

# 11 day tour to Ulaanbaatar, Elsen Tasarkhai, Karakorum, Hustai National Park

Naadam Festival is 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, and experience the joy of Mongolia!



Day 1 05 Jul 2019 Sydney ★ Beijing Tonight you fly with Air China from Sydney to Beijing.

# Day 2 06 Jul Beijing ★ Ulaanbaatar Meal D

Arrive in Beijing early in the morning then take a connecting flight to Ulaanbaatar, the capital of Mongolia. You are met at the airport after customs formalities and transferred to your hotel. The remainder of the day is at leisure. Check in at 4\* hotel in the city center for 2 nights.

# Day 3 07 Jul Ulaanbaatar 🖨 Elsen Tasarkhai (Bayangobi)

Meal: B/L/D

After breakfast, we travel overland for 4 hours westward towards Karakorum and break your journey at the picturesque Bayan Gobi sand dunes also known as Elsen Tasarkhai. Elsen Tasarkhai a common border between Tov, Ovorhangai and Bulgan provinces. In the afternoon, visit Erdene Khamba, a surviving Buddhist temple from the Great Depression in the 1930s. The temple is in Hogno Khaan Nature Reserve Park, which is surrounded with big, rocky mountains. Optional camelride on the dunes. Overnight at the Hoyor Zagal Camp or similar.

#### Day 4 08 Jul Elsen Tasarkhai 🖷 Karakorum Meal: B/L/D

This morning you'll make an early drive to the lost capital of Genghis Khan at Karakorum and visit the magnificent Erdene Zuu Monastery, where you will see a distinct mixing of the styles of Mongolian and Tibetan Buddhism. Karakorum was once the heart of the Mongol Empire and today you'll still see remnants of the longstanding walls that encircle the city. Also in the afternoon visit the newly established

Karakorum Museum. Overnight at camp Munkh Tenger or similar.

#### Day 5 09 Jul Karakorum 🖷 Hustai National Park Meal: B/I/D

Today, we drive back towards Ulaanbaatar with an overnight at Hustai national park. The national park is surrounded by mountains, and is made up of thick pine forests and lush meadows, which are home to the Przewalski endangered wild horse "Takhi" and other wildlife. Arrive at the ger camp by lunch. We then trek through the national park to spot endangered Takhi wild horses in the afternoon. Optional horse ride. Overnight at a Ger.

#### Day 6 10 Jul Hustai 🛱 Ulaanbaatar Meal: B/L/D

We drive to the east to Ulaanbaatar, and after arriving start the city tour. The city tour of Ulaanbaatar takes you through some of the principal sights of this unique city. You visit the Gandan Monastery, housing a





26-meter-high gilded statue of the Buddha. Your tour also takes you to the Genghis Khan monument at Sukhbaatar Square and the Museum of National History. Afterwards visit the Giant Genghis Statue (1hr from Ulaanbaatar) and return to Ulaanbaatar by 7pm and transfer to the hotel. Rest and prepare for the Great Festival of the next day. This is a once in a lifetime experience indeed and everyone wants to take part in it. The Mongols have the saying "If you be healthy, you will see the Naadam". Check in at Holiday Inn Hotel or similar.

#### Day 7 11 Jul Naadam Festival – Opening Ceremony, wrestling, archery Meal: B/L/D

SSee the fantastic opening ceremony of Naadam festival and watch the first round of Wrestling, and then Archery and Ankle Bone Shooting competitions. Meals served at local restaurants and hotel overnight.

#### Day 8 12 Jul Naadam Festival -Horse Racing Meal: B/L/D

Today we drive to the horse racing location to experience the Naadam Festival horse

races. We will also visit the Bogd Khan's Palace Museum and see a traditional folk concert by the magical Tumen Ekh Ensemble. Meals served at local restaurants and hotel overnight.

Day 9 13 Jul Ulaanbaatar Today is at leisure; you can explore more of the city at your own pace.

# Day 10 14 Jul Ulaanbaatar ★ Beijing ★ Australia Meal: B

This morning is at leisure until you are transferred to the airport for your Air China flight to Beijing for your connecting flight home.

Day 11 15 Jul Australia Arrive in Australia this morning.







- This tour guarantee departure based on a minimum of 2 people. All prices above include airport taxes and fuel surcharges. This is a joint-in tour.
- Land Only (from 6 Jul 14 Jul) price: Tour starts from <u>Arrival transfer in Ulaanbaatar</u> to Departure transfer in Ulaanbaatar excludes any international air tickets.
- Beijing Transit Visa: 144 hours Visa Free. \* Extra Mongolian Visa application A\$230
- Package prices of Air China for departing from Sydney or Melbourne. Stopover in Beijing available. Extra taxes may apply; subject to availability. Please contact us if you depart from other state.

### INCLUDED SERVICES:

- Return Air China flights Sydney to Ulaanbaatar via Beijing on economy class air travel including all ticketed taxes and fuel surcharges.
- Full-time services of your English speaking local guide throughout the tour
- · Sightseeing and entrance fees according to the itinerary
- Ticket to the Giant Genghis Monument Complex
- All transfers (Comfortable minivan with AC + Experienced drivers)
- Twin/double share at good 4\* hotel and good tourist camps
- Meals as listed (B-breakfast, L-lunch, D-dinner)
- 0.5 l x 3 bottled water per day
- Mongolia visa application support letter.
- Exclusive Great Naadam Festival tour souvenir!

Hotels used for this tour:  $4^*$  Ulaanbaatar Holiday Inn Hotel ; Hoyor Zagal Ger Camp; Karakorum Camp Munkh Tenger; Hustai Ger Camp or similar. All Camps are with private facilities.

Pre / Post Stay Hotel: \$260 per room per night with breakfast in Ulaanbaatar.