



Mongolia Cultural Discovery

14 Days



The Adventure Company | EST. 1969

MT·SOBEKTM
MOUNTAIN TRAVEL SOBEK

CELEBRATING 50 YEARS
AS THE PIONEER OF ADVENTURE TRAVEL

➤ Mongolia Cultural Discovery

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.

Details

Arrive: Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia

Depart: Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia

Duration: 14 Days

Group Size: 2-10 Guests

Minimum Age: 10 Years Old

Activity Level:



Testimonials

“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.

“I did not know what to expect when we decided to go to Mongolia. What I found, with help of our excellent guides, was a beautiful country whose people were warm and friendly; its landscapes expansive and diverse, and its traditions noble and rich.”

Rich R.

GOT QUESTIONS? SPEAK WITH AN EXPERT.

☎ 1-800-974-0300

✉ info@mtsobek.com

Why Take This Trip With Us?

REASON #01

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

REASON #02

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

REASON #03

Our unique traveling dining truck allows us to cook up high quality, fresh and hot meals everywhere we travel.

What to Expect



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.

Meet Our Guides

Our expert guides and trip leaders are truly the key to our trips' success. Many are locals who live in-country year-round; others have made it their second home—all are passionate, enthusiastic and endlessly knowledgeable. Meet two of the guides that might be on your trip.

Amartuvshin was born in the northern part of Mongolia and has worked as an English and Russian teacher at one of Mongolia's leading private universities. Over the past six years, he has organized major Taiga horse riding trips and private trekking trips throughout his homeland, using his excellent language skills to share his deep understanding of the country's history and culture. Today he leads MT Sobek's Mongolia adventures and looks forward to sharing his country with you.

Amartuvshin Altansukh

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Itinerary

DAY 1

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: D

DAY 2

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.

Activity: 2–3 hour city walking tour

Meals: B, L, D

DAY 3

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).

Activity: 1–2 hours desert walking

Meals: B, L, D

DAY 4

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.

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

Meals: B, L, D

DAY 5

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).

Activity: 2–3 hours/5 miles walking with 200' elevation loss

Meals: B, L, D

DAY 6

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.

Activity: 2–3 hours/5 miles walking

Meals: B, L, D

DAY 7

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.

Activity: 2–3 hours/7 miles walking

Meals: B, L, D

DAY 8

EXPERIENCE A LOCAL NAADAM FESTIVAL IN KHARKHORIN

Today take part in an exciting local Naadam festival! Naadam (short for Eriyn Gurvan Naadam) means "Three Manly Games" — horse racing, wrestling, and archery. The most impressive of them all is the cross-country horse racing, in which horses of various ages, ridden by children aged 5 to 13, will cover anywhere between 6 and 16 miles. Watch the races, mingle with locals, and sample delicious local food. After lunch, visit the nearby Kharakhorum Museum.

Meals: B, L, D

DAY 9

SEE WILD HORSES IN HUSTAI NATIONAL PARK

Enjoy more thrilling events this morning at the Naadam festival. After lunch, 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 national park status in 1998, today there is a sustainable and growing population of over 1,500 takhi roaming the steppe. Upon arrival, drive out to the rolling hills to see these rare animals.

Meals: B, L, D

DAY 10

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.

Activity: 4 hours/11 miles hiking

Meals: B, L, D

DAY 11

SEE THE SACRED PEAK OF TSETSEE GUN

Drive to the ruins of Manzushir Monastery and hike up to Tsetsee Gun peak (7,406'). The monastery enjoys a beautiful setting, surrounded by Siberian larch forest with a backdrop of natural granite cliffs eroded into huge boulders. It is the ideal place for hiking, trekking, and spotting deer and other wildlife. Visit the local museum

before a short walk to the monastery. Established in 1733 and destroyed by Mongolian communists in 1937, the monastery had over 20 temples and was once home to at least 300 monks.

Activity: 4–5 hours/15 miles hiking with 3,100' elevation gain & loss

Meals: B, L, D

DAY 12

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: B, L, D

DAY 13

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.

Activity: 3-4 hours/9 miles hiking with 1,450' elevation gain & loss

Meals: B, L, D

DAY 14

DEPART FROM ULAANBAATAR

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

Meals: B

Dates

Jul 1 - 14, 2025

Jul 24 - Aug 6, 2025

For full terms and conditions please visit www.mtsobek.com/terms. Please note that our itineraries may be subject to change.

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Inclusions & Exclusions

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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➤ **The World of MT Sobek**

At Mountain Travel Sobek, we believe life is an adventure and adventure is life.

As the originators, innovators and leaders in adventure travel for more than five decades, we passionately create, craft and share indelible, transformative journeys to the world's most memorable places. Our more than 200 unique and once-in-a-lifetime trips are designed to inspire and exhilarate, enliven and excite--opening eyes and minds through profoundly personal connections with nature and culture.

Our small group and custom adventures span the globe, and the spectrum—of interests, environments and activities—every one expertly planned and knowledgeably and passionately guided. And our commitment to making every experience a remarkable one has earned us preferred travel outfitter status for National Geographic Active Expeditions, Active New York Times Journeys, and Smithsonian Active Journeys.

We are *the* adventure company.

Awards



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