



Arkhangai Horseback Trek

July 2-14 (includes Naadam) July 6-18 (includes Naadam)

July 22-August 3 August 5-17



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 downtown, your hotel is within walking distance of Sukhbaatar Square, museums, and shops. Enjoy a short city orientation tour before dinner. Overnight in hotel.



Day 2: Depart UB in the morning. Drive to Kharhorin, the ancient capital of the Mongolian Empire, located 400km southwest of UB. There are presently efforts to reestablish Kharhorin as the capital of Mongolia as it was centuries ago. Explore the restored Erdenzuu Monastery originally built in 1586. Stop for a packed lunch near Elsen Tasarhai sand dunes. Overnight in a ger camp.



Day 3: Drive to Tsetserleg, the capital of Arkhangai. Located in west-central Mongolia, Arkhangai is called the "Switzerland of Mongolia" for its beautiful scenery: forests, rivers, and mountains. After lunch, continue to camp in the valley of the Ikh Tamir River. Meet horses and wranglers. On the horseback trek, we cover approximately 20 miles per day and meet our support vehicle each night at a new campsite. Personal luggage and the accouterments of "catered camping" are transported in the support vehicle making for a light, fast travel on horseback. Camp out each night a spacious three-person tents. During each day's ride, we'll visit the gers of local herders and have a chance to experience nomadic life on the Central Asian steppe.



Day 4: Experience Naadam in Tsetserleg by horseback. Observe Mongolian traditional sports called the "Three manly games". Naadam, or "festival", has occurred for centuries in Mongolia as an exhibition of horse racing (racers are generally ages 7-11 and race 15-30 kilometers), wrestling (men only) and archery (women and men). Overnight in ger camp.



Day 5 – 9: Ride and camp through the valleys and mountains of Arkhangai. A vehicle will carry all camping goods and food. Local wranglers take care of the horses. We visit many families along the way and taste the local foods of summer; yogurt, cheese, and the infamous airag (fermented horse milk). The support vehicle always has room for anyone ready for a break from the saddle. Camp out in tents overnight. Finish the last day of riding at Tsenkher hot springs.



Day 10: Drive to Khogno Khan Nature Reserve. Relax and hike in the rock formations of the Reserve. The ruins of the Uvgun Temple first built in 1660 lie at the base of the mountain of Khogno Khan, a nice place to begin a short hike. Stay overnight in ger camp.



Day 11: Return drive to UB. In the evening, watch Tumen Ekh folk theater perform throat singing, traditional dances, contortion and more. Farewell dinner. Overnight in hotel.

Day 12: Enjoy a breakfast buffet at your hotel before a full day of guided sightseeing in UB. Begin the tour at Zaisan Memorial, a prominent landmark looking over the city of UB built on Bogd Khan Mountain. Walk Sukhbaatar Square, named after the Mongolian National Hero of the People's Revolution in 1921. Take in the Museum of National History to acquaint yourself with Mongolian history, traditional culture, and arts. Overnight in hotel.

Day 13: Your guide and driver will take you to the airport for departure home.