

# Mongolia and Siberia

Western Mongolia, Altai Republic • Discovery • 18 Days

*Discover Mongolia and Siberia on this unique 4x4 trip across Mongolia's grasslands and gobi to the remote Western Bayan Olgii province of the strikingly picturesque Altai Republic of western Siberia. Along the way we visit Mongolia's historic capital Kharkorin and Tsagann Nuur Volcanic National Park. In Siberia our route tracks across the rolling Chuysky steppe through the forests and peaks of Siberia's spectacular Altai Republic to Kurai, nestled beneath the Altai mountains, and beyond to Chulyshman River gorge and Teletskoe Lake in the Altaian Nature Preserve.. Along the way we explore the archaeological stories of ancient Scythian kingdoms and enjoy a few easy treks before concluding at Novosibirsk.*



## Mongolia and Siberia TRIP DETAILS

### 2010 Departures

#### Escorted Small group

- 09th June—26th June

Trip Price : NZD7500pp

#### Private Departures

- May
- July
- September

Trip Price : Price on application

Trip Length: 18 Days

Activity Type: Discovery

Link: Rail to Moscow and St Petersburg or Rail to Beijing

## WHATS INVOLVED IN THIS ITINERARY

### • ROUTE

**18 days includes Ulaanbaatar, Kharkhorin, Tsagaan Nuur, Ulaangom, Kurai, Chulyshman valley, Chermal, Baranaul, Novosibirsk.**

This is a 4x4 journey in comfortable vehicles across Mongolia's grasslands involving a few long days on rough roads and dirt tracks. In Siberia we use 4x4 vans and coach. There are day excursions to places of cultural and scenic interest and a number of easy treks, a boat trip and a few museums and cultural monuments.

### • GROUP SIZE and ESCORTS

The maximum group size is 12 people. SRA leaders accompany groups of 6 or more otherwise our groups are accompanied by local English speaking professional guides.

Private departures may either be fully or partially escorted by our local guides depending on your preference.

### • ACCOMMODATION

Comfortable tourist standard hotels and guesthouses (en suite) tourist yurt camps on twin share basis. There are 2 nights 'fully supported' camping in Mongolia. Single room supplement NZ\$600

### • INCLUSIONS

Our group departure prices are fully inclusive. Meals, local flights, road and rail transportation, entries and transfers are included. There are no hidden costs, no supplementary extras and no add-ons apply to any of the services associated with the advertised programme once it commences.

Meal plans for Private departures are flexible.

## Itinerary at a Glance :

### 09-Jun-10 to Ulaanbaatar

Morning arrival Ulaanbaatar. Afternoon sightseeing in Ulaanbaatar.

### 10-Jun-10 Ulaanbaatar

Full day sightseeing including Ganden monastery and the Museum of Natural History. Also visit Cashmere Factory shop. Lunch at Mongolian cuisine restaurant.

### 11-Jun-10 to Kharkhorin

Depart UB by 4x4 cars and head west across the steppe to Kharkhorin. Route is through the Tuul Gol river basin and Mongol Els dune system. Overnight Ger camp; we're planning a traditional musical performance this evening

### 12-Jun-10 to Tsenkher Jiguur Hot Spring

Sightseeing this morning includes Erdene Zuu Monastery and the ruins of Kharkhorin, the 13th century capital of the Mongol Empire. Afternoon drive to Tsenher Jiguur Hot Springs. Overnight Ger Camp

### 13-Jun-10 to Tsagaan Lake

Drive to Tsagaan Lake in Arhangai Province. Surrounded by extinct volcanoes, Terkhiin Tsagaan is one of the most beautiful lakes in Mongolia, the lake, bird life and mountains are protected within the 73000-hectare Khorgo-Terkhiin Tsagaan Nuur National Park. Overnight Ger camp

### 14-Jun-10 to camp site at Songino

Depart for the drive along the northern shore of Terkhiin Tsagaan Nuur lake on dirt tracks to the formed road over Solongot Pass to the Ider Valley. Lunch at Tosonchengel, around Telten Nuur. Overnight camp in pine forest close to the village.



### 15-Jun-10 to Khyargas Nuur

Drive overland across the steppe to Khyargas Nuur Lake and overnight at Hetsuu Had Ger Camp.

### 16-Jun-10 to Ulaangom

Continue to Ulaangom (red sand); a pleasant tree lined town with a thriving market reputed to be the best in western Mongolia. Overnight local hotel.

### 17-Jun-10 to camp site at Achif Nuur

We head towards the foothills near the head of Achif Nuur. We have two major river fords on this route – if the rivers are high we will have a longer drive to the bridge over the Khovd Gol. Our camp site is on a grassy terrace in the foothills.

### 18-Jun-10 to Tsagaanur border and Chibit

This morning depart for the Mongolia-Siberia border at Tsagaanur. Meet our Siberian guide and vehicle, complete Russian border formalities and continue to Chibit Yurt Camp

### 19-Jun-10 Chibit excursion to Aktru Glacier

Drive into the mountains via 6 wheeler Ural truck across the steppe and up the 4x4 track thro the larch forest to the Aktru mountaineering base camp where we set out on foot to climb the moraine for views and lunch.

### 20-Jun-10 Chibit excursion

Full day excursion / walk in Chibit area to sample village life and enjoy the alpine setting.

### 21-Jun-10 To Chulshman

This morning we transfer 190km by road to Chulyshman river in the tribal homelands of Altaians (the Altai-Kizhis) Telengit people adjacent to the Altaiskiy Zapovednik nature preserve. Enroute we will visit the "valley of the Chieftains" now known as the Pazyryk burial mounds dating from the bronze age.

### 22-Jun-10 To Teletskoe Lake and Artibash

Drive down valley alongside the wild Chulyshman river valley passing Telengit villages to the 78km long Teletskoe lake and take the ferry down the lake (4hrs). Enroute stop at Korbu waterfall. Overnight Teletskoe tourist complex at the end of the lake.

### 23-Jun-10 To Chymal

Today we are back on the road for the 168km trip to Gorno-Altaysk where we visit the ethnographic museum before continuing up the scenic Katun river valley to the pretty village of Chymal. Afternoon time to walk along the 'gulag' trail to a small monastery perched on a small island mid stream. Wander through the lanes of Chymal village with its wooden houses and garden plots.

### 24-Jun-10 To Barnaul

We head north on the 290km drive to Barnaul. Our route takes us back to Gorno-Altaysk then out of the mountains onto the vast Siberian plain to cross the Ob river at Bysk. Arrive Barnaul late afternoon.

### 25-Jun-10 To Novosibirsk

Morning at Barnaul. Afternoon depart for drive across the Siberian plain to Novosibirsk. Transfer to airport for early AM 26th departure or

### 26-Jun-109 Novosibirsk - conclude

Flight /Train to Moscow or Beijing