

NOMADIC
ROAD

ROAD DEEPER INTO GOBI

Extreme Motoring Journey across Uncharted regions of Mongolia

18th – 30th August 2023



ABOUT NOMADIC ROAD

Nomadic Road is an award winning experiential travel company that bridges dream and routine. We are the pioneers when it comes to organizing motoring expeditions to far ends of our planet. With our extensive experience, each expedition is carefully crafted wherein you'll be driving legendary expedition vehicles, taking on adventurous and unprecedented journeys that guarantees to go well beyond the guidebook and offering unique insights about the places you go to.

FEATURED IN

Forbes

CONDÉ NAST
Traveler

THE TIMES

TRAVEL+
LEISURE

GQ



ABOUT THE EXPEDITION

EXTREME MOTORING JOURNEY ACROSS UNCHARTED REGIONS OF MONGOLIA

Few places are, and feel, as sublimely remote as Mongolia's Gobi Desert, where a mystic silence reigns, velociraptors once roamed, and the near-mythic snow leopard is real. The Gobi Desert is the coldest and one of the highest deserts in the world, occupying about 1/3 of Mongolia. It's the largest desert in Asia and it's not just the orange sands like you may be thinking and there is much more to it. On this epic motoring journey, you will be driving deeper into this great desert, exploring places like Great Gobi A and Great Gobi B. The two parts together forms one of the largest terrestrial protected areas in the world. Most of us avoid traveling absurd distances, but in Mongolia, you can't get anywhere without one hell of a journey and that's what this expedition will offer, letting you explore places where no tourists have ever gone before.



Country
Mongolia



Group Size
Max. 10 Pax



Weather
Max 26° C | Min 6° C



Expedition Vehicle
Nissan Patrol 4x4



Distance
± 2400 kms



Driving Terrain
Dirt Roads + Challenging
4x4 Trails



When
18th to 30th Aug 2023



Duration
12 Days



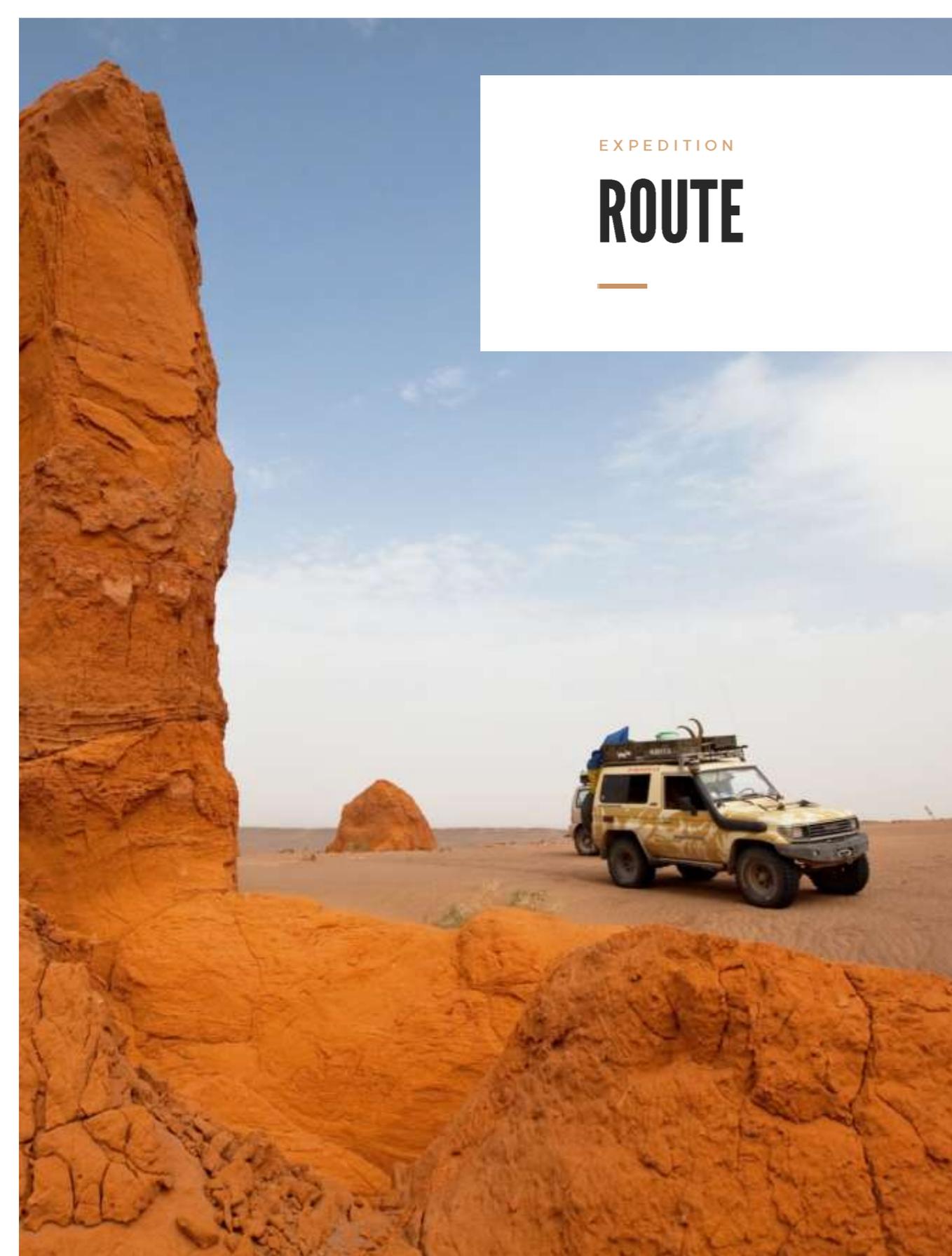
Accommodation
Ger Camps + Tents



EXPEDITION

ROUTE

- 01 DAY FLY INTO ULAANBAATAR (UB)
- 02 DAY IKH GAZRIIN CHULUU
- 03 DAY GOBI DESERT & FLAMING CLIFFS
- 04 DAY KHONGORIIN ELS
- 05 DAY NEMEGT VALLEY
- 06 DAY KHERMEN TSAV
- 07 DAY NOGOON TSAV
- 08 DAY ALTAI
- 09 DAY ZAVKHAN RIVER & MONGOL ELS
- 10 DAY DURGUN LAKE
- 11 DAY JARGALANT KHAIRKHAN
- 12 DAY FLY TO ULAANBAATAR
- 13 DAY DEPART FROM ULAANBAATAR



DAY 01: ARRIVAL AT ULAANBAATAR

Accommodation: Novotel Hotel or Similar

If Mongolia's yin is its pristine countryside, then Ulaanbaatar conforms nicely to its yang. Once you arrive in Ulaanbaatar, you will be received at the airport by our team and then transferred to Novotel Hotel. You are requested to arrive in UB by noon so that you can rest for a while and then get ready for the expedition briefing in the evening followed by a very special expedition welcome dinner. A wonderful opportunity to meet all the fellow expedition members before the start of the epic adventure.

Our Recommendation: You will not need more than a day to explore Ulaanbaatar. Depending on your time of arrival, you can explore the city and its surroundings on your own or we could help you with our recommendations. Or you can come in a day earlier if you want to acclimate to the new time zone and take some rest before the start of your adventure.

DAY 02: IKH GAZRIIN CHULUU

Accommodation: Private Camping

Driving Distance: 290 kms | Driving Time: 5 Hrs | Driving Terrain: Mostly Tarmac

A 5-hr. drive will mark the beginning of our journey into the Mongolian countryside heading southward. We will try to leave UB early, so that we beat the morning traffic and head out into the country side. The route today is predominantly tarmac, but there are some bad stretches filled with potholes. We will stop somewhere enroute for a beautiful picnic lunch. We will exit the tarmac and hit the dirt roads to drive towards the beautiful region of Ikh Gazriin Chuluu. A region that has beautiful rock formations and that can offer an amazing sundowner experience on your first day in our private camping experience.

DAY 03: GOBI DESERT & FLAMING CLIFFS

Accommodation: Ger Camp (Gobi Mirage Lodge or Similar)

Driving Distance: 300 kms | Driving Time: 6 Hrs | Driving Terrain: Tarmac + Dirt

We continue our drive further south and we will finally enter Gobi Desert. First, we will stop at Dalanzadgad, one of the biggest towns in this region for lunch and refuel all our vehicles. Then head out towards Bayanzag, also known as Flaming Cliffs, where red and orange hues come together to create an awe-inspiring sight. Home to ancient dinosaur fossils, the Bayanzag area is an exciting destination allowing you to get up close to massive dinosaur remains. This is where paleontologist, Roy Chapman Andrews found dinosaur bones and eggs. The surrounding landscape is a beautiful combination of rocks, red sand and scrubs. You can spend time exploring the cliffs, and later we will head to our camp site, where you will be staying in traditional Mongolia Gers.

DAY 04: KHONGORIIN ELS

Accommodation: Private Camping

Driving Distance: 230 kms | Driving Time: 6 Hrs | Driving Terrain: Dirt Roads

After breakfast, we will begin our motoring expedition by heading towards the beautiful gorges of Yoliin Am & Dungenee Am. Ancient rivers carved those green valleys and was named after the bearded vulture, which is called Yol in Mongolian. This mountainous region was formed by the same tectonic activity that created the Himalayas and is part of the Gobi Altai Range – the outer crumple zone of the Himalayan geological activity. We will drive through these beautiful gorges located in the Gobi Gurvansaikhan National Park. If lucky, we may catch a glimpse of the wild Argali sheep, the Ibex, the desert gazelles or the Golden Eagles.

From here we will then head west towards Mongolia's largest and most beautiful sand dunes, Khongoryn Els, and the terrain is mostly dirt tracks. "Els" is the Mongolian word for sand dunes and "Hongoryn" describes the exquisite pale tawny color of one of the world's most beautiful dunes fields. These impressive dunes are of 275 meters high in some places, stretching from East to West for over 100 km.

We will drive along the dunes and continue to the west end of Khongyryn Els, where you will be staying in a private camp right next to the tall dunes. You can relax and walk around the ever-changing mysterious landscape and watch the sun go down behind the gorgeous dunes. The temperatures at night can get really cold as we will be deep inside the desert, but we will make it really special with a wonderful bonfire and dinner.

DAY 05: NEMEGT VALLEY

Accommodation: Private Camping

Driving Distance: 210 kms | Driving Time: 5 Hrs | Driving Terrain: Dirt Roads

After breakfast we drive west to Nemegt Valley. Its locally known as the valley of the dragons, since it is a source of many fossil finds, including dinosaurs, dinosaur eggs and trace fossils. The drive gets more interesting and challenging as we are heading towards places where not many people venture into. From here onwards, we are officially away from civilization and have to be dependent on all the supplies we are carrying with us. Today's drive will be through challenging dirt roads, dried river beds, and the trails would have sharp shrubs that might pose a challenge to our tires. This valley along with Khermen Tsav, which we will be visiting the next day, is part of Great Gobi A and is a treasure trove of significant paleontological and geological importance.

DAY 06: KHERMEN TSAV

Accommodation: Private Camping

Driving Distance: 180 kms | Driving Time: 4 Hrs | Driving Terrain: Dirt Roads

We head further west into Gobi Desert towards the large multi-colored canyon called Khermen Tsav, a canyon flanked with beautiful oases...

... Its characterized with high natural formations of cliffs, of eroded sandstone, much more spectacular than the Flaming Cliffs. American scholar and paleontologist Roy Chapman Andrews named this place "The End of the World." The beauty of the cliffs is accentuated by small groves of native Gobi Saxaul trees.

Going through the Khermen Tsav seem like travelling through ancient city ruins with many religious stupas and temples. This area was bottom of the ancient sea and now is wonderful geological exhibition. This kind of landscape is internationally called 'Badland' while Mongolians called it 'Tsav'. Deposits in Khermen Tsav includes yellow, red and white lime stones look like marble and crystal. Those deposits are dated back to geological Cretaceous Age.

The drive today will be on loose sand and it gets tricky and challenging as we head deeper into this remote and isolated part of the Gobi Desert. Way off the beaten track; you are likely to have this complex of canyons all to yourself. Enroute today, you will take a detour towards a beautiful oasis tucked deep inside the desert.

DAY 07: NAGOON TSAV

Accommodation: Private Camping

Driving Distance: 210 kms | Driving Time: 4 Hrs | Driving Terrain: Dirt Trails

Spend all morning at leisure in Khermen Tsav and then we head west, and enter the Greater Gobi Regions which is divided into Great Gobi A and Great Gobi B. Tsav is generally defined as "fissure", or break in the surrounding strata of rocks. Often a Tsav is an outcropping of rock that contains dinosaur fossils. Nagoon (green) Tsav is located sixty miles south of the village of Shinejinst and about thirty miles north of Ekhiin Gol Oasis. Since it's a very remote and challenging route you will have to tread carefully to avoid any vehicular damage. We will be driving through these multi-coloured cliffs and camp near the Green Cliffs, and spend the rest of the day exploring the site by foot.

DAY 08: ALTAI

Accommodation: Hotel Entum

Driving Distance: 320 kms | Driving Time: 8 Hrs | Driving Terrain: Dirt Road+Tarmac

Having spent the last couple of days in the remote wilderness of Gobi Desert, it's time for us to get back to a place where we will have a comfortable hotel and some creature comforts. To we will head north west towards Altai city. The drive today will be through rocky trails and the mountain passes of Altai range. The city of Altai is the capital of the Gobi-Altai province in Western Mongolia. We will refuel our vehicles, and enjoy a relaxing time in the hotel amidst civilization.

DAY 09: ZAVKHAN RIVER & MONGOL ELS

Accommodation: Private Camping

Driving Distance: 320 kms | Driving Time: 8 Hrs | Driving Terrain: Dirt Trails + Dunes

We wake up early for a beautiful day ahead of us...

...The drive today will begin with paved roads and later we again hit the dirt roads on flat steppes. In the afternoon, we will be driving along the most spectacular dunes of Mongol Els that juts out of the steppe along the Zavkhan river. It's the longest range of sand dunes in Mongolia that appeared after the Last Glacial Maximum (~20,000 years ago). We spend time exploring the dunes and trying to navigate through the Zavkhan river. And finally set our private camps next the river after a long and exhausting day.

DAY 10: DURGUN LAKE

Accommodation: Local Hotel

Driving Distance: 380 kms | Driving Time: 6 Hrs | Driving Terrain: Dirt Roads

We continue our journey heading north-west towards Durgun Lake, which is a part of the Great Lakes Depression and one of the remnants of a prehistoric lake. We will drive through the dunes and finally reach our destination for today, located slightly west of Mongol Els. We will camp next to lake shore surrounded by dunes. This will be the most amazing private camping experience of this entire expedition.

DAY 11: JARGALANT KHAIRKHAN

Accommodation: Private Camping

Driving Distance: 150 kms | Driving Time: 4 Hrs | Driving Terrain: Dirt Roads

We wake up to see the beautiful sunrise that turns the dunes into golden color and the sands rolling down into the pristine alkaline lake. And then we continue our drive further west, towards the Jargalant Khairkhan Mountain where we would be staying in private camps located in Omno Uliastai Valley. It's also the home to the elusive snow leopard. Jargalant means "Happy" in Mongolian language and the sacred mountain is one of the main shelter places in the winter and a water source for the local nomads.

DAY 12: FLY TO ULAANBAATAR

Accommodation: Novotel Hotel or Smilar

Driving Time to Khovd Airport: 4 Hrs

Today we bid adieu to Western Mongolia and fly back to Ulaanbaatar. The approx. flight duration is 4 hours and the time difference is 1 hour. In the evening we will have our very exclusive farewell dinner.

Please Note: Flights out of western Mongolia are famous for delays (this is a mountain area and unsuitable conditions for flying are not uncommon). As a result, it is very unwise to plan on departing internationally on the same day. You can end up missing your flight!

DAY 13: DEPART FROM ULAANBAATAR

Accommodation: NA

Depending on the time of your flight you will be transferred to the airport for the departure back to your home.

Au Revoir



NOMADIC
ROAD



EXPEDITION
SIGHTS & SOUNDS

EXPEDITION

INCLUSIONS

Price
\$7,697 USD
per person *

- Exclusive Expedition Vehicle for each team of 2 people
- Fuel for Expedition Vehicle
- Domestic flight from Khovd to Ulaanbaatar
- Nomadic Road Expedition Leader throughout the trip
- Exclusive Expedition Photographer cum Filmmaker throughout the trip
- Local cultural expert and mechanics throughout the trip
- 4x4 support vehicle
- Hospitality staff and Field Chef on the days of private camping.
- All camping equipment's, portable field showers setup with shower tents and chemical toilets
- Accommodation for all nights on twin share basis.
- All meals will be prepared on all days based on your preferences, keeping in mind your food restrictions if any. And almost all our lunch will be somewhere in the middle of nowhere.
- Bottled water and refreshments
- Welcome Dinner & Farewell Dinner
- Entrance fee for entry into National Parks
- Camel and Horse Ride
- Expedition Vehicle transfer from from Khovd to UB
- Airport transfers
- Third party liability insurance for the expedition vehicle
- All excursions, entrance fees, and visits as described in the itinerary

EXPEDITION

EXCLUSIONS

- International Flights, Visa, International Driving Permit
- Breakfast and Lunch on Day 1
- Lunch and Dinner on Day 11 & Day 12 since you will be exploring Ulaanbaatar on your own and it makes sense not to include it in the program.
- Optional activities mentioned in the itinerary.
- Comprehensive Personal Insurance(s)
- Personal medication
- Extras like room service, drinks, optional excursions and items of personal nature like laundry, tips, phone calls etc.





For the Love of the (un)Road



If You Need More Info

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