

Introduction to the South Route

The loop to the west and then south to the Govi Desert takes us through the full range of Mongolian terrain – mountains, grassland, desert and water crossings. Monks and monasteries, river and range, desert and dust. - 1800 km over ten days of some of the best Mongolia has to offer.

Please note well: The road network in Mongolia is not well developed and weather can have a strong influence on it's condition. River crossings can change quickly and dry track can turn to slippery mud after rain. The route, distances and times may need to be adjusted to accommodate these uncertainties.

South Route	From	via	To	Daily Km's
Day 1	Ulaanbaatar	Lun	Rashaant	
Distance	0	132	129	261
Route	A0301		A0301	
Road Type	Paved	Paved	Impr. Unpaved	
Day1 from Ulaanbaatar to Rashaant (261km). The first day is a relatively easy ride on paved (and pot-holed!) roads to the west, after an early start from our camp in UB. As the condition of the road will vary considerably, this day is time to get used to the bike and get a bit of saddle conditioning. The destination is Rashaant.				
Day 2	Rashaant		Kharhorin	
Distance	0		105	105
Route	A0301		A0602	
Road Type	Paved		Impr. Unpaved	
Day 2 from Rashaant to Kharhorin (105km). After a leisurely start we leave for Kharhorin, where there is a Monastery and other points of interest. Closer to Kharhorin the road changes to "improved unpaved" condition. At Kharhorin there is a Tourist information Centre and sites of Paleolithic findings.				
Day 3	Kharhorin		Tovhon Hiyd	
Distance	0		60	60
Route	nn		nn	
Road Type	Follow river 40 km; turn NW another 20km			
Day 3 from Kharhorin to Tovhon Hiyd (60km). After breakfast, we go to the Monastery at Tovhon Hiyd, which is located inside a national park. We follow the OpxoH River, cross country and then head north West towards the Monastery. Here we will camp in the valley next to the river. Mountains and forest surround us. The distance is short but the going is slow. This the first taste of earth roads and pure cross country riding - the condition of the roads for most of the trip until Day 8.				
Day 4	Tovhon Hiyd	Hujirt	Arvayheer	
Distance	0	40	81	121
Route	nn	A08	A0301	
Road Type	Earth	Impr. Unpaved	Paved partly	

Day 4 from Tovhon Hiyd to Arvayheer (121km). We leave the mountains of Hangay Nur and start towards the Govi Desert in the south. We retrace 20km and then head East to Hujirt after which the terrain is mainly arid desert with views to mountain ranges to the west.				
Day 5	Arvayheer	Guchin-Uls	Bogd	
Distance	0	135	111	246
Route	nn	nn	nn	
Road Type	Earth	Earth	Earth	
Day 5 from Arvayheer to Bogd (246). After crossing some hills at the beginning of the leg the ride settles into a dash across the beginnings of the Govi Desert. The riding is good with few people or settlements. Settle back and enjoy the view.				
Day 6		Bogd	Hongrolyn Gol	
Distance		0	209	209
Route		nn	nn	
Road Type		Earth	Earth	
Day 6 from Bogd to Hongrolyn Gol (209km). The destination on this day is a place where three geographic types meet in one point - Hongrolyn Gol. Here the undulating grasslands meet with the desert and the mountains. It is one of Mongolia's most famous places. Here we take an extra night to rest and explore the area.				
Day 7	Rest and Explore			
Day 8	Hongrolyn Gol	Bayandalay	Dalanzadgab	
Distance	0	123	84	207
Route	nn	nn	nn	
Road Type	Earth	Earth	Earth	
Day 8 from Hongryn Gol to Dalanzadgad (207km). Time to say goodbye to the mountains and grassland and head into the heart of the Govi. Riding is also good - keep a look out for wildlife, camels and sheep.				
Day 9	Dalanzadgad	Tsogt-Ovoo	Mandalgovi	
Distance	0	126	178	304
Route	A0202	A0202	A0202	
Road Type	Impr. Unpaved	Impr. Unpaved	Impr. Unpaved	
Day 9 from Dalanzadgad to Mandalgovi (304). Back to civilization! Dalanzadgad is the provincial capital of Umnu (South) Govi. Here we top up our tanks for the push north to Mandalgovi, provincial capital of Uvurkhangai (Middle) Govi. A relatively easy ride on improved but unpaved roads, across a small mountain range into the depression of the Govi Desert. Lots of water for this stretch! Time in Mandalgovi to look at the hot spots once we arrive.				

Day 10	Mandalgovi	Delegerstogt	Zuunmod	Ulaanbaatar	
Distance	0	42	194	43	279
Route	A0201	A0201	A0201	A0201	
Road Type	Paved	Paved	Paved	Paved	
Day 10 from Mandalgovi to Ulaanbaatar (279km). The geography in the last stretch back to UB changes gradually as we get into the hillier areas further north. Another relatively smooth ride over the day gets us back in UB and the base camp by late afternoon. The total journey takes 10 days and covers 1780 km at an average of 200 km per day.				Total km's	1780

