

mongolian horse ride, mongolia



Your riding challenge begins in Mongolia's capital, Ulaanbaatar where you will spend a day visiting the Gandan Monastery and the Bogd Khan Palace.

Mongolian horses are renowned for their speed, strength and dexterity. This outstanding challenge will take you toward the Bayangol River through wide-open plains and thick forests of Siberian larch, home to deer, wolves, and moose. You will ride along the slopes of the Ikh Yan Mountain, where you will see rock paintings of ancient Gods.

Finally, you will ride up to the Nuramt mountain of Gachuurt, heartland of the Khenty mountain range on the banks of the mighty Tuul River.

You can hike along the forested hillsides or visit a local village to find out about traditional ways of life. A stranger is immediately a friend and the comfort of the *ger* is remarkable, making Mongolia a true gem for the intrepid traveller.

Day 1: International Departure

Meet at the airport for your international departure to Ulaanbaatar; our Charity Challenge representative will be at the airport to assist you with the check-in and any last minute questions.

Day 2: International Arrival

You will arrive in Ulaanbaatar where you will be met at the airport by a Charity Challenge local agent who will transfer you to the three star hotel. The day will be yours to relax and recover from the flight. Dinner will be at the Ger restaurant with traditional Mongolian food and entertainment. You will stay overnight in the hotel.

Day 3: Ulaanbaatar to Mandal Station - 8kms ride

After breakfast this morning you will have a guided sightseeing tour to the Gandan Monastery, National History Museum and Bogd Khan Palace followed by lunch at a local restaurant. You will then transfer to the train station to take a train to Mandal, a 2-hour journey. On arrival you will be met by your horseman and start riding towards the Bayangol River near the Bayangol Resort. Overnight in tents.

Day 4: Bayangol to Sanzai – 30kms

After breakfast, you will start riding through wide-open lands until Tsokhiot Mountain, passing the small village of Udleg. The following stretch of ride takes you through deep forest rich with Siberian larches (pine trees), which are home to deer and moose. You will camp in the larches near Sanzai Mountain. Overnight in tents.



Day 5: Sanzai to Burkhintyn Zuu – 20kms

You will wake up to the birds singing. Today's adventure takes you up the slopes of Ikh Yan mountain, along the Uliastain River, and finally to the plain of Burkhintyn Zuu, where you will camp. Here you will see some rock paintings of ancient Gods. Overnight in tents.

Day 6: Burkhantyn Zuu to Terelj River – 30kms

After breakfast at the camp, you will ride towards the Terelj River and down to the Uliastai River and passing through Davaany Am. You will camp overnight on the banks of the Terelj River. Overnight in tents.



Day 7: Terelj River to Shilj Ovoo – 30kms

Today you will continue to ride along the Terelj River and past the park. As you leave civilization behind, you will start seeing squirrels, marmots and various birds. Your campsite will be on the slope of Shilj Ereeny Pass, where you will stray amongst the unique assemblage of different plants, flowers and animals. Overnight in tents.

Day 8: Shilj Ovoo to Ogoomor valley - 30kms

You will ride to Ogoomor valley today enjoying a landscape consisting of green, forested hillsides, and spectacular granite cliffs. Many nomads live in this area and you can see yaks, sheep, goats and horses grazing in this peaceful valley. Overnight in tents.

Day 9: Ogoomor to Gachuurt

Today you ride down through the Dend valley to reach Gachuurt in the Khenty Mountain Range. On the banks of the mighty Tuul River, you will visit a secluded island overlooking the river. You will have a traditional Mongolian meal of “khorkhog”. This is mutton cooked slowly in a huge, metal urn with vegetables, water and hot stones from a flaming fire. The meat becomes soft and tasty and the water turns into a thick meaty broth. Overnight at Nomads ger camp.

Day 10: Gachuurt to Ulaanbaatar

Today you hike and ride in the surrounding area. After lunch you will drive back to Ulaanbaatar. This evening's you will enjoy a traditional folklore performance and a Celebration dinner at Hazara restaurant. Overnight at hotel in Ulaanbaatar.

Day 11: International Departure / UK Arrival

After an early breakfast, you will be transferred (1hr) to Ulaanbaatar International airport for your departing flight to London. Arrival back into London.

optional extension to the capital of the moghul empire, Karakorum

summary:

Travelling west of the capital, Ulaanbaatar, you will feel rather than see what the once glorious capital of Mongols looked like. The same vast steppes, the same smell in the air, and people leading just the same lifestyle as their legendary ancestors. Visit Karakorum, Mongolia's old capital and its ancient monastery. Return to Ulaanbaatar via the Khustai National Park where the Wild Horses or “Takhi” have been re-introduced after becoming nearly extinct in the mid 20th Century. This magnificent animal now roams its homeland again.

Day 11: Mount Khogno Khan walk

This morning the rest of your group will depart and you will be transferred out to the west of Ulaanbaatar to Mount Khogno Khan. The scenery is wide-open steppe with rolling hills in the background. You will stop and have a packed lunch on the way. On arrival you will make your way to the ger camp at Mount Khogno Khan. This mountain is perfect for some afternoon hiking and there are some remains of an ancient monastery that can be explored. Dinner and overnight will be at the ger camp.

Day 12: Karakorum & Erdene Zuu Monastery

Today you will drive (70kms) to Karakorum, the ancient capital of Mongolia. There is now a small township there. On arrival the first and most obvious landmarks are the massive walls of the Erdene Zuu Monastery. The Monastery was built in 1586 and is surrounded by a massive 400m x 400m wall. Only a few temples remain standing after the communist purges. In previous times the grounds held over 60 temples with 10,000 monks using them for their daily worship. You will visit this Monastery and then head back to the ger camp at Mount Khogno Khan. Dinner and overnight will be at the ger camp.



Day 13: Return to Ulaanbaatar via Khustai National Park

After breakfast you will drive back to Ulaanbaatar passing by Khustai National Park, watching out for the Wild Horses. The locals believe that spotting them brings good luck. A packed lunch will be served on the

N.B: The itinerary is there as a guide and may change due to unusual weather patterns, the strength of the group and so on. We will do our very best to keep to the set itinerary however we cannot be held responsible for any last minute changes that might occur. In all such circumstances, your expedition leader will have the final say.

way. You will return to Ulaanbaatar in the evening. Overnight at hotel in Ulaanbaatar.

Day 14: Free day Ulaanbaatar

Today you have a free day to explore Mongolia's capital city, Ulaanbaatar. You can visit the Natural History Museum, where you will get an overview of the geography, flora and fauna of Mongolia. Of special interest is an outstanding collection of dinosaur bones, which were found in the Gobi Desert. Alternatively there is the Fine Arts' Museum, which is dedicated to paintings, religious arts and artefacts. You will find a wonderful collection of archaeological artefacts from the Hun period (III-II centuries BC) and panel embroidery. It houses the largest tanka scroll (Buddhist embroidery tapestry) in Mongolia. There is also the Chojin Lama Monastery Museum, located downtown and built at the turn of this century by the decree of the Bogd Khaan for his younger brother. This is one of few Buddhist monasteries that survived destruction during the 1930's. Ironically, the communist powers decided to set up an anti religious centre and the Chojin Lam Temple was picked as its headquarters. The museum contains precious examples of Buddhist art including the paintings by Ts. Zanabazar, a renowned religious reformer and great artisan of 17th century, as well as colourful masks for Tsam Dance ceremony embroidered with corals, bronze statues of gods in erotic poses, silk tankas and many other artefacts. Overnight at hotel in Ulaanbaatar.

Day 15: International Departure / UK Arrival

After an early breakfast, you will be transferred (1hr) to Ulaanbaatar International airport for your departing flight to London. Arrival back into London.

- Cost:** £310 per person sharing
(twin accommodation)
- Single Supp:** £60 per person
£40 per person (hotel only)
(NB: there must be a minimum of 4 persons for this extension to run or a low number supplement will be applied.)

Included

- ? 3 day expedition to Karakoram inc accommodation
- ? 2 night at hotel in Ulaanbaatar
- ? All meals & water
- ? Transfer to airport for return flight

Excluded

- ? Personal expenses (ie: gifts, extra soft drinks or alcohol, laundry etc)
- ? Tips for local team

If you would like to book the above extension or have any extension enquiries please call the Charity Challenge office on 020 8557 0000 or email flights@charitychallenge.com All bookings are subject to availability and group booking limitations. We therefore ask you to consider your travel plans as soon as possible and if you want to extend your challenge, please put in your request immediately