

Mongolian Explorer: The Gobi & Beyond with Naadam Festival

OVERLAND EXPEDITION ACROSS THE LAND OF NOMADS

SMALL GROUP TOUR



14 Days

1 departure in 2010

June 30-July 13

Land Tour Cost

5-12 travelers \$5,495**
Partial Single Supplement \$695*

*See page 93 for Partial Single Supplement details.

**Land tour cost includes internal flight costs which are subject to change; see the Descriptive Daily Itinerary for details.

Stay a little longer... Extend your stay with a train ride over the border into Siberia to explore Lake Baikal. Contact us for details.

MIR Signature Features

- Touch the cool, clear waters of Mongolia's deepest lake, ancient Hovsgol
- Discover Erdene Zhu Monastery, built from the rubble of Genghis Khan's ruined capital
- Visit with a nomadic family in the fabled Gobi Desert



Heading for home



Naadam pageantry

Mongolia: The name conjures up images of vast grasslands, wind-swept steppe and endless sky. Here, an empire built on horseback galloped across two continents, leaving behind the names Genghis and Kublai Khan. Even today, the skills of that nomadic army are preserved at the extraordinary Naadam Festival.

Days 1-4: UlaanBaatar, Lake Hovsgol Begin in UlaanBaatar, where the centuries-old Buddhist heritage is still vital. Tour some of UlaanBaatar's treasures before flying north to alpine Lake Hovsgol, sacred to Mongolians. Sleep in traditional gers, and explore the summer pastureland of reindeer and yak on foot and horseback.

Days 5-6: UlaanBaatar, Hustai Nuruu, Kara Korum Set off overland to Kara Korum, the site of Genghis Khan's all-but-vanished capital city. The splendid Erdene Zhu monastery, built with stones salvaged from the ruins of Kara Korum, is experiencing a rebirth of faith after the fall of communism.

On the drive out to the former capital, stop at Hustai Nuruu National Park,

home to the Przewalski Horse, the last remaining species of truly wild horse in the world.

Days 7-10: Gobi Desert Continue on an adventurous overland route through the Mongolian outback to the Gobi, stopping en route at lost monasteries and remote ger camps. During the epic journey, discover the Flaming Cliffs and the green Yol Am Canyon, and climb the sand dunes at Moltsoq Els. Along the way, encounter the nomads who call this formidable environment home.

Days 11-14: UlaanBaatar Fly back to UlaanBaatar. Experience the pageantry of the fascinating **Naadam Festival**, a celebration of Mongolia's ageless traditions, and finish with a performance of Mongolian throat-singing.

