

## TOURING IN MONGOLIA

Code #13

**Purpose: To visit and enjoy the Mongolian country's natural beauty, wild and unique heritage.**

Day	Destination	Main attraction	Meal, accommodation
04/24 Sunday	6:00 am Arrival at Chinggis Khan International Airport City tour	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Center of Ulaanbaatar city, Chinggis Khan Square</li> <li>✓ National History Museum</li> <li>✓ Gandan Monastery</li> </ul>	L+ HOTEL /4 star/ D-Mongolian BBQ
04/25 Monday	Chinggis Khan statue complex Mongolia in 13 <sup>th</sup> century	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ <b>Chinggis Khan Statue Complex</b> is a 40-metre (131 ft 3 in) tall statue of <u>Genghis Khan</u> on horseback, on the bank of the <u>Tuul River</u> at <i>Tsonjin Boldog</i> east of the capital UB. where according to legend, he found a golden whip.</li> <li>✓ Mongolian ancient history and nomadic lifestyle, existing for centuries, we advise you to go on this trip that brings you to the outstanding Genghis Khan statue resort and the 13th century park, set up with unique clan camps bringing the exotic environment and the feeling of the 13th century.</li> <li>✓ Mongolian traditional performance</li> </ul>	B=in hotel, L=tourist camp, D=Nomads
04/26 Tuesday	Dunes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Elsen Tasarkhai is a part of the 80 km long Mongol Els Sand Dunes. The nature in this area is really spectacular and great for relaxing.</li> <li>✓ to visit a local nomadic family, ride two-humped Bactrian camel, walk on sand dunes, experience staying in a traditional Mongolian dwelling, the ger, and walk and relax in beautifully serene nature.</li> </ul>	B=in hotel, L=prepared special food, D=livestock herders
04/27 Wednesday	Khar khorum old city of Mongolia, Erdene-zuu monastery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ To visit Mongolian ancient old capital city Erdene zuu</li> </ul>	B= livestock herders LD+ tourist camp
04/28 Thursday	Dunes Khustai National Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Museum of Khustai National park, Przewalski's horses, Red Deer</li> </ul>	B= tourist camp L, D= tourist camp
04/29 Friday	Khustai National Park – UB city	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Visit to cashmere factory, shopping</li> </ul>	B= tourist camp LD=in hotel
04/30 Saturday	06:00 Chinggis Khan International Airport	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Departure</li> </ul>	B= in hotel

**Service Including in cost:**

- Accommodation
- Lunch in 5 days, dinner in 4 times
- Tax
- Guide
- Vehicle
- Riding horse, camel, visiting nomadic family
- Museum

**Prize**

1385 USD per person

**Service not including in cost:**

- Round ticket to Mongolia
- Personal expenses (except itinerary)
- Visa
- Insurance
- If you stay in single room ger camp it will be extra charge 25-32 USD

# General information

## CHINGGIS SQUARE



Chinggis Square formally Grand Chinggis Khaan Square, and previously Known As Sükhbaatar Square is the central square of Mongolia's capital Ulaanbaatar. The official name was changed in 2013 in honor of Genghis Khan, considered the founding father of Mongolia. A large equestrian monument to Genghis Khan, as well as to Ögedei Khan, and Kublai Khan dominates the square's north side directly in front of the Government Palace. The center of the square features an equestrian statue of Damdin Sükhbaatar, one of the leaders of

Mongolia's 1921 revolution.

## MONGOLIA'S NATIONAL MUSEUM



Mongolia's National Museum sweeps visitors from the Neolithic era right to the present day.

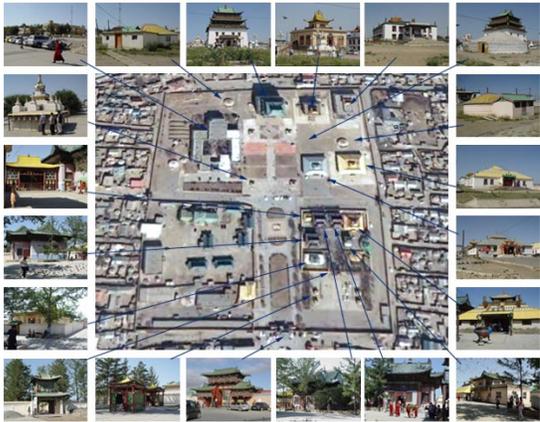
The 1st floor has some interesting exhibits on Stone Age sites in Mongolia, as well as petroglyphs, deer stones (stone sculptures of reindeer and other animals) and burial sites from the Hun and Uighur eras. Look for the remarkable gold treasure (including a golden tiara), found in 2001 by archaeologists digging near the Kul-Teginii Monument in Övörkhongai.

The 2nd floor houses an outstanding collection of costumes, hats and jewelry, representing most of Mongolia's ethnic groups. Take a gander at some of the elaborate silverwork of the Dariganga minority or the outrageous headgear worn by Khalkh Mongols. Some of the outfits contain 20–25kg of silver ornamentation!

The 3rd floor is a must-see for fans of the Mongol horde. The collection includes real examples of 12th-century Mongol armour, and correspondence between Pope Innocent IV and Guyuk Khaan. Written in Latin and Persian and dated 13 November 1246, it bears the seal of the khaan. There is also a display of traditional Mongolian culture with, among other things, a furnished ger, traditional herding and domestic implements, saddles and musical instruments. In the 20th-century-history section, look out for D Sükhbaatar's famous hollow horsewhip, inside which he hid a secret letter written in 1920 by the Bogd Khan enlisting the aid of the Russian Red Army.

The final hall contains a self-congratulatory display of Mongolia's recent history and the 1990 democratic revolution, with no mention of the breadlines of the early 1990s or other hardships of the transition from communism to democracy.

## GANDAN MONASTERY



Originally situated in the center of Ulaanbaatar, Gandan Monastery was moved to its present location by the 5th Bogd Jebzundamba in 1838. Over the next century the Monastery grew to include nine dastans or institutes, a library and housed a community of around 5000 monks. Gandan became an important center for learning and practicing Buddha's teachings, not only in Mongolia but for the entire Mahayana Buddhist community. Small mobile monasteries functioned in Mongolia, and in 1838 the Gandantegchinlen monastery was founded as the religious center of Sutra-Tantra Buddhism at the site of Dalkha hill. It grew into a complex of colleges including a college of basic Buddhist teachings, departments of

Astrology and Medicine, and as such was the largest center of the Mongolian Buddhism. The first temple of the Monastery was built at the initiative of the Mongolian living Buddha, the Fifth Incarnation Bogdo, Chultem-Jigmid-Dambijantsan. It was constructed by Mongolian masters and made mostly of wood and earth following Mongolian national architectural designs, with gold plated roofs and topmost Buddhist symbolic - decorations. Many of the Boddhisattvas statues and images established in Gandan temple are of significance. In the temple there are a bronze statue of the Lofty Noble Rimpoche Dzanabazar - the Mongolian living Buddha of the First Incarnation sculpted by himself at the behest of his mother; the collection of the Buddha's fundamental teachings, the Tripitaka (Gangiur) in 108 volumes; the silver statue of the famous Tsong (Khapa) of Amdo made in XVI century in Western Oirat Mongolia.



## STATUE OF GENGHIS KHAN COMPLEX

Statue of Genghis Khan riding on horseback was erected on the bank of the Tuul River at Tsonjin Boldog, 54 km east of the Mongolian capital Ulaanbaatar, where according to legend, he found a golden whip. The statue is 40 meters tall and wrapped in 250 tons of gleaming stainless steel. It stands on top of the Genghis Khan Statue Complex, a visitor center that itself is 10 meters tall, with 36 columns

representing the 36 khans from Genghis to Ligdan Khan. The statue is symbolically pointed east towards his birthplace.

Inside the two-story base of the statue, visitors can see a replica of Genghis Khan's legendary golden whip, sample traditional cuisine of horse meat and potatoes, or play billiards. Visitors can ascend to the exhibition hall using an elevator at the back of the horse and then walk to the horse's head passing through its chest and the back of its neck from where they can have an excellent panoramic view over the complex area and the scenery beyond.

The Chinggis Khan Statue is currently the biggest equestrian statue in the world.

## 13TH CENTURY PARK



If you are keen to explore Mongolian ancient history and nomadic lifestyle, existing for centuries, we advise you to go on this trip that brings you to the outstanding Genghis Khan statue resort and the 13th century park, set up with unique clan camps bringing the exotic environment and the feeling of the 13th century. The tallest horseman-statue in the world is dedicated to Mongolian legendary emperor – Chinggis or Genghis Khan and it is standing only in an hour drive from the capital – Ulanbator city. If you are keen to explore Mongolian ancient history and nomadic lifestyle, existing for centuries, we advise you to go on this trip that brings you to the outstanding Genghis Khan statue resort and the 13th century park, set up with unique clan camps bringing the exotic environment and the feeling of the 13th century.

## ELSEN TASARKHAI DUNES



The Elsen Tasarkhai is a part of the Mongol Els Sand Dunes, that continues 80 km long 5 km wide. The nature in this area is really spectacular and great for relaxing and located in Burd soum in Uvurkhangai Aimag (Province) 280 km west of Ulaanbaatar. The area is surrounded by sand dunes, hills covered with rare bushes and a small forest near a river. Together this presents a unique combination of Mongolian mountains, forests and Gobi-type landscape in one location. This area is 80 km east of Kharakhorum, the ancient Mongolian capital. The area is populated by the Maral stag (elk), wolves, deer and fox. The Elsen Tasarkhai literally means "an isolated torn-off piece of sand" and it is a small sequence of real desert in the midst of green steppes. It feels like in the Gobi Desert, and visitors can hike in the sand dunes. During the trip, you will also have opportunities to visit a local nomadic family, to ride two-humped Bactrian camel, walk on sand dunes, experience staying in a traditional Mongolian dwelling, the ger, and walk and relax in beautifully serene nature.



## Erdene Zuu Monastery

Founded in 1586 by Altai Khan, Erdene Zuu (Hundred Treasures) was the first Buddhist monastery in Mongolia. It had



between 60 and 100 temples, about 300 gers inside the walls and, at its peak, up to 1000 monks in residence. The monastery went through periods of neglect and prosperity until finally the Stalinist purges of 1937 put it completely out of business. All but three of the temples in Erdene Zuu were destroyed and an

unknown number of monks were either killed or sent to Siberian gulags.

However, a surprising number of statues, tsam masks and thangkas were saved – possibly with the help of a few sympathetic military officers. The items were buried in nearby mountains, or stored in local homes (at great risk to the residents). The monastery remained closed until 1965, when it was permitted to reopen as a museum, but not as a place of worship. It was only with the collapse of communism in 1990 that religious freedom was restored and the monastery became active again. Today Erdene Zuu Khiid is considered by many to be the most important monastery in the country, though no doubt it's a shadow of what it once was. Entrance to the walled monastery grounds is free. If you want to see inside the temples, however, you'll have to go to the ticket desk and souvenir shop on your left as you enter the grounds from the south and buy a ticket, which includes a guided tour of the site with an English-speaking guide.

The main temples date from the 16th century. Most of the artifacts you'll see – wall paintings, thangkas, masks etc – are 18th century.

## Khustai National Park



The Mongolian Government declared Hustai National Park as a Specially Protected Area in 1993, one year after the initiation of the reintroduction project of the Takhi to the Hustain Nuruu. The HNP extends through the Khentii Mountains and includes the western edge of the Mongolian steppe at the boundaries of Altanbulag, Argalant and Bayankhangai Soums of Tov province. The park is about 95 km from the capital city of Ulaanbaatar to the west.



The HNP covers 50.6 ha land which is home to 459 species of vascular plants, 85 species of lichens, 90 species of moss and 33 species of mushrooms. 44 species of mammals have been recorded, including Red deer, Mongolian gazelle, Roe deer, Wild boar, Wild sheep, Ibex, Mongolian marmots, Grey wolves, Lynx, Pallas' cat, Red fox, Corsac fox and Eurasian badger. The 217 species of birds include Golden eagle, Lammergeier, Great bustard, Whooper swan, Black stork, Daurian partridge and Little owl. There are 16 species of fish, 2 species of amphibians, and 385 species of insects

(including 21 species of ants, 55 species of butterflies, 10 species of bush crickets and 29 species of grasshoppers). A new species of soil insect has been found in the Hustai and given the scientific name of *Epidamaeus khustaiensis*.

### Shopping in Cashmere

