

"The GRAND TOUR"

"Don't tell me how educated you are, tell me how much you traveled" Mohammed



- D1. Arrival in Ulaanbaatar
- D2. Ulaanbaatar Baga gazriin chuluu
- D3. Baga gazriin chuluu Tsagaan suvarga
- D4. Tsagaan suvarga Dalanzadgad Yol valley
- D5. Yol valley -Khongor dunes
- D6. Khongor dunes
- D7. Khongor dunes Bayanzag
- D8. Bayanzag Ongi monastery
- D9. Ongi monastery Orkhon valley
- D10. Orkhon valley Tuvkhun monastery
- D11. Orkhon valley Orkhon waterfall
- D12. Orkhon valley Karakorum Khogno khan
- D13. Khogno khan Khustai national parc
- D14. Khustai national parc Ulaanbaatar
- D15. Departure from Ulaanbaatar









Today's highlight

- Ulaanbaatar city tour
- Gandan Monastery
- National History Museum

As you arrive at the Chinggis Khaan international airport in Ulaanbaatar, the capital city of Mongolia, your guide-interpreter and driver will welcome you at the airport and lead you on to the city tour.

The capital has plenty to offer.

On the tour you will visit the Gandan Monastery, a historical and spiritual Buddhist temple in the city.

Lunch in a typical diner

Then you can walk around the National History Museum and the Sukhbaatar Square in front of the Mongolian Parliament house to help you get a general knowledge and information about the Mongolian history and culture.

Dinner in hotel restaurant

Night in "Bayangol" 4* hotel









ULAANBAATAR – BAGA GAZRIIN CHULUU (250 km / 4h)

Today's highlight

• Departure to Baga gazriin chuluu

Day 2

Breakfast at hotel

After breakfast, with your trip team you will depart to the southern region to reach the Baga Gazriin Chuluu, massive granite formations in the middle of the dusty plains. Attention, the road is not all asphalt and is full of potholes!

Lunch on the way

Still, at your destination the view is beautiful: an undulating landscape with horses, cows, sheep and goats grazing in the vast landscape, occasionally herded by a horseman with a lasso on a long stick in his hand.

Upon your arrival you can set up your tents on the granite formations.

Walk in the frame to visit the ruins of the monastery, destroyed in the years of massive purges, and a small spring revered by the local people.

Dinner in nature, prepared by your guide

Overnight in bivouac tent









BAGA GAZRIIN CHULUU – TSAGAAN SUVARGA (210 km / 4h) These days' highlights

Stroll around the Tsagaan suvraga

Breakfast Picnic

The tour continues and you descend further south by 4×4 to the Tsagaan Suvargalocated in Ulziit Soum, Dund-Gobi province.

Lunch on the way

Tsagaan Suvarga(White Stupa) is an impressive cliff which had been eroded naturally. Having 10 million years of history, the cliff indicates different eras by its colored layers.

With its sheer slope facing east, from a distance the natural mass looks like ruins of an ancient city or Buddhist stupas, hence its name White Stupa (the name was given by the locals)

Here, you'll feel as if you've landed on Mars!

Dinner at camp

Overnight in "Gobi caravanserai" eco camp









TSAGAAN SUVARGA – DALANZADGAD – YOL VALLEY

(200 km / 3h0)

Today's highlight

- GurvanSaikhanNational Park
- Yoliin Am museum

Breakfast Picnic

On this day, you will reach the GurvanSaikhanNational Park.

The park hosts more than 200 bird species and you can find more than 600 different plant species. There are gazelles, gerbils and even snow leopards.

Lunch on the way

After visiting the small museum of Yoliin Am ("Vultures valley" in Mongolian), you can take a nice stroll through the valley which ends by a chasm. If you are lucky you can see one of the massive vultures who habit there, which also gives their name to the valley.

On foot or on horseback, you move into the groove formed by the riverbed, and might be surprised to find a small hidden glacier believed to be eternal.

Dinner in nature, prepared by your guide Overnight in bivouac tent









YOL VALLEY – KHONGOR DUNES

(180 km / 3h0)

Today's highlight

• Departure to the Dunes of Khongor

Breakfast

Continuing the trip, you arrive at the national park of Khongor with its spectacular sand dunes like Duut Mankhan, meaning the singing dune.

The dunes extending up to the foot of the high Altai Mountains range, lie about 180 kilometers from Dalanzadgad.

Lunch on the way

It is at a distance of 130 kilometers along the desert tracks to Bogd in Uvurkhangai in the north, and 215 kilometers to Bayanligon the northwest in Bayan Khongor.

Travel through the desert is either by camel rides or by cars with drivers who are knowledgeable about the desert.

Dinner at camp

Overnight in "Gobi erdene" yurt camp











Day 6 KHONGOR DUNES (20 km / 3h0)

Today's highlight

- Tour of the Dunes of Khongor
- Camel ride (Optional)

Breakfast

This day will be spent in the area, climbing and walking the dunes.

The dunes cover an area of approximately 20 kilometers wide and more than 100 kilometers long! Some are even up to 200 meters high!

Lunch on the way

It is intense to climb to the tops of the sand dunes and with much effort, you can overcome the sandhills.

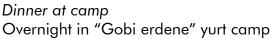
In the end, the reward is the incredibly beautiful view of the whole desert.

If you want, you can choose to have a tour riding a camel (optional)











KHONGOR DUNES - BAYANZAG (160 km / 3h30)

These days' highlights

- Depart to Bayanzag
- Visit Bayanzag visitor museum

Breakfast Picnic

After breakfast, with your team you will depart to Bayanzag, which is also called the Flaming Cliffs (Flaming Rocks). The rocky landscape gives a glowing orange color, like its name suggests.

Lunch on the way

This is the region, in the Gobi Desert, where dinosaur fossils have been found. American paleontologist Roy Chapman Andrews gave this region its name after he visited it and found dinosaur eggs in 1920.

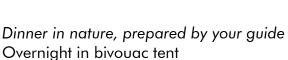
These eggs not only established that all the dinosaurs were oviparous, but also inspired a certain Steven Spielberg for Jurassic Park.

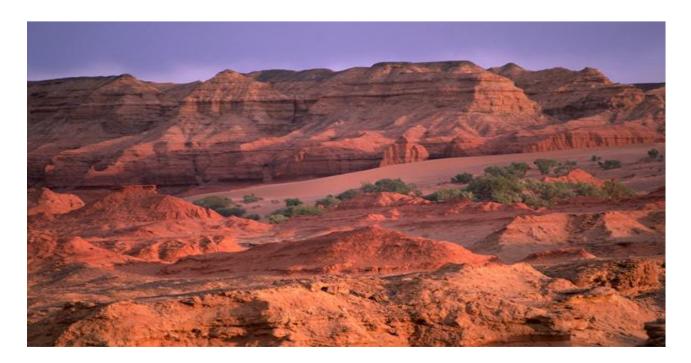
Other discoveries have also been made in the area such as the remains of a velociraptor.











BAYANZAG – ONGI MONASTERY (150 km / 3h00)

Today's highlight

- Ongi monastery ruins
- Ongi museum

Breakfast Picnic

Leaving the desert after breakfast, you will be continuing your journey in direction of the ruins of Ongi Khiid (Ongi monastery).

In the last century, Ongi Khiid was one of the largest monasteries in Mongolia, but it was destroyed in 1939 during the Stalinist purge of religious and cultural heritages.

Its peculiarity is that it separates into two parts, on one side and on the other of the banks of the Ongi River.

Lunch on the way

You arrive at the ruins early in the afternoon and can spend the day exploring the ruins of Ongi, some petroglyphs in the rocky masses, its small museum and the landscape around.

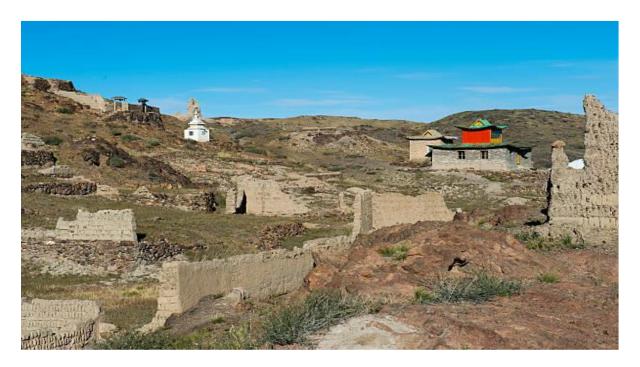








Dinner at camp
Overnight in "Secret of Ongi" yurt camp



Day 9

BAYANZAG – ONGI MONASTERY (190 km / 4h00) Today's highlight

Departure to Orkhon Valley

Breakfast

Today, your team will drive towards the Orkhon Valley, which was inscribed by UNESCO as a World Heritage (one of a few in Mongolia) as representing evolution of nomadic pastoral traditions and includes numerous archaeological remains dating back to the 6th century.

The beauty of the natural site consists not only of green plains and hills bursting with basalt lines extending on both sides of the Orkhon River, but also of deer steles, hirgesuur(tombs in cairn), tombs with slabs, anthropomorphic and zoomorphic statues, ruins of ancient capitals.

Lunch on the way

At the end of the day, you will arrive at the "URSA MAJOR" geolodge, located on the valley.









At night, when the sky is clear, you can stargaze by MEADE LX-200, the most powerful telescope in Mongolia. You can observe the stars, planets and galaxies from the steppes of the Orkhon Valley...

Dinner at camp Cozy night under a yurt in "URSA MAJOR" geolodge



Day 10

ORKHON VALLEY – TUVKHUN MONASTERY (80 km / 2h00)

Today's highlight

- Hike to Tuvkhun Monastery
- Visit a traditional nomadic family

Breakfast at camp

After breakfast, you will take off in the direction of Shireet Mountain.

On this day, you will be hiking and visiting the Tuvkhun monastery, which is in the mountains, far from people and cities.

Picnic lunch

Arriving at the parking area, you can start hiking through the conifer forest to reach the monastery located at 2300 meters high.

The temple was built in 1654 to serve as a refuge for Zanabazar, the 1st Bogd Gegeen(spiritual and political leader) of Mongolia. A refuge where he drew his inspiration as a religious leader and lavish artist.









It was in this monastery that Zanabazar created the Soyombo alphabet, which later became a national symbol of Mongolia, and has been on the national flag since 1921.

After hiking down, you will visit a nomadic family to stay with and get to know the traditional Mongolian lifestyle



Day 11

ORKHON VALLEY – ORKHON WATERFALL (80 km / 2h00)

These days' highlights

- Visit Orkhon waterfall
- Return to Mongolian family

Breakfast with family

After breakfast with the family, take off to the Orkhon waterfall.

Located in the heart of the valley, it is one of the best sights in central Mongolia.

Lunch on the way

The waterfall was formed by a unique combination of volcano eruptions and earthquakes.

The fall is naturally most impressive after heavy rain, but getting there allows you to pace around the beautiful area.

At about fifteen meters high, it offers a nice walk along the banks of the river and, after a difficult descent, at the bottom of canyon!









After returning to the family settlement, you can discover more about the traditional nomadic lifestyle.

Dinner with Mongolian family Overnight with a nomadic family



Day 12

ORKHON VALLEY – KHOGNO KHAN (160 km / 3h30)

Today's highlight

- Visit to Karakorum & ErdenezuuMonastery
- Departure towards Khogno khan mountains

Breakfast with family

Early in the morning, you will depart and start the tour of Karakorum, the ancient capital of the Mongol Empire during the time of Chinggis Khaan (1162-1227).

Lunch in a canteen in Karakorum

The current city of Karakorum is above all the home of the best-known monastery in Mongolian territory: Erdene Zuu. Erdene Zuu means' hundred treasures. The building dates from 1586 and once consisted of more than a hundred temples.

Sadly, the complex has been subjected to many political ups and downs, at last being actively restored since 1990 around twenty remain today. The complex is fully fenced and every fifteen meters there are stupas, 108 in total, in the walls.



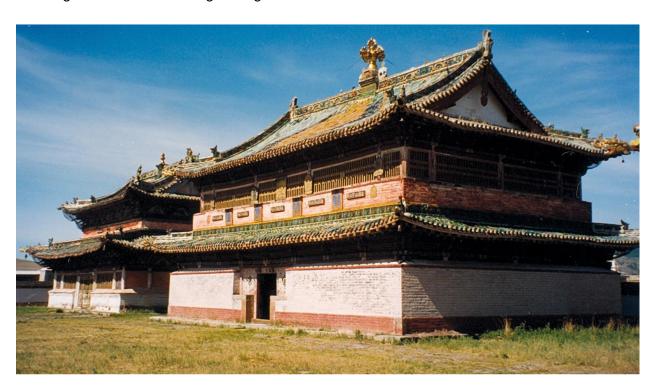






Continuing after the city, you travel by car to Khogno Khan Nature reserve. The Khogno Khan Mountains, considered sacred since the time of the Turks, presents very beautiful massive stone formations.

Dinner at camp Overnight in "Sweet Gobi" geolodge



Day 13

KHOGNO KHAN – KHUSTAI PARK (180 km / 3h30) Today's highlight

 Observation of wild horses of Przewalski at Khustai park

Breakfast at camp

After breakfast, the drive to the Khustai Mountains starts.

You will be heading to the natural reserve of Khustai National Park, known for its famous Przewalski horses, called Takhi in Mongolian.

These small "prehistoric" horses have been featured in cave paintings that go back more than 15 000 years and can be found in the Lascaux caves! These horses disappeared naturally in the 1960s, but were reintroduced to Mongolia through zoos from different countries. Since the arrival of twenty wild horses in 1992, the population has increased to about 300!

Lunch on the way







You can visit the National Park information center and get more history about the area and in the afternoon, you will be able to observe the wild horses as they descend from the mountains.

There are many other species of protected animals in the park: the red deer, Siberian roe deer, wild boars, Mongolian gazelle, gray wolf, Pallas's cat, Eurasian lynx and many more.

Dinner at camp Overnight in "Khustai" yurt camp



Day 14

KHUSTAI PARK - ULAANBAATAR (100 km / 2h00)

Today's highlight

- Return to Ulaanbaatar city
- Souvenir shopping at the State Department Store
- Watch a Mongolian Folk concert

Breakfast at camp

After breakfast you return to the capital Ulaanbaatar and arrive at your hotel.

Take this time to have a little rest.

Lunch in a typical diner

Then you'll go shopping in the State Department Store, the largest shopping mall in Mongolia, a leftover of the Soviet occupation.









There, you can find cashmere, leather, and whatever you want for souvenirs, presents and gifts.

In the evening you'll indulge in Mongolian culture with a folklore show, concert of traditional music and contortion.

You'll hear performances with the Traditional Mongolian instrument Morin Khuur, a two-string fiddle adorned with a carved horse's head; overtone singing, previously only used by shamans to enter into communication with the spirits.

At last, a farewell dinner with your guide in a traditional Mongolian restaurant to wrap up an excellent journey full of memories.

Farewell dinner

Night in "Bayangol" 4* hotel



Day 15

DEPARTURE FROM ULAANBAATAR

(50 km / 50 min)

Breakfast at the hotel

After breakfast, your team will drive you to the Airport/Train station 2 hours before your departure.

Have a farewell with your team for the last time and check-in to your flight.

We wish you all a safe journey back!







Thank you for visiting Mongolia!

END OF SERVICES

RATES:

4350\$ p.pers / based on 1 pax/ 2810\$ p.pers / based on 2 pax/ 2290\$ p.pers / based on 3-5 pax/ 2020\$ p.pers / based on 6-8 pax/

SERVICES

included

Transport

Pick up & Delivery from station Private vehicle –14D







Gasoline

<u>Accommodation</u>

4* hotel in UB -2N

Bivouac tent -5N

Tourist camp -5N

Guest yurt -2N

All stay: Full board + Bottled water

Team

English speaking guide -14D

Driver -14D

Sites & activities

Entrance fee to all places and museums mentioned in the program

not included

- •International transport tickets
- •Visa
- •Insurance
- •Optional activities (Horseback riding, Camel riding, etc.)
- •Sleeping bag (for guest yurt)
- •Extra drinks & food
- Personal expenses
- •Tips



