



Mongolia Cultural Discovery

Explore Nomadic Life from Steppe to Sky

Thank you for checking out our adventures and for downloading this itinerary. Please note that this itinerary and accommodations may be subject to change depending on the specific departure date. Be sure to check with us before scheduling any flights.

We love talking travel!
Contact us at info@mtsobek.com
or call **800-974-0300**



Feel the difference

with **Mountain Travel Sobek**

Unrivaled Expertise

MT Sobek started it all! Since our first Everest Base Camp trek in 1969, we've been leading award-winning adventures and building authentic connections in far-flung locations around the world. We were named Best Adventure Travel Company by Newsweek Readers' Choice Awards.

Unique Trip Design

Our adventures are perfectly paced, with incredible attention to detail — the right mix of fun, learning, and challenge that guarantees lifelong memories. Plan nothing, enjoy everything. We take care of all of the logistics so that you can have more time to do what's most important: relax, take in the experience, and enjoy!

Small Groups

We keep our groups intentionally small — usually fewer than 10 people. This allows you a more intimate experience with the people and wildlife you encounter. With a smaller group size, we can take advantage of many unexpected invitations and opportunities that would be impossible with larger groups.





Leading the Way

World-Class Local Guides

Our knowledgeable and passionate expert guides effortlessly create an immersive local experience for you. They are trained to the highest professional standards and are at the heart of everything we do. They make it possible to meet the challenges of adventure travel, and help create lasting memories and lifelong friendships... we can confidently say our guides are the best in the business.





Why take this trip with us?

REASON 1

MT Sobek has traveled deep into the heart of Mongolia for over 30 years, guiding guests through a rugged, expansive landscape.

REASON 2

Our expert team of local guides offer an immersive discovery journey, nurturing genuine encounters with nomadic cultures.

REASON 3

MT Sobek goes beyond the ordinary, offering a deep dive into Mongolian culture—help build a traditional ger, share stories with nomadic herders, and even sample camel's milk for a true taste of the steppe.

At A Glance

ACTIVITIES

Moderate daily hikes up to 4-5 hours per day with cultural touring by private van. Visit local families and explore wondrous sand dunes.



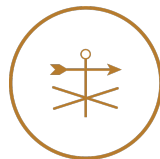
LODGING

Traditional and comfortable ger camps, and a traditional Mongolian lodge. First and last night in a modern city hotel.



CLIMATE

Daytime temperatures range from 70-85°F; nighttime temperatures are cooler and can drop to the 40's. Brief, gentle showers can be expected in the summer.



KNOW BEFORE YOU BOOK

Itinerary

Given the dynamic nature of travel in Mongolia, especially in remote areas, changes to the schedule or flight adjustments may occur. While we will do our best to maintain the planned itinerary, flexibility may be needed to adapt to unforeseen circumstances, particularly with regards to flights to the remote Gobi region. If flights are not in service, we will offer an alternative overland route to the Gobi which is around 9 hours driving time.



Mongolia Cultural Discovery

Explore Nomadic Life from Steppe to Sky

Once a pivotal point on the ancient Silk Road, this “Land of Blue Skies” retains elements of nomadic life and culture. Horses remain at the heart of Mongol culture, shamanic traditions endure, and ancient Buddhist monasteries reflect venerable spiritual traditions. On this fabulous adventure, travel this immense, silent land from the arid semi-desert Khogna Khan Natural Reserve and the Neolithic Ongot monuments near Hustai National Park through seemingly endless rolling steppe to the ochre-colored sands of the Gobi Desert in the south—including the “singing dunes” of Khongoryn Els.

14 Days

Start: Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia

End: Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia

Departing: June, July, August, September

Activities: Cultural Discovery

Lodging: Rustic Lodging

Group Size: 2-10 Guests

ACTIVITY:



Check mtsobek.com for date-specific pricing.

“

“I have traveled extensively around the world. The experience with MT Sobek was by far the best I have ever had. Thank you for such excellence.”

- Marianne W.

The Itinerary

DAY
01

Arrive in Mongolia

Welcome to the energetic Mongolian capital of Ulaanbaatar! Upon late arrival at Chinggis Khaan International Airport, meet an MT Sobek representative and transfer to the Ramada Ulaanbaatar Citycenter, one of the best hotels in the city. On the way, pass a large suburban area with traditional nomadic felt tents alongside Western-style family homes. In the late afternoon, receive a trip briefing followed by a welcome dinner.

MEALS: Dinner

DAY
02

Explore the Sights of Ulaanbaatar

This morning embark on a sightseeing tour of Ulaanbaatar, the "world's coldest capital" and the epicenter of Mongolia's political, economic, and cultural life. Visit the important 19th-century Gandan (Gandantegchinlen) Monastery, one of the country's few Buddhist structures that survived destruction by the Communists in the 1930s. The bejeweled 20-ton Migjid Janraisig statue, a replica of the original copper statue erected in 1911, stands as the monastery's prime attraction. Other tour highlights include the Fine Arts Museum and the National Museum of Mongolia.

MEALS: Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner

ACTIVITY: 2–3 hour city walking tour

DAY
03

Journey to Khongoryn Els Sand Dunes

Fly to Gobi and drive to Khongoryn Els. Like Mongolia's nomads, travel through an iconic Mongolian desert landscape and along the Altai, or "Golden," mountain range. Stop in Khavtsgait Valley to stretch your legs and observe Bronze Age petroglyphs! After lunch, continue to the spectacular "singing" sand dunes of Khongoryn Els, which rise dramatically 2,600 feet from the desert floor, creating a distinct sound as they shift in the wind. The dunes are part of the Gobi Gurvan Saikhan National Park, Mongolia's largest stretch of sand dunes (over 110 miles).

MEALS: Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner

TRANSPORTATION: 1.25-hour flight; 4-hour private van transfer

ACTIVITY: 1–2 hours desert walking



Ride a Camel Through the Gobi Desert

Enjoy a day at the Khongoryn Els sand dunes, with options for camel riding, hiking, visiting a local family, and tasting camel-milk products! Learn about the two-humped Bactrian camel — a large, even-toed ungulate native to the steppes of Mongolia, used by locals to get from one place to another. After lunch, take an exciting climb up to the top of the sand dunes.

MEALS: Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner

ACTIVITY: 2–3 hours/6 miles walking with 500' elevation gain



See the Flaming Cliffs of Bayanzag

Today explore the UNESCO Biosphere Reserve of Bayanzag, with its striking Flaming Cliffs — red-rock bluffs reminiscent of areas in the American West. Internationally renowned as the place where celebrated explorer and naturalist Roy Chapman Andrews — on whom the ultimate adventurer Indiana Jones is said to be based — first discovered dinosaur eggs in the 1920s, Bayanzag boasts a treasure trove of important fossils that you can see all over the rocks. Hike from Bayanzag to the saxual "forest" (saxual is the only kind of shrub found in the Gobi).

MEALS: Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner

ACTIVITY: 2–3 hours/5 miles walking with 400' elevation loss



Spot Eagles in Yolyn Am

After a relaxed breakfast, drive to Yolyn Am, or Eagle Valley, about 130 miles from camp. As you walk leisurely through the stunning valley, keep a look out for wild sheep and goats grazing high on the high cliff walls, and soaring eagles hunting for prey. (The best time for spotting wildlife is at dawn or dusk; we'll discuss with the guides which hours are best when we are there.) An interesting local natural history museum at the opening of the valley displays information about the area's animals.

MEALS: Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner

TRANSPORTATION: 2-3-hour private van transfer

ACTIVITY: 2–3 hours/5 miles walking



Explore Khogno Khan & Orkhon Valley

Fly back to Ulaanbaatar and drive to Karakorum, stopping at Khogno Khan Natural Reserve en route. The arid terrain and rocky landscape of this remote, 46,900-hectare reserve is almost surreal. Visit the remains of a small Buddhist monastery tucked away in a well-protected valley, and walk up the hillside to the small Uvguun temple. On arrival in Karakorum, the first and most obvious landmark is the massive wall with 108 whitewashed stupas that surrounds Erdene Zuu Khiid, a Tibetan-style monastery built in 1586. Little else of the original Karakorum remains.

MEALS: Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner

TRANSPORTATION: 1.25-hour flight; 5-hour private van transfer

ACTIVITY: 2–3 hours/7 miles walking with 787' elevation gain



Visit the Erdene Zuu Monastery and Karakorum Museum

After breakfast visit the Karakorum Museum, a hidden jewel packed full of archeological artefacts for the area. Proceed to Erdenezuu Monastery, built in 1586 by Abtai Sain Khan. It signified the adoption of Tibetan Buddhism as Mongolia's religion. Built with an enormous surrounding wall, using stones from the ruins of Karakorum, with 108 stupas, a sacred number in Buddhism, and the number of beads in a Buddhist rosary. After lunch hike to the King's Monument, commemorating three empires: Hunnu, Turkic, and Mongol. The monument stands on a hill along the Orkhon River.

MEALS: Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner



See Wild Horses in Hustai National Park

Drive to Hustai National Park (also known as Khustain Nuruu National Park), famous for the endangered Przewalski's horse, locally called the takhi. The area was designated a Specially Protected Area in 1993 after the successful reintroduction of this last species of wild horse. Upgraded to a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve in 2002, today there is a sustainable and growing population of over 1,500 takhi roaming the steppe. The reserve also seeks to protect threatened steppe and forest steppe ecosystems, which are the beautiful backdrop of the park. Upon arrival, drive out to the rolling hills to see these rare animals. Enjoy lunch at the park before returning to camp.

MEALS: Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner

TRANSPORTATION: 4.5-hour private van transfer



Take a Day Hike to Moilt Valley

Enjoy wildlife watching and hiking in the stunning Moilt Valley, with patches of forest and a plethora of flowers. On return, explore the remains of Neolithic graves, known as Ongot monuments, dating back to when Mongolia was part of the Turkish Empire (552 — 742 BC). These are the biggest collection of stone monuments in Asia, with over 30 stones carved into human and animal figures. One legend claims that the stones represent the number of enemies killed; another says that they point to heaven to guide departing human souls.

MEALS: Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner

TRANSPORTATION: 40-minute private van transfer

ACTIVITY: 4 hours/11 miles hiking



Visit Monastery Ruins & Summit Tsetsee Gun Peak

Drive into the undulating green hills of Bogd Khan Uul, UNESCO-designated Biosphere Reserve, and begin your day at the stunning Manzushir Monastery. The 18th-century stone foundations of what was once a 20-temple complex are backed by granite outcrops and sit next to a beautifully restored building, now a museum. Hike from the monastery through Siberian larch forest across rock-studded plains—where you may spot some local wildlife—to Tsetsee Gun Peak (7,408'), topped with towering rock formations and affording marvelous views across the valley.

MEALS: Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner

TRANSPORTATION: 2.5 to 3-hour private van transfer

ACTIVITY: 4-5 hours/15 miles hiking with 3,117' elevation gain



Saddle Up & Meet a Local Herder Family

This morning, have the special opportunity to build a traditional Mongolian ger, and see how the wood or shrubs for walls, doorframe, poles, and roof come together to create a comfortable living space. Next saddle up the horses and ride toward mountains and hills! En route, stop and meet a local herder family and learn about traditional Mongolian life. In the afternoon, a representative from the WWF gives a brief lecture about Mongolian wildlife. Tonight enjoy a feast of traditional Mongolian barbecue around the lodge's campfire.

MEALS: Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner

ACTIVITY: 1-2 hours horseback riding



Hike to Bayanzurkh Mountain

After a relaxed breakfast, pack a lunch and hike to beautiful Bayanzurkh, one of the four mountains that surround Ulaanbaatar. From the top, you'll be able to admire panoramic views of the city, and see how it blends nomadic and modern lifestyles. The easy return walk takes you over small hills, through trees, and along the river. Then drive to Ulaanbaatar and check into your hotel. In the evening, enjoy a cultural program followed by a festive farewell dinner with the group.

MEALS: Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner

TRANSPORTATION: 1.5-hour private van transfer

ACTIVITY: 3-4 hours/9 miles hiking with 1,350' elevation gain & loss



Depart from Ulaanbaatar

Bid farewell to Mongolia and transfer to the airport for your homeward-bound or onward flight.

MEALS: Breakfast



Where You'll Stay

These accommodations may be subject to change depending on your date of travel.

Ramada Ulaanbaatar Citycenter Hotel

The 4-star Ramada Ulaanbaatar Citycenter hotel, near Gandantegchinlen Monastery, combines comfortable accommodations with a great location in the heart of the city. The spacious and well-designed hotel provides free Wi-Fi access and newspapers daily, and its rooms are complete with TV, minibar, fridge, kettle, and a 42-inch TV. You can also work out at the hotel's on-site fitness center.

Gobi Discovery Ger Camp

Stay in a traditional *ger* with superlative views of the Khongoryn Els sand dunes at Gobi Discovery Ger Camp. Spacious, clean, and comfortable, these no-frills gers offer an immersive experience, with desert adventures such as dune treks and camel rides outside the door. Also a local nomadic family nearby welcomes guests heartily, offering guiding services or just conversing with travelers.

Gobi Mirage Tourist Camp

Located at the foot of Gobi Gurvan Saikhan Mountain, the Gobi Mirage Camp is the ideal base for exploring the Gobi Desert! Stay in comfortable gers that are decorated with Mongolian furnishings and en-suite bathrooms. Enjoy 24-hour solar electricity and charging to stay connected. The local nomadic staff at Gobi Mirage Camp will give you a hearty welcome!



Where You'll Stay

These accommodations may be subject to change depending on your date of travel.

Secret of the Silk Road

Experience Mongolia's legendary hospitality at the Secret of the Silk Road resort, inspired by Ghenghis Khan's palace. Enjoy the comfort of deluxe and standard gers and rooms, complete with elegant wooden furniture and plush touches. Dine on-site, sip warm coffee in the café, attend traditional folk performances, or relax in the sauna. The resort is perfectly located for exploring the age-old Erdene Zuu Monastery and surrounding herders' villages.

Hustai Ger Camp

Hustai Ger Camp is an ideal base for exploring Hustai National Park — Mongolia's premier natural preserve and a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve. The camp's 14 traditional gers are furnished with colorful fabrics and charming painted beds.

Tuul Riverside Lodge

Only an hour from frenetic Ulaanbaatar, Tuul Riverside Lodge offer a tranquil, traditional Mongolian experience. A collection of Mongolian gers, flanked by rolling green hills and the Tuul River, range from standard to luxurious. All include en suite bathrooms and authentic, brightly painted Mongolian decor. Come evening, enjoy folk songs around a crackling campfire and the seemingly endless Milky Way.

Ramada Ulaanbaatar Citycenter Hotel

The 4-star Ramada Ulaanbaatar Citycenter hotel, near Gandantegchinlen Monastery, combines comfortable accommodations with a great location in the heart of the city. The spacious and well-designed hotel provides free Wi-Fi access and newspapers daily, and its rooms are complete with TV, minibar, fridge, kettle, and a 42-inch TV. You can also work out at the hotel's on-site fitness center.

Departure Dates

This trip is available to run in: June, July, August, September

Book early for a greater choice of available dates.
Once you book, your price is GUARANTEED!

July 1-14, 2025

July 24-August 6, 2025

What's Included

PRICE INCLUDES

- Expert leadership from experienced adventure guides
- Accommodations as noted in the itinerary
- Meals as noted in the daily itinerary
- Potable water and snacks throughout
- 1 glass of wine or beer at dinner
- All tips and gratuities for support staff with the exception of your lead adventure guide(s)
- All necessary horse riding gear
- All group entrance fees, activities, and ground transportation
- Arrival and departure airport transfers

PRICE DOES NOT INCLUDE

- International airfare, any airport taxes, or excess baggage charges
- Optional tips to your lead adventure guides
- Personal expenses such as medical immunizations, phone calls, laundry, or souvenirs
- Optional travel protection



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