

Gobi Desert Off-Road



Off – Road Motorcycle Tour
8th – 17th June 2009



Note: This page is for the tour in June

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 tour across Mongolia of over one and a half thousand kilometres.

Every night will be spent at ger camps where traditional yurts have comfortable facilities including a ger restaurant, bar, showers and toilet. These will be very welcome at the end of each day, since the Gobi Desert is usually a hot, dusty and windy place.



The ancient gravestone of a warrior



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 Dundgov (“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: Motorbike hire, petrol for motorbike, accommodation, most meals, support vehicles, transfers, entrance fees, tour leader.

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

Trip Highlights

- **Khongoriin Els** dunes are 100 kilometers long and the sound made by the moving sand can be heard from afar, hence the name “Singing dunes”.
- **Gurvansaikhan Mountains** are home to wild argali sheep, ibex and birds of prey as well as the rare snow leopard, Gobi bear and wild camels.