

Genghis Khan Retreat

Environmental and Social Sustainability Policy



Genghis Khan Retreat is located within Mongolia's Orkhon Valley — a UNESCO World Heritage site. Our approach to environmental and social sustainability therefore has to follow all best practice models.

The Retreat has over 30 *gers* of differing sizes and configurations. In winter, when the camp is not being utilised, it literally disappears, leaving no hard footprint or scar on the fragile landscape. This is as light a footprint as eco-tourist models can get: here one minute, gone the next, with zero use of concrete or hard foundations.

The project originally started as a social initiative to maintain and preserve the local nomadic culture. Sustainability within the community was therefore a focal point of this scheme from the outset — an intention we have not lost sight of.

Our project directly employs and sustains and 30 local nomadic families year-round. When the camp is not in use, the same families are committed to the husbandry of our herds. We rear all own animals — sheep, goats, yaks, horses — and use local dairy produce. The same families are also employed as painters and weavers, to ensure our camp's furnishing is as local, authentic and artfully created as possible.

Year-round, all animals are catered to by vets, which is not the norm for Mongolia. This is to ensure their general wellbeing and good health.

Wages are fair, equitable, and evenly distributed between men and women, with salaries in proportion with any price rises we charge our guests. This is a collective effort to ensure the camp's long-term sustainability. Each year, significant funds are immediately re-invested to support young Mongols as part of our Young Riders of the World, which is an official Mongolian NGO. The Young Riders of the World Charity has been operating for some 15 years and hosted nearly 1000 children. Local children are provided with daily classes in English, art, music and riding.

So far, we have supported four Mongol students with high aspirations, funding their university education either in Ulan Bator or in nations such as Singapore and New Zealand where the skills they learn are brought back to re-educate other locals. Between 20 to 40 herder children a year attend our month-long riding camp, at no fee to them. We sustain this through donations from our international guests.

The retreat relies on four solar panels to power the two fridges needed to cool and chill groceries as well as provide some power to charge items such as cameras.

In the hours of darkness, all the *gers* are heated with wood-fired stoves that provide warmth to the already heavily insulated felt *gers*. Wood is sustainably sourced from

nearby Karakorum.

All our waste is separated into organic, recyclable and general household. Throughout the summer, staff members 'litter-pick' the local area, up to 25 kms from the camp. The Retreat asks all our guests to limit the amount of polluting materials they bring along with them.

Water usage is limited due to there not being running water. We rely on a well. Lavatories are either long-drop, per the African safari model, or utilise eco-chemicals. Neither detract from the camp's high standards, but they are non-invasive on our fragile environment.

04/02/19

Date


Signature

D'Artagnan Giercke
Manager