

North Mongolian tour via Central

Highlights: Tsaatan family (reindeer herder)

Tour length: 17 days

Day 1. Drive and visit **Amarbayasgalant** Monastery. Have lunch and dinner. Spend overnight in local family's extra ger. The star attraction of Selenge province, this monastery is considered to be one of the top three Buddhist institutions in Mongolia (along with Erdene zuu and gandan khiid) and the country's most intact architectural complex. It was originally built between 1727 and 1737 by the Manchu emperor Yongzheng, and dedicated to the Great Mongolian Buddhist and sculptor, Zanabazar whose mummified body was moved here in 1779.

Day 2. Full day **Khutag –Ondor sum** Bulgan province. Overnight place stop on our way back to UB. Prettiest location next to a meandering stream at the base of a small valley. Natural mineral spring for your health.

Day 3. **Murun City**- get Border permit - After breakfast, you will be transferred to Murun, provincial center of Khuvsgul. After lunch at local restaurant, Town lovely Lake Khuvsgul which rests alongside the Siberian border, surrounded by rolling hills and alpine forests. Stay overnight guest house -shower day Have a dinner cooked by a guide.

Day 4. **Darkhad Depression**/Tsagaan Nuur /via **Ulaan Uul village** -Will prepare horses for horseback riding and meet with local horse guide and their family. The culture and lifestyle of Darkhad people is quite different from the majority of ethnic groups in Mongolia. Interact with the local family, try their food and traditional costumes. Have breakfast, lunch and dinner cooked by a guide.

Day 5. **Tsaatan reindeer family** Visit a local family of reindeer herders riding on reindeer back. You will see & enjoy specific lifestyle of those 'society isolated' people. You will see & explore Shaman related items. Then, you can try riding on reindeer back if you want. Overnight at tent or Urts. Have breakfast, lunch and dinner cooked by a guide.

Day 6. Tsaatan family stay one more night, meet Shaman (need to make appointment)

Day 7. Horse Trekking back to **Tsagaan Nuur village (return the horses)** and meet your driver and drive to Khuvsgul lake- 136km long and 36km wide at 1645m above sea level. It is second largest lake in Mongolia as well as the deepest. It is known as the Blue Pearl of Mongolia, because of its crystal clear water. **Jankhai village** overnight in ger. Have breakfast, lunch and dinner cooked by a guide. (Shower available)

Day 8. Drive to **Khatgal Village** –kayaking short time to Khusliin khad (Whispering rock) enjoy the lake shore, hiking day stay overnight in ger guest house. Have breakfast, lunch and dinner cooked by a guide.

Day 9. Drive to **Jankhai village** have Breakfast after. Today you will be riding in a mountain, right side of the lake. Surrounding nature is very cool! You will see this beautiful nature spirit and visit nomads' family and interact with those nomads. Horse riding a short distance in a beautiful green meadow. Overnight at the local guest house.

Day 10. **Shine-Ider** village- near Selenge River –overnight in tent, have breakfast, lunch and dinner cooked by a guide.

Day 11. **Terkh white lake** - On the way visit Tsetserleg city, drive to Terkhiin Tsagaan Nuur (Great White Lake), a stunning lake surrounded by mountains, volcanic rock and grassy slopes. The lake lends itself to swimming and is reputedly good for fishing, but the fish here are harder to catch than in other areas. Stay with local family extra ger.

Day 12. **Khorgo Volcano** (Terkhiin Tsagaan Nuur) There are a number of options for exploring the area such as an interesting hike (8km round trip) to the top of Khorgo Uul– an extinct volcano crater. The lake has volcanic origins, something that is easy to figure out by the trail of solidified lava formations leading from the lake to nearby Khorgo Uul volcano. Khorgo volcano is a dead volcano covered with

basalt lying to the east of the lake Terkhiin Tsagaan in Arkhangai aimag. Accommodation – stay with local family / ger

Day 13. **Tsenkher Hot Spa** - Reflect, relax, spa, enjoy the premier nude spa retreat in Arkhangai province, enjoy a whirlpool and contemplate the mountain above you - Relax in the sun all day and swim free in a spa water pool - Tsenkher's curative mineral waters have been used for centuries as the most pure and healing in the Mongolia. Feel the 24 hour mineral water whirlpool massage the tension from your busy life at our refreshing, upscale and sensual countryside center - Sauna bliss - sun bathe natural - Sleep all day in Mongols' traditional dwelling ger. Shower , relax.

Day 14. **Orkhon valley (Orkhon waterfall)** Have a lunch on the way local restaurant place .Scenic and untouched natural distinct spot allow good opportunities for hiking and horseback riding. Early morning hiking through the canyon of the river. Overnight in ger host by local nomad family.

Day 15. **Kharhorin city** on arrival you will notice the first and most obvious landmark which is the massive wall of monastery **Erdenezuu**. Erdenezuu, built in 1586, is the first Buddhist monastery to have been built in Mongolia and by a well-known Mongolian king called Abtai Sain Khaan, and is surrounded by a vast 400m wall. Various construction materials were taken from the ruins of Karakorum to build this monastery. Overnight- ger guest house /take a shower / lunch at the local restaurant, breakfast, and dinner cooked by a guide.

Day 16. Drive to **Mongol Sand dune**. The main road separates Elsen Tasarkhai sand dune into two parts, Mongol Els on the south and Khugnu Tarnyn Els on the north. Elsen Tasarkhai sand is sodden under its surface, so shrubberies such as willow, elm and dogwood, grow in the area. Overnight at nomad family's guest ger, 1 hour camel riding. Breakfast and Dinner- cooked by your guide, Lunch will have at the local restaurant) Electricity not available.

Day 17. Drive back to **Ulaanbaatar** have lunch on the way at the local restaurant. **Arrival time 16:00PM**

