

# Riding With Nomads

*Equestrian Adventure 23rd June - 3rd July 2010*

The best way to experience Mongolia is obviously on the back of a horse, because that is how the locals travel. The life of Mongolia's nomads has changed little since the days of Genghis Khan and as we ride through the Khangai mountains and Orkhon river valley, you will see and understand their way of life. This part of the country was the centre of several large empires even before the Mongol Empire led by Genghis Khan in the thirteenth century, so the area is of immense historical significance.

The countryside through which we ride is fertile and home to many nomadic families with their herds of horses, yaks, sheep and goats. Around the Orkhon waterfall there is evidence of ancient volcanic activity and the rocky landscape is dramatic. We ride with local horsemen, who take care of the horses, and enjoy the trail with us.



**Tour Grading:** The riding distance is approximately 30km per day and is graded as "moderate", with some horse riding experience required.

**Further information:** You will be supplied with Russian saddles, and the local horsemen will take care of the horses.

**Group size:** The tour will run with a minimum of 4 people. Maximum group size is normally 12 people.

**Accommodation:**  
 2 nights Continental Hotel  
 2 nights traditional ger camp  
 6 nights camping

**Price per person: € 1395**

**Single hotel & tent: € 80**

**Price includes:** Accommodation and meals (except lunch and dinner in UB), transfers, transportation, support vehicles, hire of riding horses and horsemen, interpreter, permit.

**Not included:** International flights to and from Mongolia, visa costs.

**Day 1** Arrive Ulaanbaatar.

**Day 2** Jeep to Kharkhorin. Overnight ger camp beside the Orkhon river.

**Day 3** Jeep to Tsenkher village where the horses will be waiting. Saddle up and start riding, first across a wide open plain, then into fertile meadows and hills.

**Day 4** Ride over Bogoch Pass (altitude 1800 meters) and then descend to the Tsetslerig river.



*Riding with Mongolian horsemen in the Khangai mountains*

**Day 5** Ride up through the forest and over Uliiin Pass (altitude 2200 meters).

**Day 6** Ride along the valley, crossing the river many times, to reach the Orkhon waterfall. Here the landscape is quite dramatic, having been created by volcanic activity thousands of years ago.

**Day 7** Ride near Battulzii village and into the remote hills of Overkhangai province.



**Day 8** Ride along the Orkhon valley with the open mountains on either side.

**Day 9** Ride beside the Orkhon river crossing it twice, to arrive at Kharkhorin. Visit Erdene Zuu monastery, the original center of Buddhism in Mongolia. Overnight ger camp.

**Day 10** Jeep to Ulaanbaatar. Arrive late afternoon. Overnight hotel.

**Day 11** Transfer to airport for departure.

## Trip Highlights

- **Erdene Zuu Monastery** This massive temple complex is surrounded by 108 white stupas, each one housing the relics of an important Lama or commemorating a particular event.
- **The Orkhon Valley** was always the centre of the ruling empire of the steppes from the Xiongnu in 2nd century BC until Genghis Khan in the 13th century AD

