

- Хан Хэнтийн тусгай хамгаалалтын газрын хил
- Том голууд
- Жижиг голууд
- Сумын хил
- - - - Аялын зам

Safety precautions









Brown Bears do not see humans as potential prey. However, try to avoid bear encounters as their behavior can be unpredictable. Ticks that can transmit diseases are mainly active between March and August. Protect yourself by wearing long trousers tight at the ankle and using insect repellent. Mosquitos, horse flies and flies are abundant in the summer months, and can make horses nervous and thus pose a danger. Bring a first Aid Kit. There is no phone reception. Take a satellite telephone with you. In case of an emergency, call 101.

Climatic conditions

The region is characterized by very cold winters, often stormy spring, considerable temperature fluctuations and lots of rain in the summer months so that use of the trails can be extremely difficult due to deep mud. Bring suitable clothing for a wide range of weather and temperature. Consult with a local guide to determine a route based on weather conditions and time frame.

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:** Leaving the trail while hiking and riding can cause erosion, damage plants and disturb animals.
-  **Respect nature and wildlife:** Viewing animals from a safe distance is fine; touching, feeding, or cornering them is not. Do not remove any plants, animals, or rocks. Dogs or other pets have to stay outside the Protected Area.
-  **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. Do not throw away excess food as it may harm animals.
-  **Protect local water systems:** Use only biodegradable soaps and shampoos. Do all your washing and cleaning far away from rivers and lakes.
-  **Firewood collection:** Use a camping stove for cooking. If you need to make a fire, collect only fallen dry branches, that you can break by hand.
-  **Campfire placement:** Use designated places if you have to make a fire. In the vicinity of the Khagiin Khar Lake, using fire rings is obligatory. Never make a fire during wildfire seasons.
-  **Campsite placement:** Camp in the designated camp spots. If you can't reach a designated spot, choose a site with a flat, hardened surface. Horses should be kept at a distance from campsites. In the vicinity of the Khagiin Khar Lake, camping is allowed in designated areas only.
-  **Human-waste treatment:** Dig a 15 cm deep hole at least 50-60 m from campsites and water sources and bury your excrement. Carry a trowel for this purpose.

EXPLORE THE KHAN KHENTI STRICTLY PROTECTED AREA



Khan Khentii Strictly Protected Area



Mongolian Protected Areas



giz Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH





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. Often, they support a wide variety of flowers, which are fed on by butterflies, bees, etc. Insects, 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.



Exploring the Khan Khentii Strictly Protected Area

Khan Khentii Strictly Protected Area (KKSPA) is a densely forested wilderness area that was designated as a State Protected Area in 1992 in order to protect the rich biodiversity of the Khentii Mountains and the headwaters of Tuul, Onon, Kherlen, Yeruu and other important rivers. The area is of great cultural and historical importance as it is associated with the life and death of Chinggis Khan. In 1995, it was designated as a Strictly Protected Area, and in 2012 its territory was expanded considerably. Today, the area covers large parts of eight soums of three aimags totaling nearly 1,75 million hectares.

Tourism

Tourism development and touristic activities within Khan Khentii are strictly regulated, and restricted to a few areas in the outer, limited use zone. There is next to no touristic infrastructure within the boundaries of Khan Khentii. Touristic activities are supposed to mainly take place in the buffer zones and should be organized by buffer zone community groups that have an agreement with the protected area administration. Two approved touristic routes exist as outlined below.

Khagiin Khar Lake Route Network

Various horse-riding and hiking routes amount to almost 300 km. They start in the north of Gorkhi-Terelj National Park and lead through unspoiled wilderness to and around Khagiin Khar Lake. The alpine lake at an altitude of 1,817 meters is surrounded by dense forests and peaks. Camping is strictly limited to designated campsites. It is advisable to hire a guide.

Burkhan Khaldun Panoramic Routes

In the buffer zone of Mungunmorit Soum, two routes are currently being established and will be completed in early 2021. Mongolia's most sacred mountain, Burkhan Khaldun, can be viewed from the routes. One horse-riding route leads from Khoriud Ranger Post to the top of Targatain Tegsger Mountain (35 km one-way), and a hiking route leads from Tsagaan Aral to Erdene Mountain (15 km one-way). Camping is strictly limited to designated campsites.

Landmarks in the Eastern Buffer Zones

The Eastern buffer zones have attractive landscapes and numerous significant cultural and historical sites to offer.

Baldan Bereeven Monastery

Established in 1654, the monastery grew to be one of the largest and most important in Mongolia at its height in the mid-19th century, when it hosted up to 8000 monks. The original temple complex was demolished during the purges of the 1930s but three temples have been restored, including the remains of nearly 50 temples, stupas and other edifices. The monastery is backed by the cliff of Munkh Ulziit Mountain, where many cliff carvings, stone carvings, mantra inscriptions, and a large Soyombo symbol can be found.

Rashaan Khad / Binderya uul / Almsgivers' Wall

About 45 km to the southwest of Batshireet Soum center in Khentii Aimag, a number of historical and archeological sites can be found. The Uglugchiin Wall dating back to the 13th century is made of natural rocks and stones. A large stone inside the wall is considered to be known as Chinggis Khan's horse hitching pole.

Five Facts to Know about the Khan Khentii Special Protected Area

1 - Life of every second Mongolian depends on KKSPA

More than half of Mongolia's total population (1.8 million) depend on rivers originating in the protected area for their drinking water. The Khentii range forms the watershed between the Arctic Ocean and the Pacific Ocean basins. The springs of the Onon and Tuul Rivers are within a few kilometers from each other, but their waters end up in different oceans.

2- A protected area without humans

KKSPA is one of few protected areas in Mongolia without a human population. Therefore, it is managed for wilderness preservation.

3 - Khan Khentii Mountains are part of Mongolia's history

The mountains are considered the source of three rivers in the Mongolian secret history, and are associated with Chinggis Khan. In 1227, Otochi, a lord of Urianhai, proclaimed the headwaters of these rivers as ikh khorig, or a great taboo. This created the first protected area on Mongolian territory.

4 - Largest permafrost area of Eastern Mongolia

Khan Khentii is not only the largest permafrost area of Eastern Mongolia but marks the southernmost extension of the East Siberian Taiga, and the southernmost habitat for wolverine.

5 - Mongolia's highest and rarest fir trees grow in KKSPA

The biggest population of Mongolia's highest and rarest fir tree grows in Khan Khentii. In ancient times, before Buddhism became part of Mongolian culture, shamans burned fir tree needles during certain ceremonies.