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NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF
TRAVEL AGENTS SINGAPORE



10 DAYS/8 NIGHTS MONGOLIA

Land of the Eternal Blue Sky

18 – 27 AUG 2024

Landlocked Mongolia, affectionately called as “The Land of the Eternal Blue Sky” among locals, is located between Russia to the north and China to the south, deep within the interior of eastern Asia far from any ocean. The country has a marked continental climate, with long cold winters and short cool-to-hot summers. Its remarkable variety of scenery consists largely of upland steppes, semideserts, and deserts, although in the west and north forested high mountain ranges alternate with lake-dotted basins. Mongolia is largely a plateau, with an average elevation of about 1,580 metres above sea level. The highest peaks are in the Mongolian Altai Mountains (Mongol Altain Nuruu) in the southwest, a branch of the Altai Mountains system.

Some three-fourths of Mongolia’s area consists of pasturelands, which support the immense herds of grazing livestock for which the country is known. The remaining area is about equally divided between forests and barren deserts, with only a tiny fraction of the land under crops. With a total population of fewer than three million, Mongolia has one of the lowest average population densities of any country in the world.



DAY 01 SINGAPORE / SEOUL (Meals on Board)

18 Aug Sun Depart Singapore this evening for Ulaanbaatar via Seoul.

DAY 02 SEOUL / ULAANBAATAR (LD)

19 Aug Mon Arrive Seoul and transit to connect flight to Ulaabaatar. Arrival, meet and greet at the airport for transfer to Ulaanbaatar city. Enjoy a city tour visiting the **Mongolia Natural History Museum** that displays exhibits showing the traces of the first human community in the land of Mongolia throughout the glorious history of the nomadic nation. Also visit **Chinggis Khan National Museum** with three main sections, including the ancient states before Chinggis Khaan, the Mongol Empire period, as well as the great Khan’s descendants’ period. Over 90 percent of artifacts are original, and Chinggis Khan National Museum exhibitions cover the entire history of Mongol states. In addition, the museum’s AR (augmented reality) and VR (virtual reality) technology can enhance the viewer’s experiences.



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Accommodation: Grand Hill Hotel or sim
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fedkEyy_uqo

DAY 03

20 Aug Tue

ULAABAATAR / ELSEN TASARKHAI SAND DUNE (BLD)

Using 4WD jeep (4-5 per vehicle), we drive to the **Elsen Tasarkhai Sand Dune** stretched across the central Mongolian steppe. Known as “**Mini Gobi**”, it extends for 80 kilometres in the South of the Khögnö Khan National Park. The main road separates this sand dune into two parts, Mongol Els on the south and Khugnu Tarnyn Els on the north. The area is surrounded by sand dunes, hills covered with rare bushes and a small forest near a river. Together this presents a unique combination of Mongolian mountains, forests and Gobi-type landscape in one location. Local people call this sand dunes **Duut mankhan** (Singing sand). Enjoy **camel riding** among the sand dune for an hour. Evening check in camp and relax.



Overnight in ger camp: Khoyorzagal <https://www.facebook.com/Hoyorzagalcamp>

DAY 04

21 Aug Wed

ELSEN TASARKHAI SAND DUNE / ERDEMEZUU / KHARKHORUM (BLD)

After breakfast, continue by jeep and drive to **Kharkhorum**, an ancient capital city of Mongolia between 1235 and 1260 and of the Northern Yuan dynasty in the 14–15th centuries. Late afternoon you arrive in the city. Kharkhorum was razed to the ground by troops of the Ming Dynasty after the fall of the Yuan dynasty in AD 1368. Mongolia’s oldest monastery, **Erdene Zuu**, was built upon and from the ruins of the ancient city in 1585, the year the Mongolia embraced Tibetan Buddhism as the official state religion. We do a short visit to the **Monument dedicated for Greatest Dynasties of Mongolia** and **Kharkhorum Museum**, a small museum but it helps to appreciate the grandeur of the old capital of the Mongolian empire when it was at its peak. Then visit **Erdene Zuu monastery** where the temples and wall with stupas is a famous site, and among the most visited ones in Mongolia by foreign and domestic travelers.



Overnight in ger camp: Secret of Silk Road
<https://www.facebook.com/Secretofthesilkroad>



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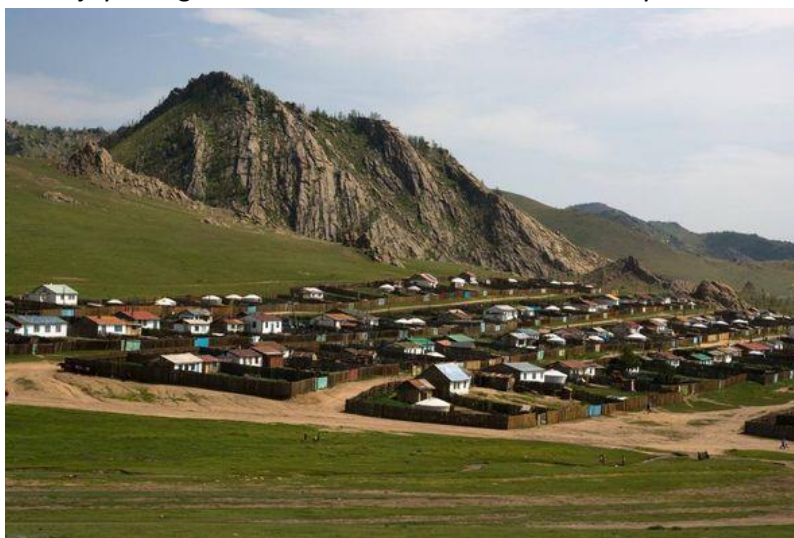


DAY 05

22 Aug Thu

KHAKHORUM / TSETSERLEG (BLD)

After breakfast, we return to visit **Erdenezuu monastery** . Today Erdene Zuu is considered by many to be the most important monastery in the country, though no doubt it's a shadow of what it once was. At its peak, it had between 60 and 100 temples, around 300 gers inside the walls, and up to 1000 monks in residence. All but three of the temples in Erdene Zuu were destroyed during the purges and an unknown number of monks were either killed or sent to Siberian gulags. The three temples in the compound – Zuu of Buddha, Zuun Zuu and Baruun Zuu – which were not destroyed in the 1930s, are dedicated to the three stages of Buddha's life: childhood, adolescence and adulthood. We can witness some Buddhist rituals being held at the white Tibetan-style Lavrin Süm temple. This afternoon we continue by jeep to **Tsetserleg**, capital of the province of Arkhangai in central Mongolia. It is located 1691 metres above the sea level. Here you can observe the lives of rural Mongolia. Visit the **Monastery of Zaya Pandita** and enjoy Mongolian folklore concert in the monastery.



Local hotel: Ashid Bekhi <https://ashidbekhi.mn/>

DAY 06

23 Aug Fri

EXCURSION TO TAIKHAR ROCK – TSETSERLEG (BLD)

Today we make an excursion to visit **Taikhar Rock** located in the valley of Khoid Tamir river. This is a big 20-metres high rock standing on the bank of Khoid Tamir River in Ikhtamir Soum. It is covered with 150 writings of many different languages and dating



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ack from many different periods (runic, Sogd, Uyghur, Mongolian, Nangiad, Tibetan writings). The oldest one is the runic writing, related to Turkish period of the 6th and 7th centuries. The rock stands out as it is a towering lone object in a vast steppe and visitors are intrigued by its mysterious presence.



Next we drop by to meet a nomad family and observe the local milk producing activity and their daily life. This evening we return to our hotel and relax.

Local hotel: Ashid Bekhi <https://ashidbekhi.mn/>

DAY 07

24 Aug Sat

TSETSERLEG / KHUSTAI NATIONAL PARK (BLD)

After breakfast, we travel by jeep to **Khustai National Park** founded in 1993 to conserve biodiversity and facilitate the re-introduction project of the Takhi Mongolian wild horse, well known as **Przewalski's horse**. The Takhi is the ancestor of the Mongol horse. The park's stunning natural beauty and the impressive display of wildlife, particularly the Przewalski's horses, made the trip a phenomenal adventure. In addition to the takhi, there are populations of maral (Asiatic red deer), marmots, steppe gazelle, deer, boar, manul (small wild cat), wolves and lynx.



Overnight in Mongol Nomadic camp <https://www.facebook.com/Mongolnomadic/>

DAY 08

25 Aug Sun

KHUSTAI NP / GORKHI TEREJ NATIONAL PARK (BLD)

After breakfast, we continue our tour and enjoy the **Mongol Nomadic Live Show** that demonstrates the traditional living way of real Mongolian nomads and breeding and using of five kinds of livestock and movement from one place to another using ox, yak, camel and horse carts. Also, learn about making of traditional Mongolian ger and all



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furniture, pots and clothing reflecting the features and manners of Central Khalks at the beginning of the 20th century. Lunch is served after the show.

In the afternoon drive to the Terelj National Park. Enroute, we visit **Chinggis Khaan Grand Monument** situated in Tsonjin Boldog, an hour's drive east of Ulaanbataar. Learn about the medieval history of Mongolia and Chinggis Khaan's life. This evening enjoy **horseback riding** in the national park for an hour. Start your horse riding journey along the park as the trail goes through meadows of forest-steppe. Dinner at the lodge.



Overnight in ger www.terelj lodge.com

DAY 09

26 Aug Mon

GORKHI TERELJ NP / ULAANBAATAR (BLD)

After breakfast, we relax in the park. The park has a magnificent alpine landscape, many rock formations for rock climbers, and includes a famous formations named Turtle Rock (Melkhii Khad) for the shape it resembles. This gigantesque rock made and carved into a turtle by only wind and rain water. This morning let's visit **Turtle Rock** and then we visit **Arabal Mediation Temple**, one of the



most beautiful spots in Gorkhi-Terelj National Park apart from its nature. It is surrounded by scenic mountains with massive rock formations and sits on top of the mountain. Enjoy lunch in a Mongolian restaurant. This afternoon, we return to Ulaanbaatar and enroute, visit a **Kazakh family** in the Nalaikh settlement. An ethnic minority, the Kazakhs are well known for their hospitality. Kazakh Gers are famous for their elaborate & decorative nomadic dwellings furnished with beautiful wall-hangings



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which add to the warmth of the family environment. In the evening, we enjoy **Mongolian Folk Music and Dance Performance.**

Accommodation: Grand Hill Hotel or sim
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fedkEyy_uqo

DAY 10 ULAANBAATAR / SEOUL / SINGAPORE (BL Meals on Board)

27 Aug Tue Today we visit **Gandan Monastery**, which holds the largest-scale Buddhist activity in the country. With some time permitting, we have shopping opportunity, especially cashmere and some local souvenirs. After lunch, transfer to the airport for flight back home via Seoul on KE198 ETD 1440hrs. We connect our flight KE647 ETD 2330hrs arriving Singapore past midnight ETA 0500hrs 28 Aug.

TOUR PRICE in SGD per person

10D/8N Mongolia Min 20 travelers	Member SGD	Non Member SGD
Twin Sharing pp	4,970.00	5,050.00
Single Supplement	5,480.00	5,560.00

Price per person includes:

- Return group economy class airfare on Korean Airlines ex Singapore
- Airport and airline related taxes
- Deluxe accommodation in Ulaanbaatar with breakfast (4 *)
- Deluxe ger accommodation
- All meals mentioned in itinerary
- Local land transportation by private 4WD jeep, Deluxe bus in Ulaanbaatar & Terelj NP
- Folklore concert performance and Mongol Normadic live show
- Service of a English-speaking guide service
- Service of a tour manager
- National park fees
- Slightseeing activities as listed
- Standard tipping to guide and drivers
- Horse and camel riding
- 1L bottled drinking water daily
- Tourist taxes

Price does not include:

- Personal incidentals
- Travel insurance





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Proposed Flight Schedule

KE 644	18AUG 7	SINICN	2235 0600	19AUG
KE 197	19AUG 1	ICNUBN	0800 1040	
KE 198	27AUG 2	UBNICN	1440 1850	
KE 647	27AUG 2	ICNSIN	2330 0500	28AUG



Kazakh Family



Gandan Monastery



Mongolian BBQ



Secret of Silk Road Camp, Kharkhorum



Tsaidam Camp



Grand Hill Hotel UB



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MIN 20, MAX 25 SEATS AVAILABLE
CLOSING DATE: 15 MAR 2024