



Into OUTER MONGOLIA Adventure

1-15 August 2023

The very name, Mongolia, conjures up images of vast open plains, rugged men on horseback, Chinggis Khaan, and the distant dots of a Ger camp. The nomadic culture of the Mongolian people still exists although in decreasing numbers.

The 2023 Into Outer Mongolia Tour will be using a new route that will take us to remote regions of northern Mongolia bordering Siberia and Tuvan.

In 2014 and 2015 we were involved with a rally that raised funds to donate motorcycles to Mongolian Park Rangers. While a great concept unfortunately a maintenance programme for these bikes was never established meaning that the bikes are in dire need of some TLC.

We are rounding up some spare parts and will use our 'rest day' to do some much needed work on the bikes. If bike maintenance doesn't appeal there are some fantastic hikes nearby or just laze around watching!

Have the travel adventure of a lifetime and experience Mongolia - the people, the culture, the varied livestock (yak, camels, reindeer...) landscapes, history and culture.

Highlights include...

Ulaan Baatar - A city of contrast where modern life blends with Mongolian traditional lifestyle. While the central city skyline has plenty of high rise buildings as you get further out to the edges of the city the ger (yurt) districts are prevalent.

Lake Hovsgol - The largest freshwater lake in Central Asia containing 2% of the world's freshwater. Surrounded by craggy peaks and rolling green hills the lake is unique and inimitable in its beauty.

Darkhad Depression - Located in the far north of Mongolia bordering Siberia this region is home to the Darkhad people - one of the Mongolian minority ethnic groups who continue to live much the same lifestyle as their ancestors. The Darkhad basin covers an area of 4000 square kilometers with many rivers and lakes a stunning natural environment that is considered remote even by Mongolian standards.

Reindeer Herders - Khovsgol Province along the Siberian border is home to Mongolia's smallest ethnic group - a community known as the Tsaatan, which translates as "reindeer herder" in Mongolian. Originally from across the border in what is now Russia's Tuva Republic, the Tsaatan are one of the last groups of nomadic reindeer herders in the world.

01 August Day 1. (Tuesday) ARRIVAL DAY IN ULAAN BAATAR

On arrival at the airport you will need to find your driver* and make your way to our group hotel in central Ulaanbaatar. The new international airport is 50KM from the city so this journey will give you an opportunity to have your first look at Mongolia. If you are not arriving too late Mike and Angela will be waiting to meet you at our hotel, or catch up with them the following morning. (*You will need to pre-book your airport pick-up, if you wish we can arrange this for you)

Overnight in Ulaan Baatar at hotel

02 August Day 2. (Wednesday) 24 HOURS IN ULAAN BAATAR

Today there is an escorted tour with our local guide to visit the huge stainless steel Chinggis Khaan statue at Terelg approximately 80km from Ulaan Baatar (UB). We will be back in UB in time for late lunch. The afternoon is yours for free time to shop or do further sight-seeing around Ulaanbaatar.

Overnight in Ulaan Baatar at hotel (Breakfast, Dinner)



03 August Day 3. (Thursday) ULAAN BAATAR TO MÖRÖN 800KM flight.

We take a morning flight to Mörön City in the north. Mörön (sometimes spelled Murun) is the provincial capital of the region and has a hospital, a museum, a theatre, a post office, several schools and kindergartens, as well as one of the biggest outdoor markets in the country. After lunch you will be introduced to your chosen motorbike, UTV or the driver of the 4WD in which you will be travelling.

Overnight in Mörön at hotel (Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)

04 August Day 4. (Friday) MÖRÖN TO ERDENEBUGAN 140KM

Our first day out travelling we head east of Mörön following the Eg River. It's easy off-road today. Our fantastic catering crew will serve lunch somewhere out in the countryside! We will be camping in the wilderness near the river on this our first night out on the steppes.

Overnight camping on the Mongolian Steppes. (Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)



05 August Day 5. (Saturday) ERDENEBUGAN TO BULNAI 170KM

Today we have lots of small rivers to cross and a mountain pass to climb. A very picturesque region of Mongolia consisting of long valleys surrounded by mountains. Lunch will again be en-route in the countryside. Our overnight location, Bulnai Hot Springs, is a hot spring located at 1600 meters east of Lake Khovsgol and is set among high mountains composed of black wood forest and granite. This Soviet-era resort has hot springs inside little wooden huts, and some of these springs reach 48°C. Locals believe a dip here will cure gastrointestinal ailments, relieve high blood pressure and refresh the soul!

Overnight at Bulnai in Ger camp. (Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)

06 August Day 6 (Sunday) BULNAI TO LAKE KHOVSGOL 100KM

At 1,645 m above sea level, 136 km long and 262 m deep Lake Khovsgol is the second-most voluminous freshwater lake in Asia. It holds almost 70% of Mongolia's and 2% of the world's freshwater. The surface of the lake freezes over in winter. The ice cover is strong enough to carry heavy trucks and it was used as a shortcut to the normal roads. Continue to our Ger Camp on the less visited eastern shoreline of Lake Khovsgol.

Overnight at Lake Khovsgol in lakeside Ger camp. (Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)

07 August. Day 7 (Monday) LAKE KHOVSGOL TO RENCHINLUMBE 150KM

Travelling from the east side of Lake Khovsgol around the southern end we will reach the western shores where lunch will be served. From here it's on to our overnight Ger camp at RENCHINLUMBE soum. Most RENCHINLUMBE soum residents still practice their ancient nomadic traditions. This region has many natural resources, is surrounded by high mountain ranges, more than 50 rivers, and over 300 lakes. There are plenty of things to see: unique ethnic groups and their customs, nomadic herding and stunning natural formations.

Overnight at RENCHINLUMBE in Ger camp (Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)

08 August Day 8. (Tuesday) RENCHINLUMBE TO TENGIS (DARKHAD VALLEY) 110KM

Today we will travel over mountain passes to the seldom visited Darkhad Valley. The Darkhad Valley has many rivers and lakes, and the area is noted for its stunning natural environment. It is relatively remote even by Mongolian standards and is certainly not on the usual tourist trail! The Darkhad Valley is so named after the people of the same name. They have their own dialect of the Mongolian language, as well as their own unique customs and culture. In the 2000 census only 16,268 people identified themselves as Darkhad. Today lunch will be beside a picturesque lake known as Flower Lake. In the evening there is an option to go fishing in the Tengis river.

Overnight at Tengis camping. (Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)



09 August Day 9. (Wednesday) TENGIS TO ULAAN UUL 130KM

Today we have some challenging terrain including mountain passes. Our journey will take us to a Park Rangers camp where we will spend the night. Tonight we will have a bonfire and get-together with the Rangers. Ulaan-Uul soum was established in 1931 and has 4268 inhabitants. It is located in the north-western part of Khuvsgul province. Ulaan Uul soum covers the southern part of the Darkhad valley, and here the locals practice shamanism. The Öliin Davaa Pass that leads to Ulaan Uul is protected by a famous collection of thirteen ovoost† that can be traced back to the 16th century.

Overnight at Ulaan Uul in a Ger Camp. (Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)



10 August Day 10. (Thursday) ULAAN UUL MAINTENANCE/REST DAY

In the morning there is an option to pitch in and do some much-needed maintenance on some of the Yamaha AG200 motorcycles that were donated to the Park Rangers in 2014 and 2015. The donation of these bikes has made life easier for the Park Rangers as previously they had to cover huge distances on foot, horseback, reindeer, or clapped-out Chinese motorbikes. We know the bikes will require much needed maintenance so we (Mike, Angela and Mongolian colleagues) have decided to pitch in and ensure the bikes are in good working order, so the Rangers can continue the good work protecting their environment.

Overnight at Ulaan Uul in a Ger Camp (Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)

† Owoo, oboo, or obo are sacred stone heaps used as altars or shrines in Mongolian folk religious practice and in the religion of other Mongolic peoples. They are usually made from rocks with wood. Owoos are often found at the top of mountains and in high places, like mountain passes.

11 August Day 11. (Friday) ULAAN UUL TO ARBULAG 140KM

Travelling through the mountains and crossing a small river we head for Arbulag. This area has a continental climate that combines multiple geographical features of rivers, forests and mountains. The ancient practice of Shamanism is prevalent here.

Overnight at Arbulag in a Ger Camp. (Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)

12 August Day 12. (Saturday) ARBULAG TO TSAGAAN UUL 155KM

Today our group of intrepid adventurers will travel over what is regarded as one of the more challenging mountain passes. Lunch will be served along the way. Tsagaan-Uul (literally White Mountain) Soum is close to the border of Tuva State which is part of the Russian Federation. This region has a harsh climate and is home to over 30 lakes and mineral springs.

Overnight at Tsagaan Uul. Camping (Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)

13 August Day 13. (Sunday) TSAGAAN UUL TO MÖRÖN 135KM

Time to head toward Mörön City from where we began our Mongolian off-road adventure. Lunch will be served along the way. It is always a much anticipated return to Mörön City with supermarkets and cafés on offer! Enjoy the comforts of our hotel with hot showers, your own toilet and the opportunity to catch up with some laundry.

Overnight at Mörön in a Hotel. (Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)

**14 August Day 14. (Monday)
MÖRÖN TO ULAAN BAATAR Flight
800KM**

We'll catch our morning or midday flight back to UB City. UB is not the prettiest city you'll ever see but the bright lights and array of shops and restaurants will still be a huge contrast to the countryside we have recently travelled.

Final group dinner tonight in UB

*Overnight in Ulaan Baatar in a hotel.
(Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)*

**15 August Day 15 (Tuesday)
ULAAN BAATAR – DEPARTURE DAY**

Check out time is 12.00 (midday) Please advise if you have a late-night departure and require a late check-out from your room.

FINISH



PRICES* – Land content only – Does not include international airfares.

Riders will need to be competent off-road motorcyclists with a reasonable degree of ride-fitness and UTV drivers must have experience using these vehicles.

Yamaha XT250 (base bike)	NZ12950
Yamaha WR450F	NZ13900
Yamaha WR250F	NZ13700
4x4 Vehicle Passenger	NZ 8990
UTV Side-by-Side	NZ13469 for solo driver
UTV 2 people sharing	NZ11999 per person

N.B. We have only 4 UTV available. (Expected models are Yamaha Viking or Wolverine)

Single Supplement (own hotel room/Ger)+NZ899

Self-Drive 4WD vehicle: Please contact us for a price if you are interested in this option. Must be an experienced 4 wheel driver.

*All prices may be subject to change. Prices are on a twin share basis

Included in the cost:

All accommodation – hotel and Ger camp, camping equipment when required (you will be issued with a tent, sleeping bag, and ground mattress to use during our camping nights), all meals – except for a few when we are in Ulaanbaatar, motorcycle or UTV hire or a place in 4x4 if a non-rider, support/luggage van, mechanic, translator, motorcycle guides and crew, some museum entrance fees, a fantastic adventure.



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