

Mongolia Unheard: A Musical Journey with Batzorig Vaanchig

Sep 18th - 29th 2026



TRIP SUMMARY



Transporting you to the pure air and calming plains of the Mongolian steppes, this program is an immersive cultural expedition where landscape and sound travel together. Guided by internationally acclaimed throat singer and morin khuur master Batzorig Vaanchig, this journey invites you deep into Mongolia's vast deserts, sacred valleys, and nomadic heartlands through the lens of music, tradition, and shared experience. More than a guest artist, Batzorig travels alongside the group as a cultural host, opening doors to Mongolia's living musical heritage through personal performances, conversations, and moments of quiet connection with the land that shapes his sound.

Beginning in Ulaanbaatar with a thoughtful introduction to Mongolia's history and spiritual life, the journey gradually moves outward into ever more remote and expansive landscapes. As the city fades, the rhythm of the steppe takes over. In the Gobi Desert, towering canyon walls, fossil-rich cliffs, and golden dunes become both stage and sanctuary. At Yol Valley, echoes of ancient songs carry through dramatic rock formations; at the Khongor "Singing" Sand Dunes, the wind itself becomes part of the music. Here, sunset performances and intimate workshops allow travelers to experience Mongolian sound not as a show, but as a living expression of place.

Throughout the expedition, music unfolds organically. Evenings around the fire, impromptu concerts beneath desert stars, and hands-on workshops in throat singing and morin khuur create a rare level of access and participation. Guests are invited to move beyond listening, to try techniques, learn the stories behind the songs, and understand how Mongolia's nomadic culture, spirituality, and landscapes shape its music. These shared moments transform remote camps and wide-open plains into spaces of connection, reflection, and creativity.

This program is more than a tour. It is a journey into sound, space, and stillness, where the wind across the steppe, the resonance of the morin khuur, and the voices of the land come together in a once-in-a-lifetime cultural expedition that lingers long after the final note fades.

ITINERARY

Sep 18 – Arrival in Ulaanbaatar



Welcome to Mongolia, a land of vast landscapes and nomadic heritage.

Upon arrival at Chinggis Khaan International Airport, you will be met and assisted before a private transfer to your hotel in the city. Time to rest and recover for your journey ahead..

Accommodation: Hotel Bayangol

Sep 19 – Ulaanbaatar City Tour & Musical Introduction

This morning, visit Gandan Monastery, Mongolia's most important active Buddhist center, followed by the Chinggis Khan National Museum for an introduction to Mongolian history and culture. After lunch, enjoy a private introduction to the Morin Khur and traditional Mongolian instruments, hosted by internationally renowned musician Batzorig Vaanchig. In the evening, attend an authentic cultural performance followed by an official welcome dinner at a fine local restaurant.

Accommodation: Hotel Bayangol
Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner



Sep 20 – Flight to the Gobi Desert & Yol Valley

Transfer to the airport for your flight to the South Gobi Province. Upon arrival, meet your local drivers and visit Yol Valley (Valley of the Bearded Vultures), known for its dramatic canyon landscapes. Continue to your ger camp for lunch and check-in. The afternoon is at leisure. In the evening, we will have an interactive music workshop hosted by Batzorig Vaanchig.

Accommodation: Ger Camp

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner



Sep 21 – Khongor Sand Dunes (Singing Sands)



Approx. 4–5 hours driving.

After breakfast, drive to the spectacular Khongor Sand Dunes, the largest dunes in Mongolia. Arrive in time for lunch and settle into camp. In the late afternoon, visit the dunes for sunset. Guests may choose to climb the dunes for sweeping panoramic views. Batzorig will give a mini performance at the dunes if weather permits.

Accommodation: Gobi Erdene Camp

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Sep 22– Khongor | Throat Singing Workshop and Nomadic Landscapes

Approx. 1-2 hours of driving

Enjoy a full day in the Khongor region. In the morning, there is an optional return to the dunes for photography or a second climb. Later, Batzorig hosts an interactive workshop introducing the art of Mongolian throat singing, exploring its technique and cultural meaning. After lunch, visit a nearby saxaul forest, locally known as the Wolf's Hideout. Return to camp in the late afternoon. In the evening, we will have an interactive music workshop hosted by Batzorig Vaanchig. Dinner and overnight at camp.



Accommodation: Gobi Erdene Camp

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Sep 23 - Flaming Cliffs, Private Tented Field Camp

Approx. 4-5 hours of driving

Depart the sand dunes and travel north to Bayanzag, famously known as the Flaming Cliffs. Upon arrival, settle into a private, fully supported tented camp prepared by the Mongolia Quest team. In the evening, your private chef will prepare a welcome feast under the desert sky. We will have an interactive music workshop hosted by Batzorig Vaanchig.

Accommodation: MQ Field Camp

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner



Sep 24 - Tugriigin Shiree & Molt sog Els

Approx. 2-3 hours of driving

After breakfast, drive to Tugriigin Shiree, where the famous “fighting dinosaurs” fossils were discovered. Your guide will explain the site’s geological and paleontological significance before an hour of hands-on prospecting. Return to camp for lunch. In the afternoon, visit a local camel-herding family to learn about nomadic life in the South Gobi, followed by a short camel ride



Accommodation: MQ Field Camp

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Sep 25 - A day of Music in the Gobi

Today is devoted entirely to music, reflection, and creative exchange in the stillness of the desert. With no long drives scheduled, the camp becomes a space to slow down and connect more deeply with Mongolia’s musical traditions and the surrounding landscape.

Accommodation: MQ Field Camp

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Sep 26 – Havitgait Petroglyphs & Gobi Farewell Dinner

Approx. 2-3 hours of driving

This morning, visit the Havitgait Petroglyphs, involving a steep climb rewarded with insight into Bronze Age rock carvings. Return to camp for lunch. In the afternoon, explore the legendary Flaming Cliffs, made famous by American explorer Roy Chapman Andrews. In the evening, enjoy a farewell dinner in the Gobi, featuring traditional Mongolian BBQ prepared by your chef, accompanied by a final desert performance by Batzorig.



Accommodation: MQ Field Camp

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Sep 27- Fly to Ulaanbaatar & Hustai National Park

Approx. 3-4 hours of driving

Fly back to Ulaanbaatar and continue directly to Hustai National Park, home to the Przewalski's horse (Takhi). After check-in, you will have a short break and in the late afternoon head out on an overland safari in search of the horses in their natural habitat.

Accommodation: Hustai Ger Camp

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner



Sep 28 - Return to Ulaanbaatar

Approx. 3-4 hours driving.

After breakfast, drive back to Ulaanbaatar and check in to your hotel. In the evening, gather for a farewell dinner joined by Batzorig and special guest musicians for a final performance. Farewell gifts will be presented.

Accommodation: Hotel Bayangol

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Sep 29 - Departure

Today you will be transferred to the airport for your departure flight.

Meals: Breakfast

LAND PRICES

Based on 3-5 participants:	\$6,842 per person , standard twin occupancy;
Based on 6-9 participants:	\$6,340 per person , standard twin occupancy;
Based on 10 or more participants:	\$5,993 per person , standard twin occupancy;
Domestic flights:	\$350 per person
Optional single supplement:	\$800 per person

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

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

- TURGEREL@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, Singaporean, Australian and citizens of most European countries 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">• Czech Republic• Republic of Austria• Kingdom of Belgium• Hungary• Hellenic Republic• Kingdom of Denmark• Kingdom of Spain• Italian Republic• Republic of Latvia• Republic of Lithuania• Swiss Confederation• Republic of Bulgaria• Republic of Ireland• Republic of Philippines	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Principality of Liechtenstein• Grand Duchy of Luxembourg• Republic of Malta• Kingdom of the Netherlands• Republic of Poland• Portuguese Republic• Slovak Republic• Republic of Slovenia• Republic of Finland• Republic of Croatia• Canada	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Kingdom of Sweden• French Republic• Republic of Estonia• Kingdom of Norway• Republic of Iceland• Republic of Cyprus• Romania• Principality of Monaco• United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland• Commonwealth of Australia• New Zealand
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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 3,500 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 place, 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!