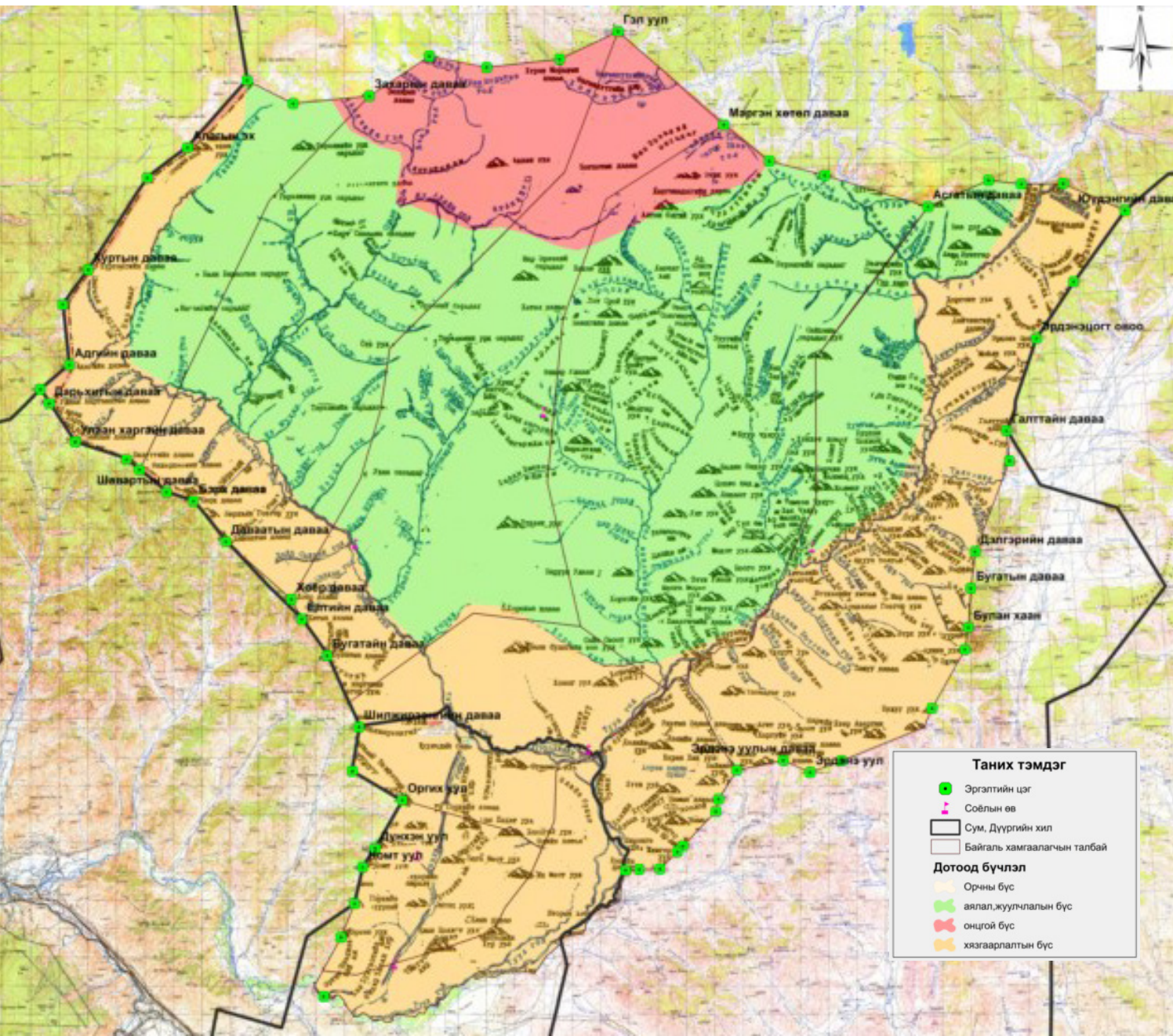


Map of Gorkhi Terelj National Park



What you can do to protect this protected area

As a visitor you will have an impact one way or the other on the protected area you visit. But you can do a lot to help this wilderness area remain pristine, and make sure that other visitors can have a positive experience too. Please follow the following guidelines:

- ☑ **Stay on the trail:** Straying from the trail can cause erosion and other environmentally harmful impacts.
- ☑ **Respect nature and wildlife:** Viewing animals from a safe distance is fine; touching, feeding, or cornering them is not. Do not remove any plants, insects or rocks.
- ☑ **Pack it in, pack it out:** Everything you take along on your trip should be brought out of the area and be disposed at an official waste collection point either in Nalaikh or Ulaanbaatar. Inspect your campsite and rest areas for trash or spilled foods.
- ☑ **Reduce waste:** Avoid to bring products with excess packaging. Repackage food to minimize waste.
- ☑ **Protect local water systems:** Do all your washing and cleaning well away from rivers and lakes.
- ☑ **Human-waste treatment:** There are plenty of tour camps, where you can use the toilet. If you are in area without any tour camps or toilets in sight, dig a 15 cm (6") deep hole at least 50-60 m away from campsites and water sources and bury your excrement there. Carry a trowel for this purpose.
- ☑ **Control of pets:** It is not allowed to bring dogs or other pets into protected areas.

You may familiarize yourself with the principles of the Leave No Trace at <https://Int.org>

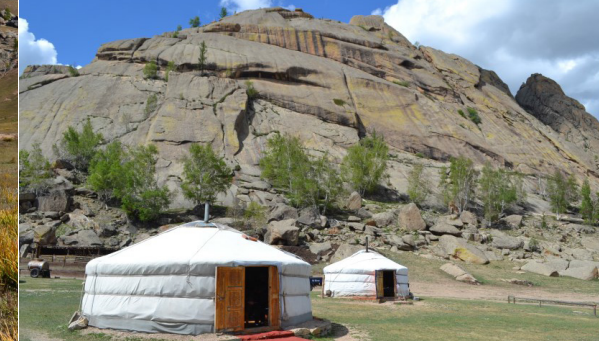
EXPLORE THE GORKHI TEREJ NATIONAL PARK



Gorkhi Terelj
National Park

Mongolian
Protected Areas





Why are protected areas and their ecosystems so important?

Protected areas are defined geographical spaces dedicated to the long-term conservation of nature with its related ecosystem services and cultural values. In Mongolia, there are 103 protected areas of four categories: special protected areas, national parks, nature reserves and natural monuments. These protected areas are a safe haven for wild plants and animals, and they help with climate change adaptation. They provide the possibility for visitors to re-connect with nature and offer many benefits that human life depends on. Moreover, natural sites have a spiritual value worth protecting.

An ecosystem is a dynamic complex of plant, animal and micro-organism communities and their non-living environment that interact with and depend on each other. Ecosystems may be small and simple like a pond, or large and complex like a forest. Everything is connected. For example, they support a wide variety of flowers, which are fed on by insects like butterflies and bees. Butterflies and bees, in turn, provide food for animals such as spiders and take care of the pollination and reproduction of fruits and other plants. Ecosystem services are the goods and services provided by a healthy ecosystem, e.g. medicine, water and air purification, soil protection, food or fodder, etc.

Humans are part of these links. People depend on biologically diverse and functioning ecosystems and the latter's services for their own survival and livelihood. For example, ecosystems have an economic value for communities in terms of food security, agricultural, animal husbandry or forestry products, building or handicraft materials, income opportunities, etc.

For more information please visit the DPAM website.



Explore Gorkhi Terelj National Park

Just an hour's drive away from Mongolia's capital, Ulaanbaatar, the Gorkhi-Terelj National Park is the perfect destination for a short getaway. The National Park is characterized by unique rock formations and alpine scenery, with the Altan-Algii Mountain marking the highest point with 2,645 meters in altitude. Designated as protected area in 1994, the national park spans over 293,186-hectare of land. The park administration aims at protecting the natural rock formations, ecosystem services, drinking water resources, natural phenomena and processes. At the same time, it strives to improve the environmental awareness of the local population in order to safeguard the sustainable use of natural resources and develop sustainable tourism.

Landmarks

Rock formations

The most characteristic features of the Gorkhi-Terelj National Park are its rock formations created by nature through weathering of the granite rocks. Many rock formations look like animals and plants such as mushrooms, or a camel. The most famous one was named Turtle Rock for the shape it resembles. Another famous rock formation and tourist attraction is Cave Rock, in which tools from the Stone Age were found. Cave Rock or 100 Lama Rock is known for the 100 lamas who hid inside the cave during the anti-religious purge in the 1930s.

Cultural highlights

Gunjiin Sum is an important monument of Mongolia's 18th century architecture. The temple ruins are the tomb of the Manchu princess Khicheengui Amirlangui, who was married to the noble lord Dondovdorj Noyon in 1697 and killed in 1740,

because she no longer complied with Manchurian orders. Dondovdorj ordered the construction of the temple for his murdered wife. The temple can best be visited by checking out the horse-riding route leading to it. The Ariyabal Temple, built 1998-2004, is relatively new. Walking up the 108 stairs up to the temple is worth taking - it is a wonderful place for worship and amazing views over the mountains of the southern part of the National Park.

Six Facts to Know about the Gorkhi-Terelj National Park

1 - UB relies on drinking water from the Terelj river

The Khentii Mountains form the watershed between the Arctic Ocean and the Pacific Ocean basins. Important rivers originating in the range include the Onon, Kherlen, Yeruu and Tuul. The water supply of Ulaanbaatar depends completely on the Tuul river and its tributaries. Don't forget that whatever ends up in those rivers may spoil the tap water at your home in the capital.

2 - The Park has more wildlife than you think

Depending on the time of the year, the Gorkhi-Terelj National Park offers a lot of colorful flowers. The Park is home to 300 species of plants, of which 84 species are identified as medicinal plants. When exploring the Park quietly you may also encounter wildlife. While a moose is a rather rare sight, you may see a deer, marmot or ground squirrel. The National Park is home to over 50 species of mammals, 250 bird's species and 180 migrant bird species, 3 types of snakes and 20 species of fish of which some are endangered.

3 - Trees produce the air you breathe

Forests are not only a perfect picnic spot, but also absorb pollutants and provide the oxygen we breathe. The Gorkhi-Terelj National Park is characterized by boreal forests and forest steppe. Forests in the National Park are mostly coniferous forests with larch, Siberian pine trees and others.

4 - The Park reflects Mongolian traditional lifestyle

You may have grown up in the countryside or spent summers at your grandparents learning about the ancient Mongolian way of living. The Park is home to people, who have been living in this area for decades. Respect these people and honor the Mongolian traditional lifestyle.

5 - An area full of history

Did you know the area used to be a battleground? In 1696, the Battle of the Hundred Trees between a Dzungar-Mongol army and Qing armies took place on the banks of the upper Terelj river. Another historic development took place in the area in the 18th century. Before the capital of Mongolia settled at its current location it was a mobile settlement changing locations constantly. From 1733 to 1734 the area where the Tuul and Terelj rivers meet, was home to the capital settlement.

6 - Permanent tour camps in Limited Use Zone only

The National Park is divided into the limited use zone, the tourism zone and the special zone. While many tour camps were built in the limited use zone, the Mongolian Law on Special Protected Areas does not permit any permanent construction in the tourism and special zone. While all tourism development is prohibited in the special zone, the tourism zone can be developed for activities such as horse riding and hiking tours.