

Gobi Desert Off-Road



Off – Road Motorcycle Tour
4th – 13th August 2009



Note: This page is for the August tour

The Gobi Desert straddling the border between Mongolia and China, is a wild and dramatic place, entirely suitable for motorcycling. Our Yamaha WR bikes are an exciting bike to ride, having plenty of torque, good grip and being lightweight so riding long distances on tricky roads is not too exhausting. We ride on all sorts of roads: asphalt as well as packed mud or gravel tracks with washouts and potholes. All pretty much free of traffic and through some spectacular scenery.

The famous Gobi Desert is not all vast flat steppe under a deep blue sky. There are bizarre rock formations, canyons, the Gurvansaikhan mountain range and sand dunes 100km long, as well as forests of small saxaul trees and other desert vegetation. Apart from a few villages and small towns that we pass through on the way, most of the population have a nomadic lifestyle, frequently moving with their round white felt yurts (“gers”) and herds of camels, goats and horses. This trip is a fascinating cultural experience as well as an off-road bike tour across Mongolia of over one and a half thousand kilometres.

Every night will be spent at ger camps where traditional ger tents have been set up for travellers and have comfortable facilities including a ger restaurant, bar, showers and toilet.



Background: bizarre rock formations against the big sky



Motorcyclists experience real freedom in the Gobi with no fences or roads.



The Yamaha WR250 is well suited to the terrain.

- Day 1** Arrive Ulaanbaatar. Transfer to hotel. Allocate motorbikes.
- Day 2** Ride to Baga Gazriin Chuluu across the green rolling hills of Tuv province. Overnight ger camp amidst the spectacular granite rocks where we may see marmots, eagles, ibex and steppe fox.
- Day 3** Ride through Mandalgov, capital of Dundgov (“Middle Gobi”) to Tsagaan Suvraga, an amazing series of white and pink limestone cliffs. An excellent place for out-of-the-ordinary photography.
- Day 4** The track to Dalanzadgad, capital of Umngov (“South Gobi”) has little traffic. This is Mongolia as one imagines it: distant horizons, dry rocky earth and a huge blue sky.
- Day 5** Ride up into the mountains of the Gurvansaikhan National Park. After walking into Yoliin Am (“Vulchur’s Mouth”) we ride west to Khongoriin Els where big golden sand dunes meet the end of the Gobi Altai mountain range.
- Day 6** Ride to Bayanzag where there is a forest of rare saxaul trees and the “flaming cliffs” where Roy Chapman Andrews discovered the first ever nest of dinosaur eggs in his expedition of the 1920s.

- Day 7** Travel north east to Mandal Ovoo and then to Saikhan Ovoo. Here, on a bend in the Ongi river, are the remains of two monasteries.
- Day 8** Ride to Zorgol Khairkhan, a dramatic granite mountain with bizarre rock formations jutting into the sky.
- Day 9** Return to Ulaanbaatar. Afternoon free for shopping.
- Day 10** Depart.

Accommodation:
2 nights hotel
7 nights ger camp

Group size: Tour will run with a minimum of 4 people.

Price per person: € 2895
Motorbike hire: included
Single hotel supplement: € 50

Price includes: Accommodation, most meals, support vehicles, transfers, entrance fees, tour leader, petrol for motorbike

Not included: International flights, visa costs, meals in UB.

Trip Highlights

- **Yoliin Am** has been a protected site since 1965. The ice in the gorge does not usually melt until July.
- **Tsagaan Suvraga** looks the ruins of an old city from far away and is revered by the local people who call it Tsagaan Khairkhan “White Darling”.