

*Bosch power vs horse power*

# Two adventurous pedelec pioneers trek across Mongolia on e-bikes

*The founders of Pedelec Adventures – journalist Susanne Brusch and expedition leader Ondra Veltrusky — crossed breathtaking steppes and mountain scenery from the geographical center of Mongolia to its old capital, Karakorum. Here is Susanne's report on how the pedelecs —and the Berlin-based duo — held up:*

*Ondra Veltrusky and  
Susanne Brusch*



We put Bosch's most powerful e-bike system to the test on pedelecs from the German brands Kreidler and Riese and Müller.

We were entirely self-sufficient, charging our bike batteries and other devices with solar panels mounted on trailers. Because each carried about 50kg (110 pounds) of baggage, river crossings and steep upward climbs were a real challenge.

The Tour of Mongolia featured hills and valleys, heat and hail. We rode a brand-new cross bike from Kreidler and a touring bike from Riese and Müller. Both were equipped with Bosch's most powerful pedelec system.

With 350-500 watt motors supporting speeds of up to 45 km/h (28 miles an hour), we traveled down all kinds of pathways, straight across meadows and fields of stone, through brooks and mountainous territory and through marshes and sand.

Our equipment traveled with us in panniers on two trailers. We were loaded up with clothing for any weather, camping equipment, water, food, cameras and other technical gear, spare parts and replacement batteries.

The all-terrain, one-wheeled trailers from Tout Terrain served as our "mules" and mobile charging stations. They were equipped with swiveling solar panels by Ecomoz1. The panels were always tilted towards the sun, allowing us to cover almost our entire energy requirements for the whole tour, despite frequent rain clouds.

The drive systems, bikes, trailers and charging devices withstood every challenge without any major breakdowns. With a traveling speed of up to 30 km/h (18 miles an hour) on the flats, we quickly became accustomed to the extra watts of our e-kits!

What seemed to be so easy to do under electric power quickly turned into strenuous and sweaty endeavors as soon as the battery was drained or the engine shut off.

Under power, however, we were astonished by how smoothly we could master difficult routes with our baggage, and with a little practice. On a normal bike, for example, we would have avoided using the same gear on



*Boys at a Mongolian monastery are fascinated by the pedelecs.*

a steep incline of more than 1,000 meters. But we drove the pedelecs to their limits — as well as ourselves.

The region around the old capital of Karakorum was the toughest terrain we encountered, but in many ways the most rewarding.

There, we visited the Erdene Zuu monastery, which was built in 1586. The striking monastery walls

attention, Erdene Zuu or our vehicles!

All of the Mongolians who tried the pedelecs came back with smiles. It was also unforgettable when we zoomed up a mountain pass neck and neck with Mongolian horsemen. At least, we were neck and neck when their horses just trotted, but when they broke into a gallop, our pedelecs didn't quite have the horsepower to keep up.



*A positive exchange rate: Ondra and Susanne would swap rides on horse or motorbike for a spin on a pedelec.*

once surrounded 60 to 100 temples, of which only three survived the Stalinist purges.

Even though Mongolia's first Buddhist monastery is today just a shadow of what it was during its golden age, the historic site still captivates visitors from all over the world. However, on the day of our visit we don't know who got more

We also learned to slow down in Mongolia and let life flow at its own pace. We visited "gets" (wooden yurts used by nomads) and shared Mongolian tea and bowls of airag (fermented horse milk). Immersing ourselves in rural Mongolian life was a wonderful experience.

To see more about the tour, visit [www.tour-de-mongolia.com](http://www.tour-de-mongolia.com). ■ SB



*Traveling by pedelec allowed easy access to remote sites.*





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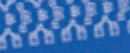
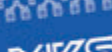
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