

Gobi Desert Off-Road

1st – 10th August 2012
(includes motorbike hire & fuel)



The Gobi Desert straddling the border between Mongolia and China, is a wild and dramatic place, entirely suitable for motorcycling. Our KTM 450EXC and Yamaha WR250F bikes are an exciting bike to ride, having plenty of torque, good grip and being lightweight so riding long distances on tricky roads is not too exhausting. We ride on all sorts of roads: asphalt as well as packed mud, sand or gravel tracks with washouts and potholes. All pretty much free of traffic and through some spectacular scenery.

The famous Gobi Desert is not all vast flat steppe under a deep blue sky. There are bizarre rock formations, canyons, the Gurvansaikhan mountain range and sand dunes 100km long, as well as forests of small saxaul trees and other desert vegetation. Apart from a few villages and small towns that we pass through on the way, most of the population have a nomadic lifestyle, frequently moving with their round white felt yurts (“gers”) and herds of camels, goats and horses. This trip is a fascinating cultural experience as well as an off-road tour across Mongolia of over one and a half thousand kilometres.

Some nights will be spent at ger camps where traditional yurts have comfortable facilities including a ger restaurant, bar, showers and toilet. These will be very welcome at the end of each day, since the Gobi Desert is usually a hot, dusty and windy place.



Khongor Els – Sand Dune Riding



10% of the worlds camels have two humps & most of them live in Mongolia’s Gobi Desert



Tsagaan Suvaraga “White Stupa” limestone cliffs, Middle Gobi Desert

Day 1 Arrive Ulaanbaatar. Transfer to hotel. Allocate motorbikes.

Day 2 Ride to Baga Gazriin Chuluu across the green rolling hills of Tuv province. Overnight amidst the spectacular granite rocks where we may see marmots, eagles, ibex and steppe fox.

Day 3 Ride through Mandalgov, capital of Dundgov (“Middle Gobi”) to Tsagaan Suvaraga, an amazing series of white and pink limestone cliffs. An excellent place for out-of-the-ordinary photography.

Day 4 The track to Dalanzadgad, capital of Umngov (“South Gobi”) has little traffic. Ride up into the mountains of the Gurvansaikhan National Park. and walk into Yoliin Am canyon (“Vulture’s Mouth”).

Day 5 This is Mongolia as one imagines it: distant horizons, dry rocky earth and a huge blue sky. We ride west to Khongoriin Els where big golden sand dunes meet the end of the Gobi Altai mountain range.

Day 6 Ride to Bayanzag where there is a forest of rare saxaul trees and the “flaming cliffs” where Roy Chapman Andrews discovered the first ever nest of dinosaur eggs in his 1920 expedition.

Day 7 Travel north east to Mandal Ovoo and then to Saikhan Ovoo. Here, on a bend in the Ongi river, are the remains of two monasteries.

Day 8 Ride to Zorgol Khairkhan, a dramatic granite mountain with bizarre rock formations jutting into the sky.

Day 9 Return to Ulaanbaatar. Afternoon free for shopping.

Day 10 Depart.

Accommodation:

2 nights hotel
7 nights ger camp or tent hire

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

Price per person: €2795
Motorbike hire and fuel: included
Single hotel supplement: €50

Price includes: Motorbike hire, fuel for motorbike, accommodation, most meals, support vehicles, transfers, entrance fees, tour leader.

Not included: International flights, visa costs, meals in UB.

Trip Highlights

- **Khongoriin Els** dunes are 100 kilometers long and the sound made by the moving sand can be heard from afar, hence the name “Singing dunes”.
- **Gurvansaikhan Mountains** are home to wild argali sheep, ibex and birds of prey as well as the rare snow leopard, Gobi bear and wild camels.