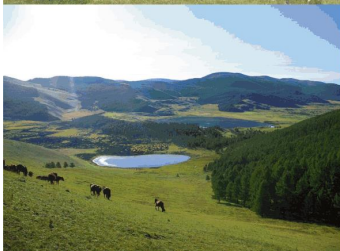
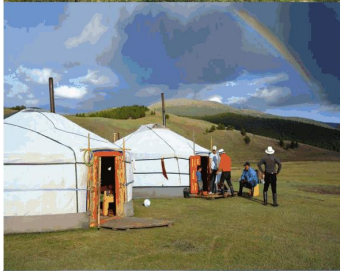




Uvurkhangay horse trek

June ~ September



Day 1: Arrive in Ulaanbaatar, the capital of Mongolia, also called "UB" by visitors. Upon arrival at the UB airport, you will be met by your guide and driver and transferred to your hotel. Referred to as "The City of Contrasts", where modern constructions stand beside traditional dwellings and ancient monasteries, UB is a very rapidly growing city with a population of nearly a million people. Conveniently located in downtown, your hotel is in walking distance of Sukhbaatar Square, museums, theaters, and shops. Depending on an arrival time, enjoy a short city orientation tour before dinner. Overnight in hotel.

Day 2: Depart UB in the morning. Drive to Kharhorin, the ancient capital of the Mongolian Empire, located 400km (6-8 hours with breaks) southwest of UB. There are presently efforts to reestablish Kharhorin as the capital of Mongolia as it was centuries ago. Explore the restored Erdenzuu Monastery (Hundred Treasures) originally built in 1586. Stop at Elsen Tasarhai sand dunes /camel riding is optional/. Stay overnight in a ger camp. ("Ger Camp" is a Mongolian version of motel with traditionally decorated gers for sleeping, separate dining hall and basic facilities for shower and toilet. Normally 2-4 people share the same ger.)

Day 3: Meet horses and wranglers. On the horseback trek we cover approximately 20 miles per day and meet our support vehicle each night at a new campsite. Personal luggage and the accoutrements of "catered camping" are transported in the support vehicle making for light, fast travel on horseback. Camp out each night with our mobile "American ger" and spacious three-person tents. During each day's ride we'll visit the gers of local herders and have a chance to experience nomadic life on the Central Asian steppe.

Day 4: Visit Tövkhön monastery. The monastery was first established in 1648 by the 14-year-old Zanabazar, the first Jebtsundamba Khutuktu and spiritual head of Tibetan Buddhism for the Khalkha in Outer Mongolia. He determined that the location on the Shireet Ulaan Uul mountain overlooking a hill at 2,600 meters above sea-level was an auspicious location. The first physical structures were built upon his return from studying in Tibet in 1653. It was also where he developed the soyombo script.

Day 5 - 6: Ride and camp through the valleys and mountains of Ovorkhangay. A vehicle will carry all camping goods and food. Local wranglers take care of the horses. We visit many families along the way and taste the local foods of summer; yogurt, cheese and the infamous airag (fermented horse milk). Though we recommend a riding background for this trip, the support vehicle always has room for anyone who is ready for a break from the saddle. Camp out in tents overnight.



Day 7: We will ride to Naiman Nuur National Park. It is located in the province of Ovorkhangai, in the Khangai range, and it has the typical landscapes of the Mongolian high mountains with their large forests of larches. The eight lakes in question are lakes Shireet, the largest and the most beautiful, Khaliut, Bugat, Khaya, Khuis, Onon, Doroo and Bayan Uul. The area of Naiman Nuur, "Eight lakes", formed behind the volcanic eruptions that occurred all along the centuries.

Day 8: Short ride day. We'll visit 5 lakes in the national park.

Day 9 – 11 : We will ride through high rock cliff and see Lake khurdet a Lake shireet tsagaan. Camp out in tents overnight.

Day 12: Ride to Orkhon waterfall. It formed by combination volcanic eruption and earthquakes some 20000 years ago cascades down from a height 27 meters. There are many rocks and boulders around the river as well as some waterfalls like a small waterfall with 4-5 m height and the Orkhon (Ulaan tsutgalan) waterfall at a height of 26 m. The Orkhon river Valley has been protected since 2006 as a National Park.

Day 13: Ride towards Kharhorin. Ger camp. (Hot shower is available)

Day 14: Return to UB.

What's Included: Meals beginning and ending in UB (dinner on arrival day thru breakfast on departure day), all transportation upon arrival in UB, hotel in UB and ger accommodations, tents and camping gear, horses and tack, guides and entry fees to museums and parks.

What's Not Included: Roundtrip international airfare to/from UB, airport taxes, evacuation coverage, gratuities, sleeping bag and pad, excess baggage fees and items of a personal nature. Alcoholic beverages, sodas and bottled water when not part of a fixed meal are not included.

