

Mongolia – Land of Genghis Kahn

Tour Code MG

Mongolia has a rich history, stretching back to the empires of Genghis Khan and the Mongolian people have a heritage steeped in tradition and culture. This tour comprehensively includes the country's historical riches as well as its natural beauty. From the Gobi Desert to snow-capped mountains and grassy steppes, where wild horses and nomads roam, Mongolia is one of the world's last great wilderness regions. As a bonus, our tour includes a village (and uncrowded) version of Naadam, a colourful and spectacular sporting event that dates back to the time of the Great Kahn himself.



Mongolian Nomad girl

ITINERARY

Day 1 Fly to Ulaan Bataar via Berlin

Day 2 Arrive in Ulaan Bataar

Lunchtime arrival into Ulaan Bataar and transfer to the Edelweiss Hotel for two nights. Spend afternoon on an introduction tour of the city including the Mongolian National Museum with its excellent ethnographical collection. Dinner in the hotel (D)

Day 3 In Ulaan Bataar

Morning tour of Mongolia's capital with a visit this morning to Gandan Monastery, the centre of Mongolian Buddhism. Later we see the excellent Natural History Museum with its unrivalled collection of dinosaur exhibits. Dinner at a local restaurant (B,L,D)

Day 4 Drive into Middle Gobi

This morning we leave the city by 4WD and head south into Dundgobi ('Middle Gobi') consisting mainly of steppe, dry plains and unusual rock formations. We visit the sacred rocks at Bagadgazryn Chuluu and Tsogt Taij where medieval pilgrims have left interesting drawings and inscriptions in the granite. Overnight Ger camp (B,L,D)

Day 5 Drive into South Gobi

We continue southwards into the heart of the Gobi Desert ('South Gobi') and encounter a surreal landscape of red sandstone 'flaming' cliffs and canyons at Bayanzag, famous for the first ever recorded discovery of dinosaur eggs in 1922. Our destination is Gobi Gurvansaikhan, Mongolia's largest National Park covering over 2 million hectares. Home to a wealth of wildlife and birds, it is also an area of outstanding natural beauty. Two nights at a Ger camp (B,L,D)

Day 6 Visit Yollyn Am Valley

Spending the day in this remote region of the Gobi Desert, we explore the Canyon of the Eagles, a beautiful steep sided gorge dotted with circling eagles and buzzards, with a small seasonal glacier at its far end (B,L,D)

Day 7 Drive to Ongin

Our drive today takes us through changing landscapes from sandstone cliffs, canyons and rolling dunes to flat semi-desert terrain. Later we journey across open steppes northward to Ongin. Overnight Ger camp (B,L,D)

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Day 8 Drive to Karakorum

We pause briefly at the atmospheric ruined monastery at Ongiin before continuing to Karakorum, the ancient capital of the Mongol Empire dating back to the 13th Century. Overnight Ger camp (B,L,D)

Day 9 Drive to Bayangobi

This morning we visit the graceful monastery at Erdenezuu, the first Buddhist centre in Mongolia, built 1586. After lunch continue our 4WD journey to witness a unique landscape of forest, steppe and sands before arriving at Bayangobi, our destination for today. We will also have the chance to visit a nomad family (B,L,D)

Day 10 Visit Khustain Nurruu Reserve. Drive to Ulan Bataar

We head back to the capital today but first stop at the Khustain Nurruu Reserve to hopefully glimpse the *Takhi*, the world's last remaining species of wild horse. Numbers have steadily declined across the country but in recent years the reserve has successfully re-introduced the species. In the late afternoon we arrive back into Ulan Bataar. Three nights at the Edelweiss Hotel. Dinner in the hotel (B,L,D)

Day 11 Excursion to Terelj National Park

We have a full day excursion to the Terelj Valley, a spectacular region of cool mountains and raging rivers that is part of the Gorkhi-Terelj National Park. Today we visit the impressive Turtle Rock and some local nomadic families. This afternoon we are able to witness the type of colourful activities and events that are seen in the centuries old festival of Naadam (B,L,D)

Day 12 In Ulaan Bataar

Morning tour of the elaborate Winter Palace built at the turn of the 20th Century and to Choijin Monastery, one of the most beautiful monasteries in the country. Afternoon at leisure, perhaps to do some last minute shopping at the famous department store of Ulaan Bataar. Farewell dinner at a smart city restaurant (B,L,D)

Day 13 Fly via Berlin to London

After breakfast we transfer to the international airport for our flight via Berlin to Heathrow London (B)

Cost £1995.00 per person in a twin room (excluding international flights)

Single supplement charge £300



Traditional Mongolian Ger
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Price includes –

- ▶ Tour accompanied from London by Patrick Syder
- ▶ Specialist Mongolian guide for the duration of the tour
- ▶ All transportation – a/c minibus and Mitsubishi Jeeps with experienced driver team and cook
- ▶ Full sightseeing programme including entrance fees
- ▶ Accommodation ranges from three star hotel in Ulaan Bataar and traditional 'Ger' camps elsewhere.
- ▶ Full board meals basis throughout tour.
- ▶ All airport transfers
- ▶ Porter, hotel and restaurant staff gratuities

Not included – travel insurance, visa fees, drinks, guide and driver gratuities, international return flight

(for current price check Opodo →)

