

## **Mongolia – excursions, 2011**

**General information:** All tours start from Ulan Bator. You can set off for the excursion either from your accommodation or on your arrival from the train station if the timetable permits. You don't need sleeping bags for the nights in gers. It is good to take warm clothes and thermo-underwear as there are usually high temperature amplitudes within 24 hours. The camps are of gers or yurts that are made of canvas and felt as bricks and wood obviously are scarce in the nomad living areas. A ger can be built up in 3 or 4 hours (depending on its size) and usually are more comfortable than they might look on first sight, although they don't have electricity or water (apart from the ones in urban areas). Ger camps often have a bath house and a toilet, serving the whole camp. Gers are usually equipped with a wood or dung fuelled stove, which is used for both cooking and heating. The internal setup of the ger is universal in whole Mongolia by tradition. The stove is located in the middle, as it has a pipe through the ger's roof. Nomadic people who live in gers are very welcoming people, although for a foreigner it will be hard to communicate with them, especially as nomads have many rituals and are very superstitious people. Please note that on all tours you might be joined by other tourists booked on the same dates of different nationalities, which could not be clear before the start of the tour.

### **MNG-1: Welcome package in Mongolia (3 days)**

The welcome package includes 1 overnight in ger camp in Terelj National Park and 1 overnight in hotel in Ulan Bator (incl. sightseeing with a guide).

**Day 1:** Arrival in Ulan Bator. Transfer to Terelj National Park, which is situated approximately 75 km northeast from Ulan Bator. In the wild nature there is a possibility for hiking or renting a horse with payment on spot (about 5 USD for 1 hour). There is a village nearby which can be visited. Accommodation in ger-camp (gers are traditional Mongolian round tents, in each sleep up to 4 people). **Day 2:** After breakfast transport to Ulan Bator. City sightseeing tour. Visit of old buildings and squares that tell about the rich history of the city. Included are the Buddhist Monastery Gandan Hiid, The Museum of Nature and History with skeletons of dinosaurs, Zaisan Memorial. Breakfast and dinner with Mongolian folklore show are included. Accommodation at Ovoo Hotel. **Day 3:** Departure from Ulan Bator or another extension.

**The tour includes:** 1 night in a ger camp in Terelj National Park and 1 night in Ovoo Hotel in Ulan Bator. Transport to/from Terelj National Park, city sightseeing tour with English-speaking guide (included are all entrance fees and a ticket for folklore show), all meals (lunch and dinner on day 1; breakfast lunch and dinner on day 2; breakfast on day 3). The package can be booked with higher or lower category of accommodation with additional payment/discount. It is also possible to have extra nights.

**Best period:** All year

**Price per person: 250 EUR (min. 2 persons). If single room is required, single room supplement should be paid. If only person would like to book the tour, he should pay double price**

### **MNG-2: City sightseeing tour (7 hrs)**

The tour gives a good introduction about Ulan Bator, where you visit famous buildings, streets and squares related with the rich history of the city. Included are the Buddhist Monastery Gandan Hiid, The Museum of Nature and History with skeletons of dinosaurs, Zaisan Memorial. In the evening dinner with Mongolian folklore show is included.

**The tour includes:** English-speaking guide, transport from/to accommodation in Ulan Bator, all entrance fees, ticket for folklore show, lunch and dinner.

**Best period:** All year (museums are closed Monday and Thursday in the period 01/10-31/5)

**Price per person: 88 EUR (min. 2 persons)**

### **MNG-3: Terelj National Park (7 hrs)**

Excursion to Terelj National Park, which is situated approximately 75 km northeast from Ulan Bator. In the wild nature there is a possibility for hiking or renting a horse with payment on spot (appr. 15 eur per day). You can visit a nearby village and see the famous stone formations on the way.

**The tour includes:** English-speaking guide, transport from/to accommodation in Ulan Bator and lunch.

**Best period:** All year

**Price per person: 80 EUR (min. 2 persons)**

### **MNG-4: Terelj National Park (2 days)**

**Day 1:** Transport in the morning to Terelj National Park, which is situated approximately 75 km northeast from Ulan Bator. In the wild nature there is a possibility for hiking or renting a horse with payment on spot (about 5 USD for 1 hour). There is a village nearby which can be visited. Accommodation in ger-camp (gers are traditional Mongolian round tents, in each sleep up to 4 people). **Day 2:** After breakfast transport to Ulan Bator.

**The tour includes:** English-speaking guide, transport from/to accommodation in Ulan Bator, 1 night in ger-camp with full board

**Best period:** All year

**Price per person: 115 EUR (min. 2 persons)**

### **MNG-5: Hustai National Park (14 h)**

Excursion to Hustai National Park (approx. 90 km west from Ulan Bator, see [www.hustai.mn](http://www.hustai.mn)), famous for the unique population of the original Mongolian wild horses – Takhi. During the tour you pass through the classic Mongolian landscape – the vast steppes. Together with the driver you will try to track down the horses, but there is no guarantee that you will see them.

**The tour includes:** English-speaking guide, transport from/to accommodation in Ulan Bator and lunch

**Best period:** All year

**Price per person: 132 EUR (min. 2 persons)**

### **MNG-6: Kharkorin and Hustai National Park (3 days)**

The tour takes you appr. 360 km southwest from Ulan Bator to Kharkhorin town (former Karakorum), which was founded as a capital of Mongolia in 13th century by the son of Genghis Khan. During the day visit to the Buddhist Monastery Erdene Zuu from 1586 which is still active. On your way, you see Hustai National Park which is the home for about 160 of the original Mongolian wild horses Takhi (see MNG-5). During the tour (altogether appr. 720 km) you pass through the classic Mongolian landscape – the vast steppes.

**Day 1:** Transport from Ulan Bator to Kharkhorin (360 km). See the monastery and the ruins of the former city wall. Overnight in ger-camp (traditional Mongolian round tents in which sleep up to 4 people). **Day 2:** Continue to Hustai National Park (280 km). Overnight in a ger-camp.

**Day 3:** Transport to Ulan Bator (90 km).

**The tour includes:** English-speaking guide, transport from/to accommodation in Ulan Bator, 2 nights in ger-camp (sleeping bag is not necessary), full board from lunch on day 1 to and incl. breakfast on day 3.

**Best period:** 1/5 – 1/10

**Price per person: 250 EUR (min. 2 persons)**

#### **MNG-7: Visit to nomad family (3 days)**

On this tour you stay 2 nights in a ger (traditional Mongolian round tent) next to a real nomad family. You become part of the everyday life of the nomads (preparing of food, taking care of the livestock, etc) and the second day the camp can be moved to 10-15 km. The tour is divided in halves and gives you a real choice if you are willing to take pleasure experiencing the nomad everyday life from closer.

**Day 1:** Transport from Ulan Bator to the nomad family (approx. 80 km). Accommodation in a ger (up to 4 people). You observe and/or help in the daily care for the animals (sheep, yaks, horses, etc.) where possible. There is also an option for a horse riding tour. Lunch and dinner in the family. **Day 2:** After breakfast help the nomads in taking down and packing the ger.

Move the camp (10-15 km) together with all the animals. You can choose whether to sit in the ox/horse-cart or to walk. Setting up the camp and dinner. **Day 3:** Transport to Ulan Bator

**The tour includes:** English-speaking guide, transport from/to accommodation in Ulan Bator, 2 nights in ger (sleeping bag is not necessary), full board from lunch on day 1 to and incl. breakfast on day 3. Program can be changed acc. to the family necessities.

**Best period:** 1/5-1/10

**Price per person: 250 EUR (min. 2 persons)**

#### **MNG-8: Short tour to Gobi Desert (5 days)**

Excursion to the vast Gobi Desert to see the most famous places in the heath. Transport between Ulan Bator and Gobi with flight.

**Day 1:** Transport from accommodation in Ulan Bator to the airport. Flight in the morning to Dalanzadgad (1.5 hrs). Excursion to Eagle Valley (about 50 km), where you can see wild goats and birds. Transport to Dalanzadgad and accommodation in ger-camp. **Day 2:** Further to Bayanzag with the red cliffs (“Flaming Cliffs”). After that continue to Khongoryn Els,

where are the singing sand dunes in Gobi (300 m high, 12 km wide and appr. 100 km long). Accommodation in ger-camp. **Day 3:** Free day in Khongoryn Els with an opportunity for walking on the sand dunes and camel riding. **Day 4:** Transport to Dalanzadgad visiting on the

way camelbreeding nomads. Accommodation in ger-camp **Day 5:** Flight to Ulan Bator and transport to your accommodation.

**The tour includes:** English-speaking guide, transport from/to accommodation in Ulan Bator, return flight ticket Ulan Bator-Dalanzadgad, 4 nights in ger-camp with full board (gers are traditional Mongolian round felt tents, in each sleep up to 4 people, sleeping bag is not necessary). Camel riding is paid on spot.

**Best period: 1/5-1/10**

**Price per person: 805 EUR (min. 2 persons)**

### **MNG-9: Gobi-safari including Kharkorin and Hustai National Park (7 days)**

This tour is a version of MNG-6 but it takes you also southwards to the Gobi Desert. You will pass appr. 1490 km through extremely various landscapes - from lush green grass plains and canyon like rock formations to dry desert and steppe landscape. All overnights are in gers (traditional Mongolian round felt tents, in each sleep up to 4 people). Four of the nights are in the so-called ger camps, which are made for tourists and equipped with toilet, shower and dining facilities. Two of the nights (day 2 and 6) are in similar gers, set up next to real nomad families where the conditions are more primitive. You stay together with the nomad families where there is no possibility for shower with running water and the toilet is a hole in the ground. But this is a unique chance to feel the experience of the real Mongolia!

**Day 1:** From Ulan Bator drive appr. 280 km southwards to Ih Gazaryn Chuluu in Dundov province. Overnight in a ger camp. **Day 2:** Drive to Tsogt Ovoo. Overnight in a ger next to a real nomad family close to the very small village Tsogt Ovoo. Here you will see the daily life of the nomads and can do some hiking. **Day 3:** Drive to Eagle Valley – the highlight of this tour. This is mountain region with a narrow gorge in the middle of the desert. Here you can see eagles and wild goats. Overnight in ger camp close to Eagle Valley. **Day 4:** Continue to Tsagaan Ovoo to visit the remains of the old Onk Monastery. Overnight in a ger camp close to the monastery. **Day 5:** Further to Kharkorin (ca 250 km). From the hill with the monument you will enjoy a wonderful view over Kharkorin. Overnight in a ger camp. **Day 6:** After breakfast, visit to the Buddhist monastery Erdene Zuu and the museum inside the walled area with 108 stupas. Leave for Erdensant – a very nice green area close to the Tuul River where you will have the opportunity for some swimming and fishing. Overnight close to a nomad family. **Day 7:** Before noon, say goodbye to the nomad family and nomad life. On the way back to Ulan Bator, stop at Hustai National park to see the Przewalski (Takhi) horses. Together with the driver you will track the horses, but there is no guarantee that you will see them.

**The tour includes:** English-speaking guide, transport from/to accommodation in Ulan Bator, 4 nights in ger camp with full board (gers are traditional Mongolian round felt tents, in each sleep up to 4 people), 2 nights in ger next to a nomad family with full board. Sleeping bag is not necessary.

**Best period: 1/5-1/10**

**Price per person: 555 EUR (min. 2 persons)**

### **MNG-10: Roundtrip in Central Mongolia (“Green Route”) (7 days)**

This tour is a version of MNG-6 but it takes you also in the central part of Mongolia, which is rich in grass-steppes areas, mountains and rivers. All overnights are in gers (traditional Mongolian round felt tents, in each sleep up to 4 people) in ger camps specially made for tourists. They are equipped with toilet, shower and dining facilities placed in a separate

building. You will have the chance to feel the spirit of real Mongolia by visiting nomad families for lunch or dinner and spending some time with them.

**Day 1:** From Ulan Bator drive to the beautiful lake of Oygi Nuur which is a wonderful place for birdlife (ab. 350 km). Fishing gears are available in the ger camp for free. **Day 2:** Continue southwest to Tsetserleg, the capital of Archangai. Free time at the local market. Drive to a nomad family close to Bulgan village (from where the family of the famous Mongolian wrestler Bagi originates). You will have dinner with the family. **Day 3:** Drive further along the Tamir River (30 minutes) to relax on the shore in a splendid nature. You can swim, fish or walk around. Picnic lunch prepared by the nomad family. **Day 4:** Drive to Tsenkher hot springs. You have opportunity to take a bath in the water from the hot springs, relax or do some hiking in the splendid green nature around. **Day 5:** Leave for Tovhom monastery with a waterfall nearby. You will visit the monastery and the “Red Waterfall” Ulan Tsutgalan. **Day 6:** After breakfast, drive to Kharkorin (6 hours) with lunch on the way. Visit to the Buddhist monastery Erdene Zuu and the museum inside the walled area with 108 stupas. From the hill with the monument you will enjoy a wonderful view over Kharkorin. **Day 7:** Early breakfast and drive back to Ulan Bator. On the way, stop at Hustai National park to see the Przevalski (Takhi) horses. Together with the driver you will track the horses, but there is no guarantee that you will see them.

**The tour includes:** English-speaking guide, transport from/to accommodation in Ulan Bator, 6 nights in ger camp, full board. Sleeping bag is not necessary.

**Best period:** 1/5-1/10

**Price per person: 555 EUR (min. 2 persons)**

#### **MNG-11: Expedition to the Gobi Desert and Central Mongolia (10 days)**

This roundtrip combines MNG-9 and MNG-10.

**Day 1:** From Ulan Bator drive appr. 280 km southwards to Ih Gazaryn Chuluu in Dzungov province. Overnight in a ger camp. **Day 2:** Drive to Dalanzadgad. Overnight with a local nomad family in the region of Eagle Valley. **Day 3:** Drive to Eagle Valley – the highlight of this tour. This is mountain region with a narrow gorge in the middle of the desert. Here you can see eagles and wild goats. Overnight with the nomad family. **Day 4:** Continue to Tsagaan Ovoo to visit the remains of the old Ongi Monastery. Overnight in a ger camp close to the monastery. **Day 5:** Further to Kharkorin (ca 250 km). From the hill with the monument you will enjoy a wonderful view over Kharkorin. Overnight in a ger camp. **Day 6:** After breakfast, visit to the Buddhist monastery Erdene Zuu and the museum inside the walled area with 108 stupas. Before noon, drive to Tsenkher hot springs. Lunch and free time. You can take a bath in the water from the hot springs, relax or do some hiking in the splendid green nature around. **Day 7:** Drive to Khorgo volcano with stop for lunch on the way. Overnight next to a nomad family in the region of the volcano. **Day 8:** Short drive to the volcano and walk in the area. Lunch with the nomad family. Drive to the White Lake to relax, swim or walk around. Overnight with the nomad family. **Day 9:** Drive to the beautiful lake of Oygi Nuur which is a wonderful place for birdlife. Lunch stop in Tsetserleg. Arrival in the evening. **Day 10:** About noon, drive back to Ulan Bator.

**The tour includes:** English-speaking guide, transport from/to accommodation in Ulan Bator, 5 nights in ger camp, 4 nights next to a nomad family, full board. Sleeping bag is not necessary.

**Best period:** 1/5-1/10

**Price per person: 1045 EUR (min. 2 persons)**

### **MNG-12: Horse Riding in Terelj National Park (9 days)**

The trail takes you around the National park Terelj and includes highlights such as Gunj Monastery, the Turtle Rock as well as the overwhelming beauty of the natural surroundings and the richness of its flora and fauna. Beyond a radius of 100 km from the capital, no asphalt roads can be found. Vultures, antelopes, foxes and wolves still live here undisturbed in the wild. Here and there you will find a few nomad families at their temporary ger camp. The daily ride is 5-8 hours (up to 30 km).

**Day 1.** Pick-up from the hotel and drive to the Terelj National Park about 75 km northeast from Ulan Bator. Check in into a ger camp. There we meet the horses and ride to the Turtle Rock (some 10 km away) and on to Gunj Monastery. Ride back and overnight in the camp.

**Day 2.** Ride through the mountains northwest from the ger camp, dividing the ger camp from the riverbed of Tuul River. Then we continue upstream Tuul River and set a tent camp in a wide valley by the river. First impressions of a real steppe riding. **Day 3.** Today we continue riding by Tuul River, crossing it a few times and then we go downstream to spend the night again in a tent camp. **Day 4.** Ride back to the ger camp Munkjin for a shower and relaxation after the first riding stage. **Day 5.** The second riding stage continues westwards from the ger camp Munkjin, crossing again Tuul River in the direction of the new statue of Genghis Khan. Overnight in a tent camp. **Day 6.** We continue through steppes, rounded mountains above 2000 m a.s.l. and the sandy formations of Elstei. Overnight in a ger camp. **Day 7.** True steppe riding today. Loads of possibilities for gallop. Overnigh in a tent camp at the banks of Tuul River. Farewell party, celebrating the last night spent in the open as a part of the trip. **Day 8.** We cross the river and ride back to the ger camp, where we say good bye to the horses. Afternoon at leisure. **Day 9.** Travel back to Ulan Bator.

**The tour includes:** English-speaking guide, transport from/to accommodation in Ulan Bator, full board from lunch on day 1 to breakfast on day 9, fully equipped horses (helmets not included); all transportation; luggage transfers during the tour.

**Best period:** 1/5 - 1/10

**Price per person:** 870 EUR (min. 2 persons)