



Photos: Mark Johnstad

South Gobi

Gobi Gurvansaikhan National Park

This journey takes us to the dramatic desert steppe and mountain ranges of the South Gobi, Mongolia's least populated province. We'll explore the iconic *Flaming Cliffs* of Bayanzag, made famous by the discovery of the first dinosaur eggs, and visit the stunning Yol Valley in the Gurvan Saikhan Mountains, a narrow gorge often filled with ice well into summer. The vast Khongor Sand Dunes, Mongolia's largest, are another highlight. Round-trip domestic flights offer breathtaking aerial views of Mongolia's open landscapes. In the Gobi, we travel by jeep or 4WD minivan. Overnights are in deluxe gers at comfortable ger camps, with optional upgrade to luxury lodge Three Camel Lodge near Bayanzag offering en-suite bathrooms, fine dining, and exceptional comfort in stunning natural setting.

Day 1 – Ulaanbaatar to Bayanzag (Flaming Cliffs)

We pick you up at your hotel and fly 1.5 hours to Dalanzadgad in the South Gobi. From there, drive 90 km to Bayanzag, a region of red sandstone cliffs and saxaul forests. This is one of the most important paleontological sites in the world, made famous by American explorer Roy Chapman Andrews whose expedition found the first ever fossilized dinosaur eggs in the 1920s. The cliffs glow at sunset, and wildlife such as gazelles or foxes may be spotted en route. Overnight in a ger camp nearby.

Day 2 – Khongor Sand Dunes

Drive westward (approx. 150 km) through the Gurvansaikhan Mountains to reach the immense Khongor Els dunes. These dunes stretch over 150 km, rising up to 80 meters high. In the evening light, their shifting shapes and colors are especially striking. You'll also have the chance to visit local herder families and learn about life in the desert. Overnight in a ger camp near the dunes.

Day 3: Along the Gurvansaikhan Mountains

Journey east along the Gurvansaikhan mountain range, an extension of the Altai with peaks reaching 2,800 meters. The Gurvansaikhan range, literally 'three beauties' named for its three subranges, is an extension of the Altai deep into the Gobi desert. Overnight in Gobi Oasis ger camp.



Day 4: Yol Valley Excursion

Take a full-day trip into the Gurvan-saikhan Mountains and visit Yolyn Am, or Yol Valley. This narrow gorge, often filled with ice into mid-summer, offers a beautiful contrast to the surrounding desert. We'll hike through the valley, home to wildlife like Lammergeiers (bearded vultures), rosefinches, and pikas. In the afternoon, visit Muhar Shivert, known for its animal-shaped rock formations and remaining patches of winter ice. Overnight in Gobi Oasis ger camp.

Day 5 – Return to Ulaanbaatar

After early breakfast, transfer to Dalanzadgad airport for your return flight to Ulaanbaatar. Upon arrival, transfer to your hotel.

Practicalities

Transport:

Travel by jeep or minibus depending on group size. Itinerary may reverse during June or September due to limited flights.

Accommodation:

Deluxe Gers with ensuite bathroom. Luxury upgrade available at Three Camel Lodge near Bayanzag.

Staff:

Accompanied by an English-speaking Mongolian guide throughout. Other languages available on request (additional cost).

Meals:

All meals provided outside Ulaanbaatar, either at ger camps or as picnics.

PRICE ex Ulaanbaatar:

2 members: **USD 1900 per person**
Single supplement (4n): **USD 200**

Upgrade supplement:
Three Camel Lodge (2n): **USD 1500 per person**

Includes:

English-speaking guide
All meals outside Ulaanbaatar
Accommodation in ger camps
All local transport and entry fees
Domestic flights

Excludes:

Beverage
Accommodation and transfers in Ulaanbaatar

Dates:

Daily mid –May to Mid September

