



## **GOBI & CENTRAL MONGOLIAN SECRET HISTORY CULTURAL TOUR**

**Tour duration:** 13 nights / 14 Days

**Tour type:** Easy and comfortable

### **Tour Overview**

This tour allows you to explore the majestic Golden Gobi, the mysterious Kharkhorin, and the heart of Central Mongolia. The Mongolian Gobi Desert is the sixth-largest desert in the world and the second-largest in Asia, known for its vast dunes, rugged mountains, and rare wildlife, including snow leopards, black-tailed deer, martens, lynx, wild cats, antelope, and the iconic two-humped Bactrian camels. The Gobi is also the largest dinosaur fossil site in the world.

On this tour, we'll explore some of the most exciting and mysterious places in Mongolia, such as Vulture Canyon (Eagle Valley), the Khongor Dunes, and the Bayanzag Flaming Cliffs—a key site for dinosaur fossils from the late Cretaceous period, the final phase of dinosaur evolution.

Along with these natural wonders, you'll also discover the rich history of Kharkhorin, the 13th-century capital of the Mongol Empire, and visit Hustai National Park, home to the rare Przewalski's horses (wild horses). This tour offers endless adventures, from exploring the vast Gobi Desert to uncovering Mongolia's fascinating history, culture and wildlife. Enjoy every moment with us!

**Total Driving Distance:** The journey covers a total of 2,405 kilometers, taking you

Day	Destinations day by day	Locations	Meals	Km	Accommodation
Day 1	Arrival day – City tour	Ulaanbaatar city	(L)	65 km	3/4 star hotel
Day 2	Bag Gazriin Chuluu Rocky Formation	Dund – Gobi Province	(B/L/D)	270 km	Tourist camp
Day 3	Drive to Tsagaan Suvraga “White Stupa”	Dund – Gobi Province	(B/L/D)	280 km	Tourist camp
Day 4	Drive to Yol Valley “Vulture Canyon”	South Gobi Province	(B/L/D)	210 km	Tourist camp
Day 5	Drive to Khongor sand dunes “Singing Dune”	South Gobi Province	(B/L/D)	180 km	Tourist camp
Day 6	Drive to Bayan Zag Flaming cliffs	South Gobi Province	(B/L/D)	150 km	Tourist camp
Day 7	Drive to Ongi Monastery	Dund Gobi Province	(B/L/D)	180 km	Tourist camp
Day 8	Ulaantsutgalan Waterfall, Orkhon Valley	Ovorkhangai Province	(B/L/D)	325 km	Tourist camp
Day 9	Tuvkhun Monastery	Ovorkhangai Province	(B/L/D)	80 km	Tourist camp
Day 10	Drive to 13 <sup>th</sup> century capital Kharkhorin & UNESCO Heritage site of Erdenezuu monastery	Ovorkhangai Province	(B/L/D)	80 km	Tourist camp
Day 11	Drive to Beautiful Ugii Lake	Arkhangai Province	(B/L/D)	70 km	Tourist camp
Day 12	Drive to Hustai National Park – wild horses	Tov Province	(B/L/D)	300 km	Tourist camp
Day 13	Terelj National Park & Chinggis Khan Equestrian Statue Complex	Tov Province / Ulaanbaatar city	(B/L)	235 km	3/4 star hotel
Day 14	Departure		(B)	50 km	

through diverse landscapes and scenic routes across Mongolia.

## TOUR ITINERARY

### Day 1. Arrival day & City tour

Upon your arrival at the international airport, our friendly guide and driver will meet you and transfer you to your luxurious 5-star hotel, where you can relax and store your luggage. After a brief rest, we'll embark on an exciting city tour to explore the highlights of Ulaanbaatar.

- **Zaisan Hill:** Begin with a scenic drive to Zaisan Hill, where you'll enjoy panoramic views of the entire city, offering a perfect introduction to the unique landscape of Ulaanbaatar.
- **The Bogd Khan Winter Palace:** is a historic site located in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia. It was the residence of Bogd Khan, the eighth Jebtsundamba



Enjoy every moment with us!

Khutuktu, who was the spiritual and political leader of Mongolia in the early 20th century. The palace is an important cultural landmark, as it was the seat of the last Mongolian theocratic government before Mongolia became a communist state.

- **Gandan-Tegchlen Monastery:** Next, visit the iconic Gandan Monastery, one of Mongolia's largest and most important Buddhist centers. Experience the serene atmosphere and learn about the country's rich spiritual heritage.
- **Lunch:** Enjoy a delicious lunch at a local restaurant, offering a taste of traditional Mongolian cuisine.
- **Mongolian National History Museum:** After lunch, immerse yourself in the country's past at the Mongolian National History Museum, where you'll discover fascinating exhibits on Mongolia's history, culture, and people.
- **Sukhbaatar Square:** Next, visit Sukhbaatar Square, the heart of Ulaanbaatar. Take in the monumental statues and learn about Mongolia's independence history and the legacy of its national hero, Sukhbaatar.

At the end of the tour, we'll transfer you back to your hotel.



## Day 2. Baga Gazriin Chuluu

Today, we will drive to the astonishing granitic formations of Baga Gazariin Chuluu, "the stone of the little place," located northwest of the Dundgovi province. Therefore, you can see on the rock the inscriptions written by two venerated monks who lived there in the 19th century. On the site, we will visit the ruins of an old temple dating from the 17th century. We can see a deep, narrow hole.

The stagnating rainwater could treat ocular illnesses. There is a little ladle on the rock for the people to wash their eyes with the sacred water.





### Day 3. Drive to Tsagaan Suvraga "White Stupa"

This morning, after you have breakfast at your hotel, we will drive to Tsagaan Suvraga. The scarp of Tsagaan Suvarga is located in Ulziitsoum of Dundgovi province. It is interesting to see the sheer slope facing east, which seems to be the ancient city's ruins from a distance. The cliff is 30 meters high and 100 meters wide.

Over thousands of years, the wind has created this fantastic structure. There are two famous sites for exploring. The first one is an exciting cave, 70 m long Khevtee Bosoo agui (Lie and Stand Cave), not so far from the site. The second option is exploring Del Uul (Back Mountain) to see rock drawings of the Bronze Age. It is considered the largest site of Rock drawings in Central Asia.



### Day 4. Drive to South Gobi- Yol Valley "Vulture Canyon"

Today, we will drive to Yol Valley (Vulture Canyon) in the morning. The Vulture Canyon nestles between the beautiful peaks of Gurvansaikhan of the Three Beauties.

After arrival at the canyon, we will take a 2-hour hike and see parts of a glacier left over from the winter months. We can visit the local Natural History Museum on our



way in/out of the park, where dinosaur eggs and bones, petrified trees, and a snow leopard are on display. Once we get there, if you want, we will be able to ride a horse for 1 hour with a professional horseman.



### Day 5. Drive to Khongor Sand Dunes “Singing Dunes”

This morning, after having hearty breakfast, we will drive to Khongor sand dune which is one of Mongolia's largest and most spectacular dunes, standing as high as 200 meters above the ground, 7-8 km wide, and 180 km long. Climbing the dunes is breathtaking, not just for the top view. It surprises climbers that the dunes make a singing sound while you climb; that is why it is nicknamed the singing dunes. The sand dunes make you feel extraordinary comfort and infinite peace.

Once we get there, we will ride a camel along the Khongor sand dunes. The two-humped Bactrian camels are very comfortable to ride as they walk slowly and gently, and you will be well supported by the humps, sitting comfortably between them.



## Day 6. Drive to Bayanzag flaming cliffs

This morning, after breakfast, we'll drive to the Bayanzag area, famously known as the Flaming Cliffs and often referred to as the 'Cradle of Dinosaurs.' In 1922, the first nest of dinosaur eggs was discovered here. Once we arrive, we'll explore the stunning landscape, visit the museum, and learn more about the area's incredible paleontological significance.



## Day 7. Drive to Ongi Ruined Monastery

This morning, after breakfast, we will drive to the historic ruins of Ongi Monastery, which was originally built in the late 18th century. The monastery holds significant cultural and religious importance as it was established to commemorate the first-ever visit of the Dalai Lama to Mongolia. Once a thriving center of Buddhism, Ongi Monastery housed hundreds of monks and played a key role in the spiritual life of the region. The monastery complex, located in a picturesque valley, was partially destroyed during the purges of the 1930s, but some of its ruins still stand, offering a glimpse into its former grandeur. As we explore the site, we'll learn about its history, the religious practices that once flourished here, and the ongoing efforts to preserve its cultural heritage.



## Day 8. Drive to Ulaantsutgalan Waterfall “Orkhon Valley”

Today, we will drive to Orkhon Valley, registered as a World Cultural Heritage site by UNESCO in 2005. Many of Mongolia’s ancient monuments lie within its basin. Orkhon waterfall, also called UlaanTsutgalan, was formed by a series of volcanic eruptions about 20.000 years ago.

It cascades from a height of 22 meters and is 10m wide. We will visit a nomadic family, get experience there, and go horse riding for an hour.



## Day 9. Drive to Tuvkhun Monastery

Today, we will drive to Tuvkhun Monastery. Visitors hike 5 km up to the monastery from the skirt of the mountain. The Tuvkhun monastery was first established in 1648 by the 14-year-old Zanabazar first Jebtsundamba khutuktu Bogd.

He first noticed this beautiful place in 1651 and then built a small wooden cabin for meditation. That was the beginning of the Tuvkhun monastery.



## Day 10. Drive to Kharkhorum & ErdeneZuu Monastery

In the morning, we will drive to the Kharkhorum, the Great Mongolian Empire's ancient capital. The city served as the Mongolian capital for only 40 years (until Khubilai Khan moved it to Beijing). Chinese soldiers later destroyed most of the city during the second half of the 14th century. The remnants of the town were used to build the ErdeneZuu Monastery in the 16th century. Upon arrival in the Kharkhorum, the first and most prominent landmark is the massive walls of the Erdenezuu Monastery, the first Buddhist monastery in Mongolia. Explore the area and visit the museum, etc.



## Day 11. Drive to Kharkhorum & ErdeneZuu Monastery

In the morning, we will drive to Uglui Lake, a freshwater lake in eastern Arkhangai, central Mongolia. The lake, designated a Ramsar Site of International Importance, is known for its fish and bird life.

It is a stopover point for migrating water birds of the family Anatidae. Almost half the lake is less than 3 m deep. We can swim and fish there. Do not forget to bring your swimsuit. Today, we will have a traditional Mongolian BBQ for dinner.



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## Day 12. Drive to Hustai National Park via Elsen Tasarkhai Semi Desert

Today, we will head to Hustai National Park, making an exciting stop along the way at Elsen-Tasarkhai, a semi-desert region. This unique area is characterized by a striking blend of sand dunes, hills covered with sparse bushes, and a small forest near a river, creating a rare combination of landscapes. Here, you'll experience the contrast of Mongolian mountains, forests, and the arid Gobi Desert all in one place, offering a remarkable snapshot of Mongolia's diverse natural beauty.

Afterward, we will continue our journey to Hustai National Park, which lies in the foothills of the northern Khentii mountain range. This park is famously home to the Takhi, or Przewalski's horses—wild horses that were reintroduced to Mongolia after becoming extinct in the wild for over 40 years. These resilient horses now roam freely in their natural habitat, and thanks to successful conservation efforts, their numbers have grown to over 450. Seeing these wild horses in their native environment is a truly special experience. During our visit, we will visit the local museum, where you can learn more about the history of the Takhi horses, the park's wildlife, and ongoing conservation efforts to protect these incredible creatures and their habitat.



## Day 13. Drive to Terelj National Park & Chinggis Khan Equestrian Statue Complex

Today we are going to Chinggis Khan Equestrian Statue Complex, built in 2008, on the eight-hundredth anniversary of the Mongolian Empire's foundation in honor of its founder, Chinggis Khan.



This giant stainless steel statue weighs 250 tons and is 40 meters (131 feet) high; it's the tallest statue representing a man on horseback in the world. After exploring the complex, we will drive briefly to Terelj National Park, considered one of the most beautiful places worth visiting because it combines sharp mountains with granite cliffs, forests, and rivers.

Once we get there, we will see the Aryabal Buddhist meditation temple. From the temple's vantage point, you'll be treated to breathtaking panoramic views of the park's natural beauty. Afterward, we will drive back to Ulaanbaatar, where you'll enjoy a farewell dinner to celebrate the memorable journey. Following dinner, we will drop you off at your hotel.



## Day 14. Departure

This morning after you have hearty breakfast at your hotel, we will transfer you at the international airport for your departure. End of the tour. Thank you very much for traveling with us.

## INCLUSION

- **Private Transportation:** Comfortable, air-conditioned vehicle for the entire trip.
- **Professional Driver & English-Speaking Tour Guide:** Experienced driver and knowledgeable guide to ensure a smooth and informative journey.
- **Airport Pick-up & Drop-off Service:** Enjoy seamless transportation to and from the airport, ensuring a comfortable and stress-free arrival and departure experience.
- **Fuel:** All fuel costs covered for the duration of the tour.
- **Accommodation at Tourist Camps:** Comfortable lodging at well-equipped tourist camps, providing an authentic yet comfortable experience.
- **Meals:** Three meals per day as indicated in the itinerary



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- **All Taxes & Entrance Fees:** All applicable taxes and entrance fees to sites and attractions included.
  - **Hotel in Ulaanbaatar city:** It can be a 3 or 4 star hotel, depending on your choice.
  - **Sightseeing Costs:** All costs related to sightseeing activities are covered.
  - **1.5 Liters of Water per Day:** Stay hydrated with 1.5 liters of water provided daily.

## EXCLUSION

- **Snacks & Sweets:** Any snacks or sweets outside of the provided meals.
- **Alcoholic Drinks & Beverages:** Alcoholic beverages are not included, but Mongolian traditional milk tea, Lipton tea, and hot water will be provided.
- **Tips:** Tipping is optional and at your discretion.
- **Horse and camel:** Horse and camel riding is optional.
- **Meals in Ulaanbaatar:** Meals in Ulaanbaatar are not included, allowing you the flexibility to choose dining options according to your preferences.

