



**MONGOLIAN
HORSES**



**HORSE
FESTIVAL**



**PREZWELSKI
HORSES**



**NOMADIC
LIFE**

SCOTT TREES PHOTO TOURS 2024 DESTINATION: MONGOLIA



**A Lifetime Photographic
Experience**

*A chance to see and
photograph one of the few
remaining nomadic cultures
in the world.*

Scott Trees
PHOTOGRAPHY

Day 1, AUG 4, ARRIVAL IN ULAANBAATAR

Arrival in Ulaanbaatar and transfer to 4 star hotel. Rest, then meet other participants. Take a tour of the main city square, Sukhbaatar, then visit the Natural History Museum. This museum is noted for its permanent exhibition on the different civilizations that have inhabited the territory of Mongolia from prehistoric times to the present. This exhibit includes a significant dial of objects from the era of the Great Mongol Empire. From there walk to the drama theater to attend an impressive folk concert featuring some traditional Mongolian art forms. After a welcome dinner drive back to the hotel for a good nights sleep.



DAY 2, AUG 5, ANCIENT NOMADS VILLAGE

Today we will take journey back to a time and place that recreates the lives of Mongolian nomads during the beginning of the 20th century. Here we will attend a demonstration of how the nomads lived their lives during this era and learn about some traditions that are carried on to the present days. After lunch in the camp, enjoy four hours of a private photography session with the members of the nomadic family that makes the morning demonstration. In the evening spend our first night's sleep in a ger, the simple yet cozy felt made tent often referred to in other central Asian republics as a yurt.



DAY 3, AUG 6, KHARKHORIN - THE CAPITAL OF THE EMPIRE

Leave the Mongol Nomadic Heritage Center and take an approximately four9hour drive west to Kharkhorin. Built by Khinggis Khan about 800 years ago. Kharkhorin, better. Known as Karakorium was famed throughout Asia as the capital of the Mongol Empire. Within the walls of the spectacular city kings were chosen, laws made, and the fate of the city to be conquered was determined. In the afternoon ascend to a small hill overlooking town to visit the Monument of Empires, erected to celebrate erase the coronation of Ghinggis Khan as the king of



all kinds of the steppes. Enjoy the view of the Orkhon River Valley and enjoy this holy valley before setting in the camp for the night.

DAY 4. Aug 7. THE ORKHON VALLEY HORSE FESTIVAL

Leave Kharkhorin for an hour's drive north to a site known as Khoshoo Tsaidam. This is where a Russian explorer and archeologist discovered two massive tombstones back in the late 19th century. Not far from the ancient tombstones lies the village of Khashaat, which celebrates today the Orkhon Valley Horse Festival. The festival aims to preserve and highlight the nomadic traditions of horse herding and breeding. Horsemen from the entire valley gather here to show off their riding skills, their lassoing, the breaking of horses that were never ridden before, and other breathtaking horsemanship feats.



DAY 5. Aug 8. THE HOT SPRINGS

With a very early wake-up call, drive to the outskirts of Kharkhorin for a photography session with a Golden Eagle Trainer. Return to the camp for breakfast before visiting the Japanese-funded museum. This museum features a permanent display of various archeological findings and compiles a picture of how the city looked like during the reign of the Mongol empire. Then take a walk through Erdene Zuu Monastery, one of the country's oldest Buddhist monasteries, in time for the morning puje – the chanting of Tibetan prayers while playing traditional musical instruments. Leave Kharkhorin and head towards the region the Mongolians often refer to as the Horse Herders Paradise for its lush grasses and open valleys. Drive through thick pine forests to Tsenkher hot springs, where water flows out of the ground at about 80°C (176°F). After settling into the camp for the night, enjoy a relaxing soak at the open hot-water pools under the Mongolian million-star sky!



DAY 6. Aug 9. THE RED WATERFALL

Leave the hot springs, and drive through rolling hills and thick pine forests toward the Orkhon River Valley, the cradle of Mongolian civilization. Before arriving at the waterfall, pause for a three-and-half-hour hike (with the first hour uphill), or a much faster horseback ride, to Tuvkhon Monastery, established during the 1650's by Zanbazar, one of Mongolia's most respected religious leaders. The monastery's wooden buildings are integrated with a natural system of caves perched near a hilltop, offering beautiful views of the Orkhon Valley and the surrounding pine forests. With its unique natural features, the monastery was a perfect location for the great religious leader to meditate. Later in the afternoon, reach a volcanic-dominated region and take the 30 minutes' walk to the beautiful volcanic canyon through which the Orkhon River flows. Take an easy hike along the canyon floor, and end up at the pool at the bottom of the Red Waterfall. For the brave of heart, a cool swim awaits!



DAY 7. Aug 10. THE EDGE OF THE GOBI DESERT

After breakfast in the camp, drive to the summer camp of a nomadic family in the vicinity of the waterfall. This is a great chance to indulge in the nomadic way of life and get a hands-on experience with daily chores that makes the routine for nearly one-third of the Mongolia population. Participate in the making of dairy products, milk livestock, bring water from the well, and cook traditional food. This morning provides a great insight into the significant role of women in Mongolian society. After having a traditional meal together, say farewell to the hosting family and take the few hours' drive to Elsen Tasarkhai sand dune. Marking the northern edge of the great Gobi Desert, Elsen Tasarkhai stretches for over 130 km north into the heart of Central Mongolia.



Arrive at the dune and take a hike for a marvelous view over the dune that seems as if its locked between two mighty mountain ranges. Then pause by a small seasonal lake to watch a variety of migratory waterfowl stopping here on their long journey from the Siberian Tundra to the warm countries of the south. Towards sunset, take a camel ride through the dune before setting in the camp for the night.



DAY 8. Aug 11 ANCIENT WILD HORSES

Again, an early wake-up call, this time for a private photography session with a camel breeder and his majestic Bactrian two-humped camels during sunrise. Revert to camp for breakfast, and then take the approximately four hours' drive to Khustai Nuruu Strictly Protected Area. Khustai was established as part of a unique project to reintroduce the world to the last surviving wild horse back to its natural habitat. On the brink of extinction during the previous century, only a very few Takhi or Przewalski Horses were left in zoos around Europe. This graceful steppe horse was returned to Mongolia, and today, thanks to this unique project, several herds again roam the Mongolian steppes. After a short visit to the visitors center, drive to a vantage point in the midst of the park to see the herds of horses sprinting from the mountain tops to the narrow river valley, where they come to drink as the temperatures in the lowlands cooldown. In the evening, drive to the camp by the protected areas buffer zone.



DAY 9. Aug 12. BACK IN THE NATIONAL CAPITAL

Drive back to Ulaanbaatar. Once in the city, go for a walk through Gandan Buddhist Monastery, the center for Mongolian Buddhism and home to the 26.5 meters (85 feet) Janraisig statue of Avalokiteshvara, the Bodhisattva of Compassion. After exploring the vast compound, drive to the Black Market, which draws its name not from the trade in stolen goods, but due to the fact that in the old times, it was where anti-revolutionary goods such as jeans, chewing gum, and even bootlegs of the Beatles were illegally traded. Drive back to the city center for late lunch before visiting the Zanbazar Fine Arts Museum featuring some of Mongolia's best art collections. In the evening enjoy a farewell dinner before reverting to the hotel for the last night in Mongolia.



DAY 10. Aug 13. HORSE-MOUNTED ARCHERY

Leave the big city to the airport for the international departing flight out of Mongolia. But, before reaching the airport, stop for a private session with the students of Tsogtoo that dedicates their life to preserving the vanishing practice of horse-mounted archery – once the secret behind the domination of Mongol empire over much of the old world. After a few hours with Tsogtoo's skilled archers (depending on the time of the departing flight), ride to the airport and take the flight out of Mongolia.



SOME ADDITIONAL THOUGHTS

- ✿ Travel insurance is required. The main advantage is should there be a medical emergency required to get you home, it will cover the cost of an air ambulance. It is well worth the nominal cost.
- ✿ During our travels by vehicle it is not uncommon to see large herds of camels and horses roaming. We can and will stop at some of those groups to take photographs.
- ✿ Power plugs and sockets are of type C and E. The standard voltage is 220 V and the standard frequency is 50 Hz. All of the gers will have outlets, but not a lot. Please make certain you bring adaptors and a power strip, or a single multiple port USB charger is helpful.
- ✿ Cell phones work there, just be certain you have an international phone plan
- ✿ In the city hotels you will have wifi. Some of the ger camps have wifi, but it isn't the best.
- ✿ It isn't a bad idea to bring some TP! This is not an area that has numerous rest areas for stops as we are used to in the Western world. Every effort is made to stop at toilet facilities when possible, but sometimes it is a country side stop!
- ✿ I found the food to be great particularly their meat dumplings. If you have special dietary needs please advise. All that is possible will be done to accommodate.
- ✿ A small flashlight is handy.
- ✿ Most of the gers do not provide shampoo.
- ✿ Bring some sunscreen and bug spray. We didn't have a lot of trouble with the later, so some wipes or something like that would be suitable.
- ✿ Mongolian Ways provides all the water necessary during our travels, and the ger camps will have water and soft drinks and in some cases wine and spirits!
- ✿ After you confirm your booking more information regarding the trip will follow.

TOUR FEES

\$ \$3950.00 per person

**All prices are per person based on *twin share*.
A single room supplement is available for an additional \$250.00**

Notes:

- The above rates are based on cash payment or wire transfer (bank to bank) or check.
- For credit card payment, a surcharge of 3% shall apply.

The price includes:

- 2 nights in a 4-star hotel
- 7 nights in a ger camp (tourist camp)
- Meals as indicated in the program (full board except on arrival and departure days)
- A/C 4X4 vehicles
- Bottled water throughout the trip
- Local English-speaking guide
- 99 Little Warriors festival entrance
- Entrance Fees
- All Transfers

•

The Price Does Not Include:

- International airfare to/from Ulaanbaatar
- Travel insurance
- Mongolian tourist visa (US passport bearers are exempt from Mongolian tourist visa)
- Excess luggage
- Gratuities
- Expenses of personal nature (food and drinks beyond those provided, laundry, etc.)
- Anything not mentioned in the program

Please note: all travelers should be holding valid medical insurance including med-evac during their tour

LIABILITY

Scott Trees & Scott Trees Photography is doing this tour in conjunction with a local Mongolian Tour Company, Mongolian Ways. The following applies to both parties:

- 1) Mongolian Ways (local Mongolian Tour Company) and Scott Trees gives notice that some services provided in connection with its itineraries, including transportation, hotel accommodations, restaurants, and other services, are purchased from various independent suppliers who are not affiliated with Mongolian Ways in any way. Although it endeavors to choose the best suppliers available, Mongolian Ways does not control their operations and therefore makes these travel arrangements upon the express condition that Mongolian Ways, and its own agents and employees, shall not be liable for any delay, mishap, inconvenience, expense, irregularity, bodily injury or death to person, or damage to property occasioned through the conduct or default of any company or individual engaged in providing any services through this agreement.
- 2) Mongolian Ways and Scott Trees shall not be liable for: (a) expenses such as additional hotel nights and meals not specified in the individual trip itineraries that may be required either en route, prior to or following a trip, when caused by individual clients' travel arrangements, by airline scheduling or airline schedule changes, canceled flights, missed flight connections, or by other factors not under Mongolian Ways, control; (b) expenses incurred in recovering luggage lost, belongings left behind on a trip, or in shipping purchases or other goods home from abroad; (c) bodily injury or property damage for any reason, including but not limited to acts of God, weather, quarantines, strikes, civil disturbance, theft, default, detention, annoyance, changes in government regulations, terrorism, war, or failure of conveyance to arrive or depart as scheduled, etc., over which Mongolian Ways has no control.
- 3) Mongolian Ways and Scott Trees does not undertake the responsibility for accidents caused due to misbehavior of tourist, delays or alterations in the schedule of transport or other incidents. However, Mongolian Ways (local Tour Company) and Scott Trees take all possible measures to eliminate the causes of the conflict.
- 4) Mongolian Ways and Scott Trees reserves the right to decline or to restrain from further participation, any person it judges to be incapable of meeting the rigors and requirements of participating in the activities, or any person whose actions or deportment impede trip operation or the rights, welfare, or enjoyment of other trip members. A refund based on cost of unused land services is the limit of Mongolian Ways, responsibility in such a case.
- 5) Claims from client for unproved services or for the services of inadequate quality are accepted by Mongolian Ways and Scott Trees not later than 30 days after the date of last service and considered within 30 days. Should the claims be recognized as reasonable, reimbursement for these services will be provided.
- 6) Mongolian Ways and Scott Trees reserves the right to make changes in the itinerary as

agreed due to, but not limited to: forces of nature, weather factors, act of god, civil unrest, war, terror acts, and health conditions of any tourists and/or staff member, without any prior notice.

7) Mongolian Ways and Scott Trees reserves the right to change compatible services from the ones indicated in the agreed tour itinerary due the circumstances at the time of trip without any prior notice.