

# MONGOLIA RIVER OUTFITTERS

UPPER & LOWER RIVER FLOAT



## 2024 PRE-TRIP TACKLE & TRAVEL PLANNER

GPS Coordinates: 49° 1'12.98"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 Check-Lists
- 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

Two weeks fishing through the world's first Taimen Sanctuary... casting for taimen, Amur trout, lenok, grayling, and Amur pike.

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.

Anglers float in Clackacraft Drift Boats between unique ger and tent-tipi camps strategically placed along the river. The "no shuttle" policy means that anglers experience a new stretch of river daily. Our gear is transported separately. So, when we arrive at the evening camp, the professional staff has our bags waiting, beds made, fires lit, and dinner prepared.

After two memorable weeks 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.

The entire angling experience – remote location, incredible fishing, world-class guides, a unique culture, and outstanding wilderness accommodation - makes this trip feel like an absolute privilege.

### 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 a member of Mongolia River Outfitter's staff and transferred to your hotel. It's approximately a sixty-minute drive from the airport to your 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 – 16:** Fifteen Nights on the River

**Travel to the River:** We check out of the hotel after an early breakfast and begin the overland trek to the river. You may leave extra bags at the hotel.

The drive from UB to the upper river is a unique opportunity to see a remote part of Mongolia. It's about 250 miles (400 km) from the hotel to the upper camp, located on the river near the small community of Binder. Most of this drive is on pavement, and typically takes about 6 hours. In the morning 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.

Passengers will be traveling via comfortable 4x4's (generally very kitted out 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.

You'll arrive to the camp in time to get settled in, rig up for your week's fishing, and possibly even make a few casts before dinner.

**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.

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.

**Walk/Wade Day:** Following your first six fishing days, you will spend one full day (two nights) at Camp 6. This is a great midweek break, with all day for leisurely walk-wade fishing, laundry, etc, before continuing your downriver journey.

**Camp Life:** On this trip, guests will stay in two types of accommodation. Ger camps and tipi camps.

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, wall tents or tipis 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.

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 tents (tipis) are also very comfortable. The tipis are over ten feet tall and nearly eighteen feet wide. Both the gers and the tipis accommodate two guests and are outfitted with simple table and chairs, wool carpets, two cots with pads, and extra blankets. Nights can be cold this time of year in Mongolia so **we do recommend bringing a sleeping bag on this trip.**

Hot shower facilities are located in specially designed gers or large tents. Toilets facilities are set up in spacious tents privately situated a short walk from the camps. 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.

**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:** Ger and Tipi Tent Camps

### **Day 17-18: Return to UB from the River**

**Return to UB:** Your adventure will continue as you explore the traditional Mongolian Steppe over the course of two days on your return to civilization. The drive is easily do-able in one long day...but we stretch it into two days to make it more comfortable and allow for ample time to enjoy whatever you may encounter along the way.

Passengers will be traveling via comfortable 4x4's (generally very kitted out 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 cover half the distance as you leave the mountains and emerge onto the great Mongolian Steppe. Have your camera ready, as you will pass through the Toson-Khulstai Biosphere Reserve, a UNESCO World Heritage Site and home to herds of Mongolian gazelle, endangered white naped crane, steppe eagles, and Siberian marmot.

We will either overnight in a ger camp along the steppe, or in a hotel in the small town of Unduurkhan. The next day will be a similar length journey, almost all on paved roads, so you will reach the hotel in UB early in the afternoon.

**Accommodation:** Ger camp or hotel in Unduurkhan, and hotel in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia

### **Day 19 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 (airport code UBN) is serviced by regular flights from: Seoul (MIAT, Korean Air, Asiana Airlines), Istanbul (Turkish Airways), Tokyo (MIAT, AeroMongolia), Frankfurt (MIAT), 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. Guests are welcome to bring their own sat-phones if so desired.

**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: Included Hotel:** We typically accommodate our guests in the Bayangol Hotel. The hotel has a long history of excellent service and a convenient location close to several great restaurants, shopping, and cultural venues. The property is less than a five minute walk from Sukhbaatar Square, the center of modern Mongolia. The Bayangol remains a favorite for many of our returning guests and we foresee continuing to use it. However, this is a mid-century hotel with a lot of “charm” and a few quirks.

**Up-Charge Options:** For those who may want more modern accommodations, we recommend the following options. An upcharge rate (typically US\$ 125-300/night) will be applied depending upon property, room, and occupancy. If you are interested in one of these, please inquire so we may make arrangements well in advance.

**Mid-Range:** The Blue Sky Hotel and Best Western Tuushin are high-rise properties located in central UB. Both offer reliably good amenities and services.

**Luxury:** The Shangri-la Hotel is located five minutes’ walk from central UB. Part of the global luxury hotel group, the property offers high-end facilities and services.

**Trip Extensions:** If you would like to extend your trip to explore more of Mongolia, we’re happy to help you with recommendations. There are some great ideas/options to explore for non-angling adventures with our friends at Nomadic Journeys: [www.nomadicjourneys.com](http://www.nomadicjourneys.com).

**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.

Please feel free to contact us here at The Fly Shop at any time. Our toll free number is 800-669-3474.

### **The Fly Shop®**

(800) 669-3474 | (530) 222-3555 | [travel@theflyshop.com](mailto:travel@theflyshop.com) | web: [www.theflyshop.com](http://www.theflyshop.com)

### **Protravel International**

Silva Jenabian

Monday–Friday, 9:00 am -5:00 pm (PST)

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UB Office: Our office is located in the center of Ulaanbaatar just a couple blocks from Sukhbaatar Square.

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Chinggis Ave 20, ULN, Mongolia  
Phone: (+976) 11.330360

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 and 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/-5C). 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 and 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. <https://partner.globalrescue.com/theflyshop/>

We highly recommend travel insurance.

**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....**

**1. 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.

**2. 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.

**3. 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.

**4. 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 and 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 and 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 expressly 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 medical evacuation 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 and Check-Lists

**Packing List:** The check-lists 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 they tear up the boots.

**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/Towels: Please bring a sleeping bag along on this trip.** Nights can get quite cold this time of year. We suggest bags rated to at least 32F/0C if you are traveling in September and at least 15F/-9C if you are traveling in October. If you sleep cold please bring a warmer bag. Basic Linens, Blankets, and Towels are provided.

**Medical and 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 and Life Jackets:** We have nets. There are life jackets on the boats.

**Finger Protection:** Taimen fishing requires significant stripping, and once hooked a large taimen is very strong. Finger burns/cuts do happen. It is highly recommended that you bring some finger protection. Many fishing gloves have padded fingers. Some great "stripping finger guards" are even available now. And flex-wrap or athletic tape are great to have in your kit.

**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 anything you do not need on the river
- One large 100% waterproof bag for all of your river/camp gear
- One small 100% waterproof day pack to carry what you need on the river each day.

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 of 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 8w – 10w.

If you bring only one rod/reel, we suggest an 8 or 9 weight, single handed 9 foot 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.

Spey/switch rods are not necessary. These long rods typically don't work well fishing from the boats, but if you're an enthusiast, bringing a two handed switch or spey rod along can be a lot of fun for fishing around camp, doing a bit of wade-walking, etc.

**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. We've found the Scientific Anglers Titan Taper to be a great fly line for taimen fishing. Similar freshwater lines with aggressive tapers can also work well. 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 is a very good idea to have a sink-tip line on a second reel or spool.** While floating lines are usually the norm, there are weeks (especially if the water is high or it gets really cold) when having a sinking line can be very advantageous.

Examples of good sinking lines include: Scientific Anglers Sonar Sink 25 Cold (300-350 grain), Scientific Anglers Sonar Trout Express (275 grain), Airflo Depthfinder big game (300 grain), Airflo Streamer Max or Streamer Max Short (280-380 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 5, or 6 weight, single handed rod.

**Leaders and 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 and 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. Think grayling or trout skipping across water surface fleeing for its life. Tube flies work great. Single hooks only, no tandem hooks. The trout and grayling are more straightforward. Our go to top water trout fly is a foam hopper or Chubby Chernobyl.

**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 and Clothing

\*Note: the later in the season, the more the likelihood of cold weather. For October trips especially, plan on bringing a few extra layers.

<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	(Suggested) Lightweight sleeping bag with waterproof stuff sack rated to at least 32F/0C in September and at least 15F/-9C in October.
<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 and 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>		
	-	Taimen Leaders
	-	Taimen Tippet. Suggest small spools of 20 – 25 lb. and 30 – 40 lb.
	-	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