



## MONGOLIA: NOMADS & GERS

Experience Mongolia like the Khans on this illuminating journey through the land of endless sky.

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Tailor-Made Journeys, Suggested Itineraries



Asia, Mongolia



7 days from AU\$11,015 pp



Private

## Journey Overview

Experience Mongolia like the Khans on this illuminating journey through the land of endless sky. Wander the intriguing city of Ulaanbaatar before venturing into a striking and stark land of rolling steppe, the Gobi Desert and dinosaur fossils. And meet Mongolia's nomadic herdsmen to learn firsthand about an ancient and enduring way of life.

### Journey Highlights

- Bed down in a traditional get at a remarkable eco-lodge which celebrates Mongolia's nomadic culture
- Explore sand dunes, ancient petroglyphs and the desert aglow at sunset
- Hike through rugged canyons and gorges and ride a Bactrian camel
- Stargaze over the remote wilderness of the Gobi



## Itinerary

### **Day 1: Arrive Ulaanbaatar**

Welcome to Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia's boomtown capital. Settle into your hotel and get your bearings in this intriguing city.

#### ***Shangri-La Hotel***

### **Day 2: Ulaanbaatar**

Today's private city tour begins with the Gandan Monastery, one of the few monasteries in the city that survived Stalin's religious purges of the 1930s. Explore intricately decorated temples in this Buddhist sanctuary and greet red-robed monks as they perform their daily rituals.

Chingghis Khan Museum, Mongolia's largest and newest museum which contains the collection of over 10,400 objects relating to the history of the Great Khans of the Mongol Empire and the history of Mongolia from the Xiongnu to the end of the 20th century. Join a specialist in Mongolian history for a more insightful experience (additional cost).

After lunch, discover the world of Mongolian art with a choice of tour. For traditional Mongolian Buddhist art, explore the Zanabazar Museum of Fine Arts, home to one of the world's greatest collections of Buddhist art and artefacts. For a glimpse into the modern Mongolian art scene, visit one of the city's contemporary art galleries such as Mongol Art Gallery or the National Art Gallery.

#### ***Shangri-La Hotel / Meals: BL***

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**Day 3: Ulaanbaatar - Gobi Desert**

Transfer to the airport for your flight south to Dalanzadgad. Journey overland to Yol Valley National Park in the foothills of the craggy Altai Mountains. Hike the valley for a chance to spot indigenous vulture-like Lammergeiers, Altai snowcocks, ibex, yaks and Argali Mountain sheep.

Continue to your eco-lodge, a National Geographic Unique Lodge of the World, set amid the Gobi's vast desert landscapes. Here, you'll stay in a ger, a traditional Mongolian tent with all the added sophistication and attentive service of a luxury lodge. Settle in before exploring the incredible surroundings of the Gurvansaikhan National Park.

Opt to ride on horseback around the Bulagtai mountains, or simply relax in a swing seat on the terrace looking out over the desert. After twilight fades, marvel as the vast starlit desert sky comes alive.

***Three Camel Lodge / Meals: BLD***

**Day 4: Gobi Desert**

Journey overland to Tugrugyn Shiree, renowned for its famous fossil discovery of the 'Fighting Dinosaurs' in the 1970s. In the afternoon, head to Havsagit Valley for an exploration by foot to seek out ancient petroglyphs. In the afternoon, head to Havsagit valley for a hike to explore the ancient petroglyphs.

***Three Camel Lodge / Meals: BLD***

**Day 5: Gobi Desert**

Set off on the back of a Bactrian (two-humped) camel through the dunes of Moltsog Els for a glimpse into a way of life that has endured for centuries (option to hike, if you prefer). Step inside the home of a local camel-herding family and enjoy true Mongolian hospitality. Then, head to the Flaming Cliffs to see where the adventurer Roy Chapman Andrews – the model for Indiana Jones – discovered a dinosaur embryo in 1921. As dusk falls, marvel at the orange glow that gives the cliffs their name.

***Three Camel Lodge / Meals: BLD***

**Day 6: Gobi Desert - Ulaanbaatar**

Return to the capital by air and visit the largest equestrian statue in the world, the imposing Genghis Khan Statue Complex. Gaze upon the 40-metre-tall statue of the infamous former ruler of the Mongol Empire, before spending the afternoon exploring at your own pace. This evening, take your seat as traditional dancers and khoomei throat singers conjure up the magic of Mongolia.

***Shangri-La Hotel / Meals: BL***

**Day 7: Depart Ulaanbaatar**

Transfer to the airport where your journey ends.

***Meals: B***

## Map



## Accommodation

### Shangri-La Ulaanbaatar



Soaring 95 metres over the city, the 21-storey, glass-walled Shangri-La Ulaanbataar is located in the heart of the Mongolian capital. The first thing that strikes you when you enter is the four monumental chandeliers hanging above a marble lobby – a sign of what’s in store throughout the hotel. Venture inside to find 290 guest rooms, each spanning at least 42 square metres, amongst the largest in the city. All rooms are delicately designed with an indigenous flavour and modern amenities: a deluxe deep-soaking bathtub and rain shower, minibar, LED TV, Italian sheets, air-conditioning and complimentary Wi-Fi. Rooms and suites overlook either Nayramdal Park to the south or Great Chinggis Khaan Square and panoramic vistas of the city to the north.

Impressive culinary delights await in the hotel’s four restaurants: Café Park presents a variety of cuisines from around the globe with a theatrical open-kitchen concept – the first in the city. Naadam boasts commanding views of the city, mountains and more and regional Chinese dishes are the flavour at Hutong. The refined surrounds of the Lobby Lounge make for excellent people-watching over afternoon tea and beverages. The Health Club includes a gym, Jacuzzi, sauna and steam bath and restorative massage and aromatherapy treatments are available.

### Why we like it

- Panoramic views in some of the largest guest rooms in the city
- Only moments from the Great Chinggis Khan Square and other iconic sites
- Four excellent restaurants
- Spacious bathrooms with deep-soaking bathtubs and rain showers

## Three Camel Lodge



Spectacularly located against a backdrop of the Altai Mountains, a scattering of felt-covered gers peppers the vast expanse of the Gobi. This is Three Camel Lodge, an extraordinary ecolodge that celebrates the traditions of Mongolia's nomads accommodating guests in traditional tents in breathtaking surrounds.

The 40 gers are authentic and locally made from latticed wood covered in thick felt and canvas. Hand-painted, carved furniture, wool carpets and wood-burning stoves have been carefully selected to create a comfortable, warm and luxurious environment. Like the gers, the main lodge reflects its surroundings. It was designed in the style of ancient Buddhist temples, using traditional wooden peg construction and hand-moulded roof tiles.

Throughout the lodge, modern conveniences are subtly integrated into the traditional design. Meals are a combination of western and regional fare, while the cosy bar is the place to recline with a drink and reminisce about the day's adventures. Other facilities include a spa offering massage treatments, a well-stocked library and an entertainment centre with TV, movies, and games.

The lodge offers a full spectrum of activities to experience the Gobi and become immersed in its intriguing nature and culture, from visits with nomads in their homes to throat-singing performances, and exploring the Flaming Cliffs with leading paleontologists.

### Why we like it

- Stay in the traditional-style felt tents of Mongolia's nomadic herders
- Unobstructed views of the majestic desert and the Gobi-Altai Mountains

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- Main lodge designed in the style of an ancient Buddhist temple
  - Admirable environmental and cultural sustainability practices
  - Stargazing across the vast Gobi desert sky

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