



FROM DESERT TO STEPPE

Nomadic Mongolia waits for you in this tour in the heart of the nomadic life. From family to family, you will start your horse trek tour by the green Orkhon Valley, before going deeper in the remote area of Naiman Nuur. Then you'll go towards South, where the track disappears to give place to a legendary spot: the Gobi Desert, and the arid majesty of its lunar landscapes, with its towering rocky formations, frozen canyon and sand dunes.

Day1. The granite formations of Baga Gazriin Chuluu



Ulan Bator – Baga Gazriin Chuluu 250km

Visit of Mountains Baga Gazriin Chuluu, where we'll observe stunning granite rock formations eroded by the violent elements of this area. In the 19th century, two respected lamas lived here, and we still can see their inscriptions in the rock. According to the legend, Genghis Khan to is supposed to have lived in this wonderful area where it's pleasant to walk.

Stay overnight: Nomadic Family's ger or tourist ger camp

Day2. The great white stupa in the desert



Baga Gazar Chuluu – white stupa 220km

We travel in one of the emptiest areas of Mongolia. Between rock desert and semi-arid steppes, we reach the white stupa, Tsagaan Suvarga. For centuries, this 30-metre (98,43 feet) high, abrupt, stupa-shaped mountain, is honored by the Mongolians. The traveler will be surprised by the sumptuous lunar landscapes that evoke the end of the world, and by the many fossils. This area was totally covered by the sea a few million years ago.

Stay overnight: Nomadic Family's ger or tourist ger camp

Day3. Three beautiful mountain



White stupa – Yoliin am 225km

Last day of track before reaching Great Gobi and its "Three Beauties", the three highest peaks in this part of the Gobi-Altai range : Baruun Saihan, "the Western Beauty" ; Dund Saihan, "the Middle Beauty" ; Züün Saihan, "the Eastern Beauty", the highest (2846 metres, 1,77 miles).

Hiking in the canyon of Yol am, the bearded vulture's canyon. We will walk in the bottom of the canyon that is covered with perpetual snow.

The canyon is so steep-sided, that sun rays make the ice melt only in

August. The rest of the year, there's ice everywhere in the canyon.

Journey on the track towards the east of "the Three Beauties" to reach the area of canyons. Stop at Dungenee Canyon. We leave the vehicle to start our first magic hike along the river that flows between huge canyons.

Stay overnight: tent camping or tourist ger camp

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Day 4-5. Honor sand dunes



Three beautiful mountain - Khongor sand dunes 180km

We ride towards the west of the park to reach Khongor sand dunes, "light bay sand". These dunes extend at the foot of the "Three Beauties".

Day 4

Visit of the dunes of Khongor. These dunes are the most spectacular ones of Mongolia, they extend on more than 180 kilometers (111,85 miles) long and 20 kilometers (12,43 miles) wide, and have an average height of 80 meters (262,47 feet), the highest one being 120 meters (393,70 feet) high. From the top, the view on the desert is quite amazing. From this place, it's also possible to hear the moving masses of sand, hence the name of "singing dunes". Beyond the dunes, the steppe extends for as far as the eye can see.

Day 5. Honor sand dunes



Camel ride and hike in the Gobi Desert is an unforgettable experience. The nonchalant animal will take us with its peaceful gait along the dunes and the Khongor River, "light bay", that flows alternately on the surface and under the ground. We'll go until a small oasis at the foot of the dunes, where some bushes grow, such as saxaul. Camels are very fond of saxaul and Mongolians think it's the most precious wood. We will walk until the top of a dune and will have a wonderful view of the desert. Far away, we will see the peaks of the Three Beautiful and, if we

listen carefully, we might hear the song of the dunes.

Stay overnight: Nomadic Family's ger or tourist ger camp

Day6. The flaming cliffs of Bayanzag and Ongi Monastery



Khongor – Bayanzag 150km

Visit of the cliffs of Bayanzag, today best known as "flaming cliffs", owing to their ochre red color, where is located the "cemetery of dragons". The cliffs and the saxaul forests that surround them are the evidence of the time when Earth was still inhabited by huge creatures: dinosaurs. Paleontologist Roy Andrews Chapman was the first man to discover in 1922 some bones and eggs of dinosaurs that

we can see today in the Natural History Museum of Ulan Bator and in other museums in the world.



Bayanzag - Ongi monastery 150km

We arrive in the sum of Saikhan Ovoo. West Saikhan Ovoo, some mountains located along the Ongii River, are the perfect place to rest between Northwest of Mongolia and Gobi Desert. In the bends of the river, we can see the ruins of two monasteries, Barlim Monastery on the Northern bank, Khutagt Monastery on the Southern bank.

Let's discover this site, best known as Ongi lamasery, and the museum. In 1937, the Soviets almost completely destroyed the homes and monasteries where one thousand lamas were living. In 2002, some lamas came back and began to rebuilt the monastery, with few resources but much enthusiasm. Stay overnight: tent camping or tourist ger camp

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Day7. Let's hit the road mountain of Khangai



Day of transition between two ecosystems. We leave the Gobi desert to the green mountains of Khangai. We drive across the green steppe and reach Hujirt village, where we stop to get fresh supplies at the local market.

We definitely leave the tarred road to taste the joys of the track. We drive along the splendid landscapes formed by the canyon sand the green steppe, then we arrive at the home of breeders who will host us in the heart of Orkhon Valley.

Stay overnight: Nomadic family's ger.

Day 8-9-10. Horse trek to Eights Lakes (Naiman nuur)



Orkhon valley - Naiman lake

Day 8. Naiman nuur

We will start horse trek. We go deeper in the Khangai mountains. The track is harsh, notably because of a pass located 2800 meters (1,74 mile) above the sea level. We reach the very remote Naiman Nuur National Park, "eight lakes", where we'll see many forests of larches and, as the name suggests, many lakes. This area can be very cool and

it's not unusual to have snow in June or in August!

Day 9. Naiman nuur



Peaceful day breathing fresh air in this altitude area. We horse and hike in the park discovering its splendors and arrive near Lake Shireet, probably the most beautiful lake in the area. Back to our host family's to benefit the simple pleasures of life, such as drinking a cup of tea with milk or playing knucklebones.

Day 10. Naiman lake

Horseback trekking back to Bodongiin Am, on the way picnic lunch. Our vans will be waiting for us near the Buureg tourist camp. Drive to waterfall's family. Have Mongolian traditional BBQ

Day11. Hot springs in Tsenkher



Waterfall - Tsenkher hot springs 150km

Arrival at Tsenkher hot springs, where you can lounge in the pools of hot water of the camp.

Stay overnight: "Altan nutag" tourist camp

Day12. Visit of Kharkhorin, the former capital



Tsenkher hot spring – Kharkhorin 150km

Journey to Kharkhorin, the former capital of Mongolia. The legendary city of Genghis Khan was founded in 1220 and was one of the stages of the silk road. The Mongolian Empire was governed from this city until Kubilai Khan set up the capital in Beijing. Today, there are only a few vestiges left of the former capital.

Visit of Erdene Zuu Monastery, built in 1586 by a nomad prince. The Chinese and Tibetan-inspired buildings are surrounded with 108 sacred stupas.

Stay overnight: nomadic family's ger or tourist camp

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Day13. On the way to Mini-Gobi



Kharkhorin - Khogno Khan 100 km

We arrive at the splendid rocky formations of Khogno Khan. Discovery of the park: semi-desert steppes, taiga, stunning rocky formations, 80-kilometres (49,71 miles) long sand dunes, are characteristic of this arid area nicknamed "Mini-Gobi".

Hike until Erdene Khambiin Monastery. "Monk Erdene's Monastery" dates from 17th century and was built on the mountain. Zanabazar built it in honor of his teacher, monk Erdene.

Visit of the sand dunes of Elsen Tasarkhai.

Stay overnight: nomadic family's ger or tourist camp

Day14. Back to Ulan Bator



Khogno Khan - Ulan Bator 280km

Back to Ulan-Bator. Last herds of wild horses crossing the road outside our dumbfounded eyes, last yurts smoking far away, the steppe will be with us until the last moment. Arrival in town and settling in at your hotel, where you can rest a few moments.

Rest of the day free. With our guide, you can go and shop in the center of the city

- **Route:** Middle and Southern province, Arkhangai province, Uvurkhangai province
- **Region:** Southern and Central Mongolia
- **Tour highlights:** Gobi Desert, Eight Lake, Erdene Zuu monastery, hot spring, horse and camel ride
- **Available:** Available throughout the year
- **Length of tour:** 13 nights / 14 days
- **Travel style:** Adventure
- **Price from:** You can pay all currency

I nomadic family's ger

- **1 pax** - \$2100 per person
- **2 pax** - \$1330 per person
- **3 pax** - \$1190 per person
- **4 pax** - \$1050 per person
- **5-12 pax** - \$840 per person

"tourist camp" more comfortable

- **1 pax** - \$3752 per person
- **2 pax** - \$ 2492 per person
- **3 pax** - \$1988 per person
- **4 pax** - \$ 1834 per person
- **5-12 pax** - \$ 1680 all per person

Discounts: 30% off for children under 2-6 years old

Included

- Transfers upon arrival and departure
- English speaking guide at all times.
- In the countryside, all lodging will be in ger camps and nomadic family's Ger.
- All meals are provided as stated in the itinerary.
- Ground transportation: in the countryside by driven 4WD van, bus in the city area.
- Park entrance fees
- Horse and Camel ride
- Sightseeing as per itinerary



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- 1.5 liter of drinking water per day per person

Not included

- Accommodation in a hotel or hostel in Ulaanbaatar
- Hotel extras, such as telephone calls, bar bills, and laundry services
- Travel insurance, medical insurance
- Visa application fees
- Alcoholic beverages
- Personal expenses such as IDD call, the internet, laundry, items of a personal nature
- Gratuity to local guides and drivers
- Airfare or train ticket
- Airport taxes, excess baggage charges (over 44pound / 20kilo)
- Changes of arrival/departure flights
- Additional services
- Any charges of major force beyond our control (e.g. imposition, quarantine restrictions, etc...)

Packing list

This is a suggested packing list, which you should feel free to adjust to suit your needs. Please refer to our travel guide for more detailed information.

- Backpack or soft bag
- Waterproof bag cover
- Day pack
- Headlamp/flashlight
- Spare batteries/bulb
- Personal medications
- Waterproof hiking boots
- Waterproof jacket with hood
- Waterproof over pants
- Fleece jacket or wool jumper
- Cotton t-shirts
- Long sleeve shirts
- Lightweight trousers
- Shorts
- Socks
- Underwear
- Sun hat
- Sandals
- Sunglasses
- Sun cream
- Insect repellent
- Resealing (ziploc) plastic bags
- Binoculars/camera
- Watch/ alarm clock
- Money belt/ pouch
- Insurance confirmation copy
- Emergency contact number

