



**Ulaanbaatar-Denver Sister Cities Committee
(ColoradoMongols)**

Denver Sister Cities International, Inc.

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**ULAANBAATAR-DENVER SISTER CITIES
AND
WORLD DENVER DELEGATION TRIP**

AN ITINERARY SPECIALLY DESIGNED

BY

THE DENVER SISTER CITIES COMMITTEE

AND NOMADIC EXPEDITIONS

AUGUST 14-28, 2017

Detailed Itinerary

(Delegation Chair: Jim Wagenlander, Honorary Consul General of Mongolia, Colorado)

Mon, Aug 14 Depart to Mongolia

Depart Denver for Mongolia via Beijing or another city in Asia.

Tue, Aug 15 Arrive in Ulaanbaatar

The contrast between ancient traditions and the dawning of a 21st century democracy is most visible in Ulaanbaatar where traditional gers and Buddhist monasteries coexist with modern high-rises. Upon arrival at the Ulaanbaatar airport welcomed, and transfer to your hotel. (Shangri La Hotel)

Wed-Thu, Aug 16-17 Sister Cities Meetings and City Stay

Next two days a short tour of the city and a series of meetings with the city and national leadership. This has all been an annual tradition for our delegations. This includes business, non-profits and the arts. A reception lunch or dinner will be given by Mayor Batbayar for us. A business reception will be hosted by Jargalsaikhan Dugar/MIH as well as possibly a second hosted evening event. We have tentatively scheduled half a day in Ulaanbaatar participating in a Denver Lions Club volunteer mission. We will perform eye examinations and help distribute eyeglasses to needy residents of one of the ger districts, a city neighborhood filled with families living in ger tents. We also will enjoy a traditional cultural performance at the National Song and Dance Ensemble. Hopefully we will be able to additionally meet with some of the local students involved with our Sister Cities Luby-Jenkins high school student exchange program. (Shangri La Hotel; B)

Fri, Aug 18 Middle Gobi

Today we will leave on our major adventure into the countryside. We leave early in the morning in a 4x wheel drive convoy to Dundgobi (the Middle Gobi) through grassland steppes. Along the way we observe abandoned Russian airforce bases.

We continue our long drive through open lands and on tracks until we arrive at Uush Mankhan, a secluded camp in a seldom visited area. This is where we will spend a few nights. It is currently planned that we will be joined by our Lions Club colleagues for this initial segment of our countryside trip so we can again distribute eyeglasses in this very rural province. We are hosted by the extended family of Soyombo and Altantsetseg. We explore the surrounding areas and visit a monastery site that was destroyed in the 1930's during the stalinist purges. A most moving experience. The late, former Ulaanbaatar Mayor and Mongolian Prime Minister Narantsatsralt used to host us and now his eldest son and his widow do. Uush Mankhan at the base of a sand dune, is a small rustic sanatorium where Mongolians seek treatments, and it is also the family's personal camp. We stay in gers, traditional Mongolian tents. (*Uush Mankhan Sanatorium; B, L, D*)

Sat-Sun, Aug 19-20 Mini Naadam at Uush Mankhan Sanatorium and Explorations

In addition to our eyeglass distribution we climb sand dunes, participate in a mountain Buddhist ceremony and enjoy a Naadam. This is a Mongolian traditional summer sport festival. Our's is a mini version which is solely organized by our host family for our group and locals. It is our 12th year being hosted at this now annual and very rural event and it includes wrestling and horseracing competitions on a windswept basin. These are two of the three sports that traditionally measured the courage, strength, and pride of nomads and warriors and are referred to as the "three manly sports", although men, women, boys, and girls all compete in Naadam games today. One evening we party and dance the night away to Lady Gaga and traditional Mongolian dance music and do a fair amount of drinking with local herdsman under the stars. This is a most amazing and memorable experience. (*Uush Mankhan Sanatorium; B, L, D*)

Mon, Aug 21 Oyu Tolgoi Mine

In the early morning, our delegation alone continues to drive south coming closer to the Chinese border. We will reach today the Oyu Tolgoi (Turquoise Hill) Mine, the largest mining project in Mongolia. We will tour this Mongolian and Rio Tinto copper mine which was started by a non-Mongolian and famously successful mining explorer (who was once a citizen of Colorado) Robert Freedland. Phase One of the mine is completed and in operation and Phase Two is now under construction. When fully completed it may be the second largest copper mine in the world. We will explore the issues, opportunities and importance of mining in Mongolia. We stay the night at the mine. (*TBA; B, L, D*)

Tue, Aug 22 Wonderful Three Camel Lodge and South Gobi

In the morning, we drive to Bulagtai Mountain near Gobi Gurvan Saikhan National Park, and the location of award winning Three Camel Lodge. Our trek is a hard drive through barren but spectacular lands. We will arrive for a gorgeous sunset, weather permitting, and a sumptuous dinner.

Contrary to the sameness that the word 'desert' suggests, the Gobi is a fascinating and diverse region, and includes sites of some of the most important paleontological discoveries of the 20th

century. For the next four days we 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.

During our stay we enjoy many of our meals at the Lodge's restaurant ger, and hangout on the porch with its amazing panoramic view sipping beverages from the Lodge's small private bar. You will have to fight Jim for one of the swings for he loves each year to take in the glorious and solitary view of the Gobi from their spot on the porch. We overnight in our very own comfortable deluxe gers which each incredibly include indoor toilets and showers.

(Three Camel Lodge; B, L, D)

Wed, Aug 23 Yol Valley National Park

This morning we drive to Yol Valley National Park (two hours), cradled between the foothills of the Altai Mountains. An ancient river carved this surprisingly green valley. Now, its remnant streams create ice formations at the base of the valley that sometimes persist until late July. A hike through the valley allows you to discover habitat for indigenous vulture-like lammergeiers, Altai snowcocks, ibex, yaks and Argali mountain sheep. We may have time to visit the small local natural history museum at the Park for an overview of the flora and fauna of the area and make some local purchases. We return to the Three Camel Lodge early enough so we can rest in the late afternoon. In the evening as a group we socialize and dine at the Lodge. *(Three Camel Lodge; B, L, D)*

Thu, Aug 24 Hongoryn Els Sand Dunes

Wake early to the sight of the sun rising over the vast Gobi landscape. After breakfast, we take an extended and adventurous drive to the almost hidden massive Hongoryn Els sand dunes for a day and a night stay. "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, yet another remarkable landscape of the world's northernmost desert. These are some of the largest and most spectacular sand dunes in Mongolia. They are also known as the Duut Mankhan - "Singing Sands" for the remarkable low-pitched groan that is emitted when the surface is disturbed by wind. The towering dunes of Hongoryn Els, which run 60 miles alongside the Gobi Altai Mountain range and reaching upwards of 600 feet, can undeniably be deemed as the most magnificent in the Gobi. Our temporary camp will set up near the base of the dunes and we will enjoy hikes on the dunes and surrounding area and have an opportunity to ride camels. The lodge will provide us a chef and kitchen staff. We overnight in camping tents. *(Tent; B, L, D)*

Fri, Aug 25 Three Camel Lodge/Flaming Cliffs

In the morning, we head back to the Three Camel Lodge. In the late afternoon drive to Bayan Zag (1 hour), commonly known as the Flaming Cliffs for the orange glow of its rock at sunset. 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. To the trained eye, the red sandstone of the Flaming Cliffs is rich with dinosaur fossils, and paleontological expeditions continue to make significant discoveries at this site. Return to the Three Camel Lodge in the evening for dinner. *(Three Camel Lodge; B, L, D)*

Sat, Aug 26 Fly Back to Ulaanbaatar

Early morning we transfer to the provinces local airport for the return flight to Ulaanbaatar. Spend the rest of the day at your leisure or maybe take in some shopping. Mongolia is known for its camel hair and cashmere clothing and blankets. In the evening we are hosted for dinner by one of Mongolia’s most famous journalists and economist and his charming wife in their apartment. This is always one of the highlights of our trips. *(Shangri la Hotel; B)*

Sun, Aug 27 Final Day in Ulaanbaatar

This day is free for additional individual sightseeing and any special meetings that have been requested. Nomadic Expeditions hosts us at one of Ulaanbaatar International restaurant for an end of the trip dinner. *(Shangri La Hotel; B, D)*

Mon, Aug 28 Depart

Nomadic transfers you to the airport for your flights home. There is a morning flight to Seoul, Korea which conveniently connects to a direct nonstop flight to Denver. *(B)*

B=Breakfast L=Lunch D=Dinner

Nomadic Expeditions and the Ulaanbaatar-Denver Sister Cities Committee reserve the right to alter the above itinerary if deemed necessary.

Trip Pricing if:	
6-9 travelers:	\$6,735.00 based on a double occupancy
10-12 travelers:	\$6,335.00 based on a double occupancy
13-16 travelers (our goal):	\$5,935.00 based on a double occupancy
Single supplement fee:	an additional \$1,500.00 per person

Trip Price includes:

- All accommodations as described in the itinerary;
- All land transportation as mentioned in the itinerary;
- Internal flight from Gobi Desert to Ulaanbaatar;
- Group airport transfer on August 15 and August 28;
- Meals as noted in the itinerary;
- Entrance fees, excursions and tours as outlined;
- Baggage handling when possible, airport departure taxes, and hotel taxes;
- English-speaking Nomadic Expeditions guide throughout the itinerary.
- A beer at mealtime much of the time and an ample supply of bottled water all the time as you tour both the city and the countryside.

Net Price does not include: international airfare; medical trip insurance; evacuation costs; excess baggage charges; gratuities to guides, drivers, and porters; beer, wine and soda may be provided at meals on special occasions. However, at the outset of our countryside trip we will stop at a store and everyone has the opportunity to individually purchase for themselves chocolates and beverages of their choice in order to stock up for the trip. Items of a personal nature, including alcoholic beverages, laundry and telephone calls; other items not specifically mentioned are not included.