



The Secret of the Gobi Desert & the Winding Steppes of Mongolia

Note: Price printed on this PDF is valid until **13-04-2026** and is subject to change without notice based on availability and currency fluctuations.

Private Touring

- ✓ Flexible Dates
- ✓ Flexible Itinerary
- ✓ Professional Guide Throughout
- ✓ 24-Hour Local Assistance
- ✓ Upgrade Accommodation
- ✓ Modern Airconditioned Vehicle

Visit: Baga Gazriin Chuluu-Tsagaan Suvarga-Yolyn Am-Khongoryn Els-Bayanzag /
Flaming Cliff-Ongiin monastery-Karakorum-Ulaanbaatar

Detailed Itinerary

Day 01: Baga Gazriin Chuluu

Your first destination lies 250 kilometres south in the stunning region of Baga Gazriin Chuluu, known for its striking granite formations rising from the sandy plains of central Mongolia.

Here, you'll explore the ruins of Delgeriin Choir Monastery and step inside a unique 12-walled Ger, beautifully carved and used by monks for chanting during the colder months. In the late afternoon, enjoy a scenic drive and hike through the towering granite hills and discover a peaceful valley hiding a small, picturesque monastery ruin. The area also features a spring believed to have healing properties for the eyes, cherished by locals for its natural remedy.

Activities:

Explore the Choir Monastery.

Discover the stunning rock formation of Baga Gazar.

Visit the ruins of the solitary monk's monastery.

Hotel Details

Ger Camps

Meal Plan

Lunch & Dinner

Day 02: Tsagaan Suvarga

After breakfast, we'll journey into the heart of the Gobi Desert, where the landscape dramatically shifts from green grasslands to stark, rugged terrain. By afternoon, we'll reach Tsagaan Suvarga—an impressive 30-meter-high, 100-meter-wide cliff sculpted by wind over thousands of years.

From afar, it resembles the ruins of an ancient city, complete with weathered "structures." The area is rich in history, featuring petroglyphs of hunters, wild animals, and Turkic inscriptions carved into the rocks. A deep fissure slices through the terrain, revealing towering mud columns that evoke the jaws of a mythical beast. Some nearby caves even extend over 70 meters, with multiple chambers waiting to be explored.

Activities:

Explore the majestic Tsagaan Suvarga cliffs.

Hotel Details

Ger Camps

Meal Plan

Breakfast lunch and Dinner

Day 03: Yolyn Am

Today, we'll head to Dalanzadgad, the main town in South Gobi province. As we travel, you'll witness the vastness of the Gobi Desert—Asia's largest and the world's fifth largest desert—spanning 1,610 km by 800 km. Unlike typical deserts, much of the Gobi is covered in bare rock rather than sand.

The Gobi is a high-altitude cold desert, with temperatures ranging from -40°C in winter to $+50^{\circ}\text{C}$ in summer. It receives minimal rainfall, and in winter, snow from the Siberian Steppes brings extra moisture to the region.

Our journey will take us through the dramatic gorges of the Altai Mountains to Yolyn Am in Gobi Gurvansaikhan National Park. These lush, narrow valleys were shaped by ancient rivers and are home to wildlife such as Argali sheep, Ibex, desert gazelles, and soaring Golden Eagles.

Activities:

Visit the small museum in the park.

Explore Yolyn Am Gorge.

Hike through the gorge.

Hotel Details

Ger Camps

Meal Plan

Breakfast lunch and Dinner

Day 04: Khongoryn Els

After breakfast, we'll drive 180 km west to Khongoryn Els, home to Mongolia's tallest dunes—rising to 275 meters and stretching over 100 km. Shaped by the wind, these golden dunes ripple like frozen waves, backed by the dark, rugged slopes of Sevrey Mountain.

The Gobi, the world's coldest desert, is a land of extremes where fierce winds sweep across vast plains. Life here is tough, and the nomads who call it home are known for their resilience. We'll visit camel-herding families and gain insight into their remarkable way of life—marked by hard work, humility, and a deep bond with the land.

Activities:

Discover the breath-taking Khongoryn Els Sand Dunes.

Optional hike to the highest dune for panoramic desert views.

Visit a local camel-herding family and experience nomadic life first-hand.

Hotel Details

Ger Camps

Meal Plan

Breakfast lunch and Dinner

Day 05: Bayanzag / Flaming Cliff

Today, we'll travel to Bayanzag, famously known as the "Flaming Cliffs." This iconic site is where renowned palaeontologist Roy Chapman Andrews unearthed the first dinosaur bones and eggs. The landscape is striking, with fiery red cliffs, rugged rock formations, and patches of greenery. We'll explore the area on foot, visit the local museum, and delve into the fascinating history of early 20th-

century discoveries and expeditions.

Activities:

Explore the Bayanzag cliffs, famous for the discovery of dinosaur skeletons and eggs.

Hotel Details

Ger Camps

Meal Plan

Breakfast lunch and Dinner

Day 06: Ongiin monastery

Today, we journey to Karakorum, the 13th-century capital of Genghis Khan's Mongol Empire. Founded in 1220 in the Orkhon Valley, the city flourished under Ögedei Khan and became a vibrant centre of politics, trade, and culture, known for its diversity. The famed silver tree from Möngke Khan's palace symbolised its grandeur. Karakorum lost its capital status when Kublai Khan moved the seat to Beijing in 1260, becoming a lesser administrative hub until it was destroyed by Ming troops in 1388. Later, in 1588, Erdene Zuu Monastery was established on the ruins, initiated by Abtai Sain Khan with guidance from the 3rd Dalai Lama. Once home to over 1,000 lamas and 100 temples, the monastery now preserves three main temples—Dalai Lama, Zuu of Buddha, and Lavrin—within its ancient walls.

You'll also explore the Karakorum Archaeological Museum, a compact yet rich collection of artefacts from the 13th–14th centuries and earlier, including tools, coins, sculptures, and inscriptions. Highlights include a kiln set into the floor, a model of the city based on William of Rubruck's writings, and a Turkic noble's tomb with paintings and treasures.

To round out the visit, you can see the famous Turtle Rock and Phallic Rock and browse a small market featuring local artists' crafts.

Activities:

Explore the Erdene Zuu monastery

Discover the Karakorum Archaeological Museum

Hotel Details

Ger Camps

Meal Plan

Breakfast lunch and Dinner

Day 07: Karakorum

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Activities:

Explore the Erdene Zuu monastery.

Discover the Karakorum Archaeological Museum.

Hotel Details

Ger Camps

Meal Plan

Breakfast lunch and Dinner

Day 08: Drive to Ulaanbaatar

After breakfast, drive back to Ulaanbaatar.

Meal Plan

Breakfast

Inclusion

Meals:

- 7 breakfasts, 7 lunches, and 7 dinners
- Mineral water included.

Activities & Entrance Fees:

- Entrance fees for all national parks, museums, and monasteries in the countryside
- Visit to a nomadic family
- Mongolian barbecue experience.

Guide:

- English-speaking guide throughout the trip.

Transportation:

- 4X4 van with driver and fuel. The van has 5 passenger seats, excluding the driver. Due to limited trunk space, we advise against bringing hard suitcases. We recommend foldable soft bags instead. On occasion, these bags may be placed on the rooftop, where they will be covered and protected from dust and rain. Some parts of the trip involve off-road driving.

Accommodation:

- 7 nights in a ger camp with shared facilities.

Rooming: double, twin, or triple shared occupancy.

Exclusion

- Hotel in Ulaanbaatar.
- City tour in Ulaanbaatar.
- Any other activities in Ulaanbaatar.
- Meals in Ulaanbaatar.
- International airport transfers.
- Soft and alcoholic drinks throughout the trip.

Note

Tour Highlights:

Explore the Gobi Desert

Visit Khongoryn Els sand dunes

Discover Bayanzag, the Flaming Cliffs

Hike Yolyn Am

See dinosaur fossils

Visit Ongi Monastery

Explore Karakorum, the ancient capital of Mongolia

Interact with nomadic families

Discover Baga Gazriin Chuluu

Visit Tsagaan Suvarga

Explore Erdene Zuu Monastery

Attend a folklore show with throat singers



The Secret of the Gobi Desert & the Winding Steppes of Mongolia #4327

From AU\$2,767.86 pp

Standard Ger Camps (shared facilities):

These camps feature shared bathroom facilities with hot showers and flush toilets located in a communal block, separated for men and women. All facilities are clean, well-maintained, and comfortable, but shared by all guests of the camp.

Please note that the prices are starting from and that upon sending a new request with a specific date, we will send the applicable rate and availability.



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Mongolia #4327

From AU\$2,767.86 pp

Tour Dates & Pricing

02 Apr 2026 to 20 Dec 2026

2-3 Pax

AU\$3,934.52 Per Twin

ON-REQUEST

BOOK

4-5 Pax

AU\$3,037.70 Per Twin

ON-REQUEST

BOOK

6 Plus

AU\$2,767.86 Per Twin

ON-REQUEST

BOOK

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