

Bulgan Trail

Mountain Biking Tour
8th – 16th September 2010



This exciting trail in the northern provinces of Bulgan and Selenge, passes through varied and beautiful landscapes with wide fertile valleys, forests of silver birch and poplar, rivers and mountain passes. There are a few villages along the way, but most of the population are nomadic and live in the traditional round white gers. Depending on how much rain has fallen, wild flowers may be abundant, and there is a good chance of seeing eagles, cranes, vultures, partridge, falcons and other interesting birds along the way.

We travel by train from Ulaanbaatar to the start of the trail at the copper mining city of Erdenet. After 5 days riding, we suddenly come upon the fantastic Amarbayasgalant monastery, one of the largest and best Buddhist monasteries in the country. On the last day of cycling we reach the main road and then travel by jeep back to Ulaanbaatar.



Trip Highlights

- **Amarbayasgalant** the “Monastery of Tranquil Felicity” was constructed in 1727 at the foot of Mount Buren Khaan. It was commissioned by the Manchu Emperor and built in Chinese style with Tibetan and Mongolian influences.



Enjoy the challenge with full support

Day 1 Arrive Ulaanbaatar. Overnight train to Erdenet.

Day 2 Meet the tour crew and assemble bikes. Start riding from Erdenet to Bugat along the valley.

Day 3 Ride beside the winding river, lined with willow trees and poplar. The valley opens out into cultivated fields near the Selenge river. Overnight camping.

Day 4 Ride through Inget Tolgoi village and up into virgin silver birch forest, home of wolves and wild boar. Cross two passes then descend to the Selenge river to camp.



Day 5 Ride through Khyalgant village, then head east into the hills. Cross another wooded pass on a rough rocky track, then descend to a fertile valley to camp.

Day 6 Follow the track over the mountains, passing through valleys inhabited by many nomadic families. Overnight camping near Amarbayasgalant monastery.

Day 7 Morning visit the fascinating Buddhist monastery located in this remote valley. Afternoon cycle to reach the main road. Overnight camping.

Day 8 Return by jeep to Ulaanbaatar, arriving early afternoon in time for a little shopping. Overnight hotel.

Day 9 Depart.

Tour Grading: The trail is classed as moderate, requiring some technical skill to manage the steep rocky passes. The first couple of days are on hard packed mud tracks through valleys between the mountains. If there is much rain, the surface may be slippery and more difficult. Riding through the forests and over mountains on rocky tracks sometimes blocked by fallen trees will be quite challenging. The daily riding distance is between 40km and 70km, depending on the terrain, and the total trail is nearly 300 km.

Accommodation:

1 night hotel
1 night on train
6 nights camping

Group size: The tour will run with a minimum of 4 people.

Price per person: € 1095

Single hotel supplement: € 50

Single tent supplement: € 30

Bike hire per day: € 20

Price includes: Accommodation and meals, transfers, support vehicles, train ticket.

Not included: International flights, visa costs, lunch and dinner in Ulaanbaatar.

