



Hidden Trails

Ph. 1-888-9-TRAILS

*Equestrian Vacations
- on & with Hidden Trails*

About Hidden Trails



Hidden Trails is owned and operated by nature enthusiasts who love horses and adventure activities. We have been involved with riding and other outdoor vacations for over 20 years.

With our partners Voyage du Cheval (France), Pegasus (Germany) as well as Equitour (Switzerland and France) we have collected the best riding destinations all over the world in some hidden places we would like to share with you.

These rides are about galloping on endless beaches, forging rivers, cantering through forests, trotting along age-old trails, gazing at beautiful vistas and encountering foreign cultures. But most of all, these trips are about getting away from the cycle of too much work and never enough free time.

Escape from the rituals, which long ago froze our nights and days into little more than routine and away from the worries of our new tense times. It is so satisfying when we take the plunge of adventure - it's unfortunate that we invent so many reasons to put aside living our dreams of adventure. It is sometimes a tangled web that we weave through life. Some of the threads reveal a work-a-day world of commitments, duties and obligations. Other threads are of a quiet fabric of hope, responsibility and refreshment.

On our adventures you see the real country, its back country and meet the locals. The love for horses has no boundaries but possesses a common language we all speak and understand. The majority of the overseas rides are from inn to inn, some from castle to castle and a few are camping rides.

You will experience new countries and their customs and make new friends. The Hidden Trails trips are the best you can find.

They have been tested by our staff or associates and received our stamp of approval. If you are considering a special riding vacation anywhere in the world, call us first and let our experienced consultants match the perfect trip with your dream.

We will listen to you and give you objective advice to help you choose the best destination and adventure.

Your vacation is the most precious time of the year and we are committed to making it the most memorable time of your life. Wherever you go, have a great time and bring back some peace of mind.

Thank you for your continued support.

Hidden Trails

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Gobi Steppe Ride - Mongolia, Asia

Tour Code: IT-MNRT10

12 days / 11 nights ~\$2,900.00

Dates: June to Aug

Trip Rating: ●●●●●

Difficulty: ●●●●●

Lodging: ▲▲

Tack: Mongolian Buryat Soldier

Saddles

Horses: Mongolian

Pace: 5-8 hours - many fast pace stretches

Walk, Trot, Canter,

Airport: Chinggis Khaan

International Airport (UBN)



Introduction

Gobi Steppe, Mongolia

This horseback journey across the Mongolian steppe lands is hosted by the Steppe Nomads themselves, the largest remaining pastoralist people on Earth. An experience not available anywhere else on Earth. Steppe habitats once made up 25 percent of the global land area. Today the Pampas, the Puszta, the Prairies and the Ukrainian steppes have largely been developed for agricultural output. Only the Mongolian steppes have survived. The high elevation of Mongolia creates unusually clear air and starry nights the year round. It is an overwhelming visual experience of emptiness and vastness to ride into the great Mongolian void. The silent, treeless steppe, completely devoid of any fences. Stretching away into the distance: no trace of human activity except for the pastoralists themselves and their herds. This ride covers surprisingly contrasting habitat, patchy water sources along the way nurturing wildlife. Wolves may be heard vocalizing at any time in the summer, but usually, they are not seen. We will undertake this horse ride as a "Nomadic Journey", e.g. without vehicle support, in wild terrain.

All our luggage will be loaded onto camel carts; They are Bactrian two-humped camels, well adapted to the winter climate in Mongolia. Even a ger (Mongolian yurt) will be carried to serve as our mobile restaurant.

Truly a once and a life-time experience, complete with traditional camel caravan, hardy Mongolian bred mounts, and knowledgeable and experienced herdsman sharing their remote and roaming culture with you!

Accommodation



Accommodations

This is a progressive ride, so you will be staying in different locations during the trip.

Description

You will be staying in a hotel for 2 nights, a low-impact ger camp for 2 nights, and tent tipis for 7 nights (changing location every 2 nights), making a total of 5 different locations. All accommodations are based on double occupancy.

Accommodation Itinerary - subject to changes based on availability

Night 1: Bayangol Hotel in Ulaanbaatar

Night 2-8: Tent Tipis

Night 9 and 10: Low-impact ger camp in Arburd Sands

Night 10: Bayangol Hotel in Ulaanbaatar

Bayangol Hotel in Ulaanbaatar

Ideally located in the city center, this hotel offers elegant and comfortable ensuite bedrooms. Each room is equipped with air conditioning, a TV, free Wi-Fi access and tea and coffee making facilities. Laundry is available for an additional cost.

Tent Tipis

Temporary camps in spacious tent tipis, with foldable bed-cots. We take along a Mongolian ger (yurt) to serve as our mobile restaurant, as well as showers and compost toilets housed in traditional Mongolian marquee style tents.

Bring your own sleeping bag. During cold spells early and late in season, there is a slight chance of night temperatures below zero centigrade. Frost is unlikely, but can happen between June 15th to September 1st. A four season sleeping bag is definitely necessary early and late in the season. If you feel cold easy, or your body is small, you should take some care in the selection of a sleeping bag. The idea of a sleeping bag is that your own body heat will maintain and keep the warmth inside the bag. It means that sleeping without clothes is better than having warm clothes on. And small people should not sleep in a very large sleeping bag as they cannot heat the space with their own body temperatures. If you have never slept under the stars: Don't worry!

You will find it a real pleasure!

Toilets tents with a drop toilet with wooden seat and separate shower tents are on site. We ask our clients to bring bio-degradable toiletries only.

Low-impact ger camp in Arburd Sands

This is a permanent camp with 16 gers (capacity of 34 people). The gers are each equipped with cot beds (including full linen), chairs and a table, and a wood burning stove. Restaurant ger. Toilets tents with a drop toilet



with wooden seat and separate shower tents are on site. We ask our clients to bring bio-degradable toiletries only.

Room Occupancy

Triple occupancy is possible.

Single riders listed as 'willing to share' do not have to pay the single supplement cost if we are unable to find another rider to share.



Meals

All meals except lunch in Ulaanbaatar are included in the trip.

Our cook will prepare the meals. We pride ourselves in having excellent cooks adept at both western and Mongolian cooking on our trips. We can usually buy fresh milk and yogurt from local herdsman. Traditional Mongols mostly eat meat and milk products. Mongolians who live in the city have adopted Russian and Western food habits. Although, they still like the traditional foods of the countryside, and frequently also eat these. The cuisine features lamb and mutton, the Kazakhs in western Mongolia prefer goat. We usually boil water all the time, and your water bottle may be filled in the evening. Alcohol is not allowed on this trip.

Dietary Restrictions

We can cater for vegetarians. Please make sure to advise us in advance of any dietary requirements that you may have.



Riding



Mongolia is probably the most equestrian nation in the world. Not only is the Mongol heritage and lifestyle intimately connected with the horse, Mongolia is an exceptionally inviting place for keen horse riders. The absence of fences and the vast expanses of the steppes and forests are ideal for uninterrupted and scenic riding at its best!



On our trip, we emphasize the quality of human contacts and encounters with local people and respect for the horse and local equestrian traditions, from which many lessons can be learnt.

Riding Experience

You should be a competent rider, fit and capable of riding at all paces confidently. Varying terrain, in the saddle for several hours on most days.

Tack

We will provide you Russian saddles, which are more convenient for "western bottoms" than the Mongolian equivalent. We provide a saddle bag if needed.

Staff

A Mongolian English speaking guide will accompany the group at all times. A cook will follow with the camel cart caravan. In addition, the services of local herdsman will be employed along with their animals. The horsemen follow a traditional lifestyle in the areas where we will be riding. If the group consists of 4 riders or more, we will also have a Mongolian doctor come along as part of the crew. All our luggage will be loaded onto camel carts.

Itinerary



Sample Itinerary - subject to changes

Note: Riding tours may be done in the reverse for operational reasons.

Day 1: Arrival

Arrive the Mongolian capital and transfer to the hotel. Tour briefing after dinner.

Meals included: Dinner

Overnight at Hotel in Ulaanbaatar

Day 2: To Suman

In the morning, you are picked-up from your hotel. You will visit the Gandan lamasery, possibly in time for the prayers (center for the Buddhist revival in Mongolia). The Mongols follow the Tibetan version of Lamaism, Dalai Lama being the supreme theocratic leader.

We then drive south and enjoy a picnic en route. Our crew here are your hosts, the steppe nomads of the area. They have brought their horses for our use and will accompany us throughout this ride. In the late afternoon we will make a short trial ride.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

Overnight in Tipis

Day 3: Gobi grasslands Ride

We go on a full day ride across the Gobi grasslands with a 360° degrees undisturbed landscape view.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

Overnight in Tipis

Day 4: Bayan Mountains Ride

Today we break the camp and the yurt/ger we brought along as our restaurant and social area. Provisions and luggage will be loaded on to the support vehicle. While the support vehicle will move straight on to our next destination at the sacred mountains of Zorgol Hairkhan, we will ride a detour easterly across the fantastic grasslands to Bayan Mountain, home to Gobi high altitude fauna like Siberian Ibex (*Capra sibirica*) and Argali Sheep (*Ovis ammon*). These animals take shelter in the hills and rocks, and quite possibly, may be seen during this day. Moreover, small herds of gazelle might be seen on the steppe, perhaps some foxes. There are also wolves, but they are almost never spotted. We will pitch camp at Zorgol Hairkhan and remain here for two nights.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

Overnight in camp at Zorgol Hairkhan

Day 5: Ikh Zorgol Hairkhan Mountains

The landscape is quite diverse here since we are in the transition zone of the Gobi. There is true steppe, semi-arid steppe, and giant rock formations. For the full day we will explore the Zorgol Hairkhan massif with its vertical rock walls, and ride around and through rock formations, several hundred meters high, a striking feature the middle of the flat steppe.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

Overnight in camp at Zorgol Hairkhan

Day 6: To Saikhan

Again, we break camp and the support car starts moving in a straight line to our next destination at Saikhan, skirting Baga Zorgol Hairkhan Uul. Baga means "small", it is the smaller version of Ikh "big" Zorgol. Here we will probably encounter quite a few nomadic families, as we head for Hariin Nuur (Remote Lake), a steppe lake useful for the steppe nomads. Usually, the lake attracts different species of birds. Our private camp has been set up already at Saikhan.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

Overnight in camp at Saikhan

Day 7: To Bumbat

A full-day ride takes us across the steppe to Bumbat, which again is an uninhabited area, featuring some spectacular rock formations. Here it is even more likely to spot Argali Sheep, Cinereous Vultures, Saker Falcons (*Falco cherrug*) and other wildlife. We will also be able to see some of the petroglyphs, for which Mongolia is so famous.



famous.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

Overnight in Tipis

Day 8: Bumbat Ride

We will stay one more night in Bumbat. We take this opportunity to go on a full day ride in the area.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

Overnight in Tipis

Day 9: To Arburd Sands

Today our camp is broken for the last time and we ride for half a day, across the Gobi grasslands to Arburd Sands. These are the unknown Gobi sand dunes within proximity of Ulaanbaatar. Here we will find a seasonal and fully collapsible low-impact ger camp. Instead of picnic lunch we will enjoy a hot lunch at camp.

In the afternoon, we will ride a short way to some seasonal steppe lakes, which are kept in place by the underlying permafrost. We can visit nomads with large herds of cattle, especially cashmere goats. We return to Arburd Sands Ger Camp for the night.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

Overnight in Tipis

Day 10: Arburd Sands Ride

On our last day on the grasslands, we will make a loop with the horses, riding across the 20km long Arburd Sands, which are a hideout for wolves. You may also relax back at camp. Today we bid farewell to our steppe nomad's horsemen.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

Overnight in Tipis

Day 11: Back to Ulaanbaatar

The return drive to Ulaanbaatar is about three hours. In the afternoon you may explore the small city center on your own. Distances are short and nearly all points of interest can be reached on foot. Your guide is standing by to assist you in your shopping or sightseeing choices. We will have a dinner together in a local restaurant followed by folk music entertainment. Certainly there will be throat singers. Hotel overnight.

Meals included: Breakfast & Dinner

Overnight at Hotel in Ulaanbaatar

Day 12: Departure

Transfer to the airport, railway station, or your next Mongolian destination. We can recommend a stay at Jalman Meadows Ger Camp in the Khan Khentii Protected Area, which provides for a sharp contrast to the Gobi Steppes experience.

Meals included: Breakfast

Note: Trips may be done in the reverse for operational reasons.



Naadam Games Extension (mandatory for July 9th, 2023 departure)

July 9th Ulaanbaatar

Arrive in the Mongolian capital by flight. If you arrive today we provide transfer to your hotel. You may explore the city on your own for the rest of the day. Distances are short and nearly all points of interest can be reached by foot. Minor archery competitions and trainings will already start today such as children's archery, Buryat style archery, etc. Training sessions allow for good photography. In the evening the horse trainers arrive with their horses and pitch their mobile camps at Hui Doloon Hudag, a steppe area 40 km away from the city center. In the evening we meet for a festive welcome dinner.

July 10th Ulaanbaatar

Today, one day before the National Naadam officially begins, we will drive out of the city and attend smaller, more intimate "country-style" Naadam festivals, usually held in three communities some 50-60km away. This failing, the big horse races also start on the Hui Doloon Hudag plains today. In the countryside you have the chance to get up close to the horse races, and also to the wrestling matches. Local people usually wear their finest traditional dresses, adding to the colorful, festive atmosphere. We have a picnic lunch nearby and head back to Ulaanbaatar in the afternoon.

July 11th Ulaanbaatar

Today Naadam is officially opened by the President of Mongolia. Soldiers on horseback, dressed in warrior regalia, ceremonially bring Genghis Khan's nine white horsetail banners from the parliament, where they are normally displayed, to the stadium. We will attend the impressive opening ceremony, after which the first round of wrestling will immediately follow. In most years 512 wrestlers from all over Mongolia compete, but in some years there are 1024! There are no judges, no time limits and no weight limits. We may try and attend the archery competitions (if not done the previous day) and later make our way out to the steppe area on the fringes of the city, where the horse races take place. We visit the nomadic tented camps that have sprung up, and experience a concentrated version of nomadic Mongolia. Herdsmen have come with their horses and all provisions for the festivities, which of course include airag (koumiss; fermented mares milk) for the merry making. Stroll around the area and you are likely to be invited in somewhere. You may also try your luck at the finals of the horse races, but prior instructions are necessary, since the finishing line of a full horse race of several hundred, is a potentially hazardous environment.

July 12th Ulaanbaatar (same as Day 1 for the standard itinerary)

Our services end after breakfast for the Naadam Games. You will be staying at the same hotel. Free day to

explore Ulaanbaatar. I our briefing after dinner.



Other Info

Meeting: Ulaanbaatar

Airport: Chinggis Khaan International Airport (UBN)

Train station: Ulaanbaatar railway station

Transfer: Ulaanbaatar

Distance: 15km

Pick-up/ drop-off for this trip is from Chinggis Khaan International Airport in Ulaanbaatar (UBN). You will be met for your arrival flight on Day 1 of the trip. Check-out from your hotel on the last day: 12:00pm.

Tack: Mongolian Buryat Soldier Saddles

Horses: Mongolian

Pace: 5-8 hours - many fast pace stretches

Walk | Trot | Canter |

Level: 🐾🐾🐾🐾🐾 (3.5 to 4.5 out of 5) Intermediate+

Age: Min 12 Max 75

Weight: 200 lbs

Riders: Min 2 riders Max 10 riders

Rates and Dates 2025 - IT-MNRT10

Rates include: Accommodations, Most meals, 8 riding days & Transfers
There are other language guides such as Russian, French, German, Italian, Korean etc. available at additional cost

Packages and Options

Season	Description	~US\$
A 2025	12 day trip	\$2900

Transfer Option

Description

2025	Transfers from/to Ulaanbaatar airport included	
2025	Single room/ tent/ ger supplement	\$440
2025	No single supplement if willing to share	
2025	Private trip supplement (2-4 pax), per trip	\$500
2025	Private trip supplement (5+ pax) - no extra charge	

Tour Dates

Season	Tour Dates		
A 2025	06/19/2025 - 06/30/2025	12d / 11n	12 day trip
A 2025	07/20/2025 - 07/31/2025	12d / 11n	12 day trip
A 2025	08/19/2025 - 08/30/2025	12d / 11n	12 day trip

Min/Max: 2/10

Rates do not include: Gratuities, Airport departure tax, Lunches & Dinners in Ulaanbaatar (except for welcome and farewell dinner), Alcoholic drinks & Health and accident insurance (mandatory)
Bring your own sleeping bag



Reservation Form

Tour : _____ Code #: _____ from: _____ to : _____

The Travelers (Last Name, First Name)	Male Female	Single room / or tent	Birth Date MM/DD/YY	Height	Weight	Special diets													
						Special diets	Beginner	Novice	Intermediate	Strong Inter.	Advanced	ride English	ride Western	mostly arena	mostly hacking				
1. _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	_____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	_____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	_____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	_____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Special Diets: _____

Your fitness level: Excellent ☐ Moderate ☐ Poor ☐ How long have you been riding? _____

How often do you ride? _____ Have you been on other riding tours? No ☐ Yes ☐ last trip when? _____

If Hidden Trails offers a transfer from the local airport/station: I would like the transfer to be included: YES ☐ NO ☐

In an emergency, name and phone number of contact: _____

Attention: Please, if there is more than one participant, all have to sign the reservation form - make copies if needed

With my signature I confirm my reservation of the listed program(s) under the Hidden Trails Booking Conditions. I'm aware, and I made all participants aware of the risk involved with these outdoor adventure activities. All participants have read and agree with the Hidden Trails Booking Conditions and the Hidden Trails Recreational Activity Release and Indemnity Agreement in this brochure or as listed on the Internet.

I (we) will sign and forward the Recreational Activity Release and Indemnity Agreement at least 10 weeks before trip starting date.

Last Name and First Name (The Traveler) _____

Street _____ e-mail _____

City _____ State _____ Postal/Zip Code _____

Phone (wk) _____ (hm) _____ Cell _____ Fax _____

Date _____ Signature (mandatory) 1. _____

Please, charge a 25% deposit (minimum \$ 350 per person) now and full payment 10 weeks before the travel date to my credit card.

For payments by VISA ☐ or Mastercard ☐ (no debit cards)

Cardholder: _____

Card # _____ 3 digit Security # _____

Exp.Date: _____ Signature _____

Billing Address for Credit Card (if different than mailing address):

I have enclosed a check for the deposit ☐

Additional Signatures:

2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

Travel Cancellation Insurance Credit Card required

Sign me (us) up ☐ initial _____

No, we will provide our own ☐ initial _____

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