

2022 - Foxhunting - Golden Eagle Festival Trip in Mongolia Itinerary

Day 1 **Sept. 21** **Arrive in Ulaanbaatar (UB)**

Arrive in Ulaanbaatar. You will be met at the 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 a group dinner at a restaurant near the hotel.

Overnight in hotel, Dinner [Blue Sky]

Day 2 **Sept. 22** **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 or Narantuul, the Black Market. Lunch will be at a nearby restaurant, followed by a few afternoon options including 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 [Blue Sky]

Day 3 **Sept 23** **Visit with Mongolian nomadic family, outside UB**

After breakfast, we will drive outside of UB into the surrounding countryside, getting an idea of the vast and open country we will be in for the next 2 weeks. We will visit a nomadic family in their traditional Mongolian ger, enjoy some local delicacies including fresh and homemade yogurt, airag (mare's milk), maybe ride a camel, and enjoy the traditions and pace of the ancient traditional Mongolian life. 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. 24** **Fly to Ölgii, drive to Tsambagarav National Park**

After a morning in UB doing last minute city things or visiting the Winter Palace, we'll catch an afternoon 2-hour flight to Ölgii. 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-Ölgii, along with the rest of our support team. We will get introduced to our riding horses. Our cook(s) will prepare dinner and we will dine in our kitchen ger. We then will retire to our comfortable beds in our sleeping gers that have already been pre-warmed by the crackling wood stove. No tent camping on this trip!

Overnight in ger, B,L,D [CAMP 1]

Day 5 **Sept 25** **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 [CAMP 1]

Day 6 **Sept 26** **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 [CAMP 1]

Day 7 Sept 27 All day Eagle / Fox hunting and ride to Camp 2

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 [CAMP 2]

Day 8 Sept 28 All day Eagle / Fox hunting

Following breakfast, we will go out for a full day of riding and fox hunting with our hunter and guide, and will return to our ger camp for dinner.
Overnight in ger, B,L,D [CAMP 2]

Day 9 Sept 29 All day Eagle / Fox hunting and ride to Camp 3

After breakfast we'll ride most of the day to Botei's fall place. In the evening we will have dinner in our ger camp.
Overnight in ger, B,L,D [CAMP 3]

Day 10 Sept 30 25-30 km ride to Festival location with hunting

After breakfast we'll ride with our group and other eagle hunters and festival goers to the Golden Eagle Festival site near Ölgii, hunting on the small hills and possibly visiting locals 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 [CAMP 4 - Festival]

Day 11 Oct 1 Golden Eagle Festival

The day 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 [CAMP 4 - Festival]

Day 12 Oct 2 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 for lunch and have 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 Makshum Hotel.
Overnight in hotel, B,L,D [Makshum Hotel]

Day 13 Oct 3 Return to UB

After breakfast at our hotel, we will have time in the morning to explore the sites and attractions of Ölgii. We will have lunch at our hotel with our crew for one last time and then catch an afternoon flight to UB. We will have our final dinner as a group in UB before departures the next day.
Overnight in hotel, B,L,D [Blue Sky]

Day 14 Oct 4 Depart UB

Leave Ulaanbaatar for home. *B*