

# MONGOLIA RIVER OUTFITTERS

BURYAT HEADWATERS EXPEDITION



2023 TRAVEL & TACKLE PLANNER

GPS Coordinates: 49°01'12.98"N | 111°37'17.27"E

[WWW.THEFLYSHOP.COM](http://WWW.THEFLYSHOP.COM)

**Trip Questionnaire:** When you have completed your travel arrangements, please fill-out the Questionnaire and return it to us. Please click on the link below. This will take you an electronic questionnaire form that we ask you to complete and submit to The Fly Shop. Please be sure to click the **“Submit”** button at the end of the form. The information provided will help us -- and the outfitter best coordinate your trip.

THANK YOU! CLICK [HERE](#)

This packet should help you plan and prepare for your adventure with information covering:

- Trip Summary and Itinerary
- International Travel, Transfers and Logistics
- Contact Information
- Inclusions and Exclusions
- Required Pre-Departure Guest Information
- Insurance Requirements and Release Form
- Packing Guidance and Checklists
- Background Reading

To help make certain all preparations are completed well in advance, please provide the following information at your earliest convenience. Forms and guidance can be found in this document.

- Copy of Passport Details Page
- Signed Risk and Liability Release Form
- Flight Arrival and Departure Details
- Medical Conditions and Dietary Requirements

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact The Fly Shop® team.

## Trip Summary and Itinerary

This wilderness expedition explores the uppermost reaches of Mongolia's first taimen sanctuary. You'll fish through a diverse, mountainous landscape targeting, taimen, lenok, Amur trout, Amur pike and grayling. Come prepared for a real adventure!

Upon arrival in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia (UBN), an English-speaking guide and driver transfer guests to a comfortable hotel in the vibrant capital's center. After a relaxing evening in town, guests depart the city the following morning to head to the river. Please see the itinerary below for specifics.

MRO's "no shuttle" policy means that anglers experience a new stretch of river daily. Anglers float between tented camps strategically placed along the river. The trip is supported by a small camp team that transfers all of the equipment downstream using gear boats. Guests are accommodated in very large tent-tipis complete with cots and simple bedrolls. When we arrive at each evening's camp, the professional staff has our bags waiting, beds made, fires lit, and dinner prepared.

After a memorable week on the river, you'll return to UB for a final overnight in a comfortable hotel before the next day's airport transfer and departure from Mongolia.

There is a limit of 4 anglers per Buryat Expedition. No more than 20 guests will fish this entire stretch of river on any given year.

Small group size, remote location, incredible fishing, world-class guides, a unique culture, and outstanding wilderness accommodation all combine to make for a great trip.

**Note:** The Buryat Headwaters trip fishes upstream from both the Upper and Lower River trip sections. Expedition dates are timed to allow guests to continue downriver without interruption. If you continue downstream on an Upper River trip to fish the next stretch of river, you'll have an additional six full days on the water. If you link an Upper and a Lower River trip, you'll have an additional fourteen days on the water and totaling nearly 300 miles of river. There are very few places left on the planet where an epic 20+ day fly-fishing trip floating a new stretch of fantastic, wild river every day is possible. Please inquire if interested.

### Day 1 - Arrival in Mongolia

**Airport Arrival:** The airport is small and easy to navigate. The airport code for Genghis Khan International Airport is: **UBN**. There are direct flights from Seoul (South Korea), Istanbul, Frankfurt, Moscow, Beijing, and Tokyo (Japan). Most guests fly via Seoul, Istanbul, or Tokyo.

We recommend contacting our preferred travel agent Silva Jenabian at Protravel International. Monday–Friday, 9:00 am -5:00 pm (PST). Email:

[silva.jenabian@globaltravelcollection.com](mailto:silva.jenabian@globaltravelcollection.com) / [silva.jenabian@protravelinc.com](mailto:silva.jenabian@protravelinc.com)

Phone: (310) 271- 9566

**Airport Transfer:**

After clearing immigration/customs, you'll be met by an MRO driver and English-speaking guide who will transfer you to the hotel. It's an approximately 60-minute drive from the airport to the hotel in the city center.

**Support:**

Your group will have full access to the support services of MRO professional staff and international office located in downtown UB. They will be able to direct you to the capital's interesting restaurants, monasteries, museums, performances, and shops. We highly recommend that you make full use of this complimentary service. The office staff are wonderful folks and will help you make the most of your time in Mongolia's very unique capital city.

**Dining:**

You will be responsible for dining while in Ulaanbaatar. There are now many good restaurants in the city. The MRO team will be more than happy to provide suggestions and help make arrangements.

**Accommodation:**

Hotel, Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia

**Days 2 – 9: Eight Nights on the River**

**Travel to the River:**

We check out of the hotel after an early breakfast and begin the overland journey to the river. You may leave extra bags at the hotel.

The drive from UB into the headwaters is a unique opportunity to see a remote part of Mongolia. Come prepared for a long drive. Travel from the hotel to the upper camp is easily do-able in one long day...but we stretch the drive into two days to make it more comfortable and allow for ample time to get out and explore whatever you may encounter along the way.

Passengers will travel via comfortable 4x4's (generally Toyota Land Cruisers), with no more than two guests per vehicle. There will be plenty of drinks and snacks, picnic lunches, and lots to see along the way.

The first day you will travel from Ulaanbaatar to our Binder Ger Camp, located on the river. Most of this drive is on pavement, and you'll get typically arrive in camp mid-afternoon. You will also pass the famous Chinghis Khan complex which features the giant, 130 ft tall statue of the Great Khan on horseback. Many guests opt to get out and spend some time exploring the site before continuing on.

That evening you'll enjoy the comforts of the Binder Ger Camp. With their wooden lattice frames, wood burning stoves 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 with linens, and extra blankets. 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!

The second day will be a real 4X4 adventure, as you traverse mountainous terrain to access the uppermost camp. Have your cameras at the ready, as this is some of the most beautiful country on the planet! It's also the historical sacred home of Chinghis Khan and has changed very little since his childhood in this area over a thousand years ago.

You'll arrive to the camp early in the afternoon, where you'll have plenty of time to rig up and walk-wade fish around camp for a few hours before dinner.

### **River Journey:**

For the next six days, you will explore a new stretch of river every day. 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.

The gear is transported in separate boats. When we float into camp, the stoves are lit, dinner is served, and our bags and beds are waiting in a completely new location.

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 - ten 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:**

Much like an African tented safari, the ger 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. The food is fresh, diverse, and very well suited to Western tastes. The coffee is hot, the beer cold and the wine very palatable! Breakfast and dinner are served inside a dedicated dining ger (yurt) complete with tables, chairs, and wood stove.

The tipis accommodate two guests and are outfitted with chairs, wool carpets, two cots with pads, and extra blankets. **(Please bring a sleeping bag).**

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.

**The Water:**

MRO operates on what we believe to be the two best taimen rivers in the world. These rivers have incredibly healthy taimen populations and we work hard to protect these special fish. However, taimen fishing is not always easy. Come prepared for a super fun challenge.

These streams are amazingly well suited for fly-fishing. This is a low gradient but very featured river with an abundance of holding water. We fish only the prime season when the water is generally clear. However, gin clear water is not guaranteed. Wild taimen only survive in true wilderness. There are no dams and river flow may fluctuate substantially with the weather. When the water is clear, we frequently spot cast for big fish, much like chasing tarpon on the flats. This requires very stealthy and technical fishing. If storms do color up the river, don't worry! Taimen are aggressive predators and feed regardless of water clarity. 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. Birds are generally the highlight, including numerous raptors spotted along the forested river bottom. The watershed hosts many mammals, but these creatures are generally shy. There are roe deer along the banks and moose, elk, and bear on the upper stretches. In the early autumn, you may hear elk bugling. Occasionally we even hear wolves in the evenings. Mink, sable, and beaver are spotted from time to time. There are fantastically large Siberian marmots cheerily whistling along the banks.

**The Nomads:**

Along the river journey, and particularly on the drives to/from the river, we will encounter Mongolian nomads. 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 a chance to step back in time. It's a marvelous event, getting to see and interact with these amazing people and their ancient ways.

**Accommodation:**

Wilderness tipi tent camps.

**Day 10: Return to UB from the River****Return to UB:**

You will be traveling overland from the river to UB via comfortable 4x4, generally Toyota Land Cruisers. We'll have a picnic lunch en route and the vehicles are equipped with plenty of drinks and snacks. Anticipate arriving back at your hotel late in the afternoon with plenty of time to take a long, hot shower before heading out for dinner.

**Accommodation:**

Hotel, Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia

## Day 11: Departure from Mongolia

### **Departure:**

Your MRO guide will meet you at the hotel to give you a ride to the airport and make certain all goes smoothly with check-in and departure.

### **Note:**

All times are approximate and due to the remote nature of these trips, unforeseen circumstances such as weather, flat tires etc. can force trips adjustments. Traveling through the remote corners of Mongolia is a unique adventure and a big part of these expedition trips: so kick back, enjoy the ride and this amazing opportunity to soak up an exotic landscape and culture!

## International Travel, Transfers, and Logistics

### **Arrival/Departure Dates:**

All guests are responsible for making their own travel arrangements to/from Mongolia. Of course, if you have questions, please do not hesitate to contact us. We are happy to refer you to an experienced travel agent to assist with booking flights.

All trip dates start with the day of arrival to Mongolia and end with the day of departure from Mongolia. Please plan your flights to arrive on the first day of the trip and depart on the last day.

It is very common for fishing guests to arrive a day early and/or stay an extra night or two on their return. Additional hotel nights can be paid directly to the hotel or added to your MRO invoice.

Please avoid tight departure times. There are typically flights that leave late in the evening, just past mid-night. We do not recommend booking this flight on the day you plan to arrive back to UB from the river. This can make for complications if an unexpected delay should occur. It's better to enjoy the entire night in UB and catch a flight the next day.

### **Flight Details:**

When you make your international flight booking, please provide us with your arrival and departure flight details as soon as possible so we can arrange transfers.

### **International Flights:**

Ulaanbaatar is serviced by regular flights from: Seoul (MIAT, Korean Air), Istanbul (Turkish Airways), Tokyo (MIAT, AeroMongolia), Moscow (MIAT, Aeroflot), Beijing (Air China, MIAT, Cathay Pacific) and Hong Kong (MIAT, Cathay Pacific).

### **Passport Scan:**

At the time of your booking, we will request a scanned copy of your passport. This will be used to secure necessary fishing and border permits in Mongolia. Most guests simply use their phones to take a picture of their passport's details page and email it to Cheryl Burns at

The Fly Shop® - [travel@theflyshop.com](mailto:travel@theflyshop.com)

**Visa:**

Please contact us if you have any questions regarding specific requirements. As of this writing, US citizens do not require a visa for entry to Mongolia. Many other nationalities must secure a visa prior to arrival. There is a simple online e-visa application process: <https://evisa.mn/main>.

Most passengers transiting through large airport hubs (Incheon-Seoul, Istanbul, Narita-Tokyo, Sheremetyevo-Moscow, Frankfurt-Germany) do not need a visa unless you plan to leave the airport. If you need a visa for traveling through these countries, please be sure to secure a double entry visa prior to your trip.

**Passport Validity:**

Please note that Mongolia requires passports with six months validity remaining at time of entry. Be certain your passport is not set to expire within six months of your planned date of departure from Mongolia. If this is the case, you will want to secure a new passport prior to your trip.

**Communication:**

Wireless internet and cell service is readily available in Ulaanbaatar. Once outside of Ulaanbaatar, you are generally “off the grid” with no internet and/or cell coverage. In the field, we have satellite communications for emergency use only.

**Electricity:**

Mongolia uses European standard electricity with 220 volts and 2-prong outlets. Once in the field, there are no electrical services. Please be sure to bring enough fully charged batteries for your equipment. Many guests bring simple solar panels such as “Goal Zero” for their small devices. Ofcourse, these work great so long as the sun is shining.

**Hotel:**

Several new hotels are completed each year, constantly improving the market. We know them all very well. We will make a selection based upon a history of excellent service and a convenient location.

**Trip Extensions:**

If you would like to extend your trip to explore more of Mongolia, please let us know. We’re happy to help you with recommendations and/or make the necessary arrangements.

**Travel Support:**

If you have any questions about flight schedules, travel details, visa requirements, or any other trip logistics please contact our office. We are ready to help.



## Contact Information

We suggest that you give a copy of this page to your emergency contact person and carry a copy yourself during your travels to Mongolia.

The Fly Shop®  
4140 Churn Creek Road  
Redding, CA 96002  
(800) 669-3474 | (530) 222-3555 | [travel@theflyshop.com](mailto:travel@theflyshop.com)

Protravel International  
Silva Jenabian: Monday–Friday, 9:00 am -5:00 pm (PST)  
Email: [silva.jenabian@globaltravelcollection.com](mailto:silva.jenabian@globaltravelcollection.com) | [silva.jenabian@protravelinc.com](mailto:silva.jenabian@protravelinc.com)  
Phone: (310) 271- 9566

Fish Mongolia - Ganna Gaava  
[ganna@MongoliaRivers.com](mailto:ganna@MongoliaRivers.com)  
Mobile WhatsApp: +976.9906.9762

Fish Mongolia - USA Michael Caranci  
[Michael@MongoliaRivers.com](mailto:Michael@MongoliaRivers.com)  
Mobile WhatsApp: +1.530.604.2160

UB Office  
Our office is located in the center of Ulaanbaatar just a couple blocks from Sukhbaatar Square.  
7/3 Olympic Street Sukhbaatar District  
Centrum Center #504 Ulaanbaatar 14240 Mongolia  
Phone: (+976) 11.330360 | Fax: (+976) 11.321489  
General Email | [info@MongoliaRivers.com](mailto:info@MongoliaRivers.com)  
Web Address | [www.MongoliaRivers.com](http://www.MongoliaRivers.com) [www.FishMongolia.com](http://www.FishMongolia.com)

## Inclusions & Exclusions

### **Meals/Drinks:**

All meals and beverages outside of Ulaanbaatar are included. Only breakfasts 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 provide potable water at camp and request that you bring a personal water bottle. Please let us know if you have any special dietary requirements. We gladly cater to vegetarians but do require advance notice.

### **Equipment:**

You'll need to bring personal items, suitable fishing clothing and fishing tackle. **Please bring a sleeping bag for this trip, rated to (15F/-9C).** We supply all flies. Below you will find a complete packing list.

### **Transportation:**

This price includes all airport transfers and transportation to/from the river.

### **Lodging:**

The price includes field accommodation and two nights lodging in Ulaanbaatar, exclusive of personal items such as telephone calls, laundry, and bar.

All MRO guests enjoy single, non-sharing hotel rooms in UB. Accommodation at the river is based upon two anglers sharing.

### **License Fees:**

The price covers all fishing licenses and access fees. We follow a strict catch and release policy, including the use of single, barb-less hooks.

**Staff:** The price covers necessary support staff, including camp staff, cook and fishing guides (2 clients/1 guide).

### **Taxes & Visa:**

Visa fees and airport departure tax are not included. The departure tax is usually included in the international ticket price.

### **Gratuities:**

These are not included. Most guests choose to leave a gratuity of approximately 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.

### **Insurance:**

Each guest is personally responsible for their individual insurance coverage. Guests must carry and provide proof that they have secured adequate and comprehensive medical (health) insurance and medical evacuation insurance. Many guests choose Global Rescue for their evacuation insurance coverage. We highly recommend travel insurance.

<https://partner.globalrescue.com/theflyshop/>

**Liability:**

Mongolia is an “at your own risk” destination. You must recognize that this trip involves inherent risks and agree to take those risks. Weather and water conditions are unpredictable. The journey described within this itinerary occurs in an extremely remote area far from proper medical facilities. This trip is an adventure!

**Required Pre-Departure Guest Information**

**IMPORTANT:** Please provide the following pre-departure information as soon as possible. These details are needed for permits and other critical details.

Please email these items to Cheryl Burns our travel coordinator. [travel@theflyshop.com](mailto:travel@theflyshop.com)

She will confirm receipt. If you have any questions, please contact her directly. Most guests simply take a photo or scan documents with a smart phone.

**We need four basic pieces of advance information to properly prepare for your trip....**

- **Copy of Passport Details Page** - Please provide this information as soon as possible. An image of your passport details page is necessary to secure permits.
- **Acceptance of Risk & Liability Release** - Please complete, sign and forward the release form at least 60 days prior to departure. The form is included below. If you would like us to send a separate form, please let us know.
- **Flight Arrival and Departure Details** - Please provide flight numbers, carrier, and arrival/departure times at your earliest convenience. This is needed to arrange for airport transfers.
- **Medical Conditions/Dietary Requirements** - Please provide information regarding any relevant medical conditions and/or dietary requirements at your earliest convenience. Please be certain to bring any necessary medications along with you.

## Insurance Requirements & Release Form

This is an “at your own risk” adventure. You will be exploring one of the most remote corners of Asia on this adventure.

**Every MRO guest is personally responsible for securing full medical and medical evacuation insurance coverage for their entire trip.**

### **Medical Insurance:**

Please check with your medical insurance provider well before arrival to be certain you will be adequately covered.

### **Medical Evacuation Insurance:**

We recommend Global Rescue for medical evacuation insurance. Please carefully review the attached document and the Global Rescue website for more information regarding options.

The comprehensive Global Rescue Medical Evacuation Policy includes transportation and services to a hospital of your choice anywhere in the world. To sign up, please click the following link <https://partner.globalrescue.com/theflyshop/>  
(800) 381-9754 | INTL. +1.617.459.4200

- Global Rescue offers annual or 14-day coverage. Please be certain you are covered for the entire trip duration.

### **Travel Insurance:**

We strongly recommend trip insurance to protect your investment in this trip. All deposits are non-refundable and non-transferable. Global Rescue Medical Evacuation Policies may be combined with comprehensive trip insurance from IMG Travel Insurance. Trip Cancellation Insurance often needs to be obtained within 15 days of paying your first deposit.

Simply follow the link provided at <https://partner.globalrescue.com/theflyshop/>

Please sign and forward a copy (PDF or JPEG) to: Cheryl Burns at [travel@theflyshop.com](mailto:travel@theflyshop.com)

## Acceptance of Risk & Liability Release

Mongolia is an “at your own risk” destination. Traveling in Mongolia involves inherent and heightened levels of risks. Accidents and injuries may happen. Trip delays and/or alterations may be necessary. This includes, but is not limited to, the heightened risk of sickness, injury, disability, or death resulting from wading in wild rivers, use of remote camps, boats, livestock, motor vehicles both on and off roads, and chartered aircraft. Your adventure will occur in an extreme, challenging, and severe weather exposed environment far from satisfactory communication, transport, or medical services. Weather and water conditions are not dependable or predictable. Both may fluctuate and result in trip adjustments. The remote setting may result in increasing the impacts of medical or other emergencies, including significantly delaying response times and access to trained professionals.

Participating in this adventure means that you recognize and agree that: (1) both known and unknown risks exist; (2) you will participate in this adventure in full acceptance of these known and unknown risks; (3) you fully accept personal responsibility for any and all resulting events, including physical sickness, injury, disability, death and/or property loss or damage; and, (4) you fully release, hold harmless, and indemnify Mongolia River Outfitters/Fish Mongolia and any owners, staff, agent, guide, or other associate or related entity from any and all responsibility or liability arising from any cause whatsoever, including, but not limited to negligence on the part of these parties and associates. Your release expressively covers, but is not limited to, any and all injuries to your person or property. In the event of a positive Covid-19 test result, you take full responsibility for any and all related costs and impacts.

Please verify that you have secured adequate and comprehensive medical (health) insurance and medicalevacuation insurance for this trip:

**Health Insurance:**

Name of Insurance Provider \_\_\_\_\_

Policy Number \_\_\_\_\_

**Medical Evacuation Insurance:**

Name of Insurance Provider \_\_\_\_\_

Policy Number \_\_\_\_\_ Emergency Contact Person Name \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Relation \_\_\_\_\_

**Your signature represents that you have carefully read, understand, and fully accept all terms above:**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

## Packing Guidance & Checklists

**Packing List:** The checklists below are comprehensive. If you bring the items on the packing lists below, you should be all set.

If you have questions about any of this, please contact us. We want to help you make sure you have the right gear along.

### **Wash Equipment:**

Please thoroughly wash and dry all equipment, including lines, waders, and boots, prior to arrival. We want to make sure that nasty stuff like whirling disease and didymo don't make it into Mongolia's pristine waters.

### **Clothing:**

There might be snow or rain any month, but it's far more likely that the days will be sunny and warm. The evenings will generally be cool, sometimes just below freezing. Camp attire is very casual!

### **Metal Cleats:**

Please do not bring wading boots with metal cleats or spikes, as these tear up the boats.

### **Electricity:**

There is no electricity at the camps. Please bring required batteries, etc. Many guests now carry small solar chargers. These tend to work well.

### **Bedding:**

**Please bring a sleeping bag along on this trip.** Nights can get quite cold this time of year. We recommend a lightweight bag rated to at least 15F (-9C). If you sleep cold, please bring a warmer bag.

### **Medical & Toiletries:**

If you have a special medical condition, please let us know at the time of booking. Also, please make certain to pack all required medications. If you need any toiletries, bring them. We're a long way from a drug store. Sunscreen is a must. The Mongolian sunshine on the river can be intense. Biting insects are usually not an issue but bring some bug juice in case.

### **Nets & Life Jackets:**

We have nets. There are life jackets on the boats.

### **Laundry:**

There are no "official" laundry services on the river, but staff can do some limited hand washing and line drying for you in an emergency. There are expedited services for hire at the hotel.

**Luggage:**

You will want three bags for this trip:

- One bag to leave at the hotel in Ulaanbaatar with your “city” gear
- One large 100% waterproof bag for all of your “river” camp gear
- One small 100% waterproof “day” pack to carry what you want for a day’s fishing

Your large waterproof bag should be capable of holding your camp gear including sleeping bag, spare shoes, and other clothing. We suggest NRS Expedition Dry Duffel, Simms Duffel, Fishpond, or similar.

Your small waterproof day pack should be large enough to hold your personal daily fishing gear such as jacket, gloves, hat, camera, spare reels, water bottle, etc.

We recommend leaving a bag at the hotel with items you won’t need on the river, including clean clothes for the flight home.

**100% Waterproof:**

Please be sure your camp bags are 100% waterproof. And by that we mean submersible. On the river, your luggage will be transported primarily by boat. This means it will be exposed to the elements. Beware of non- waterproof zippers!

**Weight Restrictions:**

Please try to keep your luggage to a reasonable size. If you bring everything on the “personal gear” and “fishing gear” lists, you should be all set. All your gear needs to be transported from the river to your tent and back by our wonderful staff every day, so please try to travel with only the necessities and be conscious of overall weight. If you follow the list guidance and leave “city gear” in the UB hotel, you should easily keep your river gear to a minimum.

**Taimen Tackle:**

You will need to bring at least one taimen rod, reel, and line set-up. However, please feel free to bring as many rods, etc. as you would like. There’s plenty of room for extra rods on the boats. And the guides will carry your spare rod if wade/walking. You will want to have a rod that you can cast fairly large flies all day long comfortably. Guests typically fish taimen with anything between 7w – 10w. If you bring only one rod/reel, we suggest an 8 or 9 weight, single handed 9ft rod with a floating line.

We HIGHLY RECOMMEND that you bring two taimen rods/reels. This allows you to load one rod with a floating line and a second with a sinking line. This part of the river can be great for two handed rods. They don’t always work well out of the boats, but are fun to have for fishing around camp, doing a bit of wade-walking, etc. If you’re an enthusiast, bringing a two-handed switch or Spey rod along is very worthwhile.

**Taimen Lines:**

Most of the time we are able to fish floating lines for taimen. Any floating fly line designed for use in cold, freshwater will work. However, since we do sometimes fish larger flies it is a good

idea to have a fly line specifically designed for casting larger flies. Examples of good floating lines with aggressive forward tapers that will help with fishing larger flies include Scientific Anglers Titan Taper, or Airflo Cold Saltwater (aka Striper). For other lines using a standard weight forward taper you may want to consider over-lining your rod (for example, a 9-weight line for an 8-weight rod).

It's also a good idea to have a sink-tip line on a second reel or spool. Examples of good sinking lines include Airflo Depth finder big game 300 grain, Airflo Streamer Max or Streamer Max Short 280-380grain; and Scientific Anglers Sonar Sink 25 Cold 300-350 grain.

#### **Trout Tackle:**

You'll only need one rod/reel with floating line for trout. Most of your trout casts will be relatively short shots from the boat towards the bank.

Most guests prefer to use a standard 9-foot 4, 5, or 6 weight, single handed rod.

Again, there's plenty of room for rods. So, if you want to have more than one trout rod along, please do so.

#### **Leaders & Tippet:**

We generally have lots of tippet and leader on hand. However, we always appreciate it if you bring your own. Here are our suggestions.

#### **Taimen Leaders:**

For taimen leaders, we tend to just use straight shots of a quality 30-40lbs fluorocarbon. However, 7-9 foot tapered leaders of 20-30lbs test generally work well.

#### **Taimen Tippet:**

We suggest that you bring tippet spools in the 20-30lb range and one in the 30-40lbs range. If you intend to use straight tippet as leader – which we recommend – then just bring a couple extra spools in each category.

#### **Trout Tippet & Leader:**

For trout, just think about casting stimulators and terrestrials to big rainbows or browns in very clear water. So, 9-foot leaders, 2X (5-10lbs test). For tippet, a couple of spools of 6-8lbs (3X), and 10-12lbs (4X).

#### **Flies:**

MRO provides all flies. You do not have to bring any flies or tying materials. Most of the taimen flies we use are not available commercially. If you want to do some pre-trip tying, we would be more than happy to supply you with a couple of our “go to” patterns. They are fun and relatively easy to tie. Each year we learn plenty of new things about fishing this river including revelations from strange creatures that lurk in every angler's bug box. So, if you have an idea you'd like to try, we encourage you to bring it. PLEASE: Single, barbless hooks only. Be sure all your barbs are fully pinched down before arrival.



Taimen favor big splashy dry flies that imitate rodents or fleeing baitfish. They like big streamers that imitate small fish. for its life. Tube flies work great.

### Assortment of flies to bring for a week in Mongolia.

Size	Pattern	Qty
<b>Trout Dries</b>		
10 – 12	Parachute Adams	6
10 – 12	Para Royal Coachman or Wulff	6
10 - 12	Yellow Sallies	6
12	Purple Haze	6
12	Red and Yellow humpies	6
6 - 8	Chubby Chernobyl (black, tan, gold)	8
6 - 8	Hoppers (foam, Dave, Chernobyl)	8
6 - 8	Fat Albert (black, tan, yellow)	8
<b>Trout Wet</b>		
2	Egg Sucking Leech (black/orange)	6
6	Stone Fly (black, gold)	6
6	Bitch Creek/Wooley Bugger	6
10	Copper Johns (red, copper)	6
8	Prince Nymphs	6
<b>Taimen Flies</b>		
1/0 – 3/0	Pole Dancer (white, black)	6
4/0	Bad Attitude Baitfish (Tan, Black)	6
2/0 – 4/0	Cyclops (assorted colors)	4
2/0, 4/0	PSP Divers (assorted colors)	4
2/0, 4/0	Major Bunker	4
3/0	Blane Chocklett's Tbone (assorted colors)	4
2/0, 4/0	White PSP Bubble-Head	4
2/0	Lefty's Deceiver (White/Chartreuse)	4
2/0	Titanic Slider (assorted colors)	6
2/0	Gurglers (Tan, Black)	6

## Camp Equipment & Clothing

<b>Clothing</b>	
2	Fleece jacket and/or wool sweaters (suggest one heavy and one mid-weight)
1	Light synthetic or down fill jacket
1	Fleece or wool vest
2	Casual long-pants (suggest quick-dry or similar suitable for wet wading)
1	Casual short pants (suggest quick-dry since some folks like to swim during the trip)
3	Long-sleeve fishing shirts
6	Underwear
5	Socks (wool, smart wool, or similar)
2	Poly-pro wicking sock liners
2	Long underwear pant (two mid-weight poly-pro, smart wool, capilene, or similar)
3	Long underwear shirt (one heavy and two mid-weight smart wool, capilene, or similar)
1	Warm hat (fleece or wool)
1	Sun hat
1	(Optional) Sun gloves
1	Bandanna, light scarf, or muff
1	Warm gloves and/or mittens (suggest waterproof neoprene)
1	Camp shoes (waterproof or water resistant)
1	Camp sandals (suggest Chacos, Crocs or similar)
<b>Sleeping Gear</b>	
1	Lightweight sleeping bag rated 15F/-9C in waterproof stuff sack
<b>Sundries</b>	
1	Passport: With 6 months' validity
1	Headlamp or Flashlight
1	Camera
-	Necessary batteries and chargers. Suggest: Goal Zero, Anker or similar
1	Water bottle: We have potable water at the camps.
-	(Optional) A good book
-	(Optional) Notebook or journal
<b>Toiletries and Medicines</b>	
-	Required medicines
-	Toiletry Kit (suggest ecologically appropriate soap/shampoo)
-	Sunscreen
-	Insect repellent (suggest lotion variety)
<b>Luggage</b>	
1	100% waterproof "dry-bag" for your gear.
1	100% waterproof day bag for personal gear (e.g., camera, jacket, fly gear, etc.)
1	Bag to be left at hotel in UB with spare traveling clothes

## Fishing Equipment & Clothing

<b>Clothes</b>		
	1	Durable, breathable chest or waist-high waders with wading belt
	1	Cleaned non-felt wading boots (Please, no metal cleats or spikes.)
	1	Waterproof, breathable jacket with a hood
	1 – 2	Polarized Sunglasses with keeper: Suggest: brown/amber and yellow/rose
	-	(Recommended) Waterproof sports tape or stripping fingers. Suggest: Simms, Fishpond or Buff Stripping
<b>Rods, Reels and Lines</b>		
	1 - 2	Taimen Rod, Reel and Line. Two rods highly recommended.
	1	Trout Rod, Reel and Line
	-	(Recommended) Sinking tippet (10ft. or T-8, T-11, T-14) and/or sinking line on spare reel/spool for taimen.
	-	(Optional) Spare rods/reels/lines
<b>Sundries: OPTIONAL</b>		
	1	Clippers
	1	Small pliers for crimping barbs
	1	Floatant and/or Dry fly shake
	1	Fly box with capacity for large flies
	1	Wader patch kit
<b>Leader and Tippet: OPTIONAL</b>		
	10	Taimen Leaders
	-	Taimen Tippet. Suggest small spools of 20 – 25 lb. and 30 – 40 lb.
	10	Trout Leaders
	-	Trout tippet
<b>Flies: OPTIONAL</b>		
	-	Taimen: Splashy surface flies and fish imitating streamers.
	-	Trout: Hoppers, generals, small-streamers.

## Good Reads on Mongolia

**Wolf Totem** by Jiang Rong - a true story, autobiographical, written by a Chinese communist student sent to Mongolia in the 1960s to live with nomads. It is incredibly insightful in nomad herder culture, but also in the symbiotic nature of ecosystems in general. A must read.

**Genghis Khan and the Making of the Modern World** by Jack Weatherford - An in depth history of Genghis Khan and the rise of the Mongolian empire in and the long-term impacts to the world.

**Genghis Khan and the Quest for God** by Jack Weatherford - a sequel by the same author, with a specific focus on religion and how Genghis Khan's approach to religious freedom was instrumental in Thomas Jefferson's inclusion for freedom of religion in the framing of the US Constitution.

**Eagle Dreams: Searching for Legends in Wild Mongolia** by Stephen J. Bodio - this is another fun and interesting read, focused on the Eagle Hunters in western Mongolia, before they were “famous”.

**In Search of Genghis Khan: An Exhilarating Journey on Horseback Across the Steppes of Mongolia** by Tim Severin – A great read, and it parallels MRO/FM founder Mark Johnstad’s own personal journey crossing Mongolia on horseback in the 1990s, which inspired him to start what has become Mongolia River Outfitters to protect these two Mongolia rivers and the taimen.

Other Good ones...

**Dateline Mongolia: An American Journalist in Nomads Land** by Michael Kohn (A great guy and a good read.)

**Dragon Hunter: Roy Chapman Andrews and the Central Asiatic Expeditions** by Charles Gallenkamp. (This is a very interesting book about a very adventurous life.)

**Fly-Fishing the 41st: From Connecticut to Mongolia and Home Again: A Fisherman's Odyssey** by James Prosek (Yep. He was in Mongolia.)

**In the Empire of Genghis Khan** by Stanley Stewart

**In Secret Mongolia** by Henning Haslund. (Classic)

**Journey to Outer Mongolia**, William O. Douglas. National Geographic, p. 311, March, 1962. (Wonderful, historical perspective. One of the few articles that came out in the “West” during this period.)

**Lonely Planet Mongolia** by Michael Kohn (We like this because we get a flattering compliment!)  
**Lost Country: Mongolia Revealed** by Jasper Becker

**Lost in Mongolia: Rafting the World's Last Unchallenged River** by Colin Angus

**Men and Gods in Mongolia** by Henning Haslund. (Classic)

**Modern Mongolia: From Khans to Commissars to Capitalists** by Morris Rossabi

**Modern Mongolia: Reclaiming Genghis Khan** by Paula L. W. Sabloff

**Mongolia's Wild Heritage -- Biological Diversity, Protected Areas, and Conservation in the land of Genghis Khan** by Chris Finch et al. (Mark likes this one because his photos on the cover. Really.)

**The Bloody White Baron: The Extraordinary Story of the Russian Nobleman Who Became the Last Khan of Mongolia**, James Palmer. 2009. (Great story about a grim and bizarre period.)

**The Khan Dynasty Series** by Conn Iggulden (this is a series of historical fiction books based on the Khans, starting with Genghis Khan as a young boy. Very bloody, very entertaining!)

**Time Catches Up with Mongolia**, Thomas B. Allen. National Geographic, p. 242, February 1985. (Another good historical perspective from the late communist period.)

**Time Traveler: In Search of Dinosaurs and Other Fossils from Montana to Mongolia** by Michael Novacek (Mark N. and Mike N. are following in Chapman's foot-prints and going further.)

**To the Back of Beyond: An Illustrated Companion to Central Asia and Mongolia** by Fitzroy Maclean. (Classic.)

**Wild East: Travels in the New Mongolia** by Jill Lawless

**Women of Mongolia** by Martha Avery