Lake Khuvsgul Dog Sled Adventure

Trip Code: PXMK

Version:

WINTER	GUIDED GROUP	CHALLENGING 8



HIGHLIGHTS

- Drive your own sled and team of 5-6 huskies and Greenland Dogs
- Complete a 250km circuit of frozen Lake Khuvsgul over nine days
- Learn the art of ice fishing with expert tuition from our guides
- Sleep in traditional gers (yurts) and experience the warmth of Mongolian hospitality
- Experience a true small-group winter expedition in one of Mongolia's wildest landscapes

AT A GLANCE

- 250km dog sled expedition
- 9 days on frozen Lake Khuvsgul
- 8 days driving your own sled
- Ice-fishing
- Winter camping & traditional gers
- Join at Ulaanbaatar

ACCOMMODATIONS & MEALS

VIEW DATES, PRICES & BOOK YOUR HOLIDAY HERE

Introduction

This is no ordinary dog-sledding holiday. Over nine days, you'll drive your own sled and team of 5-6 huskies and Greenland Dogs on an extraordinary circuit of frozen Lake Khuvsgul, Mongolia's 'Blue Pearl'. Travelling in a small group, you'll cover around 250km across the ice, navigating pressure ridges, cracks and changing conditions as you make your way around one of Mongolia's most spectacular wilderness landscapes.

By March, the lake is completely frozen and its vast surface becomes an extraordinary highway for our dog teams. The ice is remarkably clear, appearing blue around the edges, green where the sandy bottom can be seen and almost black in the deepest water. With mountains rising around the shoreline and very few people to disturb the silence, the sense of wilderness is immense.

This is a hands-on adventure. You'll learn how to drive your sled, work with your team and help care for the dogs throughout the expedition. Each day brings a new section of the lake, with distances and routes determined by the condition of the ice, wind and weather. Pressure ridges and cracks can make the journey unpredictable, adding a genuine expedition element to the experience.

Away from the sleds, we'll experience the traditional way of life around Lake Khuvsgul. We'll stay with local families in traditional heated gers, camp beside the lake and spend a day learning the art of ice fishing. Around the shores, the traditions of communities including the Buriat, Darkhad and Tsaatan people remain an important part of life.

The accommodation is simple, the days are active and temperatures can be extreme, but with expert support and the right equipment, this is an unforgettable way to experience the frozen wilderness of northern Mongolia. Don't just take our word for it however; read a first-hand account from KE customer who has experienced this epic expedition.

Is this holiday for you?

This is a **true winter expedition**, not a conventional husky holiday. You'll spend nine consecutive days travelling across the frozen surface of Lake Khuvsgul, usually spending around five hours a day on the sled and covering approximately 35-60km. You'll be actively involved in driving your sled, caring for your dogs and helping with camp chores.

Previous dog-sledding experience is useful but **not essential**. Our expert musher will teach you how to handle the sled and work with your team. However, you should be physically fit and comfortable being active for around 5-7 hours a day on consecutive days, often in very cold conditions. Good balance is useful when driving the sled, so previous skiing, cycling or similar activities can be helpful.

The weather is an important part of the adventure with rapidly changing conditions, strong winds and temperatures ranging from around **-5°C to -40°C**. The lake ice is constantly shifting, so there is no fixed route: pressure ridges and cracks may require us to change direction or find alternative crossings.

The accommodation is deliberately simple and expedition-style, with nights in traditional gers, a cabin and camping.

A true Pioneer adventure

Lake Khuvsgul is one of those rare places where the journey itself becomes the adventure. With a tiny group, your own dog team and nine days travelling across the frozen lake, this is an expedition into a remote corner of Mongolia rather than a standard winter activity holiday. Every departure is shaped by the conditions on the lake, the weather and the behaviour of the dogs. The route cannot always be predicted, making each journey around Khuvsgul genuinely unique.

A spirit of adventure, flexibility and enthusiasm for being outdoors in extreme winter conditions are essential.

Itinerary

Version:

Holiday Information

What's Included

- A professional and qualified tour leader & musher
- Single timed airport transfers on arrival & departure
- All accommodation as described
- All meals
- All land transport required by the itinerary

What's not Included

- Travel insurance
- Visas
- Tips
- Miscellaneous personal expenditure - drinks and souvenirs etc

Joining Arrangements & Transfers

A single group transfer will be arranged to meet the Turkish Airlines flight on arrival at Ulaanbaatar Airport. This transfer will normally be at breakfast time on Day 1. At the end of the trip there will be a single group transfer back to the airport to meet the check in for the Turkish Airlines flight. This transfer will be in the early morning of Day 15 of the itinerary.

Anyone may join the group transfers by prior arrangement. Travelling as a group or on public transport saves energy. If this is not practical, we can provide private transfers at an additional cost.

Hotel contact details and an emergency number will be provided with your booking confirmation.

Meal Plan

All meals are included in the holiday price. From lunch on Day 1 to breakfast on Day 15.

Special Diets

Whilst we can cater for vegetarians, albeit sometimes with a more limited choice, we cannot always provide for special diets. Due to the nature of some of the trips that we operate and the countries in which we operate them, it can be very hard (and sometimes impossible) to cater for a wide range of dietary choices and you may have to supplement your meals with food/snacks from home. If you have specific dietary requirements please do speak to our sales team and they will be able to advise you whether or not we will be able to offer your specific choice. Please note that we are unable to provide separate menus and cannot accept liability for any problems arising from special dietary requirements or intolerances.

Food & Water

Drinking Water

It is not recommended to drink untreated water from the taps. If you are on a trekking or cycling holiday, water is supplied to fill up your individual bottles. This will be boiled, filtered or provided in large jerry cans or 5 litre bottles. Additionally you should take purification tablets or a filter bottle (such as a Water-To-Go bottle) to treat your water when in towns or where water is not supplied. We do not encourage the purchasing of single use plastic bottles.

During our expedition breakfasts will be simple and continental style, with bread, butter, jam, eggs etc... with lots of hot tea and coffee. During our days of dog sledding we will stop each day to enjoy a hot lunch, this will usually be a traditional Mongolian dish or a barbecue of fresh fish (which we may even have caught ourselves!) with hot drinks. In the evening we will have another hot meal specially prepared by our cook. Evening meals will be a mix of local and international dishes.

Khuvsgul is one of the only areas in Mongolia where people eat a lot of fish, generally Mongolian food is meat-based (mutton in particular). During winter the use of vegetables is not that common in traditional cooking, for obvious reasons, but these days it is possible to find vegetables throughout the year.

Some examples of traditional Mongolian dishes are, the famous Buuz, a sort of steamed ravioli, Khuushuur, a kind of flattened and fried ravioli, and pasta dishes such as Tsuivan, made with wheat pasta, and Puntuuz, made with rice pasta. Dairy products are also common, but these are not like European dairy products. The cold conditions have led the population to eat food quite high in fat, so dishes are often rich.

Accommodation

During the holiday we will spend 2 nights in en suite rooms at a standard hotel in the centre of Ulaanbataar. We will spend 1 night in a simple hotel in Bulgan.

On expedition we will spend 5 nights in communal ger (yurts) and 1 night in a communal wooden cabin, all with stoves for heating, just like the ones used by the Mongolian nomads. In the yurts we will sleep on simple camp beds and in the cabin we will sleep on inflatable mattresses (Thermarests) on the floor.

On the other 4 nights of our journey we will be sleeping in a tent, an idea that could strike fear into the hearts of travellers in winter! No need to worry as our large communal tent, which is double-lined with felt and well insulated, has been specially created to keep us warm against the extremes of the Mongolian winter. Inside the tent there's room for a small stove, just big enough to warm the tent and to cook on. Please note that it is still possible for the temperatures to drop to up to -5 inside the tents/yurts during the night and therefore it is essential to pack a good sleeping bag. Inflatable sleeping mattresses (Thermarests) are provided for all nights they are required.

There is no electricity at the yurts or when camping, so it will not be possible to recharge electrical equipment.

When sleeping in yurts we will have access to toilets, on the other nights of the expedition there will be no traditional toilet facilities. There are also no showers, however a small amount of hot water will be made available each night for washing. It will also be possible to wash with hot water at the banya (Russian sauna) on the 2 nights at Khankh.

Group Leader & Support Staff

The group will be led by a professional and qualified tour leader and musher.

Altitude

This holiday does not involve any significant ascent to altitude and we would not expect any altitude issues with this trip.

Spending Money

Approximately £150 per person (or equivalent in US dollars or Euros) should be allowed for tips, soft drinks, snacks, and miscellaneous expenses. There is little opportunity for spending money outside of Ulaanbaatar.

You can choose to take your money in pounds sterling, dollars or euros. It is not necessary to obtain Mongolian currency prior to travel, there will be an opportunity to change money into local currency at a money exchange on Day 1 in Ulaanbaatar. Credit cards are useful and it is a good idea to carry one in case of emergency.

Guidance on Tipping

It is usual to tip staff including your local guide and driver if you are happy with the services provided. We suggest you coordinate these tips as a group and as a rough guide we recommend allowing around £80 - £100 per person for staff tips. The exact amount should be determined by the group and the guide can advise on how much to tip drivers, support staff if necessary.

Beat the Jet Lag

Our holidays are normally designed with minimal 'down time' at the start of the trip, but having a day or two at the beginning will have the additional benefit of allowing you time to get over the stress of a long journey or travelling across time zones, leaving you refreshed and ready for your holiday. We can easily arrange for you to have additional nights and airport transfers.

Baggage Allowance

You should pack your luggage in a soft bag, rather than a hard suitcase. We ask that you try to restrict you baggage to 1 bag of around 15kg, or two smaller bags of 7-8kg per bag (2 smaller bags might be easier to fit onto the sled). It is possible to leave excess baggage at the hotel in Ulaanbaatar or at the ger camp at Khatgal. You won't experience rain, it’s too cold for that, but you may see snow. The sled bags are lightly waterproof and should protect the contents from snow showers.

Group Size & Holiday Status

For each holiday there is a minimum number of participants required to enable it to go ahead. Once the minimum number is reached, the trip status will change from 'Available' to 'Guaranteed to run'. You can check the trip status for each departure in the ‘Dates and Prices’ table. Other than in exceptional circumstances, we will not cancel a trip once it has achieved this guaranteed to run status so you are free to proceed with your international flight booking and other travel arrangements.

General Information

Passport & Visas

The information that we provide is for UK passport holders.

A passport with 6 months remaining validity at the end of your stay is generally required**,** and you should have at least 2 blank pages for each country that you visit.

For other nationalities, please refer to your own Government website for the latest information.

It is your responsibility to ensure that you have the correct travel documents including vaccinations and health certificates *(see Health & Vaccinations below),* **and visas for your holiday.** Please ensure that you check the FCDO for the latest advice for **each country visited** before travel.

Visas for Mongolia are not currently required for UK passport holders, and any visitors, staying less than 30 days.

This is a temporary suspension of visas, so you should check the latest guidelines with the Mongolian consulate prior to travel.

Health & Vaccinations

Vaccinations:

You should be up to date with the routine vaccinations recommended in the UK for overseas travel.

You must also contact your doctor or travel clinic to check if there are specific vaccinations or other preventive measures that you need for the area you are visiting, in good time before you are due to depart.

Please ensure you are looking at the recommendations for all countries visited on your holiday plus recommendations for any borders you cross.

On holidays to more remote areas you should also have a dental check-up.

It is your responsibility to ensure that you have the correct travel documents including vaccinations and health certificates.

Please check the FCDO and Travel Health Pro. For all of your intended destinations for up-to-date advice.

Severe Allergies:

If you have a severe allergy please inform the KE office before you travel. We will do all we can to help, but we cannot guarantee an allergy free environment on KE trips.

Currency

The unit of currency in Mongolia is the Mongolian Tughrik.

Preparing for your Holiday

Getting some additional exercise before coming on an active holiday makes a lot of sense. The fitter you are, after all, the more enjoyable you will find the experience.

You should be aerobically fit and comfortable with being physically active for 7hrs a day for consecutive days, bearing in mind that this will also be in cold temperatures. Hill walking, running, and swimming are all good for developing cardio vascular fitness and stamina. Cycling and skiing are also helpful for understanding balance, which is a key factor to driving a sled.

Climate

March is a transitional period between winter and spring, the weather can change very quickly and winds can sweep the lake in violent gusts. We need to be prepared for temperatures from -5 to -40 degrees centigrade. The temperatures might seem intimidating, but this is a dry cold and with the right equipment/clothing you should stay nice and warm.

Travel Aware

As a reputable tour operator, KE supports the British Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office's **'Travel Aware'** campaign to enable British citizens to prepare for their journeys overseas. The 'Travel Aware' website provides a single, authoritative source of advice for all kinds of travellers and we recommend that before travel, all KE clients visit the official UK Government website at travelaware.campaign.gov.uk and read the FCDO Travel Advice for their chosen destination. All other nationalities should check their government websites for relevant information.

KE treat the safety and security of all clients as the most important aspect of any trip we organise. We would not run any trip that we did not consider reasonably safe. Should the FCDO advise against travel for any reason, we will contact everyone booked to travel to discuss the situation. We receive regular updates directly from the FCDO and are in constant touch with our contacts on the ground. If you have any questions about government travel advice, please call our office.

Single Use Plastic

KE do not encourage the use of single use plastic items. We are ensuring that our agents all over the world are working together to reduce the problem and educate those around them. We are leading by example in our KE office by reducing our plastic use.

Travel Insurance

It is an essential condition of joining a holiday with KE Adventure Travel that you have a valid travel insurance policy to cover the cost of medical treatment and to protect the value of your holiday in the event of cancellation. When taking out insurance please ensure the policy you choose covers you for the activities and altitude included in your itinerary.

For appropriate insurance cover we recommend Campbell Irvine Direct. Please go to our Travel Insurance page for further information and to get a quote.

Equipment Information

Equipment List

Please try to keep the weight of your baggage to a minimum. See the 'baggage allowance' section for further details.

YOU SHOULD BRING THE FOLLOWING ITEMS:

- Sleeping bag (comfort rating -15)*
- Fleece sleeping bag liner
- Warm and waterproof hiking boots / snowboots*
- Gortex overshoes (not necessary if hiring boots)
- Comfortable waterproof winter shoes/trainers (for use in the evenings)
- 2-3 pairs of warm woollen socks (one pair bigger than others to be used for layering)
- Thermal baselayers (not cotton)
- Warm, wind and waterproof trousers (ski trousers or salopettes)
- Warm, wind and waterproof jacket (ski jacket or equivalent) with a hood*
- Gaiters
- Fleece jacket or similar
- Down jacket
- Warm jumper
- Woolen/fleece gloves (it is important to always have a dry pair of gloves available)
- Warm and waterproof over mittens*
- Warm Hat
- Buff
- Neoprene facemask/balaclava
- Sunglasses (high CAT rating)
- Ski googles/mask Trousers
- Emergency whistle
- Survival blanket/bag
- T-shirts / casual shirt
- Underwear
- Daypack of approximately 20-30 litres capacity
- Head-torch and spare batteries

- Water bottle and thermos flask (1L minimum) (we encourage re-filling water bottles rather than single use plastic)
- Washbag and toiletries (please take biodegradable products)
- Stick sunscreen (high SPF) (take products with a low water content to avoid freezing)
- Stick sunscreen for lips (high SPF)
- Micro-fibre travel towel
- Cleansing wipes (to avoid alcohol hand gel)
- Tissues
- Basic First Aid Kit consisting of the following: Antiseptic cream, throat lozenges, diarrhoea treatment (Imodium), painkillers, plasters, blister treatment and re-hydration salts (Dioralite). Glucose tablets and multi-vitamin tablets are also a good idea.

THE FOLLOWING ITEMS ARE OPTIONAL:

- Survival blanket
- Micro spikes/Yaxtrax (to stop you slipping on the ice)
- Earplugs
- Camera (watch out for the cold, take spare batteries and keep them somewhere warm)
- Swimwear (for use in the Banya)
- Pen-knife (remember to put all sharp objects in hold baggage)
- Reusable cloth bag for shopping (to avoid plastic bags)

THE FOLLOWING ITEMS ARE AVAILABLE FOR HIRE:

- Hire items must be requested via KE Adventure Travel pre departure and must be paid directly in Mongolia.
- Sleeping bag - 25$
- Pair of sheepskin overgloves – 10$
- Over-jacket, with wide collar to protect neck and face, and also sleeve flaps to protect hands - 20$
- Sorel Boots - 40$ (available in EU sizes 36-45. Please provide required sizing on submitting your hire request).

NOTE:

To beat the cold we recommend layering your clothing.

A layer of fitted thermal underwear, a second layer of warmer clothing, and a third layer of waterproof/windproof clothing will keep you warmest.

It is the volume of air between the different layers that will isolate you from the cold. Your clothing should be fitted to allow room for air and to allow you freedom of movement.

All layers should be made of breathable material (e.g not cotton, which does not wick away perspiration and holds moisture). Depending on the outside temperature during your trip and your personal comfort level, you will need to pack one or two additional layers on top of this (fleece, jacket etc...). You will use these extra layers in the evening at the camp. It is only in case of very cold weather that you will also need these during the day.

Remember to look after you extremities, which cool down the quickest. It is essential to have dry gloves and warm headwear with you at all times and your footwear should allow room for multiple pairs of woollen socks along with room for air.

Land Only Information

Please refer to the 'Joining Arrangements & Transfers' within Holiday Information for further details.

Flights and other transport to your destination should not be booked until you have received your booking confirmation and the departure is showing 'Guaranteed to Run' or 'Limited'.

Land Only Information

The LAND ONLY dates and prices are for the itinerary joining in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia. For clients making their own flight arrangements, Chinggis Khaan International Airport is the most convenient for transfers to the group hotel. Please refer to Joining Arrangements and Transfers for further details.

Flight Inclusive Information

Limited seats are available at the advertised flight price, please book as early as you can. If we are unable to secure seats at the price shown, or you have requested regional departures and/or upgrades, we will provide you with an alternative quote. It is likely that flight payment will be in advance of your final holiday balance. Booking a flight inclusive package means you will benefit from full financial protection, eases your holiday planning, and leaves us to deal with airlines and schedule changes. If you book flights through KE Adventure Travel we will offset the carbon of your flight.

Regional departures and/or alternative carriers are available on request.

Flight Inclusive Information

The FLIGHT INCLUSIVE dates and prices are based on UK flights from London to Ulaanbaatar with Aeroflot. Outbound flights will arrive in Ulaanbaatar the day following departure from the UK (Day 1 of the Land Only itinerary). Return flights will arrive in the UK on the same day as departure from Ulaanbaatar. Regional departures and/or alternative carriers are available on request.

Please be aware that there are often only a limited number of seats available at the advertised price. To avoid paying flight supplements, we recommend that you book as early as possible, especially during peak times. If we are unable to secure seats at the price shown, or you have requested regional departures, we will contact you with an alternative quote. Please note that you may be asked to pay for your flights in advance of your final holiday balance. Note that if you book a package including flights with KE you will benefit from full financial protection.

Why Choose KE

Why KE

With over 40 years of experience creating adventurous journeys, KE takes you beyond the ordinary and into some of the world's most remarkable wildernesses. Our Lake Khuvsgul expedition is a genuine small-group adventure, combining expert local knowledge with a hands-on dog-sledding experience that takes you deep into the frozen landscape of northern Mongolia. You'll travel with an experienced guide and team who know the lake, the ice and the dogs, while our small group size ensures a personal and immersive experience.

Please Note This document was downloaded on 11/11/2026 and the trip is subject to change