

### Introduction to the West Route

This is a great trip if you want to get a real taste of Mongolia but do not have a great deal of time to do so. Westward to the ancient capital, north through the wilderness and back along the river valleys and mountain ranges. There's plenty here to test the rider – experienced or otherwise.

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. The route, distances and times may need to be changed without notice to accommodate these uncertainties.

Shorte Route				
	From	via	To	Daily
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 Rest and Explore in the Kharhorin area. Kharhorin is the ancient capital of Chingis Khaan. The Monastery Erdene Zuu Khid was first built in 1586 and is now slowly being restored. No other remains of the ancient capital except ghosts! Don't miss the Turtle and Phallic rocks.				
Day 4	Kharhorin		Tovhon Hiyd	
Distance	0		60	60
Route	nn		nn	
Road Type	Follow river 40 km; turn NW another 20km			
Day 4 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.				

Day 5	Tovhon Hiyd		Hotont	Dashinchilen	
Distance	0		55	188	243
Route	nn		A08	A0301	
Road Type	Earth		Earth	Earth	
Day 5 from Tovhon Hiyd to Dashinchilen (243). We head North to Hotont and onto Huginuur. Many river crossing and mountain work. Very few people in this area.					
Day 6	Dashinchilen	Lun		Ulaanbaatar	
Distance	0	91		132	223
Route	A0301	A08		A0601	
Road Type	Impr. Unpaved	Impr. Unpaved		Paved	
Day 6 from Dashinchilen to Ulaabaatar (223km). Still a good ride on the last day, but straight forward. An early start for a rough ride until we hit the paved road for the last stretch. It's the end of the trip so we have to be wary of fatigue and keep an eye out for the potholes on the "paved" road.					

