Landscapes of Mongolia

STEPPES AND ENDLESS SKIES

July 5 to 18, 2013
Mongolia has long been the ultimate destination for many travelers who have “been everywhere.” Our journey to this remote area of inner Asia is a chance for us to observe cultures and meet people whose way of life is steeped in tradition, yet who at the same time are trying to adapt to the demands of life in the 21st century. We visit restored monasteries, local museums and nomadic communities, and get to experience the colorful Naadam Festival. Join us on this most extraordinary journey to a most extraordinary land.

BRETT S. THOMPSON, ’83, DIRECTOR, STANFORD TRAVEL/STUDY

**Highlights**

**DISCOVER** the fascinating museums, age-old monasteries and vibrant, colorful culture of Mongolia’s frontier capital, Ulaanbaatar—a striking amalgam of old and new.

**EXPERIENCE** the famous Naadam Festival where its traditional wrestling, horse racing and archery competitions measure the courage and strength of nomads and warriors.

**SPEND** three nights in an authentic ger (yurt) at the Three Camel Lodge (below) in the Gobi Desert where we observe the nomadic way of life and visit with a family of animal herders.
FRIDAY & SATURDAY, JULY 5 & 6
U.S./ULAANBAATAR, MONGOLIA
Depart the U.S. on overnight flights, arriving on Saturday in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia’s capital.
ULAANBAATAR HOTEL

SUNDAY, JULY 7
ULAANBAATAR
While exploring Ulaanbaatar, note the contrast between ancient traditions and the dawning of a 20th-century democracy as we pass traditional gers and Buddhist monasteries coexisting with modern high-rises. Visit Sukhbaatar Square, site of the Great Khans Memorial built in celebration of the 800th anniversary of the Mongolian Empire. Continue through downtown Ulaanbaatar to the National History Museum for an excellent overview of Mongolia’s history and culture. The newly remodeled museum displays traditional implements of daily nomadic life including Stone and Bronze Age artifacts, historical costumes of Mongolia’s minority tribes, sacred religious relics, and agricultural, fishing, and hunting equipment. Also, visit the dinosaur halls of the Natural History Museum, which showcases the spectacular fossils unearthed in the Gobi Desert. In the afternoon drive to Zaisan Memorial, built by the former Soviet Union to commemorate fallen soldiers of World War II. Meet for a welcome cocktail reception this evening. ULAANBAATAR HOTEL (B,L,D)

MONDAY, JULY 8
ULAANBAATAR
Woven through Mongolia’s nomadic culture is a rich Tibetan-Buddhist tradition with ancient Shamanist practices that are still evident today. Visit the Gandan Monastery, the seat of Buddhism in Mongolia, and stop at the recently renovated Chenrezig and Kalachakra temples, as well as the magnificent statue of Megjid Janraisig, known as “the lord who looks in every direction.” Continue to the Bogd Green Palace, home of Mongolia’s last theocrat, Bogd Jabtzan Damba Hutagt VIII, to view displays of elaborate ceremonial robes and other personal effects of Mongolia’s “8th Living Buddha.” ULAANBAATAR HOTEL (B,L,D)

TUESDAY, JULY 9
MÖRÖN/ LAKE HÖVSGÖL
Fly to Mörn, capital city of Hövsgöl province, then continue overland to Lake Hövsgöl, stopping at Ulush deer stone monuments along the way. Hövsgöl is Mongolia’s largest lake by water volume and surrounded by some of the most pristine forests, mountains and meadows in the world. The lake is known as Mongolia’s “dark blue pearl” and remains untouched by industry. Tonight marks our first overnight stay in a traditional ger camp. GER CAMP (B,L,D)

WEDNESDAY, JULY 10
LAKE HÖVSGÖL
Today, explore Lake Hövsgöl’s scenic lakeshore and surrounding countryside. Those interested will have the opportunity to visit local nomads’ dwellings and give Mongolian-style horseback riding a try. GER CAMP (B,L,D)

THURSDAY, JULY 11
NAADAM FESTIVAL
Spend the day at the most famous and most colorful of Mongolia’s Naadam Festivals, watching and partaking in the event’s festivities. Wrestling, horse racing and archery are three age-old events traditionally used to measure the courage and strength of nomads and warriors. Contemporary Naadam games showcase the abilities of local men, women, boys and girls, and also give families and friends time to get together to celebrate the joyful summer season. GER CAMP (B,L,D)

FRIDAY, JULY 12
MÖRÖN/GOBI DESERT
This morning visit Lake Irkh, a small lake in the midst of the steppe that’s popular for its wide variety of birds. Then board our plane to fly over the vast steppe
lands to the Gobi, Mongolia's southernmost province of semi-arid desert. For the next three days, explore the stunning landscape of the Gobi, habitat for Bactrian camels, Argali mountain sheep, golden eagles, saker falcons, jerboas and many endemic reptiles. Stay tonight in luxury gers.

THREE CAMEL LODGE (B,L,D)

SATURDAY, JULY 13
HONGORYN ELS SAND DUNES

Begin another day of exploring the spectacular panoramas of the world’s most northernmost desert with a drive to the Gegeet Valley, habitat of the elusive snow leopard. After a picnic lunch, continue to the towering dunes of Hongoryn Els, which run 60 miles alongside the Gobi Altaï mountain range. Reaching upwards of 600 feet, these are the most magnificent dunes in the Gobi. GER CAMP (B,L,D)

SUNDAY, JULY 14
GOBI DESERT/FLAMING CLIFFS

This morning explore the dunes known as the “Singing Sands” for the remarkable low-pitched groans emitted when their surfaces are disturbed by wind. Those interested will have the opportunity to visit a camel-herding family and explore the area from the back of a Bactrian camel. In the afternoon drive to the legendary Flaming Cliffs, named for the red-orange sandstone that glows brilliantly at sunrise and sunset, before heading back to our luxury ger lodging. THREE CAMEL LODGE (B,L,D)

MONDAY, JULY 15
YOL VALLEY

After an early breakfast, drive to Yol Valley National Park, cradled in the foothills of the Altaï Mountains. Hike through the valley amid the habitat of indigenous vulture-like lammergeyers, Altai snowcocks, ibexes, yaks and Argali mountain sheep. THREE CAMEL LODGE (B,L,D)

TUESDAY, JULY 16
ULAANBAATAR/HUSTAIN NURUU NATIONAL PARK

Fly back to Ulaanbaatar this morning and, upon arrival, drive to Hustain Nuruu National Park, home to the last remaining species of wild horse, the takhi, commonly known as Przewalski’s horse. At the visitor’s center, learn about current conservation efforts and the status of the herds found within the reserve and then go back outside to try to spot these beautiful horses in their natural habitat. HUSTAIN NURUU GER CAMP (B,L,D)

WEDNESDAY, JULY 17
ULAANBAATAR

Return to Ulaanbaatar early today and visit Zanabazar Fine Arts Museum, named in honor of the renowned 17th-century artist and politician who was also the first Buddhist leader of Mongolia. In the evening enjoy performances of traditional Mongolian dancers and khoomei throat singers before a farewell reception and dinner. ULAANBAATAR HOTEL (B,L,D)

THURSDAY, JULY 18
ULAANBAATAR/U.S.

After breakfast, transfer to the airport for flights home. (B)

Optional Post-trip Extension
Karakorum and Erdene Zuu Monastery
JULY 18 TO 21 (3 ADDITIONAL DAYS)

Travel from Ulaanbaatar to the Hogno Khan Montains and spend two nights at a ger camp in one of Mongolia’s most stark and beautiful landscapes. Make a rare journey to Karakorum, which was destroyed in 1388, but traces of this once-magnificent city still exist at Mongolia’s largest monastery, Erdene Zuu.

Details and rates will be sent to confirmed passengers.
Dat E s
July 5 to 18, 2013 (14 days)
SIZE
Limited to 24 participants
COST*
$7,395 per person, double occupancy
$8,295 per person, single occupancy
*Association nonmembers add $200 per person
INCLUDED
4 nights of hotel accommodations and 8 nights of ger camp and deluxe lodge accommodations ■ 12 breakfasts, 11 lunches and 11 dinners ■ Welcome and farewell receptions ■ Bottled water on excursions ■ Gratuities to porters, guides and drivers for all group activities ■ All tours and excursions as described in the itinerary ■ Transfers and baggage handling on program arrival and departure days ■ Minimal medical, accident and evacuation insurance ■ Educational program with lecture series and pre-departure materials, including recommended reading list, a selected book, map and travel information ■ Services of our professional tour manager to assist you throughout the program
NOT INCLUDED
International and U.S. domestic airfare ■ Passport and visa fees ■ Immunization costs ■ Meals and beverages other than those specified as included ■ Independent and private transfers ■ Trip-cancellation/interruption and baggage insurance ■ Excess-baggage charges ■ Personal items such as internet access, telephone and fax calls, laundry and gratuities for nongroup services

Trip Information

A I R A R R A N G E M E N T S
International and U.S. domestic airfare is not included in the program cost. Round-trip, economy-class airfare on United Airlines from San Francisco to Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, is approximately $1,600 as of September 2012 and is subject to change without notice. Information on recommended flight itineraries will be sent by our designated agent.

WHAT TO EXPECT
We consider this to be a physically demanding program, suitable only for travelers in excellent health. Daily programs involve one to three miles of walking, often on uneven and rocky terrain. In some instances, stairs are unavailable or do not have handrails. Driving times range from one to six hours. Roads are often unpaved and extremely bumpy. Temperatures in Mongolia can range from the upper 40s (°F) at night to the 90s during the day.

Participants should expect an adventurous, rather than luxurious, travel experience. Although we will be using the best hotels, they do vary in quality and most provide simple accommodations. Our accommodations in Lake Hövsgöl, Hongoryn Els Sand Dunes, Hustai Nuruu National Park and at the Three Camel Lodge are in ger camps. Gers are circular dome-shaped tents, covered with felt made from sheep wool. Each ger comfortably sleeps two and has electricity and a small stove for heat. Separate concrete buildings have flush toilets and showers for communal use; private bathrooms are not available. We welcome travelers aged 12 and older on this program.
Deposit & Final Payment
A $1,000-per-person deposit is required to hold space for this program. Complete and return the attached reservation form or place your deposit online. Final payment is due 120 days prior to departure. As a condition of participation, all confirmed participants are required to sign a Release of Liability.

Cancellations & Refunds
Deposits and any payments are fully refundable, less a $500-per-person cancellation fee, until 120 days prior to departure. After that date, refunds can be made only if the program is sold out and your place(s) can be resold, in which case a $1,000-per-person cancellation fee will apply. We recommend trip-cancellation insurance; applications will be sent to you.

Insurance
Stanford Travel/Study provides all travelers who are U.S. or Canadian citizens with minimal medical, accident and evacuation coverage under our group-travel insurance policy. Our group policy is intended to provide minimal levels of protection while you are traveling on this program. We strongly recommend that you subscribe to optional baggage and trip-cancellation insurance. A brochure offering such insurance will be mailed with your confirmation about one week after we receive your deposit. The product offered in this brochure includes special benefits if you postmark your insurance payment within a specified window: 15 days of the date listed on the confirmation letter for the Waiver of Pre-existing Conditions and coverage for Financial Insolvency; 21 days for the Cancel for Any Reason benefit.

Eligibility
We encourage membership in the Alumni Association as the program cost for nonmembers is $200 more than the members’ price. Parents and their children under 21 may travel on one membership. For more information or to purchase a membership, visit alumni.stanford/goto/membership or call (650) 725-0692.

Responsibility
The Stanford Alumni Association, Stanford University and our operators act only as agents for the passenger with respect to transportation and exercise every care possible in doing so. However, we can assume no liability for injury, damage, loss, accident, delay or irregularity in connection with the service of any automobile, motorcoach, launch or any other conveyance used in carrying out this program or for the acts or defaults of any company or person engaged in conveying the passenger or in carrying out the arrangements of the program. We cannot accept any responsibility for losses or additional expenses due to delay or changes in air or other services, sickness, weather, strike, war, quarantine, force majeure or other causes beyond our control. All such losses or expenses will have to be borne by the passenger as tour rates provide arrangements only for the time stated. We reserve the right to make such alterations to this published itinerary as may be deemed necessary. The right is reserved to cancel any program prior to departure in which case the entire payment will be refunded without further obligation on our part. The right is also reserved to decline to accept or retain any person as a member of the program. No refund will be made for an unused portion of any tour unless arrangements are made in sufficient time to avoid penalties. Baggage is carried at the owner’s risk entirely. The airlines concerned are not to be held responsible for any act, omission or event during the time that passengers are not onboard their plane or conveyance. Neither the Alumni Association, Stanford University nor our operators accept liability for any carrier’s cancellation penalty incurred by the purchase of a nonrefundable ticket in connection with the tour. Program price is based on rates in effect in September 2012 and is subject to change without notice to reflect fluctuations in exchange rates, tariffs or fuel charges.
FRANKLIN M. ("LYNN") ORR, ’69, an expert on global climate and energy sources, is the Keleen and Carlton Beal Professor in Petroleum Engineering in the department of energy resources engineering at Stanford University and director of Stanford’s Precourt Institute for Energy. Prior to joining the Stanford faculty in 1985, Professor Orr was head of the miscible flooding section at the New Mexico Petroleum Recovery Research Center, New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology, from 1978 to 1985; a research engineer at the Shell Development Company Bellaire Research Center from 1976 to 1978; and assistant to the director of the Office of Federal Activities, U. S. Environmental Protection Agency, from 1970 to 1972. Professor Orr is the perfect faculty leader to help us appreciate the spectacular landscapes we will see on this journey and also to help us understand the earth’s dynamic processes that created them.


Elected to the National Academy of Engineering, 2000

Member, board of directors, Monterey Bay Aquarium Research Institute

BS, chemical engineering, Stanford University, 1969

PhD, chemical engineering, University of Minnesota, 1976

"I loved the learning involved, and Professor Orr lent whole new meaning to the overview of changes humans have made on our planet over the last century."

CANDEE FORBES, ’68, CANADIAN ROCKIES RAIL COLLEGE, 2007

Reservation Form

Landscapes of Mongolia

MR. / MRS. / MS.
NAME
ADDRESS
CITY / STATE / ZIP
PHONE CELL / WORK / HOME
EMAIL ADDRESS
I/We have read the Terms and Conditions for the program and agree to them.

SIGNATURE

If this is a reservation for one person, please indicate:

☐ I wish to have single accommodations.
 ☐ OR ☐ I plan to share accommodations with:

☐ OR ☐ I’d like to know about possible roommates.

Here is my deposit of $________ ($1,000 per person) for _____ space(s).

☐ Enclosed is my check (payable to Stanford Alumni Association)
 ☐ OR ☐ Charge my deposit to my:

☐ Visa ☐ MasterCard ☐ American Express

CARD #
EXPIRATION DATE
CARDHOLDER SIGNATURE
DATE

Mail completed form to address on mail panel or fax to (650) 725-8675 or place your deposit online at alumni.stanford.edu/trip?mongolia2013. Submit your reservation only once to avoid multiple charges to your account.

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“Mongolia is at a crossroads and to experience it now and to have the opportunity to talk with current leaders helps a traveler appreciate being a part of history.”

CAROLYN HAUGEN, ’61, MONGOLIA SUITCASE SEMINAR, 2011

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