



## MONGOLIA SOLAR ECLIPSE TOUR JULY 29-AUGUST 4, 2008

August is a great month to visit Mongolia with excellent weather prospects for the afternoon solar eclipse of 2008. We're offering a week-long core itinerary that focuses on the eclipse itself and if you wish to enjoy more of Mongolia (Gobi Desert, Lake Khovsgol, etc.) you may choose from several add-on itineraries for additional travel before or after the eclipse. We also offer customized itineraries for private touring before or after the eclipse.

Boojum Expeditions brought the largest group of eclipse watchers to Mongolia in 1997 for the total solar eclipse in March of that year. We understand the priorities of eclipse chasers and are eager to let the eclipse serve to show off the history, landscape and fascinating culture of Mongolia.

For the eclipse tour, we have a tent camp in the Altai Mountains in Western Mongolia which border Kazakhstan and Russia, and will be our base for two nights, including the day of the eclipse. Our viewing site for the day of the eclipse will be in the Altai Mountains with a great view to the west and spectacular scenery all around. While it is important to remember that infrastructure in Mongolia is still undeveloped, our camp will have dining tents, a temporary bath house and toilets. Sleeping will be in comfortable mountain tents on a double occupancy basis. Traveling to and from our eclipse camp, you'll stay in 'ger camps', the equivalent of a Mongolian motel. At the ger camp, there will be a communal dining hall and bathhouse, and guests sleep in traditional walk-in tents (gers) furnished with typical beds and other furniture.

The best way to get to Mongolia from North America is via Seoul, Korea (ICN). Ulaan Baatar can also be reached from Beijing, Moscow, Berlin and Osaka.

If you'd like a map of Mongolia to begin your travel plans, we sell the best map available for \$9 USD including postage in the US. Call to order 1-800-287-0125.

### Basic Eclipse Tour Itinerary

**Day 1**, July 29: Arrive in Ulaan Baatar (UB), the capitol of Mongolia. Boojum guide and driver will meet you at the airport after you clear customs and immigration. Transfer to hotel. Time permitting; your guide will take you on a short city tour. Welcome dinner. Overnight at hotel.

**Day 2**, July 30: Fly to western Mongolia. Arrive in Olgii, the capitol of Bayan Olgii province. Visit local market and mosque. Overnight at ger camp.

**Day 3**, July 31: Drive to the eclipse camp site. Along the way visit families of local herder's and eagle hunter's. Overnight in mountain tents at eclipse camp.

**Day 4**, Aug 1: Morning preparation for the eclipse viewing. Short hikes in the mountains. Observe the Eclipse. Overnight in tents.



**Day 5, Aug 2:** Drive to Olgii. Overnight at ger camp.

**Day 6, Aug 3:** Fly back to UB. Folklore performance. Farewell dinner. Overnight at hotel.

**Day 7, Aug 4:** After breakfast, airport transfer for your international flight departure or join Boojum groups for extension trip to Khovsgol, Gobi or Central Mongolia.

The cost of the trip (per person) is \$2600.00 USD. \$500 USD deposit, refundable less \$25 fee until September 15, 2007.

**What's Included:** English speaking guide, land transportation and airport transfers, meals beginning with dinner on Day 1 and ending with breakfast on departure day, domestic flights to/from Western Mongolia, accommodations including sleeping bag and pad, tents, entry fees.

**What's Not Included:** Roundtrip international airfare to/from UB, airport taxes, excess baggage fees, alcoholic beverages, bottled water/soft drinks, gratuities and items of a personal nature.

## EXTENSIONS FOR SOLAR ECLIPSE GROUPS

### **Gobi and Kharkhorin Extension, Aug 4-9, 2008**

Aug 4: Visit Gandan Hid Monastery, the largest Buddhist temple in Mongolia. Drive to Kharhorin, ancient capitol of the Mongolian Empire, located 400km (6-8 hours with breaks) southeast of UB. There are presently efforts to re-establish Kharhorin as the capitol of Mongolia as it was centuries ago. Visit the restored Erdenzuu Monastery (Hundred Treasures) originally built in 1586. Stop for a picnic lunch near Elsen Tasarhai sand dunes. Stay overnight in a ger. ("Ger Camp" is a Mongolian version of motel with traditionally decorated gers for sleeping, separate dining hall and basic facilities for shower and toilet. Normally 2-4 people share the same ger).

Aug 5: Drive into the Gobi Desert with stops along the way for lunch and breaks. Explore the ruins of the Ongi temple located in the mountainous area along the Ongi River. The Ongi ger camp is located about half way between Kharhorin and Dalanzadgad, our destination in the Gobi. Overnight in a ger camp.

Aug 6: Arrive in South Gobi. Visit the Flaming Cliffs, spectacular color and scenery. The first dinosaur eggs were discovered at this site by an American expedition headed by Roy Chapman Andrews in 1922. Discover fossils! Overnight in a ger camp.

Aug 7: Visit Yol Am Valley, home to mountain sheep, ibex, eagle and vultures. Hike in the valley. Visit Park Museum and a camel breeder's family. Optional camel rides are available. Overnight in a ger camp.

Aug 8: Fly back to UB. In the afternoon go to Zaisan Memorial, a prominent landmark overlooking the city, built on Bogd Khan Mountain. Walk Sukhbaatar Square, named after the Mongolian National Hero of People's Revolution in 1921. Sukhbaatar Square is surrounded by Parliament, the Stock Market, cultural sites, the Palace Royal Opera House and the main post office. Folklore performance. Farewell dinner. Overnight in hotel.

Aug 9: After breakfast your guide will transfer you to the airport for your int'l flight departure.

The cost of the trip (per person) based on minimum 2 people is \$1250.00 USD.



**What's Included:** English speaking guide, meals, transportation, hotel in UB and ger accommodations, camel rental, park/entry fees.

**What's Not Included:** Roundtrip international airfare to/from UB, airport taxes, excess baggage fees, alcohol and bottled drinks, items of a personal nature.

(For those who arrive Mongolia on Aug 3, there will be a charge of \$55-\$90 for the additional hotel night (\$90 for a single room or \$55 per person for a double room plus airport transfer fee of \$15 per person).

### **Kharhorin, Arkhangay and Khovsgol Extension, Aug 4- 11, 2008**

Aug 4: Depart UB in the morning. Drive to Kharhorin, ancient capitol of the Mongolian Empire, located 400km (6-8 hours with breaks) southeast of UB. There are presently efforts to re-establish Kharhorin as the capitol of Mongolia as it was centuries ago. Explore the restored Erdenzuu Monastery (Hundred Treasures) originally built in 1586. Stop for picnic lunch near Elsen Tasarhai sand dunes. Stay overnight in a ger camp. ("Ger Camp" is a Mongolian version of motel with traditionally decorated gers for sleeping, separate dining hall and basic facilities for shower and toilet. Normally 2-4 people share the same ger).

Aug 5: Drive to Tsenkher Hot Springs near Tsetserleg, capitol of Arhangay. Located in west-central Mongolia, Arhangay is called the "Switzerland of Mongolia" for its beautiful forests, rivers and mountains. You are welcome to visit the gers of local herders and experience nomadic life on the Central Asian steppe.

Aug 6: After breakfast, drive towards Terkhiin Tsagaan Lake. A half a day drive will take you to a beautiful fresh water lake formed by ancient lava flows. As you climb to the top of the Khorgo, the dead volcano, you'll see a dramatic landscape of larch forests, mountains and lava flows reaching to the horizon. Visit Zaya Bandid Gegeenii Khuree monastery-museum on the way to the lake. Overnight in gers.

Aug 7: Today you head directly north, across the boundary of Central Mongolia and into the northern part of the country. Stop at Jargalant, a small provincial town for overnight at the ger camp.

Aug 8: Today is a full day drive to reach Lake Khovsgol. Famed as the "Blue Pearl" of Mongolia and heart of Khovsgol National Park, this lake holds 2% of the world's fresh water reserve and is surrounded by mountains and forests. On the way, visit deer stones near Muren. Overnight in gers.

Aug 9: Full day of exploring, hiking and relaxing at the lake. Visit Park Information Center. Horseback riding is optional. Overnight in gers.

Aug 10: Fly back to UB. In the afternoon go to Zaisan Memorial, a prominent landmark overlooking the city, built on Bogd Khan Mountain. Walk Sukhbaatar Square, named after the Mongolian National Hero of People's Revolution in 1921. Sukhbaatar Square is surrounded by Parliament, the Stock Market, cultural sites, the Palace Royal Opera House and the main post office. Folklore performance. Farewell dinner. Overnight in hotel.

Aug 11: After breakfast your guide will transfer you to the airport for your int'l flight departure.

The cost of the trip (per person) based on minimum 2 people is \$1450.00 USD.

**What's Included:** English speaking guide, meals, transportation, hotel in UB and ger accommodations, horse rental, park/entry fees.



**What's Not Included:** Roundtrip international airfare to/from UB, airport taxes, excess baggage fees, alcohol and bottled drinks, items of a personal nature.

(For those who arrive Mongolia on Aug 3, there will be a charge of \$55-\$90 for the additional hotel night (\$90 for a single room or \$55 per person for a double room plus airport transfer fee of \$15 per person).

### **Khovsgol and Gun Galuut Extension, Aug 4- 9, 2008**

Aug 4: Morning sightseeing. Afternoon flight to Muren, capitol of Khovsgol. Drive to Hatgal at the southern end of Lake Khovsgol. Surrounded by forest and 100 miles long, Lake Khovsgol is the deepest in Central Asia and holds 2% of the world's fresh water resource. Ger camp in Hatgal.

Aug 5-6: Visit the Park Information Center. Hike or horseback ride along the shore of the lake. Ger camp in Hatgal.

Aug 7: Transfer to Muren. On the way, visit the Valley of the Kings, famous for its deer stones erected by Bronze Age nomads. Fly back to UB. Drive to Gun Galuut Nature Reserve, home to ibex, gray wolf, eagle and vultures. Hike to Mt. Baits. Visit nomadic herders' families. Overnight in ger camp.

Aug 8: Drive to UB. In the afternoon go to Zaisan Memorial, a prominent landmark overlooking the city, built on Bogd Khan Mountain. Walk Sukhbaatar Square, named after the Mongolian National Hero of People's Revolution in 1921. Sukhbaatar Square is surrounded by Parliament, the Stock Market, cultural sites, the Palace Royal Opera House and the main post office. Folklore performance. Farewell dinner. Overnight in hotel.

Aug 9: After breakfast your guide will transfer you to the airport for your int'l flight departure.

The cost of the trip (per person) based on minimum 2 people is \$1250.00 USD.

**What's Included:** English speaking guide, meals, transportation upon arrival in UB, hotel in UB and ger accommodations, horse rental, park/entry fees.

**What's Not Included:** Roundtrip international airfare to/from UB, airport taxes, excess baggage fees, alcohol and bottled drinks, items of a personal nature.

(For those who arrive Mongolia on Aug 3, there will be a charge of \$55-\$90 for the additional hotel night (\$90 for a single room or \$55 per person for a double room plus airport transfer fee of \$15 per person).

### **Gobi Extension, Aug 4- 7, 2008**

Aug 4: Fly to the South Gobi. Visit the Flaming Cliffs which offer spectacular color and scenery. The first recorded dinosaur eggs were discovered at this site by an American expedition headed by Roy Chapman Andrews in 1922. Discover fossils! Overnight in a ger camp.

Aug 5: Visit Yol Am Valley, home to mountain sheep, ibex, eagle and vultures. Hike in the valley and visit Park Museum. Visit a camel breeder's family. Optional camel rides available. Stay overnight in a ger camp.

Aug 6: Fly back to UB. In the afternoon go to Zaisan Memorial, a prominent landmark overlooking the city, built on Bogd Khan Mountain. Walk Sukhbaatar Square, named after the Mongolian National Hero of People's Revolution in 1921. Sukhbaatar Square is surrounded by Parliament, the Stock Market,



cultural sites, the Palace Royal Opera House and the main post office. Folklore performance. Farewell dinner. Overnight in hotel.

Aug 7: After breakfast your guide will transfer you to the airport for your int'l flight departure.

The cost of the trip (per person) based on minimum 2 people is \$850.00 USD.

**What's Included:** English speaking guide, meals, transportation, hotel in UB and ger accommodations, camel rental, park/entry fees.

**What's Not Included:** Roundtrip international airfare to/from UB, airport taxes, excess baggage fees, alcohol and bottled drinks, items of a personal nature.

(For those who arrive Mongolia on Aug 3, there will be a charge of \$55-\$90 for the additional hotel night \$90 for a single room or \$55 per person for a double room plus airport transfer fee of \$15 per person).