

## Great Mongolian Discovery with Naadam: Ulan Bator, National Parks, Gobi, Naadam

**MN-02**



Embark on a captivating 15-day journey through Mongolia, delving into its rich traditions, history, and natural wonders. Explore Ulan Bator, visit the grand Erdene-Zuu monastery, and discover Karakorum's historical remnants. Dive into nature with visits to Terelj and Hustain Nuruu national parks, Khongor's rolling sand dunes, and the South Gobi. Witness the Naadam festival's spectacular opening ceremony, unique sports, gala dinner, and a mesmerizing folk concert. This is a truly exceptional adventure through Mongolia.

This tour offers the flexibility to be arranged around two captivating festivals, the Naadam Festival and the Danshig Naadam-Khuree Tsam Festival.

Naadam Festival: Known as the "Three Manly Games of Mongolia," Naadam is a grand celebration featuring traditional sports like wrestling, horse racing, and archery. It's a vibrant showcase of Mongolian culture and heritage, with participants displaying incredible skill and endurance. The atmosphere is electric, with colorful costumes, lively music, and the thrill of competition creating a truly unforgettable experience.

Danshig Naadam-Khuree Tsam Festival: This unique festival combines the spiritual and cultural aspects of Mongolia. It includes the spectacular Khuree Tsam dance, which is a significant Buddhist ritual featuring elaborate costumes and masks. The festival also involves traditional games, music, and dance, making it a spiritual and cultural spectacle that provides a deeper understanding of Mongolia's rich traditions.

These two festivals offer contrasting yet equally enchanting experiences, allowing travelers to choose the one that resonates most with their interests and desires. The tour offers three scheduling options: Naadam festival at the end of the tour, as displayed below, departure on 29 June 2024; Naadam festival at the beginning of the tour, departure on 09 July 2024; Danshig Naadam-Khuree Tsam festival, departure on 01 August 2024. You can view the day-by-day [summary program](#) for more details.

**DEPARTURE DATES:** 06.29.2024; 07.09.2024; 08.01.2024.

### ITINERARY

#### Day 1 - Ulan Bator

Upon arrival in Ulan Bator, you will be met by your guide and a driver who will transfer you to your hotel in the capital. (D).

#### Day 2 - Baga Gazriin Chuluu (Middle Gobi)

Early morning will see your adventure begin with a trip to Baga Gazriin Chuluu, a multi-hued and striking natural rock formation. Nearby, we will also visit the ruins of an ancient temple and explore the area as well as enjoying a picnic lunch out in the wilds. Dinner and overnight stay in a traditional and romantic ger camp. Driving distance - 220 km (135 miles). (B/L/D).

#### Day 3 - Tsagaan Suvarga

After breakfast today, we will head to Tsagaan Suvarga, a fascinating white limestone cliff resembling a traditional Buddhist Stupa. Given that we are far from civilization, we will enjoy an al-fresco picnic lunch. Dinner and overnight stay in a ger camp. Driving distance - 280 km (175 miles). (B/L/D).

### TOUR INCLUSIONS AND OPTIONAL EXTRAS

#### Included

Accommodation  
Full board meals  
English - speaking guides  
Guided tours & entrance fees  
Airport transfers

#### Not included

Personal travel insurance  
Optional excursions

#### Practical information

Mongolian visa procedure  
Book with Confidence - Covid FAQs  
Tour schedule - day by day

#### **Day 4 - Yol (Eagle) Valley**

Today is a long - but thrilling - drive to Yoliin Am National Park for hiking and an opportunity to photograph the stunning surrounding landscape. Picnic lunch. Spend the afternoon hiking or relaxing in the natural setting. Return to the camp for overnight stay. Driving distance - 280 km (175 miles). (B/L/D).

#### **Day 5 - Khongor Sand Dunes**

After breakfast today, we will drive to the wild and beautiful Khongor Sand Dunes known as the Singing Dunes (the vibrations of shifting sand make a sound like singing). We will enjoy a picnic lunch, outside, nomadic style. We will climb up to the sand dunes and be rewarded with a huge, panoramic view. In the evening, we will observe a stunning sunset, so please prepare your camera for this spectacle. Dinner and overnight stay in a ger camp. Driving distance - 200 km (125 miles). (B/L/D).

#### **Day 6 - Bayanzag (Flaming Cliffs)**

Today, we will focus on the amazing Flaming Cliffs (Bayanzag) and the saxaul trees of the Gobi. We will explore the site of the first paleontological discoveries made in Mongolia by Roy Chapman Andrews. We will also learn all about those wonderful hump-backed creatures, the camel, with a nomadic camel breeding family. We will also experience the hospitality of the Mongolian nomads. There will be the chance to ride on a camel too to complete the experience. Lunch, dinner, and overnight stay in a ger camp. Driving distance - 150 km (94 miles). (B/L/D).

#### **Day 7 - Ongi Monastery**

Today, we travel north. Our mission is to visit the ruins of once-great Ongi Monastery and to visit a local restored temple, as well as to enjoy a gentle walk in the surrounding area. Have dinner and spend the night in a ger camp. Driving distance - 150 km (94 miles). (B/L/D).

#### **Day 8 - Karakorum**

After breakfast, we will drive out to Karakorum, which in the 13th century was the magnificent capital of the Great Mongol Empire. Here, we will have the chance to visit the Erdene-Zuu Monastery, which was the first and largest monastery in Mongolia. We will tour the monastery and visit several temples in which hang several stunning examples of Buddhist Thangka paintings dating back to the 16th century. Visit the Karakorum Museum. Dinner and overnight stay in a ger camp. Driving distance - 300 km (187 miles). (B/L/D).

#### **Day 9 - Tsenkher Hot Springs**

Today is less about exploring and more about relaxing in beautiful Mongolian nature. We will drive to the Tsenkher hot spring and spend the day relaxing in the natural spa. For those who fancy it, there is the chance to walk in the surrounding forest too. Bring your swimwear. Optional massage and beauty services are available. Enjoy the spa again after dinner for a full chill-out experience. Lunch, dinner, and overnight stay in a ger camp. Driving distance - 150 km (94 miles). (B/L/D).

### **Day 10 - Lake Ugii**

Today we drive to Lake Ugii in Arkhangai province. This is one of the best places for bird watching in Mongolia. Spend the night in a ger camp. Driving distance - 240 km (150 miles). (B/L/D).

### **Day 11 - Khustai National Park**

Today, we embark on an adventure to Khustai National Park, a place renowned for its successful preservation of Przewalski's wild horses, which have been reintroduced into their natural habitat. This National Park is celebrated not only for these remarkable wild horses but also for its rich biodiversity, encompassing a wide variety of wildlife, plant species, and unique ecosystems. As night descends, we'll find comfort and rest at a nearby ger camp, where both lunch and dinner are thoughtfully provided for your convenience. The driving distance for the day is approximately 230 kilometers, equivalent to 144 miles, as we explore the natural wonders of Khustai National Park. (B/L/D).

### **Day 12 - Ulan Bator**

After a hearty breakfast, we will set out for the National Horse Race. A leisurely walk will lead us to the horses' finishing line, where you can witness a truly unique and heartwarming spectacle. The young horse jockeys, ranging in age from 5 to 12 years old, have been in the saddle since they were as young as 1 to 3 years old. It's a remarkable experience to watch these skilled children and their trusty steeds as they undertake the challenging 20-kilometer race, competing against more than 300 other horse and jockey pairs. Following the race, we will savor a traditional Mongolian lunch featuring Huushuur, a delightful culinary treat. In the afternoon, we'll journey back to the city, where you can immerse yourself in the festive atmosphere of the Naadam festival's eve. Your accommodation for the night will be at a comfortable hotel, and your meals for the day, including breakfast, lunch, and dinner, are all thoughtfully provided. The driving distance for the day is approximately 120 kilometers (75 miles). (B/L/D).

### **Day 13 - Naadam Festival**

Today will prove to be a truly remarkable experience as today we will attend the opening ceremony of the Naadam Festival. Not only that, we will enjoy a Naadam Gala Dinner and a Folk Concert in the evening. The highlight of the Mongolian festival calendar, the Naadam Festival dates back several centuries and takes place each year on July 11-13. Originally an assessment of a nomad's abilities, it requires power, endurance, and precise marksmanship, as well as a host of horse skills. Understandably, given the role of the horse in Mongolia, much significance is placed on the horse races. Herdsmen arrive from hundreds of miles to join in - as well as those from cities and towns. Amazingly, the races are staged on the vast steppe itself, which covers almost 20 miles. Overnight stay in a hotel. (B/L/D).

### **Day 14 - Chinggis Khaan Statue Complex and Terelj National Park**

Escape the city for a day of adventure and awe-inspiring

landscapes. Our first stop takes us to the renowned Chinggis Khaan Statue Complex, where you'll witness a truly remarkable sight. This colossal and gleaming statue stands as the world's largest equestrian monument dedicated to Chinggis Khaan, an iconic historical figure. After this captivating visit, our journey continues to Terelj National Park. In the heart of Terelj, we'll relish a delicious lunch at a ger camp and then embark on an exploration of the park's natural wonders. Our first stop within the park will be at Turtle Rock, a fascinating rock formation, and Ariyabala Temple, which offers a breathtaking panoramic view of the entire park. As the day comes to an end, we'll return to the city, where you will be transferred back to your hotel. Breakfast, lunch, and dinner are all thoughtfully included, ensuring a day filled with exploration and culinary delights. The driving distance for the day is approximately 200 kilometers (125 miles). (B/L/D).

**Day 15 - Ulan Bator**

Breakfast at the hotel. Our driver will meet you at the hotel lobby. Transfer to the airport for your flight back home. (B).

**AVAILABLE PACKAGES**

**COMFORT - 3\* PACKAGE**

Dates	Tour Price	Single suppliment
06/29/2024 - 07/13/2024	\$3995	\$395
07/09/2024 - 07/23/2024	\$3995	\$395
08/01/2024 - 08/15/2024	\$3595	\$395

**ALTERNATIVE TOURS AND TAILOR-MADE ARRANGEMENTS**

In addition to organized group tours, we also offer individual trips. This could be an entirely separate holiday arrangement or an extension to a regular "Go Russia" trip. Whether you would like to travel independently, or just with the group of your friends or colleagues, we can help to realise your holiday plans. Depending on your preference for either comfort or budget, we can help you to design the ideal itinerary and provide the optimal value-for-money quote. Please [contact us for a quote](#).

Based on your chosen tour we believe you might be interested in alternative trips listed below:

- > [Naadam Trans-Mongolian East-West: Beijing - Ulan Bator - Baikal - Yekaterinburg - Moscow \(TS-19\)](#), Price from \$4,495, 21 days
- > [Great Mongolian Discovery: Ulan Bator, Terelj, Gobi Desert, Karakorum, Hustai \(MN-01\)](#), Price from \$3,795, 15 days
- > [Best of Mongolia Jeep Tour: Ulan-Bator, Gobi Desert, Karakorum \(MN-03\)](#), Price from \$2,495, 10 days
- > [Tracing Genghis Khan's Path: Unearthing the Hidden History of the Mongol Empire \(MN-04\)](#), Price from \$2,595, 10 days

**INFORMATION ABOUT VISAS**

Go Russia provides assistance in processing visas and visa fees are included in the cost of most of our trips as detailed in the tour dossier. The visa application process is very straightforward. We have years of practical experience in dealing with tourist visas, and our in-house visa team provides assistance with completing the forms and checking the documents before consular submission. Please do not worry that your application will be unsuccessful (unless you have had any immigration issues with the relevant authorities in the past). All our tourists get their visas.

All nationalities require a full passport valid for at least six months beyond the intended length of stay. Please also make sure there are enough blank pages in your passport: Russian consulate requires minimum two blank pages.

**USA, UK, Germany, France, Spain residents**

We have in-house visa teams in the US, UK, Germany, France and Spain. Upon your booking we will email you detailed guidance notes how to fill in the visa forms and what additional documents depending on nationality and your immigration status will be required. You will need to post your application pack to our visa processing office including



your original passport. Please allow about two weeks for each visa application to be processed. Please advise us if you require your passport urgently, we can arrange urgent processing for an additional charge.

### **Non-USA, UK, Germany, France, Spain residents**

If you are not resident in the USA, UK, Germany, France or Spain, we will issue official paperwork and email the required documents to you. You will need to apply for your visa at the local consulate. The process is very straightforward and we can assist you with completing the visa forms. You will have to pay the correct visa fee at the consulate in the country of your residence.

You can read more information about visa and application forms on our website:

[www.justgorussia.com/us/visa\\_services.html](http://www.justgorussia.com/us/visa_services.html)

## **HOW TO BOOK**

### **Step 1 - Choose Your Holiday & Departure Dates**

It is important that you choose a trip that is well suited to your interests, capabilities and experience. All our staff has first hand experience of a range of Go Russia holidays and will be happy to talk to you about your chosen trip, enabling you to assess its suitability. We also recommend that you read the descriptions of the relevant region, general information about our services, booking conditions, and trip dossiers carefully. Once you know what tour is right for you, as well as your departure dates, you can start your booking.

### **Step 2 - Complete the Booking Form**

**Online:** log on to [www.justgorussia.com](http://www.justgorussia.com) and open the tour you wish to book and click "Book now". To provide you with a more personalised and relevant experience in all your contact with Go Russia, when you book online we ask you to register on our system. Once registered you can retrieve your bookings, brochure requests, lecture participation, update newsletter subscriptions, passenger and emergency contact details, submit special dietary requests, view invoices and receipts, download trip documents.

**Email:** alternatively, you can book your tour per email - [info@justgorussia.com](mailto:info@justgorussia.com), or

**Phone:** call us on +1 (917) 259 13 33

When booking by email or over the phone please confirm your personal details (full name and address), chosen tour, departure date, package type (hotel / cabin category), and available upgrades.

### **Step 3 - Confirmation of your booking**

On receipt of your booking form, we will make any necessary reservations for you and send you confirmation invoice, including the flight details, and additional information about your destination: advice on visas, vaccinations and what to take. The invoice will also show you the exact due date of the payment.

### **Step 4 - Payment**

Please note, if your departure date is more than 56 days you will need to pay the deposit, which should cover the full cost of the flight (if applicable), plus 10% of the land-only arrangements (minimum \$250) per person towards your tour. The outstanding payment must be made 56 days prior to departure. If you book less than 56 days before departure, full payment must be made at the time of your booking. You can make your payment by bank transfer or credit card (2% surcharge applies for credit card payments). You will find all relevant payment details in your invoice.

On request we can organise an additional programme for you, please inquire about the price and availability of the optional excursions.

Please find below some space to write down your queries or comments regarding this trip.

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