



BOOJUM EXPEDITIONS

Arhangay Horseback Trek with Naadam Festival

Day One: Arrive in Ulaanbaatar, the capitol of Mongolia. Ulaanbaatar is also known among foreigners as "UB". Your guide and driver will meet you at the airport, or for late arrivals, use taxi voucher to transfer to hotel. Your hotel is conveniently located right in downtown UB, walking distance from Sukhbaatar Square, museums and theaters. Time permitting, your guide will offer a short city orientation before dinner.

Day Two: Enjoy a breakfast buffet at your hotel before a full day of guided sightseeing in UB. Begin the tour at Zaisan Memorial, a prominent landmark looking over the city of UB built on Bogd Khan Mountain. Walk Sukhbaatar Square, named after the Mongolian National Hero of People's Revolution in 1921. Sukhbaatar Square is surrounded by Parliament, the Stock Market, cultural sites, the Palace Royal Opera House and the main post office. Visit Gandan Hiid (monastery), the largest Buddhist Temple in Mongolia. Take in the Museum of National History and the Fine Art Museum of Zanabazar to acquaint yourself with Mongolian history, traditional culture and arts. Overnight in hotel.

Day Three: Depart UB in the morning. Drive to Kharhorin, the ancient capitol of the Mongolian Empire, located 400km (6-8 hours with breaks) southeast of UB. There are presently efforts to reestablish Kharhorin as the capitol of Mongolia as it was centuries ago. Explore the restored Erdenzuu Monastery (Hundred Treasures) originally built in 1586. Stop for picnic lunch near Elsen Tasarhai sand dunes. Stay overnight in a ger camp. ("Ger Camp" is a Mongolian version of motel with traditionally decorated gers for sleeping, separate dining hall and basic facilities for shower and toilet. Normally 2-4 people share the same ger.)

Day Four: Drive to Tsetserleg, the capitol of Arhangay. Located in west-central Mongolia, Arhangay is called the "Switzerland of Mongolia" for its beautiful scenery: forests, rivers and mountains. After lunch, continue on to camp in the valley of the Ikh Tamir River. Meet horses and wranglers. On the horseback trek we cover approximately 20 miles per day and meet our support vehicle each night at a new campsite. Personal luggage and the accoutrements of "catered camping" are transported in the support vehicle making for light, fast travel on horseback. Camp out each night with our mobile "American ger" and spacious two-person tents. During each day's ride we'll visit the gers of local herders and have a chance to experience nomadic life on the Central Asian steppe.

Day Five - Nine: Ride and camp through the valleys and mountains of Arhangay. A vehicle will carry all camping goods and food. Local wranglers take care of the horses. We visit many families along the way and taste the local foods of summer; yogurt, cheese and the infamous airag (fermented horse milk). Though we recommend a riding background for this trip, the support vehicle always has room for anyone who is ready for a break from the saddle. Camp out in tents overnight.

Day Ten: Experience Naadam in Tsetserleg by horseback. Observe Mongolian traditional sports called the “Three manly games”. Naadam, or “festival”, has occurred for centuries in Mongolia as an exhibition of horse racing (racers are generally ages 7-11 and race 15-30 kilometers), wrestling (men only) and archery (women and men). July 11th is the official date of Naadam established by the Mongolian government. Stay overnight in ger camp.

Day Eleven: Drive towards UB. Arrive at Khogno Khan Natural Reserve. Relax and hike in the rock formations of the Reserve. The ruins of the Uvgun Temple first built in 1660 lie at the base of the mountain of Khogno Khan, a nice place to begin a short hike. Meet local herders and experience the hospitality of the Nomads. Stay overnight in ger camp.

Day Twelve: Arrive at Ulaan Baatar in the afternoon. Shop at the State Department Store and cashmere store. See “Tumen Ekh” folk theater perform throat singing, traditional dances and more. Farewell dinner. Overnight in hotel.

Day Thirteen: Your guide and driver will take you to the airport for departure home.

What's Included: Meals beginning and ending in UB (dinner on arrival day thru breakfast on departure day), all transportation upon arrival in UB, hotel in UB and ger accommodations, tents and camping gear, horses and tack, guides and entry fees to museums and parks.

What's Not Included: Roundtrip international airfare to/from UB, airport taxes, gratuities, excess baggage fees and items of a personal nature.