



Photos: Mark Johnstad



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South Gobi

Gobi Gurvansaikhan National Park

This journey will bring us to both the desert steppe and mountain areas of the Gobi. We will also be able to visit the famous Yol Valley, actually a ravine, which sometimes has year around snow and ice. The Gurvansaikhan Mountains is an extension into the Gobi of the Altai. In the desert steppe we will probably be able to see gazelles and foxes.

Brief Outline Itinerary

We will fly to and from Dalanzadgad airport in the South Gobi, where you will be met and transferred to a ger camp (yurt camp). You will make full day excursions from there. Beds, sheets and linens are provided.

Day 1: To South Gobi

A.m. Early pick up at your hotel in Ulaanbaatar, and transfer to the airport for 1½ hour flight to South Gobi (Ömnögobi), the least populated province in all Mongolia. After arrival we will make our way 90km west to Bayanzag. If it is an early flight we will visit Yol Valley today instead.

Day 2: Yol Valley and Gurvansaikhan Mountains

Today we will visit the Gurvansaikhan Mountains (The Three Beauties) and enter the core area of the Yol Valley (Yoliin Am) 90km away. We will explore this famous ravine, often with year around ice and snow. Lammergeier nest here in season and we are guaranteed to see them flying over the ravine. On the way out of the mountains we can visit – if open - the local Nature Museum, which has a small shop. Finally drive 90 km back over the steppe and overnight at the same ger camp.

Day 3: Bayanzag and Moltsoq Sands

Today a full day excursion will be made to the Moltsoq Els (sand dunes) and Bayanzag (Flaming Cliffs), where dinosaur remains were unearthed in the 1920s by Roy Chapman Andrews' Central Asiatic Expeditions. They found the first fossilized dinosaur eggs known to man. The Gobi is for the most part arid desert steppe, with few sand dunes. Only 3 percent of the Gobi is actually sand. We will probably see wildlife, such as gazelles and fox, and also meet local families with their livestock.



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Day 4: Fly to Ulaanbaatar

A.m. The flight (1½hrs) back to the Mongolian capital, Ulaanbaatar. Transfer to your hotel. P.m. free.

Practicalities

Nomadic Journeys has introduced a concept of practical and desirable ways to travel in Mongolia which is the synergy of Western and Mongolian ideas brought about after many years of travel experience all across Mongolia. We emphasize the quality of human contacts and encounters with local people.

Transport: This journey is supported by a jeep or minibus on the Gobi jeep road tracks.

Staff: A Mongolian English-speaking local guide will accompany you at all times. Plus one driver in the Gobi.

Meals: The meals will be provided in the ger camp, or as picnics.

Overnights: The gers are double occupancy and are furnished with beds, stools and a table. The toilets are long drop style allowing for natural decomposition.

PRICE ex Dalanzadgad:
USD 850 per person (min 2 members)

Flight ticket one way to/from Gobi:
USD 172 per person

Single room/ ger supplement:
USD 30 per night.

Additional night at the ger camp:
USD 100 per person.

Transfer supplement by Japanese jeep: USD 240.

Includes: Local guide, all meals outside Ulaanbaatar, all overnights in ger camps in double occupancy. All transport and entrance fees.

Excludes: Imported drinks. Transfer and hotel nights in Ulaanbaatar are excluded. Please note the domestic flight will be added to the trip price at the face value cost of the air ticket. It is currently (Apr2009) USD 172 each way. The luggage allowance (incl. hand luggage) is 20 kg, and above that overweight must be paid.



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Hazard: If returning to Ulaanbaatar by flight it is recommended to plan for at least 2 nights after the return from Hovd. Flights from the interior may cancel due to poor visibility (rain/fog), which is why you need to allow some "rubber" time built in to your itinerary, in order to accommodate such changes.

DATES ex Ulaanbaatar:

Daily in season. Flight days are daily July and August. Otherwise the flight days are Tuesdays and Saturdays.

Reservations: