



We invite you to a special and unique Adventure

Golden Eagle Festival, Gobi Desert & Hustai National Park 13 days

Southern and Western of Mongolia

Sep 15–27, 2024



ITINERARY OUTLINE

- = DAY1:ARRIVAL IN ULAANBAATAR/CITYTOUR - 1 night
- = DAY2:ULAANBAATAR TO BAYAN-ULGII; - 4 nights
- = DAY3:GOLDEN EAGLE FESTIVAL–OPENING CEREMONY
- = DAY4:GOLDEN EAGLE FESTIVAL–SECOND DAY – AWARD CEREMONY
- = DAY5:VISITING EAGLE HUNTING FAMILY
- = DAY6:BACK TO ULAANBAATA. - 1 night
- = DAY7:ULAANBAATAR/GOBI/YOL VALLEY NATIONAL PARK
- = DAY8:KHONGOR SAND DUNE
- =DAY9:DRIVE TO KHVATSGAIT PETROGLYPHS AND VISITING NOMAD FAMILY - 2 nights
- = DAY10:DAY TRIP TO FLAMING CLIFF
- = DAY11:FLY TO ULAANBAATAR/HUSTAI NATIONALPARK/HS KHAN RESORT - 1 night
- = DAY12:DRIVE BACK TO ULAANBAATAR/CULTURALSHOW - 1 night
- = DAY13:DEPARTURE


Sep 15 - Sun: ARRIVAL IN ULAANBAATAR, City Tour

Upon arrival at Chinggis Khan International Airport, you are met by your tour guide and transferred to the hotel in the city center.

The first stop is Sukhbaatar Square. This central square is named after Damdiny Sukhbaatar, the revolutionary hero of 1921 who declared independence from China. Next is a visit to Gandan Monastery, the largest and most famous functioning monastery in Mongolia. Here you will see the impressive Golden Buddha Statue of Migjid Janraisig and may even have the opportunity to experience monks in worship. Time permitting; you will visit the Natural History Museum, which is famous for its collection of authentic dinosaur skeletons found throughout Mongolia, and then take in a fantastic view of the entire city from Zaisan memorial hill. End the evening with a welcome dinner at a local restaurant.

Overnight: 5* hotel Meals: lunch & dinner

Sep 16 - Mon: ULAAN BAATAR TO ULGII, Visiting local town

 Transfer to the airport for a morning flight to Ulgii (2.5 hours), capital of Bayan-Ulgii, Mongolia's westernmost province. Ninety percent of the population here is Kazakh, Mongolia's largest ethnic minority. The isolation of the Altai Mountains has preserved the language and traditions of the Kazakhs, who live amongst some of the most spectacular scenery in Mongolia.

Overnight: local hotel

Meals: Breakfast, lunch & dinner

Sep 17 - Tue: GOLDEN EAGLE FESTIVAL, Opening Ceremony & Competition

The official opening ceremony commences with the participants parading in on horseback with their eagles. The competition begins with each Kazakh displaying his hunting outfit and accessories, the most elaborate and beautiful of which receive the highest points. In the afternoon, the judges will evaluate the Golden Eagles' speed and agility. The eagles will be released from a cliff with their owners standing below, signaling for the eagles to land upon their arms as they do while hunting.

Those with the fastest times and best technique will be awarded the highest scores.

In the evening, attend a Kazakh play in honor of the hunters and their eagles.

Overnight in local hotel

Meals: Breakfast, lunch & dinner

Sep 18 - Wed: GOLDEN EAGLE FESTIVAL, Award Ceremony

The Golden Eagles will be released from a cliff to attack fox skins that will be dragged by their owner on horseback. The eagles will be judged on their success of grabbing the "fox", their speed, and "gripping" technique. As the points for the competitions are being tallied, the Kazakhs will compete in their traditional game called "kukbar"- passing goat skin which tests one's horse-riding skills, strength and agility. In the late afternoon, the winners of the festival will be announced at the awards ceremony. In the evening, enjoy a celebration dinner.

Overnight in local hotel
Meals: Breakfast, lunch & dinner

Sep 19 - Thu: ULGII, Visiting an Eagle Hunting Family

Today we will visit an authentic eagle hunting family who lives near Sagsai County, which is about 25 kilometers (15 miles) from Ulgii town. You will be impressed by the splendid mountains on our way to visit the Kazakh family. During your visit, you will be introduced to the eagle hunting traditions, techniques, culture and nomadic lifestyle. The tradition of eagle hunting has been maintained throughout the years because the elders have taught the younger generations how to train eagles for hunting. It is an honor for these families to share their stories and show the tourists the eagle hunting gear.

Much of the gear has been passed down from generation to generation. You will have a warm talk with the eagle hunter on how to capture and tame eagles for hunting. The eagle hunter describes the attributes of a hunting eagle and shows us his trained eagle. The family lives in a traditional Kazakh ger during warm seasons, which is much bigger than a Mongolian ger. They move around every four seasons with their livestock and eagle in search for better pasturage. But during the winter, the traditional Kazakh family lives in a small house. You will experience their unique lifestyle and learn about their traditional festivals, and wedding ceremonies.

Overnight in local hotel
Meals: Breakfast, lunch and dinner

Sep 20 - Fri: ULGII TO ULAAN BAATAR



After breakfast, we drive to local airport for flight to Ulaan baatar. Upon arrival, transfer to the hotel in the city and rest of the day is open for you to pursue your own interest.

Overnight: 5* hotel
Meals: Breakfast, lunch & dinner

Sep 21 - Sat: ULAAN BAATAR / GOBI / YOL VALLEY NATIONAL PARK

This morning you fly over the vast steppe to the Gobi Desert, Mongolia's southernmost province of semi-arid desert.

Meet your driver upon arrival and then transfer by a 4WD vehicle to the Yol Valley in Gurvansaikhan National Park, situated in the lap of the Altai Mountains. On the way to the lodge, you will stop to visit the local Natural History Museum for an insight into the flora and fauna of the area.

This valley is nestled deep within the hills and is a safe haven to get away from the desert heat. Some areas of the valley are continually sheltered from the hot sun and house huge blocks of ice that gradually melt away during the summer. It is very wide at the entrance and narrows gradually into a remarkable gorge. You will get to see wild animals such as ibex and wild sheep, and the vulture. You can hike on foot or go horseback or camel riding around the area to the gorge.

Overnight: Gobi Nomad Lodge, Super Deluxe Ger with en-suite bathroom with shower and air conditioning.
Meals: Breakfast, lunch & dinner

Sep 22 - Sun: YOL VALLEY/ KHONGOR SAND DUNE

After breakfast, take in the stunning scenery of the Gobi-Altai Mountain range as you transfer to the towering sand dunes of Khongoryn Els, home to the 'Singing Sands'. These spectacular dunes got their name from the noise made by the shifting sand in the wind. Feel the breeze in your hair as you ride a camel across the dunes before returning to the ger camp. Isolated from the rest of the country, the Singing Sands are the best kept secret for thousand years in the history of Mongolia.

Overnight: Nomad Lodge, Deluxe Ger with en-suite bathroom and shower
Meals: Breakfast, lunch, and dinner

Sep 23 - Mon: Drive to Khavtsgait Petroglyphs and Visiting Nomad Family

In the morning we drive to the site of the Khavtsgait Petroglyphs. The Khavtsgait Petroglyphs from the Bronze Age (4000-3000 BC) are beautifully carved on many rocks on the top of a sacred mountain. It is easy to find the rock paintings there because they are spread on rocks all around. The petroglyphs were carved and painted with

motifs consisting of animals, hunting scenes and weapons. They depict various animals related to everyday life of ancient people including deer, bears, wolves and hunters, and wolves with livestock. Other paintings depict more domestic scenes of yaks pulling carts, the wheels and horses flattened sideways like hieroglyphs, and herders on horseback. The engravings vary in size, ranging from two-centimeters to the real life size of horses.

Note: The area is very rocky and can be slippery to climb, but by wearing appropriate shoes and carefully following the mountain path one can reach the top to see these beautiful rock paintings.

Then we will visit a herder family nearby. We will spend some time there getting to know the family members and their casual yet unique daily lifestyle. It is a good chance to see how the family members cooperate together to do their daily even hourly chores such as milking mares, fencing and milking the goats. If you wish, you are welcome to try some mare's fermented milk and other dairy products.

Overnight: Gobi Nomad Lodge, Super Deluxe Ger with en-suite bathroom with shower and air conditioning.
Meals: Breakfast, lunch & dinner

Sep 24 - Tue: VISITING MUSEUM & DAY TRIP TO FLAMINGO CLIFFS


After breakfast you will also visit a museum at Gobi Nomad Lodge that exhibits a variety of rare items used by nomadic people from ancient times. After seeing the museum, you can try Mongolian traditional ceremonial costumes or royal dress, sit upon Khan's or the Queen's throne inside the museum and have your pictures taken :)

After lunch, we drive to Bayan Zag, popularly called "The Flaming Cliffs" for its glowing orange rock. It was here, in 1922, that Roy Chapman Andrews and his exploration team from the American Museum of Natural History discovered the first nest of dinosaur eggs. The area is haven for the natural history scientists as the area is rich in dinosaur fossils.

In the late afternoon we will drive back to the lodge for dinner and stay overnight.

Overnight: Gobi Nomad Lodge, Super Deluxe Ger with en-suite bathroom with shower and air conditioning.
Meals: Breakfast, lunch & dinner

Sep 25 - Wed: BACK TO ULAAN BAATAR / HUSTAI NATIONAL PARK

 Following an early morning breakfast, we are transferred to the Dalanzadgad Airport. We bid farewell to our drivers and fly to Ulaanbaatar where we meet our local transport and then we are transferred to Hustai National Park.

Hustai National Park is the site of a unique re-introduction scheme of Przewalskii's horse (*Equus przewalskii*), called "takhi" by Mongolians. It became extinct in the wild in 1969 and, since 1992, has been successfully re-introduced to Hustai from zoos around the world. This has been an international effort monitored by The Foundation for the Przewalskii Horse, based in the Netherlands and MACNE (Mongolian Association for Conservation of Nature and the Environment). The national park is rolling Steppe Mountains with rather large patches of birch and aspen forests. There are also visible remains of Neolithic graves.

In addition, red deer (*Cervus elaphus*) and wolf (*Canis lupus*) have increased quite a bit during the last few years, as well as Mongolian gazelle. Species present in Hustai but usually not seen include Lynx, Argali Sheep and Roe Deer. The Hustai National Park in Mongolia is world famous for the successful reintroduction of the Przewalski horse.

After lunch at tourist camp, we will drive to our Luxury Resort for a night.

Become one with nature in our luxurious resort with a view across the open prairie and the silhouette of the mountains visible on the far end.

Overnight: HS KHAAN Luxury Resort Meals: Breakfast, lunch & dinner

Sep 26 - Thu: RETURN TO ULAAN BAATAR

In the morning, we drive back to Ulaanbaatar and there is more to see here upon arrival if you are interested, such as a visit to the Bogd Khan Winter Palace Museum, a residence of Bodg Jabzan Damba Hutagt VIII whom was Mongolia's last theocrat. Or take a leisurely stroll through the town center. In the evening perhaps you can enjoy a farewell dinner and attend the local folklore dance shows.

Overnight: 5* hotel

Meals: Breakfast, lunch & dinner

Sep 27 - Fri: DEPARTURE

Check out from the hotel and transfer to the “Chinggis Khan” International airport for departure.

Meal: Breakfast

Price per person in double room: \$ 6995.00

A non refundable deposit of \$3497.00 per person is due now to confirm services.

Final Payment due July 05, 2024

Note: This is a proposal. Price and services are not guaranteed till deposit has been placed.No refunds after payments have been sent abroad and/or final payment has been received.

The amount quoted herein reflects a check/Zelle or wire transfers discount. If a client elects to pay by any other method, the discount is rescinded. For cc payments pls add a 3.5% cc fee

Cancellation/Medical Insurance is highly recommended and available upon request.

Cancellation insurance has to be bought within 14 days of trip deposit charge, in order to cover preconditions.

Included: Deluxe lodge & resorts All meals as listed in itinerary All entrance fees Sightseeing as per itinerary Accommodation in 5 stars hotel in Ulaanbaatar Transportations by 4 wheel drive English speaking guide Daily supply of bottled water, Domestic flights

Not Included in the Price

- International Flights. (*Mongolian Air might have a non-stop flight from San Francisco in September. We will let you know in March the best options at the time*)
- Tips to the driver/guides

Terms and conditions:

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California law requires certain sellers of travel to have a trust account or bond. This business has [a trust account.] where funds are deposited till paid to suppliers.

Seller of Travel Clause

This transaction is covered by the California Travel Consumer Restitution Fund (TCRF) if the seller of travel was registered and participating in the TCRF at the time of sale and the passenger is located in California at the time of payment. Eligible passengers may file a claim with TCRF if the passenger is owed a refund of more than \$50 for transportation or travel services which the seller of travel failed to forward to a proper provider or such money was not refunded to you when required. The maximum amount which may be paid by the TCRF to any one passenger is the total amount paid on behalf of the passenger to the seller of travel, not to exceed \$15,000. A claim must be submitted to the TCRF within 12 months after the scheduled completion date of the travel. A claim must include sufficient documentation to prove your claim and a \$35 processing fee. Claimants must agree to waive their right to other civil remedies against a registered participating seller of travel for matters arising out of a sale for which you file a TCRF claim. You may request a claim form by writing to: Travel Consumer Restitution Corporation, P.O. Box 6001, Larkspur, CA 94977-6001. To be eligible passengers must reside in California.

