A Khovsgol & Heartland Journey

WITH

PANORAMIC JOURNEYS
MONGOLIA

Mongolia, there simply is nowhere quite like it. The birth place of the great Khan is largely the same now as it was then and the country is wonderfully diverse in terms of landscape. The magisterial Western Altai gives way to the fertile central Heartland. The exquisite forested North fades into the endless sea of green steppe to the East and of course the amazing arid southern Gobi make up the five distinct eco regions. Still largely undiscovered there is seemingly endless uninhabited wilderness around every mountain and in every valley.

The people of Mongolia are wonderfully adapted to their climate. Temperatures can differ by as much as 100°C between summer and winter. The Mongolian ger is perfectly designed to withstand such extremes as well as being portable to fit the nomadic way of life almost half of the population lead. Such a demanding climate leads the people of Mongolia to exhibit magical hospitality. Only here does a traveller receive an unreserved welcome at every turn. No description of Mongolia is complete without reference to the ingrained equine culture present throughout the nation. The almost spiritual relationship between man and horse is captivating to all who visit and it remains critical to Mongolian identity.

PANORAMIC JOURNEYS MONGOLIA

Panoramic Journeys was conceived in Mongolia, a country which is synonymous with the panoramic view of rugged mountains, endless forests and vast open steppe. As a business we have grown up in Mongolia. It is our home and always will be. Our drivers and guides are old friends and they too care passionately about the experience we deliver in Mongolia. We work with them to constantly improve and expand what we can achieve as a community in Mongolia at the same time as protecting the places we know and love.
An incredible 14 day journey travelling south from ‘the Alps of Mongolia’ through the heartland visiting nomadic families, soaking in hot springs to searching for ruined monasteries in the mountains.

Begin with a couple of days in the idyllic lakeside location of Khovsgol Province. Take a swim in the lake, warm your toes in the sauna and hike to your hearts content through wildflower meadows and up the hills for breath-taking views across Mongolia’s largest lake. Passing the ‘wild west’ town of Jargalant, reach White Lake and its fascinating volcano with delightful yak herding families who want to welcome you into their lives. Explore the rolling Tsenkher Valley on horse back, visit Uvgun Khiid Temple and enjoy a camel ride to the northern tip of the Gobi Desert. Seek the wild and rare Przewalski’s Horses at Khustai Nuruu National Park and keep your eyes open for other wildlife on your journey back to the city of Ulaanbaatar. An afternoon to shop for souvenirs and take your farewell dinner in one of the best restaurants in the country.
# Itinerary Overview

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Activity</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wed</td>
<td>24-May</td>
<td>Arrive and transfer to the city</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thu</td>
<td>25-May</td>
<td>Fly to Muron, explore Lake Khovsgol</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri</td>
<td>26-May</td>
<td>Full day at Lake Khovsgol</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sat</td>
<td>27-May</td>
<td>Full day at Lake Khovsgol</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sun</td>
<td>28-May</td>
<td>Drive south from the lake to Jargalant</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon</td>
<td>29-May</td>
<td>Drive to White Lake and to stay near yak herders</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tue</td>
<td>30-May</td>
<td>Full day exploring White Lake &amp; Khorgo Volcano</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed</td>
<td>31-May</td>
<td>To the stunning Tsenkher Valley</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thu</td>
<td>1-Jun</td>
<td>Kharkhorin &amp; Erdene Zuu Khiid (monastery)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri</td>
<td>2-Jun</td>
<td>Sand dunes of Bayangobi</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sat</td>
<td>3-Jun</td>
<td>Khogno Khan Mountains &amp; Uvgun Khiid</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sun</td>
<td>4-Jun</td>
<td>Khustai National Park &amp; family stay</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon</td>
<td>5-Jun</td>
<td>Return to Ulaanbaatar</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tue</td>
<td>6-Jun</td>
<td>Transfer to airport for departure</td>
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**Start**  
24 May 2017  
**Duration**  
14 Days  
**Group Size**  
3 to 8  
**Price**  
$ pp USD 4,995
**WEDNESDAY 24TH MAY**  
**DAY 1**  

**ARRIVE ULAANBAATAR**

Arrive in Ulaanbaatar, where you will be met and transferred to your hotel. At 2pm, if you are not too tired from your long flight, you may like to meet in reception for a walk across the Chinggis Khaan Square to visit the excellent Museum of National History where you can gain an understanding of Mongolia’s remarkable past - a worthwhile introduction to your stay in Mongolia. If you decide instead to rest this afternoon, meet in reception at 7pm where we will take you to dine our favourite restaurants where your guide will run through the plan for tomorrow.

**Travel Details** – 30-45 minutes to airport hotel.  
**Accommodation** – King/Twin Room, Tuushin Hotel  
**Includes** – (D)

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**THURSDAY 25TH MAY**  
**DAY 2**  

**KHATGAL & LAKE KOVSGOL**

Meet your guide and driver to transfer to the airport for your flight to Muron. You may like to stop in Muron to stock up on supplies, before moving on towards the 'soum' (village) of Khatgal. Take a short boat ride (30 mins) across the crystal clear lake to your secluded camp which is on the eastern shore. Enjoy a leisurely afternoon/evening horse ride or walk along the shore before tucking into the feast which your hosts have prepared for you. Settle in to your first night sleeping in a "ger" (the traditional Mongolian felt tents), the design of which has changed little over the centuries.

**Travel Details** – 30-45 mins airport to hotel, 1.5 hour flight to Muron, 140km / 2-3 hours to Lake Khoovsgol  
**Accommodation** – Ger Camp  
**Includes** – (B,L,D)
LAKE KOVSGOL

Two full days in this stunning location - try riding a Mongolian horse, relax on the shore, hike through wild flower meadows & enjoy Lake Khovsgol. Opportunities galore to be as active as you wish - take time to speak with your guide and discuss how you will spend your time here. From arranging horse riding, hiking up to the peninsula and riding a yak to admiring the beauty of this region from the comfort of the camp, decide on your choices for the days here.

"WILD WEST" TOWN OF JARGALANT

Say farewell early this morning to leave Lake Khovsgol behind and drive back to Muron. From here, continue across the idyllic Mongolian countryside to Jargalant, a small 'Wild West' town famous for its hot springs and once being home to the tallest man in the world! Weather dependant, enjoy a soak in the springs before settling down for the evening.

Travel Details – No driving today
Accommodation – Ger Camp
Includes – (B,L,D)

Travel Details – 320km / 6-7 hours
Accommodation – Ger Camp
Includes – (B,L,D)
MONDAY 29TH MAY
DAY 6

KHORGOR TERKHIIN TSAGAAN NUUR NATIONAL PARK

Continue your journey south toward the Khorgo Terkhiin Tsagaan Nuur National Park. The park hosts two natural wonders - Lake Terkhiin Tsagaan (also known as the Great White Lake) and the extinct Khorgo Volcano, surrounded by black soil and lava boulders covered with lichen are scattered around. The scenery is magnificent so take time to wander and explore while you have time here.

Travel Details – 120km / 4-5 hours
Accommodation – Ger Camp
Includes – (B,L,D)

TUESDAY 30TH MAY
DAY 7

WHITE LAKE & KHORGOR VOLCANO

Enjoy a full day in the Khorgo Terkhiin Tsagaan Nuur National Park. It is a perfect time to take a walk to explore the area and visit nomadic families. This national park is famed for its population of yak - you might like to meet some yak herders and try some Mongolian milk tea with your hosts! This afternoon, climb to the summit of the volcano and walk around the crater rim.

Travel Details – Only local drives today
Accommodation – Ger Camp
Includes – (B,L,D)
**TSETSERLEG & TSENKHER VALLEY**

From the friendly banks of the Great White Lake, continue to the charming town of Tsetserleg. This picturesque settlement is located in a fertile valley surrounded by rolling hills and rivers. Stop to take photographs or stretch your legs before driving on to meet some of our nomadic friends and your hosts for this evening. A traditional nomadic family stay offers you the opportunity to take a really close look at this fascinating lifestyle and help out with chores - get stuck in! There may be a chance to visit the local hot springs, so keep your swim suits handy!

**KHARKHORIN & ERDENE ZUU MONASTERY**

This morning drive east to Kharkhorin, a small town in the middle of the Orkhon Valley, where Karakorum, the first capital of the Mongol Empire used to be located. The visit will give you a chance to take a look at historical remnants of this once great city gathered in the local museum, then to visit another famous location – Erdene Zuu Khiid. This ancient monastery is one of the three most famous religious complexes in the country. Continue on to your ger camp nearby to freshen up after an historically rich day.

**Travel Details** – 220km / 3-4 hours  
**Accommodation** – Shared ger, PJ family stay  
**Includes** – (B,L,D)

**Travel Details** – 110km / 3-4 hours  
**Accommodation** – Ger Camp  
**Includes** – (B,L,D)
FRIDAY 2ND & SATURDAY 3RD JUNE
DAY 10 & 11

ELSEN TARSAHAI, BAYANGOBI

After breakfast make your way across the changing landscape to Elsen Tarsahai; 90 km long sand dunes stretching across the northern tip of the Gobi Desert. Meet your nomadic host family where PJ have set up gers alongside the family ger for extra privacy and comfort. The dunes are home to numerous camel herder families, so it is a great opportunity to try riding one in the sands. A great location, especially at sunset, for photography and wild animal activity. Help with chores and perhaps even learn how to prepare a traditional meal or snack.

Travel Details – 175km / 3-4 hours
Accommodation – Shared ger, PJ family stay
Includes – (B,L,D)

SUNDAY 4TH JUNE
DAY 12

KHUSTAI NURUU NATIONAL PARK

An early start, drive to Khustai National Park, famous for its growing population of wild Przewalski’s Horses. Depending on your timing, these rare animals may be lower in the valley taking water or you may catch a glimpse of the herds higher up in the hills. If you're lucky, there may be other inhabitants such as marmot, deer, elk and even wolves. In the afternoon you will drive to a wonderful herder family for your final night out in the countryside. Spend time immersing yourself in their fascinating culture and be humbled by their incredible hospitality.

Travel Details – 260km / 4-5 hours
Accommodation – Shared ger, PJ family stay
Includes – (B,L,D)
After a leisurely breakfast, say your goodbye's and head east to return to Ulaanbaatar. Your guide will be available this afternoon to take you round the shops for cashmere and other Mongolian products. The State Department Store has everything under one roof, and we can direct you to nearby fair trade stores which sell unique products from local artisans. Meet in hotel reception at 4.30pm to go to a concert of traditional Mongolian music and dance including throat singing followed by a farewell dinner at another of our favourite restaurants in the city.

**Travel Details** – 175km / 3-4 hours
**Accommodation** – King/Twin Room, Tuushin Hotel
**Includes** – (B,L,D)

**DEPART**
Transfer to the airport in time for your international flight home (times tbc).

**Travel Details** – 30-45 minutes hotel to airport
**Accommodation** – N/A
**Includes** – (B)
ULAANBAATAR

Ulaanbaatar, meaning 'Red Hero', is the capital city of Mongolia. Situated on the Tuul River, it is a mixture of traditional and modern. The ornate flowing eaves of the monastery temples stand beside communist planned courtyards and modern sky scrapers. UB, as the capital is affectionately known, also has some excellent museums, galleries, theatres, bars and restaurants.

Gandantegchinlen Khiid (Gandan for short) is the largest and most important monastery in Mongolia. The monastery’s main attraction is the magnificent white Migjid Janraisig Temple which houses a 25m high, 20 ton guilded statue. It is a working monastery with ceremonies every morning and 150 monks in residence.

Impressive and expansive, Chinggis Khaan Square in the heart of the city, has recently been renamed to honour the nations creator. Originally this square was named 'Sükhabatar' after the hero of the revolution "Damdin Sükhabatar", who declared Mongolia’s final independence from the Chinese. His statue takes centre stage in front of the Parliament building and looking south towards Peace Avenue.
ULAANBAATAR

The National History Museum, renovated in 1998, is a comprehensive and well-laid out showcase of key points in Mongolia's history. Journey through key facts and artefacts from the Bronze age, the Mongol Empire of Genghis Khaan, to the communist Russian years and the democratic revolution of the early 1990s. Learn about nomadic pastoralism of the steppes and the different ethnic groups of Mongolia.

Naran Tuul, or the Black Market, as it is commonly known (although not illegal) - is a giant flea market 4km from the centre of town. It's a great place to enjoy the hustle and bustle of Mongolian traders, pick up some riding boots or material for getting a *deel* tailor-made. Be very vigilant at all times, as pickpockets targeting tourists abound, and leave valuables (cameras, iPods) at the hotel.

**Cashmere:** Mongolia produces about 3,000 tons of cashmere per year, about 21% of the world market. Many quality cashmere products can be found at low prices. The Gobi company has a store on Peace Avenue and also a factory shop on the outskirts of town. Other central shops include Elite, Goyo - and the State Department Store has a range of cashmere labels all under one roof.
LAKE KOVSOL

The gateway to Khovsgol, the small charming town of Khatgal is located on the Southern tip of the lake. Wooden houses are the norm here due to the abundance of timber from the surrounding mountain forests. Known as the Blue Pearl of Mongolia, Lake Khovsgol is surrounded by mountains covered with pine forests and lush meadows. Containing between 1% and 2% of the world’s fresh water it is the second largest lake in Central Asia. It is 136 kilometres long and 36 kilometres wide and at 1645m above sea level it's whole length is frozen from January to May.
LAKE KOVSAGOL

Ar Davkhar Eco Camp: Set in a secluded bay on the Eastern shore of Lake Khovsgol, within the national park, this camp is a haven for spotting the flowers and fauna of Mongolia. Nearby there is a Somoo Saridag ("Rock of Wish") which has broken and fallen into the river, and it has become tradition for the local people to stand on it while praying to Khatan dalai eej ("mother ocean"). The camp is run by a wonderful family who will happily teach you to milk the animals or take you on a nature walk (the father is a naturalist and conservationist.)
MURON

Muron is the lively capital of Khovsgol province and bears the hallmarks of being a trading outpost close to the border with Russian Siberia, in that it is slightly wild and rough around the edges. However, this adds to its charm and unique atmosphere - none more so at the bustling market in the centre of town. Local hero Chingunjav, who fought against the Manchurians, is immortalised with a statue in the town's main square.

Just outside of Muron are ancient deerstones, and the town itself is home to a lively Naadam.
JARGALANT

The sleepy town of Jargalant is situated on the overland trail from the heartland to Lake Khovsgol in the North. Located in the northern Arkhangai province, the rocky roads make for few travellers - which make the region a more unspoilt haven of rugged beauty. The area is also noted for its natural hot springs.

Visit the small and charming museum, where you can measure yourself against one of the town's residents who was once the tallest man in the world.
CHULUUTIIN GOL GORGE

The dramatic Chuluutiin Gol Gorge runs along a fault line and the river below is a great fishing spot. Nearby, an ancient forest protects a vast tree covered in offerings including blue Khadags (ceremonial scarves). This is a famous tree and local legend tells that if you have lost something, when you sleep beneath the branches you will wake and remember where it is.
**KHORGO-TERKHIIN TSAGAAN NUUR NATIONAL PARK**

This 77,280 hectare national park is home to volcanic craters, pine-clad lava fields and the occasional herd of grazing yaks. Amongst this, the natural highlight of Arkhangai aimag - Tsagaan Nuur (White Lake), is set in a relatively undeveloped region.

**White Lake (Tsagaan Nuur)** was formed by lava flows many millennia ago. Rare species of flowers and pine trees grow in the black volcanic soil and ancient lava flows streak out across the meadow which is home to alpine wildlife. This astonishingly beautiful, crystal clear, freshwater lake is renowned for its fish and birdlife, including the Ruddy Shellduck and Great Cormorant.

**Khorgo Uul (volcano)** was responsible for creating Tsagaan Nuur thousands of years ago and is now extinct. The crater is accessible by foot or on horseback, providing excellent views of the lake and surrounding basalt-covered countryside. Local wildlife is also abundant and the area is a haven for birdwatchers.
TSETSERLEG

This town is ringed by scenic mountains overlooked by a small temple perched on Bogd Uul (holy mountain) to the north. The Zayin temple museum has some great exhibitions on traditional mongolian life and ancient artifacts. The town also has a very lively market.
Nestled in the foothills of the Khangai mountains, Tsenkher Valley contains some of the most lush, green, forested countryside of mountains and rivers in Mongolia. The Arkhangai mountains rise in this area which is home to many nomadic herders and their large herds of sheep, goats and yaks.
Kharkhorin & Erdene Zuui Khiid

Kharkhorin, formerly known as Karakorum, was once the capital of the Mongol empire in the 13th century. Artisans from all across the empire were brought here to embellish the city. After the move to Beijing, and the fall of the empire, Karakorum was abandoned and then destroyed by vengeful Manchurian soldiers in 1388. The remains of Kharkhorin were used to help build Erdene Zuui (Hundred Treasures), the first Buddhist monastery, in the 16th century. 108 stupas are spaced evenly along the walls which enclose an area of 1,600 square metres and several temples which escaped the communist purges of the 1930's.

Kharkhorin's new museum is small, but highly impressive – probably the country's best museum outside Ulaanbaatar. Everything is beautifully designed and well displayed. The exhibits include dozens of artefacts dating from the 13th and 14th centuries which were recovered from the immediate area, plus others that were found from archaeological sites in other parts of the aimag, including prehistoric stone tools. You'll see pottery, bronzes, coins, religious statues and stone inscriptions. There's also a half-excavated kiln sunk into the museum floor. Perhaps most interesting is the scale model of ancient Karakorum, which aims to represent the city as it may have looked in the 1250s, and is based on descriptions written by the missionary William of Rubruck.
BAYANGOBI - MONGOL ELS

Bayangobi, the most Northern part of the Gobi, is a unique combination of Bat Khaan mountains and sand dunes – Elsen Tasarkhai - which run for a distance of 80km. The dunes are split by the main road, with Mongol Els to the south and Khugnu Tarnyn Els to the north. Because there is a high water table here, willow, elm and dogwood grow in the region and it is home to families of camel herders.
KHOGNO KHAAN MOUNTAIN AND UVGUN MONASTERY (KHIID)

The red rocky mountain of Khogno Khaan (1967m) rising from the steppe is part of a 46,500 hectare natural reserve. Nestled in the foothills is the small monastery complex of Uvgun Khiid - the current monastery down on the valley floor was reopened in 1992, 70 years after the purges which had destroyed the previous buildings.

The ruins of the older Uvgun monastery, destroyed by the western Oirat Mongols in the 17th century, are hidden in one of its numerous valleys in the southern slope. The buildings are located in a serene bowl shaped valley and a walk up the steep valley sides offers grand views across the plains.
KHUSTAI NURUU NATIONAL PARK

Established in 1993, Khustai National Park is most famous for being home to Mongolia's wild horse - the takhi, or Przewalski's, once extinct in Mongolia but reintroduced by a pioneering scheme that now sees the number of wild horses in their 100s.

Just 100 km from Ulaanbaatar, the park is also home to a diverse array of animals including; Red deer, Mongolian gazelle, Wild boar, Wild sheep, Ibex, Mongolian marmots, Grey wolves, Lynx, Pallas’ cat, Red fox, Corsac fox and Eurasian badger, Golden Eagles and Black Storks.
TUUSHIN HOTEL, ULAANBAATAR

Located in the centre of the capital the Tuushin Hotel provides comfortable rooms to relax and recharge in. All rooms have an en-suite bathroom and wifi is available throughout the hotel.

There is also an on site day spa and both local and international food is available at the hotel's restaurants.
**GER CAMPS**

A ger camp is a ‘countryside hotel’ with each couple (or sometimes family) in their own comfortable, stove lit, traditional ger. Ger camps have fixed western style bathroom facilities, and hot showers are available at certain times of the day. There will normally be a restaurant in a separate building and most ger camps can now cater for a range of diets.

Facilities between camps vary widely and in recent years some ger camps have upgraded with ‘ensuite’gers. We try to choose smaller, boutique camps but this will depend on where you are in the country and the time of year you travel.
FAMILY HOME STAYS

Have a taste of nomad life as you live alongside local families. You’ll be able to help with the daily tasks of milking the animals, collecting wood & dung for the fire. Try your hand at fermenting mare’s milk into airag or cooking traditional treats.

Facilities vary, but generally they will be basic; hot water will be provided by your hosts for washing, and there will be a long drop toilet.
SUSTAINABLE PROJECTS

We believe that most people want to be responsible in their travel these days. Most companies do their bit to fulfil this desire; we don’t just tick this box though, we are actively involved in the field of responsible travel. We have provided a regular source of income to nomads in Central Mongolia through the setting up of the *refugio*. Over the last 4 years we have paid two families to be caretakers for 3 gers that our guests stay in alongside their family whilst hosting travellers and learning how to manage their own business. With continuous support from PJ, the families are *set free* to run their own family stay businesses and are able to maintain their lives as semi-nomads as opposed to being forced to live in the city to find work.

Due to the success of these pilot projects for both parties involved, we intend to set up other similar *refugios* in carefully selected locations in Mongolia. As our involvement and commitment to the countries we visit is personal and long term, we are in a position such that rather than just avoiding doing things badly, we can really go out of our way to do things well and make positive contributions. We can invest time and energy in making a small but significant difference to individuals and communities that we have a long term relationship with.
TESTIMONIALS

“Fantastically well run itinerary, terrific guide and driver. Wonderful, step-out-of-the-norm experience....We felt that Panoramic Journeys had really listened to what we wanted, this is one of the best “organized” holidays we’ve been on - we normally organize ourselves so that we can dictate the pace and the itinerary - but our Mongolian trip exceeded all our expectations”

Mike Foster & Kathryn Reed

“A magical trip in a remote and unspoilt part of the world. We were made to feel like welcome guests”

Doug and Annie Howes

“Fantastic, amazing, wonderful, incredible, marvellous... Mongolia is a must, truly. The country, the scenery, the people...The picnics were fantastic. I mean really, caviar in a meadow of wildflowers?”

Lesley Shane
**A KHÖVSGÖL AND HEARTLAND JOURNEY**

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<th>Start</th>
<th>Duration</th>
<th>Group Size</th>
<th>$ pp</th>
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<td>24 May 17</td>
<td>14 Days</td>
<td>3* - 8 Max</td>
<td>USD 4,995</td>
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**PRICE INCLUDES:**
- Accommodation (based on 2 sharing twin rooms/gers)
- See single supplement below
- Domestic flights (as specified)
- Meals as per itinerary (B=Breakfast, L=Lunch, D=Dinner)
- Water in vehicles
- Activities as per itinerary
- English speaking guide/s
- Surface transportation (vehicle and driver)
- Park & museum entrance fees
- Festival fees
- Airport transfers

**PRICE EXCLUDES:**
- Travel Insurance
- Passport
- Visas & vaccination charges
- Private excursions
- Bar bills
- Laundry
- Telephone calls & items of a personal nature
- International flights or trains

*Small group supplement applies for less than stated group size*

Deposit $1,000pp plus any extras · Single Supplement: $360 (not available at homestays).

Full payment is due if departure is in less than 90 days.

**READY TO BOOK?**

**CHECK AVAILABILITY:**
Contact us to check availability and hold your spot. We can hold you a provisional place for seven days.

**BOOK YOUR HOLIDAY:**
Complete our online booking form (a word version is also available) and send us your deposit payment, plus any applicable flight or additional costs. We accept bank transfers, Visa, Mastercard or American Express, and UK cheques. Full payment methods are detailed in our booking conditions. We shall then send you a booking confirmation together with an invoice for the full payment of your holiday which is due 90 days before your departure date.

**ANY QUESTIONS?**
Call one of our experts on +44 (0)1608 676821 or email us at info@panoramicjourneys.com.