4 Days Bashang Grassland Tour: Ulan Butong Grassland Wild Driving & Chengde UNESCO Sites

Trip overview

Pair Qing imperial grandeur with the sweeping steppes of Inner Mongolia on this **4-Day Chengde & Bashang Grassland Tour**, a private scenic road trip departing north from Beijing. Begin among UNESCO-listed royal heritage in Chengde, wandering the lakeside pavilions of **Chengde Mountain Resort** and the terraced Tibetan halls of **Putuo Zongcheng Temple**, before driving past the pine and silver birch groves of **Saihanba National Forest Park** and **Yudaokou** to **Princess Lake** in **Ulan Butong**. Spend the next two days immersed in nomadic prairie culture—choosing between a rugged 3-hour 4WD off-road safari or horseback riding across rolling meadows, taking in 360-degree views at **Ulan Butong Film & TV Base**, cruising China's **National No. 1 Scenic Road**, and exploring **China Horse Town** and **The Grand Khan's Palace** before returning to Beijing.

- **Durations:** 4 Days
- **Destinations:** Beijing - Chengde - Chifeng - Fengning - Beijing
- **Tour inquiry:** https://www.asiachinatour.com/4-days-chengde-bashang-grassland-tour/

Itinerary

Day 1: Beijing to Chengde — Chengde Mountain Resort & Putuo Zongcheng Temple

Depart Beijing after breakfast as your private English-speaking guide and driver pick you up from your downtown hotel, airport terminal, or railway station for a scenic 3- to 3.5-hour drive northeast into the forested hills of Hebei. Upon arrival, step inside the **Chengde Mountain Resort**, a UNESCO World Heritage Site and the largest surviving imperial garden in China—spanning twice the size of the Summer Palace and eight times that of the Forbidden City. Built as the summer political capital for Qing emperors Kangxi and Qianlong to govern state affairs and receive foreign envoys, the estate blends southern water-town elegance with northern grassland vistas across its essential Palace, Lake, Plain Areas and Mountain Area.

Following lunch at a local restaurant, ascend the hillside just north of the resort to explore the **Putuo Zongcheng Temple**, affectionately known as the **"Little Potala Palace."** Completed in 1771 and modeled after Lhasa's iconic Potala Palace, this Tibetan-style masterpiece rises in dramatic terraced layers anchored by the towering **Grand Red Terrace** and the **Five-Pagoda Gate**, whose five colorful stupas symbolize distinct aspects of Buddhist wisdom. Climb to the summit to admire the shimmering gilded bronze roof of the **Hall of All Laws Return to One** and take in sweeping views across Chengde's valley before checking into your local hotel—with the option to attend the spectacular 70-minute outdoor live show *Grand Ceremony of the Kangxi Dynasty* in the evening.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

Accommodation: Handpicked Hotel in Chengde

Expert Sightseeing & Photography Insights:
To capture the full vertical drama of Putuo Zongcheng Temple, shoot upward from the lower entrance plaza before climbing to the upper terraces for wide panoramic vistas over Chengde and the surrounding hills. Wearing comfortable, supportive walking shoes will make navigating the resort's expansive lakeside pathways and the temple's steep stone stairways effortless, and if you wish to experience the optional Grand Ceremony of the Kangxi Dynasty show tonight, ask your guide to reserve tickets in advance and bring a light jacket for the open-air evening seating.

Day 2: Chengde to Ulan Butong Grassland — Saihanba Forest, Yudaokou Scenic Area & Princess Lake

Set out northwest from Chengde after breakfast toward **Weichang Bashang**, the crown jewel of the four Bashang regions and once the legendary **Mulan Paddock**, where Qing emperors staged more than a hundred royal autumn hunts.

Your scenic route winds directly through **Saihanba National Forest Park**, the world's largest man-made forest, bordered by towering Mongolian pines and silver birches that shift from a lush sea of green in summer to brilliant gold in autumn, with a brief roadside pause to admire the seven-story **Saihan Tower**. Continuing into the adjacent **Yudaokou Scenic Area**, stroll along the tranquil shoreline of **Sun Lake** before taking a 15-minute drive to the **Grand Canyon**, where a 20-minute uphill walk along a shaded wooden boardwalk through heart-leaved birch groves leads to a sweeping summit overlooking the dramatic forest-steppe transition zone.

Following lunch along the way, cross the provincial border into **Ulan Butong** in Inner Mongolia and arrive by late afternoon at the serene **Princess Lake (Gongzhu Hu)**. After checking into your local hotel, walk down to the water's edge as the low sun casts warm amber reflections across the quiet lake and surrounding rolling meadows for an unforgettable grassland sunset. Once darkness settles beneath a canopy of stars, join local hosts around a crackling **Mongolian Bonfire Party** to share in spirited traditional music and rhythmic prairie dances.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

Accommodation: Handpicked Hotel in Chifeng

Expert Grassland & Seasonal Insights:
Due to strict prairie fire-prevention regulations, the evening bonfire party operates seasonally from June 21 to August 31 and may be canceled without refund in the event of high winds or rain. Because temperatures on the Inner Mongolian plateau drop noticeably after sunset even during

peak summer, pack a warm fleece or windproof jacket for sunset viewing by Princess Lake, along with comfortable walking shoes with good grip for the wooden boardwalk steps at Yudaokou's Grand Canyon.

Day 3: Ulan Butong Steppe Adventures & Scenic Drive to China Horse Town — Safari or Horse Riding, Film Base & National No. 1 Scenic Road

Early risers can begin the day between 4:30 AM and 7:00 AM with an optional sunrise photography excursion to **Jiangjun Paozi (General's Lake)**, capturing the dramatic sight of local Mongolian herdsmen driving thundering herds of horses through golden, mist-covered waters at dawn.

After breakfast, tailor your morning to your ideal pace with two distinct grassland adventures: saddle up for a **1-hour horseback ride** from the General's Lake stables across rolling high-plateau meadows followed by the 11:00 AM *Hero* (*Yingxiong*) equestrian stunt show at Princess Lake, or buckle into a rugged 4WD vehicle for an exhilarating **3-hour Grassland Off-Road Safari** surging across the undulating "Earth's Ribs," splashing through crystal-clear streams, and reaching remote panoramic ridges inaccessible to standard vehicles.

Following lunch, visit the renowned **Ulan Butong Film & TV Base**, a vast natural open-air studio that has framed countless historical epics. Take a leisurely 15-minute stroll up the wooden boardwalk to the summit for a sweeping 360-degree panoramic vista across endless steppe waves and scattered silver birch groves.

From there, set off on a 3.5- to 4-hour afternoon drive along China's **National No. 1 Scenic Road**, enjoying front-row views of rolling hills, deep woodlands, and shimmering wetlands before arriving at **China Horse Town Resort** in Fengning—where you can optionally cap the night between 8:00 PM and 10:30 PM with a traditional bonfire dance, the *Legend of the Fire Horse* show, and an outdoor fireworks finale.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

Accommodation: Hotel at China Horse Town Resort, Fengning

Expert Grassland & Safari Insights:
If you opt for the 4:30 AM photography trip at Jiangjun Paozi, dress in warm, windproof layers and bring gloves, as pre-dawn temperatures on the open plateau feel brisk even in mid-summer. Wear long pants and closed-toe shoes with a slight heel if choosing the horseback ride, or secure loose hats and camera straps before setting out on the bumpy backcountry ridges of the 4WD off-road safari. Letting your guide know your preferred morning activity and whether you wish to attend the optional evening shows the night before ensures seamless scheduling and ticket arrangements.

Day 4: China Horse Town Leisure & The Grand Khan's Palace — Return to Beijing & Departure

Following three consecutive days of scenic grassland road trips, enjoy a relaxed final morning with no early driving as you explore **China Horse Town Resort** at your own pace after breakfast. Begin at the **Royal Stables** to admire prized equine breeds from across the globe, from sleek

Arabian thoroughbreds to legendary Akhal-Teke "Heavenly Horses." Depending on your interests, catch the high-energy 11:00 AM stunt and pyrotechnic show *Zhao Zilong* at **Theater No. 1**, watch the acrobatic trick-riding spectacle *Dance with Horses* at **Theater No. 9**, or take a spin on the resort's Ferris Wheel and family amusement rides before strolling down **Food Street** to sample roasted lamb and local nomadic snacks for lunch.

After lunch, take a quick 15-minute drive to **The Grand Khan's Palace**, a monumental complex reconstructed on the historic grounds where Genghis Khan once stationed and trained his elite cavalry during southern expeditions. Walk along the grand central axis through the **Palace Gate** and **Chongtian Gate** past rows of 13th-century military tents, stepping inside the **Golden Assembly Tent**, **Imperial Sleeping Tents**, sacred **Aobao**, and **Altar of Heaven**—with the option to rent a traditional Mongolian robe (*Deel*) for memorable photos against the imperial backdrop.

Later in the afternoon, rejoin your guide and driver for the comfortable return drive to Beijing, concluding your journey with drop-off at your downtown hotel, airport terminal, or railway station.

Meals: Breakfast

Accommodation: Not included (End of Tour Services)

Expert Grassland & Departure Insights:
Because the return drive from Fengning Bashang to downtown Beijing takes roughly 3.5 to 4 hours and can encounter evening commuter traffic along the city ring roads, schedule any departing flights or high-speed trains for late evening—or opt for a hotel drop-off in Beijing if you plan to stay overnight. If you want to watch the 11:00 AM Zhao Zilong show or rent traditional Mongolian Deel robes at The Grand Khan's Palace for daytime portraits, let your guide know at breakfast so showtimes and lunch pacing line up smoothly.

Booking Policy

Cancellation Policy

Cancellation by Customer

- Cancellation received before 60 days: FREE of charge
- Cancellation received from 30 days to 59 days prior arrival date: 20% of total rate
- Cancellation received from 15 days to 29 days prior arrival date: 40% of total rate
- Cancellation received from 7 days to 14 days prior arrival date: 70% of total rate
- Cancellation received less than 7 days prior arrival date or No show: 100% of total rate

Children Policy

The rate for children applicable for one child sharing a twin or double cabin with two adults.

- For infant (<04 years old): Free of Charge

- 04 - 11 years old without bed: 50% adult rate
- 04 - 11 years old with extra bed: 75% adult rate
- Above 11 years old with extra bed: 100% adult rate

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