



Photos: Jan Wigsten

Camel Trek in the near Gobi

Surprisingly near the Mongolian capital of Ulaanbaatar, the Gobi gradually begins to appear. We will travel south over vast steppe-land before meeting our camel herdsman, who will go with us on this Nomadic Journey. Westerners perceive the Gobi as a desert but actually most of it is a semi-desert steppe. We will trek in an area where the steppe gives way to sandy subsoil and there is a 20 km long sand dune. All herdsman lead a traditional way of life here.

Brief Outline Itinerary

On this journey we use low impact traditional modes of transport. Our equipment will be carried on camel carts in the same way nomadic herders transport their belongings, moving from one pasture to another. In this area camels are used for this purpose. We will also carry a ger, which is the traditional felt tent that Mongols live in today. Essentially, it means that we can use the services of the local people living in the area where we travel. This kind of a trip is what we have labeled A Nomadic Journey. The herdsman are the experts and we will be able to get a first hand experience of how to move a camp the traditional Mongolian way.

Day 1: Drive south

A.m. Drive to the south over the treeless steppe. In the afternoon we reach Senjit Hairhan, giant rock formations coming almost straight up from the surrounding steppe. Here we meet with the camel herdsman and pitch our camp on the steppe. Scan the ridges of the surrounding hills and rocks for Argali Sheep (*Ovis ammon*), the largest wild mountain sheep in the world. All wildlife viewing requires a great portion of luck. Overnight in tents.

Day 2-4: Camel trek

We will trek for a three full days across the treeless steppe meeting nomadic herdsman families on the way. Our hosts in the area are related to one third of the local population. During the last day we will trek through Arburd Sands, a 20km long sand dune. Strange enough, a good number of wolves - being wary of man - have taken refuge in these dunes and can sometimes be seen. We have brought one ger (yurt) which will be our mobile restaurant. Tents, all provisions and a cook are provided. All equipment will be loaded onto camel carts. There will be one or two riding camels so that we can try some riding as well. Herdsman will follow the carts. We will make contact with other herdsman. We will no doubt be invited into the gers and learn about their ancient lifestyle. Overnight in tents.

Day 5: Bogd Khan Mountain

A.m. drive back to Ulaanbaatar. On the way we will visit the Bogd Uul Biosphere Reserve and the site of the ruins of Manzushir monastery.



This is the southernmost point of the taiga in the area and we will get up into the hills and some nice forests. Red Deer (*Cervus elaphus*) can usually be seen here. Back in Ulaanbaatar by mid afternoon, check into your hotel or depart for your next destination.

Additional treks: You have the choice to stay another day or two in Ulaanbaatar or transfer out to your next destination via Beijing. We, however, recommend that you join our Yak Trek for one more week of exciting adventure in a contrasting environment of rivers, steppe valleys, meadows and deep forests. Check our dates!

Nomadic Journeys Style Trek:

Transport: Mongolian families frequently move from one pasture to another using traditional wooden carts. These are pulled by the kind of animals available in the region. Here we will use camels and horses. The services of some herdsman will be hired by the expedition and they will provide us with their animals.

Staff: A Mongolian leader will accompany the group at all times. The service will be in English. Other language interpreters are available upon request. There will also be an assistant and a cook. In addition, the services of the local herdsman will be hired along with their animals.

Meals: Our cook will prepare the meals. We pride ourselves in having cooks adept at both western and Mongolian cooking on our trips. There are always vegetables available and we have no problem accommodating vegetarians on our trips. For breakfast we can usually buy fresh yogurt from the herdsman in the local area.

Camel riding: If you would like to have your own camel to ride during the trek, this can be arranged at the time of booking for an additional cost. This cost is payable in Mongolia only. Mongolian camels are Bactrian (two humped) and easy to ride even without previous experience.

Riding horses: There will be an opportunity for experienced riders at the time of booking to order a riding horse. This cost is payable in Mongolia only. Mongolian horses are peculiar and horsemanship is somewhat different among the Mongols as compared to home. We suggest you bring your own riding hat with you.

Pls. note that groups having less than 5 people will carry no ger (yurt). Just tents.

PRICE ex Ulaanbaatar:
USD 590 per person

Single ger/tent supplement :
USD 120 per person

Rent of riding horse or camel:
USD 35 per day.

Private trip supplement:
USD 200 per person

Includes: Guide and all meals outside Ulaanbaatar. Tents, camping equipment and all local transport.

Excludes: Imported drinks, laundry, rent of riding horse, transfers and accommodation in Ulaanbaatar. Bring your own sleeping bag.

DATES ex. Ulaanbaatar: 2012

CML01: 06-10May (Su/Th)
CML02: 16-20May (We/Su)
CML03: 26-30May (Sa/We)
CML04: 05-09Jun (Tu/Sa)
CML05: 15-19Jun (Fr/Tu)
CML06: 25-29Jun (Mo/Fr)
CML07: 05-09Jul (Th/Mo)
CML08: 17-21Jul (Tu/Sa)
CML09: 27-31Jul (Fr/Tu)
CML10: 06-10Aug (Mo/Fr)
CML11: 16-20Aug (Th/Mo)
CML12: 26-30Aug (Su/Th)
CML13: 05-09Sep (We/Su)
CML14: 15-19Sep(Sa/We)

Additional: We can reserve hotels and transfers in Ulaanbaatar for you. Please make sure to arrive in Ulaanbaatar before evening the day prior to departure. There will be a get together evening dinner that same evening.

Private departures: On request, and if available, the Camel Trek may operate on any day. Before or after the season an additional ger (instead of tent) is added, in order to provide warmth on the cold nights.

Family Treks: If you are a family with children, book early, and we are happy to set aside any date – except CML07 - as a specific family departure.

Naadam Special: Naadam Games takes place July 10 -12th. Pls ask for Ulaanbaatar Naadam Games itinerary.

Reservations:

