



BOTANIST IN KHUVSGUL

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Khuvsgul is a province of Mongolia situated at the country and has the name of the biggest and the deepest lake of the country, named by the ancient inhabitants - « The Lake of Blue-Waters », later popularised by Russians under the name of « Kossogol».

This region has kept the popular traditions more than the other Aïmags (administrative regions of Mongolia) several ethnos live there: the most common are the Darkhas, the Bouriates and of course Uriankhai, more often known for the name of Tsaatan.

The lake Khuvsgul also called as «the blue pearl of Mongolia » because of its great beauty and the colour of its water.

The area is a national reserve where a very rich and endemic flora and fauna can be observed. There we can find a huge variety of birds who live there permanently or arrive only in springtime. The lake is bordered by mountain massifs of Saïan and Khodiral Saridag, where almost the tenth part of all the volcano remains is located. On the other side of this almost 3000 m high mountain massif there is the depression of Darkhad, a large area where hundreds of bigger and smaller lakes arise from local streams and rivers.

The foothills of this area is where the people of Tsaatan live, their name means «the breeders of reindeer » and they practice shamanism and live in a near symbiosis with the nature. It is this culture, the ancestral practice and the use of plants by the people of Uriamkhai that we offer to share with you during the days of your stay. We will not forget the discovery if the western flora of the lake Khuvsgul together with Oyumaa, "The" specialist of flora of Khuvsgul, the author of numerous publications on the subject and a professor in the University of Sciences in Oulan Bator. She is going to be your guide during your trip and will share her knowledge and her passion. This tour is more dedicated to the exchange of knowledge and experience than on the academic presentation.



Day 1: UB

Welcome at the airport – settling in a hotel.

Visit of the grand monastery of Gandan. In Ulan Bator there are 7 principal monasteries and several temples and palaces, from which the most visited are Gandan and the Bogdo Khaan, or the winter palace construction of which began in 1890.



Visit ... of the natural history museum, of cours

Oulan Bator was founded on the banks of river Tuul, previously known as Urga, in the honour of the son of well known a Mongolian lord.

The name of *Ulaan baatar* (*the red hero*) was given to the capital at the time of the proclamation of People's Republic of Mongolia. The streets of the capital are bustling in the summer time and intriguing in the night time. The city is divided in several districts which present large diversities and there are even yurts in the very centre of the city. The development of Ulan Bator is surprising and you will find there all the conveniences of a modern city,



Day 2: UB – Moron – Khatgal

Flight to Moron

In Moron our transport will pick you up to drive you to Khatgal.

Khatgal is a small village on the coast of lake Khuvsgul.

An former Russian colony which used to be very rich from the trade between Mongolia and Russia.



On the surroundings of the city you will see the relicts of the past
Settling in the lodge of Wind of Mongolia, a small, comfortable and ecological accommodation.

Wind of Mongolia has rebuilt an old, traditional wooden construction, placed on the border of the city, at the bottom of hills.

You will be allocated in groups and living in yurt or in a chalet.

Day 3: Khatgal – Kharuul Zangi - Khirvesteg

A road to Khirvesteg.

Khirvesteg marks the end of the touristic part of the lake... there are some more accommodation possibilities a little bit further, but we are far enough from the most visited places of the lake.



We use a mountain pass of Jankhat to reach Kharuul Zangi.
Kharuul Zangi is a small, traditional without a huge infrastructure, but with a friendly and authentic welcoming.
Overnight stay in the yurt camp.



Day 4: Khirvisteg

A day in Khirvisteg.

This area is situated next to a creek, between mountains and hills, this is the place where the area between the lake and the mountains is the largest.

A huge variety of ecosystems and species.

Overnight stay in the camp of Kharuul Zangi.



Day 5: Khirvisteg – Ikh Khar Us – Jigleeg

Khar Us is a small lake formed by the waves and currents of the lake and supplied by a source loaded with minerals, which gives to the lake a special power... this small lake doesn't freeze even in the coldest winters...

This is a mythical place for the local inhabitants.

There is also a very rich ecosystem and diversity of the nature.

A little bit further there is located Jigleeg.

We are going to leave the vehicles in Khar Us.
The track has become too difficult and swampy, so we are going to continue the road on foot and the baggage will be transported on a back of a horse.



Jigleeg pass

Jigleeg is the name of the river which comes down from a mountain... from a pass with the same name, the only pass which has a good passage towards Tsagaan Nuur, the region of 10 000 lakes, where the Tsataan people live and breed reindeer. There are some wooden houses, constructed by nomads to pass the winter.

The conditions here are exceptionally hard, the mountain pass is also a passage of severe and icy winds.



Jigleeg also opens up 2 large valleys in the middle of massif and creates a microclimate and the only passage for the animals.

Several swamp zones, pine forests, larches at the foot of the mountain schist. It is from the Jigleeg where the permafrost is the most concentrated. In this area we can also find the famous lichen which the reindeer love very much... even though the local Tsataans don't come here that often anymore.

* *Cypridium macrantha*, *C. guttatum*, *Rhododendron*, *Orchidacée*, *Caragana Jubata*...are among the most species to come across
Pinus Siberica



Day 6, 7 et 8: Jigleeg and its surroundings.

Every day we go by foot or by a horse to a different area to study its specific ecosystems together with Oyumaa.

The thawing of permafrost is more and more noticeable, so the species are beginning to adopt to the new conditions.



Overnight stays in a camp next to the families introduced at Jigleeg or besides a log cabin which is going to serve us as a living space.

Day 10: Ongilog - Khatgal

In the morning, departure to Khatgal.

Arrival in the afternoon and settling in the lodge of Wind of Mongolia.



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Day 11: A day in Khatgal

A whole day in Khatgal, meetings with several people, who use the plants ... often the «ancients», continue to perpetrate their knowledge of plant transformation.

Overnight stay in the lodge



The port of Khatgal

Day 12 : Khatgal - Moron – UB

Transfer to Khatgal in the morning.

Then a journey to UB by plane

Arrival in UB at the end of afternoon

Settling in a hotel

Day 13: UB

A day in Ulan Bator, purchase of souvenirs

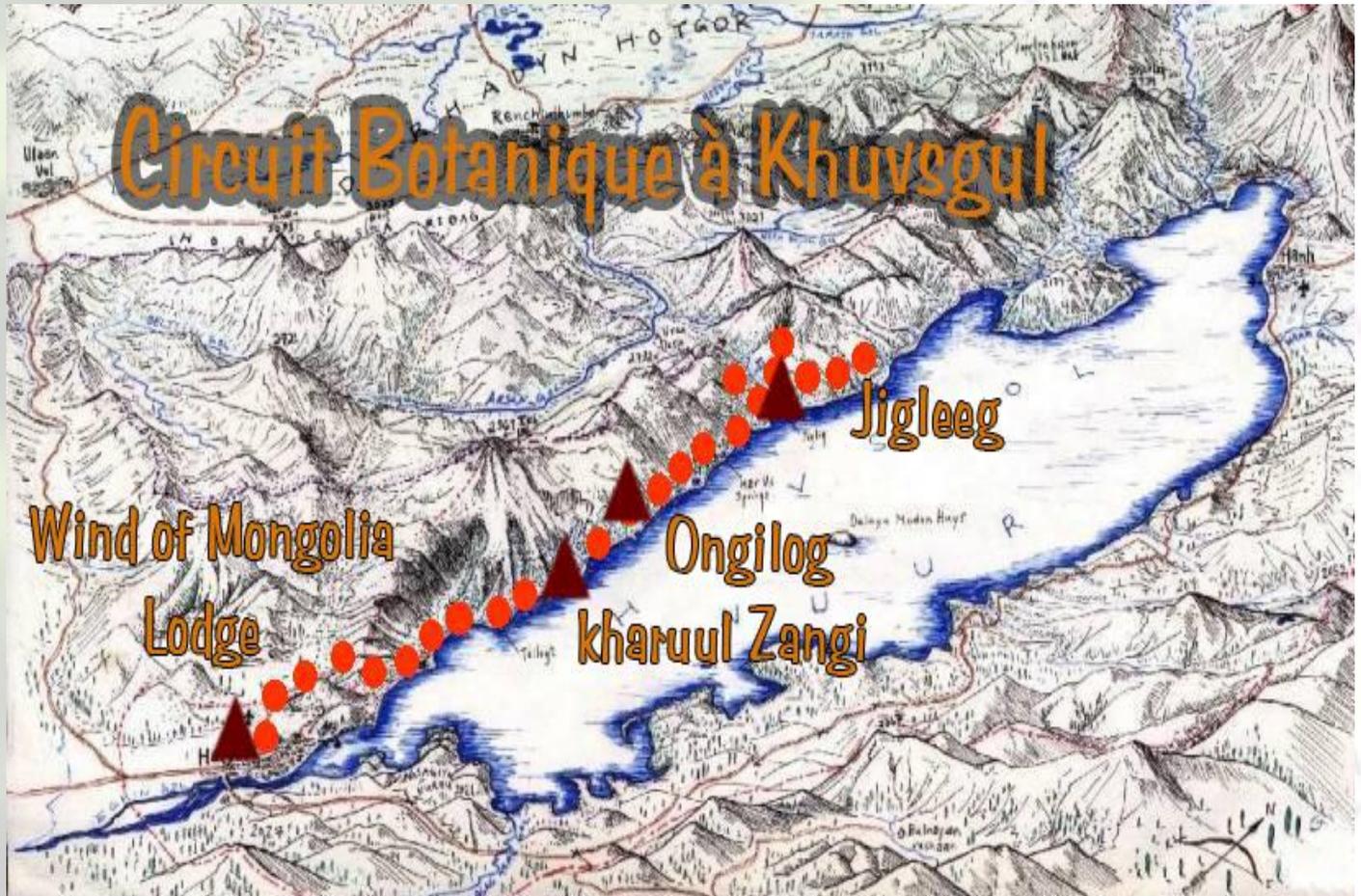
Folk show

Goodbye meal

Day 14: Return

International flight

Botanical itinerary at Khuvsgul.



Price rates:

Dates: between 20 June and 15 July

Group: 6 persons Price: **1..0 €/pers**

Group: 10 persons Price: **1..0 €/pers**

Price includes:

- A guide translator
- Oyumaan- the great specialist in botany of Khuvsgul.
- Logistics and transfers
- Hotel in Ulan Bator.
- Camping and lodge à Khuvsgul
- Meals during tours
- Visit of Ulan Bator and entrance of Khuvsgul park
- Driver/Guide French, Spanish or English speaking in Ulan Bator

PORTOFOLIO

