

# ELEMENTS OF MONGOLIA: PHOTOGRAPHY EXPEDITION

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July 15 – 27, 2025

## TRIP SUMMARY



### Who is this tour designed for?

This photography tour is designed for beginners and enthusiasts looking to develop a deeper understanding of photography in one of the world's most breathtaking landscapes. Whether you're new to manual settings or looking to refine your skills, this immersive experience will help you gain confidence in capturing Mongolia's stunning scenery, wildlife, and nomadic culture. With hands-on guidance from experienced instructors, you'll learn to compose striking images, master lighting techniques, and express your creativity through the lens.

With a small group size, this tour ensures personalized attention, allowing for tailored instruction, real-time feedback, and a more intimate learning environment. Unlike larger tours, this setting fosters a deeper connection with both the landscapes and fellow participants, making for a truly enriching experience. From vast steppes and dramatic dunes to vibrant cultural encounters, this journey offers the perfect blend of education, adventure, and inspiration for any aspiring photographer.

## WHAT YOU CAN EXPECT FROM THIS TOUR?

### Recommended Gear:

Please note that the suggested lenses are only recommendations. We understand that not everyone will have these specific lenses, and we will adapt based on the gears you have.

- DSLR/ Mirrorless Camera
- Lens: Refer to the daily itinerary for specific lens recommendations. We will be photographing wildlife (**telephoto lens**), portraits (**telephoto & prime lens**), landscapes (**wide-angle lens**), and night photography (**wide-angle lens with a low f-stop**).
- Tripod or Monopod
- Extra Batteries & memory Cards
- **Optional:**
  - o Drone
  - o Binoculars
  - o Polarised Filters

**PS:** Drones can be used at any location, and we leave it up to the guests to decide when they would like to fly them. We'll be happy to offer guidance on their use. Please keep in mind that drones can appear as small birds to larger predators, such as eagles, and may become targets. Fly at your own risk and remain cautious of these potential interactions.

Additionally, when using drones to film wildlife, ensure you maintain a safe distance so as not to disturb or scare the animals.

### Photo Views:

At the end of each day, guests will be asked to select 5 to 10 photos they feel proud of and would like to review. After dinner, we'll gather together for a constructive photo review session. This will be an opportunity to share your best shots, discuss the techniques you applied, and receive feedback from both the group and the instructor. It's a great way to reflect on your progress, learn from each other, and gain insights on how to improve your skills further. The collaborative atmosphere encourages a supportive learning environment, where everyone's work is appreciated and constructive criticism is embraced.

## ITINERARY

### DAY 1, JUL 15 ULAANBAATAR

Arrive at Chinggis Khaan International Airport, where your guide and driver will welcome you. Transfer to your hotel for check-in and relaxation. In the evening, enjoy a welcome dinner at a local restaurant featuring authentic Mongolian cuisine, followed by a Photography Tour Summary Presentation. Overnight at hotel (**Hotel Bayangol or similar**). (D)

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### DAY 2, JUL 16 ULAANBAATAR SIGHTSEEING



After breakfast, we'll visit the Chinggis Khan museum which houses a vast collection of artifacts, relics, and exhibits that detail the history, culture, and military conquests of the Chinggis Khan empire and the earlier period. Your exploration of Ulaanbaatar with a visit to the Zanabazar Museum of Fine Arts, named after the famous Mongolian sculptor, artist, and Buddhist leader. The museum houses a magnificent collection of Buddhist art, including sculptures, thangkas, and rare artifacts that showcase Mongolia's artistic heritage. In the evening, experience the vibrant culture of Mongolia with an evening performance showcasing traditional music and dance, including the haunting khuumii throat singing and the soulful morin khuur horsehead fiddle. Overnight in a hotel. (**Hotel Bayangol or similar; B, L, D**)

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### DAY 3, JUL 17 HUSTAI NATIONAL PARK

**Theme:** Wildlife Photography

**Possible Sightings:** Przewalski's Horse, Red Deer, Marmots, Black Vultures, Saker Falcons, Steppe Eagles

**Recommended Gear:** Telephoto Lens (100-400mm, 70-200mm, or 200-500mm)

**Learning Focus:**

- Shutter Speed Techniques
- Spot vs. Wide-Area Focus
- Single vs. Continuous Focus (S-AF vs. C-AF)
- Capturing Motion (Freezing & Panning)
- Patience & Positioning

**Itinerary:** After breakfast, drive to Hustai National Park, home to the rare Przewalski's horse (Takhi)—the world's only truly wild horse, once extinct in Mongolia and now thriving with nearly 500 individuals. Explore the park's rolling hills and open steppes, photographing these majestic horses alongside red deer, marmots, and raptors like black vultures, saker falcons, and steppe eagles.

In the evening, settle into a traditional ger camp, share dinner with a local nomadic family, and capture the golden hues of sunset over the steppe. As night falls, enjoy breathtaking astrophotography opportunities under Mongolia's vast starry sky. (3 hrs, 100 km; Ger Camp; B, L, D)

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#### DAY 4, JULY 18 EXPERIENCE NOMADIC LIFESTYLE

**Theme:** Capturing Daily Life & Storytelling Through Photography

**Recommended Gear:** Wide Lens 16-35mm, Portrait Lens (50mm, 85mm), or Travel Lens (20-70mm, 18-55mm)

**Learning Focus:**

- Understanding Aperture for Portrait Photography
- Understanding Depth of Field (Using Background to enhance Portraits)
- Candid Vs Posed Photography
- Natural Light Portrait
- Environment Portrait vs Portrait Photography



**Itinerary:** Spend the day fully immersed in Mongolia's nomadic culture. Experience a range of traditional activities, from herding and milking livestock to learning how to prepare airag (fermented mare's milk) and making artisanal dairy products. You'll also ride horses through the stunning landscapes of Hustai National Park, a peaceful and scenic journey through wide-open plains framed by distant mountain ranges. Take in the beauty of the surrounding nature, and for birdwatching enthusiasts, you might catch glimpses of demoiselle cranes and other raptors soaring through the clear skies. (Ger Camp; B, L, D)

## DAY 5, JUL 19 KHUGNU TARNI NATIONAL PARK ; ELSEN TASARKHAI DUNES

**Theme:** Light, Textures, and Composition in Diverse Landscapes

**Recommended Gear:** Wide Lens 16-35mm, 14-28mm, Telephoto lens 70-200mm

### **Learning Focus:**

- Understanding Aperture for Landscape Photography
- Depth of Field for Landscape Photography
- Composition (Rule of Thirds, leading lines and layering - Using dunes, mountains, and valleys to create depth in compositions)
- Understanding Focal Length (Wide angle vs Telephoto)
- Harsh Light Photography (Techniques of Exposure Compensation)
- Contrast & Textures
- For more advance photographer: Focus Stacking Technique

### **Sunset Opportunity:**

Capture the changing hues throughout the dunes (Explore wide angle shots and details shots of the sand dunes)

**Nighttime Opportunity:** For those interested, we will have the opportunity to capture stunning nightscape photography under Mongolia's pristine dark skies. With its high altitude and minimal light pollution, Mongolia is one of the best places in the world for stargazing and astrophotography.



**Itinerary:** Today, journey through the diverse landscapes of Khugnu Tarni National Park, where lush grasslands meet forested mountains and vast sand dunes. Visit the secluded Ovgon Monastery, tucked away in a scenic valley surrounded by rugged cliffs, offering both history and panoramic views.

Continue to Elsen Tasarkhai, one of Mongolia's most visually striking areas. This unique desert, encircled by mountainous terrain, provides a surreal experience. Enjoy a camel ride or a leisurely hike across the golden dunes, capturing stunning photos of the contrasting landscapes as the sand shimmers beneath the sun. (Ger Camp; B, L, D)

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## DAY 6, JULY 20 VISIT KHARAKHORUM / ERDENE ZUU TEMPLE



**Theme:** Capturing History Through Architecture & Cultural Details

**Recommended Gear:** Wide Lens 16-35mm, 14-28mm, Portrait Lens (50mm, 85mm), and/or travel lens (24-70mm)

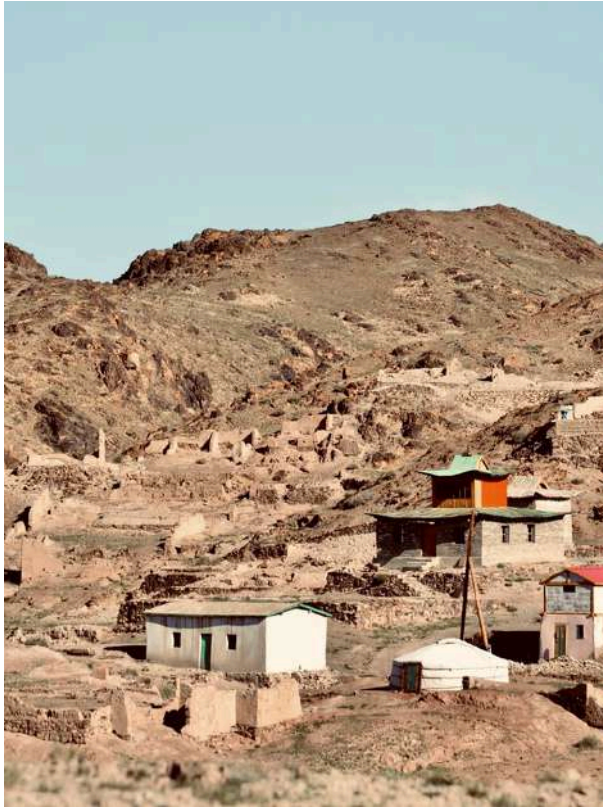
**Learning Focus:**

- Composition using symmetry and leading lines
- Focus on Aperture Priority Mode
- Opportunity to practice your portrait learnings on the Monks (with permission)

**Itinerary:** Today, we'll journey to Kharkhorum, the former capital of the Mongol Empire. Discover the fascinating history of this ancient city, which once stood as the hub of one of the world's greatest empires. Visit the nearby ErdeneZuu Monastery, Mongolia's first Buddhist monastery, built from the ruins of Kharkhorum. The monastery, surrounded by white stupas, offers a glimpse into Mongolia's rich religious past and showcases beautiful Buddhist art.

Overnight in a ger camp. (Ger camp; B, L, D)

## DAY 7, JULY 21. ONGI MONASTERY



**Theme:** Capturing History Through Architecture & Cultural Details

**Recommended Gear:** Wide Lens 16-35mm, 14-28mm, telephoto lens 70-200mm

**Practice Day:**

Today is the day to apply everything you've learned so far. Throughout the day, you'll have

the chance to capture landscapes, wildlife, and people. Use your skills to create compelling compositions, and feel free to blend different types of photography, such as landscapes and portraits, to tell the story of Mongolia's lifestyle. For example, capture herders tending to their livestock on the vast plains, motion blur shots of cars and horses moving across the steppes, or candid portraits of families at work, with children helping with daily tasks.

**Itinerary:** 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.

(Stay overnight Ger Camp; B, L, D; 300km )

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## DAY 8, JULY 22 FLAMING CLIFFS



**Theme:** Mastering Light & Composition in Dramatic Landscapes – Sunset opportunities

**Recommended Gear:** Wide Lens 16-35mm, 14-28mm, telephoto lens 70-200mm

### **Learning Focus:**

- Understanding Aperture
- Depth of Field
- Composition (Rule of Thirds, leading lines and layering – Using dunes, mountains, and valleys to create depth in compositions)
- How to create scale in vastness using objects / peoples
- Harsh Light Photography (Techniques of Exposure Compensation)
- Contrast & Textures
- For more advanced photographer: Focus Stacking Technique

### **Sunset Session:**

- o Capture the changing hues as the cliffs glow deep red under golden light
- o Silhouettes – Shadow Shots

**Nighttime Opportunity:** For those interested, we will have the opportunity to capture stunning nightscape photography under Mongolia's pristine dark skies. If conditions allow,

capture the milky way over the cliffs using long exposure techniques. (We will need a low F-

stop Wide Lens for the best results – Best f1.4 or under)

**Itinerary:** In morning, drive to the Flaming Cliffs, red cliffs which stretch for about 3 km in width. This legendary place was first discovered by the Central Asiatic Expedition led by Roy Chapman Andrews of the American Museum of Natural History in the early 20th century. It is where the first dinosaur eggs the world had ever seen were discovered and many important dinosaur species have been discovered. Enjoy a sunset over the cliffs. (Stay overnight Ger Camp; B, L, D; 170km )

## DAY 9, JUL 23 KHONGORYN ELS

**Theme:** Wildlife & Desert Landscape Photography

**Recommended Gear:** Wide Lens 16-35mm, 14-28mm, Telephoto Lens 100-400mm, 70-200mm or 200-500mm

### Practice Day:

Today is the perfect opportunity to put your landscape and wildlife photography skills into practice. We've arranged for over 20 majestic camels to pass alongside their herder, set against the dramatic backdrop of the rolling sand dunes. Along this special moment, you might have the chance to practice on the elusive desert animals like the Goitered Gazelle, and the Mongolian Wild Ass. Use the techniques you've learned to capture the perfect scene, along with portraits of the herders in their traditional attire.



### Techniques you'll apply:

#### - Landscape Photography:

- o Understanding Aperture
- o Depth of Field
- o Composition (Rule of Thirds, leading lines and layering - Using dunes, mountains, and valleys to create depth in compositions)
- o Understanding Focal Length
- o Harsh Light Photography (Techniques of Exposure Compensation)
- o Contrast & Textures
- o For more advance photographer: Focus Stacking Technique

#### - Wildlife Photography:

- o Understanding Shutter Speed
- o Single Vs continuous Focus (S-AF vs C-AF)
- o Spot Focusing Vs Wide-Area Focus
- o Capturing Motion (Freezing & Panning Technique)
- o Patience and Positioning
- Sunset Opportunity:
  - o Capture the changing hues throughout the dunes (Explore wide angle shots and details shots of the sand dunes)

**Itinerary:** After breakfast we'll set out on a drive to Khongoryn Els, the Gobi's largest sand dunes and among the most spectacular in the world. En route we'll explore the small mountain ranges of Bayan Dalai and Zoulen, stopping along the way for a picnic lunch.

At nearby Tukhim, an ancient dry lake-bed, we will look for a local population of Goitered Gazelle and Mongolian Wild Ass or Khulan. There are three species of wild ass in the world – the African Wild Ass, the Tibetan Kiang and the Asiatic Wild Ass or Onager,



of which the Hulan is a subspecies. All of them are desert animals and all threatened with extinction. Today Mongolia holds one of the last remnants – about 20,000 animals – of this once abundant species. One of the most captivating moments of the day will be the opportunity for all participants to photograph a stunning scene—over 20 majestic camels alongside their herder, set against the dramatic backdrop of the rolling sand dunes. (Stay overnight Ger Camp; B, L,D; 160km )

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## DAY 10, JUL 24 YOL VALLEY



**Theme:** Capturing Mountain Birds and Dramatic Valley Landscapes

**Recommended Gear:** Wide Lens 16-35mm, 14-28mm, Telephoto Lens 100-400mm, 70-200mm or 200-500mm

**Learning Focus:**

- Understanding Shutter Speed
- Spot Focusing Vs Wide-Area Focus
- Single Vs continuous Focus (S-AF vs C-AF)
- For Advance Mirrorless camera: How to use auto Tracking Focus
- Action Shots of Birds in Flight (like the Chukar, Bearded Vulture and Saker Falcon)
- Explore Natural Framing (Use rock formation to create your canvas)

**Itinerary:** 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 localized Altai Snowcock, which often give their characteristic whistling calls in the early morning just after dawn. (Stay overnight Ger Camp; B, L, D; 150km)

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## DAY 11, JUL 25 TSAGAAN SUVARGA

**Theme:** Photographing Ancient Seabeds and Dramatic Cliff Formations with a Candid Sunrise

**Recommended Gear:** Wide Lens 16-35mm, 14-28mm

**Learning Focus:**

- Sunrise Photography Techniques
- Long Exposure Shutter Speed
- Composition (Rule of Thirds, leading lines and layering - Using dunes, mountains, and valleys to create depth in compositions)
- For more advanced photographer: Bracketing Technique



**Itinerary:** In the early morning, we will leave the nature reserve and travel along dirt roads to Tsagaan Suvarga, another marvel of Dundgobi Province, located in Olziit Soum. Unlike mountains or formations visible from every angle, Tsagaan Suvarga reveals itself in a unique and striking way. Approaching from the south, the flat plains suddenly give way to a dramatic cliff. This extraordinary formation, shaped by wind and sunlight over millions of years, was once part of an ancient seabed. The cliff rises 60 meters high and spans over 400 meters wide, from a distance, Tsagaan Suvarga resembles the ruins of an ancient city, with its towering structures evoking the appearance of old buildings and walls. Watching the sunrise here is a magical experience, as the shifting colors create a breathtaking spectrum of hues, enveloping you in a serene, dreamlike atmosphere. (Approximately 340km. Ger camp; B, L, D)

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### **DAY 12, JUL 26 RETURN TO ULAANBAATAR**

In the morning, drive back to Ulaanbaatar. The remainder of the afternoon is for last minute sightseeing and shopping. In the evening, enjoy a fare well dinner at fine local restaurant.

(Bayangol or similar hotel; B, L, D)

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### **DAY 13, JUL 27. DEPARTURE**

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

**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 3-5 participants:	<b>\$3,595 per person</b> , standard twin occupancy;
Based on 6-8 participants:	<b>\$3,230 per person</b> , standard twin occupancy;
Based on 9 or more participants:	<b>\$2,830 per person</b> , standard twin occupancy;
Optional single supplement:	<b>\$336 per person</b>

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 Land cruiser at the countryside;</li> <li>• Accommodations in a standard room at Ger camps, based on a twin occupancy;</li> <li>• All meals indicated as B, L or D;</li> <li>• All entrance fees as indicated in the itinerary;</li> <li>• Museums fee;</li> <li>• English speaking guide throughout your stay;</li> <li>• Bottled water per person per day and unlimited supply of boiled waters.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• International and domestic 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 in museums and any other item not mentioned as included (in museums and other indoor facilities).</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](mailto: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 Sub-district, Sukhbaatar District,  
Ulaanbaatar 14230, Mongolia;

**Tel:** (976) 7000 9747

**Email:** [info@MongoliaQuest.com](mailto: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

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|---|---|--|
| <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 Mongolia is 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!**