

## **Mongolian Adventure 2012 Preliminary Itinerary**

**Please note:** this trip is not for the luxury traveler or the faint-hearted! Food and facilities are very basic, in locations that are quite remote. Participants should be in excellent health, with a sense of adventure and desire to experience a new culture.)

### **Su05Aug      ULAANBAATAR**

10h05 Arrive by CA901 from Beijing. Transfer to the hotel.  
P.m. Bogd Khan Winter Palace & Zaisan Hill. (Bishreht Hotel/B)

### **Mo06Aug      To HUSTAI NATIONAL PARK**

A.m. Museum of Natural History and Gandan Monastery.  
Free time for lunch in Ulaanbaatar    Drive 2hrs to Hustai National Park 110km.  
Drive to Moilt Camp for one night

### **Tu07Aug      To HUSTAI GER CAMP**

Hike six miles from Moilt Camp to Hustai Ger Camp. Those who do not wish to hike can ride on our bus and enjoy Hustai Camp while others hike. Hike includes some beautiful upland forest environment. Game drive late afternoon for Przewalskii's Horses. Possible sightings of Red Deer (*Cervus elaphus*), (Hustai Ger Camp/BD).

### **We08Aug      To ZORGOL HAIRHAN MOUNTAIN and ARBURD SANDS**

Pre breakfast game drive for Przewalskii's Horses. Drive south towards the Tuul River Valley and exit Hustai National Park across the Tuul River and heading out across the Gobi grasslands for a few hours until reaching Zorgol Hairhan Uul rock formations. We scan the ridges for possible encounters of Siberian Ibex. There are also Argali Sheep. It is sacred mountains, so there are ovoos, holy springs and small caves to climb to and explore. Drive last 35km to Arburd Sands. (Arburd Sands Ger Camp/BLD).

### **Th09Aug      ARBURD SANDS**

Walk in the grasslands and sand dunes. Visit a local family. The area of Arburd Sands is rich in its nomadic genuine lifestyle and also its experience with horse racing within the Mongolian equestrian tradition. (Arburd Sands Ger Camp /BLD).

### **Fr10Aug      To Ikh Nartiin Chuluu Nature Reserve**

Today we take a long drive across the steppes to Ikh Nart. Great opportunity to view herds of gazelles and some bird watching in the seasonal ponds on the steppe. We reach Ikh Nart Nature Reserve in Dornogobi (East Gobi). Ikh Nart is the twin reserve of Anza Borrego Desert State Park. (Red Rock Ger Camp /BLD).

### **Sa11Aug      To IKH NART**

Ikh Nart is an upland on the Gobi arid Gobi steppes with huge rock formations and crevices. Ikh Nart Nature Reserve is a community run reserve and the richest place in Mongolia for Argali Sheep. Bring your binoculars, however sometimes we have had them walk through camp itself. Wildlife research is conducted here by international and Mongolian researchers connected to the Denver Zoo Foundation and the Mongolian Academy of Sciences. (Red Rock Ger Camp /BLD).

**Su12Aug    IKH NART**

Visit the Research Station and meet the people who work there. EarthWatch teams are in camp. Learn about field research. Take local hikes to view ibex, argali sheep, rock art, and numerous ancient grave sites. (Red Rock Ger Camp /BLD).

**Mo13Aug    IKH NART**

Short hikes around nature reserve. Visit nomad camps. (Red Rock Ger Camp /BLD).

**Tu14Aug    To GUN GALUUT NATURE RESERVE**

Drive 60km out to the tarmac road and railway line connecting Ulan Bator with Beijing (TransMongolian). Full day excursion to Dalanjargalan village, which is the community center village. Visit local officials. The school is on summer holiday, but we might be able to meet someone anyway. It is a half a day drive to Gun Galuut Nature Reserve which is steppes habitat with some small lakes and next to the Herlen River. The area has some impressive burial mounds. It is good here for birding for species with an easterly distribution, such as White-naped and Hooded Cranes. (Steppe Nomads Ger Camp/BLD)

**We15Aug    To JALMAN MEADOWS**

A.m. Excursion at Gun Galuut. Bird watching.  
P.m. Drive half a day until reaching forested area of the Khan Khentii. The southernmost habitats of Siberia if you like. Arrive the Upper Tuul River valley with its meadows, wildflowers and forests. (Jalman Meadows Ger Camp /BLD)

**Th16Aug    JALMAN MEADOWS**

A.m. we will walk following the Tuul River upstream and loaded a yak cart with some rafts. Have picnic lunch and return on the river floating with catarafts. (Jalman Meadows Ger Camp / BLD)

**Fr17Aug    To ULAANBAATAR**

A.m. Drive to Ulaanbaatar.  
P.m. Free for shopping.  
17h20: Optional Moonstone (closest) folk music (Hotel/B)

**Sa18Aug    FLY OUT**

09h00 transfer out to the airport for CA902 to Beijing 11h05.