

THE ESSENCE OF MONGOLIA – 9 DAYS

8nights / 9days – Community based tours



An activity-packed journey into Central Mongolia, an area of diverse landscapes and the nomadic heartland of the country. See the Khognokhan Mountain, the dunes at Elsen Tasarkhai, the Hot spring, the ancient Mongol capital the Karakorum, and travel through the famous Orkhon Valley registered in UNESCO, before venturing to the Hustai National Park for the wild Takhi horses and a plethora of wildlife. This condensed trip is a great introduction to the rich diversity of Mongolia's history, culture and landscapes, with authentic homestays in guest gers next to local nomadic families. Spend time with your hosts and also use these fabulous wilderness locations as a base to explore the surrounding area on foot, by horse, and by vehicle. You will experience a range of cultural traditions – cookery, herding livestock on horseback, milking yak and may all feature at some stage along your way.

Activities: Exploring cultural heritage sites, exploring varied natural landscapes, experiencing nomadic culture and lifestyle

- **Duration:** 8nights / 9days
- **Distance:** 1600kms
- **Group size:** Min-2, Max – 4pax
- **Season:** June – mid Sep 2025



Day 1 Welcoming day

Arrive in Ulaanbaatar the capital city of Mongolia. Transfer to your hotel. Visit National museum of Mongolia. Walking through the Sukhbaatar Square. In the evening enjoy traditional art performance. Welcome dinner. Stay overnight in the hotel. **LD**



Day 2 Gurvanbulag – Ger Homestay – Horse Ride

You will be picked up from a pre-arranged Ulaanbaatar location at a time to suit you – we suggest leaving around 9:00 am to make the most of the day. Jump in the vehicle with your guide and head west to the northern part of Gobi. On the way, you will stop briefly to visit Khar Bukhiin Balgas, interesting remains of an ancient fort used by

nomadic tribes dating back to the 10th century. Then it's onto Gurvanbulag, where you will be staying at a guest ger alongside a nomadic family. Enter the ger and experience the hospitality and traditional nomadic way of life – you can help make and drink milk tea, plus try homemade produce such as yoghurt and milk mares. In the afternoon you will have a chance to do an hour or so of horse riding in the surrounding hills and the dunes nearby. Or you can walk if you prefer. In the evening enjoy a traditional Mongolian meal. Overnight stay in ger alongside nomadic family. **BLD**



Day 3 Travel to Tsenkher – Hot spring

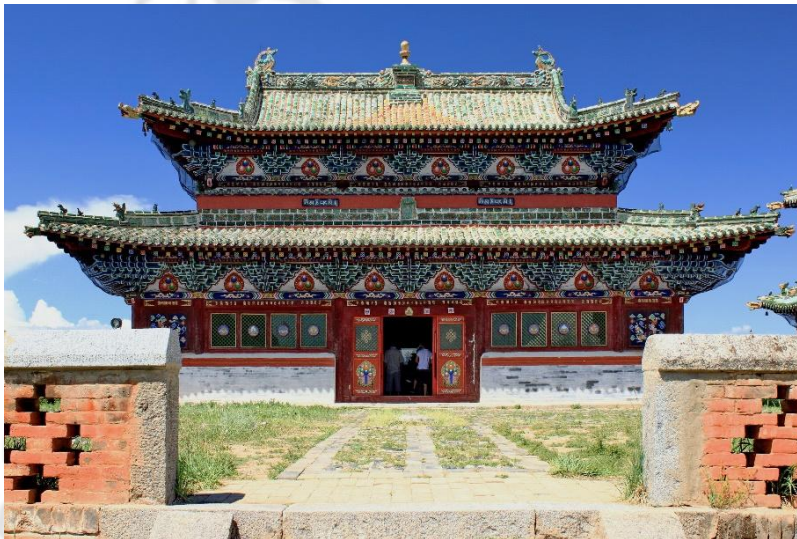
Today you start your journey to Tsenkher town and drive is one of the tougher remote journeys for 200km. But the scenery is really fantastic. Once you arrive at the camp enjoy the hot spring that is fed by the camp and there are thermal pools for guests to bathe in. Overnight stay in ger camp. **BLD**



Day 4 Travel to Orkhon Valley

Today you will travel to Orkhon Valley and enjoy the beautiful scenery over the valley, a UNESCO-listed heritage site and the ancestral nomadic heartland of Mongols. After lunch at Yak Herder Family, where you will stay overnight near the river, you will go hiking to venture to Orkhon Waterfall. Orkhon Waterfall is a scenic cascade on the Ulaan Tsutgalan River, 20m high and 10m wide. You can get

involved in the activities of the nomad family – help with milking yaks and watch the nomads making yoghurts and distilling vodka from milk. Overnight stay in ger alongside yak herder nomadic family. **BLD**



Day 5 Travel to Kharakhorum – Visit Erdenezuu Monastery

In the morning drive to Kharakhorum, the ancient capital of Mongolia where Chinggis Khaan established his headquarters in 1220. In 1235, his son and successor, Ogodei built a palace enclosed by walls. You will visit the interesting local museum which showcases Mongolian history and Erdenezuu Monastery, the first Mongolian Buddhist temple complex built on the remains of

16th-century Kharakhorum city. Then we will visit a local cooperative to attend a workshop for making felt items by hand or visit an art gallery. Overnight stay in a ger camp. **BLD**



Day 6 Khognokhan – Uvgun Temple – Elsen Tasarkhai Dunes – Camel Riding

Today you head to the Khognokhan Nature Reserve, where you can explore the lower temple complex of Uvgun, see the reconstructed temples, and prayer wheel and look around the ruins. Then we recommend taking the 45-minute hike up to the older ruined temple complex in the hills – the scenery is fantastic, and depending on the time of year, wildflowers may be

in abundance. Head back down to the valley floor, and onto the sand dunes at Elsen Tasarkhai, a 45-minute drive away. Tonight you will stay alongside a family of camel herders – settle into your gers and head off on a Bactrian ride across the dunes for an hour, then enjoy a traditional feast of khorkhog – mutton and vegetables seared and steamed with red hot stones from the fire. Overnight stay in ger alongside nomadic family. **BLD**



Day 7 Hustai National Park – Wild Takhi Horses – Hiking

After a leisurely breakfast jump in the vehicles for the journey back east to Hustai for 190km. You should arrive at your ger camp in time for lunch. The camp is located at the entrance to the National Park, and you will have some time to rest before venturing inside. At dusk, drive from your camp to see the Takhi

– this is the time you have a better chance of seeing them up close and inaccessible areas. You may want to combine the trip with a long walk in the park – in which case you should leave a little earlier. Discuss your preference with your guide. Afterwards, head back to camp for dinner and your last night in a ger. Overnight stay in the ger camp. **BLD**



Day 8 Chinggis Khaan Statue & Farewell dinner

After breakfast set off for the remarkable Chinggis Khaan Statue complex for 170km, once you arrive, climb up inside until you reach the exterior staircase which runs up the mane of the horse to a viewpoint overlooking the Tuul River, Terelj & the hills of the Khan Khentii and visits the horse culture museum in the complex. Then, will have lunch. After lunch, return to Ulaanbaatar. Guided shopping

for cashmere and souvenirs. Enjoy the Farewell dinner. Stay overnight in hotel. **BLD**

Day 9 Departure

After breakfast transfer to airport for departure. **B**

Price:

Number of Party	Price per Person in USD
	Hotel 3*
2pax	USD 2150
3pax	USD 1900
4pax	USD 1700
Single supplement for Hotel stay	USD 120 per person
Single supplement for Ger camp stay	USD 90 per person
Single supplement for Mongolian Ger of Nomad family stay	N/A

Price included:

- Hotel stay (2 nights) in Ulaanbaatar
- Ger camp stay (3 nights) and Mongolian Ger of Nomad family (3 nights) in the countryside
- English speaking guide service
- Entrance fees to Protected Areas and sightseeing costs
- Horse and Camel ride fee
- All transfers by 4WD Japanese minivan in the city and countryside
- Meals of breakfast, lunch and dinner as mentioned per day itinerary

Price excluded:

- International transportation to and from Mongolia
- Travel insurance
- Mineral (bottled) water and alcoholic drinks
- Tips and gratuities
- Laundry and items of a personal nature

Tour departures – 2025;

Start in Ulaanbaatar	Start date	End date
√	10 June 2025	18 June 2025
√	24 June 2025	02 July 2025
√	24 July 2025	02 Aug 2025
√	12 Aug 2025	20 Aug 2025
√	02 Sep 2025	10 Sep 2025

