



Photo: Jan Wigsten



Photo: Andrea Pregnan



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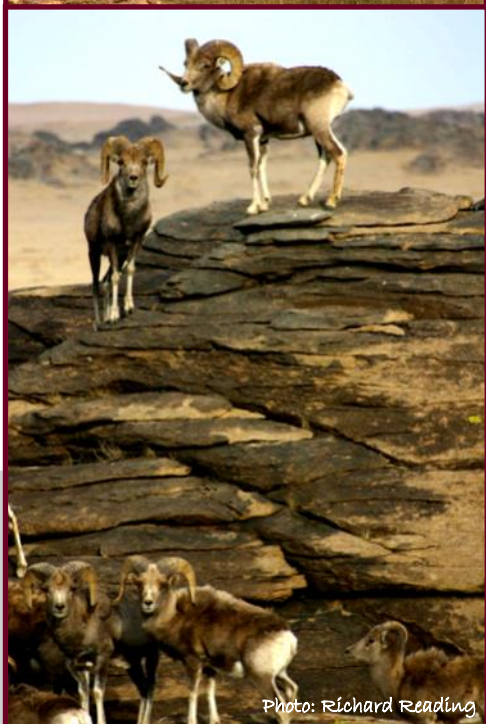


Photo: Richard Reading

Ikh Nart Nature Reserve

Argali Sheep of Dornogobi

*Ikh Nartiin Chuluu Nature Reserve is a community reserve where local people have partnered with the Denver Zoo Foundation, the Mongolian Academy of Sciences and Nomadic Journeys for research and the conservation of the Ikh Nartiin Chuluu Plateau. It is an upland with many rocky outcrops. Often hot and dry. It is an arid Gobi kind of area. The unique wildlife feature of Ikh Nart is its approximately 1000 Argali sheep (*Ovis ammon*), the largest wild mountain sheep in the world. Although there is no guarantee, they are not that shy here. Also Mongolian gazelle (*Procapra gutturosa*) are frequent visitors and are relatively easy to come across and view. Ikh Nartiin Chuluu, the full name, means in Mongolian, "Rocks with plenty of sunshine". The reserve also has a sizeable population of the world's biggest vulture, the Black or Cinereous vulture (*Aegypius monacha*), as well as some 200 Siberian ibex (*Capra sibirica*).*

Brief Outline Itinerary

Nomadic Journeys operates a small seasonal ger camp at Ikh Nart. You travel there southeasterly on the Trans-Mongolian railway line towards Beijing by a slow train from Ulaanbaatar. Disembark at Shivee Gobi, or Tsomog, small stations following after Choir. Then drive 40 km. IkhNart Rocks Ger Camp is located on its own at the reserve. Ikh Nartiin Chuluu Nature Reserve was established in 1996 as a wildlife reserve as it has intact populations of Gobi fauna. There are plenty of opportunities for wildlife walks and drives. There may be camels for rent as Gobi nomadic communities still roam the reserve. The return journey to Ulaanbaatar would be by night train, but you may order a private day time transfer to Ulaanbaatar.

Day 1: To Ikh Nart

Depart from Ulaanbaatar at 17h15 with domestic night train to Tsomog, a train platform seemingly in the middle of nowhere. When you arrive at Tsomog at 23h20 in the evening, you will be met and transferred to IkhNart Rocks Ger Camp for another 30 minutes.

Day 2-3: Ikh Nart

For two days you may explore the Ikh Nart upland on foot, trekking through interesting rocky areas and hoping to view different kinds of wildlife. There are Argali Sheep (*Ovis ammon*), which are the most likely to be seen, but there is also Siberian Ibex (*Capra sibirica*) and a variety of bird life. Three parallel research projects are being carried out on an on-going basis by Mongolian and foreign scientists. One study is concerned with Argali Sheep and Siberian Ibex.



蒙古之旅



Photo: René Pop

Pallas Sandgrouse.

A second is gathering data on small carnivores such as Corsac Fox (*Vulpes corsac*), Red Fox (*Vulpes vulpes*), Badger (*Meles meles*) and Pallas's Cat (*Otocolobus manul*), along with Lynx (*Lynx lynx*) and Wolves (*Canis lupus*) when possible. Learning about prey species such as Gerbils, Jerboas and Hedgehogs is also part of this project. For avifauna there is a third on-going research study of Cinereous Vultures and Lesser Kestrels (*Falco naumanni*). Botanists are also regular visitors to the reserve. Herders come and go in the Ikh Nart area, as they rely on pastures and sufficient precipitation. Being Gobi herders, they migrate often to find food for their animals and are interesting, hospitable and hardy people.

Day 4: To Dalanjargalan

A.m. Our camp vehicle or local driver will transfer you 40km to Dalanjargalan village after an evening early dinner. In time for the night train departure to Ulaanbaatar. We may also suit transfers to the international trains to China departing Choir, 86km away.

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 provision of camel carts, riding camels, 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. IkhNart Rocks Ger Camp is indeed a fully collapsible hotel.

Practicalities

Transfers: Operates daily as shared transfer on fixed times. Departs 16h50 by train from UB and arrive to camp 00h00 in the evening. Returns 20h00 from camp to Dalanjargalan connecting to local night train to UB. (arrive next morning 7h15 to UB) Please note that there will be 1 night in domestic night train.

To/from China:

You may arrive or depart also by international trains to/from Beijing.

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.

PRICE ex Ulaanbaatar:

2d/2n: **USD 380 per person**

3d/3n: **USD 570 per person**

4d/4n: **USD 760 per person**

Single supplement: **USD 80 per night**

Additional night: **USD 190 per night**

Private transfer: **USD 250 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.

Reminder:

Please note that there will be 1 night in domestic night train.

