can store your travel clothes, etc. Tip: Bring 5 large plastic garbage bags to pack gear inside duffels to protect gear from rain.
- Daypack for travel: A daypack or bag with a shoulder strap is excellent for travel, so you will have your hands free while doing the duffel shuffle, passport control and customs at the airport. It needs to be big enough to hold everything you'll need for an overnight stop.
- Locks: You'll want padlocks in Mongolia, but for flying out of the USA, it might be better to use plastic zip ties which can be cut by TSA staff if necessary (bring extra zip ties.)
- Travel Wallet: Important for carrying your important documents including passport, extra photos, duffel inventory list, and money. We suggest that you use a travel wallet that you can hang around your neck and place inside your shirt, or around your waist tucked under your shirt or trousers.
- Passport-valid for at least 6 months after the trip ends with sufficient extra pages for visa stamps and in same name as airline ticket (or with endorsement-for people who changed name w/ marriage.) Get your Mongolia visa on arrival in Ulaanbaatar at the airport (if required).
- Additional passport photos -- at least two: one for Mongolia visa, plus an extra.

Trekking Gear

- Trekking Poles: Poles come in handy for balance and easing impact to your knees. Get collapsible poles that can attach to your backpack.
- Backpacks: The "day pack" is great for a travel carry-on but will not be large enough for the climb. Climbers need a larger pack (70 L). For the international flights put your backpack into the duffel bags.
- Pack Cover: Waterproof rain cover for your pack.
- Sleeping Bag: Rated to at least 0 degrees Fahrenheit. Synthetic or Down.
- Sleeping pad or Thermarest.

Climbing Gear

- Harness: We prefer a harness with a minimum of padding that can be adjusted to fit over bulky clothing. It's also nice to have a harness with leg loops that open so you don't have to step into it.
- Ice Axe: We like a general-purpose axe in the 60-70 cm range (similar to Mt. Rainier.) A wrist leash is useful for wearing while crossing snow bridges or on steep slopes where losing an axe would be a big problem. A spike with a point is preferable to a tubular shape (which can glance off the ice.)
- Crampons: The number one rule with crampons is that they need to stay on your boots no matter what. Make sure your boots are compatible with your crampons. Avoid "cookie cutter" crampons with a vertical side rail. They tend to ball up in soft snow. Mono points, heel hooks, and various technical ice paraphernalia may be great for an icicle but are unnecessary for mountaineering.
- Helmet, Ascender and Hardware: Two locking carabiners, one mechanical ascender with slings, rappel device (figure 8 or similar) 3 extra shoulder slings with carabiners. Bring 30 feet of 8mm accessory cord (we will show you a good way to do this.)

Camp Accessories

- Cup/Bowl/Spoon
- Headlamp with extra batteries
- Water bottles (Nalgene 1Liter bottle X2)
- Pee bottle
- Water Treatment: Steripen or chemical water treatment

Personal Accessories

- Eyewear: Glacier glasses for snow, sunglasses for town. For contact lens wearers, ski goggles with light color lenses might be useful in windy conditions that cause blowing dust.
- Goggles
- Vision correction: If required, bring extra prescription eyeglasses, contact lenses and lens solution.
- Skin Care: Maximum SPF sunscreen and lip balm.
- Basic First Aid and Personal Items: Hand sanitizer (Purell.), moleskin, tape, aspirin (many climbers take an 81mg aspirin every day to prevent stroke,) ibuprofen / acetaminophen, Imodium and Pepto Bismol for diarrhea, Band-Aids, antacid, insect repellent, ear plugs, and several rolls of toilet paper, small towel, soap/shampoo, a few disposable dust masks, hand cream.
- Prescription Medications: 1) Antibiotic for respiratory and GI problems (azithromycin / "Z-Pak"); 2) Diamox (acetazolamide) for acclimatization (125 mg tabs recommended, enough for a week); 3) a few Sleeping pills for the first few days of jet lag; 4) Malaria Chemoprophylaxis, (not needed for Mongolia unless your travel plans also include other areas of concern, in which case we suggest Malarone); 5) Asthma medication, if any history (for example an Advair inhaler – many people find this VERY useful for “Khumbu Cough” bronchitis/irritation which can ruin your expedition and prevent you from climbing.); 6) nifedipine (for pulmonary edema, the 30 mg time release x 2 tablets) and 7) dexamethasone (for cerebral edema, 4 mg x 10 tablets.)
- Cold medicine (Sudafed, etc,) Chloroseptic or Tessalon Perles throat lozenges.
- Personal Snack Food: Lunches are included but you might like to bring a modest amount of personal snacks, also some drink mixes if you like these (add drink mix to your water bottle after giving iodine tablets 30 minutes of contact time.)
- High Camp Food: 3 freeze dried meals of your choice for the nights spent at High Camp.
- Chemical hand warmers (6)
- Wristwatch: With alarm and light for reading in the dark. We like the Suunto Watches
- Camera with extra batteries
- External battery pack for charging your devices (Smartphone, camera, iPad, etc)
- Pocket knife

Footwear

- Double Plastic Mountaineering Boots or equivalent for the climb.
- Lightweight Shoes: Running/tennis shoes and sandals for camp, around town, etc.
- Hiking Boots: Medium-weight hiking boots, waterproofed and broken-in.
- Gaiters: To keep snow, mud, and scree out of your hiking boots.
- Socks: At least 3 complete changes of socks, in a combination that you have used and know works for you. Boots must be enough for the sock combination; tight boots will make your feet cold.

Clothing

- Base Layer: 2 pair synthetic long johns: one midweight set and one expedition weight set.
- Mid Layers: One additional warm layer (wool sweater, another fleece jacket, shelled vest, etc, that can be worn in conjunction to the other layers.)
- Shell Jacket: Waterproof/breathable jacket with hood.
- Shell Pants: Waterproof/breathable pants (full side zips are best.)
- Climbing/Trekking Pants: Look for construction that provides freedom of movement and/or stretch materials. Fabric should be a breathable synthetic that preferably holds up to abrasion and dries quickly. You can wear them over longjohns if it is cold.
- Warm Parka: Down or synthetic. REQUIRED This should be big enough to go over other garments.
- Trekking Clothes: Light hiking pants and / or hiking shorts for warm weather down low- NOT cotton. Shirts for hiking on nice days (t-shirts OK, quick-drying synthetic fabric far better.)
- Casual Clothes: For travel/meals in dining rooms. You'll want a shirt or two with a collar to wear on flights and for restaurants. A sweatshirt or light jacket might be nice in the evening.

Clothing Accessories

- Gloves: Light gloves for hiking and warm ski gloves. Bring mittens too if your hands tend to get cold.
- Hats: Warm wool or heavy fleece hat, sun hat and bandana.
- A "Buff" or light balaclava to breathe through in the cold dry air. Good for preventing coughs.

Immunizations Checklist

- Tetanus-Diphtheria - You should already have. Do you need a booster?
- Polio -You should already have. Do you need a booster?
- MMR -You should already have. Do you need a booster?
- Meningitis - Recommended. Consult your physician.
- Hepatitis A - Recommended. Consult your physician.
- Hepatitis B - Not a bad idea. Ask your physician.
- Cholera - Ask your physician. Not usually recommended any more.
- Typhoid - Not a bad idea to be safe. The tablet form, Vivotif Berna, is good for five years.
- Rabies - The new vaccine is easy. Ulaanbaatar and Mongolia have rabid animals.
- Malaria – No problem in Ulaanbaatar, since we are above the zone of malaria, but if your travel plans include tropical areas (Thailand?) before/after the trip then malaria chemoprophylaxis is highly recommended using Malarone.

Consult your physician or check out the [Center for Disease Control Website](#) or the most up to date info on travel requirements



Mongolian hunter and assistant - which is which? (Charlotte Austin)

“I want to let you know that I am grateful that I got my money's worth. I worked so hard to be able to afford the trip, and it was worth every cent... Thank you for everything.”

—Gary G.

For more comments from IMG climbers, please see our website at: mountainguides.com/comments.shtml
