



## BOOJUM EXPEDITIONS

### Classic Mongolia with Naadam Festival

**Day One:** Arrive in Ulaanbaatar, the capitol of Mongolia. Ulaanbaatar is known among foreigners as “UB”. The guide and driver will meet you at the airport, or for late arrivals, use the taxi voucher to transfer to the hotel. Your hotel is conveniently located 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:** Visit Gandan Hid Monastery, the largest Buddhist Temple in Mongolia. 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. Visit the restored Erdenzuu Monastery (Hundred Treasures) originally built in 1586. Stop for a picnic lunch near Elsen Tasarhai sand dunes. Stay overnight in a ger. (“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 Three- Four:** Experience the Naadam Festival in Kharkhorin and observe traditional Mongolian sports called the “Three Manly Games”. Naadam, or “festival”, has occurred for centuries in Mongolia and is 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 11<sup>th</sup> is the official date of Naadam established by the Mongolian government. Stay overnight in a ger camp.

**Day Five:** Drive into the Gobi Desert with stops along the way for lunch and breaks. Explore the ruins of the Ongi temple located in the mountainous area along the Ongi River. The Ongi ger camp is located about half way between Kharhorin and Dalanzadgad, our destination in the Gobi. Overnight in a ger camp.

**Day Six:** Arrive at Khongoryn Els or “singing dunes” with the wind howling through the dunes (2600 feet high, 20 km wide and 100 km long) for spectacular views of the desert. Take this opportunity to attempt climbing to the top of the dunes! Overnight in a ger camp.

**Day Seven:** Reconnoiter the Khongoryn Els dunes, camel riding is optional. Become acquainted with a camel breeder family. Drive to and spend the night at Juulchin Gobi ger camp.

**Day Eight:** The Flaming Cliffs offers spectacular color and scenery. The first ever recorded dinosaur eggs were discovered at this site by an American expedition headed by Roy Andrew Chapman in 1922. Discover thousands of fossils yourself! Stay overnight in a ger camp.

**Day Nine:** Learn about Mongolian wildlife in the Gurvan Saikhan National Park museum. The 40 km long Yolim Am canyon in the Gurvan Saikhan mountains is home to the endangered snow leopards where “eternal ice” remains throughout summer into August. Lucky visitors will see Ibex, Argali (wild mountain sheep), and Tass (one of the world’s largest vulture). Picnic lunch. Pay a visit with a local herder family. Stay overnight in a ger camp.

**Day Ten:** Fly back to UB. Start the day with 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. Overnight in hotel.

**Day Eleven:** Full day guided sightseeing in Ulaan Baatar. Take in the Museum of National History and the Fine Art Museum of Zanabazar to acquaint yourself with Mongolian history, traditional culture and arts. Pass the afternoon shopping 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 Twelve:** Guide will transfer you to the airport for your departure flight home.

What's Included: Meals throughout your travels in Mongolia (dinner on arrival day thru breakfast on departure day), all transportation upon arrival in Ulaan Baatar, hotel in UB and ger accommodations, guide/translator, vehicle/driver.

What's Not Included: Roundtrip international airfare to/from UB, airport taxes, gratuities, excess baggage fees