

MONGOLIA - NOMAD TRAILS - BIG SKIES HORSE TRAIL WITH NAADAM GAMES

ITINERARY

Day 1

Return airport transfers are included.

Fights should arrive into Ulaanbaatar before 16:00 to allow time to transfer to the hotel and settle into your room before meeting your guide and the rest of the group for the ride briefing over dinner.

Flights can depart at any time on your day of departure.

Overnight Bayangol Hotel, Ulaanbaatar. Today you may explore the city on your own.

A local guide who speaks both English and Mongolian will accompany the group. Such is the bustling nature of the Games that it will be impossible for your guide to provide a running commentary. Instead they will be available to answer direct questions and escort you between the venues.

This is a time when the Mongolian government invites VIPs and other official guests to the city so accommodation and transport is in short supply. Overbooking of hotels is likely but our partners in Mongolia have the experience of Naadam every year and know how to anticipate the problems. Nevertheless it is important that you appreciate that the itinerary must be flexible.

The minor archery competitions and training may have started already today. There are different styles such as children's archery, Buryat style archery etc. Training sessions allow for good photography since you can get closer and there are fewer people.

In the evening the horse trainers move their horses with their mobile camps near to the city, and pitch camp at the steppe area at Hui Doloon Hudag, 60km away from the city and Sukhbaatar Square.

You will meet other guests for a festive welcome dinner.

Overnight Ulaanbaatar.

The Bayangol is a large 4* hotel right in the city centre. For some rides we may use an alternative but similar hotel in Ulaanbaatar.



Double room at the Bayangol Hotel

Day 2

Today is a full day at the Naadam horse racing. Mongol horse racing is part of a living cultural heritage, similar to the equestrian tradition that brought the Mongol armies to faraway places during medieval times.

There are horse races at Hui Doloon Hudag, but also at several locations about 60 – 90km from the city. In the rural Naadams you will see the horse races at closer quarters, and have the added benefit of getting close to the wrestling.

Overnight Ulaanbaatar.

Overnight Bayangol Hotel, Ulaanbaatar.

Day 3

Overnight Bayangol Hotel, Ulaanbaatar.

Day 4

In the morning you may visit the Gandan lamasery, centre of the Buddhist revival in Mongolia. The Mongols follow the Tibetan version of Lamaism, the Dalai Lama being the theological leader.

Later you depart the city, and gradually the Mongolian landscape unfolds before your eyes. By the time you come to the Hadan Hoshuu steppes valley, there are no traces of civilization. Another world exists here as the nomads, with their horses, gers and livestock, make use of the summer pasture.

After a picnic lunch, continue your journey across the forested Zamtiin Pass and into the Upper Tuul River Valley until you reach your camp at Bosgo Meadows, beside the Tuul River. You will spend two nights in this camp.



Day 5

This morning you meet the horses and your horse guides. Your first day ride takes you on the southern side of the Tuul River, up the valleys and through forests, onto the ridges with stunning panoramic views of the southernmost Siberian forests.

A great time to get to know the horses that will carry you over the next few days. Return to Bosgo Meadows for a second night.



Overnight Bosog Meadows Camp.

Day 6

In the morning the entire camp is packed up and loaded onto the yak carts.

You ride north toward the Khentii Mountains, across the forested ridge into the next valley, the Baruunbayan. You separate from the yak carts to ride a scenic route to camp by the Baruunbayan River.



Day 7

Today is a full day's ride takes you to Gunjin Sum, a ruined temple hidden in the forest. Return to camp for a second night.



Overnight Baruunbayan River Camp.

Day 8

For the final time, camp is packed up onto the yak carts and you ride along with them for a while. Again you then separate from the yak carts to ride up the partly forested ridges. Most of the trees are larch, however on some of the ridges there are larger patches of pine and there is a real possibility to come across the rare Black-billed Capercaillie and the more common Black Grouse. Finally arrive at your ger camp, next to the Zuunbayan River, a tributary of the Tuul River.

You spend two nights at this camp and have a day riding up towards the tree line of the Khentii Mountains, with spectacular scenery and views in all directions.



Day 9

A day riding up towards the tree line of the Khentii Mountains, with spectacular scenery and views in all directions.



Overnight Zuunbayan River Camp.

Day 10

Today you say goodbye to the herders and their yak carts. You ride back to the Sharlburg Valley crossing the uppermost parts of the Tuul River before reaching the small ger camp at Jalman Meadows.



Day 11

A full day to enjoy the setting of Jalman Meadows Ger Camp. You can choose this day to do a full or half day ride. Alternatively you may prefer to relax in the ger library with books on Genghis Khan and contemporary Mongolia; or with a riverside sauna. It is also possible to replace the ride with a raft float downstream.



Overnight Jalman Meadows Wilderness Camp.

Day 12

During the morning you return back to Ulaanbaatar giving you chance to explore the capital city on your own. Lunch is to your own account. The local guide is available to direct you to where the points of interest are located.

In the evening you have a farewell dinner and attend a performance featuring folk and traditional Mongolian music, song, dance and contortion. Overnight at the hotel.



Overnight Bayangol Hotel, Ulaanbaatar.