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The Institute of Geography and Geoecology (IGG) of the Mongolian Academy of Sciences (MAS)...

... is one of the oldest and traditional scientific research organisations in Mongolia in the field of competencies in environmental sciences, climate change, landscape development, human geography and socio-economic research.

It belongs to our duties to organise annual expeditions in remote areas in order to control our research stations in the Gobi desert or in the Altai-Sayan Mountains. Experts of the Institute lead these expeditions with an outstanding knowledge of the country and the nomadic local people. It is our duty to involve local communities into our research work, because this is the best warranty for safety and supports the local people.

Our travel management

Equipment

We use modern 4x4 cars and Russian 4x4 minibuses to transport equipment like tents and kitchen. Additionally contains our scientific equipment drilling machines, inflatable boat with outboard

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motor, climate stations, high mountain climbing tools, D-GPS etc.

Daily means and routine

In spite of working day by day hard you will have some free days of course the kitchen supply must be perfect. Our tours are accompanied by a professional chief, regarding special meals (e.g. for vegetarians). On demand we can provide high mountain tents and a service to setup or break the tent. The nomadic lifestyle contains daily traveling and several days base camps. Cold weather, rain and snow including mosquitos can be guaranteed. So your personal equipment should be highly adapted to those conditions. In spite of having a chief we cannot offer service like breakfast buffet or a menu to have a choice of meals like in a restaurant. But none of our guests stand up hungry from our table.

Our specific peculiarities are to take our guests with us in remote areas far away of the normal touristic routes to come into close contact with the outstanding nature, visiting our Mongolian families and National Park rangers. It is easy for us to travel in those areas (border zones, National Parks, strictly protected areas, ...) because we have always official documents and are well known to travel in an eco-friendly manner.

Mongolia

Programme 2020

The **Altai Mountains** belong to a glaciated high mountain area with wide spread lakes and rivers in the transboundary region of Mongolia, Russia, China and Kazakhstan. Its an important regional water tower for different ethnic groups with different traditional forms of water use. We regard this area as a sentinel for climate change in order to develop best practice of a sustainable Natural Resource Management to guarantee an adapted lifestyle in the future. So our participatory approach will focus on lake, permafrost and glacier monitoring to bring you directly into contact with the environmental problems of environmental change.

The **Sayan Mountain Range** at the border region to Russia are located at the north border of Mongolia. The Khuvsgul Lake is the deepest lake of Mongolia and it is called the *Blue Pearl*. We found a research station at the north side of this outstanding lake and you can accompany us in one of the most lonesome places of the country.

The **Gobi Desert** is only at a few place a desert you know from the media; so sand dunes can only be found at some places and vegetation is wide spread nearly everywhere. The „normal tourist tours“ focus on some place at the edge of this dry region near the Chinese border, but we have to go mid in the centre.

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Experts of the Mongolian Academy of Sciences let you participate in the specific research expeditions in absolute remote areas of Mongolia far away from touristic routes and any semblance of civilisation.



Our expedition concept

Eastern Central Asia with its extreme continental climate has a double amount of the global warming rates. Our team is monitoring this trend since many years and document this by scientific publications. We have to go in regions, where no commercial tour operator is going and we have to use expedition conditions in a most comfortable way. Nevertheless sanitation and body hygiene is limited due to the extreme travel conditions.

The Team

Graduated researchers with long lasting experience belong to our team. Our team is organizing tailor made excursions and expeditions for foreign institutions like

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universities, societies or individuals. So we all together will guarantee a unique scientific-based tour in eastern Central Asia.

The team leader and your partner is Prof. Dr. Michael Walther environmental scientist and designated UNESCO Chair Holder of Environmental Sciences in Eastern Central Asia. He has travel experience since 1994 in Mongolia and is author of the DuMont Travel Handbook. Additionally he trains Mongolian tour guides of Mongolian tour companies. Dr. Dashtseren (Dashkaa) is Head of the Permafrost Division at IGG and specialised in glacier development with a lot of alpine climbing experience. He is bridging the nexus to local communities and grew up in the Altai mountains. Temujin (Temka) is technical climate expert and supports our team in logistic issues. Boogi is the soul of our field kitchen and throws together everyday wonderful meals. We all together can provide and want to share with you our excellent knowledge in geo-scientific, biological, ethnological and culture scientific issues of Mongolia.

Our Guests

In Ulaanbaatar we organise comfortable accommodation in our partner hotel **UB Grand Hotel** in the best central location of the city direct aside of the Parliament. For our tours you should be able to sleep in tents at most beautiful places mid in mother nature. Additional we can offer mountain

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biking, horse/camel riding and fly fishing (on Greyling and Siberian Trout) during the free days.

Travel conditions

Travelling in the Altai and Sayan Mountains you have to calculate with cold conditions with rain and snow and in lower regions there can be a lot of mosquitos. On the other hand it can become more than 25° C at daytime.

How to contact us

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