

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

MN-02



Discover the best of Mongolia on a 15-day tour that blends modern and historical traditions. Explore Ulan Bator, Erdene-Zuu, and Karakorum's remnants, while also experiencing nature in Terelj, Hustain Nuruu, Khongor's sand dunes, and South Gobi. Don't miss the captivating Naadam festival with unique sports, gala dinner, and folk concert. This tour is truly exceptional!

This tour offers the flexibility to be arranged around two remarkable festivals: the Naadam Festival and the Danshig Naadam-Khuree Tsam Festival. The Naadam Festival is Mongolia's most celebrated event, featuring the "Three Manly Games" of wrestling, horse racing, and archery, showcasing the country's rich sporting heritage and nomadic culture. On the other hand, the Danshig Naadam-Khuree Tsam Festival is a unique Buddhist celebration with vibrant mask dances, rituals, and colourful ceremonies, providing a captivating glimpse into Mongolia's spiritual traditions and history. These two festivals allow travelers to experience the diverse cultural tapestry of Mongolia while exploring its breathtaking landscapes.

The tour can be scheduled on three different dates: with the Naadam festival at the end, as displayed below, departure on 29 June 2024; with the Naadam festival at the beginning of the tour, departure on 09 July 2024; with the Danshig Naadam-Khuree Tsam festival, departure on 01 August 2024. You can view the day-by-day summary programme for more details.

DEPARTURE DATES: 29.06.2024; 09.07.2024; 01.08.2024.

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 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. Return to the camp for overnight stay. Driving distance -

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
Book with Confidence - Covid FAQs
Tour schedule - day by day

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, 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 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 - 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 Ugi

Today we drive to Lake Ugi 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, our adventure leads us to Khustai National Park, a place celebrated for its remarkable success in preserving Przewalski's wild horses and reintroducing them into their natural habitat. This National Park is not only known for these extraordinary wild horses but also for its rich biodiversity, which includes a wide variety of wildlife, plant species, and unique ecosystems. As the day progresses and 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 (144 miles). (B/L/D).

Day 12 - Ulan Bator

After enjoying a hearty breakfast, our next destination is the National Horse Race. A leisurely stroll will guide us to the horses' finish line, where you'll have the opportunity to witness a truly exceptional and heartwarming spectacle. The young horse jockeys, aged between 5 and 12 years, have been riding since they were as young as 1 to 3 years old. It's a remarkable experience to observe these skilled young riders and their faithful steeds as they embark on a challenging 20-kilometer race, competing against over 300 other horse and jockey pairs. Following the race, we'll indulge in a traditional Mongolian lunch featuring Huushuur, a delightful culinary delight. In the afternoon, we'll make our way back to the city, where you can fully immerse yourself in the festive ambiance of the Naadam festival's eve. Your overnight stay will be at a comfortable hotel, and you can rest assured that all your meals for the day, encompassing breakfast, lunch, and dinner, are generously provided. The day's travel distance will encompass 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

Get ready to escape the city for an exhilarating day of adventure and breathtaking scenery. Our first destination is the renowned Chinggis Khaan Statue Complex, where you'll witness a truly extraordinary 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. Deep within Terelj, we'll delight in a sumptuous lunch at a ger camp, and then we'll set out to explore the park's natural marvels. Our initial stop within the park will be at Turtle Rock, an intriguing rock formation, and Ariyabala Temple, which provides a breathtaking panoramic view of the entire park. As the day draws to a close, we'll head back to the city, and you'll be conveniently transferred back to your hotel. Breakfast, lunch, and dinner are all considerably included, ensuring a day filled with exploration and culinary delights. The total driving distance for the day will be 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	Incl. flights*	Single suppliment
29/06/2024 - 13/07/2024	Rs 339950	Rs 399950	Rs 39950
09/07/2024 - 23/07/2024	Rs 339950	Rs 399950	Rs 39950
01/08/2024 - 15/08/2024	Rs 309950	Rs 369950	Rs 39950

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 Rs 349,950, 21 days
- > [Great Mongolian Discovery: Ulan Bator, Terelj, Gobi Desert, Karakorum, Hustai \(MN-01\)](#), Price from Rs 309,950, 15 days
- > [Best of Mongolia Jeep Tour: Ulan-Bator, Gobi Desert, Karakorum \(MN-03\)](#), Price from Rs 209,950, 10 days
- > [Tracing Genghis Khan's Path: Unearthing the Hidden History of the Mongol Empire \(MN-04\)](#), Price from Rs 210,950, 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.

India, USA, UK, Germany, France, Spain residents

We have in-house visa teams in India, 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-India, USA, UK, Germany, France, Spain residents

If you are not resident in India, 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.in/in/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.in 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.in, or

Phone: call us on 000 800 050 24 14

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 Rs15,000) 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.

