



2008 TOTAL SOLAR ECLIPSE MONGOLIA
KHUVSGUL LAKE PRE-EXTENSION
22-29 JULY, 2008

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Last update: 17 Jan, 2008

Day 1: 22 July, 2008. Arrival to Ulaanbaatar, city tour

On arrival, transfer to your hotel in central Ulaanbaatar. After a short briefing we explore the main Buddhist Temple of Ulaanbaatar, the Gandan with its 90feet statue of Lord Buddha. The Palace of the last Mongolian King with its religious artwork and the King's daily use items and the National History Museum displaying a spectacular collection of national costumes will follow after. Before dinner, a show of unique throat (overtone) singing and contortion will be presented to you. (hotel / L,D)

Day 2: 23 July, 2008. Flight to Murun, gateway to Khuvsgul lake

This morning we will take an hour and a half flight to Northern Mongolia. Your guide will accompany you on board. On arrival we meet our driver and head north to the Khuvsgul lake. The lake is very special to Mongolians. Fed by waters of auspicious 99 rivers, it gives source to a single river which links it with its "older sister", the lake Baikal in Russia. On arrival we will relax in a well facilitated cozy setting. This will be your chance to sleep in a traditional Mongolian felt tent. (ger / B,L,D)

Day 3: 24 July, 2008. Khuvsgul lake – the blue pearl of Mongolia

Today you may do various activities such as swimming, hiking, horseback riding or kayaking. You may as well just laze around by the vast blue expanse of the lake. You may also visit a Tsaatan family, a tribe of reindeer herding people who practice shamanism and lead life ways similar to Laps in Northern Europe. (ger / B,L,D)

Day 4: 25 July, 2008. Khuvsgul Lake

One day is too short for fully enjoying the lake. Here is another day you may spend doing optional activities. (ger / B,L,D)

Day 5: 26 July, 2008. Drive to Murun town

Morning at leisure and we drive to town of Murun. Along the way we make a short stop by an ancient memorial complex consisting of a dozen of so-called Deer Steles. These tombstones of nomadic warriors of 6-3 centuries BC depict artistic expressions of ancient people in a unique animalistic art style. Overnight in Murun hotel. Dinner will be served in the hotel restaurant. (hotel / B,L,D)

Day 6: 27 July, 2008. Drive to Uran Togoo volcano

Today we head south-east towards central Mongolia. The road runs across a countryside full of nomadic tents and huge flocks of livestock. In the afternoon we cross a bridge across the Altan (Golden) river. Rock formations in the area hint towards a volcanic past. The river banks make an idyllic spot for a picnic lunch. After a long gentle climb to Tuluugiin pass where we experience a dramatic change of scenery as the forests give way to open steppe, at least for a while. We continue and stop by two extinct volcanoes Mt. Uran and Mt. Togoo. Then we head to a local ger camp for dinner and overnight. (ger / B,L,D)

Day 7: 28 July, 2008. Drive to Amarbayasgalant monastery

We travel further to Amarbayagalant monastery, nestled in the wooded valley of the holy Burenkhaan mountain. Amarbayasgalant Monastery was built in between 1727 - 1736 during the Manchurian period, under the decree of Manchu Haan. The purpose of this Monastery was to spread Buddhism throughout Mongolia in order to prevent disturbances against the Manchu by using peaceful patient features of this region. Remarkably the monastery survived the Stalinist purges of the 1930's unscathed and remains the most complete monastery in Mongolia outside Ulaanbaatar. We spend some time exploring the peaceful premises of the monastery and continue to visitor camp nearby. (ger / B,L,D)

Day 8: 29 July, 2008. Return to UB

Today we make a return drive to Ulaanbaatar. The going is smooth on the main northern road, passing through the fertile lands of Selenge province - the bread basket of Mongolia. On arrival you will be transferred to your hotel. The remaining day is for your self-exploration of the city. Prepare for early morning flight to Eclipse camp next day. (B,L)

All inclusive land price for a group of 6: 784 US\$ per person.

The price includes:

- 1 hotel overnight in Ulaanbaatar (TWN/DBL/BB)
- 1 hotel overnight in Murun town
- 5 overnights in traditional felt tents (yurts)
- Services of an English speaking guide
- Meals as indicated
- Airport transfers
- Flight ticket to Khuvsgul
- Russian 4*4 van in the Khuvsgul area incl. gas
- All visits and environmental fees