

Naadam Festival

Cultural Adventure Tour 6th – 14th July 2010

Everyone loves a festival, so the best time visit Mongolia is at the time of the annual Naadam. The celebrations take place in every city, town and village for two or three days, usually starting on 11th July. It is a sporting event with competitions of horse racing, wrestling and archery.

We travel in the provinces of Overkhangai and Arkhangai in Central Mongolia, getting a great chance to see the vast and varied landscape: mountain, desert, forest and steppe. We will join the festival in the town of Tsetserleg, but this tour includes much more. You will ride horses in the Khangai mountains, camels in the desert, see the great Erdene Zuu Buddhist monastery, and experience the fascinating nomadic lifestyle by spending time with a local family.



The crowd waits for the next horse race to finish



Everyone dresses in their best outfit for the Naadam celebration day.



There are no weight restrictions in the wrestling. The winner will be called a "Lion".

Day 1 Arrive Ulaanbaatar. Transfer to hotel.

Day 2 Drive out of the city and across the vast open land to Khogno Khaan. Overnight ger camp at the foot of the big granite mountain.

Day 3 Jeep to Kharkhorin in the valley where Genghis Khan established the capital of the Mongol Empire. Visit Erdene Zuu Buddhist monastery. Afternoon ride horses in the valley.

Day 4 Jeep to Tsenkher hot springs. Afternoon visit a nomadic family in the valley. Evening relax in the outdoor hot baths. Overnight ger camp on the edge of the forest.

Day 5 Spend the day horse riding, hiking in the mountains, or relaxing in the hot mineral springs at the ger camp.

Day 6 Jeep to Tsetserleg town to enjoy the Naadam festival. Watch the wrestling and enjoy the spectacle at the finish line of

the 25km horse races. Jeep over Bulgan mountain to Ikh Tamir ger camp next to the sacred Taikhar Rock beside the river.

Day 7 Jeep to Elsen Tasarkhai, an area of big golden sand dunes and desert vegetation. Ride camels or horses in the area and watch the sunset. Overnight ger camp.

Day 8 Jeep to Ulaanbaatar. Overnight hotel.

Day 9 Depart.

Accommodation:

2 nights Continental Hotel
6 nights traditional ger camps

Group size: The tour will run with a minimum of 4 people.

Price per person: € 995

Single hotel supp: € 50

Price includes: Accommodation, meals (except lunch and dinner in UB), transfers, transportation, interpreter, hire of riding horses / camels / yaks, entrance fees.

Not included: International flights to and from Mongolia, visa costs, lunch and dinner when in Ulaanbaatar.





Trip Highlights

- Naadam festival in a town in Arkhangai province
- Ride horses, camels and yak & cart
- Bathe in outdoor hot mineral baths on the forest edge
- Visit Erdene Zuu Buddhist monastery in Kharkhorin town