



MONGOLIA & NAADAM FESTIVAL

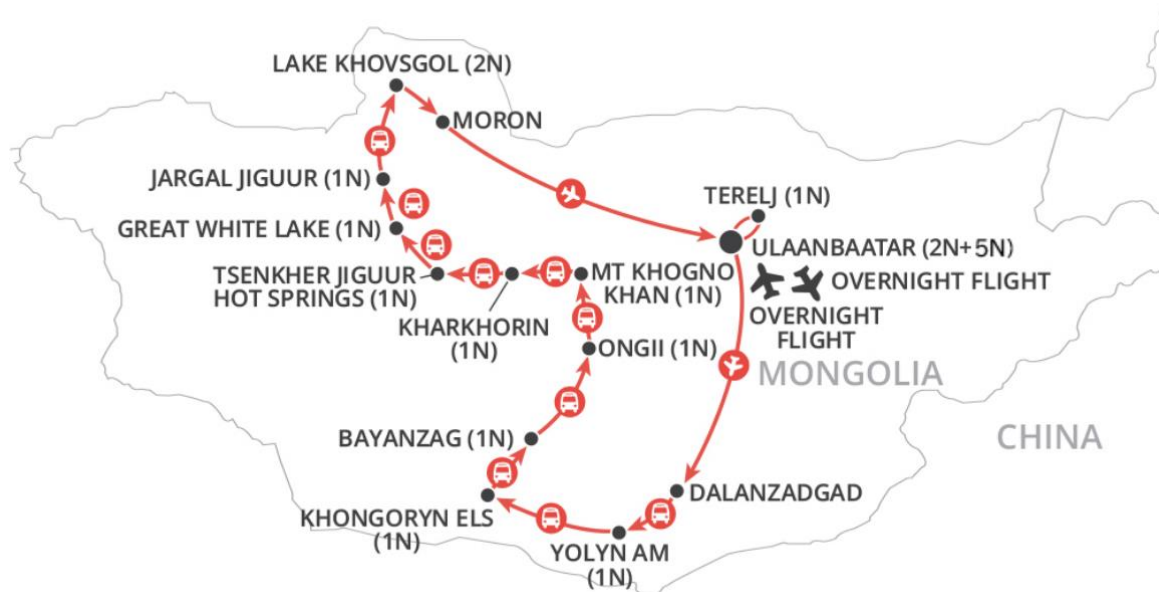
Go Beyond Tour | 22 Days | Physical Level 4

Ulaanbaatar - Terelj National Park - Gobi Desert - Khongoryn Els
- Bayanzag - Ongiid Khiid - Mt Khongo Khan - Kharkhorin -
Tsenker - Khorgo Terkh - Jargal Jiguur - Lake Khovsgol

This tour is a journey of discovery through the land of Genghis Khan, traversing the endless plains to explore sites of immeasurable beauty. Meet the local people and get involved in the festivities.

- Experience traditional Mongolia at the Naadam Festival
- Discover Terelj National Park
- Marvel at the Gobi Desert
- Venture to the Singing Sand Dunes
- Explore the Erdene Zuu Monastery
- Enjoy the spectacular grasslands

TOUR MAP



MONGOLIA & NAADAM FESTIVAL TOUR INCLUSIONS:

- Return international economy flights, taxes and current fuel surcharges (unless a land only option is selected)
- All accommodation
- All meals
- All sightseeing and entrance fees
- All transportation and transfers
- English speaking National Escorts or Local Guides
- Specialist advice from our experienced travel consultants
- Comprehensive travel guides

The only thing you may have to pay for are personal expenditure e.g. drinks, optional excursions or shows, insurance of any kind, customary tipping, early check in or late check out and other items not specified on the itinerary.

GO BEYOND TOURS:

Venture off the beaten track to explore fascinating destinations away from the tourist trail. You will discover the local culture in depth and see sights rarely witnessed by other travellers. These tours take you away from the comforts of home but will reward you with the experiences of a lifetime.

PHYSICAL LEVEL 4:

All our tours feature a physical rating to help you select the right holiday for you. To travel on any of our tours requires unaided mobility and the ability to stroll around the sights.

‘Mongolia & the Naadam Festival’ is rated as a **physical level 4** tour. A good level of fitness is required as you need to be comfortable walking for 2-3 hours and covering longer distances. As a whole, this itinerary requires a high level of fitness involving hiking and travelling to remote areas where tourist facilities are less developed.

You’ll be getting on and off coaches, walking around the sights and climbing some steps. Travelling in Mongolia is both rewarding and challenging because of the lack of basic infrastructure, such as roads or a transportation system. This tour covers a vast distance and reaching the sites involves travelling through areas of Mongolia which are barren, remote and without any modern facilities.

- There will be long periods of walking whilst sightseeing, often on steep or uneven ground.
- There are hiking opportunities in Khongoryn Els sand dunes, Gorkhi Terej National Park and at Baga Gazriin Chuluu, these normally involve approximately 2 hours on foot. There will not be sealed paths or stairs built in these areas. You do not need to train or be fit for this itinerary, but you will need to be able to complete these activities independently.
- There are long days of driving on rough unsealed roads or tracks, a few days will involve driving for over 8 hours.
- Outside of Ulaanbaatar your accommodation will be in Ger Camps.

Of course, our National Escorts and local guides will always endeavour to provide the highest level of service and assistance; however, they cannot be expected to cater for customers who are unfit to complete the itinerary. If you require any more information about the pace of the tours, please contact our reservations team who will be happy to answer your questions.

JOINING YOUR TOUR:

The tour is 22 days in duration including overnight international flights in both directions as this is the most likely flight option from Australia. Due to flight schedules, you may depart Australia a day before the tour starts. Please note, some flights may depart and arrive on Day 2.

Travellers booked on ‘Land Only’, the price includes your arrival/departure airport transfers if arriving/departing on the start and conclusion date of your tour, or when booking pre and post night accommodation with Wendy Wu Tours. Please email your international flight times to info@wendywutours.com.au so we can arrange your transfers accordingly.

Join the tour on Day 2 in Ulaanbaatar and end the tour on Day 21 also in Ulaanbaatar. Please refer to your final itinerary for more specific meeting instructions pertaining to your departure.

ITINERARY CHANGES:

It is our intention to adhere to the day-to-day itinerary as printed; however, the order of events or sightseeing may change as we look to improve our tours or as local conditions dictate. In these circumstances, we will make the best possible arrangements whilst maintaining the integrity of your trip.

DETAILED ITINERARY

Day 1-2: Fly to Ulaanbaatar

Meals: D

Fly overnight to Mongolia's capital Ulaanbaatar. You will be met at Ulaanbaatar airport in the arrivals' hall by your National Guide. Together with all other group members who may be arriving at a similar time, you will transfer 30 minutes to your hotel. This evening, there will be a tour introduction at the hotel, giving you the opportunity to meet the rest of the group and learn more about travelling in Mongolia.



Destination Information

Ulaanbaatar – Occupying one-third of the country's population, the capital of Mongolia is also its largest city. Ulaanbaatar was built along the Tuul Gol River and is surrounded by picturesque mountains with the centre of the city largely occupied by Soviet-style high-rise apartments. The majority of the population prefer to live on the outskirts of the city in the traditional Ger (circular felt tent), which happens to be the most identifiable symbol of the country. Situated on the rolling foothills of the Bogd Mountain, Ulaanbaatar possesses a long and unique history since its establishment in 1639.

Day 3: Ulaanbaatar

Meals: B, L, D

This morning, visit the 19th-century built Gandan Monastery, the largest and most important monastery in Mongolia. Later, explore the Museum of Mongolian History where you can gain an insight into the culture of Mongolia, and the Museum of Fine Arts. Sightseeing today involves 4-5 hours on foot with some driving time included.



Please note that both of the museums and the Gandan Monastery will charge extra fees (approximately US\$15 total) for using a camera in their exhibits

Destination Information

Gandan Monastery – Gandan Monastery means 'great place of complete joy', and is the largest, most significant monastery in the country. Building began in 1838 and today there are over 150 monks in residence. Lining the walls of the temple are many images of the Buddha of Longevity, Ayush.

Museum of Mongolian History – The museum aims to preserve Mongolian culture through the display of historical, ethnographical and cultural objects ranging from 800,000 years ago, to the end of the 20th Century.

Museum of Fine Arts – This fine-arts museum has a great collection of paintings, carvings and sculptures, as well as other rare religious exhibits such as Buddhist statues, representing the best display of its kind in Mongolia.

Day 4: Ulaanbaatar – Terelj National Park

Meals: B, L, D

This morning, travel approximately 2 hours to Terelj National Park, stopping on route to visit the Genghis Khan Statue. Spend the afternoon exploring the area, enjoying the alpine scenery and seeing Turtle Rock. From here, hike over steep and uneven ground to Aryabal Monastery. Sightseeing today involves around 2-3 hours on foot. Stay overnight at a Ger camp.



Destination Information

Genghis Khan Statue Complex – Located 54km east of Ulaanbaatar is the Genghis Khan Statue Complex. Standing 43m tall, the statue is of Genghis Khan sitting on a horse, and it is said to be pointed in the direction of his birthplace.

Terelj National Park – The scenery in Terelj National Park is completely different to the Gobi Desert landscape, as it is more reminiscent of the Alps in Europe. Terelj National Park is a picturesque place with high cliffs eroded into a wonderful landscape of granite ‘tors’. Wind, rain, frost, ice and natural acids have created the bizarre shapes.

Day 5: Gobi Desert

Meals: B, L, D

This morning, fly around 1.5 hours to Dalanzadgad, located on the edge of the Gobi Desert. Visit the local market and dinosaur garden before transferring around 1 hour in 4WD vehicles to the Ger camp near Gurvansaikhan (Three Beauty) National Park. Lunch is at the ger camp.



Drive to Three Beauties Mountain range and spend the day exploring Vulture Valley, viewing the stunning scenery of the famed Eagle's Gorge, or Yolyn Am, which is the native name. Visit a Mongolian family nearby to learn about their lifestyle and taste Mongolian dairy products.

Between the steep walls of the 2km long Yolyn Am Canyon, there is a stream which freezes in winter and it is possible to walk along the ice. At this time of year, the ice will be melting and all customers need to take care. The hike into the Yolyn Am canyon takes 2-3 hours return. There will be an opportunity for the early risers to go into the park earlier this morning to see the multitude of wildlife in this section of the Gobi, including the mountain ibex, argali and many birds of prey.

Destination Information

Gurvansaikhan National Park – Gurvansaikhan National Park is 2.7 million hectares and contains mountains, dinosaur fossils, sand dunes, rock formations and a valley that is snow-capped for most of the year.

Yolyn Am – Known as the ‘Valley of Eagles, Yolyn Am is located in the Gobi National Park. It offers spectacular scenery with its deep and narrow gorges.

Day 6: Khongryn Els Dunes

Meals: B, L, D

After an early breakfast, travel by 4WD for 4-5 hours to Khongoryn Els, the location of Mongolia’s largest sand dunes. Witness the remarkable desert landscapes and explore the sand dunes both by 4WD and on foot. The hike will take at least 2 hours return. For the more adventurous, climb to the top for fantastic views.



Destination Information

Khongoryn Els – Also called the ‘Singing Sand Dunes’ due to the noise the sand dunes make when the sand is moved by the wind, Khongoryn Els are the most spectacular sand dunes in Mongolia. They measure up to 800m high, 12km wide and approximately 100km long. The largest of the group are situated in the northwest corner of the desert.

Day 7: Khongryn Els - Bayanzag

Meals: B, L, D

This morning is free for you to continue your exploration of the Gobi Desert and the sand dunes. After lunch, travel by 4WD for approximately 3-4 hours to Bayanzag, more commonly known as the ‘Flaming Cliffs’. This afternoon, visit the Gobi Dinosaurs Cemetery and explore the surrounding landscape. Your overnight stay here will be in a Ger camp near the Flaming Cliffs.



Destination Information

Bayanzag – Bayanzag is a traditional desert made up of peaks and canyons in a striking fiery red and orange sandstone. It is known worldwide for the number of dinosaur fossils found in the area. The first excavated was in 1922 by palaeontologist Roy Chapman Andrews.

Day 8: Bayanzag – Ongi River

Meals: B, L, D

Spend the day travelling to the banks of the Ongii River, a journey of approximately 4-5 hours, some of which is on jeep trails over dry plains, with no direct roads. On arrival, check into your Ger camp close to the Ongii River and visit the ruins of two famed monasteries, the Barlim Khiid to the north and the Khutagt Khiid to the south. Combined they form the complex known as Ongiin Khiid Monastery.

Destination Information

Ongiin Khiid Monastery – Ongiin Khiid Monastery consists of two monasteries, located on the bend of the Ong River. The first monastery, Barlim Khiid, was built in 1810 on the north bank of the river. The second, Khutagt Khiid, was built in 1970 on the south bank and can only be accessed when the water level of the river is low or iced over. Once the largest monasteries and home to a thousand monks, it was destroyed in 1937. Two monks now call the ruins home, after a small temple was constructed in 2004.

Day 9: Ongii – Mount Khogno Khan

Meals: B, L, D

This morning, depart Ongii and drive approximately 6 hours to Mt Khogno Khan. Upon arrival, you will explore the remains of the 17th-century monastery, the Uvgun Khiids, located at the foot of the mountain. Walk for approximately 45 minutes up a dirt path to the ruins. The monastery offers views of the spectacular scenery. Enjoy some time to explore the monastery and its surroundings before proceeding to your Ger camp, located near the Mongol Sand Dune.

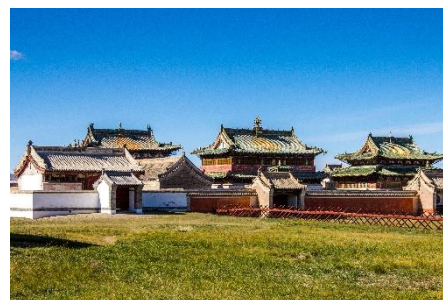
**Destination Information**

Uvgun Khiids Monastery – Uvgun Khiids monastery was built in 1660, after the existing monastery was destroyed by warring armies in 1640. The original ruins can be found along a designated path and its surroundings are part of the Khogno Khan Natural Reserve spread over 46,900 hectares.

Day 10: Mt Khogno Khan - Kharkhorin

Meals: B, L, D

Drive approximately 2 hours to the ancient capital of Kharkhorin, situated on the Orkhon River. Explore the ancient sites within Kharkhorin and the memorable Erdene Zuu Monastery. This site involves walking over rough, uneven surfaces. Stay overnight in a Ger camp.



Destination Information

Erdene Zuu Monastery – Erdene Zuu (Hundred Treasures) Monastery was built in the 16th Century and was the first Buddhist monastery in Mongolia. In 1792 it housed 62 temples and 10,000 lamas, and since 1990 it has again become an active monastery, retaining much of its former glory. Enclosed in an immense walled compound, the three temples within are dedicated to the three stages of Buddha's life: as a child, adolescent and adult. The main central temple is called the Zuu of Buddha and has statues of Buddha as a child.

Day 11: Kharkhorin -Tsenkher Jiguur

Meals: B, L, D

Enjoy the morning at leisure in your Ger camp. After lunch, drive 2-3 hours to Tsenkher Jiguur. Here, you will have free time to relax in the hot springs and take in the surrounding scenery. Stay overnight in a Ger camp.

Destination Information

Tsenkher Jiguur Hot Springs – Lounge in the volcanic hot springs of Tsenkher Jiguur surrounded by stunning alpine scenery.

Day 12: Tsenkher Jiguur Hot Springs – Great White Lake

Meals: B, L, D

Today, enjoy the stunning backdrop as you drive around 5 hours west, towards the serene Great White Lake (Terkhiin Tsagaan Nuur). Upon arrival, check into your Ger Camp for an overnight stay. The camp is located within one of the most beautiful areas of the famous Great White Lake and Khorgo Volcano. Take a short hike up to the crater of the volcano for wonderful views or walk along the lake shore where there are excellent opportunities for bird and wildlife spotting. Also visit Zayaiin Huree Monastery in Tsetserleg Town.



Destination Information

Great White Lake (Terkhiin Tsagaan Nuur) – Great White Lake is a fresh water lake which is certainly the highlight of Arkhangai Province. Surrounded by extinct and craterous volcanoes (part of the Tarvagatain Nuruu Range), the lake, bird life and mountains are protected within the 73,000-hectare Khorgo-Terkhiin Tsagaan Nuur National Park. There are wonderful hiking opportunities around the north-eastern side of the lake, including a hike to Khorgo Volcano (2,968m), about 900m above the lake.

Day 13: Great White Lake – Jargal Jiguur

Meals: B, L, D

This morning, enjoy a hike (approximately 3 hours) around the shores of the lake, which is home to a diverse variety of wildlife and birds. After lunch, drive 2-3 hours to Jargal Jiguur, known as ‘home of the yaks’, due to many local families seen herding yaks. Upon arrival, check into your Ger camp and enjoy time at leisure, giving you the opportunity to bath in the hot springs found here.

**Destination Information**

Jargal Jiguur – Jargal Jiguur is well known for the Khunjil natural hot springs, averaging a temperature of 70 degrees all year round. The hot springs tend to be popular at night while gazing at the stars.

Day 14: Jargal Jiguur – Lake Khovsgol

Meals: B, L, D

Today is a long driving day as you depart Jargal Jiguur early this morning and travel around 6-7 hours through Mõron to Lake Khovsgol, on mostly muddy roads. The first section of road has breathtaking views of the surrounding plains and glacial peaks. There will be sections of road along the lakeshore that are very bumpy. Upon arrival, check in to your Ger camp on the eastern shore of the lake for a two-night stay. In the afternoon, take a walk to the forest and visit a reindeer breeding family, where you will be introduced to their way of life.

Destination Information

Lake Khovsgol – Known as the ‘dark blue pearl’, Lake Khovsgol is set against a backdrop of mountains, deep pine forests and completed by the sights of grazing horses and yaks. Located in the northernmost province, it is Mongolia's largest and deepest lake and is the largest tributary stream of Lake Baikal. Being the second largest freshwater lake in Asia at 1,645m above sea level, it freezes over from January until April or May.

Day 15: Lake Khovsgol

Meals: B, L, D

There are a variety of activities offered at Lake Khovsgol, so you get to choose how you would like to spend your time here. Your Tour Guide will accompany you on a walk around the lake's shore and assist you in organising some of the suggested activities: a horse ride into the nearby mountains, renting a speedboat to see more of the lake, or taking a relaxing walk viewing the nearby forests and beautiful scenery. Please note that activities will be at your own expense.



Day 16: Lake Khovsgol - Ulaanbaatar

Meals: B, L, D

This morning, drive around 3 hours to Mōron airport and board your 1 ½ hour flight to Ulaanbaatar. Upon arrival, you will be transferred to your hotel for a 4-night stay. Spend the rest of the day at leisure.

Day 17: Ulaanbaatar

Meals: B, L, D

In the morning, drive to Mongol Nomadic Show area to see how the nomads live. You will have lunch here before returning to the city for Naadam Eve and a visit to Central Square to view the Mongol costumes on display.

**Destination Information:**

Naadam Festival – The Naadam Festival is a local celebration of the Mongolian people and culture. The festival's origins can be traced to the Mongol Army with horseracing, wrestling and archery competitions favoured by the locals and visitors alike.

Day 18: Ulaanbaatar – Naadam Festival

Meals: B, L, D

Over the next 2 days you will experience, first-hand, the annual Naadam Festival. Mix with locals and nomads alike to witness the Opening Ceremony of the Naadam Festival, at Central Stadium. Here you can see featured events that include wrestling, horseracing and archery. You will have the chance to view the procession of the athletes, officials and monks, as the first round of competition in the wrestling tournament begins.



Tickets to all arenas are allocated by local Government tourist authority in the weeks leading up to the opening ceremony; therefore, the exact programme cannot be given until during your trip. The first round of wrestling and archery is held in the afternoon. This evening you will experience the Naadam Traditional Folk Gala Show, which includes the renowned 'throat singing'.

Please prepare your bag each day to contain everything you may need for the day – sun hat, sunscreen, drinking water and plenty of camera memory. It is usually hot at this time of year, and the seats are not under cover, so you will be exposed to the sun all day. Valuables must be kept in the hotel safe or under your clothes in a money belt as you will be walking through huge crowds on your way in and out of the stadium stands. Lunch during this time will be a boxed lunch organised by the hotel, so that you can enjoy it 'picnic style' without leaving the excitement of the festival.

Day 19: Naadam Festival Day 2 – Horse Race

Meals: B, L, D

Travel approximately 50km outside the city to enjoy the second day of the Naadam festival. A thrilling day unfolds as you to view the cross-country horseracing. Also known as 'tumnii ekh' (leader of ten thousand), this is popular after amongst the younger competitors. Boxed meals will be provided for lunch in the horse racing field. Drive back to Ulaanbaatar city.

In the evening enjoy Mongolian traditional performance followed by a farewell dinner with your National Guide and drivers of your tour.

Day 20: Ulaanbaatar

Meals: B, L, D

Enjoy a day at leisure in Ulaanbaatar.

Day 21-22: Depart Ulaanbaatar

Meals: B ,L ,D

Any time before your flight is at leisure. You will be transferred from your hotel to the airport, according to the departure time of your international flight. Depending on flight times you will return to Australia today or the following day.

MONGOLIA TRAVEL INFORMATION

VISAS:

Australian passport holders do not need a visa for Mongolia if they are travelling for less than 30 days for tourist purposes. Please be advised that your passport must have at least six months validity left on it when you arrive back into Australia.

Please note the visa procedures and requirements may change at any time. These changes are often made by the relevant embassy or consulate, Wendy Wu Tours acts as a third party and has no influence on the process of a visa.

All information with regards to visas will be updated regularly on our website as we find visas process' are changing on regular basis.

For the latest information on visa procedures, processing times and requirements, please kindly refer to our website <https://www.wendywutours.com.au/help-and-advice/passports-and-visas/>

INSURANCE:

We strongly recommend that you take out a policy as soon as you pay your deposit. Wendy Wu Tours cannot in any way be made liable for any additional cost incurred by the customer on any tour due to the customer not having adequate travel insurance.

We also encourage all customers to take a copy of their travel insurance documents (especially relevant international contact numbers) with them while on tour. We advise that you check the inclusions and procedures for lodging claims prior to your departure. These documents should be stored separately from the original.

EATING IN MONGOLIA:

The combination of vast barren plains and nomadic lifestyle has created a unique culinary tradition in Mongolia, which you will have the opportunity to experience on your tour.

While staying in Ulaanbaatar, the breakfast will contain a mixture of local and western-style dishes, served buffet and set styles. During the Naadam Festival and most days of driving in the countryside, you will be provided with a 'picnic box' lunch. All other meals will be served in restaurants located in Ulaanbaatar or at the Ger camps.

Food in Mongolia tends to be simple, as they have limited ingredients, such as mutton (used in a variety of ways), beef, potato, cucumber, tomato, onion, carrot and sheep's milk. People on restricted or vegetarian diets can be catered for on a limited basis with foods such as noodles, rice and steamed vegetables. Please contact us to discuss this if you are concerned.

GROUP SIZE:

The group size on our Go Beyond Tours is on average 10-15 passengers, with a maximum group size of 18. You may encounter other Wendy Wu tour groups while you are travelling. On our group tours we operate a seat-and-a-half policy, allowing you to travel in greater comfort.

All our departures are guaranteed to operate with a minimum of 8 travellers booked (unless cancelled due to factors beyond our control). A national escort will accompany each group of 10 or more. However, at our discretion we may operate departures with a smaller group size as we try to operate advertised departures wherever it is viable to do so.

ACCOMMODATION:

Your accommodation has been selected for convenience of location, comfort or character. In remote areas, accommodation may be of a lower standard and may not have western amenities. Hotels are generally rated as local three to four-star standard, but do please note that there is no international classification system for hotels and differences in facilities and quality do exist between the Australia and Mongolia. If you experience any difficulty, please speak to your National Guide.

The group tour hotel in Ulaanbaatar has private western bathroom facilities, air conditioning, TV and a telephone. Plumbing and electricity supplies can be erratic and quite often the power in hotel rooms is turned off while guests are out of the room.

Hotels - Check-out time in Mongolia is 12:00. Please keep this in mind on the days when you are travelling between cities as it may result in a delay of access to your room or a change of itinerary to allow for this delay. Our office in Mongolia will inform the hotels of your expected arrival time, but occasional delays due to last night's guests checking out at midday are beyond our control.

Ger camps - Gers are the traditional home of nomads across Mongolia. They are made from a wooden frame and layers of felt and canvas erected on a wooden platform. The interior is filled with warm fabrics and furs as well as ornate wooden furniture. Ideally suited to Mongolia's nomadic way of life and harsh weather, the Ger has been the most popular dwelling for hundreds of years. Gers are also known by the Russian name 'yurt'. Each Ger will consist of two or three single wooden beds, linen, and a stove for heating purposes, a thick blanket, one electrical socket and a low bearing table and chairs.



Most of the camps will be equipped with electricity connection and is typically available between 7-11pm. All Gers will also have electricity as well as electrical outlets. Please note, the electric outlets for your Ger in Hongor will be located within the communal area.

Please note that your accommodation at the ger camps is in traditional gers, with shared facilities.

The supply of electricity is limited, as is the supply of hot water. Showers are available, however the camp may have enough power to heat water for five or six people only, so the members of your group should keep this in mind and plan ahead for showers. It is recommended to advise staff at least an hour before you intend to shower as hot water will need to be boiled for you.

Cafes and communal areas are also located within the camp grounds. Most of the Ger camps we use will also have a laundry service available, at a small additional cost. Staying in a Ger will allow you to experience the most unique and intrinsic aspect of the nomadic life in Mongolia. Although they are not luxurious, they do offer comfortable accommodation while we travel through the most remote regions of the country.

PORTERAGE:

Please be aware that portorage is not included on our tours in GEORGIA, ARMENIA & AZERBAIJAN. You will therefore need to be able to handle your own luggage within the hotel and when using transportation like trains and coaches.

TRANSPORT:

There is more than 20,000km of road stretching across Mongolia. Only 1,600km of this distance is paved. In the countryside, you will be travelling across many different surfaces, from gravel highways to wide, open plains where the route is marked out by poles. The roads can be rough, and a level of discomfort can be expected.

In Ulaanbaatar, we use modern, air-conditioned coaches. Everywhere else we use sturdy 4WD vehicles, which best suit this terrain. Each 4WD vehicle will hold three passengers per vehicle and the National Guide will rotate from each vehicle to become the fourth passenger. They will drive in convoy and endeavour to stay within sight of each other throughout the day. Seatbelts are not compulsory by law in Mongolia and local people largely choose not to wear them. Wendy Wu Tours will ensure that the 4WD vehicles are fitted with seatbelts. Drivers often use seat covers to make their vehicles more presentable. If they obstruct your access to seatbelts, please request that they be adjusted or removed. It is recommended that where seat belts are available customers must use them and remain seated at all times whilst the vehicle is moving. Please see your National Guide if you have any concerns.

LUGGAGE:

All travellers are limited to two items of luggage each: a suitcase with a maximum weight of 20kg and one piece of hand luggage with a maximum weight of five kilograms. It is essential that your luggage is lockable. Please note that authorities will only allow bottles onto the aircraft if they have been checked in as main baggage. Bottles in hand luggage may be confiscated.

TIPPING POLICY:

Tipping while on holiday is common in most parts of the world and Mongolia is no exception. However, it is not always clear who it is appropriate to tip and how much. Furthermore, travellers may not have the right amounts of cash available at the right time. In order to avoid any inconvenience Wendy Wu Tours operates a tipping policy where a stated amount (USD\$120) is given to your national escort at the beginning of your tour and tips are disbursed amongst your main service providers (for example local guides, drivers and hotel porters) throughout your tour. The amount is designed to be at a reasonable level for travellers while being fair to the local people and includes a gratuity for the national escort. Any other tipping, such as waiters or bathroom attendants is at your discretion based on satisfaction of services received, as are gratuities for additional requested special services.

We generally find that most customers appreciate the convenience of our tipping policy but we do recognize that it may not suit everyone. However, as this is a group tour we ask that everyone follows the same protocol to be fair to other group members and to ensure smooth operation of your tour.

DEVELOPMENT IN MONGOLIA:

Although Mongolia is developing quickly, it still lacks the international standards of civil infrastructure and tourist facilities. Concepts of personal responsibility are also different to those in Australia. Consequently, tourist and public facilities may not uphold the same safety standards as in the Australia; for example, you may see a hole in the road without a warning sign or safety barricade. All of our suppliers meet local safety standards as a minimum. We want you to have an enjoyable holiday so we ask that you take extra care, use your common sense, refer to notices and follow advice from you National Escort or Local Guides.

Wendy Wu Tours and our partners in Mongolia use our local knowledge to design our itineraries to provide the best paced sightseeing possible. However, we ask that you keep in mind that public holidays, road construction and weather conditions can create traffic congestion or interfere with the itinerary set out here. Your National Escort will do their utmost to avoid problems but cannot guarantee against delays, changes or – in rare cases – cancellations of sections of your itinerary.

Mongolia continues to amaze, fascinate and thrill our customers, many of whom have travelled to more and more areas of this wonderful region with us, year after year. We urge you to keep in mind all the rewards, as well as the challenges, of travelling in a developing country. Almost everything will be different to what you may be used to. A typical day of sightseeing may include breathtaking views, long hours of driving, the hospitality of the traditional nomadic Ger and a more basic level of accommodation. Travelling in Mongolia requires patience, a sense of humour and an adventurous attitude towards exploring a country that is unspoilt, remote and endlessly fascinating.

There is a low level of English spoken throughout Mongolia so the Local Guides or National Escort will be indispensable during your trip.

SOUVENIRS:

We want to be able to give you an opportunity to buy souvenirs so we include some stops at museums or exhibitions that demonstrates a craft or product unique to that region with pieces available to buy. We understand that souvenir hunting is not for everyone so we aim to take you to places that hold local interest. We trust you will enjoy these opportunities to learn about local arts and crafts and understand their historical and cultural importance.

PERSONAL EXPENSES AND OPTIONAL TOURINGS:

Personal Expense - You will need to take some extra money to cover drinks, laundry and souvenirs, plus any additional sightseeing that may be offered to you. Based on the advice of previous customers an approximate amount of \$300AUD per person, per week should be sufficient; however, for those that can't resist a bargain or may wish to participate in all of the optional excursions, consider allocating a higher amount.

Optional Tours - May be offered in each city you visit during your tour. These are not included in the standard itinerary and will only be available if time permits and if seats are available. In your Final Documentation an Optional Excursion Sheet will be included outlining the activities available in each city and local cost associated. Please ensure you have additional funds available if you feel you may wish to participate in any extra activities. Each option will be arranged locally by your National Escort/Local Guide, participation and tipping for optional excursions is completely at your discretion

VACCINATIONS AND YOUR HEALTH:

We recommend that you contact either your GP or Travelvax (1300 360 164) for advice on vaccinations and travel health. Travelvax has a comprehensive website that you may also find useful www.travelvax.com.au.

BEFORE YOU LEAVE:

We strongly recommend registering your travel plans with www.smartraveller.gov.au as in the event of an emergency, Australian Consular assistance will be more readily available. You can also access the Australian Government's travel advisory service for up to date information about your destination on the same website.

AFTER YOUR BOOKING:

Once you have booked with Wendy Wu Tours, you will receive a confirmation invoice including a visa application form (if applicable), and a help sheet. Your final documentation pack will be sent to you approximately 2-3 weeks prior to departure.

Updated: May 2024