

## The Great Naadam Festival of Mongolia

Naadam Festival, the biggest festival in Mongolia. In the opening ceremony of the Naadam Festival, we will cheer on the dancers, athletes, wrestlers, archers, horse riders and musicians. Tour around Ulaanbaatar city, wander on the grassland, sleep in traditional Gers, devour Mongolian barbecue in the grasslands, what a joy and experience of Mongolia!



**Day 1 06 Jul 2024 Arrival Ulaanbaatar**

**Meal: D**

Upon arrival Ulaanbaatar, the capital of Mongolia. You are met at the airport after custom formalities and transferred to your hotel. The remainder of the day is at leisure. Check in at 4\* Holiday Inn for 1 night.

**Day 2 07 Jul Ulaanbaatar ⇄ Elsen Tasarkhai ⇄ Karakorum Meal: B/L/D**

After breakfast at the hotel, we depart to the west toward Karakorum, the ancient capital city of Mongolia, at 8 am. Break our drive at the Elsen Tasarkhai, aka Bayangobi sand dunes, around lunch time. Enjoy lunch then visit the Khugnu Khan Nature Reserve and Erdene Khamba monastery ruins. We also do 1-hr camel riding in the afternoon. Continue our drive to Karakorum in the evening and arrive before dinnertime. Check into your accommodation and enjoy dinner. Stay at Urgoo Ger Camp or similar

**Day 3 08 Jul Karakorum**

**Meal: B/L/D**

In the morning, we will visit legendary monastery Erdene Zuu, the first Buddhist monastery of Central Mongolia, founded in 1586, and its surroundings such as the Turtle Rock and the Phallic stone etc. In the afternoon we will visit the Museum of Karakorum which gives a good introduction to Central Mongolia, its' history and the UNESCO world heritage site Orkhon river valley. In the

evening, pay a visit to the newly established Erdenesiin Khuree calligraphy center (workshop available for extra cost, paid on spot by the client if wishes to attend). Stay at Urgoo Ger Camp or similar

**Day 4 09 Jul                      Karakorum ⇄ Hustai National Park                      Meal: B/L/D**

This morning we drive back towards Ulaanbaatar; arrive at our camp after few hours' drive. Check in and enjoy lunch. In the afternoon, we will take a short drive to one of the most popular national parks of Mongolia, the Hustai National Park. We will trek through the beautiful national park and try to view the endangered Przewalski wild horses (one of the last remaining wild horses. We will do 1 hour horseback riding in the rolling green hills of Mongolian steppe. Stay at Mongal Nomadic Ger or similar.

**Day 5 10 Jul                      Hustai ⇄ Ulaanbaatar                      Meal: B/L**

After breakfast, we will drive to the Naadam Festival horseracing venue and witness the horseraces. Afterwards, continue to UB, and arrive in town in the early afternoon. Visit the Central stadium where the archery & anklebone shooting competitions are held and see the most important competitions in the country for these sports. Dinner is independent and overnight at Holiday Inn or similar.

**Day 6 11 Jul                      Naadam Festival                      Meal: B/L/D**

See the fantastic opening ceremony of Naadam festival in the central stadium where the president of Mongolia opens the ceremony, followed by 1.5 hr of entertainment, and the first round of wrestling match. After lunch, we will visit the Central Square of Ulaanbaatar, named after a hero of Mongolian people's revolution in 1921, Sukhbaatar D. We will also visit the newly established Chinggis Khaan Museum, and then see a traditional cultural performance by the Tumen Ekh ensemble. Enjoy a farewell dinner with your travel companions.

**Day 7 12 Jul                      Ulaanbaatar                      Meal: B**

Today is at leisure; you can explorer more of the city at your own pace.

**Day 8 13 Jul                      Ulaanbaatar departure                      Meal: B**

This morning is at leisure until you are transferred to the airport for your flight home bound.

