



Olympia-Reisen-Sibir tour operator

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Working hrs Mon-Fri: 12:00 - 21:00 (Tokyo time) / 03:00 - 13:00 (London time)

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SIBERIA – MONGOLIA (Novosibirsk – the Altai Mountains – Western Mongolia)
Out-of-the-beaten path route from Novosibirsk to Ulaanbaatar: breathtaking landscapes,
archaeological sites and scenic trekking in the most rural places of Asia!

10 days/9 nights active tour
9 days / 8 nights sightseeing tour

for individuals and minigroups (2-10 pax), from May till October



PROGRAM A (active elements + tent accommodation in Mongolia)

DAY 1: NOVOSIBIRSK

Early morning arrival in Novosibirsk. Meet by the guide and transfer to the hotel 3*. Breakfast and free time to sleep after a night flight.

14:00 Lunch in Siberian tavern and city tour of Novosibirsk, covering all the main attractions of the city: Novosibirsk Railway Station – the biggest station of the Trans-Siberian Railroad, Ascension Cathedral, Krasny Prospect street, Lenin Square - city center with the biggest world's Opera House, constructed during WWII by women and children, old wooden houses on Gorkogo Str. - the oldest part of the city, St.Nicolas Chapel – the geographic center of Russia, river Ob' embankment and colorful Siberian farm-market.

18:00 end of the tour at hotel and free time for exploring city center and dinner. /B,L/

DAY 2: NOVOSIBIRSK – THE ALTAI MOUNTAINS

Breakfast and morning drive to the Altai mountains with a stop at Biysk city for lunch. Late afternoon arrival to LESOTEL pension (eco chalets). Dinner and overnight. / 480 km by bus/ /B,L,D/

DAY 3: THE ALTAI MOUNTAINS: CHUYSKY TRAKT – CHIBIT

Breakfast. We shall depart very early in the morning for Chibit Settlement by the extremely picturesque [Chuysky Tract highway](#), connecting Russian with Mongolia. Behind the boring road name M52 the most scenic road in Russia is screened, ranked by National Geographic as the 5th most scenic road of the planet. This drive easily can be named as excursion itself, as it can be compared with traveling through all the country: travelers can see Russian and Altaian villages, birchwoods and taigas, rapid rivers and rivers' junctions, mountains and steppes. The breathtaking landscapes are uncovered with each road turn and the travelers make several interesting stops en-route (Seminsky Pass 1739m, picturesque and serpentine Chiket-Aman Pass 1295m, so much liked by the photographers, panoramic view points and local markets stops).

In the ancient times Chuysky Tract route was the path of Tatar-Mongolian forces led by Genghis Khan. Many nations supposedly migrated along this path, and ancient carvings and mysterious tomb stones still remind about that. The road was first mentioned in history 1000 years ago, and before the 20th century existed as a mountain path for the merchants and local pilgrims. The highway we know today dates back to 1935, when numerous detention camps appeared along the Chuysky Tract, so the prisoners, mostly dispossessed by Soviet system farmers, were the main labor force. The beauty of Chuysky tract required awful human losses. Some people, who have died during the construction, were buried right in the roadbed, so that their mates might own their dietary. The most spectacular road of Russia has a fairytale beauty, and as a real fairytale it can be a bit scary...

Evening arrival at KOCHEVNIK (NOMAD) camp – the last camp before the Mongolian border

<http://www.turistka.ru/altai/photo.php?obj=1117>. Accommodation in wooden chalets, dinner and overnight. / 370 km by bus /B, D/

DAY 4: CHIBIT – TASHANTA – MONGOLIAN BORDER – LAKE BLACK

Early morning breakfast (+take with you lunch-packs) and drive to Tashanta settlement (150 km by bus), where the group is taken by Mongolian guide and transport for crossing the Mongolian border and to continue the trip on Mongolian territory. (The border crossing will take few hours for custom's logistics on both sides). Then proceed for drive to Dayan Lake, near the frontier with China via Sagsay soum and hot lunch at Hargan River near Kazakh Eaglehunter's family. You have a chance to learn some basic details of eaglehunting culture. Thereafter, continue to Karagul (Black Lake). Overnight in tent on the scenic shore of lake. /B, L, D/

DAY 5: DAYAN LAKE - Fishing/Hiking

Drive for 2 hours to the west side of Dayan Lake. The rivers from the mountains end in the huge lake. Go for either fishing or soft hiking around Dayan Lake. A fishing rod will come handy here. The largest subspecies of Mongolian Grayling (*Thymallus arcticus*) is easily fished here. The numerous Great Cormorants in the vicinity are a good indicator that there are plentiful fish in the lakes. Overnight in tent. /B, L, D/

DAY 6: DAYAN LAKE – ALTAI TAVAN BOGD NATIONAL PARK

Embark on a 2-day drive to Altai Tavan Bogd National Park via TsagaanGo (White River) valley and through Altai Mountains that are Mongolia's largest and highest mountain range at over 3000-4000 meters high. One famous spot is "ShiveetHairhan" Sacred Mountain, where we will see the largest rock painting site from the period of the Huns (approx 200 B.C.). Some ancient Turkic stones can also be seen along the way. Admire the views of the snowcapped mountains with forest which make the wall between China and Mongolia. Overnight in tent. /B, L, D/

DAY 7: TREK TO TAVANBOGD MASSIF

Today we will start our trek for 11 km toward the base camp of the snow-capped Tavanbogd massif. Pitch camp for 2 nights next to the 20km long Potanina glacier – the biggest of the twenty glaciers in Mongolian Altai. Tavanbogd means “The Holy Five”, referring to the five highest peaks, of which Huiten Uul at 4374m above sea level is the highest in Mongolia, a stunning setting with the awe-inspiring massif of high snow-capped peaks. Overnight in tent. *(Option to take horse-trekking at additional cost, subject to availability of horses). /B, L, D/*

DAY 8: TREK TO MALCHIN PEAK

After breakfast, we will start our 5 hours trek to the top of Malchin peak at 4025m. Thereafter, descend and return to camp for overnight in tent. /B, L, D/

DAY 9: DRIVE TO ULGII BY KHAR YAMAAT ARCHEOLOGICAL SITE

Today we will trek and descend for a few hours before reaching the road end. Thereafter, drive via Ulaanuis over desert mountain landscapes, with the snow-capped Sogoog Mountain as a powerful backdrop and the Altai Mountain range ahead of us. We will find numerous petroglyphs and Turkic stones along the Sogoog River basin. Bayan-Olgyi is rich in archaeological remains, as a reminder of the Bronze Age and the time of the Huns and Turkic invasions. Arrive at Khar Yamaat (Black Goat) – one of the most popular archeological sites. After picnic lunch, continue our driving to reach Ulgii. Overnight in Kazakh ger camp. Welcome short concert of local singers during dinner. /B, L, D/

DAY 10: ULGII – ULAANBAATAR

After breakfast, you will be driven to the domestic airport for flight to the Mongolia capital Ulaanbaatar. End of the services /B/

Included:

- ✓ Accommodation: 1 night at hotel 3* in Novosibirsk (city center) (AZIMUT SIBIR or COLIBRI or similar) in TWN std with early check-in and additional breakfast, 1 night at LESOTEL pension (near Gorno-Altai) in TWN/DBL std, 1 nights at KOICHEVNIK camping (Chibit settlement) in TWN for 2 pax/ QDRPL for 4 pax, 2 rooms (4 pax + 6 pax) for 10 pax, tents and ger accommodation in Mongolia (twn occupancy) .
- ✓ All transfers and excursions as per program in Russia by 16-seats minibus FORD TRANSIT or MERCEDES SPRINTER (baggage is inside the minibus!) / in Mongolia by several Land Cruiser cars.
- ✓ English-speaking guide for all the days of travel.
- ✓ Meals as per program, including cook with cooking tent and gears in Mongolia.
- ✓ Packing horses or camels during the trekking in Mongolia
- ✓ National parks recreation fees
- ✓ Accommodation & meals for accompanying staff.

Supplements:

For 29-bus instead of minibus on Russian territory: 708 EUR per group
SGL room on Russian territory: 257 EUR per person

Suggestion:

It is possible to make the program cheaper is substituting 3* in Novosibirsk and LESOTEL pension by cheaper options.

If we substitute hotel in Novosibirsk for the hotel with no category not in the center, the package cost will be 32 EUR less per person. If we substitute LESOTEL pension by cheaper accommodation in camping, the package cost will be 79 EUR less per person.

Cost doesn't include : horse-riding (EUR 20 per day) or camel riding (EUR 30 per day), ULG-ULN domestic flight: about 175 EUR per person.

PROGRAM B (sightseeing tour + ger accommodation in Mongolia)

DAY 1: NOVOSIBIRSK

Early morning arrival in Novosibirsk. Meet by the guide and transfer to the hotel 3*. Breakfast and free time to sleep after a night flight.

14:00 Lunch in Siberian tavern and city tour of Novosibirsk, covering all the main attractions of the city: Novosibirsk Railway Station – the biggest station of the Trans-Siberian Railroad, Ascension Cathedral, Krasny Prospect street, Lenin Square - city center with the biggest world's Opera House, constructed during WWII by women and children, old wooden houses on Gorkogo Str. - the oldest part of the city, St.Nicolas Chapel – the geographic center of Russia, river Ob' embankment and colorful Siberian farm-market.

18:00 end of the tour at hotel and free time for exploring city center and dinner. /B,L/

DAY 2: NOVOSIBIRSK – THE ALTAI MOUNTAINS

Breakfast and morning drive to the Altai mountains with a stop at Biysk city for lunch. Late afternoon arrival to LESOTEL pension (eco chalets). Dinner and overnight. / 480 km by bus/ /B,L,D/

DAY 3: THE ALTAI MOUNTAINS: CHUYSKY TRAKT – CHIBIT

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Evening arrival at KOCHEVNIK (NOMAD) camp – the last camp before the Mongolian border

<http://www.turistka.ru/altai/photo.php?obj=1117> . Accommodation in wooden chalets, dinner and overnight. / 370 km by bus /B, D/

DAY 4: CHIBIT – TASHANTA – MONGOLIAN BORDER – SAGSAI

Early morning breakfast (+take with you lunch-packs) and drive to Tashanta settlement (150 km by bus), where the group is taken by Mongolian guide and transport for crossing the Mongolian border and to continue the trip on Mongolian territory. (The border crossing will take few hours for custom's logistics on both sides) . Then proceed for drive south-west and reach Kazakh Eaglehunter's family. You have a chance to learn some basic details of eaglehunting culture. Overnight in Kazakh felt gers with sleeping cots./B, L, D/

DAY 5: ALTAI TAVAN BOGD NATIONAL PARK

We drive via Ulaanuis over desert mountain landscapes, with the snow-capped Altai Mountain range ahead of us. Bayan-Ölgii is rich in archaeological remains, as a reminder of the Bronze Ages and the time of the Huns and Turkic invasions. At Shiveet Hairhan Mountain, where numerous Tuvan nomads live, in Altai Tavanbogd National Park, we will pitch our camp near the road end. Shiveet Hairhan is sacred for these local people, why no hunting here. Overnight in Kazakh felt gers with sleeping cot. /B, L, D/

DAY 6: DRIVE TO THE LAKES HOTON AND HURGAN

After early breakfast, start to drive nearby westernside of HurganNuur and HotonNuur, where many Nomadic Kazakh families spend summer. There are many ancient Turkic stones with face on the way. On the right side we see the snowcapped mountains with forest, which make the wall between China and Mongolia.

After 5-6hrs drive, we reach small mountain Biluut Tolgoi, where you have a chance to see numerous rock-printings. Go for either fishing or soft hiking along the lake. A fishing rod will come handy here. The largest subspecies of Mongolian Grayling (*Thymallus arcticus*) is easily fished here. The numerous Great Cormorants in the vicinity are a good indicator that there are plentiful fish in the lakes. Overnight in Kazakh felt gers with sleeping cot. /B, L, D/

DAY 7: DRIVE TO TAVAN BELCHIR – TSAMBAGARAV NATIONAL PARK

After full day driving (6-7hrs), we will reach another nat.park of Mongolian Altai-Tsambagarav Nat.Park and pitch camp just on the north side of Tsamba-Garav Uul(one of the highest snowcapped mountains in Mongolia 4208m).The place called "Tavan Belchir"/Five Pastures/. Overnight in Kazakh felt gers with sleeping cots. /B, L, D/

DAY 8: DRIVE TO HOVD

Drive to south 3hrs(150kms) and reach Hovd town. The Hovd town was a trade center,located on the northern Silk Road with connections to Russia and China. In 1763 the Manchu administration built the fortress SagijnCherem(Castle). An area of about 4 ha was fenced with 3m high and 2m wide walls.Now all 18 Mongolian ethnic groups live in this province. We will explore a town and visit local throat singer (Hoomii-man) and learn the basic things. Overnight in Kazakh felt gers with sleeping cots. /B, L, D/

DAY 9: HOVD – ULAANBAATAR

After breakfast, you will be driven to the domestic airport for flight to the Mongolia capital Ulaanbaatar. End of the services /B/

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- ✓ All transfers and excursions as per program in Russia by 16-seats minibus FORD TRANSIT or MERCEDES SPRINTER (baggage is inside the minibus!) / in Mongolia by several Land Cruiser cars.
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