

# MONGOLIA

*The Gobi & Three Camel Lodge*

*Four Days/Three Nights with Hongoryn Els*





## MONGOLIA

### *The Gobi & Three Camel Lodge: Four Days/Three Nights with Hongoryn Els*

With half a million square miles of sand dunes and endless blue sky, the Gobi Desert defines Southern Mongolia. Nestled in the heart of the Omnogobi Aimag (South Gobi Province), the southernmost province bordering northern China, Three Camel Lodge is a serene haven from the hectic modern day. It is nestled in the crossroads of the Gobi's diverse desert eco-systems and serves as a habitat for animals such as shaggy two-humped Bactrian camels, Gobi bears, ibex, and gazelle.

After careful consideration for the preservation of the region's environment, culture and people, Three Camel Lodge was opened in 2002. It was, and remains, the only luxury eco-lodge in Mongolia's Gobi Desert. Built by and staffed by locals, Three Camel Lodge isn't just a place to stay; it's a state of mind. This unique outcropping of gers, or traditional felt and canvas tents used by Mongolian nomads, rests in the heart of the starkly beautiful Gobi Desert. In addition to 40 gers, Three Camel Lodge's main lodge was modeled after traditional Buddhist temples, adhering to strict Mongolian Buddhist canons of "soum style." The Lodge is tucked beside a rock outcrop bearing ancient petroglyphs, but it is the vast expanse of desert and the nighttime sky filled with a million twinkling stars that will leave a lasting imprint on your heart.

Three Camel Lodge is a founding member of National Geographic Unique Lodges of the World.

# YOUR JOURNEY

## RECOMMENDED FOR:

Time-starved travelers who seek to discover the beauty of The Gobi while staying in an elevated take on the traditional nomadic lifestyle.

## HIGHLIGHTS:

Hongoryn Els Sand Dunes

Flaming Cliffs

Hike through Yol Valley National Park

## ACCOMMODATIONS:

1 night at Gobi Erdene Ger Camp

2 nights at the award-winning Three Camel Lodge, a National Geographic Unique Lodge of the World.

## Day 1

### FLY TO GOBI | HONGORYN ELS

Take a morning flight to Gobi, Mongolia's southernmost province of semi-arid desert. For the next three days, explore the stunning landscapes of the Gobi, habitat for Bactrian camels, Argali mountain sheep, goitered gazelle, Golden Eagles, Saker Falcons, jerboas (similar to kangaroo rats), and many endemic reptiles. The Gobi is also home to some of the Northern Hemisphere's most rare and elusive mammals, such as the dhole, snow leopard, wild camel, and Gobi bear.

On arrival, drive to Hongoryn Els Sand dunes (approximately 4 - 5 hours). "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, yet another remarkable

landscape of the world's northernmost desert. This is your ultimate destination today but to get there, you will drive for several hours through a variety of landscapes from stony mountain gorges to rolling and surprisingly lush steppe. After getting settled in your new ger camp, make a late afternoon excursion to the dunes for "sundowners" and then return to camp for a hearty dinner.

*(Gobi Erdene Ger Camp; L, D)*

## Day 2

### HONGORYN ELS | FLAMING CLIFFS

After a breakfast, hike to Hongoryn Els. After lunch, begin your drive to the Three Camel Lodge (4 hours). En route visit Bayan Zag, commonly known as Flaming Cliffs for the orange glow of its rock at dawn and dusk. It was here in 1923 that Dr. Roy Chapman Andrews and his exploration team from the American Museum of Natural History found the first nest of dinosaur eggs. Although not obvious to the untrained eye, the Flaming Cliffs are rich with dinosaur fossils and have been the site of important paleontological discoveries. Overnight in gers.

*(Three Camel Lodge; B, L, D)*

## Day 3

### YOL VALLEY NATIONAL PARK | HAVTSGAIT VALLEY

In the morning drive to Yol Valley National Park, cradled in the foothills of the Altai Mountains. An ancient river carved this green valley, and its remnant streams create ice formations that sometimes persist as late as July. A hike through the valley leads to the habitat of indigenous vulture-like Lammergeiers, Altai snowcocks, ibex, yaks, and Argali mountain sheep. After exploring the valley, visit the local natural history museum for an overview of the flora and fauna of the surrounding area. Return to the lodge.

In the evening, if time permits, drive to the Havtsgait Valley, site of ancient rock drawings left by early Gobi settlers for more than 15,000-40,000 years ago. Hundreds of petroglyphs adorn rocks are scattered on top of the mountain.

*(Three Camel Lodge; B, L, D)*

## Day 4

### DEPARTURE

After breakfast, transfer to the airport in Dalanzadgad for your flight to Ulaanbaatar.

*(B)*

*B=Breakfast L=Lunch D=Dinner*

*Nomadic Expeditions reserves the right to change the above itinerary if necessary.*



## Land Price for 2018

### Land Price based on stay between July 5 - 20:

1 Traveler: \$4,745

2-3 Travelers: \$2,795 per person based on double occupancy

4 Travelers: \$2,420 per person based on double occupancy

Single Supplement: \$570

### June, July & August:

1 Traveler: \$4,440

2-3 Travelers: \$2,645 per person based on double occupancy

4 Travelers: \$2,270 per person based on double occupancy

Single Supplement: \$460

### Land Price based on May, September, October:

1 Traveler: \$4,335

2-3 Travelers: \$2,590 per person based on double occupancy

4 Travelers: \$2,214 per person based on double occupancy

Single Supplement: \$420

**Internal Flight:** \$300 (subject to change)

## LAND PRICE INCLUDES:

- Ground transportation in Mongolia as described in the itinerary
- Transfers on arrival and departure
- All accommodations based on double or twin occupancy (hotel rooms, tents, and gers)
- Meals as noted in itinerary
- Horse and camel riding as noted in the itinerary
- All excursions, entrance fees, and visits as described in itinerary
- Extensive pre-departure Travel Guide, reading list, important information about your trip, map and luggage tags
- English speaking Nomadic Expeditions guide throughout your stay

## LAND PRICE DOES NOT INCLUDE:

- International and internal airfare
- Passport and visa fees
- Comprehensive medical and trip insurance
- Airport taxes
- Excess baggage charges
- Gratuities to guides and drivers
- Photography and video fees
- Food and beverages not included in the group meals
- Items of personal nature including alcoholic beverages, laundry and telephone calls
- Other items not specifically mentioned as included.

