

Happy Camel Travel

Presents

**Real Cycling Adventure to Darkhad
Valley in Khuvsgul Lake
(14 days)**

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REAL CYCLING ADVENTURE TO DARKHAD
VALLEY IN KHUVSGUL LAKE
(14 DAYS)

14 Days ♦ 8 Nights in Tented Camp
♦ 3 Nights in Ger Camp ♦ 2 Nights in Hotel



Happy Camel invites you to discover the natural and cultural wonders of Mongolia, one of the last remaining seldom-explored countries. Largely inaccessible to the Western world until only recently, Mongolia offers a rare glimpse into an ancient nomadic culture that has changed little over the centuries.

The traveller will discover this untouched country by exploring the rare combination of ancient traditions of Buddhism, nomadic horse-based culture and natural beauties such as the high mountains, the grasslands and more.



- ◆ Cycling ♦ Uran Togoo ♦ Uushig Deer Stone Complex
- ◆ Oliin Davaa ♦ Darkhadiin Khotgor Depression
- ◆ Toom Davaa ♦ Mongolian Blue Pearl
- ◆ Khog River ♦ Family Stay



Trip Type: Rigorous Cycling in Northern Mongolia

QUICK ITINERARY REFERENCE

DAY 1: URAN TOGOO, BULGAN

DAY 2: MURUN

DAY 3: SUMBER SETTLEMENT

DAY 4: TOOM SETTLEMENT

DAY 5 : CYCLING TO OLIIN DAVAA, ULAAN UUL VILLAGE

DAY 6: SOYO SETTLEMENT

DAY 7: REST DAY

DAY 8, 9 AND 10: CYCLING

DAY 11: DRIVE TO KHUUGUL LAKE

DAY 12: CYCLING AROUND LAKE SHORE

DAY 13: DRIVE TO MURUN

DAY 14: FLIGHT TO ULAANBAATAR

MAP OF THE ITINERARY



DETAILED TOUR DESCRIPTION

Our days will be mostly divided into two parts: driving and cycling. Given the huge scale of territory of Mongolia and poor infrastructure, reaching from one destination to another is a big deal. Next to cycling in order to make our cyclers to experience most of Mongolia we make sure that our travellers see, visit, taste, experience and share as much as possible.

Our itinerary is carefully designed offering you to experience beautiful diverse landscape & sceneries, different lifestyle, custom and culture of Mongolian people nomads as well as locals in little villages. Part of the team will travel in front of cyclers making sure that first arrivals have all and looked well after when they reach destination.

Slow pacers will be followed and in case you would like to stop cycling we will load your bike and you can hop in the comfort of Land Cruisers. The vehicles following or travelling ahead the group will take enough distance from cyclers. Cyclers will not see the vehicles and they will be joined and called upon by radio when needed.

DAY 1: URAN TOGOO, BULGAN

After a good breakfast in our hotel restaurant, we will set off to the countryside in our vehicles. About 400 km driving west north of capital city is the extinct volcano of **Uran Uul** and nearby **Togoo Uul**, now part of the 1600 hectare Uran-Togoo Tulga Uul Natural Reserve in the sum (district) of Khutag-Ondor. It is a beautiful place to break long driving day.

Trails to the top of the relatively unimpressive volcano lead up from the west side, which also has some nice camping areas.

(Ger camp, L, D)

DAY 2: MURUN

After breakfast in our Ger camp we will drive further west north and reach afternoon **Murun**, capital city of Khuvsgul province. Before getting to province town we will visit the **Uushig Deer Stone complex**. A complex of deer stones dating back to prehistoric time. Evidence of Prehistoric people's art work known as deer stones and burial mounds.

We will stop at the local market to stock up food and enjoy the comfort of hotel & the dinner in restaurant before heading to wilderness for a while.

(Hotel B, L, D)

DAY 3: SUMBER SETTLEMENT

After breakfast we will start driving north. Early afternoon we will reach **Sumber village**, departure spot of our cycling tour. In the afternoon we will assemble our bikes, make adjustments and try them in the area.

(Tented camp B, L, D)

DAY 4: TOOM SETTLEMENT

Today we start our 7 days' cycle expedition in the remote region of the Tsagaan People and the reindeer. After a full day cycling we will reach the little village of **Toom**.

(Tented camp B, L, D)

DAY 5 : CYCLING TO OLIIN DAVAA, ULAAN UUL VILLAGE

We will cycle more northwards, across the **Oliin Davaa Pass**. In the evening we will set up our camp close to **Ulaan-Uul village**. We will re-supply our foods.

(Tented Camp, B, L, D)

DAY 6: SOYO SETTLEMENT

Now we reached the **Darkhadiin Khotgor Depression**. The depression, originally formed as a glacial lake, is surrounded by several high mountains. Their peaks reach a height of almost 3.000 meters. The depression is home to over 150 alpine lakes.

We will cycle more northward to reach **Soyo village** where we will camp among the banks of the **Khog River**. The river flow through mountainous woodland and forms numerous islets. Its waters are the home of abundant lenok and grayling.

(Tented Camp, B, L, D)

DAY 7: REST DAY

Today we will have a day rest. Those who are interested may try to fish. Please bring your fishing gear with you.

The lakes and rivers are full of fish. Around a dozen species of fish inhabit the lake and rivers. The most well-known are the sturgeon, grayling, lenok, salmon, taimon, etc. As our horsemen are fishing fans, you will have many opportunities to go fishing.

(Tented Camp, B, L, D)

DAY 8, 9 AND 10: CYCLING

For three days we will explore the region of the alpine lakes. We will search for Tsaatan families. The remote & wild region is home to Mongolian minor ethnic group known as Tsaatan or Dukha, one of the last remaining reindeer herders of the world. Their unique way of life is centred and structured around reindeer and guided by Shamanism, ancestral spiritual practice based on nature worship. We will have a chance to visit Tsaatan tribe and discover their life and the influence of Shamanism on their daily life. The last day we will set up our camp close to **Renchinlkhumbé village**. The village is located in Darkhad Depression. The Darkhad depression is located between the Khoridol Saridag Mountain Range and the Ulaan Taiga

Forest. It is at an altitude of 1600 m above sea level and covers an area of 4300 km². The region is the strongest center of Shamanism.

(Tented Camp, B, L, D)

DAY 11: DRIVE TO KHUVGUL LAKE

Today we will leave the Darkhadiin Khotgor Depression towards Khuvsgul Lake. Depending on weather and road condition we might take shot cut directly through mountains or long detour.

We will reach the breath taking beautiful **Mongolian Blue Pearl**.

Khuvsgul Lake is a huge 2760 square km alpine lake (130 km in length and 30 km in width), surrounded by mountain chains, thick pine forests and lush meadow with grazing yaks and horses. More than 100 small rivers and streams feed the lake with crystal clear water. Water exits the lake through only one river, the Egiin, whose waters eventually reach the Baikal Lake. The lake contains about 1.5% of the world's fresh water (excluding water contained in the icecaps).

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(Ger Camp, B, L, D)

DAY 12: CYCLING AROUND LAKE SHORE

We will spend a full day exploring the lakeshore and surrounding mountains. For those interested they will have the possibility to go horseback riding, visit reindeer families, go hiking and canoeing (if weather permits). Those who would like exploring lake shores on bikes there is plenty options.

(Ger camp B, L, D)

DAY 13: DRIVE TO MURUN

Enjoy your last morning in Mongolian wilderness. After lunch we will drive to **Murun**, capital city of Khuvsgul province to get our flight next day to Ulaanbaatar.

(Hotel, B, L, D)

DAY 14: FLIGHT TO ULAANBAATAR

Flight back to Ulaanbaatar. Our team will pick you up at airport and take you directly to your hotel. You may enjoy the free afternoon to catch up all the places you haven't visited yet. You might want to go and see the beautiful cultural show enjoy the colourful and rhythmic Mongolian dance, throat singing & admire the contortionists.

(B, L,)

RESERVATION

Your trip will be confirmed after a deposit of 35% of the due amount is paid to our bank account. Once the payment is done, we will start organizing your trip and book the local flights if any.

INCLUDED IN THE PRICE

- Airport transfers
- Land transportation
- Domestic flight
- Hotel stay
- Ger camp stay
- Tented camp stay
- Meals 13B, 14L, 13D
- Tour guides/cycling guide/
- Mountain bike
- Camping and kitchen equipment
- National park entrance fees/Museum and Monasteries entrance tickets

NOT INCLUDED IN THE PRICE

- Hotel in Ulaanbaatar
- City touring
- International transport
- Passport and visa costs
- Medical, trip insurance and evacuation costs
- International airport taxes, excess baggage charges. Local flights are limited to 10 kg.
- Alcoholic and soft drinks
- Meals not included in the itinerary
- Laundry
- Telephone calls
- Items of personal nature
- Other items not specifically mentioned as included
- Airport transfer

DELAYS

We are not responsible for any additional charges incurred arising from the delay or extension of a trip due to weather, equipment failure, illness, or other causes beyond our control. No refunds can be made for any unused services or accommodations on the trip.

TRANSPORT

Toyota Land Cruisers series 80, 100, 105 - have 4 passenger seats. Comfortable on our bumpy road, forward facing seats equipped with seat

belts and has air condition and plenty space for luggage in trunk and on roof track.

Delica -Japanese 4X4 van. Delicas have 5 passenger seats. Comfortable on our bumpy road, bit slower on off-road than Land Cruisers. Forward facing seats equipped with seat belts and has air condition. Panoramic view windows. Having not much space in trunk, luggage mostly put on roof rack.

Furgon -Russian military van. Furgons have 7 passenger seats. Mostly forward facing seats. It has plenty space. Furgons have no air condition and not equipped with seat belts. If you are in group and looking for adventure on tight budget it might be a good solution. Excellent vehicle on rough off-road condition. However less comfortable than Land Cruisers and Delicas.

FOOD

Traditional Mongolian food based on different type of meat: mutton, beef, goat, horse and camel. As well as we eat dairies and usually heavy meals due to our radical climate of cold long winter and hot dry summer. However nowadays our food culture is becoming more diverse and you can easily find international food in restaurants and buy diverse imported food at supermarkets. We will do our best to accommodate your food requirement. Please let us know in advance if you have any special food requirement.

ACCOMMODATION

In Ulaanbaatar we can book your hotel. We offer accommodation from guesthouse to the most prestigious 5 star hotels with suites.

All hotel we recommend are centrally located and in walking distances from restaurant, shops and museums.

While in the countryside, depending on the trip you choose, you will overnight in Ger Camps, Family Stay and Tented Camp.

Gers from Ger Camp are the traditional felt tents of nomadic herders. Each ger is furnished with a wood stove and beautifully painted furniture such as beds, a table and stools. Gers are based on double occupancy. Each ger camp has its restaurant, western style toilet and hot water showers. Most visitors find their stay in gers, which provide an authentic taste of Mongolian culture and adventure, their most enjoyable experience in Mongolia.

Family Stay. In summer time many nomads build extra Gers next to theirs and welcome guests. You will have mostly your private Ger. However, facilities stay basic and simple

Tented Camp is a camp build on a nice spot. The travellers will sleep in Western style tents. We will however do our best to offer you the best

available service. We pride ourselves on the level of comfort we provide while camping in these remote areas, but camping is not for everyone. It is important to remain open-minded and physically willing.

REMARK

Mongolia is a developing country in terms of infrastructure. The standard of the roads is very low, with no tarmac outside the capital. As a result, be prepared for bumpy and dusty rides.

Travelling in a seldom-explored country, with very little infrastructure requires flexibility, tolerance, a spirit of adventure and respect and understanding for cultural differences. The trip itinerary is subject to changes due to weather, trail conditions, government restrictions, or other reasons beyond our control. We will however do every attempt to adhere to the given schedule.

PAYMENTS

Your trip will be confirmed after a non-refundable deposit of 35% of the due amount payable by bank transfer or visa. The rest payment is due to settle once you are in Mongolia before your trip starts.