

Mongolia Gobi Desert Trek

actionchallenge.com



actionchallenge

challenge events worldwide



About Us

Action Challenge

We are Action Challenge, and we bring people together through challenge & adventure.



Since 1999 we've organised inspirational challenge events & adventures in the UK and Worldwide, for individuals to join, and for groups, companies & charities. Take on a challenge just for yourself, or link it to a special cause and fundraise – so far our events have raised over £90 million for charities. Now is the time to set new goals, to re-energise, and to get active!

We have over 40 UK & overseas challenge events that you can sign up to now – ranging from a meandering 25 km Thames Path walk, to conquering a mighty Himalayan peak. Take on an unforgettable group adventure and push yourself further! We welcome individuals, couples, or groups of friends & family – and you can self fund, or link your challenge with fundraising for a chosen charity.



Few experiences bring a group closer together than an outdoor adventure which challenges comfort zones, builds resilience & understanding, and forges respect & friendships. If you have a group, you can join one of our 40 or so scheduled events, or if you want something special – we can craft a bespoke itinerary or plan a unique challenge event to meet your objectives and get your team energised!

Why Choose Us?



1

100% ATOL PROTECTION

We are 100% ATOL (Air Travel Organiser's Licence) bonded - ATOL number 6296. Offers full financial protection by the CAA (Civil Aviation Authority) for clients who have booked package trips, including flights.



2

UK LEADERS & MEDICS

Every challenge is managed & led by one of our expert UK Qualified & trained Mountain Leaders, working alongside them will be a UK Medic whom has experience of expeditions & group challenges.



3

EXPERIENCED LOCAL TEAMS

Our hand picked local teams & crew know the routes like the back of their hands! You will be fully supported by the experts - who will also teach you about the destination, people, culture & history!

4 THE GROUP EXPERIENCE

Join as an individual, couple, or group of friends - we bring people together and create an atmosphere where each person is supported, motivated & encouraged through the trip. Sharing adventures together we have a lot of fun!

5 TRAINING & SUPPORT

Once you've signed up to the challenge, you'll be supported by our teams with specifically designed training plans, a challenge app, an invite to join our Facebook group & options to join us on training walks & a challenge briefing. By the time you are due to travel you'll be ready & raring to go!

6 OUR ITINERARIES

OVER 20+ YEARS OF EXPERIENCE BRINGS YOU THE BEST ITINERARIES & DESTINATIONS

7 QUALITY ASSURED VALUE

We pride ourselves on selecting the best local teams, hotels (always 3*+), restaurants & guides so you can experience the best each destination has to offer. A highlight will certainly be our final celebratory meals & party at a fantastic venue!

8 OUR CLIENTS

We've taken teams from Harrods, Blackrock, HSBC and more to the summit of Kilimanjaro, and have also run events here in the UK for companies such as Tesco, British Gas and M&S. We've got over a decade of experience of working with organisations of every size. Our team of experts will work with you to ensure that your event is a success, achieving your goals and leaving a lasting impact.



Mongolia Gobi Desert Trek

Go Off the Beaten Track in Mongolia's Wild Heart

This 10-day adventure takes you deep into Mongolia's legendary Gobi Desert. Starting in Ulaanbaatar, you'll explore the city's cultural landmarks before flying south to Dalanzadgad. From here, the trek unfolds across dramatic landscapes—from the narrow canyons of Yoliin Am to the vast Gobi Steppe. Highlights include camping under endless starry skies, meeting nomadic herders, and visiting Bayanzag's Flaming Cliffs, famed for dinosaur fossil discoveries. Each day offers rugged trails, remote camps, and authentic encounters with Mongolia's timeless traditions. Covering approximately 80 km on foot, this challenge blends wilderness, culture, and adventure for an unforgettable journey through one of the world's last great frontiers.

Mongolia Gobi Desert Trek

Day 1 - DEPARTURE UK

Begin your adventure with an international flight to Mongolia, a land steeped in nomadic heritage and vast wilderness. Known as the “Land of Eternal Blue Sky,” Mongolia boasts over 250 sunny days a year and a culture shaped by centuries of horseback traditions and Buddhist spirituality.

Meals: Dinner (On Flight)

Day 2 - ULAANBAATAR

Arrive in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia’s bustling capital, where modern life meets centuries-old traditions. After settling into your hotel, enjoy a guided city tour. Visit Gandantegchinlen Monastery, the largest and oldest Buddhist monastery in the country, home to a towering statue of Migjid Janraisig. Then head to the Zaisan Memorial, a hilltop monument offering panoramic views of the city and surrounding hills—a stark contrast to the desert landscapes you’ll soon explore. This evening, enjoy a traditional Mongolian meal and a briefing on the adventure ahead.

Meals: Dinner

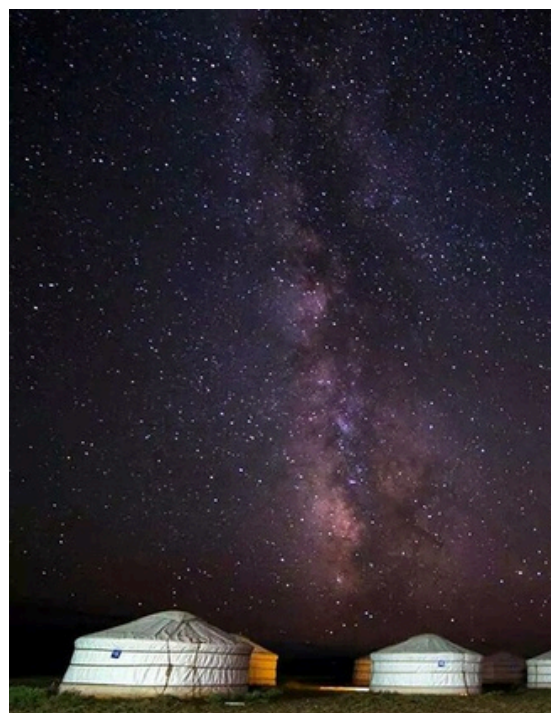
Accom: Hotel

Day 3 - VALLEY OF THE VULTURES - 10KM

A morning flight to Dalanzadgad then an off-road journey into the Zuun Saikhan (“Eastern Beauty”) Mountains. Your trek begins in Yoliin Am—“Valley of Vultures”—a cool, narrow canyon carved by ancient waters. Here, desert and mountain intersect. Walking beneath high walls, you’ll feel the hush that defines the Gobi: a quiet broken by wind, hoofbeats, and distant bird calls. Your local drivers and crew embody the Gobi’s practicality, reading tracks that are more suggestion than road, tending camp with effortless skill. As evening falls, settle into your camp and share stories over a hot meal. The night sky stretches out far above, far from cities and light pollution.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

Accom: Camping



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Day 4 - GOBI STEPPE - 12km

Today you step from mountain shadow onto the open Gobi steppe. The land widens into a horizon of tawny grasses, gravel plains, and low ridges—an amphitheater for solitude. Desert silence here is restorative; with each hour, modern distractions fall away. This landscape has nurtured nomadic herding for millennia, demanding mobility, seasonal wisdom, and kinship networks that remain strong today. Your guide may point out ovoos (stone cairns draped with blue khadag scarves), markers of respect for sky and mountain spirits. Lunch is a frontier picnic: simple, satisfying, shared. The afternoon's walk unfolds in long, gentle arcs, made vivid by shifting light and distant clouds. By camp, tea and hot food welcome you into the evening. Conversations here often turn to how different desert life feels—away from the distractions of phones and apps!

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

Accom: Camping

Day 5 - NOMADIC MONGOLS - 18km

This is the expedition's most demanding and rewarding trekking day: a direct traverse across one of Earth's least populated regions. Joined by a camel caravan and a local herder, you experience nomadic life in motion. Camels carry supplies; the herder navigates by memory and subtle landscape cues—wind, grass, distant cliffs. Along the way, you'll learn desert pragmatics: conserving water, reading weather, and the etiquette of entering a ger (always step over thresholds; never lean on support poles). Encounters are authentic and unscripted: a shared bowl of salty milk tea, a laugh at a mischievous goat, a story about winter storms. The terrain alternates between firm gravel and sandy strokes, the horizon shifting with heat haze and light. Reaching the remote camp feels like crossing a finish line! After sunset, the sky is ink-dark, scattered with constellations.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

Accom: Camping



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Day 6 - BAYANZAG (FLAMING CLIFFS) - 12km

A gentler day of walking leads toward Bayanzag (“rich in saxaul”) better known as the Flaming Cliffs. At sunset, the cliffs ignite in orange and red, a natural spectacle that captivated explorers in the 1920s. Here, Roy Chapman Andrews’ expeditions recorded a scientific first: dinosaur eggs, alongside iconic fossils like Velociraptor and Protoceratops. Our route threads low steppe and shallow gullies, sometimes passing nomadic families whose gers cluster near water and grazing. Hospitality is heartfelt: dairy snacks, fermented mare’s milk (airag) for the brave, and stories of seasonal moves. The saxaul shrub, tough and twisting, anchors sand and shelters small creatures; your guide may explain its importance in desert ecology and why it’s carefully protected. Camp is sited to capture the evening glow across the cliffs, where you will see how Bayanzag earned its name.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

Accom: Camping

Day 7 - GOBI FOSSILS - 10km

Today’s trek contours along rocky escarpments and the rim of the Flaming Cliffs massif, inviting careful steps and frequent pauses to admire the terrain. The Gobi’s paleontological richness lies in its exposed Cretaceous sediments—winds and sparse rainfall reveal fossil-bearing layers where scientists still make discoveries. While strict rules protect these sites, your guide will help you recognize common features of fossil beds and share tales of landmark finds (the famous “fighting dinosaurs” fossil is part of Gobi lore). Cultural threads continue: ovoos on high points, prayer flags that mirror the desert’s palette, and shepherds whose herds (goats, sheep, camels) define the day’s movements. Lunch near the escarpment offers theatre seating for the play of light and shadow across the cliffs.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

Accom: Camping



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Day 8 - BULGAN VILLAGE - 15km

A short transfer sets up the final leg of your trek, striking south toward Bulgan village. The route crosses arid flats and low rises where you may spot herders moving stock to fresh grazing. Entering Bulgan reveals a compact hub of desert life: school, shop, bank, police station, post office—proof that even in this remote land, community thrives. The day's reward is most welcome: shower facilities and a celebratory khorkhog (hot rock barbecue). Heated stones are layered with mutton, vegetables, and spices inside a sealed pot. After days of trekking, the smell when this feast is opened is incredible! As evening settles, you'll reflect on the past days of walking and adventure: canyons, steppe, caravans, fossils, and families.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

Accom: Camping

Day 9 - ULAANBAATAR

An early transfer over rough tracks returns you to Dalanzadgad for the flight to Ulaanbaatar. By lunchtime, the capital's bustle feels surreal after desert serenity. The afternoon is yours: rest, shop for crafts (felt, leather, silver), or visit museums that deepen insight into Mongolia's past and present. Tonight's celebration dinner brings the group together to toast the journey.

Meals: Breakfast & Dinner

Accom: Hotel

Day 10 - DEPART MONGOLIA

Depart Mongolia with a sense of achievement and a deeper connection to cultures that endure in demanding landscapes. You leave with more than photographs—the memories of desert days and the warmth of ger hospitality.

Meals: Breakfast



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INCLUSIONS

- International flights
- domestic flights
- Action Challenge trekking guide
- UK Medic
- Full support team, including local guides
- All accommodation
- All meals, except in free time
- Airline taxes
- All transfers in local vehicles
- Celebration dinner
- Fitness and training guide
- Discounts from UK retailers
- Reduced rates at Nomad Travel Clinics and Masta Health

DATES & PRICES

Visit our [website](#) for available dates

PAYMENT OPTIONS

There are 2 'payment options' available when you sign up.

SELF FUNDING: Just like a standard holiday! You pay the initial registration deposit online, and then the final balance of the trip cost (+ any fuel surcharge imposed by the airline if booking a Flights Included package) - which is invoiced 12 weeks prior to departure.

CHARITY FUNDRAISING: Do it for a charity of your choice! Choose how much of the trip cost you want to cover yourself & fundraise at least twice the remaining balance. Your chosen charity pays us the final balance from this fundraising, with the rest being kept as a donation. Any airline imposed fuel surcharge will be invoiced to you if booking a Flights Included package - 12 weeks prior.

[CLICK HERE TO FIND OUT MORE INFORMATION.](#)



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