



## Mongolia River Outfitters

“The Guides for Ghenghis Khan’s Home Waters”

### **About MRO**

Mongolia River Outfitters is the "water" division of Nomadic Journeys, a tourism operator with two decades experience running adventure trips to Mongolia's outback. NJ receives over one thousand guests annually and provides ground operations for many of the globe's finest international tour companies. Through MRO, we offer our reputation and knowledge to clients wishing to experience comfortable wilderness river adventures.

MRO is easily Mongolia's best-equipped and most experienced float outfitter. Operating with a fleet of US manufactured AIRE rafts, we began fishing Mongolia in 1991 and have provided fully guided adventures since 1999.

The professional standards and levels of comfort are exactly what you would anticipate on any fine fly-fishing trip. The streamside ger (yurt) camps are comfortable and cozy. Each camp is complimented with outstanding staff and superb food. Our international guides are some of the finest in the business.

We have access to over 320 kilometers (200 miles) of river. On every MRO trip, guests float a fresh stretch of river daily without the hassle of a vehicle or motorboat shuttle. We are very proud that these are the first Mongolian streams designated catch and release, fly-fishing only.

### **Fishing**

Taimen (*Hucho taimen*) have bragging rights as the largest member of the salmonid family. They are renowned for their size, ferocious appetites and heart stopping strikes. Watching a four-foot salmon propel its entire body out of a gin clear stream to slam a dry fly and then playing this monster to hand is truly a life altering experience. Mongolian Taimen typically average 80 - 100 cm (over three feet). We commonly encounter monsters tipping 130 cm (over four feet) and the river holds behemoths reaching 150 cm (nearly five feet). Like most worthy ventures, catching Taimen is not always easy. The streams are generally crystal clear and the big fish can be finicky. Anglers can anticipate hooking up with at least one Taimen daily, while some boats have hooked more than a dozen big fish in a single day.

The streams produce phenomenal numbers of grayling and two types of trout, lenok (*Brachymystax lenok*) and the Amur trout (*Brachymystax savinovi*). The large Amur trout are a very special fish found only in a few Mongolian river systems. They are beefy with beautiful dark gold, brown, and black markings. They typically measure over 50 cm (twenty inches). With the right hatch, boats commonly land more than twenty of these wonderful fish in a single day. We highly encourage clients to make the most of this opportunity and target the Amur trout with light equipment. It may prove to be your best dry-fly fishing day ever.

### **Conservation**

MRO is recognized internationally as a leader in responsible tourism. Our angling programs exist to catalyze the protection of this remarkable place. As part of this effort, MRO initiated an ambitious fisheries conservation project with WWF and local community leaders. The result of this partnership is the establishment of the world's first Taimen Sanctuary covering all of MRO's water.

### **Website and Contact**

Our website ([www.MongoliaRivers.com](http://www.MongoliaRivers.com)) includes photos, contact information, and descriptions of the itineraries, fishing and travel arrangements. Please contact us at anytime to discuss possibilities. We have representatives in the United States, Europe and Mongolia.



Mongolia River Outfitters  
 "The Guides for Ghenghis Khan's Home Waters"

Autumn 2010 Fly Fishing Adventures  
 "Upper River Float"

Departure Dates

Upper River Float	Arrive Mongolia	Depart Mongolia
Departure One	9/1	9/9
Departure Two	9/15	9/23
Departure Three	9/29	10/7

This is the classic MRO trip. Great comfort. Great fishing. Fly-in/Fly-out to river. Six days of fishing. Cozy ger camps every night. Four boats and guides launch each day.

There is a maximum of 6 clients per departure.

The price is \$4,950.

The Itinerary.....

**Day 1** Arrival in Mongolia

Dates: Trip One: September 1, 2010  
 Trip Two: September 15, 2010  
 Trip Three: September 29, 2010

**Airport Arrival** The airport in UB was re-modeled a few years ago. The facility is very small and easy to navigate.

**Airport Transfer** After clearing immigration/customs, you'll be met by a member of Nomadic Journey's staff and transferred to your hotel. It's approximately a twenty-minute drive from the airport to city center.

**Guide** While in UB, a professional guide will be available to introduce you to the capital's very interesting monasteries, museums, performances, and shops. We highly recommend that you make full use of this complimentary service. The guides are wonderful folks and will help make your visit to Mongolia's capital much more enjoyable.

**Nomadic Journeys** Of course, your group will also have full access to the support services of Nomadic Journey's professional staff and large, international office located in downtown UB.

Dining: You will be responsible for dining while in Ulaanbaatar. There are now many very good restaurants in the city. Your guide will be more than happy to provide suggestions and help make arrangements.

Accommodation: Hotel, Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia

**Days 2 - 7                      On the River**

Dates:                      Trip One:                      September 2 - September 7, 2010  
                                 Trip Two:                      September 16 - September 21, 2010  
                                 Trip Three:                     September 30 - October 5, 2010

Travel to the River                      On the first morning, we leave the hotel after breakfast and drive about twenty minutes to the airport. Depending upon the week, passengers will be traveling either via fix wing (Cessna Caravan) or helicopter. The flight path goes directly over the beautiful Khan Hentii protected area, a 2.4 million hectare forested wilderness. The flight out to the river from the capital takes a bit over an hour. We are usually on the river before noon.

First Day Fishing                      We suggest that when you pack for the flight out to camp, you keep your fishing items handy. As soon as the aircraft lands, we usually take time for a light shore lunch and then load our fishing gear into the boats and start down the river. The vehicles that meet us at the landing zone will deliver the “non-fishing” luggage downstream at our first camp.

Upper River Journey                      On all MRO trips, you explore a new stream section every day without having to shuttle between camps. In the morning, you float with your guide directly from camp to fish fresh water and in the evening you arrive at the next downstream camp.

We establish a series of beautiful ger camps along the river each year. Although there are no “roads”, we situate most of the camps in locations where our able drivers can gain access. So while we’re off floating the river, the camp staff moves our personal belongings to the next location. When we float into camp, the stoves are lit, dinner is served, and our bags and beds are waiting in a completely new location.

With the “no drive” schedule, we spend our fishing time on the river rather than shuttling in a vehicle or motoring in a boat from a single camp to reach new water. The pace is relaxed and you’ll have plenty of time to get out and wade interesting stretches with your guide. We’ve found it’s best to cover an average of twelve kilometers (eight miles) of river each day. A hearty lunch is served streamside each day and there are plenty of drinks and snacks on the boats.

Camp Life                      We have operated distinctive cultural and natural history tours in Mongolia for nearly two decades and firmly believe our field camps are the best in the country.

Much like an African tented safari, the camps are rustic but very comfortable. Each campsite along the river is uniquely peaceful, designed to reflect Mongolian traditions and integrate with the country’s natural surroundings. They are completed with cook tent, hot showers, toilet facilities, and gers for eating and sleeping. There are no generators or stereos, only the sounds of the trees and the river, the lights of candles and stoves, and the sparkling night stars.

The cooks are veterans. Of course, the food is fresh, diverse and very well suited to Western tastes. The coffee is usually hot, the beer cold and the wine very palatable! The resident Buryat people are famous for their homemade bread, butter and blueberry jam. Breakfast and dinner are served inside a central ger completed with tables, chairs, and wood stove.

Clients are accommodated in spacious gers (yurts). With their wooden lattice frames and insulating felt walls, sleeping in a cozy Mongolian ger is a great experience. It's much like having a spacious streamside hotel room. Each accommodates two guests and is outfitted with simple table and chairs, wool carpets, two beds, linens, piles of blankets and a wood-burning stove. (You don't have to bring a sleeping bag). On cool mornings, one of the camp staff will enter at your request and light the stove before sunrise... a great way to start the day!

Hot shower facilities are located in specially designed large tents.... Same with the toilets. Both facilities are quite comfortable and private.

Mongolian culture venerates hospitality and the camp staff is no exception. They are wonderful, hard-working, fun, and highly attentive folks. You'll have a great time getting to know them and they will make your visit remarkable.

**Guide to Client Ratio** We usually run the upper river with four guides and six guests. This means that each guest enjoys several one-on-one days with a guide.

**The Water** These streams are amazingly well suited for fly-fishing. The river is wide and gentle. There are no rapids, but the flow is steady with loads of interesting features, including plenty of riffles and pools. Since there are no dams, river flow may fluctuate with the weather. However, the water is almost guaranteed to be gin clear. We frequently spot cast for big fish, much like chasing tarpon on the flats.

Over the period of the week, we generally hook progressively more and larger fish as everyone learns the secrets of Taimen.

**Wildlife** Besides the incredible fishing (of course) the healthy riparian habitat is good for wildlife. There are roe deer along the banks and moose, elk and bear on the upper and lower stretches. We occasionally see mink, sable and beaver. It's very common to hear wolves in the evenings and just about every year someone spots one of these shy animals sometimes actually crossing the river. Birds are generally the highlight, including numerous raptors, swans and Baikal teal spotted along the forested river bottom.

**The Nomads** Along the river journey, we will certainly encounter the unique Mongolian nomads. It's a marvelous event, getting to see and interact with these amazing people and their ancient ways. Watching the nomads dressed in their traditional costumes while they gallop across the wide open spaces to their brilliant white gers sometimes feels like we have had an chance to step back in time.

At your request, we will make an impromptu visit to private Mongolian homes and in the evenings we might be lucky enough to have a few of the locals show up for a session of traditional singing and dancing.

**Taking a Day Off** If you are in the mood to take a day or several days off the river, horse back riding, relaxing around camp, hiking in the countryside, visiting with the locals

or anything else that strikes your fancy, we can make vehicles and guides available.

Equipment Below, in the “Personal Section”, we discuss a bit about what you’ll want to pack for fishing equipment. Prior to your departure, we will provide you with a comprehensive trip planner, including a complete packing list.

Accommodation: Ger Camp

**Day 8 Return to UB from the River**

Dates: Trip One: September 8, 2010  
Trip Two: September 22, 2010  
Trip Three: October 6, 2010

Return to UB Your last morning at the river means rising at a decent hour, eating breakfast, packing your bags and preparing for the flight back to the capital city. You’re usually in town by early afternoon. Upon arrival, a Nomadic Journeys guide and driver will meet you at the airport and transfer you to the hotel.

UB Tour For clients who want to see what the big city has to offer, we will again arrange for a guide to take you out for a bit of sight-seeing and shopping. Depending upon what’s happening around town, we can usually help you to attend a special cultural event in UB that last night as well.

Overnight: Hotel, Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia

**Day 9 Departure from Mongolia**

Dates: Trip One: September 9, 2010  
Trip Two: September 23, 2010  
Trip Three: October 7, 2010

Departure A Nomadic Journeys guide and driver will meet you at the hotel to give you a ride to the airport and will make certain all goes smoothly with check-in and departure.

## Travel and Logistics.....

Office Support	<p>Our large Nomadic Journeys office is located right in downtown Ulaanbaatar (across the street from the Museum of Natural History). Our experienced Mongolian guides can provide assistance in more than a dozen languages. These folks support literally hundreds of international guests each year.</p> <p>Before your departure and again upon your arrival, we will supply you with contact numbers for key staff that will be available around the clock.</p>
International Flights	<p>Ulaanbaatar (ULN) is serviced by regular flights from Beijing (Air China and MIAT), Moscow, Irkutsk (AeroMongolia and MIAT) and Seoul (MIAT/Korean Air/AeroMongolia) and Tokyo (MIAT).</p> <p>If you would like assistance with making travel arrangements, please contact us. We have timed these trips to coincide with the most convenient air flight schedules to/from Mongolia through Beijing, Seoul and Moscow.</p> <p>You can anticipate paying approximately \$1,500 for a round-trip, economy class flight from the US or Europe. When we last checked, Korean Air was accepting Delta award points for travel to Mongolia. United, Lufthansa, Northwest and several other major carriers service Beijing.</p>
Visas	<p>US citizens do not require a visa for entry to Mongolia. Most other nationalities must secure a visa prior to arrival. Please contact us regarding the latest requirements.</p> <p>Currently, South Korea does not require a visa for most international visitors. Passengers transiting through Russia do not need a visa. UK and US citizens transiting through China generally need a visa for a stay of over 24 hours, most others do not. All foreign nationals staying in China or Russia need a visa. If you need a visa for traveling through these countries, please be sure to secure a double entry visa prior to departure.</p>
Transit Overnights	<p>Flights through Seoul and Beijing do not generally require an overnight stay. However, many guests decide to spend time in Beijing on their way to/from Mongolia. We visit Beijing frequently and would be happy to suggest hotels, offer logistical insights and, if you desire, direct you to reputable guides and tour operators.</p>
Gratuities	<p>Most guests choose to leave a gratuity of between 7% and 10% of the trip cost. Any tips are customarily given to the head guide on the last evening. The head guide is responsible for distributing gratuities to guides, drivers, cooks, and other camp staff.</p>
Beijing Train	<p>We really like the train to Beijing. Sitting in a private compartment, sipping a glass of wine and watching the Mongolian countryside transform from the northern steppe to the Gobi desert is a treat. Once you reach China, the landscape becomes much more pastoral (and crowded). The train usually makes a thirty-minute whistle stop at the Great Wall before arriving in downtown Beijing. The whole trip takes about thirty-six hours, depending upon the time it takes to switch the carriages (Mongolia and China have different gauge tracks) at the border.</p>

Taking the train usually means an extra day or two in Mongolia. The train books very early. However, with enough advance notice, we can easily arrange a trip extension for a very reasonable price, including hotels, guide, tickets and transfers to the station in Ulaanbaatar. Please contact us for details.

- Insurance**                      **This is an “at your own risk” adventure. We require that all guests carry their own comprehensive medical (health) insurance, medical evacuation insurance, and travel insurance. Most health insurance policies include medi-vac. Please verify this with your provider. International SOS offers reasonably priced overseas medical insurance and operates a health clinic and evacuation service in Mongolia ([www.internationalsos.com](http://www.internationalsos.com) and [www.sosmedica.mn](http://www.sosmedica.mn)).**
- Communication                Email, telephone, cell, fax, etc. is all readily available in Ulaanbaatar. Once outside of Ulaanbaatar, you are beyond the reach of all of these. In the field, we have a satellite phone at camp for emergency use only and the guides and drivers carry short distance radios.
- Hotel                                We will make certain you stay in the best hotel available. Several new hotels are completed each year, constantly improving the market. NJ knows them all very well. We will make a selection based upon a history of excellent service and a convenient location.
- Add-On Trips                 We operate trips all over Mongolia. If you want to take the train to Beijing, spend a couple of extra days in UB with a guide visiting cultural sites, volunteer on a research project, or take a couple of weeks riding a camel across the Gobi, please let us know and we can easily arrange a private trip for you.

## Personal Items.....

*This is very basic equipment guidance. Before departure, you will be provided with a comprehensive “Trip Planner” including a complete packing list. If you have any specific questions, please give us a shout.*

- Special Diet**                      The cooks have yet to meet a diet challenge they haven’t gladly been able to cater. We can easily accommodate vegetarians. Just please let us know well in advance if you have any special food requests.
- Weight Restrictions**            Due to weight restrictions for the flight from UB to camp, we require that all guests carry no more than forty-five pounds (45 lbs) or twenty kilograms (20 kg) of luggage to the river. Excess luggage may be left at the hotel in UB.
- Clothing**                            We suggest packing as if preparing to fish a river in Montana the first week in October. There might be snow, but it’s far more likely that the days will be sunny and warm (above 60 degrees F). The evenings will generally be cool, sometimes just below freezing. Fishing gear, waterproof jacket, fleece or wool clothing, synthetic long underwear, a good hat, gloves, and camp shoes should all be in your bag.
- Again, please refer to the comprehensive packing list we will provide when you sign up for the trip.
- Bedding**                            We supply the bedding, towels and extra blankets. You don’t need a sleeping bag, but you are of course welcome to bring one.
- Toiletries/Medicines**            If you need any of these things, bring them. We’re a long ways from a drug store. Sunscreen is a must. The Mongolian sunshine on the river can be intense. We also suggest toothpaste. Biting insects are very uncommon, but you might want to bring some bug juice in case.
- Reel, Rod and Line**                The “classic” set-up is one single-handed 9w rod for Taimen and a second 4, 5, or 6w rod for trout. (Taimen can be over fifty inches and forty pounds. Most trout will be over twenty inches and right around three pounds.) Some folks like to use spey rods, but only bring them as an “off boat” novelty. Make sure your reel has a functional drag and is fully loaded with backing. Large arbor reels are useful.
- Folks typically fish with a floating line (WF or Rocket) for both wet and dry flies. Sometimes we might suggest putting on some weight to go deep, so packing an ecologically sensitive variety is a good idea. Bring a good supply of leader material. Nine foot or longer leaders suitable for salmon or big steelhead work fine for Taimen. Normal trout leaders are great for the Amur trout. Bring clippers, hemostats and tippet. We have landing nets.
- We have extras of just about everything in camp. However, we recommend that you bring a back-up rod, reel and line just in case. Of course, one client broke his 9 w, picked up his 5 w, and straight away landed a monster Taimen.
- Flies**                                 We’ll supply the flies. We have our own Taimen and Mongolian trout patterns and tying equipment on hand. The flies are user friendly and not obnoxiously large. Just like any trout or salmon, you don’t need a giant fly to catch a giant

fish. If you have patterns that you would like to try, please bring them. Taimen fishing is an evolving pursuit and we're always amazed by what works.

Fishing Clothing

Bring a fishing vest/chest pack with a drying patch, waist or chest high breathable waders, and comfortable wading shoes. (Please, no spikes since they tear the boats). A waterproof jacket, good hat, and polarized sunglasses (on a keeper) are must haves.

Boat Gear

If you have a small waterproof bag that fits your personal "day's fishing" stuff, it's a good idea to bring it along. We have life jackets, coolers and plenty of extra dry bags on the boats.

Laundry

There are no "official" laundry services on the river. If you're in a pinch, the staff can do some washing and line drying for you. There are expedited services for hire at the hotel.

Luggage

Most guests find it convenient to pack with large, water resistant/proof, duffle bags or dry bags. It's a good idea to bring an extra bag that you can leave at the hotel with items you won't need on the river, including a change of clothes for the flight home.

## Price, Payment, Inclusions and Exclusions.....

Price	USD\$ 4,950 (per person, double occupancy)
Number of Rods	We are limiting this adventure trip to six (6) anglers per departure.
Reservation/Deposit	We request an advance payment of \$2,000 to hold your slot and payment in full of \$2,950 by June 15. All payments are non-refundable.
Meals/Drinks	All meals and beverages outside of Ulaanbaatar are included while in Ulaanbaatar. We will supply a variety of juice, soda, beer, wine, coffee/tea and wonderful Mongolian vodka at the river. We boil and filter fresh water and have bottled water for those who prefer.
Equipment	Prior to departure, we will provide you with a comprehensive “Trip Planner” that includes a complete packing list. You’ll need to bring personal items, suitable fishing clothing and tackle. We supply boats, bedding, towels, blankets, etc. You don’t have to bring a sleeping bag. We will have flies to share.
Transportation	This price includes only transportation within Mongolia.
Lodging	The price includes field accommodation and two nights lodging in Ulaanbaatar, exclusive of personal items such as telephone calls, laundry, and bar.
License Fees	The price covers all fishing licenses and access fees. Many fishing operators in Mongolia do not follow the law and several international anglers have been - most appropriately - detained, fined and their equipment confiscated. We follow a strict catch and release policy, including the use of single, barb-less hooks.
Insurance	All guests must secure comprehensive medical (health), evacuation and travel insurance prior to departure.
Staff	The price covers necessary support staff, including local guide conversant in English/Mongolian, cook, drivers, camp staff and English speaking fishing guides (2 clients/1 guide).
Taxes and Visa	Visa fees and airport departure tax are not included. The departure tax is generally rolled into the international ticket price. If not, anticipate paying approximately US\$13 at the airport.
Gratuities	These are not included.
Liability	<b>Mongolia is an “at your own risk” destination. The adventures described within this itinerary occur in extremely remote areas. You must recognize that traveling by boat, horse, vehicle, and aircraft in the developing world involves inherent risks. Serious accidents may happen and travel delays or alterations may be necessary. Participating in this trip means you recognize that known and unknown risks exist, that you agree to take those risks and that you release Mongolia River Outfitters, Nomadic Journeys, and any and all agents or associates from all liability.</b>