

Mongolia's Golden Eagle Festival

October 1st – 8th, 2025

8 Days: Moderate Touring



TRIBAL TRUST
FOUNDATION™

Indigenous Cultures are Living Treasures

Detailed Itinerary

Day 1
Wednesday
October 1

WELCOME TO ULAANBAATAR

Upon arrival at the airport, you will be welcomed by your private Nomadic Expeditions guide and driver and transferred to the deluxe Shangri-La Hotel, a luxury hotel located just steps from various museums and shops.

Shangri-La Hotel
Deluxe Room



The contrast between ancient traditions and a 21st century democracy is most visible in Ulaanbaatar, where traditional gers and Buddhist monasteries sit side by side with modern high-rises. Depending on your arrival time, you may have time to explore the city in the afternoon.

Meals on own

Day 2
Thursday
October 2

EXCURSION TO HUSTAIN NURUU NATIONAL PARK

Depart early morning for Hustain Nuruu National Park (2 hours), home to the last remaining species of wild horse, the takhi - commonly known as Przewalski's horse. Twenty-five years after becoming extinct in the wild, the takhi was reintroduced to the Mongolian steppe from zoo populations by the Foundation for the Preservation and Protection of the Przewalski's Horse. Sixteen horses were flown from the Netherlands to Mongolia in 1994, and nearly 400 now roam re-introduction sites in Mongolia and China. Learn about current conservation efforts and the status of the herds found within the reserve at the visitor's center, before trying to spot these beautiful horses in their natural habitat.

Shangri-La Hotel
Deluxe Room

B, L, WD



After lunch at the local ger camp, we'll stop at the Ongot stone complex near the Tuul River Basin—the largest grave complex in central Asia. These mysterious stone figures depicting men date from the Turkic period (7th-9th centuries A.D.). They all face one direction and are behind one another, as if in a line. Some interpret this configuration as depicting a nobleman or general, with his subjects or soldiers following behind. These stones are rare historical evidence of the culture that dominated the area at the time and are especially important to historians, as few written accounts have survived the burden of Mongolia's nomadic lifestyle and turbulent battling periods.

Returning to the Capital (time permitting) visit the local women's workshop where local women come to create the art of Zeeg applique. This unique technique has been in existence in Mongolia for many generations and has picked up from the 16th - early 19th century as part of the offerings that were given to the monasteries.

In the evening, enjoy welcome dinner at a local restaurant.

Day 3
Friday
October 3

FLY TO BAYAN ULGII

After breakfast, transfer (1 hr 45 min) to the airport for your flight to the Gobi, the western most province of Mongolia.

*Golden Eagle Ger
Camp
Deluxe Gers*

*Depart Ulaanbaatar at 11:25 AM on MIAT Airlines
Arrive Ulgii at 12:40 PM (2 hr 15 min flight – 1 hr time gain)*

B, L, D

Ulgii is the capital of Bayan-Ulgii, Mongolia's westernmost province. Dominated by the Mongolian Altai Mountains, the highest mountains in Mongolia, this isolated area has preserved the language, culture, and traditions of the Kazakh people found here. Ninety percent of the population of Bayan-Ulgii is Kazakh, and there will be ample opportunities to meet local families and experience Kazakh culture.

On arrival, drive into Ulgii town and visit the Local History Museum located in downtown Ulgii, a two-story museum showcasing some of the finest embroidery and artifacts collected from the region, including horse and eagle hunting accessories, hand woven carpets, and other arts and crafts. This small but impressive museum offers an excellent introduction to the history and culture of the people who have dwelled in the Altai Mountain region for more than a century.

Continue to your private ger camp. We will be staying in Mongolian gers furnished with a wooden bed, table, and chairs made by our Three Camel Lodge carpenter. Each ger has its own ensuite facilities with hot showers and western style toilets. You dine in a restaurant ger which is also be used as a 'discussion room' or lounge.

Day 4
Saturday
October 4

OPENING CEREMONY | COMPETITION

The official opening ceremony commences with the participants parading in on horseback with their eagles. The competition begins with each Kazakh displaying his hunting outfit and accessories, the most elaborate and beautiful of which receive the highest points. In the afternoon, the judges will evaluate the golden eagles' speed and agility. The eagles will be released from a cliff with their owners standing below, signaling for the eagles to land upon their arms as they do while hunting. Those with the fastest times and best technique will be awarded the highest scores.

*Golden Eagle Ger
Camp
Deluxe Gers*

B, L, D



During dinner, enjoy a special performance of traditional Kazakh dance, song, and music organized in honor of the competitors.

Overnight in gers.

Day 5
Sunday
October 5

GOLDEN EAGLE COMPETITION | AWARDS CEREMONY

*Golden Eagle Ger
Camp
Standard Gers*

B, L, D



In today's competition, the golden eagles are released from a cliff to attack fox skins dragged by their owners on horseback. The eagles will be judged on speed, gripping technique, and success in grabbing the fox. As the points for the competitions are tallied, the Kazakhs will compete in kukbar, a traditional game testing horse-riding skills, strength, and agility.



In the late afternoon, the winners of the festival will be announced at the awards ceremony.

In the evening, enjoy a celebration dinner.

Day 6
Monday
October 6

FLY BAYAN ULGII TO ULAANBAATAR

In the morning continue your visit with the Kazakh eagle hunters and their families. Late morning you are transferred to the local airport for your flight back to Ulaanbaatar.

Shangri-La Hotel
Deluxe Room

B, L

Depart Ulgii at 1:20 PM on MIAT Airlines
Arrive Ulaanbaatar at 4:10 PM (1 hr 50 min flying time – 1 hr time loss)

Transfer back to the Shangri-la Hotel.

In the evening enjoy a musical performance featuring traditional “huumii” (throat) singing and contortionist performance.

Dinner on own.

Day 7
Tuesday
October 7

SHAMAN MUSEUM | SHAMAN EXPERIENCE

Begin today with a visit to the Shaman Museum. Experience the rich tradition of Shamanism in Mongolia, a practice deeply rooted in Mongolian history. Shamanism served as the primary religious belief of the Mongols before the advent of Buddhism, with its rituals encompassing Tengrism and animism. Central to shamanistic beliefs is the invocation of ancestral spirits, serving as conduits to unveil insights into the past, present, and future for participants. You’ll be given a tour of the museum by the curator, who is also a shaman. Though this is a small museum, but very informative. Enjoy your lunch at a local restaurant.

Shangri-La Hotel
Deluxe Room

B, L, D



After lunch drive west, outside of Ulaanbaatar (approx. 45 mins) to attend a shaman ceremony. During the ceremony, the shaman will put on their elaborate costume and will go into a trance and channel his or

her spirits. The spirits will be called and be seated on the alter where the symbolic figurines that they have placed on the altar and then starts answering questions that you have. For millennia nomads had gone to the shamans for consultation and having their paths cleared and furthered.

Return to Ulaanbaatar in the late afternoon, head out for some last-minute shopping for Mongolian cashmere products or locally created arts and crafts.

In the evening, enjoy a farewell dinner at a local restaurant.

Day 8
Wednesday
October 8

DEPARTURE

You are transferred to the airport in time for your outbound departure flight.

B

B=Breakfast L=Lunch D=Dinner