

## MONGOLIA

### In the Footsteps of Genghis Khan

**Duration:** 11 days / 10 nights

**Trip Grade:** Moderate

**Dates:**

4 – 14 Jun 2010

3 – 13 Jun 2011

Payment Options:	2010	2011
Self Payment Registration Fee	£449	£449
Trip Cost	£1400	£1440
Fundraising Registration Fee	£449	£449
Min. Fundraising Target	£3500	£3600

**Mongolia stirs up visions of wide open landscapes, wild horses galloping across the steppes and a nomadic life little changed since the times of Genghis Khan.**

**We ride sturdy Mongolian horses for 200km through the remote valleys of the Khangai mountains of central Mongolia, witnessing the traditional herding lifestyle of the Khalkh Mongols. We follow tracks through valleys and mountains, crossing rivers and passing round felt gers before finishing our journey at Kharkhorin, the historic centre of Genghis Khan's Mongol Empire. This is a rare opportunity to experience the beautiful, untouristed landscapes of the 'land of blue sky'.**

## ITINERARY

**Day 1:** Depart London

**Day 2:** Arrive in Mongolia's capital city of Ulan Bataar, where we meet our transport and travel out into the countryside. We camp at a scenic ger camp set in a grove at the base of the mountains in Harhorin. Overnight ger camp. **Drive approx 6-8 hours**

**Day 3:** We continue our journey through the wilderness to Tsenher village, where our horses will be waiting. After lunch and a trip briefing, we meet our horses and start riding. We ride across a wide open plain, then enter a pretty area where wild flowers and low willow trees grow

beside a stream running alongside a steep rocky mountain face. We continue riding until the valley opens out and camp overnight in a lush green meadow. Overnight camp.

**Drive approx 4-5 hours - Ride approx 3 hours**

**Day 4:** We pass by traditional white 'ger' dwellings of nomadic families and their herds of yaks and cashmere goats, then ride up to Bogooch Pass at an altitude of 1800m. After crossing the pass we descend into the wide valley of the Tseterleg River. There are many families living in this fertile valley. We camp by the river on the far side of the cliffs. Overnight camp. **Ride approx 6 – 7 hours**

**Day 5:** We follow the Tseterleg River for a while, then bear right towards the pass. We follow a muddy track through pine forest (still showing signs of damage from recent forest fires) to reach Ultiin Davaa pass (2200m). Riding down the other side, we pass an area where gold is being mined from the mountains. We cross a wide river and set up our camp near the local yak herders. Overnight camp.

**Ride approx 5 – 6 hours**



**Day 6:** We ride along the beautiful valley bottom, with steep rocky cliffs towering to one side and forested hills on the other. Many river crossings await us as the Orkhon river zig-zags its way along the valley. We may see ground squirrels darting about as we approach and brightly-coloured ruddy shelduck on the river. The scenery becomes more dramatic as we pass through an area that was once actively volcanic. We camp near the Orkhon waterfall. Overnight camp. **Ride approx 6 hours**



**Day 7:** From the waterfall we turn northwards and ride through the rolling hills, following the general path of the Orkhon River. In the distance we can see the village of Batulzii, one of the few signs of permanent habitation that we encounter on our trip. Our riverside camp is in a beautiful spot renowned for good fishing. Overnight camp.

**Ride approx 6 hours**

**Day 8:** We continue riding through the hills, where nomadic families herd their animals, mainly horses and cows. The scenery is beautiful and we see few other signs of present or past habitation other than an old cemetery. We set up camp on the open plain beside the River Orkhon.

Overnight camp. **Ride approx 6 hours**

**Day 9:** We continue across the open steppe, following the river, until we reach Harhorin, the site of Genghis Khan's capital in the thirteenth century. If time allows we will visit the famous Erdene Zuu monastery. The monastery was the first centre of Buddhism in Mongolia, built on the site where the great Khan's palace once stood. We stay the night in a ger camp on the edge of the small town.

Overnight ger camp. **Ride approx 6 hours**

**Day 10:** Leaving our horses and camp behind us, we leave early for the drive back to Ulan Bataar. We will have time to look around the city before our celebration meal. Overnight hotel. (Dinner not included). **Drive approx 6-8 hours**

**Day 11:** Transfer to airport for our morning departure; evening arrival in London.\*

## WHAT'S INCLUDED

The tour cost includes scheduled flights London – Ulan Bataar – London, 3\* hotel in Ulan Bataar, all camping equipment except sleeping bag and sleeping mat, and all food other than 1 meal (hotel 3\*).

The tour cost does not include travel insurance, Mongolian entry visa and 1 meal as specified in the itinerary. Airport departure tax (if applicable) is also not included.

There is full support with local guides and cooks as well as Discover Adventure leaders.

A maximum of £100.00 is recommended for personal expenses.

### ENJOY THE EXPERIENCE!

For most people, the main attraction of travelling to a different country is to see new sights and enjoy new experiences. Sometimes those new experiences can make life harder or more inconvenient than you may like, such as toilet hygiene or different food, or simply a different attitude to solving problems. This is all part of the challenge you are signing up for!

We can guarantee that coming face-to-face with experiences outside your normal 'comfort zone' will help you bond with your fellow trekkers and provide you with plenty of things to laugh about! A sense of humour and sense of adventure are two of the most important things to bring with you!

## FLIGHT INFORMATION

Group flights leave from London Heathrow or Gatwick and are booked through Discover Adventure Ltd under ATOL licence 5636. By travelling with Discover Adventure you are protected by the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA).

**Our itineraries are always based on current flight schedules and are therefore subject to change by the airline.**

### Connecting Flights

If you book flights to Heathrow or Gatwick, it is your responsibility to allow plenty of time to connect to the group flight and to cope with any flight schedule changes. Please be aware that the best deals allow little flexibility if you need to change them. We regret that we are unable to book connecting flights for you.

### Transit Stops

When booking group flights we endeavour to find the best flights that match our itinerary. There are often no direct

flights to our destination, so do be prepared for transit stops: bring a good book or chat to your fellow trekkers! Airlines that do offer direct flights rarely offer competitive rates for groups. Please remember that the main purpose of our trips is to raise money for charity!

### Flying Separately

If you prefer to book your own flights please ask us for a land-only cost. You will be responsible for making your own arrangements for meeting the rest of the group, though we can advise you. We need to know if you do not require our group flight as early as possible; please complete the form in the information pack you'll be sent with your booking confirmation.

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## ACCOMODATION

We camp in two-man tents when on the ride; in the ger camps we sleep in gers which generally accommodate 2-4 people. The ger camps have good facilities with hot water. The 3\* hotel in Ulan Bataar is twin-share with ensuite facilities.

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## FOOD

All food and accommodation is included other than 1 meal as specified in the itinerary. The food is good and there is plenty of it.

### Dietary Requirements

Being vegetarian or having other dietary requirements is not usually a problem provided you let us know well in advance. If you know there are plenty of foods you cannot eat you may wish to bring extra snacks from home so you can top up your energy supply. Please feel free to ask us for advice.

### Other Meals

Any meals not included are listed in the itinerary and are generally when we are in towns or cities and you are free to explore and try other culinary experiences! There is always something to suit every budget.

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## PASSPORT & VISA

A valid ten-year passport is essential to enter Mongolia, and there should be at least six months' validity from date of departure from Mongolia. A visa is essential for almost all nationalities, including British passport-holders, and costs approx £35.

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## VACCINATIONS

We recommend the following vaccinations:

- Tetanus (essential)
- Hepatitis A
- Typhoid
- Polio
- Diphtheria
- Rabies

**You should always check with a GP or travel clinic for up-to-date travel health advice as it does change**

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## RIDING INFORMATION

### FITNESS WARNING: DESIGNED TO BE CHALLENGING!

This horse trek is designed to be challenging for those of good health and fitness, and is achievable for most people provided they train well in advance. We will supply you with a thorough training guide when you have registered. Training for the challenge is all part of the preparation and requires commitment! Without it, you will find the horse trek less enjoyable – and we want you to have the time of your life!

The horses will be the responsibility of the Mongolian horsemen that travel with the group, but you can get involved with the upkeep as much or as little as you want. The horsemen will also tack up the horses for you and take care of them in the evenings. You can involve yourself or just take it easy.

You will be riding western style on Mongolian or Russian saddles.

You should have a good level of confidence in the saddle and around horses. You do not need to be an accomplished rider but some experience is essential. You will be spending hours in the saddle each day so we recommend your muscles are accustomed to riding!

## Clothing & Equipment

We are travelling through remote mountain landscapes and could be exposed to bad weather at any time. The information below gives you an idea of the climate, but be prepared for all weathers and temperatures. We provide you with a detailed packing kit-list on registration, as well as details on useful discounts you are entitled to as a Discover Adventure customer. We are always available if you need advice.

## Weather

### Weather for Ulan Bataar:

Max/Min temp in °C and average No. days of rain per month

	Max	Min	Rainfall
July	24	11	76mm
August	22	9	50mm
Sept	13	2	23mm

## TRIP SUPPORT

### Discover Adventure Crew

Your trip will be led by experienced Discover Adventure leaders. Our leaders are selected for their experience in harsh wilderness environments,



knowledge of travel in remote areas, friendliness and approachability, sense of humour and ability to safely and effectively deal with any situation that arises. You are in very safe hands with a Discover Adventure leader.

All our leaders are from the UK or other English-speaking countries. Most work for us on an ad-hoc basis and have 'real' jobs in-between trips! We never send our leaders to the same destination for months on end – we want them to be as enthusiastic about your trip as you are.

The number of crew and support vehicles looking after you will depend on the final size of your group, but the team will be looking after every aspect of your trip whether that's leading the trek, looking after camp or making your lunch! At Discover Adventure we pride ourselves on our high

leader: trekker ratio and believe it leads to greater trip enjoyment as well as excellent trip safety.

## Luggage

Vehicles take the group to the start of the horse-trek and meet us at the end. Our luggage, food, water and camping equipment is carried by support vehicles to camp.

It is essential that your luggage is carried in either a soft expedition-style kit bag. Ask us about our specially-designed low-cost kitbags if you don't have one already.

In addition you should bring a small daypack for items needed during the day, as there will be no access to your main luggage until camp each night.

## Trip Safety

Your safety, and that of the rest of the group, is our highest priority. Our trips are designed and planned with safety in mind. Your crew will be equipped with radios and emergency mobile phones, medical kit and other safety apparatus where necessary. They always have access to our 24-hour emergency UK back-up. Our leaders are responsible for safety on the trip, and will make any changes to the itinerary they deem necessary should local conditions dictate.



Pre-trip administration – such as compulsory medical questionnaires and travel insurance – is all done with your safety in mind.

## RESPONSIBLE TOURISM

Long before 'Responsible Tourism' became a recognised phrase, we designed and ran our trips to ensure they made minimum impact on the environment and a positive impact on the local communities we pass through. AITO, our Trade Association has recognised the work we do in this area and has awarded us 4 stars as a Responsible Tour Operator.

## CARBON OFFSETTING

We actively encourage all our customers to offset any emissions connected with their trip. You can offset at any time in the lead-up to departure by visiting Climate Care via

our website and making a donation to a worthwhile project supported by them. Alternatively, if you wish to take more practical action you can volunteer for a day with BTCV and work on an environmental project near to where you live. Work may include construction footpaths, dry stone walling, creating wildlife habitats or planting trees in your community. Make your volunteer pledge by going to [www.btcv.org/dapledge](http://www.btcv.org/dapledge)



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