



Golden Eagle Festival Bayan-Ulgii, Mongolia



Eagle Hunting, one of the most dramatic and primal relationships between man and beast is alive and well in the remote mountains of western Mongolia. You'll follow Kazakh hunters with trained golden eagles, the largest and most powerful of raptors, as they hunt fox and rabbit from horseback. Meet the hunters, their families and their birds, follow them on the hunt and learn some of the skills involved in the capture, training and use of the eagles as hunters.



Day 1: Arrive in Ulaan Baatar (UB), the capital of Mongolia. Your guide and driver will meet you at the airport. UB is where modern constructions stand beside traditional dwellings and ancient monasteries. Conveniently located in downtown, your hotel is in walking distance of Sukhbaatar Square, museums, and shops. Enjoy a short city orientation tour before dinner. Overnight in hotel.



Day 2: Fly to the capital of the Bayn-Ulgii province, Ulgii. The flight takes about 4 hours. Meet local guide and driver. Drive to Eagle hunter's family. Homestay or ger camp.

Day 3: A day with the Eagle hunter's family to explore the surrounding areas; visit ancient stone monuments. Homestay or ger camp.



Day 4: See Kazakh Eagle hunters' preparation for the Festival and possibly travel with them to the Festival site. Ger camp or hotel.

Day 5-6: After breakfast drive to the festival site. The rodeo of eagle hunting. A fantastic opportunity for photographers and adventurers alike to see these magnificent birds up close. There are approx. 400 eagle hunters in Bayan-Olgiy aimag. Eagle hunters from around regions gather to test their finely trained birds in singular contests of speed and agility in these few days. During the festival we also see some Kazakh Traditional Horse Games like "Bush Kushi"(Tug war),"Kiss woman on horseback", "Pick up coins from the land on horseback" and others. Overnight in gers.



Day 7: Early breakfast. Catch your flight back to UB. In the evening, watch "Tumen Ekh" folk theater perform throat singing, traditional dance, contortion and more. Overnight at hotel.

Day 8: Transfer to the airport for your international departure



DRAFT AGENDA



Festival Day 1: 10:00 Opening ceremony, introductions, Eagle Hunting history and practice. 10:30 Parade of all participants. 11:00-13:00 Fox Skin (The real test of a hunter's ability, Eagles must catch a fox skin dragged behind their trainer's horse.) 13:00-14:00 Break for lunch. 14:00-16:00 Fox Skin (The real test of a hunter's ability, Eagles must catch a fox skin dragged behind their trainer's horse.) 14:00-16:00 Archery (Same time will be started Western Mongolian Archery Competition. Archery people will shoot from bow to balls and goat skins on horse back.) 16:00-17:00 Kyz Kuar (A race between a man and woman on horseback) 17:00-18:00 Bushkashi - Tug of war played on horseback with killed goat, common throughout Central Asia. 18:00-18:30 Tiyn Teru - Riders compete to pick up flags or flowers from the ground during the race. 19:00 Break for dinner.

Festival Day 2: 10:00-13:00 Eagle Call (Tests hunter's ability to 'call' Eagle to their horse from a distance) 13:00-14:00 Break for lunch. 14:00-15:00 Camel Race 6kms (It is one most funny and interesting game. Camel riders can be women and men.) 15:00-16:00 Tiyn Teru - Riders compete to pick up flags or flowers from the ground during the Race. 16:00-17:00 Bushkashi - Tug of war played on horseback with killed goat, common throughout Central Asia. 17:00-17:30 Kyz Kuar (A race between a man and woman on horseback) 17:30-18:00 Awards and Closing ceremony

What's Included: Meals beginning and ending in UB (dinner on arrival day through breakfast on departure day), vehicle/driver, hotel in UB and ger accommodations, homestay, guide/translator, and park/entry fees. Domestic flights are quoted separately.

What's Not Included: Airport taxes, evacuation coverage, gratuities, excess baggage fees, sleeping bag pad rental, and items of personal nature.