

Nomads' Treasure: Inspiration of Ancient Mongolia and Buddhism

Destination: Central Mongolia, Tuv, Bayangobi, Kharkhorin

Hot spots: Bayangobi, Mongol Els sand dunes, Kharkhorin and Erdenezuu Monastery

Lengths: 3 nights/4 days

Adventure level: Soft

Total driving km: 830 km

Vehicle type: drive, (mini van and bus)

Season: April 15 – October 15

In 1578 Altan Khan, a Mongol nobleman and military leader with ambitions to unite the Mongols and to emulate the career of Chinggis, invited the head of the rising Yellow Sect of Tibetan Buddhism. Since then Yellow Sect Buddhism spread throughout Mongolia. Tibetan styled monasteries were built across Mongolia, often sited at the juncture of trade and migration routes or at summer pastures. Traditionally, monasteries were centers both of learning and of power. In the pre-revolutionary period, Mongolia was ruled by a series of Living Buddhas called Javzandamba. It is estimated Mongolia had 100 000 monks in 1921; one third of the male population. In the 1930s, this intellectual power became the focus of a ruthless series of purges. Today, Mongolia is once again embracing its Buddhist heritage. Monasteries are being restored and are once again crowded with worshippers.



Day 1. Bayangobi/Ruins of Uvgun Monastery. After early morning breakfast, we start to drive to Bayangobi. It is a unique place with many different forms of natural landscape; combination of a Gobi sand dunes, forests and rocky mountains. Opportunities to hike in the small sand dunes and riding a camel. Lunch in the ger camp. In the afternoon we visit Erdene Khambyn Khuree which is

20 kms drive from the camp. The monastery is located in the majestic looking Khugnu Khaan mountain. Enlightened Bogd Gegeen Zanabazar, a religious leader, philosopher, artist and sculptor was founded these Uvgun and Zaluu temples for his religious teacher. The soldiers of Oirad nobleman Galdan boshigt destroyed the monasteries and assassinated the monks in 1688. We have wonderful opportunities to visit horse breeder's family and experience making of airag, the Mongolian traditional drink made by mare's milk. Horse riding opportunities on true Mongolian wooden saddles. Overnight in the ger camp.



Day 2. Kharkhorin/Erdenezuu Monastery. After breakfast we have a full busy day excursion around Kharkhorin; an ancient Capital of Great Mongolian Empire and main treasure of Mongolian Buddhism,

One Mongolia. Many Adventures

an Erdenezuu Monastery. Kharkhorin was established in the valley of Orkhon river in 1220. It was one of the stop points of legendary Silk Road for 140 years. Kharkhorin played significant role in Mongolian history and was a capital city of Mongolian Great Empire until Khubilai Khaan, a grandson of Chinggis Khaan moved the capital to Beijing of Yuan Dynasty. We witness the almost 800 years old worshipping Turtle Rock near the temple. Erdenezuu Monastery – the first Buddhist monastery was founded by Avtai Sain Khaan, descendant of Chinggis Khaan, on the ruins of Kharkhorin in 1586. The monastery is surrounded by beautiful looking white walls with 108 stupas. For centuries it was a spiritual and intellectual centre of Mongolia and there are extraordinary collection of Buddhist paintings, priceless religious objects, special dresses for Tsama religious dance and excellently made Buddhist iconography with true Mongolian and Tibetan style. Return to camp.

Day 3. Hustai National Park. Early morning breakfast we start our day trip to the Hustai National Park. On the way we explore forest steppe and steppe landscape with cool temperature and many wild birds and flowers. Arrive in the camp and lunch there. The park lies in the foothills of southern Khentii mountain range and it is the place where you can see wild horse called Takhi known as Przewalski horse to the world. The wild horses survive in nature by themselves because they have been reintroduced successfully to their homeland after 40 years of extinction. Currently, the number of Takhi has already reached more than 170. Continue our drive back to Ulaanbaatar-the nations' capital.

Package price per person in USD:

<i>1 pax</i>	<i>2 pax</i>	<i>3-5 pax</i>	<i>6-9 pax</i>
<i>\$978</i>	<i>\$637</i>	<i>\$488</i>	<i>\$440</i>

The package includes:

- 3 meals a day during the trip
- English speaking guide
- Transportation
- Accommodation at Mongolian ger camps
- Sightseeing as per itinerary
- Entrance fees to museum and National Park

Upgrade:

Deluxe ger with private bath and shower- \$55 per person per night in twin sharing ger

Single supplement:

Single standard ger - \$30 per ger per night
 Single deluxe ger - \$55 per ger per night

Supplement for other languages:

- German speaking guide- \$25 per day
- French speaking guide - \$50 per day