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Mongolia Trip by Jeep, Horse and Camel

- Tour start and tour end in the Mongolian capital Ulaanbaatar
- Ögij Nuur Lake Khushuu Tsaidam Monuments
- Horseback ride through Orchon Valley (UNESCO) to the Charbalgas ruins
- Former Mongolian capital Karakorum and Erdenne Zuu Monastery
- Ulaan Tsutgalan Waterfalls
- Red Cliffs Bayanzag and Singing Dune Hongoryn Else
- Camel back ride to Cormorant Valley
- Stay overnight in yurts

Dates 2009

	DATE	DAY		DATE	DAY
TRIP START	11.5.	MONDAY	TRIP END	24.5.	SUNDAY
	5.6.	FRIDAY		18.6.	THURSDAY
	26.6.	FRIDAY		9.7.	THURSDAY
	17.7.	FRIDAY		30.7.	THURSDAY
	28.7.	TUESDAY		10.8.	MONDAY
	7.8.	FRIDAY		20.8.	THURSDAY
	28.8.	FRIDAY		10.9.	THURSDAY



EXPLORE MONGOLIA BY JEEP, ON HORSEBACK AND ON CAMEL

- Destinations Ulaanbaatar, Ögij Nuur, Karakorum, Orchon Waterfalls, Bayanzag, Hongoryn Else, Dalanzadgad
- Duration: 14 days
- Trip Start in: Ulaanbaatar
- Trip End in: Ulaanbaatar
- Distance Road: 400km
- Distance Off-Road: 1300km
- Horse or Camel: 120km
- Total Distance: 1820km

TOUR SHORT DESCRIPTION

Mongolia's sturdy steppe horses have been used as means of transportation for centuries. In rural parts of the country, they are still intensively employed as beasts of burden. Therefore on this trip you will not just travel by jeep but will cover some distance on the back of a Mongolian horse, gaining a different perspective on this country. Our horseback ride will take us through the breath-taking Orchon Valley (also known as Orkhon Valley) to the Orchon Waterfalls. Then we will travel on to Gobi Desert. Again, we will use the typical "vehicle" of Gobi Desert: the camel.

This trip's purpose is not to see as much as possible in as little time as possible. We would rather like to give you the opportunity to gain an insight into the life of the Mongolian nomads. Throughout the trip you will be accompanied by experienced nomadic guides to prevent problems with the riding animals. Should the pain from riding somehow get too bad, you can still continue the trip by jeep as a last resort.



DAY 1 ARRIVAL IN ULAANBAATAR

After your arrival in Ulaanbaatar, you will be picked up by our guide and transferred to your hotel. We will introduce the participants to each other and discuss the program of the days ahead. In the afternoon, we will explore the city and visit Gandan Monastery as well as the Museum of National History and participate in cultural activity in the evening.

Ulaanbaator was founded in 1639 and is now Mongolia's largest city, its capital and the cultural, industrial and financial heart with a population of just over 1 million. It is an independent municipality and therefore not part of any province, situated in the north central part of the country at an elevation of about 1'310 m in a valley on the Tuul River.

DAY 2 ULAANBAATAR - ÖGIJ NUUR

Departure to Ögij Nuur, a small but spectacular lake. We will ride across the Mongolian steppe and have lunch on the banks of River Tuul. We will arrive at the lake in the afternoon, visit our horse-breeder family and stay overnight in a yurt.

DAY 3 ÖGIJ NUUR - KHUSHUU TSAIDAM

This will be our first day traveling by horse. If required, the nomads will teach you how to ride a horse. We will then start our ride to Khushuu (Khosho) Tsaidam Monuments situated along the western part of the Orkhon River, two memorial monuments associated with the Gök Türk Empire of the early 8th century, first excavated in 1889. We will stay overnight in a yurt.



DAY 4 ORCHON VALLEY - CHARBALGAS

Today we ride through the Orkhon Valley to the Charbalgas Ruins (also known as „Black Ruins“), a former Uygur capital city, and stay overnight in a yurt on the banks of River Orkhon.



DAY 5 CHARBALGAS - KARAKORUM

We arrive at Karakorum, the capital of the Mongol Empire in the 13th century for about 30 years. Its ruins lie in the northwestern corner of the Övörkhongai Province near Kharkhorin Town. We will visit the ruins and „Erdenne Zuu“ Monastery, probably the most ancient Buddhist monastery in Mongolia built in 1585. Karakorum and Erdenne Zuu Monastery are part of the UNESCO World Heritage Site entitled Orkhon Valley Cultural Landscape.

DAY 6 KARAKORUM - ORCHON WATERFALL

Today we ride through the uniquely beautiful Orkhon Valley, whose river flows 1'120km to the north before it joins the Selenge Gol. Our goal is the Orkhon waterfall - also referred to as Ulaan Tsutgalan - which was formed by a combination of volcanic eruptions and earthquakes about 20'000 years ago in this historically significant valley.

DAY 7 ORCHON WATERFALL - ARVAYHEER

We arrive at the Orkhon Waterfall, recover from the exertions of the previous days and drive back out of the valley in direction of Arvayheer.

DAY 8 ARVAYHEER - ONGIJ

Via Arvayheer we drive to the ruins of Ongij Monastery and stay overnight in a yurt near Ongij.

DAY 9 ONGIJ - BAYANZAG - HONGORYN ELSE

We visit the monastery's ruins and drive on to the Flaming Cliffs of Bayanzag. We will have lunch in the Bayanzag canyons and continue our trip in direction of the "Singing Dune" Hongoryn Else.

The Flaming Cliffs (or Red Cliffs) are located in the Gobi Desert and are most famous for yielding the first discovery of dinosaur eggs. It was given this name by American paleontologist Roy Chapman Andrews, who visited this area in the 1920s. The rock gives off a glowing orange color, hence the nickname.



DAY 10 HONGORYN ELSE - CORMORANT VALLEY

What „vehicle“ would be more suitable to explore the desert than a camel? Today we start our 2 day camel ride to Cormorant Valley. We will travel along the sand dunes at a rather slow pace.

DAY 11 CAMEL RIDE TO CORMORANT VALLEY

Slowly but steady we make our way to Cormorant Valley.



DAY 12 ARRIVAL AT CORMORANT VALLEY

We keep on riding in direction of Cormorant Valley, arrive there in the afternoon and stay overnight in a yurt.

DAY 13 ULAANBAATAR

We fly back to Ulaanbaatar. The rest of the day is at your own disposal.

DAY 14 DEPARTURE FROM ULAANBAATAR

Departure in the morning, end of trip.

Due to unforeseeable circumstances, it may happen that we are obliged to make changes to the itinerary. In this event, we would endeavor to minimize the changes, and to provide alternatives of comparable quality. This tour can be done in reverse order.



RATES

Number of Participants	Price per Person in USD	Price per Person in Euro
1 participant	2.020	1.610
2-3 participants	1.965	1.565
4-6 participants	1.910	1.520
7 and more participants	1.855	1.475

NOTES

- Minimum number of participants: 2 pax
- Price plus up-to-date airfare (MIAT or Aeroflot)
- Tours during Naadam Festival (10.7. - 12.7.) surcharge 90\$ per person
- Groups smaller than 4 participants surcharge 300\$ per person
- Tour with air-conditioned off-road vehicle (Western standard) as escort vehicle 70\$ per day per group
- Single supplement (hotels) 100\$
- Single yurt 25\$ per night
- Other dates on request

INCLUDED

- Accommodation in Ulaanbaatar middle class hotel (standard twin, half-board)
- Airport transfer in Ulaanbaatar
- Experienced tour guide
- Entrance tickets for museums, national parks and cultural activities
- Off-road vehicle incl. petrol and additional expenses (Russian vehicle)
- Accommodation outside the cities in tents
- Full-board except in Ulaanbaatar
- Half-board in Ulaanbaatar (breakfast and lunch)
- Rental fees for horses and camels
- Domestic flight in Mongolia

NOT INCLUDED

- International flights and airport transfers outside Mongolia
- Dinners in Ulaanbaatar
- Expenses of personal nature such as laundry, tips, souvenirs, etc.
- Alcoholic drinks
- Optional excursions
- Expenses for medical care
- Insurances (travel insurance, travel cancellation insurance)
- Repatriation flights in case of emergencies

EQUIPMENT NEEDED

We will provide all technical equipment needed (such as tents, cooking equipment, etc). You will only need to bring along articles of personal use. The following list should be considered as a general summary:

Riding breeches, riding boots and helmet (if available), gloves, warm clothes, rain wear, sun hat, warm sleeping bag, warm sleeping clothes, camping mat, small pillow, washing utensils, towel, swimming clothes, suitable shoes, sunglasses, suntan cream, photo equipment, small torch, medicines, backpack or big travel bag (suitcases are not suitable for this kind of trip), etc.

INSURANCE IS RESPONSIBILITY OF PARTICIPANT!

HIDDENCHINA.NET RECOMMENDS THAT YOU PURCHASE TRAVEL CANCELLATION INSURANCE!