

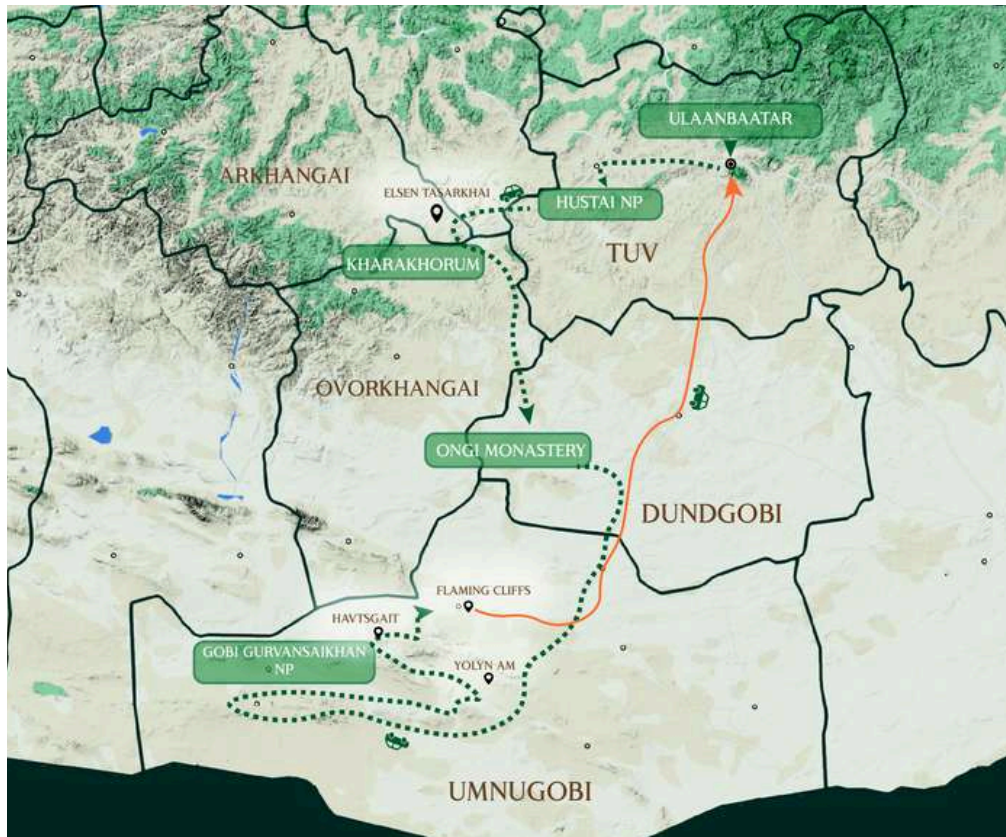
# CLASSIC MONGOLIAN JOURNEY

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(Date: May 27-June 7, 2025)



## TRIP SUMMARY



The Gobi Desert and Central Mongolian grassland is home to some of the most diverse and endemic bird species of Mongolia. While exploring the valleys, slopes and ridges, one can encounter with a wide range of mountain species, including the impressive **Bearded Vulture (Lammergeier)**, **Chukar Partridge**, **Himalayan Griffon**, the impressive **Cinereous Vulture**, **Booted and magnificent Golden Eagles**, **Water Pipit**, **Black Redstart**, **Alpine**, **Brown** and the breeding nearly endemic **Kozlov's Accentors**, **Chinese Beautiful Rosefinch**, **Twite**, **Godlewski's Bunting**, **Pallas's Reed Bunting**, **Common Rock Thrush**, and with a bit of luck, **Grey-necked bunting** and rare **Red-mantled Rosefinch** and **Spotted Great Rosefinch**.

At Yol valley for example, flocks of White-winged Snowfinches are regularly seen and can be very confident while feeding along the trail. Further north, Boon Tsagaan lake covers an area of 252 km<sup>2</sup> at 1,312 m above sea level. It has a length of 24km and a width of 11 km, with an average depth of 9.6 m. It is the largest of the Lake of Valley and also the primary site for watching **Relict Gull**, **Pallas's Fish Eagle**, **Dalmatian pelican**, **Mute swan** and various waterfowl and waders. The lake supports a number of globally threatened species and is an important area for their breeding and congregation before migration. The trip will conclude at Hustai National park, one of the best managed conservation areas in Mongolia with its own unique animal kingdom in Mongolia.

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## ITINERARY

### DAY 1, MAY 27 ARRIVAL IN ULAANBAATAR



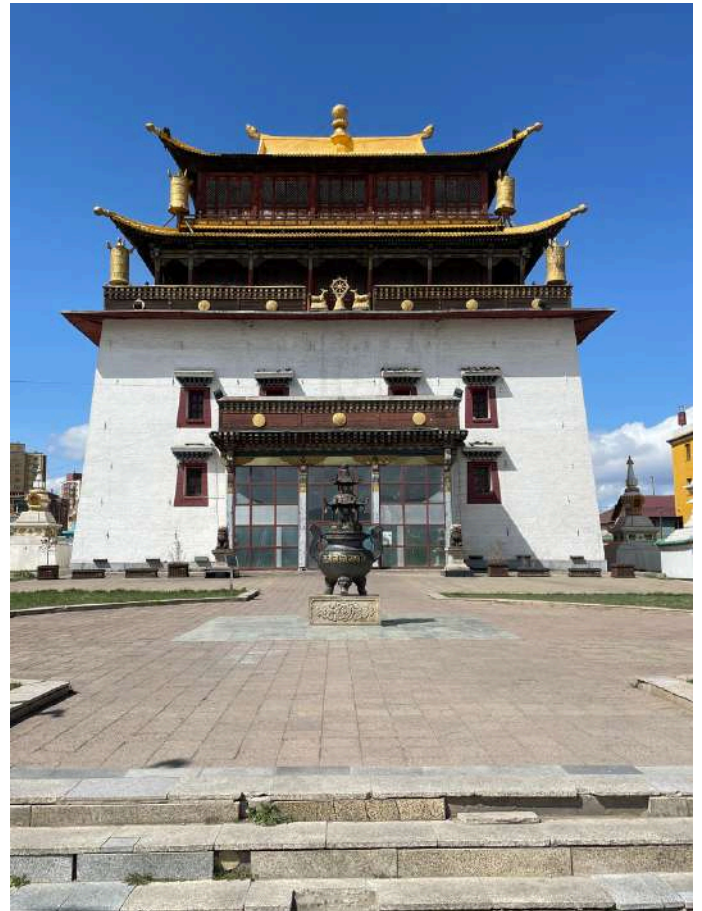
Upon arrival at the airport, transfer to the centrally located hotel in downtown Ulaanbaatar. In the evening, we will provide your pre-trip briefing and then host a welcome dinner at a fine local restaurant.

**(Hotel Kempinski or similar; D)**

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### DAY 2, MAY 28 ULAANBAATAR CITY TOUR

We will spend this day exploring sights and sounds of Mongolia's capital. We will begin this morning with a private blessing with a Buddhist monk at Gandan, the country's largest monastery. An imposing 90-foot-tall statue of Megjid Janraisag (Avalokites-vara in Sanskrit) stands in the largest temple in the monastery. This statue is considered as the religious symbol of Mongolia's independence and democracy after the country's democratic transition of 1990. When a Mongolian student in the mid-1990s discovered fragments of the original statue (which was destroyed by Soviet authorities in the 1930s) in St. Petersburg, a nationwide campaign began to collect money for rebuilding the Buddha. After years of hard work, this magnificent Buddha was resurrected and is now standing proudly, as a symbol of Mongolian Buddhist heritage.



Next, we will visit the Chinggis Khan National Museum for best collection of country's cultural, historical and archeological collection featuring the reign of Great Mongolian Empire of the 13th century under Chinggis Khan and his sons. After lunch, visit National History Museum located in downtown Ulaanbaatar. This museum offers an excellent introduction to Mongolia's history from pre-historic times through the 13th century Mongolian Empire, and on to the democratic movement of the early 1990s, which overthrew the Communist regime. Enjoy dinner at a fine local restaurant. (**Hotel Kempinski or similar; B, L, D**)

### DAY 3, MAY 29 ULAANBAATAR/ HUSTAI NATIONAL PARK



In the morning, drive to the magnificent Hustain Nuruu National Park where the Mongolian takhi or Przewalski's horses are being re-introduced. There will be many such journeys throughout the tour and we will keep a lookout for exciting raptors such as Steppe Eagle, Upland Buzzard and Saker Falcon.

We should reach in time for lunch, and we will have time to settle into our tourist 'ger' camp. Each 'ger' (or yurt) generally consists of twin beds with a central heating unit. Although simple, the gers are far more comfortable than the old alternative of field camping! Following lunch, we will start exploring the upland steppe habitat of Hustai National Park. One of the principal attractions of the reserve is a population of highly endangered Przewalski's Horse, and we will look to visit a small spring where they are known to drink in the late afternoon. At one time they were totally extinct in the wild, but thankfully a dedicated team were able to reintroduce them and Hustai is now one of the few strongholds for this impressive inhabitant of these beautiful upland slopes. **(Ger camp; B, L, D)**

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### DAY 4, MAY 30. HUSTAI/ MONGOL ELS/ KHARAKHORUM



After breakfast, begin your overland journey towards Kharakhorum (4 hours driving). En route, visit Mongol Els, one of world's most northerly located sand dunes located next to the Hognu Han National Park.

After a picnic lunch, continue driving and reach your ger camp in Kharakhorum in time for dinner. Overnight in gers.

**(Approx. 4-5 hours of driving; Ger camp; B, L, D),**

## DAY 5 MAY 31. TURKISH SITES AND ERDENEZUU MONASTERY



After breakfast, begin the day with a short journey about 1 hour to the north to visit 7-8th century archeological sites of Turkish era. This interesting site will give you insights about times of Mongolia before the reign of the Great Mongol Empire. Next, arrive at the Erdenezuu monastery and begin with a short walk in north of Erdenezuu monastery, where the ancient capital city stood.

The construction of the original Kharakhorum city was completed during Ogedei Khan, Chinggis Khan's third son who inherited the empire his father created after his death in 1228. It's located within a beautiful valley of Orkhon river, which bears hundreds of historically and archeologically significant sites, awaiting its unlocking, including 2000 years old burials, deer stones (believed to a form of burial) and ruins of cities pre-dating the time of Chinggis Khan (contrary to the popular spelling of "Genghis Khan" in the west, the correct pronunciation of his name among Mongolians is Chinggis Khan ). Its' remaining were used in the construction of Mongolia's largest Buddhist Monastery Erdenezuu, erected on its' place, which standstoday. Visit the monastery grounds in the afternoon. Dinner and overnight in gers.

**(Ger camp; B, L, D),**

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## DAY 6, JUNE 1 KHARAKHORUM / ONGI MONASTERY



Today, begin your overland journey south to the Gobi desert via Ongi Monastery (7-8 hours driving). We will also have our first opportunity to stop along the way and visit a nomadic horse herder family. Mongolians are known for their hospitality offered in form of food and shelter. Nomadic children, who often spend their summer school breaks with their parents, are found helping their parents. Continue driving until you reach Ongi Monastery, a ruin of monastery located on the northern tip of the Gobi desert. The Ongi Monastery was once called the "Pearl of the Gobi" and was on the cross roads of

Central Asian Silk road camel caravan merchants. We will explore the monastery ruins and surrounding hills on foot and stay at a ger camp located on the Ongi river banks.

**(Approx. 6 hours driving; Ger Camp; B, L, D)**

## DAY 7, JUNE 2 ONGI MONASTERY/ GOBI GURVANSAIKHAN NP

After breakfast, begin driving to your ger camp Gobi Mirage located near the beautiful Gobi Gurvansaikhan mountains, enjoying a picnic lunch along the way. This particular location will allow you to have a magnificent view of Gobi's iconic mountain range known as "Three Beautiful Mountains" and give a feeling of Gobi's serenity. Enjoy the rest of the day relaxing at the ger camp. **(Ger camp; B, L, D)**

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## DAY 8, JUNE 3 YOLYN AM / HAVTSGAIT PETROGLYPHS

After breakfast, drive a short distance to mountains of Yolyn Am. Enjoy some gentle hiking through steep-sided gorges and high altitude meadows. Birding these beautiful slopes is a real pleasure and we'll be on the lookout for exciting species such as Chukar, Daurian Partridge, Bearded and Himalayan Vulture and Saker Falcon. Another key target today will be the little known and near endemic Kozlov's (Mongolian) Accentor, which are only known to breed in these stunning mountains. While exploring the valleys, slopes and ridges, we will be on the lookout for a wide range of mountain species, including the impressive Bearded Vulture (Lammergeier), a couple of pairs of which nest in the canyons here. Another major target is the localised Altai Snowcock, which often give their characteristic whistling calls in the early morning just after dawn.

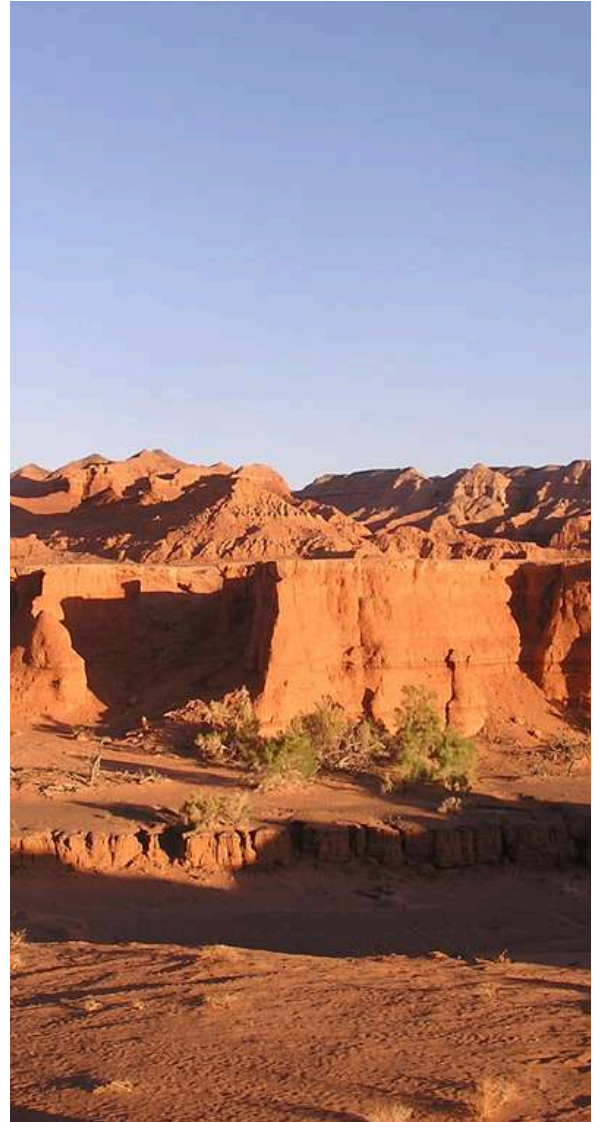


After a picnic lunch, drive a short distance to Havtsgait Petroglyphs, a remarkable collection of ancient rock drawings dating to 3,000-4,000 thousand years ago, located on a top of a small rocky mountain top. One of the leading Mongolian specialists Dr. Christopher Atwood wrote a paper about this site, concluding that this site might be one of the earliest recorded sources depicting a Mongolian ger. In the afternoon, return to your ger camp and enjoy dinner. **(Ger camp; B, L, D)**

## DAY 9, JUNE 4 TUGRIGIIN SHIREE / FLAMING CLIFFS

In the morning, we will begin driving to the Tugregiin Shiree, which was discovered by Mongolian scientists and co-explored by Polish expeditions in the late 1960s and early 1970s. Tugregiin Shiree is perhaps most known for its famous "Fighting Dinosaurs" (a fossil of a Protoceratops and a Velociraptor locked in combat), which were discovered in the 1970s. We will explore this white sandstone escarpment for dinosaur fossils.

In the late afternoon, will drive to the legendary Flaming Cliffs, red sandstone formations that stretching over 3 kilometers in width, where hundreds of dinosaur fossils have been discovered over the course of the last century. Paleontological expeditions from many countries, including from the U.S, Poland, Japan and Russia have worked here during last 90 years. Each year, rain and wind reveal yet more fossils and every summer, exceptional new discoveries are made. We will explore the cliffs in the footsteps of legendary American explorer Roy Chapman Andrews who discovered the first dinosaur eggs here, that the world had ever seen. Enjoy a sunset view at this majestic place before returning back to our ger camp. **(Ger Camp; B, L, D)**



## DAY 10, JUNE 5 GOBI DESERT/ RETURN TO ULAANBAATAR

After breakfast, begin driving back to Ulaanbaatar, enjoying a picnic lunch along the way. Upon arrival, transfer to your hotel. Dinner is independent. **(Approx. 8 hours driving; Bayangol Kempinski or similar; B, D)**

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## **DAY 11, JUNE 6. ULAANBAATAR SIGHTSEEING**



Enjoy one full day for last minute sight seeing and shopping.

In the evening, enjoy a wonderful performance of traditional Mongolian music and dance, featuring Khoomii or “throat” singing, followed by a farewell dinner at one of the city’s fine local restaurants.

**Overnight at hotel. (Kempinski hotel or similar; B, D)**

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## **DAY 12, JUNE 7 DEPARTURE**

After breakfast transfer to the airport for your return flight home. (B)

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**B = Breakfast | L = Lunch | D = Dinner**

**Ger camp = The traditional portable, circular, wooden dwelling used by the nomadic peoples.**

**Field camp = A bit more sophisticated camping/glamping, more permanent in nature.**

**Tent camp = Expedition style, often moving regularly and smaller in size and scale.**

**MONGOLIA QUEST RESERVES THE RIGHT TO ALTER THE ABOVE ITINERARY IF DEEMED NECESSARY.**



## LAND PRICES

Based on 4-5 participants:	<b>\$3,560 per person</b> , standard twin occupancy;
Based on 6-7 participants:	<b>\$3,400 per person</b> , standard twin occupancy;
Based on 8-10 participants:	<b>\$3,320 per person</b> , standard twin occupancy;
Based on 11-13 participants:	<b>\$3,100 per person</b> , standard twin occupancy;
Based on 11-14 participants:	<b>\$2,930 per person</b> , standard twin occupancy;
Based on 15 and more participants :	<b>\$2,800 per person</b> , standard twin occupancy;
Optional single supplement:	<b>\$450 per person</b> , (including a single tent)

LAND PRICES INCLUDE:	LAND PRICES DO NOT INCLUDE:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Land transportation as indicated in the itinerary based on using a 4x4 van and land cruisers;</li> <li>• Accommodations in a standard room at hotels and gers in the countryside based on a twin occupancy;</li> <li>• Airport arrival &amp; departure transfers;</li> <li>• All meals indicated as B, L or D;</li> <li>• All entrance fees as indicated in the itinerary;</li> <li>• English speaking guide throughout your stay with local knowledge and experience;</li> <li>• Supply of bottled water per person per day based on consumption.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• International airfare;</li> <li>• Personal laundry;</li> <li>• Drinks not mentioned in the itinerary;</li> <li>• Travel insurance;</li> <li>• Medical evacuation costs;</li> <li>• Excess baggage charges;</li> <li>• Visa fees;</li> <li>• Gratuities;</li> <li>• Photography and video fees</li> <li>• Any other item not mentioned as included.</li> </ul>

## HOW TO BOOK THIS TRIP

You may book any trip with us by filling out our Trip Application Form, which you can download using Adobe Acrobat Reader and can send to us as an electronic file via e-mail at

- **Info@MongoliaQuest.com**

All reservations are subject to deposit of \$400 per person. Deposits are refundable until 90 days prior to the start of the program less a \$250 administrative fee. Please arrange a wire transfer to Mongolia Quest bank account as per following instructions:

**Beneficiary name:** MONGOLIA QUEST LLC

**Beneficiary's address:**

Suite #1205, Dalai Tower, 1st Horoo, 13th Sud-district, Sukhbaatar District,  
Ulaanbaatar 14210, Mongolia;

**Tel:** (976) 7000 9747

**Email:** info@MongoliaQuest.com

**Beneficiary's account number:** 3005111070

**Beneficiary's bank name:** Golomt bank

**Beneficiary's bank address:**

Monnis branch

3rd floor, Monnis tower, Chinggis avenue

Khoroo #1, Sukhbaatar district

Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia

**Beneficiary's bank swift code:** GLMTMNUB

Once we receive your trip application form, we will send you information about how to wire your deposit to us, and a confirmation letter with information related with visa and international airfare reservations. You will also receive our pre-departure Travel Guide, which will include information on weather, suggested reading list, a list of items to pack, etc.

About 4 weeks prior to your arrival date, we will send you Final Departure Information which will include your final itinerary along with any other necessary updated information regarding the logistics of your trip.

## PAYMENT AND CANCELLATION POLICY

As mentioned above, a deposit of \$400 per person is required to reserve space for the trip that you have chosen. Full payment is due 90 days prior to the start of the trip. In the case of a cancellation, please contact us in written form.

Notification of cancellation must be received in writing by Mongolia Quest. At the time, we receive your written cancellation, the following penalties will apply:

- **Up to 90 days** prior to departure: **\$250 per person** handling fee;
- **89-60 days** prior to departure: **20% of the trip cost** per person;
- **60-45 days** prior to departure: **50% of the trip cost** per person;
- **44-30 days** prior to departure: **75% of the trip cost**, per person;
- **29 days** prior to departure, or after the trip starts: **no-refund**.

Some airfares may be nonrefundable. Once an expedition has departed, there will be no refunds from MQ for any unused portions of the trip. The above policy also applies to all extensions and independent travel arrangements made in conjunction with this program.

### **Tier pricing**

Our prices are based on tier pricing. At the time of booking, we will bill you for the amount based on the confirmed number of trip participants. In case the number of travelers increases at the last moment, we will reimburse the balance of your payment in accordance with the corresponding tier pricing, after you return home.

## TRAVEL NOTES

### How to get to Mongolia

The official Mongolian international civil flight carriers Mongolian Airlines or MIAT. Currently it serves flights between Beijing, Seoul, Tokyo, Hong Kong, Bangkok and Frankfurt. Other popular airlines include Asiana, Pusan and Turkish airlines. South Korea is the most common international gateway city to Ulaanbaatar. Mongolian Airlines and Turkish Airlines fly daily to/from Istanbul. If you are coming from Europe, you may also find Turkish Airlines a convenient connection. During the summer season, if no seats are available on any of these major carriers, there are ways to fly to Mongolia through local cities in China and Russia. Please contact us for more information. The seats are usually in high demand and booking needs to be done well in advance.

### Visa Information

U.S, Canadian, Japanese, Australian and citizens of most European counties are allowed to enter Mongolia without a visa for up to 30 days. All other nationals are required to get a visa before entering Mongolia.

#### THE LIST OF THE COUNTRIES TO BE EXEMPTED FROM VISA REQUIREMENTS TO VISIT MONGOLIA UP TO 30 DAYS IN THE YEARS OF 2023-2025

- |   |   |  |
|---|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Czech Republic</li> <li>• Republic of Austria</li> <li>• Kingdom of Belgium</li> <li>• Hungary</li> <li>• Hellenic Republic</li> <li>• Kingdom of Denmark</li> <li>• Kingdom of Spain</li> <li>• Italian Republic</li> <li>• Republic of Latvia</li> <li>• Republic of Lithuania</li> <li>• Swiss Confederation</li> <li>• Republic of Bulgaria</li> <li>• Republic of Ireland</li> <li>• Republic of Philippines</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Principality of Liechtenstein</li> <li>• Grand Duchy of Luxembourg</li> <li>• Republic of Malta</li> <li>• Kingdom of the Netherlands</li> <li>• Republic of Poland</li> <li>• Portuguese Republic</li> <li>• Slovak Republic</li> <li>• Republic of Slovenia</li> <li>• Republic of Finland</li> <li>• Republic of Croatia</li> <li>• Canada</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Kingdom of Sweden</li> <li>• French Republic</li> <li>• Republic of Estonia</li> <li>• Kingdom of Norway</li> <li>• Republic of Iceland</li> <li>• Republic of Cyprus</li> <li>• Romania</li> <li>• Principality of Monaco</li> <li>• United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland</li> <li>• Commonwealth of Australia</li> <li>• New Zealand</li> </ul> |
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## Weather

Mongolia enjoys over 280 sunny days a year. However, because Mongolia has a continental weather pattern, weather can fluctuate drastically during any given day. We recommend packing warm clothes even if you are coming during the hottest months. Our pre-departure information will provide details regarding the weather along with a suggested packing list. Layering is the best plan to be ready for a wide array of Mongolian weather patterns.

## Accommodation



Newly renovated Soviet era hotels are located at some of the best locations in downtown Ulaanbaatar. They offer comfortable rooms and friendly services. There are also newer hotels like Kempinski Khan Palace, Ramada Ulaanbaatar and Best Western Inn. The countryside accommodations are arranged in “ger camps,” which provide authentic nomadic felt tents with centralized bathroom and toilet facilities located nearby. They offer clean, comfortable beds and plentiful meals.

## Safety

Mongolia is devoid of any political, religious and ethnic sectarian conflicts and is considered one of the safest countries in the world for international travelers. However, like in any other country, crimes do happen, so a good sense of caution and respect shown to the locals can help to avoid unnecessary confrontations. Mongolians are generally hospitable people who love to interact with foreigners.

## Food



Mongolia’s capital, Ulaanbaatar, hosts an excellent collection of fine restaurants of international cuisine. In the countryside, tour establishments offer hearty meals with a balance of meat and vegetables. Meat in Mongolians excellent in that the whole country is essentially “free-range” terrain. Even your strictest dietary restrictions can now be met with proper information in advance and preparation by us.

## **Information about Currency and Payment Methods**

Mongolia's national currency is called tugrik and the exchange rate is about 3,400 tugrik to a US dollar. Major currencies can be exchanged at the hotels and pawnshops, and ATM machines are widely available throughout Ulaanbaatar and provincial centers. However, Australian dollars can usually only be exchanged at banks. Traveler's checks can be cashed at banks and major credit cards are accepted at most places in the capital, but only Mongolian cash is accepted in the countryside. We recommend that you travel with Mongolian national currency equal to at least \$200 when touring in the countryside.

## **Souvenirs**

Like any other places, Mongolia offers great souvenirs ranging from camel wool sweaters to cashmere scarves and traditional wooden puzzle games. Mongolian vodkas can be an excellent gift. At several stores, you can also find a range of traditional Mongolian musical instruments such as the famed Morin Khuur or "horse headed fiddle." Bargaining is not very customary; most items are sold for the price on their labels. If you plan to shop for souvenirs, we recommend purchasing locally as many items as possible since your purchases will be a direct contribution to the local community.

## **Travel Insurance**

With Mongolia stretching over 1.5 million square kilometers and its population concentrated in the cities, we will be traveling through some remote areas away from good roads and medical facilities. We strongly recommend that you consider getting standard emergency medical evacuation insurance as a means to protect yourself from unexpected accidents that can happen during any trip. Nothing is better than traveling with peace of mind knowing that you have prepared for the trip as much as possible in advance.

## **Traveling with Mongolia Quest**

Because it is still a developing country, traveling in Mongolia requires a sense of humor and patience. New roads and bridges are being built every year, but the paved road system is still limited in the countryside. You may experience flight delays and find road conditions bumpy and dusty. But the experience of traveling in Mongolia will far exceed some personal compromises in comfort. We like to say that the best part of traveling in Mongolia is spontaneous events and interactions, which lead to unexpected interactions, discoveries, and experiences that will make your trip unique and memorable. At Mongolia Quest, we ensure the integrity of your overall itinerary but at the same time, will go out of our way to make necessary changes in order to enrich your travel experience with us.

**ENJOY YOUR TRIP!**