

## 2022 Altai Eagle Festival Tour Trip in Mongolia Itinerary

### **Day 1    Sept. 7    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, <https://hotelbluesky.mn/> located within walking distance of Sukhbaatar Square, museums and shops. We will have dinner at a restaurant near the hotel. *Overnight in hotel, Dinner* **[Blue Sky]**

### **Day 2    Sept. 8    Full day in UB**

After breakfast in our hotel, we will spend the morning on a walking tour of central Ulaanbaatar, making our way through Sukhbaatar Square to the Museum of Natural History, touring central city area, checking out the iconic State Department Store, and partaking in additional shopping, sightseeing, and museum stops along the way. We will grab some lunch mid-day at one of the many dining options available. In the early evening we will take a short walk to the performance theatre of the Tumen Ekh ensemble. The ensemble comprises artists who perform all types of Mongolian song, music and dance. They play traditional instruments including the horse head fiddle and perform a variety of traditional songs and dances. Following the performance we will dine at a nearby restaurant, highly rated for its menu and fine cuisine. *Overnight in hotel, B,L,D* **[Blue Sky]**

### **Day 3    Sept. 9    Full day in UB**

After breakfast in our hotel, we will drive 23 miles to Gorkhi-Terelj National Park, an impressive area with massive rock formations and groves of trees set among the scenic Tuul River valley. A few tourist camps within the park provide restaurants, souvenir shops, and horses and camels for rent, and the park also has a Buddhist monastery that is open to visitors. Park wildlife includes brown bears and over 250 species of birds. Upon returning to the city, we will have dinner at one of the restaurants in our hotel. *Overnight in hotel, B,L,D* **[Blue Sky]**

### **Day 4    Sept 10    Full day in UB**

After breakfast we will walk ½ mile to Gandan Monastery where we will tour the grounds and temples which provide insight into Buddhist life and practices in Mongolia. From here we will travel by van to the museum at the Winter Palace of the Bogd Khan, a complex built between 1893 and 1903, where Mongolia's eight Living Buddah, and last king, lived. We will then have an

exquisite lunch followed by a hike up to the Zaisen Memorial which overlooks the city, and whose large tiled mural honors allied Mongolian and Soviet soldiers killed in World War II. Next we'll drive to Naran Tuul Black Market, an open air market and must-see spot for anyone wanting to pick up traditional Mongolian clothing, carpets, horse-riding gear, souvenirs, and just about anything you can imagine. It's a visual and cultural feast. *Overnight in hotel, B,L,D* **[Blue Sky]**

### **Day 5    Sept 11    Tavan Bogd National Park**

We will take a very early morning flight to Olgii. Then we will make a 5-hour van drive (150 km) to Tavan Bogd National Park where we will meet a local herder family and stay in nearby private gers. *Overnight in ger, B,L,D* **[CAMP 1]**

**Day 5–6    Sept. 12–13    Horse riding and hiking**

In the surrounding mountains, we will be riding trusty Mongolian horses, allowing us great views of Hoton and Hurgan Lakes and the surrounding Altai mountain range. Our van will follow us and carry extra gear, water, and lunch. There will be hiking options for people who might not want to ride both days. At our camp we will have an opportunity to experience the rural and nomadic life of the herding family. *Overnight in ger, B,L,D* **[CAMP 1] [CAMP 1]**

**Day 7    Sept 14    Hoton and Hurgan Lakes and archeological sites**

This day provides a full day drive (110 km) to Dayan Lake through Hoton and Hurgan Lakes and the dramatic landscape of snow-capped peaks. We will visit petroglyph complexes and several Turkic Stone Men, Babals, ranging in size from 2 feet to over 6 feet in height and weighing several hundred pounds. In the evening we will arrive at our eagle hunter family's place. We will stay in private gers next to the family. *Overnight in ger, B,L,D* **[CAMP 2]**

**Day 8–9    Sept 15    Eagle Hunter Family and Dayan Lake**

Here we will get an introduction to eagle hunting, enjoy the routine of daily life, and watch the last days of training before the Altai Eagle Festival. Photography opportunities abound. We will drive a short distance to Dayan Lake for lunch, with some hiking or fishing there in the afternoon. *Overnight in ger, B,L,D* **[CAMP 2]**

**Day 10    Sept 16    Arrive at Eagle Festival site**

We will drive to the Altai Eagle Festival site and stay in a private ger camp nearby. *Overnight in ger, B,L,D* **[CAMP 3 - Festival]**

**Day 11    Sept 17-18    Altai 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 handcraft 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 nearby ger camp for dinner and there may be an evening cultural event to attend. *Overnight in ger, B,L,D* **[CAMP 3 - Festival]**

**Day 12    Sept 19    Altai 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 be treated to some live traditional music during lunch on this second day. Following the festival on Sunday, we will drive to Olgii and dine and stay the night at the Makhsum Hotel. *Overnight in hotel, B,L,D* **[Agi's Hotel]**

**Day 13    Sept 20    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 to return to the Black Market for last-minute shopping, perusing the cashmere shops in the city center, making a spa appointment, 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* **[Blue Sky]**

**Day 14   Sept 22   Depart UB**

Leave Ulaanbaatar for home. *B*