

## 2020 Foxhunting - Golden Eagle Festival Trip in Mongolia

### Itinerary

#### **Day 1    Sept. 23    Arrive in Ulaanbaatar (UB)**

Arrive in Ulaanbaatar. You will be met at the Chinggis Khan International Airport by our staff and transferred to our hotel, the [Blue Sky Hotel and Tower](#), located in the center of UB, directly across from Sukhbaatar Square and within walking distance to most sites in UB. Depending on what time you arrive, you may be able to spend some time on a walking tour of central Ulaanbaatar, Sukhbaatar Square, the iconic State Department Store, and checking out some shopping, sightseeing and museums along the way. We will have dinner at a restaurant near the hotel.

*Overnight in hotel, Dinner*

#### **Day 2    Sept. 24    Full day in UB**

After breakfast we will walk (or drive by van) 1 ½ miles to Gandan Monastery where we will tour the grounds and temples which provide insight into Buddhist life and practices in Mongolia. From here we go see the Fine Arts Zanabazar Museum which houses 12 exhibition galleries, covering the arts from ancient civilizations up to the beginning of the 20th Century. The exhibition hall regularly hosts the works of contemporary artists. Lunch will be at a nearby restaurant, followed by a few afternoon options including additional museums, shopping - especially the exquisite cashmere and wool, touring around central UB, or free time. In the early evening we will take a short walk to the performance theatre of the Tumen Ekh ensemble. The ensemble performs the ancient arts of Mongolia including long song, Khoomi (throat singing), contortionist, morin khuur (the horse head fiddle), Tsam dances and more. Following the performance we will dine at a nearby restaurant.

*Overnight in hotel, B,L,D*

#### **Day 3    Sept. 25    Fly to Ölgii, drive to Tsambagarav National Park**

We'll catch an early morning 2-hour flight to Ölgii. After a quick breakfast upon arrival, we will meet our guide/translator, and driver(s) and drive 1.5 hours to Tsambagarav National Park where we will arrive at our first ger camp and meet our local eagle hunter who we will be with throughout our time in Bayan-Olgii, along with the rest of our support team. We will get introduced to our riding horses and equipment and, if time, have a short ride around the camp in the afternoon. Our cook(s) will prepare dinner and we will dine in our kitchen ger.

*Overnight in ger, B,L,D*

#### **Day 4    Sept 26    All day ride in Tsambagarav National Park**

We will spend most of the day in the saddle, riding about 20 miles around the National Park over varying terrain at all speeds (walk, trot, canter, and race!). This will give us a chance to not only ride over spectacular country, but get used to our personal horses. Our van carries any supplies we need and meets us with our lunch. We will return to our gers and family for dinner.

*Overnight in ger, B,L,D*

#### **Day 5    Sept 27    All day Eagle / Fox hunting**

Following breakfast, we will go out for a day of riding and foxhunting with our eagle hunter, eagle, and guide. Our van and driver will meet us for lunch. We will return to our gers and family for dinner.

*Overnight in ger, B,L,D*

**Day 6    Sept 28    25 km ride and hunt**

We will spend most of the day in the saddle with our eagle hunter and guide, riding about 25 km to another location. Our van and driver will meet us for lunch. We will stay in private gers at a new camp with our eagle hunter and staff.

*Overnight in ger, B,L,D*

**Day 7    Sept 29    All day Eagle / Fox hunting**

Following breakfast, we will go out for a full day of riding and foxhunting with our hunter and guide, and will return to our ger camp for dinner.

*Overnight in ger, B,L,D*

**Day 8    Sept 30    25-30 km ride and hunt**

After breakfast we'll ride most of the day to our eagle hunter's fall place and try some hunting along on the way. In the evening we will have dinner and spend the night in our new camp.

*Overnight in ger, B,L,D*

**Day 9    Oct 1    Hunting and Golden Eagle Festival prep**

Today we will enjoy our camp along the Hovd River, fishing, hiking, and taking in the nomadic lifestyle vibe, along with a half-day trail ride through and around the area while our hunter prepares for the Golden Eagle Festival. We will return to our ger camp for dinner.

*Overnight in ger, B,L,D*

**Day 10    Oct 2    25-30 km ride to Festival location with hunting**

After breakfast we'll ride to the Golden Eagle Festival site near Olgii, hunting on the small hills and possibly joining with other eagle hunters and festival goers along the way. We will stay in a private ger camp by the Hovd River, not far from the festival site.

*Overnight in ger, B,L,D*

**Day 11    Oct 3    Golden Eagle Festival**

Two days will be spent enjoying the Golden Eagle Festival where local Kazakhs show their eagle hunting culture and their unique traditions. Starting with the opening parade, the first day of competition includes the eagle calling, along with some mounted horse games and other events. There is a plethora of local food and handicraft vendors to check out. You can climb up to the top of the hill where the eagle hunters are releasing the birds for the competition, or if interested, take a camel ride. Needless to say, there is a lot to see, do, and photograph here. We will return to our ger camp by the river for dinner.

*Overnight in ger, B,L,D*

**Day 12    Oct 4    Golden Eagle Festival**

The second day of the festival features a competition of the eagle catching the prey, mounted horse games, and may include camel races and archery competitions too. We will have a private ger available both days to sit in for lunch and there will be tea and snacks available throughout the day. We will be treated to some live traditional music during lunch on this second day. Following the festival on Sunday, we will drive to Ölgii and dine and stay the night at the Makhsum Hotel.

*Overnight in hotel, B,L,D*

**Day 13    Oct 5        Return to UB**

With possibly an early morning wake-up, we will drive to the Ölgii airport and fly back to UB. After lunch at the Blue Sky Hotel, there will be opportunities for checking out the Black Market, perusing the cashmere shops in the city center, catching a few more museums, or just relaxing and taking in your last afternoon in Ulaanbaatar. We will have our final dinner as a group at a fabulous nearby restaurant.

*Overnight in hotel, B,L,D*

**Day 14    Oct 6        Depart UB**

Leave Ulaanbaatar for home.

*B, Fly home*