



## Khustai Day Trip

Drive to Khustai after breakfast in the morning about 9:00 am. Spend the day at Khustai and return to UB after dinner.



**Khustai National Park (KhNP):** The Mongolian Government declared Khustai National Park as a Specially Protected Area in 1993, one year after the initiation of the reintroduction project of the Takhi (Przewalski's horse) to the Hustain Nuruu. The KhNP extends through the Khentii Mountains and includes the western edge of the Mongolian steppe at the boundaries of Altanbulag, Argalant and Bayankhangai Soums of Töv Province. The park is about 120 km from the capital city of Ulaanbaatar to the west.

The KhNP covers 50,600 ha land which is home to 459 species of vascular plants, 85 species of lichens, 90 species of moss and 33 species of mushrooms. 44 species of mammals have been recorded, including Mongolian gazelle, roe deer, wild boar, wild sheep, ibex, Mongolian marmots, grey wolves, Eurasian lynx, Pallas cat, red fox, corsac fox and Eurasian badger. The 217 species of birds include golden eagle, lammergeyer, great bustard, whooper swan, black stork, and little owl. There are 16 species of fish, 2 species of amphibians, and 385 species of insects (including 21 species of ants, 55 species of butterflies, 10 species of bush crickets and 29 species of grasshoppers). A new species of soil insect has been found in the Khustai and given the scientific name of *Epidamaeus khustaiensis*.

In 2002, The Biosphere Reserves organization of UNESCO certified the KhNP as a member of the world biosphere network of natural reserves. The KhNPT was enrolled as a member of IUCN in 2007.

**The Przewalski horse:** *Equus ferus przewalskii* Groves, 1986 is considered to be the last and only remaining wild horse species in the world. However, it was extinct in the wild by 1969 and was reintroduced back into the wild in Mongolia, China, and Kazakhstan in the 1990s. Reintroduction started only in 1992 by the import of 16 Przewalski's horses from the Netherlands to Khustain nuruu in Mongolia in association with the Foundation for the Preservation and Protection of the Przewalski Horse and the Mongolian Association for Conservation of Nature and Environment. During 1992-2000 at five times 84 wild horses from European countries were reintroduced in Khustai National Park. Presently 335 individuals of Przewalski's horses exist and, it is the highest number of Przewalski's horse in the World.



**What's Included:** Lunch, bottled water on the way, English speaking guide, park/entry fees, vehicle/driver.

**What's not Included:** Roundtrip international airfare to/from UB, hotel in UB, airport taxes, evacuation coverage, gratuities, excess baggage fees and items of personal nature.

**Note:** It is private tour and will serve only for your group. No other travelers will join in your group. It can be added after your trip as an extension. **Please contact us for price, we're flexible.**

Driving hours and distance in the countryside will vary depending on road and weather conditions. Often time roads are very dusty, bumpy and very challenging.