

Essence of Mongolia – 5 Days

- **Category:** Cultural Tour

- **Travel places:** Ulaanbaatar – Gurvanbulag community – Kharakhorum - Khognokhaan Mountai - Khustai National park – Terelj National Park – Chinggis Khaan statue - Ulaanbaatar

- **Activities:** Visit cultural sites and meet with nomads, learn traditional culture, exploring varied natural landscape and hiking

- **Duration:** 6 nights / 7 days

- **Season:** January – end of December

DAY 1 - GANDAN MONASTERY - GURVANBULAG - HORSE RIDE



Pick up from your hotel and drive to **Gandan Monastery** - guided tour, enter the temples, including that of the Migjid Janraisig with its huge golden buddha statue. In the old temple complex listen to the chanting ceremonies which happen mid-morning. Afterwards, board the vehicle again and head west to **Gurvanbulag** stoping briefly to visit **Khar Bukhiin Balgas**, interesting remains of an ancient fort used by nomadic tribes dating back to 10th century. Then it's onto Gurvanbulag, where you will visit nomadic family. Enter the ger and experience the hospitality and traditional nomadic way

of life - you can help make and drink milk tea, plus try homemade produce such as yogurt and dried curds. In the afternoon **1 hour horse ride** or walk (clients decide their preference) with guide to the nearby sand dunes.

Travel details: 4hr/280km to Gurvanbulag

Accommodation: Community Ger Camp in Gurvanbulag

Meals included: Breakfast; Lunch; Dinner

DAY 2 KHARAKHORUM - ERDENE ZUU MONASTERY - MONUMENT OF 3 KINGS



In the morning drive to Kharakhorum. First visit Erdene Zuu Monastery in time to hear the monks chanting, which takes place from 10am. Take a walk around the main temples, and stroll around the grounds. Afterwards have at a local eatery. In the afternoon walk or drive around the ancient Mongol capital. Visit the **Monument of the 3 Kings** overlooking the **Orkhon River**, and the **fertility stone** on the edge of

town. You will also have a chance to stroll around in the local market. In the have dinner back at the guesthouse and settle into your room for the night.

Travel details: 1.5hr/80km to Kharakhorum; short drives in town

Accommodation: Ger camp in Kharakhorum

Meals included: Breakfast; Lunch; Dinner

DAY 3 - KHOGNO KHAAN - UVGUUN TEMPLE - ELSSEN TASARKHAI DUNES - CAMEL RIDING

Today you head to the nature reserve of **Khogno Khaan**, where you can explore the lower temple complex of **Uvguun Khiid**, see the reconstructed temples, prayer-wheel and look around the ruins. Then we recommend taking the 45 minute hike up to the older ruined temple complex in the hills - the scenery is fantastic. Head back down to the valley floor, and onto the sand dunes at **Elsen Tasarkhai**, a 30 minute drive away. **Bactrian camel ride** across the dunes for 1 hour.

Travel details: 1.5hr/50km Khogno Khaan; 45 min / 20km to Elsen Tasarkhai

Accommodation: Ger camp in Khogno Khan

Meals included: Breakfast; Lunch; Dinner

DAY 4 HUSTAI NATIONAL PARK - WILD 'TAKHI' HORSES - HIKING



After a leisurely breakfast jump in the vehicles for the journey back east to Hustai. You should arrive in your ger camp in time for lunch. The camp is located at the entrance to the Hustai National Park, and you will have some time to rest before venturing into the park. In the afternoon drive from your camp to see the Takhi - this is the time when they gather to drink at streams so you have a better chance

of seeing them up close, and in accessible areas. You may want to combine the trip with a longer walk in the park - in which case you should leave a little earlier. Discuss your preference with your guide. Afterwards head back to camp for dinner and your last night in a ger.

Travel details: 3hr/190km drive to Hustai National Park; Short drives and walk within the park

Accommodation: Ger Camp in Hustai

Meals included: Breakfast; Lunch; Dinner

DAY 5 ULAANBAATAR

After breakfast back down to the vehicle and return to Ulaanbaatar (2hrs/100km), where you will be dropped at a location of your choice.

Travel details: 2hrs/100km to UB

Accommodation: Hotel in Ulaanbaatar

Meals included: Breakfast;

Price:

USD 1190per person (1pax)

USD 850per person (2pax)

USD 760per person (3pax)

USD 690per person (4pax)

Included: All activities described in the itinerary, Ger of nomad family stay (4nights) in countryside, English speaking guide service, all transfers by private car in the city and by 4WD Japanese minivan in the countryside. Meals of breakfast, lunch and dinner as mentioned per day itinerary.

Excluded: International transportation to and from Mongolia, hotel stay, travel insurance, mineral bottled water and alcoholic drinks, tips and gratuities, laundry and items of a personal nature.