

## Best of Mongolia (15 days)

### The Gobi Desert and Central Mongolia

#### Day 1. Arrival

Upon arrival in Ulaanbaatar, you will be greeted by your guide and driver. Transfer to a hotel. If time permits optional half or full day city sightseeing is available on request.

#### Day 2. Terelj National Park (170 km)

After breakfast at the hotel, drive to Terelj national park located 70km northeast of Ulaanbaatar. Spend the day exploring the area and enjoying the magnificent alpine scenery. Visit the symbol of the Terelj national park – The Turtle Rock. Trek up the peaceful Ariyapala meditation center. After lunch at a local ger camp, visit a horse-breeding nomad family. You may learn how the modern-day nomads fare and how the traditional lifestyle has been preserved over the thousands of years. Return to the city after an hour of horse riding in the national park. Transfer to your hotel. (L/D)



#### Day 3. Baga Gazriin Chuluu (220 km)



In the early morning, begin your journey to Baga Gazriin Chuluu, roughly translated as lesser Rock formation. Visit old temple ruins located by the formation and explore the area. Lunch, dinner and overnight stay in a Ger camp (LD).

#### Day 4. Tsagaan Suvarga (230 km)

After breakfast visit the ruins of Sum Khukh Burd Temple. Continue driving to Tsagaan Suvarga, a fascinating white limestone cliff which resembles a Stupa. To some, it may even remind the ancient ruins of Petra. Lunch, dinner and overnight stay in a Ger camp (BLD).



#### Day 5. Yol Valley (220km)



Drive further south. Arrive at the Three Beauties of Gobi mountain range. Spend the day on an excursion to Yol Valley, hiking and enjoying stunning photographic opportunities. Lunch, dinner and overnight stay in a Ger camp (B/L/D).

**Day 6. Khongor Sand Dunes (220 km)**

After breakfast, drive to Khongor Sand Dunes also known as the Singing Dunes. After settling at the camp, visit a nomadic camel-breeding family and experience the hospitality of Mongolian nomads. Reach the sand dunes upon the backs of two humped camel. A climb up to the sand dunes will be rewarded with breathtaking views. In the evening observe a spectacular sunset, please prepare your cameras. Lunch, dinner and overnight stay in a Ger camp (B/L/D).

**Day 7. Bayanzag (170 km)**

Drive to the world-famous Flaming Cliffs (Bayanzag), rich in saxaul trees of Gobi. Explore the site of the first paleontological discoveries in Mongolia which immortalized the name of Roy Chapman Andrews, (January 26, 1884 – March 11, 1960), an American explorer, adventurer and naturalist. Lunch, dinner, and overnight stay in a Ger camp (B/L/D).

**Day 8. Ongi Monastery (185 km)**

After breakfast drive north, visit the ruins of the once great Ongi Monastery, one of the three olden major Monastic centers of Mongolia. Visit the ancient monastery grounds and visit the site undergoing a slow rebuilding process. Dinner and overnight stay in a Ger camp (B/L/D).

**Day 9. Kharkhorin (300 km)**

After breakfast at the camp, drive towards the town of Kharkhorin located on the site of the capital of the 13<sup>th</sup> century Great Mongol Empire. The town is home to the Erdene-Zuu Monastery, which was the first and the largest Buddhist monastery in Mongolia. The monastery was subject to Stalinist Purge of 1937, but parts of the monastery survived. Tour the monastery and visit several temples with excellent examples of Buddhist Thangka paintings and statues dating back to the 17<sup>th</sup> century. Visit the Kharkhorin museum which presents a display of a wide range of artifacts that can be traced back to the periods of the Great Mongol Empire and even the Turkic State which ruled Mongolia in the 6<sup>th</sup> century CE. Overnight stay in a Ger camp. (B/L/D)

**Day 10. Tsenkher Hot Spring (120 km)**

stay in a Ger camp. (B/L/D)

In the morning, drive to the Tsenkher hot spring located in Arkhangai province. The province had large amounts of volcanic activities in the past times which has left an exotic image in many of its areas. Spend the day enjoying a full access to a relaxing natural spa and trekking in the surrounding forest. Please do not forget to pack your swimsuit for this day. Optional massage and beauty services are available. Overnight

**Day 11. Tsenkher Hot Springs**

Enjoy this day at your leisure as we take a break from the long days' driving. Enjoy the nature and hot spa. You can discuss options for exploring the local area with your tour guide. Overnight stay in a Ger camp. (B/L/D)

**Day 12. Lake Ugi (140 km)**

Drive to Lake Ugi in Eastern part of Arkhangai province. Settle at a camp located on the shore of Lake Ugi. A magnificent view of the lake and water birds will be at your doorsteps. The lake is considered as Ramsar Site of International importance and is home to different types of migrating birds. Optional boating and fishing activities available. Overnight stay in a Ger camp. (B/L/D)

**Day 13. Khustai National Park (270 km)**

After breakfast at the Ger camp, drive to Khustai national park founded in 1993 after the Dutch effort to reintroduce the Przewalski wild horses back into their natural habitat. The horses had become extinct in Mongolia in the mid-1960s and currently are the only wild horse species in the world. Upon arrival in the national park, visit a local information center to learn the history and

lifestyle of the horses. After watching a short documentary about the reintroduction of the horses to Mongolia, drive deep into the national park to see the wild horses who are also known as Takhi in Mongolia. If you have binoculars, we would recommend bringing them along. Overnight stay in a Ger camp. (B/L/D)

**Day 14. Ulaanbaatar (380 km)**

After breakfast, head towards Ulaanbaatar. Lunch along the way. Transfer to Hotel upon arrival. Optional half day tour/ folk arts concert available. (B/L).

**Day 15. Departure**

Transfer to the airport or the train station for international departure. (B)

**Naadam package:**

Naadam Festival package +450\$ (GROUP 2)

Danshig Naadam package +100\$ GROUP 3)

**Group size:**

Minimum 3pax/ Maximum 15pax

**Departure dates:**

GROUP 1: 13<sup>th</sup> of June – 27<sup>th</sup> of June/2019

GROUP 2: 09<sup>th</sup> of July – 23<sup>rd</sup> of July/2019 (With the Naadam Festival at the BEGINNING)

GROUP 3: 01<sup>st</sup> of August – 15<sup>th</sup> of August/2019) (With the Danshig Naadam Festival at the BEGINNING)

**Tour includes:**

- Transfers upon arrival and departure
- English speaking guide at all times.
- In the countryside all lodging will be in Ger camps on standard twin basis
- All meals are provided as stated in the itinerary
- Ground transportation: in the countryside by a chauffeur-driven 4WD vehicle, minivan or bus in the city area.
- Park entrance fees
- Sightseeing as per itinerary
- 1 liter of drinking water per day per person

**Package price DOES NOT INCLUDE:**

Accommodation in a hotel or hostel in Ulaanbaatar, hotel extras, such as telephone calls, bar bills and laundry services, travel insurance, medical insurance, visa application fees, alcoholic beverages, personal expenses such as items of a personal nature, gratuity to local guides and drivers, international airfare or train tickets, airport taxes, excess baggage charges (over 33 pounds / 15 kilograms), changes of arrival/departure flights, additional services, any charges of force majeure beyond our control (e.g. imposition of quarantine restrictions, etc.), optional excursions unless stated in your itinerary, etc.