



## Essential Mongolia

July 8 -17 (includes Naadam) June to September



**Day 1:** Arrive in Ulaan Baatar (UB), the capital of Mongolia. Your guide and driver will meet you at the airport after you clear customs and immigration. Drive to Khustai Nature Reserve located 110 km southwest of UB. Driving will take about 2 hours mostly on sealed roads. Visit Park Information Center, then a short drive to see the wild horses in nature. Overnight in ger camp. Transfer to the airport for your international departure.



**Day 2:** 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 Tsenkher hot springs. Located in west-central Mongolia, Arkhangai is called the "Switzerland of Mongolia" for its beautiful scenery: forests, rivers, and mountains. Visit herder's family. Overnight in ger camp.



**Day 4:** Drive to Arkhangai province. Spend all day at the Naadam Festival in Tsetserleg. It is Mongolia's annual summer celebration with horse races, wrestling, and archery also called "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). July 11th is the official date of the Naadam established by the Mongolian government. Overnight in ger camp.



**Day 5:** Drive to Jargalant, and along the way, visit Terkhiin Tsagaan Lake. Climb to the top of the Khorgo, the dormant volcano, where you'll see a dramatic landscape of larch forests, mountains, and lava flows reaching the horizon. Overnight in ger camp.



**Day 6:** Drive into the northern part of the country, crossing the Selenge River and heading for Khatgal, the gateway to Lake Khovsgol. On the way, visit the Valley of the Kings near Muren, famous for its deer stones erected by Bronze Age nomads. Overnight in ger camp.



**Day 7:** A full day of exploring, hiking, and relaxing at the lake. Famed as the "Blue Pearl" of Mongolia and the heart of Khovsgol National Park, this lake holds 2% of the world's freshwater reserve and is surrounded by mountains and forests. Visit Park Information Center. Horseback riding is optional. Overnight in ger camp.

**Day 8:** Transfer to Muren. Fly back to UB. Overnight in hotel.

**Day 9:** Full-day guided sightseeing in UB. Visit the Museum of National History to acquaint yourself more with Mongolian history, traditional culture, and arts. Then shop at the State Department Store and cashmere store. In the evening, see the "Tumen Ekh" ensemble perform throat singing, traditional dances, and more. Farewell dinner. Overnight in hotel.

**Day 10:** After breakfast your guide will transfer you to the airport for your int'l flight departure.