



Experience.
The Difference.



The Gobi Desert

Nomads & Dynasties: Mongolia & China

26 day escorted tour hosted by Lyndon & Colette Hadden

DEPARTING 26 AUGUST 2026



The Great Wall



Nomads & Dynasties: Mongolia & China

26 days/25 nights

Embark on a once-in-a-lifetime journey through Mongolia's most iconic landscapes — from the vibrant capital city of Ulaanbaatar to the dramatic White Stupa cliffs, the icy gorge of Yol, the endless dunes of Khongoryn Els, the flaming cliffs of Bayanzag, and the legendary capital of the Mongol Empire, Kharkhorin. Guests will travel in comfort with a private coach in Ulaanbaatar and Toyota Land Cruisers in the countryside, ensuring flexibility, safety, and personalized exploration.

In China, we combine the contrasting urban splendour of Shanghai, Beijing and Xian with the majestic sights of the Great Wall, Terracotta Warriors and extraordinary landscapes of the Li River, this tour showcases China's most glorious highlights.

Join Lyndon and Colette Hadden, your tour escorts, who have travelled to over 60 countries and counting! Lyndon has worked in travel all his life and owned a travel agency in Christchurch. After finishing up with full time travel agency work, Lyndon and Colette bought a beachside cafe in Sumner with their son Ben, which they recently sold. Lyndon and Colette have enjoyed re-connecting with Discover Travel and offering their extensive travel experience on escorted tours.



Stay in a Mongolian ger

Tour Highlights

MONGOLIA

- Visit capital city Ulaanbaatar
- Explore the Gobi Desert
- See Bayanzag's 'Flaming Cliffs'
- Cross the Singing Sand Dunes
- Tour ancient Kharkhorin
- Sleep in a traditional Mongolian Ger
- Enjoy a Mongolian meal with a real nomadic family
- Visit the Genghis Khan Statue and Turtle Rock In Terelj National Park

CHINA

- Explore the Forbidden City and Temple of Heaven in Beijing
- Walk on the Great Wall
- Experience China's bullet trains
- View the spectacular Terracotta Warriors in Xian
- Meet Giant Pandas in Chengdu
- Relax on a Li River Cruise to rural Yangshuo
- Tour cosmopolitan Shanghai
- Stroll Zhujiqiao Water Town

Itinerary

DAY 1: ARRIVE SHANGHAI D
After arriving in Shanghai, you will be transferred to your hotel. This afternoon take in sweeping views of Shanghai's stunning skyline from the iconic Jinmao Tower followed by a panoramic cruise on the Huangpu River. Enjoy a welcome dinner with the group.

DAY 2: SHANGHAI TO ULAANBAATAR B, L, D
Transfer to Shanghai airport for your morning flight to Mongolia, arriving 3.05pm in Ulaanbaatar. You'll be met by your local guide and transferred to your hotel approx 45 mins by coach. Dinner will be at a local Mongolian steak restaurant.

DAY 3: ULAANBAATAR B, L, D
Today you'll enjoy a full day sightseeing, beginning at Gandan Monastery, Mongolia's largest and most important monastery, where you can observe the monks' morning chants and learn about the country's unique form of Buddhism. Continue to the central Genghis Khan Square before exploring the National Museum of Mongolia, home to a rich collection of artefacts spanning the nation's history.

DAY 4: THE GOBI DESERT B, L, D
This morning, fly around 1.5 hours to the Gobi Desert. Visit the spectacular scenic gorges of Yolyn Am, the Valley of Eagles in Gobi National Park. Drive to Khongor Els, Mongolia's largest sand dunes. Visit a camel breeder to taste camel milk yoghurt and enjoy a sunset camel ride along the sand dunes. Stay the night at Gobi Erdene Lodge.

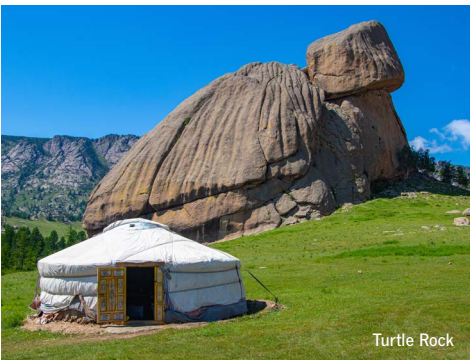
DAY 5: GOBI DESERT B, L, D
Explore Khongor sand dunes (known as the Singing Sand Dunes) by 4WD and foot. Visit Bayanzag Flaming Cliffs and enjoy a sunset dinner. Stay the night in a Mongolian Ger.



DAY 6: DRIVE TO KHARKHORIN B, L, D
Check out early for the 7 hour drive from Bayanzag to Kharkhorin stopping for lunch at the ruins of Ongiin Khiid Monastery on the banks of the Ong River. Continue the scenic drive to Kharkhorin, once the heart of the Great Mongol Empire, arriving in the early evening. Stay the night in a Ger camp.

DAY 7: KHARKHORIN B, L, D
Explore the ancient sites of Kharkhorin and the memorable Erdene Zuu Monastery. Take part in the morning chants and a blessing ceremony by the head monk. In the afternoon visit a real nomadic family Airag tasting and a Mongolian BBQ experience. Dinner is back at the Ger camp.

DAY 8: KHARKHORIN – ULAANBAATAR B, L
Drive east to Ulaanbaatar, arriving for lunch. Visit Bogd Khan's Museum and transfer to the hotel with some time at leisure.



DAY 9:TERELJ NATIONAL PARK B, L, D
Visit the Genghis Khan Equestrian Statue on the banks of the Tuul River. Visitors can take an elevator to the horse's head for panoramic views, and explore the Mongol history museum underneath . Continue to Terelj National Park for lunch and to visit the Temple of Meditation and see the iconic Turtle Rock. Return to Ulaanbaatar for a Mongolian folklore concert and a farewell dinner.

DAY 10: ULAANBAATAR TO BEIJING B, D
Transfer to the airport for your flight to Beijing, arriving at 1.55pm. You'll be met by your guide and transferred to your hotel.



DAY 11: BEIJING B, L, D
Spend the day exploring Beijing. Soak up the harmonious ambience of the Temple of Heaven, an orderly oasis in a bustling urban landscape. Next, head into Beijing's symbolic heart, Tiananmen Square, and explore the magnificent Forbidden City – a complex full of imperial treasures. Dinner and a Chinese acrobatic show rounds off the day.

DAY 12: BEIJING B, L, D
Rise early this morning and drive around 2 hours northwest of the city to the Juyongguan Pass. Here you can take a walk on the Great Wall of China at your own pace, appreciating the wall itself and the dramatic scenery. Please note that there are many steps at the wall and certain sections are steeper than others. Later, visit a jade factory, and in the afternoon, wander around the beautiful grounds of the Summer Palace. In the evening, enjoy a traditional dinner of Peking Duck.

DAY 13: BEIJING TO XIAN B, L, D
Board a bullet train for your 5.5 hour journey to Xian. After checking into your hotel, explore the fascinating Muslim Quarter. This evening dine on delicious Shui Jiao dumplings and watch a performance of Tang Dynasty Dancing.

DAY 14: XIAN B, L, D
Spend the morning viewing the enigmatic ranks of the lifesized Terracotta Warriors, located a 1-hour drive outside of Xian. Afterwards, visit the Xian Art Ceramics and Lacquer Exhibition Workshop to see smaller models of the warriors being made. Later, stroll (or cycle) on the beautifully preserved 14th century city walls that enclose Xian's old town. Quench your thirst with a trip to a local brewery where you will enjoy a refreshing beer tasting experience. This evening enjoy a night tour of the city.

DAY 15: XIAN TO CHENGDU B, L, D
Board a bullet train for the 3.5 hour trip to Chengdu and check into you hotel. Tonight experience a traditional Hotpot meal.

DAY 16: CHENGDU B, L, D
Visit the world-famous Panda Base where you can see these lovable creatures in surroundings that mirror their natural



habitat. Later Visit the People's Park and enjoy a tea tasting at an old tea house. Spend time wandering the old town's alleys. Experience a performance of Sichuan Opera featuring the actors' famous 'face changing'.

DAY 17: CHENGDU TO GUILIN B, L, D
Fly to the beautiful city of Guilin in the morning. Visit the Reed Flute Cave to explore the colourful stalagmites and stalactites.

DAY 18: GUILIN TO YANGSHUO B, L, D
Take a relaxed 4-hour cruise along the Li River to the charming village of Yangshuo where you will spend 2 nights. Around every river bend is a view to take your breath away as jagged peaks loom over rural scenes of lush greenery, grazing buffalos and local fishermen. In Yangshuo, visit the local markets. Depending on the weather, there is an optional outdoor Sanjie Liu light and sound show this evening.

DAY 19: YANGSHUO B, L, D
Start the day with a relaxing and invigorating session of Tai Chi, taking a class with a master to learn this ancient martial art. The relaxation continues with a soothing Chinese reflexology massage. Spend time touring the verdant countryside of Yangshuo, and take a cooking class.

DAY 20: YANGSHUO TO GUILIN B, L, D
Drive back to Guilin. Enjoy a walk around Ronghu Lake and Shanhu Lake to admire the Sun and Moon Pagodas.

DAY 21: GUILIN TO SHANGHAI B, L, D
Fly to Shanghai, China's great metropolis, where east and west collide on streets lined with futuristic skyscrapers and 10th-century temples. Spend an evening exploring China's long and fascinating history in a breathtaking show of martial arts, acrobatics and stunning special effects – the fantastic ERA Show at Shanghai's Circus World.

DAY 22: SHANGHAI B, L, D
Today, explore the classical Yu Garden, stroll through the charming old town, visit a silk mill and enjoy some time at leisure.



DAY 23: ZHUJIAJIAO B, L, D
Visit Zhujiajiao Watertown, one of Shanghai's sleepy water towns built on an old canal system once used to transport goods all over imperial China. The town's narrow alleyways exude old-world charm, whilst the waterways are lined with ancient buildings and crossed by stone bridges. Later stroll along the Bund and Nanjing Road. This evening enjoy a farewell dinner of authentic Shanghainese cuisine.

DAY 24: DEPART SHANGHAI B
Transfer to the airport for your flight home.



Giant Panda, Chengdu, China

Meet your fellow travellers

Meet Lyndon and Colette and your fellow travellers at our social evenings held prior to departure, and receive detailed tour information as well as hints and tips for your travels.



Flaming Cliffs, Mongolia

TERMS & CONDITIONS

- Price - the price of \$21,495 per person is based on twin-share.
- Single Supplement - for travellers wanting their own room, the tour price is \$25,495.
- Payments - the price quoted is for payment by direct bank transfer.
- Bank Transfer: 06 0801 0495605 02 - Discover Travel Worldwide Ltd, using 'China & Mongolia' as a reference.
- VISA or Mastercard payments will incur a 1.5% convenience fee and American Express a 3% fee.
- To confirm your booking, a non-refundable deposit of \$3,000 per person and completed booking form is required. Final payment will be due no later than 31 May 2026.
- As cancellation fees apply, travel insurance is mandatory. Prices are based on a minimum group size of 12/maximum of 16 (excluding tour escort).
- Should the group size be less than 12, excluding tour escort, a surcharge will apply.
- No visa is required for travel to China or Mongolia for NZ passport holders, at this point. If this changes in 2026 a fee will be charged for Wendy Wu Tours to process a visa.

Tour Operator



Discover Travel

New Zealand owned and operated; Discover Travel is a premier boutique travel agency within the House of Travel Group. Specialising in travel to far-flung places, we have travelled extensively worldwide, returning regularly to ensure our knowledge is current. We aim to experience those places through your eyes and passionately share our knowledge of the destination with you. Our goal is to genuinely connect you with the location and its culture. Consequently, we like to think that our clients come home with the stories that everyone else misses.

Tour Price from \$21,495

per person twin/double share*

\$25,495 per person in a single room*

Price includes

- Economy class return airfares from Christchurch
- Accommodation
- Transfers and transportation by air, rail and road as per itinerary
- Meals: 22 breakfasts, 21 lunches and 22 dinners
- Sightseeing and excursions with local guide as per itinerary
- Admissions to all excursions
- Gratuities/tipping for all group activities
- Tour escort

Not included:

Travel insurance (compulsory), any meals/beverages not specified, airport portage and items of a personal nature. Premium Economy/Business Class pricing available on request.

To secure your place:

Send your \$3,000 non-refundable deposit per person with completed booking form to Discover Travel.

For more details and to book:

Phone: 03 364 3400 or 0800 747 737

Email: ideas@discovertravel.co.nz

Mail: PO Box 2477, Christchurch

Please note:

Exploring this region often involves traversing uneven roads and staying in the best available accommodation. A positive attitude and a flexible mindset will enhance your experience, allowing you to fully appreciate the unique charm of these captivating destinations.

For enquiries and bookings:

Email ideas@discovertravel.co.nz

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