RIDE WORLD WIDE
MONGOLIA 2027

RIDE INFORMATION

Mongolia is one of the world's last great frontiers with a natural environment that is amongst the most pristine left on the Asian continent. Although development in the capital city, Ulaanbaatar, is moving at fast pace, Mongolia's fascinating ancient nomadic cultures are still little touched by western influence. Its varying landscapes, which range from the vast, inhospitable Gobi desert of the south, to the alpine meadows, clear lakes, dense forests and rugged mountains of the north west, are spectacular and still wild, and horses, the national symbol of Mongolia, provide a wonderful way to get to know the country and its people. Mongolian folk songs are still sung to the echo of horses' galloping hooves, many festivals are celebrated with horse races and games, and the much-loved national drink of 'airag' is made from fermented mares' milk. These rides in Mongolia are organised through long and well-established contacts within the country. Their local knowledge and understanding, combined with an awareness of the expectations of western travellers, ensure you are in excellent hands to experience this extraordinary land - although anyone considering a visit to Mongolia should remember that it is still very much developing in terms of service and infrastructure, particularly outside Ulaanbaatar. Delays and changes to even the most carefully planned itinerary are, unfortunately, possible. Although your local guides will do their utmost to ensure your trip runs smoothly, if you plan a visit you must be aware that flexibility, an open mind and a willingness to accept local standards and local expectations - which will not match those you are used to at home - are prerequisites!



DATES

Several set departure rides are planned in 2027 exploring the Hovsgol, Altai, Khentii, Terelj and Karakorum regions. Please see departure dates overleaf. Other departure dates and tailor-made itineraries for private groups can also be arranged on request. Contact us for availability and to chat about the possible options.

HORSES

Mongolia retains one of the last horse-based cultures in the world and outside the capital city horses are still commonly used for transport. Mongolian horses are small - around 13 hands - but they are strong, extremely agile and used to long hours of hard work. Their stamina and agility is outstanding and they are tough and extremely sure footed over rocky, even snow-covered mountains. The horses used for these rides are locally owned by different horseman who will usually accompany them and the group. They are generally unshod and are trained in a different style to our horses, although they are easy and fun to ride and will willingly canter for miles across open grassy meadows.





TACK

Australian stock saddles or English-style saddles are used rather than the extremely hard local Mongolian variety - but tack (including the quality of leather) is fairly basic as little can be bought locally.

RIDING

The trips vary in length and the number of riding days they include but there is generally between about 4 and 7 hours in the saddle on each riding day, either riding from camp to camp with rest stops for lunch and to drink tea with the locals or on some days, riding out from a base camp. Hours can be varied and tailored to suit on privately organised trips. Rides are accompanied by local Mongolian horseman who are responsible for and look after the horses at all times, and an English-speaking guide rides with you. When moving camp, luggage is transported by vehicle, or pack-horses if vehicular access is limited. An introduction to the horses and to the Mongolian riding technique will be given early in the trip.



WEIGHT LIMIT

There is no strict weight limit and, although the horses are small, they are extremely tough and will cope with riders of up to 90kg. However if you are over 83kg (13 stone) please contact us to discuss before booking. Heavier riders will be asked to change horse every few days, although using several different horses is usual on any trip.

PACE

Although small, Mongolian horses are tough and keen. All itineraries include plenty of chances for long canters and fun, energetic riding although the overall pace of each ride will also be governed by the terrain of the area you are in. Generally, riding will be faster overall in the Hovsgol and Karakorum areas where the landscape is quite open and it is usually grassy underfoot. The Altai is more mountainous with some steep, rocky slopes and rough ground so the pace here is usually slower. The Khentii and Terelj regions include alpine meadow with soft (sometimes quite boggy) ground but also quite a bit of forest, so rides here can also be slower on the whole. The pace can, of course, be varied to suit the ability of a group, terrain allowing.



RIDING EXPERIENCE

It is not essential to be a very experienced rider to join one of these trips as the Mongolian style of riding is quite different to our own and everyone will be learning a little. The horses are small, easy and well behaved to ride, inspiring confidence. However riding hours are generally quite long and you will definitely enjoy your trip much more if you are saddle fit. If you have not done much riding you need to prepare well with regular practise before you go or put up with some hardship as new muscles are discovered! We highly recommend that anyone planning to join a ride puts in several hours of regular riding before they go to get used to the time in the saddle. The Khentii Ride and the adventurous Altai & Valley of Great Lakes Ride require a slightly higher level of fitness and horsemanship, as they include some tricky, varied terrain and the latter particularly has several consecutive days with long hours of riding and little back up.

TERRAIN

Mongolia is a land-locked country of grass-covered steppe, desert and high mountains. The Altai mountains in the west reach 14,600 feet and have snow-covered peaks year round. The southern third of the country is covered by the Gobi desert, whilst much of the remainder is grassy plain and only about 10% is forested. Several of the routes followed originate from those used by local nomads when moving from winter to summer camps and the terrain changes along the route. In general, the areas around Lake Hovsgol (Mongolia's 'Blue Pearl') and Lake Uvs (Altai) are alpine, with meadows, clear streams and some forested valleys. The Khentii and Terelj region is also forested with larch and birch as well as open grassy valleys with some quite boggy terrain. The Karakorum area is one of open grassy steppe, dotted with tents (Gers) of the nomadic people, although some of the route followed on the Karakorum Ride is through the forested Orkhon valley.

WILDLIFE

Mongolia is home to a wide variety of wildlife with mammal species across its diverse environments that include Siberian ibex, argali sheep, marmots, elk, moose, roe and musk deer as well as wolf, brown bear and the rare and very elusive snow leopard. It also has over 400 recorded bird species (migratory and resident), including White-naped, Japanese, Red-crowned and Demoiselle Cranes, Oriental, White and Black storks,

Great Bustard, Relict Gull, Swan Goose, Asiatic Dowitcher and many birds of prey such as the Golden and Steppe Eagle, Saker Falcon, Marsh Harrier and the Upland Buzzard. When riding you have the best chanced of seeing wildlife in the Hovsgol, remote Altai and perhaps Khentii regions where there are few local people - but larger mammals are always elusive and hard to spot, tending to hide away in the mountains and thick forest.





ACCOMMODATION

In the capital Ulaanbaatar, accommodation is usually at the Bayangol Hotel, a fairly large (about 200 rooms), international style hotel (roughly equivalent to an international 4* standard) which is centrally located, clean, comfortable and has several bars, international restaurants and currency exchange facilities. In the countryside, accommodation is either in private mobile tented camps, or occasionally on some rides in a traditionally styled 'Ger' camp. When mobile camps are used, small, lightweight two-man tents are provided for sleeping (twin share although we will try to provide a single tent for anyone travelling alone), with sleeping mats (you need to take your own warm sleeping bag). Where possible a back-up vehicle transports tents and equipment and the camp will be set up ahead by a back-up team, with a large mess / dining tent for meals and a separate tent with a chemical or long-drop loo. Sometimes (particularly on the Khentii, Karakorum, Altai and Hovsgol Rides) where the route is inaccessible to vehicles, pack-horses are used to transport camp equipment so facilities are limited by packing space. On these nights only the small sleeping tents are carried, there is no mess tent and loos are open air. There are no shower facilities at any mobile camps although they are usually set up by a river where there is water for washing and a small amount can be heated on the fire in the mornings and evenings for shaving etc. The Ger camps used on the rides offer accommodation in traditionally styled 'Gers' - the dome yurt-like tents, with latticed walls covered in felt and canvas, that are the traditional home of Mongolia's nomadic people. Traditionally Gers are shared (everyone sleeps in the Ger) which are typically furnished with wooden framed beds, a dresser and a wood-burning stove in the centre to take the chill out of cool nights. Ger camps generally have washing facilities with hot and cold running water and flush loos (either in a separate block or occasionally attached to each individual Ger) as well as a restaurant / dining hall.



MEALS

All meals are included on the rides and, although food is definitely not one of Mongolia's highly rated attractions, with many items just not available, an effort is made to try and ensure you eat well. At hotels (and some Ger camps) there is usually a choice of menu, with both Mongolian dishes (that often include a lot of meat) and some European style dishes, available. In mobile camps, food is prepared by a Mongolian cook trained in western style cooking so there is usually a bit more variety - although when camping equipment is moved by pack horse limited space means menus are very simple. Mongolia is a meat-eating country, with mutton and beef most frequently served, often as a stew with dumplings. Fish such as lennox (a relative of the trout) are plentiful in lakes and rivers and, if caught, will be freshly cooked for you although the locals rarely eat fish. Fresh vegetables are limited and rare outside the capital, but vegetarians can usually be catered for provided plenty of advance notice is given. Alcohol is not included (you are free to bring your own) although Mongolian vodka and 'airag' are readily available. They should be drunk with care!







WEATHER

Winters in Mongolia are severe with temperatures dropping as low as - 40ºC. The spring thaw starts in April and June to August is the mild Mongolian summer. In May and June average daytime temperatures in Ulaanbaatar are around 13 to 17ºC, rising to around 20°C and sometimes 25ºC in July and August, the warmest months. Temperatures drop sharply again in September. Days in mid-summer are generally warm and sunny but nights are cool, particularly at altitude where it can be cold. It can rain at any time with July and August, although the warmest months, also when most rain is expected and weather often unpredictable with blue skies and sunshine one minute and rain showers the next. Showers are, however, usually fairly brief.

WHAT TO BRING

We will send you a list when you book.

ITINERARIES

Itineraries Below are summaries of the different ride itineraries offered together with a more detailed day-by-day itinerary for the Karakorum Ride. Please contact us for detailed itineraries of other rides - but note that itineraries are only examples of what is planned and day-by-day arrangements, routes and riding programmes may be varied by your guides in their absolute discretion if weather or other local conditions require.

Karakorum Ride (with & without Nadaam or Yak Festival) - A 12 (or 13) night itinerary, starting in Ulaanbaatar and including a visit to the ancient capital of Karakorum before riding for 5 to 7 days in the Orkhon valley. The Khangai Mountain range in central Mongolia feeds some of Mongolia's mightiest rivers and for thousands of years, the most famous, the Orkhon has been central to the lives of the nomadic peoples whose lifestyle has changed little in the last millennium. This journey aims to give some insight into their lives, before ending with 2 nights in a comfortable Ger Camp.

Khentii Ride - A 13 night itinerary, starting and ending in Ulaanbaatar, and including a 10 day linear ride, moving camp most nights and using pack horses to carry equipment for much of the journey. The ride explores the remote Khentii region, with its thickly forested valleys, where Genghis Khan is said to have been born and his body is rumoured to have been returned and buried here when he died - although no-one knows exactly where.

Mongol Ride - A 10 night itinerary, starting and ending in Ulaanbaatar, with riding on 6 days in the Terelj and Khentii regions. Landscapes are similar to the Khentii Ride although the area you ride through is not quite as remote. There is however more chance than on the Khentii Ride for interaction with local Nomadic people, to experience their hospitality and learn about their lives. Vehicle back up is normally possible but pack-horses may be used for some of this trip, depending on weather conditions.

Lake Hovsgol and the Reindeer People (with & without Nadaam Festival) - A 16 night itinerary, starting and ending in Ulaanbaatar, with riding on 8 days (option on other days) in northwest Mongolia. The region is home to Lake Hovsgol - Mongolia's 'Blue Pearl' - and renowned for its high mountains covered in thick taiga forest, clear lakes, rivers that teem with taimen and lennox and lush open valleys. It is also in this part of Mongolia that the Tsaatan minority group live, herdsmen who rely on Reindeer for transport, riding and food - today there are only 30 or 40 Tsaatan herding families living their traditional century-old lifestyle. The trip includes an internal flight to Moron in north-west Mongolia then, after driving into the Dharkad Valley to meet local horseman, a ride for 4 days to visit one of the few remaining Tsaatan families at their mountain camp. After returning to base camp for a day's rest, the ride continues with a 4 day linear route through Lake Hovsgol National Park to end at a Ger Camp on the lake shore.

Altai & Valley of the Great Lakes - This is an adventurous 17 day trip, with riding on 10 days, visiting the far west corner of Mongolia. After 2 nights in Ulaanbaatar and a flight to Ulaangom, the capital of the Uvs region, there is a drive to Lake Uvs, Mongolia's largest lake. From here, the trip follows a linear route riding into the Kharkhiraa Turgen Mountains, before finally ending close to Ulgii, near the base of the Altai Mountains which border Siberian Russia and Kazakhstan. During the riding section, pack horses or camels carry luggage and equipment for much of the time as there in no vehicle access and the route crosses a variety of terrain including grassy steppe, some fast flowing rivers and rough, rocky mountain passes. The adventure ends with a flight from Ulgii back to Ulaanbaatar.



Karakorum Ride (with & without Nadaam Festival) - example itinerary

Day 1 - Arrive Ulaanbaatar and transfer to the Bayangol Hotel (or similar). Ulaanbaatar, the energetic capital of Mongolia, is home to more than a million people, nearly half the Mongolian population. On the way from the airport you will pass a large suburban area, where traditional nomadic felt tents sit next to western styled family houses and will start to understand the tremendous migration and development challenges faced in this fast-growing city. Settle into rooms and lunch at the hotel with the afternoon for guided sightseeing. There will be a visit to the Bogd Khan Palace, a series of traditional buildings in which the last King of Mongolia lived and now a museum displaying artefacts and costumes associated with the King as well as his collection of European furniture and stuffed animals. There may also be time to visit the Narantuul Market also known as "Black Market" and a good place to pick up traditional Mongolian clothing, boots, riding gear and cashmere. In the evening a welcome dinner at a restaurant. Overnight hotel in Ulaanbaatar. (L,D)

Day 2 - After breakfast in the hotel set off on the drive west, heading to Karakorum, the ancient capital of Mongolia. For 30 years under Genghis Khan, this town was capital of the largest empire the world has ever seen which in 1279 it covered nearly all of Asia and Europe (Kublai Khan, grandson of Genghis, moved the capital to Beijing). Today there is little left of the former capital, but the walls of the massive Erdene Zuu Monastery, built in 1586, still stand. Other temples suffered damage under communist purges of the 20th century, as they attempted to eradicate the 60 temples that housed nearly 10,000 Buddhist monks. In the afternoon visit the Erdene Zuu Monastery, the most ancient surviving Buddhist monastery in Mongolia and part of the World Heritage Site entitled 'Orkhon Valley Cultural Landscape'. After visiting Karakorum Museum continue on the drive to the Orkhon Valley and to Nariin Am where camp is set up. Meet the local horseman before dinner and the night in camp. (B,L,D)



Day 3 - After breakfast, you will be matched to your horse, saddles selected, and the ride begins. The route today follows the Orkhon valley, passing many semi nomadic family settlements. The back up vehicle will meet you for a lunch break, then continue riding to the night's camping spot where camp (moved ahead by back up vehicle) has been set up by the river. Dinner and night in camp. (B,L,D)

Day 4 - Ride along the Orkhon Valley to the Orkhon waterfall. This valley is known as the 'cradle of the Mongolian civilisation' as many of Mongolia's ancient monuments lie within its borders. The Orkhon Waterfall marks the half-way point of the Orkhon river, the longest river in Mongolia and the area around it is green and forested. Stop for a picnic lunch then continue to camp, home for the next two nights, set up by the Orkhon river. (B,L,D)

Day 5 - Either a rest from riding with a chance to explore on foot or perhaps a morning ride in this picturesque area. This part of Mongolia is well known for producing the best airag, or fermented mares' milk, in the country. Locals love to challenge you to a singing game, the loser having to consume a whole bowl of the airag, so beware when visiting local families! Night in camp by the Orkhon river. (B,L,D)

Days 6 to 9 - Refreshed after a day relaxing in camp, you are back on the horses today. Packhorses are loaded by their horsemen - you will be amazed at how much these small, sturdy horses can carry but are asked to take as little as possible with you for the next few days. The riding becomes more challenging as you head out along narrow trails through forested mountains and into a more remote area up to altitudes of 2200m (7260ft). The natural environment however is pristine and untouched. Finally arrive at 'Eight Lakes' where packhorses are unloaded and camp is set up on the lake shore. On the following day, ride out between the lakes, with time also to explore on foot, enjoying the birdlife and wildflowers. The Naiman Lake area was formed by volcanic eruption in the late Neogene period and you still can see lava rocks on the barren mountain tops. On the 4th day ride back to Shurangiin Tsohio, where Nomadic families live and the vehicles and support team are waiting and camp will be set up. A farewell dinner with horseman. (B,L,D)



Day 10 - A leisurely breakfast then set off on a drive to Khugno Khan close to Erdene Khamba Monastery which was built in a sacred valley, according to Mongolian Buddhist traditions. It is situated north of the Elsen Tasarhai sandunes in the Khogno Khan Uul Mountains. Today there are only ruins - but the monastery had two sections: the lower one called the Zaluu Khiid, or the "Novice Temple" and the upper one ,the Uvgun Khiid, or the "Elder's Temple", built on top of the mountain. Time to explore before making camp nearby. Dinner and night in camp. (B,L,D)

Day 11 - After breakfast a drive to Hustai National Park, to search for Przewalski's horse ('takhi' in Mongolia) the world's last surviving subspecies of the wild horse (Eques Ferus). Poaching and overgrazing by livestock decimated the once large takhi herds and after sightings ceased in the 1960s, conservationists pronounced the takhi extinct in the wild. Fortunately small numbers of these distinctive Mongolian horses were living in captivity and scientists collaborated internationally to breed and reintroduce the species into its native habitat. The reintroduction has been a success and there is now a free-ranging population of around 400. After lunch drive to Tuul Riverside Lodge in Maikhan Tolgoi. This is a small and fully sustainable traditional Mongolian 'Ger Camp' in a lovely situation at the foot of the Bayanzurkh Mountain. Dinner & night in Gers at Tuul Riverside Lodge. (B,L,D)



Day 12 - Breakfast and a full day to relax at the lodge. An outing in an ox cart and chance to test your archery skills - legendary for their prowess with the bow, Mongols perfected this ancient practice with bows made of wood, animal sinew, bone, using glue made from fish bladders in a process that could take up to a year. A stone inscription dating from the 13th C claims that one of Genghis Khan's generals hit a target from a distance of a third of a mile. In the evening dinner is the traditional Mongolian dish of Khorhog - mutton cooked slowly in a huge, metal urn with vegetables, water, and most importantly hot stones from the flame, creating a rich broth. The day ends around the campfire, watching the stars - unforgettable on a clear night. (B,L,D)

Day 13 - After breakfast at the lodge and transfer to Ulaanbaatar airport (about 60 kms / 1.5 hours) for onward flights (B)

Or, for the combined Karakorum Ride with Nadaam Festival:
Day 11 (10th July) - After breakfast drive to drive to Hui Doloon Khudag, on the outskirts of Ulaanbaatar to watch the famous horse race. The horse racing tradition is said to date back to the Bronze Ages and is a favourite amongst the herdsmen. Horses are categorized according to age and the race distance is determined by this and may range from 15 to 35km. After the race drive to your hotel in Ulaanbaatar for dinner and the night. (B,L,D)



Day 12 (11th July) - Breakfast and enjoy the Naadam Festival celebrations in Ulaanbaatar, starting with the ceremony in the main square, then watching wrestling and archery competitions. In the late afternoon drive to Tuul Riverside Lodge. Dinner & night in Gers at Tuul Riverside Lodge. (B,L,D)

Day 13 (12th July) - Same as day 12 of standard Karakorum Ride.

Day 14 (Monday 13th July) - Breakfast at the lodge then transfer to Ulaanbaatar airport for onward flight (B)

DATES & RATES 2027

Please note that ride rates are quoted in USD. The sterling price will be the equivalent sterling rate using the USD/sterling exchange rate in force when you book/pay.

Lake Hovsgol & the Reindeer people (16 nights) - 2nd to 18th August
USD 4190 per person, (9-12 riders); **USD 4790** (6-8); **USD 5490** (4-5); **USD 5775** (2-3);
(single supplement - USD 350)
Lake Hovsgol & the Reindeer people with Nadaam Festival (16 nights) - 27th June to 13th July
USD 4850 per person, (9-12 riders); **USD 5475** (6-8); **USD 6465** (4-5); **USD 6815** (2-3);
(single supplement - USD 420)

Karakorum Ride (12 nights) - 15th to 27th May, 3rd to 15th June, 29th August to 10th September
USD 3025 per person, (9-12 riders); **USD 3400** (6-8); **USD 3715** (4-5); **USD 3900** (2-3);
(single supplement - USD 280)
Karakorum Ride with Nadaam Festival (13 nights) - 30th June to 13th July
USD 3375 per person, (9-12 riders); **USD 3900** (6-8); **USD 4315** (4-5); **USD 4525** (2-3);
(single supplement - USD 370)
Karakorum Ride with Yak Festival (13 nights) - 18th to 31st July
USD 3325 per person, (9-12 riders); **USD 3665** (6-8); **USD 4025** (4-5); **USD 4215** (2-3);
(single supplement - USD 350)

Khentii Ride (13 nights) - 10th to 23rd June; 6th to 19th August
USD 3525 per person, (9-12 riders); **USD 3775** (6-8); **USD 4265** (4-5); **USD 4815** (2-3);
(single supplement - USD 300)

Mongol Ride (10 nights) - 28th May to 7th June, 18th to 28th July, 17th to 27th August, 18th to 28th September
USD 2540 per person, (9-12 riders); **USD 2875** (6-8); **USD 3075** (4-5); **USD 3440** (2-3);
(single supplement - USD 250)

Altai & Valley of the Great Lakes (16 nights) - 15th to 31st July
USD 4900 per person, (9-12 riders); **USD 5065** (6-8); **USD 5775** (4-5); **USD 6150** (2-3);
(single supplement USD 300)

Prices Rates quoted above are per person. They **INCLUDE** 10, 12, 13 or 16 nights (as indicated) accommodation based on two people sharing, all transfers and internal airfares within the itinerary, all riding, food and equipment and the services of local and an English speaking guide. Single rooms can normally be arranged if requested but a single supplement is charged.

Prices **DO NOT** include International flights to Ulaanbaatar and taxes, your bar bill, personal travel / medical insurance (which you *must* have), any visa fees, personal extras at hotels, nor any tips you might wish to leave.



FLIGHT & TRAVEL INFORMATION

The meeting point is Ulaanbaatar (UBN). Most flights to UBN from Europe are either via Istanbul, South Korea, Frankfurt or Beijing. You can fly to Beijing from London with British Airways and then onto UBN with MIAT (Mongolian Airlines) or Air China. MIAT also have flights to UBN from Frankfurt, and Turkish Airlines have flights from Istanbul, although not daily. Airfares vary with airline and season but fares with Turkish are from around £850-£900 Economy return including taxes. Combining British Airways with MIAT or Air China via Beijing, or flying to Frankfurt and then on with MIAT, is usually more, from around £1600 Economy return. If flying via Beijing, an overnight there, either on the outward or return leg, is usually required for flight connections to / from UBN. NOTE that at peak times (eg July for the Nadaam Festival) flights can be substantially more expensive and availability very limited. Please call us if you would like more information - we can book certain flights and advise on other flight options. Our ATOL number for flight bookings is 6213.

GENERAL VISA & HEALTH INFORMATION

(NB this is a brief outline - further information will be sent to you if you make a confirmed booking)

Visas British Passport holders do not need to pre-arrange visas to visit Mongolia as a tourist for a stay of up to 30 days. This also applies to US and most EU passport holders. Ensure your passport expiry date is at least 6 months after the date you leave. You can check requirements the Immigration of Mongolia at this link: https://en.consul.mn/ or https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice/mongolia/entry-requirements

Health No vaccinations are required as a condition of entry to Mongolia from the UK and Europe although The TravelHealthPro website (NaTHNaC) recommends most travellers are up to date with Hepatitis A, Tetanus, Typhoid and other routine vaccinations in accordance with the recommended UK schedule. Other vaccines may also be recommended according to personal medical history. You should always check with or visit your GP or a travel clinic about 4 weeks before departure for advice.

(DRAFT 10/11/2026)

