

# Mongolian Explorer: The Gobi & Beyond with Naadam Festival

OVERLAND EXPEDITION ACROSS THE LAND OF NOMADS

## SMALL GROUP TOUR



### 14 Days

#### Explorer Series Land Tour

\$5,895 per person, double occupancy

Plus internal air \$700

(economy class, subject to change)

Partial single supplement \$895 (see page 103)

Comprehensive tour inclusions listed on page 103

**Group Size** 5-12 travelers

#### 2012 Land Tour Dates

June 30-July 13

**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 Experiences

- Meet Tsaatan reindeer herders at their summer pastures near Mongolia's deepest lake, ancient Hovsgol
- Attend the unforgettable Naadam Festival, a celebration of the skills of the steppe – archery, horseracing and wrestling
- Visit with a nomadic family in the fabled Gobi Desert

photo: Høge Pedersen



Dad encourages his jockey

**M**ongolia: 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. Follow their lead, using the horsepower of modern vehicles to cover the incredible distances at the heart of Mongolia. End in the capital, where 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** Return to UlaanBaatar before setting 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, has experienced 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 remarkable performance of

Mongolian throat-singing.

photo: Martin Klimenta



Ankle-bone shooting tournament

