



18 DAYS

MONGOLIAN GOLDEN CIRCLE OF HIGHLIGHTS

DETAILED ITINERARY

Meet one of the last nomadic cultures on earth, where a traditional way of life endures as it did a millennium ago. Just three million people inhabit a country the size of Western Europe, half of them still living in portable felt tents called Ger and moving seasonally with their animals.

The tour takes 18 days to cover the most popular travel destinations including Gobi Desert- distinctive landscapes of towering sand dunes, wide open steppes, iced Georges, Rocky Mountains, red cliffs, stunning sunsets and sunrises, UNESCO World Heritage Sites; Karakorum - ruins and museum of ancient and most interesting national parks and much more!

Relaxing in wild nature and explore Mongolian nomadic life style... hiking, horseback and camel riding, climbing to sand dunes, soft hiking and feel free driving through the wilderness are the main activities.

ARRIVE IN ULAANBAATAR, MONGOLIA

DIA 1

Welcome to Ulaanbaatar, the capital city of Mongolia. Upon arrival, you will be greeted by our driver in the arrivals hall at the international airport and transferred to your hotel. After check-in, free at leisure and have a good rest to recover from the jet lag. If you feel like going for a walk and checking out places nearby, feel free to ask the hotel receptionist for recommendations. Accommodation: Hotel 4*. **Meals: not included this day.**

BAGA GAZRIIN CHULUU NATIONAL PARK (B, L, D)

DIA 2

Enjoy breakfast at the hotel and your guide and driver pick you up at 8am. Then your memorable tour starts to Gobi Desert, one of the most popular travel routes in Mongolia, the habitat of the rarest animals and a unique natural landscape. Our first stop will be Baga Gazriin Chuluu which is a beautiful landscape with amazing rock

formations. We will reach tourist camp first and have some rest after delicious lunch. In the afternoon, explore the surrounding area, home for many species of wild animals and birds, such as gazelles, ibex, vultures, hawks and eagles. At night, if the sky is clear, you can stargaze a blanket of stars, possible to sight Milky Way and shooting stars. Accommodation: Tourist camp.



TSAGAAN SUVARGA (B, L, D)

DIA 3

Admire the change of scenery today as you jump into your private vehicle and head to Tsagaan Suvarga. Wander through alleyways to catch a glimpse of the lives of locals and arrive at Tourist camp just beside the Tsagaan Suvarga where we check-in and have a lunch.

Tsagaan Suvarga is big escarpment with 200m height and 400m. The eerie, eroded landscape was once beneath the sea and is rich in marine fossils and clam shells. Over 10 million years the wind has created this amazing structure. This area is an excellent site for hiking and taking photography of the beautiful panoramic views. Having dinner and overnight at Tourist camp. Accommodation: Tourist camp.



YOLYN AM (VULTURE'S VALLEY), GOBI DESERT (B, L, D)

DIA 4

After breakfast, we will go ahead to the Yolyn Am (also called Yol Valley & Vulture's Valley) originally established to conserve birdlife in the region. But it's now more famous for its dramatic and very unusual scenery- its valley in the middle of the Gobi Desert with meters' thick ice almost all year around. The high cliffs that flank the valley are very impressive. You may be lucky enough to spot wild sheep and goat, grazing high on the cliff walls. Accommodation: Tourist camp.



KHONGORYN ELS, THE BIGGEST SAND DUNE IN GOBI DESERT (B, L, D)

DIA 5

Today, we will drive through the wilderness of the Gobi to the extraordinary of Khongor, which is one of the most scenic areas of the Gobi Desert. This impressive white sand dune stretches more than 180km and highest point is around 300m known as Duut Mankhan. Upon arrival at the tourist camp near to the sand dunes, we will have lunch and time for relaxing at cozy Ger camp until Gobi hot temperature decrease. In the late afternoon, we will visit local camel herder family in their gear, and explore their unique nomadic lifestyle. Then, we will ride a camel and explore the area from the camel back. Around the area is the perfect place for camel riding. Mongolia is home to 2/3 of the two-humped Bactrian camels in the world. It is a gentle, calm and extraordinary patient animal. Afterwards, we will make a little excursion to a beautiful green oasis of Seruun Bulag near the Khongor River and sand dunes. Then, take a little drive to the highest point of sand dunes known as Singing Dune and climb up to the Duut Mankhan. When it is windy some of the dunes give a strange sound like the engines of an aero plane. From the top of the sand dunes, the view of the desert is awesome and a breathtaking view. If you want, we can see the amazing sunshine panorama of sand dunes from the top. Dinner and overnight at the tourist camp. Accommodation: Tourist camp.



BAYANZAG & FLAMING CLIFFS (B, L, D)

DIA 6

Freshen up in the morning and start your day to the Bayanzag – Precipitous banks, hillocks, and hardened clay soil, mostly unchanged since Cretaceous period, blaze brilliant shades of red and orange at sunset- hence the name “Flaming cliffs” as dubbed by American paleontologist Roy Chapman Andrews on his expeditions to the region in the 1920s. Their findings proved to the world that dinosaurs laid eggs.

We will explore around significant area, including the saxual trees and wander on the red hillocks. Photo shooting of the flaming cliffs and watching a documentary about this wonderful place is suggested in the evening. Dinner and overnight at Tourist camp near to the Bayanzag. Accommodation: Tourist camp.



BAYANZAG FLAMING CLIFFS – ONGI MONASTERY (B, L, D)

DIA 7

Travel south through vast steppe with mysterious mirage to reach Ongi river valley. This small mountainous area along the Ongi river makes a good resting place to break a trip between the south Gobi and Mountain range. Ongi Temple was established in 1660 and once composed of 30 temples, 4 big Buddhism universities. It was destroyed by the communist purges of the 1930s and is being restored by a number of monks.

Nowadays that one temple serves as a museum. When you reach Tourist camp, you will have lunch and explore ruins of the monastery. The views of the ruins, river, Tourist camps and the surrounding area are very impressive, you can see from any of the nearby hills. The rest of the day is yours to relax on your own. Accommodation: Tourist camp.



KHARKHORIN & ERDENE ZUU BUDDHIST MONASTERY (B, L, D)

DIA 8

After enchanting days in Gobi Desert, we will head to Kharkhorin, a small village, and one of the country's major tourist destinations. Historically known as Kharkhorum, which was an ancient capital of Mongolia Empire founded by Genghis Khan in 1220. Also, Kharkhorum was one of the most important cities in the history of the Silk Road. On our way, we will have a lunch in local field restaurant, Smoke & Steppe which has an incredible tasty barbeque and continue to Kharkhorin. Upon arrival, we will visit the museum of Kharakhorum and learn more about the beautiful ancient Karakorum city and Genghis Khan. Continue to visit the magnificent and the oldest Buddhist Monastery complex of Erdenezuu, built in the 16th century, with 108 Buddhism stupas. Here you can see interesting listen to monk chanting Buddhist sutras. Accommodation: Tourist camp.



TSETSERLEG – TAIKHAR CHULUU– TERKHIIN TSAGAAN LAKE NATIONAL PARK (B, L, D)

DIA 9

This morning our excursion continue to Taikhar Chuluu, which is a huge granite rock formation covered with inscriptions in many different languages and dating back from many different periods. En-route, we will visit Tsetserleg town, which is a capital of Arkhangai province with population of around 20,000. Tsetserleg means garden and the city surrounded with scenic mountains, the streets are tree-lined and a lovely little temple overlooks the town. In the afternoon, drive towards to the Khorgo extinct volcano which was active 8000 years ago and travel through the steppe, green forested Mountains and pastures, where the long-haired yaks and horse thrive. After exploring the volcano and climb to the crater, we will arrive at Terkhiiin Tsagaan Lake. There, we will stay at tourist camp near to the lake shore for 2 nights. Accommodation: Tourist camp.



TERKHIIN TSAGAAN LAKE NATIONAL PARK. (B, L, D)

DIA 10

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JARGAL HOT SPRINGS – ULZIIT KHISHIG (NORTHERN MONGOLIA) (B, L, D)

DIA 11

After a beautiful night that we have spent on the shore of the lake, our excursion continues towards to the Northern part of Mongolia through beautiful nature routes, vast grasslands cross High Mountain passes. Lunch at Jargal Jiguur Tourist camp. You can take some refreshment at the Jargalant Hot Springs. The spring comes out from 150 m of the ground and its water is not mixed with soil, waters because it is hot at 70 Celsius degrees. The spring produces water that is good for health reasons. On the way, we stop for overnight and dinner at Tourist camp along the way to northern Mongolia. Accommodation: Tourist camp.



MURUN TOWN – KHUVSGUL LAKE NATIONAL PARK (B, L, D)

DIA 12

Today, you will be picked up from your hotel and transferred to the city airport to board the flight to Murun, the town of Northern Province. Your adventure begins with a welcome meeting at Murun airport by our professional stuffs and depart to the Khuvsgul Lake, which is known as the Switzerland of Mongolia and the second clearest lake in Central Asia. Take a 2 hours' drive to the Khatgal village on the shore of the lake and explore the village's life, the market and main port of the lake. Check-in and dinner at Tourist camp, which is located near to the

lake. Rest of the day is free time for you to be on your own on the shore of the beautiful lake. Accommodation: Tourist camp.



FULL DAY AT KHUVSGUL LAKE NATIONAL PARK (B, L, D)

DIA 13

This morning, we will take a boat trip and visit reindeer herders and explore their daily life, custom and sacraments. Khovsgol province is home to the southernmost indigenous reindeer herding people (Tsaatan) in the world. Some of Tsaatan families came from remote Taiga at the summer camp near to the lake from June until end of August. The evening is dedicated to horse riding trip and especially Khovsgol Lake is the best recommended place for this experience. After given preliminary instructions, orientation about horse riding, we will discover the nature from horseback. Accommodation: Tourist camp.



FLY BACK TO ULAANBAATAR (B, L,)

DIA 14

After beautiful days on the shore of the lake, we will drive to the local airport in Murun town and take a return flight to Ulaanbaatar. On the way, we will visit Uushig ancient Deer Stone Monument as another wonder of the Khovsgul region. This is most clearly depicted deer stones left behind by bronze-age men. A deer, an arch, a shield, a horse, a knife, the moon, the sun and a mirror figured belt were engraved on the stones. Upon arrival in the city airport and transferred to the hotel. The rest of the day is at leisure for your individual activities. Accommodation: Hotel 4*.

ULAANBAATAR – HUSTAI NATIONAL PARK (B, L, D)

DIA 15

Your tour guide and driver pick you up from your hotel lobby at 9am and drive out of the city to Hustai National Park. This area is home to the Mongolian wild horse known as Perzevalski horse (takhi) with unique landscape that features mountain and steppe. After check-in and lunch at Tourist camp, we will drive for wild life observation in southern valley of Ungut Mountain in the national park and to see Ungut, a monument ensemble consisting of man stones from the 6-8th centuries AD. Continue to explore the national park and hiking to see the wild horses in their natural habitat. There is great opportunity to take photo for these endangered horses. If you are lucky, you can see fox, deer, roe deer, eagle, and more animals and birds... Accommodation: Tourist camp.



TERELJ NATIONAL PARK (B, L, D)

DIA 16

Today, we will depart for Terelj National Park. This is one of the most visited national parks in Mongolia which is by its natural beauty, forested alpine mountains and interesting rock formations (Massive wool-sack weather conditions) very well known. In the afternoon, we will explore the national park and see Turtle Rock - interesting rock formation looking like a turtle. Also, visit the Ariyabal meditation temple - surrounded by scenic mountains with massive rock formations and sits on top of the mountain. From the top, you can enjoy the breathtaking view overlooking the Terelj National Park. Accommodation: Tourist camp.



GENGHIS KHAN'S STATUE COMPLEX – ULAANBAATAR CITY TOUR (B, L, D)

DIA 17

After breakfast, we will return to Ulaanbaatar. On the way visit “Genghis Khan Statue Complex” which is currently the biggest (40m high) equestrian statue in the world. There is a recreation area, restaurants, and souvenir shops occupy the base structure. From here, you can ascend to the head of the horse using an elevator. There you have a good panoramic view over the complex area and the scenery beyond. You are now definitely in Genghis Khan's homeland. Lunch at local restaurant in the city, then visit Sukhbaatar square which lies at the heart of the city surrounded by important buildings such as government palace, banks and theaters and post office. There is an equestrian statue of Sukhbaatar and a massive bronze statue of Genghis Khan with his four warriors in front of Parliament House. Continue to visit the Museum of Mongolian National History – the museum presents Mongolian history and culture from prehistoric times to the present day. Our next highlight is a famous cultural show in the city, which is featuring traditional performances by singers, dancers and contortionists. It's a great chance to hear Khöömii (throat singing) and see some fabulous costumes. After dinner, transferred to the hotel. Accommodation: Hotel 4*.



DEPARTURE (B)

DIA 18

You will be free at leisure in your hotel or wander around on your own until being escorted to the Chinggis Khaan International Airport for your departure flight home. **END OF SERVICE.**

WHAT'S INCLUDED:

- ◆ English speaking tour guide at all times,
- ◆ 17 nights' accommodation:
- ◆ Good 4* hotel in the city – 3 nights, based on double/twin.
- ◆ Best Tourist camps in countryside trip – 14 nights on twin share,
- ◆ All the meals as listed in the itinerary: Breakfast - 17, Lunch - 16, Dinner –15,
- ◆ Private Transfers/Transport with comfortable vehicles, o 4WD minivan or Jeep (Lexus 470) depending on number of people for the overland trip.
- ◆ Internal flights: + included all taxes, free luggage allowance is 15kg
- ◆ All sightseeing and entrance fees are mentioned as program,
- ◆ A cultural performance,
- ◆ Camel riding in Gobi ~1 hour,
- ◆ Horse riding at Khovsgol ~ half day (2-3hours),
- ◆ Complementary drink water during the tour,
- ◆ All service charges, local and Gov't tax
- ◆ Visa invitation letter, if required

WHAT'S NOT INCLUDED:

- ◆ Visa to Mongolia (Get in advance) – [Click here more info.](#)
- ◆ International flights & Travels insurance
- ◆ Hotel early check-in and late check-out,
- ◆ Tipping and other personal expenses
- ◆ Other services not mentioned in the itinerary
- ◆ Excess luggage charges – 1.5\$ per kg for internal flights,

REMARKERS:

- ◆ All accommodations will be confirmed after booking confirmation but the hotels have the right to change/cancel the reservation due to government activity or any other uncontrollable circumstances. The same class hotels / Ger camp will be booked accordingly to ensure the schedule in each place not to be affected.
 - ◆ If this program includes domestic flight, that is subject to change due to latest timetable of the airlines.
 - ◆ Hotel based on double/twin share. Only twin share is available in all Ger camps.
 - ◆ Tipping and gratuities are the best way to show your satisfaction of the services you received from the guides and drivers, not compulsory, but highly recommended.
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TOUR DESTINATIONS & HIGHLIGHTS

Mongolia is one of the world's last truly nomadic cultures. For millennia, pastoral herders have lived on almost every corner of Mongolian, moving with their livestock according to the seasons. They still live in traditional felt Ger tents, subsisting on the meat and milk of their animals, and living "as free as the country is wide."

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