

# ***Fly fishing***

## ***In Mongolia***

*« Andy promised to bring us to a river that no one else has been to before and he delivered. On the way from Murun airport we passed yurts of nomad Mongolians, we travelled across grassy steppes and met wild animals, so at the very beginning I thought: « Its is impossible, that a large river could be hidden here ! » But we got off the trail between hills and glens and in a valley there was a craggy canyon in which a beautiful river stretched in front of us.»... «The valley of the river Delger-Murun is absolutely amazing- a huge river turning through ups and downs, wild flower beds and large cliffs. It is one of the most beautiful paces I have been to in Mongolia and not the smallest village in the surroundings.The entire river was only for ourselves. ”*

*Nathan Ward, 2008*

***“ The floating journey on the Delger Murun river is our signature tour; we have launched the Taimen fishing in this spectacular mountain river an I believe that this is maybe the most picturesque tour in Mongolia, offering exceptional conditions for Taimen dry – fly fishing, the Lenok trout and grayling fishing with guided tours and perfect logistics.”***

***Andy Parkindon – fishing partner of Wind of Mongolia***



Possibly in the best kept secret spot for dry – fly fishing in Mongolia, it is one of the most beautiful rivers of the country. The valley is surrounded by spectacular rocky cliffs. Even if you don't have a chance to catch a Taimen of 50 inches, Murun Delger offers the world class for dry – fly fishing and sceneries.

The more distant and less accessible parts of the river offer isolated fishing possibilities with access only by a raft. Those are places with large Taimen population with Taimens of more than 50 inches.

In this river which is full with rocks, also live Lenok and Garayling fish and it is not that rare to have a Taimen attacking a hooked Lenok.



The departure point for Delger is Moron, at one and a half hour from the capital – Oulan-Bator, followed by four hours of an off road travel. We know that it is not very easy to reach this river... and that it would be much more easier to take a helicopter and stay in a camp close to Oulan-Bator, but we believe the Delger river with its fishing opportunities is worth the “long miles” of traveling.

During the road you will be able to take a look at the immensity of Mongolian steppes and meet the nomad animal breeders who live all over these amazing sceneries.

## Your fishing journey – An outstanding dry – fly fishing tour.

Starting from Oulan Bator, the local flights are operated by a local company, reliable for modern usage, Saab airplanes with 30 places and transfers to the main camp with a Toyota Land-Cruiser.



This is a trip floating in freedom, all the necessary material goes down to the river together with you, your personal stuff is packed on your raft while the raft of logistics takes the tents and reserves. The camping is comfortable, with linen tipi – tents, provided with beds (2 people), a large mess tent, camping chairs and tables, a toilet table and a simple shower. The main camp with yurts is built at the departure point by giving you a taste of Mongolian life and enough space to organise your stuff before departure.



Each raft is equipped with a front and a back seat, one of the seats is shared with the guide by allowing you to fish while diverting the raft.

As many of our clients like to fish while paddling, we have adjusted the rhythm of our trips to give you more opportunities of this type of fishing; to put an accent to fishing we use a raft to move between water basins. This gives a chance to use the canes during the trip, simple or for both hands.

***We got into Delger at about 50 kilometres from the Mongolian-Siberian border and we patrolled an about 100 kilometres large section in more than a week, sleeping in a yurt (“ger” in the local language), first and last nights in tents during the fishing tour. The rafts were filled with a wooden frame, similar to the ones used in the Western rivers and in United States, perfectly adapted to the conditions, transporting two fishers and a guide and are surprisingly comfortable.***

***We were fishing from the raft, while drifting and also by the promising shores or while paddling in the river.”***

***Tom Gorman, le Pêcheur Global 2005.***



A typical day starts with real brewed coffee around the camp fire, followed by a hearty breakfast with cereal, eggs, bacon or ham and pancakes; then comes the moment to get back in your boots and pack the bags into the raft. The team will take care of the tents and will bring them to the next camp for an overnight stay. You will be able to simply go down to the river and start fishing or wait for the raft to arrive at the next basin. The guides know the river perfectly and each one will have their favourite basin and favourite corners to teach you some tricks. During the stops your guides will often climb on the cliffs to examine the water to see if there is any evidence of a Taimen.

At dinnertime the raft of logistics will be fully prepared - the casserole will be on fire and a barbecue will be set up on a gravel beach to cook the essential beef meat or the delicious chiche-kebab.

Returning on the river to continue fishing, drifting and paddling. At the end of the day, when arriving at the bivouac, you will find your tents built - up so that you could also have a fresh beer next to the camp fire.



We believe that our logistics of the expedition are one of the best in the country; stewed meet offered by the caterers of quality of Oulan Batorr, with a supply of fresh fruits and vegetables every week. The evening meals are usually made from roasted kidneys, Netherlands' lasagne and pot-au-feu served with soup, salad and dessert...

Peaches in syrup and apple pies are a rather special delight. Beer and red wine for dinner is already included in the price; some special wines can be ordered in advance and delivered for your trip.



***"...This day was far from ordinary. It started like a bomb when I got out of the water with two Taimens. The first one was rather small but the second one was really beautiful. Unlike the violence with which a small Taimen takes a surface fly, when you hook a large Taimen it is more like pulling a barrowful filled with bricks. At first it is almost confusing with a hook on a branch, then, you feel the movement of the head of the Taimen who is trying to get rid of the fly..."***

***We set up a camp along a scenic area of Delger Murun. This river competes with every river of the United States in its beauty the same as in its productivity.***

***Every kilometre offers a beautiful basin overhung by great cliffs similar to the Yosemite. "...***

***“ This fish is so strong and elegant and its colours are truly magnificent. It's really amazing to think that a fish so big and so aggressive may be living in these waters. Almost as amazing is the Lenok or rather its imposing presence. This fish won't leave its place to anyone, and I caught at least a dozen large Lenoks who attacked the imitations of mice made for Taimens. I think it is quite a good problem to have. »***

***Dan T. Cook, juin de 2007 - Front page***

Since the mid-nineties, Mongolia has established a reputation of an extraordinary destination for fishers who wish for a chance to fight with the legendary Taimen but also for the exceptional quality of its wild rivers. The Taimen, prehistoric mega-fish has a reputation based on its eating, that consists of mammals; the Taimens are very quick when snatching a fly, or a lure that imitates a mouse floating on the surface of the water. This fish has many similarities to its Ancient ancestor – salmon, but unlike the salmon, Taimen doesn't go down to the oceans, but spends its entire life in the rivers where it was born.

Traditionally, Mongolians don't eat fish, leaving the rivers in their natural condition. When it is left alone, the Taimen grows slowly and can live over 40 years, it can reach 70 inches and up to 200 heavy. However, the largest catches in sport fishing are from 50 to 60 inches and even these giants are quite rare, the average size is closer to 30 inches.

The most exciting moments for the dry - fly fishing of these freshwater giants are the "smash & grab", when the fish has just swallowed a fly from the surface. But the great part of this pleasure of fishing in Mongolia is simply the quality of fishing in rivers and pristine wilderness, knowing that there is a predator of five feet that cruise in the waters. It's a privilege just to catch a fish like that and to come face to face with the legend.

It's not that much a story of numbers, although you could almost keep the accounts of Lenoks and graylings caught. The fishing of Taimen is almost like lifting weights in terms of effort made during their catches.

Some days you can stay with your hand empty while others have the luck to catch several Taimens of a good size.

The Taimens often miss in their first attack, but if you put back the volley in the same place, they will run in for another try. Often fishermen start skitting too early and miss the shot, the trick is to let the fish take the bait until you feel the weight of fish, then lift the fishing rod to place the hook well.

Once the fight has started, the Taimen will move in the several corners of the pit, often going back to the surface again to dive even deeper and deeper, shaking his head like a dog with a bone.



Just as you think it is ready to be brought on the shore, the Taimen will turn back towards the middle of the river. But once "tamed" he will allow to bring himself in shallow water, you will only have to keep it in the water, holding it by the tail with one hand while using your forceps to release the hooks with your other hand. Still it is better to have your teammate or guide on the place to help you unhook the fish .... and important, do not forget to take a photo of your prize. Then gently let the fish regain its strength by holding it until it finds the strength to swim out in the water, it will be soon fully recovered to terrorize the population of graylings and especially make way to the next spring.

***"Legend tells that the Taimen is a voracious, ambushing predator - This is the case. The hooks were made primarily using models of large flies imitating a mouse or with large banners imitating a Lenok or a grayling. Although there is no doubt that Taimen will always be ready to take the big mouse models, Andy has added a secret weapon for dry - fly fishing that works very well and is relatively easy to use even for long hours. The Taimen loves gurglers, as do the large Lenoks - a local trout with a colour like a cutthroat - and even the some graylings will swallow the bait of this type of gurglers "***

*Tom Gorman, World Angler 2005*



Scientists estimate the density of the population of this predator in the rivers of Mongolia is only about 20 Taimens per kilometre in the most productive rivers. Implying that the Taimen may need to be protected, each must be carefully taken into the river after taking a picture; given the statistics of the density, do not expect to catch many Taimens, even when knowing that Delger is an excellent river for Taimen fishing. It also means that you will need to largely cover the river to have the best chance to catch one; and the best way to do it is to go on a boat in the water, giving you the choice between a fixed camp and fishing from the edge of the river, going through the area on foot, or doing a floating trip.

For the available circuits on the dates shown at the bottom of this sheet, we have chosen to have a boat (floating trips) while fishing from the boat, it allows to have an access to the corners of the river wild and inaccessible by foot .... Moreover, this does not disturb the local farmers.

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There wasn't any book on dry - fly fishing of Taimen when we arrived in Mongolia and we decided to discover and to organize the tour we offer, using our own experience. Over the years we have developed our own models of flies and made flies for species other than the Taimen.

Our favourites are the Gurlger flies, a fly foam that holds well on the surface and is relatively easy to throw and a banner imitating a small Lenok. We have no preference in fishing with a single rod or with two handed rods. Our guides are all passionate about dry - fly fishing and will even encourage you to try a two-handed rod. Compared to the single rod, fishing with a two handed rod, will allow you to fish farther, to cover more surface and to throw the largest flies.



It is also worth mentioning that despite the strong interest in fishing of Taimen, one should not forget the Lenok trout and grayling. Lenok (*Brachymystax Lenok*), also known as Siberian trout, usually between 15 and 20 inches, can reach over 30 inches. The waters are plentiful with Graylings that have five subspecies. The Lenok and graylings are the ones that easily take dry flies; June and September produce a lot of mayfly traps and the Lenoks are always ready to jump on a hopper. Hopper dropper system is particularly effective. This river appears is a world-class spot for trout fishing and some of our guests come only for Lenoks and Graylings.

***"Although we could always count on the Taimen to terrorize large mouse models and streamers ... it was the time to change strategy. Although somewhat sceptical about my own intentions, I caught a 7 WT. Sage Z-Axis, attached to a small double nymph floating set by 3X 100 meters downstream from the camp .....***

***First, I caught several Graylings with the nymph on the surface. Then I lost the whole hopper-dropper quite fast.***

***Ignoring the wish to return back to the camp for a pair of beer for an aperitif, I replaced the rigging and continued to fish. I felt a heavy zigzagging restraint, I just skittered in case...***

***The last thing I remember is a big beautiful red tail whipping the surface of the water .... the fight continued for more than 20 minutes with a pair of dives and a few descents of about 150 meters down in the current ... I grabbed its tail and gently moved towards the shallow waters for a few photos. It was beautiful, more than a meter long and about 15 kilos.***

***This certainly was the most gratifying prize, knowing that I had changed my tactics. "***

***Dan T. Cook, front page, June 2007***

La The fishing season in Mongolia officially opens on June 15, which corresponds to the post-spawning season on the rivers that we fish it, it is also the season when the Taimen begin to feed voraciously. During the past five years of organizing fishing courses in Mongolia, it's spring that has given us the best results in dry - fly fishing of the Taimen. If the waters are low and clear, the Taimen swallows everything that is on the surface, attacking everything from a fly to an imitation of a mouse, under these conditions it is often possible to catch a Taimen with ones sight. Still there is a risk of rain and flooding especially during this period; but if the conditions are good, this is an exceptional fishing that you will be offered, one of the best dry - fly fishing possibilities in Mongolia.

The season of fall, in September, is considered as the best fishing season in Mongolia, the weather is sunny, with a clear, running water. It is in autumn, when farmers are cutting the hay, when the trees begin to turn yellow and gold, when the cold intensifies during the month with some good frosts during the nights and even opportunities for snowfall, when the temperature of the water starts to drop, the Taimen is more active and more aggressive.



***"This was my third trip to Mongolia: the scenery was spectacular, with colour transforming in the trees and the larch forests behind the rocky hills all along the track, and fishing was the best I had ever done.***

***In one word, it was exceptional. Our group caught a good number of Lenoks besides a large number of Graylings and Taimens from 23 to 55 inches long. "....." The biggest Taimens were caught in the rapids, where the water temperature was cool and oxygen levels higher than in other places; the gurgler was really by far the most efficient model of fly. The streamers imitating Lenok from five to six inches long were also quite successful, but with the gurglers we caught the biggest Taimens (20 to 24 inches) beautiful Lenoks and fiery Graylings. "***

***Tom Gorman 2007.***

Now there are several projects of ecotourism on the dry -fly fishing and conservation projects of Mongolian Taimen. Conservation has become a main focus of the most responsible operators, including us, of course. For us ecotourism is reflected in our active involvement in the conservation of species, but also by working with the local communities to improve their financial resources and make them aware of the importance of protecting their natural resources. On Delger Murun we employ two guards on horseback in association with the local administration to patrol and protect the river. Our conservation project and assistance to communities has resulted as the establishment of a network of drinking water for residents of several villages and the donation of two motorcycles for the guards, also facilitating their patrols; also some educational interventions to raise awareness for the protection of environment. We also try to support conservation initiatives based in the local communities.



***"By teaming up with Local Communities - Andy is compared to the classic recipients in Mongolia. He was living there for nine years and speaks the local language. He is trusted with respect in fishing, but also in releasing them. He has engaged with the local communities and nomads in environmental protection - especially against the poachers."  
..."***

***"His camps and operations involve associations together with local nomad communities, who consider him as a friend and an ally. This opens the door, as it has been evident during our travels along the Delger.***

***The most important is the fact that he has succeeded in raising awareness of local communities and their directors on the importance of river control and made them think about protecting the resources of these rivers***

*Tom Gorman, 2007.*

# Floating circuit on Delger Muron River

## \* Season of dry - fly fishing \*

### 2012

DAY	PROGRAM	Service
1	Arrival in Oulan Bator, transfer to hotel, visit of the city .	Hotel
2	2 local flight UB / Murun (1 ½ hrs) Transfer by 4X4 to the Delger Murun (3 ½ hrs)	(B L D)
3	Circuit fishing on Delger Muron, dry - fly fishing	(B L D)
4	Circuit fishing on Delger Muron, dry - fly fishing	(B L D)
5	Circuit fishing on Delger Muron, dry - fly fishing	(B L D)
6	Circuit fishing on Delger Muron, dry - fly fishing	(B L D)
7	Circuit fishing on Delger Muron, dry - fly fishing	(B L D)
8	Circuit fishing on Delger Muron, dry - fly fishing Arrival last evening at the camp and along the river	(B L D)
9	Transfer to 9 Murun (3 ½ hrs) Return flight to Ulaanbaatar (1 ½ hrs) Check in hotel	(B L) Hotel
10	Transfer to airport - Flight International	(B)

**B** – Breakfast

**L** – Lunch

**D** – Dinner



### **Dates for 2012**

#### **Spring time '12 - Taimen**

From June 13 au 22

From June 22 Juin to  
July 1st

#### **Fall '12 - Taimen :**

From August 19 to 28

From August 28 to September 6

From September 6 to 15

From September 15 to 24

# PRICE RATES

**Guided trips :** 3 ...€ per person

For 10 full days in Mongolia,  
8 days off-Ulaanbaatar,  
6 days of guided dry - fly fishing  
and two nights in Ulaanbaatar.

## **The price includes:**

- Local flight back to Ulaanbaatar-Muron
- Two nights in tourist class hotel in double room at UB
- Housing in the countryside (during the trip)
- The arrival to river and transportation during the stay
- All transfers
- 4WD Vehicle
- Three meals a day in the camp
- Beer and wine with dinner in the camp
- Guides and trained English-speaking translator
- Fishing Licenses

## **The price does not include:**

- International flight.
- The fishing rods, baits and the equipment
- Money for personal spending
- Meals and drinks in Ulaanbaatar
- The additional hotel nights that are not specified in the itinerary

## **Travel Notes**

**Guide:** Professional Guide with an equivalent level to a level of an American or Mongolian specialist in dry - fly fishing – one guide for two fishermen. The size of the group will be 4 to 6 people.

**Deposit:** Reservations must be over 6 months in advance, with a non-refundable payment of payment of 25%, full payment must be made 12 weeks before the beginning of the trip. For bookings made less than 6 months in advance the reservation deposit is 50% non-refundable, full payment must be made 8 weeks before the trip starts.

**Tackle and Equipment:** We provide a complete list of equipment and tackle useful during your stay. We fish mainly with the Taimen 'dry' flies popper for floating line: on-line streamers are also quite effective. A 9 ft. rod for a line of 8 or 9 is generally recommended for Taimen fishing, but we also recommend Taimen fishing with a two handed cane. For Lenoks and Graylings the canes 4, 5 or 6 and a floating line is perfectly adequate. We will provide flies for Taimen, but recommend you bring a selection of dry flies and nymphs to Lenoks and Graylings