

Destinations in Northern Mongolia



Khuvsgul National Park:

Khuvsgul National Park is called “Mongolia’s Switzerland”. The National Park covers 8381 square kilometers including the lake of Khuvsgul Nuur and its watershed, the Nuur River basin, and parts of Zuni Saran Mountain. The park has been protected since 1992. Here in the forests are special plants such as yellow marsh saxifrage, valeriana officinalis and saussurea involucrate. There are also many rare animals and around 200 species of birds found in the park area including, Euro-Asian otter, beaver, moose, reindeer, red deer, wild Argali sheep, Siberian ibex, snow leopard, lynx, wolf, brown bear, wild boar, black stork, relict gull, osprey and curlew.

Clear Khuvsgul Lake:

Khuvsgul Lake is the deepest lake in Central Asia with a maximum depth of 262 meters and contains 1 percent of the world’s fresh water. The lake is situated on the north edge of Mongolia and covers an area of 2612 square kilometers. Khuvsgul is a large lake extending 134 kilometers north south and 39 kilometers east west. Dominating the western shore of the lake is Khoridol Saridag Mountain which attains a height of 3200 meters above sea level. 96 rivers and streams feed into Khuvsgul Nuur and the Eg River flows out draining into the Orkhon River and so to Lake Baikal in the Russian Federation. The reflections of larch forests and Khoridol Saridag Mountain Range on the blue lake water are extremely amazing. Plenty of fish are found in the lake such as Baikal Omul, Lenok, UMBER, Siberian Graying and River Perch. Visitors can kayak and boat on the lake, ride horses and even reindeer, enjoy wildlife, explore flora & fauna, hike around the lake and meet shaman and reindeer people.



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Darkhad Valley:

The Mongolian nomads of the Darhad valley are some of the most self-sufficient people in the world. Across the steppes and mountains of the Darhad Valley, they move huge herds of sheep, goats, cattle, yaks and camels, relying on their tough little horses. It's a harsh and spectacular place, and a grueling life. The Darkhad valley is a large valley in northwestern Khuvsgul province, Mongolia. It is situated between the Ulaan Taiga and Khoridol Saridag ranges at an altitude of about 1600 m, about 160 km long and 40 km wide. The view from the valley and mountains are unique. The area is 4270 km². It was transferred from the People's Republic of Tagna Tuva to the Mongolian People's Republic in 1925 as a Soviet concession to the Mongolians, who had wanted to incorporate the territory of Tagna Uriankhai into their country. The valley is rich in lakes and rivers, the biggest of which are Dood Tsagaan Lake "lower white lake" and Shishged River, respectively. The area is famous for its natural beauty.



Tsaatan “Reindeer Herders, Shaman”:

One of the 20 ethnic groups in Mongolia is the Darkhad people or Tsaatan know as Reindeer Herders. They live in tepees near Khuvsgul Lake and in the taiga forest of the remote northern area of Khuvsgul Province. They herd reindeer for their existence and use reindeer for many purposes: transport, meat, milk, skins for clothes, blood-horns for traditional medicine and other uses. People in Khuvsgul most commonly practice shamanism and some of the most powerful shaman live in this area. There you may visit a Tsaatan or Reindeer herder's family and explore their special way of the life or meet a shaman.



Amarbayasgalant Monastery:

Amarbayasgalant Monastery, the most intact architectural complex in Mongolia. It was built between 1727 and 1736 by Manchurian King Enkh-Amgalan and is dedicated to Saint Zanabazar, Mongolia's first Buddhist saint. Amarbayasgalant was one of the greatest Buddhist pilgrimage centers where between the 17th and 19th Centuries about one thousand lamas lived, chanted and studied. There were 27 large and small temples. The communists destroyed 10 of the 37 temples and some statues in the late 1930s. The monastery was extensively restored several times with the help of UNESCO. These days, about 50 monks live in the monastery, compared to over 2000 monks in 1930s. Amarbayasgalant has been protected since 1943 and was designated as a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1996.



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Uran Togoo Extinct Volcano:

Uran Togoo extinct volcano and its surrounding area has been protected as a “Natural Monument” since 1965 and covers 58 square km. Uran Togoo extinct volcano is at an elevation of 1,686 meters above sea level. On the top is of the extinct volcano is a crater, 500-600 meters wide and 50 meters deep, with a small “crater lake” of about 20 meters in diameter. The protected area is the home to numerous kinds of rare animals such as red deer, wild Argali sheep, Siberian ibex and wild boar.

