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

MN-02

Embark on a 15-day journey through Mongolia, a captivating blend of modern and historical traditions. Explore Ulan Bator, Erdene-Zuu, the remnants of Karakorum, and the natural wonders of Terelj, Hustain Nuruu, Khongor's sand dunes, and the South Gobi. Witness the Naadam festival's opening ceremony and unique sporting events, concluding with a gala dinner and folk concert. This is a one-of-a-kind tour of Mongolia's magic.

This tour offers the flexibility to be arranged around two captivating festivals: the renowned Naadam festival and the Danshig Naadam-Khuree Tsam festival.

The Naadam festival, often referred to as the "Three Manly Games," is Mongolia's most celebrated event. It features competitions in the traditional sports of wrestling, horse racing, and archery, showcasing the athleticism and skills of participants.

Danshig Naadam-Khuree Tsam is a vibrant Buddhist festival unique to Mongolia. It involves colourful ceremonies, masked dances, and rituals, which are both spiritually significant and visually captivating. It offers a glimpse into the rich cultural heritage of the region.

Whether you prefer the traditional athleticism of Naadam or the cultural richness of Danshig Naadam-Khuree Tsam, this tour allows you to experience the best of Mongolia's festivities. The tour can be scheduled on two different dates:with the Naadam festival at the end, as displayed below, departure on 29/06/2027;with the Naadam festival at the beginning of the tour, departure on 09/07/2027;View day by day summary programme.

DEPARTURE DATES: 29.06.2027; 09.07.2027; 31.07.2027.

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 - 245 km (150 miles). (B/L/D).

Day 3 - Tsagaan Suvarga
After breakfast today we will head to Tsagaan Suvarga, a fascinating white lime stone cliff which resembles a traditional Buddhist Stupa. Given that we are far from civilisation, 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).

Day 4 - Yol (Eagle) Valley
Today it 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.

TOUR INCLUSIONS AND OPTIONAL EXTRAS

Included
International flights
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
Tour schedule - day by day

Return to the camp for overnight stay. Driving distance - 220 km (138 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, 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 - 170 km (106 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 and as well as to enjoy a gentle walk in the surrounding area. Have dinner and spend the night in a ger camp. Driving distance - 185 km (115 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 16thcentury. Visit the Karakorum Museum. Dinner and overnight stay in a ger camp. Driving distance - 270 km (169 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 - 115 km (72 miles). (B/L/D).

Day 10 - Lake Ugii
Today, we embark on a drive to Lake Ugii in Arkhangai province, renowned as one of the finest bird-watching destinations in Mongolia. Our overnight stay will be in a ger camp. The journey covers a distance of 110 km (69

miles). (B/L/D).

Day 11 - Khustai National Park
Today, we embark on a journey to Khustai National Park, renowned for its successful preservation of Przewalski's wild horses, which have been successfully reintroduced into their natural habitat. This National Park is not only celebrated for its wild horses but also for its diverse array of wildlife, plant life, and ecosystems. Our day begins with an introduction to the park, followed by an exciting expedition deep into its heart in search of these prized wild horses. As night falls, we will find comfort and rest at a nearby ger camp, where both lunch and dinner are thoughtfully provided for your convenience. Driving distance 230 km (144 miles). (B/L/D).

Day 12 - Ulan Bator
After breakfast, we will make our way to the National Horse Race. A leisurely walk will lead us to the horses' finishing line, where you can witness a unique spectacle. The young horse jockeys, aged between 5 and 12 years old, have been in the saddle since the tender ages of 1 to 3. It's a truly heartwarming experience to watch these children and their trusty steeds as they complete the challenging 20-kilometer race, competing against more than 300 other horse and jockey pairs. Following the race, we will enjoy 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, breakfast, lunch, and dinner, are all included. Driving distance 120 km (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 a 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 breathtaking landscapes and adventure. Our first stop takes us to the renowned Chinggis Khaan Statue Complex, where you'll behold a truly impressive sight. This colossal and gleaming statue stands as the world's largest equestrian monument dedicated to Chinggis Khaan, a historical icon. After this awe-inspiring visit, we'll continue our journey to Terelj National Park. In the heart of Terelj, we'll enjoy a

delicious lunch at a ger camp and then set off to explore some 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 stunning panoramic view of the entire park. As the day draws to a close, 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 full of exploration and culinary delights. Driving distance 200 km (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

ALTERNATIVE TOURS AND TAILOR-MADE ARRANGEMENTS

In addition to organised 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 £, 21 days
> Great Mongolian Discovery: Ulan Bator, Terelj, Gobi Desert, Karakorum, Hustai (MN-01), Price from £, 15 days
> Best of Mongolia Jeep Tour: Ulan-Bator, Gobi Desert, Karakorum (MN-03), Price from £, 10 days
> Tracing Genghis Khan's Path: Unearthing the Hidden History of the Mongol Empire (MN-04), Price from £, 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.

UK, USA, Germany, France, Spain residents
We have in-house visa teams in the UK, USA, 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 - three weeks for each visa application to be processed. The actual visa processing times are published on our website. Please advise us if you require your passport urgently, we can arrange urgent processing for an additional charge.

Non-UK, USA, Germany, France, Spain residents
If you are not resident in the above countries, 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, processing times and application forms on our website:
www.justgorussia.co.uk/en/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.co.uk 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, 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.co.uk, or

Phone: call us on **+44 (0)20 33 55 77 17**

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 £100) 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, debit or credit card, cheque, bankers draft or postal order. You will find all relevant payment details in your invoice.

YOUR NOTES

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.