



## MONGOLIA & NAADAM FESTIVAL REVERSED

Go Beyond Tour | 21 Days | Physical Level 4

Ulaanbaatar - Lake Khovsgol - Jargal Jiguur - Great White Lake - Tsenker -  
Kharkhorin - Mt Khongo Khan - Ongiid Khiid - Bayanzag - Khongoryn Els -  
Gobi Desert - Terelj National Park

Embark on an adventure that unveils the true essence of Mongolia's heritage and natural beauty. Start at Ulaanbaatar and explore the capital's unique blend of modernity and tradition before venturing into the pristine landscapes of the South. The Naadam Festival is a must-see event, featuring traditional sports and cultural performances. Experience the nomadic way of life and witness breath taking scenery.

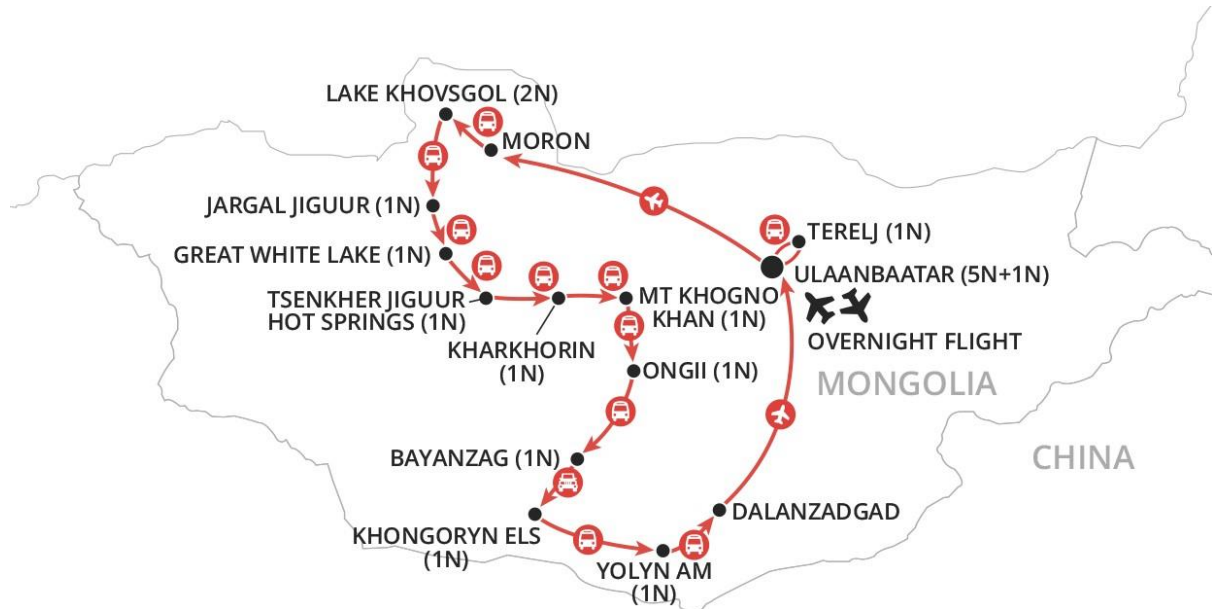
- Experience traditional Mongolia at the Naadam Festival
- Take leisurely stroll along Lake Khovsgol
- Relax at Tsenkher hot springs
- Explore Erdene Zuu Monastery
- Visit a dinosaur cemetery in Gobi Desert
- Discover Terelj National Park

To book call 0800 936 3998 or visit your local travel agent

Visit [wendywutours.co.nz](http://wendywutours.co.nz)

**TOUR MAP**


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**MONGOLIA & NAADAM FESTIVAL REVERSED TOUR INCLUSIONS:**


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- Return international economy flights, taxes and current fuel surcharges (unless a land only option is selected)
- All accommodation
- All meals
- All sightseeing and entrance fees
- All transportation and transfers
- English speaking National Escorts or Local Guides
- Specialist advice from our experienced travel consultants
- Comprehensive travel guides

The only things you may have to pay for are personal expenditures e.g. drinks, optional excursions or shows, insurance of any kind, customary tipping, early check in or late check out and other items not specified on the itinerary.

**GO BEYOND TOURS:**


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Venture off the beaten track to explore fascinating destinations away from the tourist trail. You will discover the local culture in depth and see sights rarely witnessed by other travellers. These tours take you away from the comforts of home but will reward you with the experiences of a lifetime.

#### PHYSICAL LEVEL 4:

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All our tours feature a physical rating to help you select the right holiday for you. To travel on any of our tours requires unaided mobility and the ability to stroll around the sights.

'Mongolia & the Naadam Festival Reversed' is rated as a **physical level 4** tour. A good level of fitness is required as you need to be comfortable walking for 2-3 hours and covering longer distances. As a whole, this itinerary requires a good level of fitness involving hiking and travelling to remote areas where tourist facilities are less developed.

You'll be getting on and off coaches, walking around the sights and climbing some steps. Travelling in Mongolia is both rewarding and challenging because of the lack of basic infrastructure, such as roads or a transportation system. This tour covers a vast distance and reaching the sites involves travelling through areas of Mongolia which are barren, remote and without any modern facilities.

- There will be long periods of walking whilst sightseeing, often on steep or uneven ground.
- There are hiking opportunities in Khongoryn Els sand dunes and Gorkhi Terelj National Park, these normally involve approximately 2 hours on foot. There will not be sealed paths or stairs built in these areas. You do not need to train for this itinerary, but you will need to be able to complete these activities independently.
- There are long days of driving on rough unsealed roads or tracks, a few days will involve driving for over 8 hours.
- Outside of Ulaanbaatar your accommodation will be in Ger Camps.

Of course, our National Escorts and local guides will always endeavour to provide the highest level of service and assistance; however, they cannot be expected to cater for customers who are unfit to complete the itinerary. If you require any more information about the pace of the tours, please contact our reservations team who will be happy to answer your questions.

#### JOINING YOUR TOUR:

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The tour is 21 days in duration including international flights. Due to flight schedules, you may arrive/depart on Day 2. Travellers booked on 'Land Only' arrangements should make their own way to the starting point. Join the tour on Day 2 in Ulaanbaatar and end the tour on Day 20 in Ulaanbaatar. Please refer to your final itinerary for more specific meeting instructions pertaining to your departure.

It is our intention to adhere to the day-to-day itinerary as printed; however, the order of events or sightseeing may change as we look to improve our tours or as local conditions dictate. In these circumstances, we will make the best possible arrangements whilst maintaining the integrity of your trip.

## DETAILED ITINERARY

### Day 1-2: Arrive Ulaanbaatar

Meals: D

Arrive into Mongolia's capital Ulaanbaatar. On arrival you will be met and transferred 1 hour to your hotel. Later tonight, there's a tour introduction scheduled at the hotel. It's a chance for the group to come together, get acquainted, and gain insights into traveling in Mongolia.



#### Destination Information

**Ulaanbaatar** – Occupying one-third of the country's population, the capital of Mongolia is also its largest city. Ulaanbaatar was built along the Tuul Gol River and is surrounded by picturesque mountains with the centre of the city largely occupied by Soviet-style high-rise apartments. Most of the population prefer to live on the outskirts of the city in the traditional Ger (circular felt tent), which happens to be the most identifiable symbol of the country. Situated on the rolling foothills of the Bogd Mountain, Ulaanbaatar possesses a long and unique history since its establishment in 1639.

### Day 3: Ulaanbaatar

Meals: B, L, D

After breakfast begin your exploration by visiting Gandan Monastery, Mongolia's largest and most significant monastery. Afterwards, delve into the rich cultural heritage of Mongolia at the Museum of Mongolian History. Conclude your day with a visit to the Museum of Fine Arts.

Sightseeing today involves 4-5 hours on foot with some driving time included.



*Please note that both museums and the Gandan Monastery will charge an additional fee for using a camera in their exhibits. You will not be required to remove your shoes when visiting Monasteries in Mongolia, however you may be required to wear plastic covers over your shoes at certain times.*

#### Destination Information

**Gandan Monastery** – Gandan Monastery means 'great place of complete joy', and is the largest, most significant monastery in the country. Building began in 1838 and today there are over 150 monks in residence. Lining the walls of the temple are many images of the Buddha of Longevity, Ayush.

**Museum of Mongolian History** – The museum aims to preserve Mongolian culture through the display of historical, ethnographical and cultural objects ranging from 800,000 years ago, to the end of the 20th Century.

**Museum of Fine Arts** – This fine-arts museum has a great collection of paintings, carvings and sculptures, as well as other rare religious exhibits such as Buddhist statues, representing the best display of its kind in Mongolia.

#### Day 4: Naadam Eve

Meals: B, L, D

Today you will embark on a morning drive to the Mongol Nomadic Show place to witness the nomadic way of life. Enjoy lunch at the camp before returning to Ulaanbaatar city for Naadam Eve festivities, as you take a stroll through Central Square to admire the vibrant Naadam Mongol costumes on exhibit. The remainder of the day is yours to relax and enjoy at your leisure.



#### Destination Information

**Naadam Festival** – The Naadam Festival is a local celebration of the Mongolian people and culture. The festival's origins can be traced to the Mongol Army with horseracing, wrestling and archery competitions favoured by the locals and visitors alike.

#### Day 5: Ulaanbaatar – Naadam Festival

Meals: B, L, D

Prepare for an extraordinary experience over the next two days as you immerse yourself in the annual Naadam Festival. The highlight of your journey unfolds as you join locals and nomads at Central Stadium for the grand Opening Ceremony. Witness captivating events such as wrestling, horseracing, and archery, as well as the procession of athletes, officials, and monks. Be part of the excitement as the first round of wrestling and archery competitions kick off in the afternoon.



*Please ensure your daily bag is equipped with essentials such as a sun hat, sunscreen, water, and ample camera memory. As the weather tends to be hot and the seating lacks cover, be prepared for prolonged sun exposure. Safeguard your valuables either in the hotel safe or concealed under your clothing in a money belt, especially amidst the bustling crowds at the stadium. Lunch will typically be a boxed meal provided by the hotel, allowing you to savour it picnic-style while immersed in the festival's atmosphere.*

### Day 6: Naadam Festival Day 2 – Horse Race

Meals: B, L, D

Today starts with a 50-kilometre drive beyond the city limits to relish the excitement of the Naadam festival's second day. Experience the exhilaration of cross-country horseracing, also known as 'tumnii ekh' (leader of ten thousand), a highly anticipated event among young competitors. Join the spirited locals in cheering on the athletes as they showcase their skills amidst the vibrant carnival atmosphere.



Enjoy boxed meals provided for lunch at the horseracing field today before returning to Ulaanbaatar city.

### Day 7: Lake Khovsgol

Meals: B, L, D

After breakfast you will transfer to the airport for your flight to Murun town. Upon arrival, embark on a scenic drive to Lake Khovsgol, but expect some rough patches of road along the lakeshore. Upon reaching your destination, check into your Ger camp situated on the eastern shore of the lake for a two-night stay. In the afternoon, enjoy a leisurely walk through the forest and visit a reindeer breeding family to gain insight into their way of life. *This experience will last up to 4 hours.*



### Destination Information

**Lake Khovsgol** – Known as the 'dark blue pearl', Lake Khovsgol is set against a backdrop of mountains, deep pine forests and completed by the sights of grazing horses and yaks. Located in the northernmost province, it is Mongolia's largest and deepest lake and is the largest tributary stream of Lake Baikal. Being the second largest freshwater lake in Asia at 1,645m above sea level, it freezes over from January until April or May.

### Day 8: Explore Lake Khovsgol at leisure

Meals: B, L, D

Today is for you to explore as you wish. Your tour guide will be on hand to lead a stroll along the lake's shore and help arrange various suggested activities.

Options include embarking on a horseback ride into the nearby mountains, renting a speedboat for a scenic tour of the lake, or simply taking a leisurely walk to soak in the beauty of the surrounding forests and scenery.



For those interested, there's also the opportunity for a guided one-hour horseback riding session, complete with helmets and expert guidance.

### Day 9: Jargal Jiguur

Meals: B, L, D

Today, embark on a long drive as you depart Lake Khovsgol early this morning and travel around 6-7 hours through Mõron to Jargal Jiguur camp, on mostly muddy roads. Jargal Jiguur is known as 'home of the yaks', due to many local families seen herding yaks.

The roads will predominantly be muddy, making for a challenging drive. The initial stretch of road is notably steep, offering awe-inspiring vistas of the vast plains and towering glacial peaks.



#### Destination Information

**Jargal Jiguur** – Jargal Jiguur is well known for the Khunjil natural hot springs, averaging a temperature of 70 degrees all year round. The hot springs tend to be popular at night while gazing at the stars.

### Day 10: Great White Lake

Meals: B, L, D

This morning you will soak in the breathtaking scenery as you drive southwards 2-3 hours towards the tranquil Great White Lake (Terkhiiin Tsagaan Nuur). Upon reaching your destination, settle into your Ger Camp for an overnight stay. Nestled within the stunning landscape of the Great White Lake and Khorgo Volcano, the camp offers a picturesque setting.



Enjoy a short hike up to the crater of the volcano for panoramic views, or wander along the lakeshore, where you'll find excellent opportunities for birdwatching and wildlife spotting.

*Khorgo Volcano is situated at an altitude of 2,210m. The hike up can take up to 1 hour.*

#### Destination Information

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**Great White Lake (Terkhiiin Tsagaan Nuur)** – Great White Lake is a fresh water lake which is certainly the highlight of Arkhangai Province. Surrounded by extinct and craterous volcanoes (part of the Tarvagatain Nuruu Range), the lake, bird life and mountains are protected within the 73,000-hectare Khorgo-Terkhiiin Tsagaan Nuur National Park. There are wonderful hiking opportunities around the north-eastern side of the lake, including a hike to Khorgo Volcano (2,968m), about 900m above the lake.

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**Day 11: Tsenkher – Hot Spring**

Meals: B, L, D

Savour a leisurely morning at your Ger camp before embarking on a 5 hour drive to Tsenkher Jiguur.

En route make a stop at Zayaiin Huree Monastery in Tsetserleg Town to explore its cultural significance.

Upon arrival, you'll have ample free time to unwind in the soothing hot springs and admire the picturesque surroundings. Spend the night in a Ger camp, nestled amidst the tranquil beauty of the area.

**Destination Information**

**Tsenkher Jiguur Hot Springs** – Located in Arkhangai province, the Tsenkher Jiguur Hot Springs is famous for its many volcanoes which explains the presence of these spring waters' that flow all year round. The rock pools are said to have healing powers for articular and nervous system diseases and are situated in a wooded valley, surrounded by lush mountains and rapid rivers.

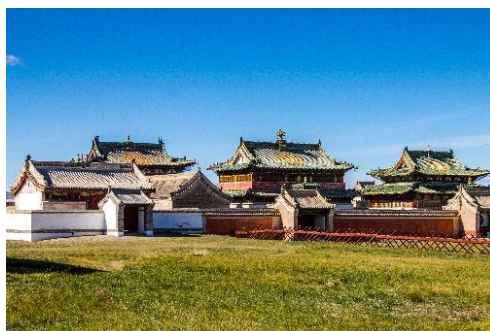
Mineral waters and hot springs have always played an essential part in Mongolian traditional medicine, and while some are known as healing springs, others are purely for relaxing.

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**Day 12: Kharkhorin**

Meals: B, L, D

Drive for approximately 2-3 hours on a good road to the ancient capital of Kharkhorin, situated on the Orkhon River. Explore the ancient sites within Kharkhorin and the memorable Erdene Zuu Monastery. This site involves walking over rough, uneven surfaces. Stay overnight in a Ger camp.

**Destination Information**

**Erdene Zuu Monastery** – The Erdene Zuu (Hundred Treasures) Monastery was built in the 16th-Century and was the first Buddhist monastery in Mongolia. In 1792 it housed 62 temples and 10,000 lamas, and since 1990 it has again become an active monastery, retaining much of its former glory.



Enclosed in an immense walled compound, the three temples within are dedicated to the three stages of Buddha's life: as a child, adolescent and adulthood. The main central temple is called the Zuu of Buddha and has statues of Buddha as a child.

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**Day 13: Mt. Khogno Khan**

Meals: B, L, D

This morning, drive approximately 2 hours to Mt Khogno Khan. Upon arrival, you will explore the remains of the 17th-century monastery, the Uvgun Khiids, located at the foot of the mountain.



Walk for approximately 45 minutes up a dirt path to the ruins. The monastery offers views of the spectacular scenery. Enjoy some time to explore the monastery and its surroundings before proceeding to your Ger camp, located near the Mongol Sand Dune.

**Destination Information**

**Uvgun Khiids Monastery** – Uvgun Khiids monastery was built in 1660, after the existing monastery was destroyed by warring armies in 1640. The original ruins can be found along a designated path and its surroundings are part of the Khogno Khan Natural Reserve which spreads over 46,900 hectares.

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**Day 14: Ongiin Khiid**

Meals: B, L, D

Embark on a journey to the serene banks of the Ongii River, a scenic drive lasting approximately 6 hours.

Traverse across jeep trails through dry plains, where direct roads are scarce. Upon arrival, settle into your Ger camp nestled close to the Ongii River.



Explore the historic remnants of two renowned monasteries, the Barlim Khiid to the north and the Khutagt Khiid to the south. Together, they constitute the revered Ongiin Khiid Monastery complex.

*Please note, you will be required to walk from the designated parking area to the monasteries.*

**Destination Information**

**Ongiin Khiid Monastery** –The Ongiin Khiid Monastery consists of two monasteries, located on the bend of the Ong River. The first monastery, Barlim Khiid, was built in 1810 on the north bank of the river. The second, Khutagt Khiid, was built in 1970 on the south bank and can only be accessed when the water level of the river is low or iced over. Once the largest monasteries and home to a thousand monks, it was destroyed in 1937. Two monks now call the ruins home, after a small temple was constructed in 2004.

**Day 15: Bayanzag**

Meals: B, L, D

Enjoy the morning at leisure before departing after lunch to Bayanzag, more commonly known as the 'Flaming Cliffs'. This journey is approximately 3-4 hours. This afternoon, visit the Gobi Dinosaurs Cemetery and explore the surrounding landscape. Your overnight stay here will be in a Ger camp near the Flaming Cliffs.



*Please note, some travel will be on jeep trails over dry plains, with no direct roads.*

**Destination Information**

**Bayanzag – Byanzag** is a traditional desert made up of peaks and canyons in a striking fiery red and orange sandstone. It is known worldwide for the number of dinosaur fossils found in the area. The first excavated was in 1922 by palaeontologist Roy Chapman Andrews.

**Day 16: Khongoryn Els**

Meals: B, L, D

Start your day with an early breakfast before a thrilling 3-4 hour journey by 4WD to Khongoryn Els, home to Mongolia's largest sand dunes.



Marvel at the breathtaking desert vistas as you explore the sand dunes both by vehicle and on foot. A hike through the dunes will take approximately 2 hours round trip, offering an immersive experience of this remarkable landscape.

For the adventurous souls, consider climbing to the summit for spectacular panoramic views. Additionally, there's the option to enjoy a one-hour camel ride (complete with helmets and camel guides) for those seeking a unique adventure.

**Destination Information**

**Khongoryn Els** – Also referred to as the 'Singing Sand Dunes' due to the noise the sand dunes make when the sand is moved by the wind, Khongoryn Els remains the most spectacular sand dunes in Mongolia, measuring up to 800m high, 12km wide and approximately 100km long.

### Day 17: Gobi Desert

Meals: B, L, D

After lunch travel by 4WD for 4-5 hours where you will reach the Three Beauties Mountain range, spending the day exploring Vulture Valley, viewing the stunning scenery of the famed Eagle's Gorge, or Yolyn Am, which is the native name.



Marvel at the sharp peaks and expansive sand dunes while taking in the breathtaking scenery of Eagle's Gorge, also known as Yolyn Am, a native treasure. Return to the camp to visit a nearby Mongolian family gaining insight into their lifestyle and savour traditional Mongolian dairy products.

*Within the steep walls of the 2-kilometer-long Yolyn Am Canyon lies a stream that freezes in winter, creating a walkable icy path. At this time of year, caution is advised as the ice may be melting. The hike into Yolyn Am Canyon takes approximately 2-3 hours round trip. Early risers have the option to venture into the park earlier to witness the diverse wildlife of the Gobi, including mountain ibex, argali, and numerous birds of prey.*

#### Destination Information:

**Gurvansaikhan National Park** – Gurvansaikhan National Park spans 2.7 million hectares and contains mountains, dinosaur fossils, sand dunes, rock formations and a valley that is snow-capped for most of the year.

**Yolyn Am** – Known as the 'Valley of Eagles, Yolyn Am is in the Gobi National Park. It offers spectacular scenery with its deep and narrow gorges.

### Day 18: Genghis Khan - Terelj National Park

Meals: B, L, D

After breakfast fly to Ulaanbaatar, where on arrival you will transfer 1 and a half hours to Terelj National Park, stopping on route to visit the Genghis Khan Equestrian Statue Complex. Spend the afternoon exploring the area, enjoying the alpine scenery and seeing Turtle Rock. Next, embark on a hike over steep and uneven terrain to Aryabal Temple. The hike to the Monastery will take approximately 30 minutes round trip. Sightseeing today involves around 2-3 hours on foot.



Stay overnight at a Ger camp, nestled amidst the tranquil surroundings of Terelj National Park.

### Destination Information

**Terelj National Park** – The picturesque Terelj National Park is in stark contrast to the Gobi Desert landscape, and is reminiscent of the Alps in Europe. Surrounded by high cliffs that have since eroded into wonderful granite ‘tors’, Terelj National Park is a must see. Wind, rain, frost, ice and natural acids have created the bizarre shapes that you see today.

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### Day 19: Ulaanbaatar

Meals: B, L, D

This morning, travel approximately 2 hours to Ulaanbaatar, where your journey in Mongolia began.

Today will be free for leisure. In the evening enjoy a traditional Mongolian performance, followed by a farewell dinner.



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### Day 20-21: Depart Ulaanbaatar

Meals: B

After breakfast you will be transferred to the airport for your flight home.



## MONGOLIA TRAVEL INFORMATION

### VISAS:

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New Zealand passport holders do not need a visa for Mongolia if they are travelling for less than 30 days for tourist purposes.

Please be advised that your passport must have at least six months validity left on it when you arrive back into New Zealand.

Please note the visa procedures and requirements may change at any time. These changes are often made by the relevant embassy or consulate; Wendy Wu Tours acts as a third party and has no influence on the process of a visa. Your travel consultant will inform you if any changes are applicable prior to your departure

### INSURANCE:

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We strongly recommend that you take out a policy as soon as you pay your deposit. Wendy Wu Tours cannot in any way be made liable for any additional cost incurred by the customer on any tour due to the customer not having adequate travel insurance.

We also encourage all customers to take a copy of their travel insurance documents (especially relevant international contact numbers) with them while on tour. We advise that you check the inclusions and procedures for lodging claims prior to your departure. These documents should be stored separately from the original

### EATING IN MONGOLIA:

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The combination of vast barren plains and nomadic lifestyle has created a unique culinary tradition in Mongolia, which you will have the opportunity to experience on your tour

While staying in Ulaanbaatar, the breakfast will contain a mixture of local and western-style dishes, served buffet and set styles. During the Naadam Festival and most days of driving in the countryside, you will be provided with a 'picnic box' lunch. All other meals will be served in restaurants located in Ulaanbaatar or at the Ger camps.

Food in Mongolia tends to be simple, as they have limited ingredients, such as mutton (used in a variety of ways), beef, potato, cucumber, tomato, onion, carrot and sheep's milk. People on restricted or vegetarian diets can be catered for on a limited basis with foods such as noodles, rice and steamed vegetables. Please contact us to discuss this if you are concerned.

### GROUP SIZE:

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The group size on our Go Beyond Tours is on average 10-15 passengers, with a maximum group size of 18. You may encounter other Wendy Wu tour groups while you are travelling. On our group tours we operate a seat-and-a-half policy, allowing you to travel in greater comfort.

All our departures are guaranteed to operate with a minimum of 8 travellers booked (unless cancelled due to factors beyond our control). A national escort will accompany each group of 10 or more. However, at our discretion we may operate departures with a smaller group size as we try to operate advertised departures wherever it is viable to do so.

#### **DEVELOPMENT IN MONGOLIA:**

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Although Mongolia is developing quickly, it still lacks the international standards of civil infrastructure and tourist facilities. Concepts of personal responsibility are also different to those in New Zealand. Consequently, tourist and public facilities may not uphold the same safety standards as in New Zealand; for example, you may see a hole in the road without a warning sign or safety barricade. All of our suppliers meet local safety standards as a minimum. We want you to have an enjoyable holiday, so we ask that you take extra care, use your common sense, refer to notices and follow advice from your National Escort or Local Guides.

Wendy Wu Tours and our partners in Mongolia use our local knowledge to design our itineraries to provide the best paced sightseeing possible. However, we ask that you keep in mind that public holidays, road construction and weather conditions can create traffic congestion or interfere with the itinerary set out here. Your National Escort will do their utmost to avoid problems but cannot guarantee against delays, changes or – in rare cases – cancellations of sections of your itinerary.

Mongolia continues to amaze, fascinate and thrill our customers, many of whom have travelled to more and more areas of this wonderful region with us, year after year. We urge you to keep in mind all the rewards, as well as the challenges, of travelling in a developing country. Almost everything will be different to what you may be used to. A typical day of sightseeing may include breathtaking views, long hours of driving, the hospitality of the traditional nomadic Ger and a more basic level of accommodation. Travelling in Mongolia requires patience, a sense of humour and an adventurous attitude towards exploring a country that is unspoilt, remote and endlessly fascinating.

There is a low level of English spoken throughout Mongolia so the Local Guides or National Escort will be indispensable during your trip.

#### **ACCOMMODATION:**

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Your accommodation has been selected for convenience of location, comfort or character. In remote areas, accommodation may be of a lower standard and may not have western amenities.

Hotels are generally rated as local three to four-star standard but do please note that there is no international classification system for hotels and differences in facilities and quality do exist between the New Zealand and Mongolia. If you experience any difficulty, please speak to your National Guide.

The group tour hotel in Ulaanbaatar has private western bathroom facilities, air conditioning, TV and a telephone. Plumbing and electricity supplies can be erratic and quite often the power in hotel rooms is turned off while guests are out of the room.

**Hotels** - Check-out time in Mongolia is 12:00. Please keep this in mind on the days when you are travelling between cities as it may result in a delay of access to your room or a change of itinerary to allow for this delay. Our office in Mongolia will inform the hotels of your expected arrival time, but occasional delays due to last night's guests checking out at midday are beyond our control.

**Ger camps** - Gers are the traditional home of nomads across Mongolia. They are made from a wooden frame and layers of felt and canvas erected on a wooden platform. The interior is filled with warm fabrics and fur as well as ornate wooden furniture. Ideally suited to Mongolia's nomadic way of life and harsh weather, the Ger has been the most popular dwelling for hundreds of years. Gers are also known by the Russian name 'yurt'. Each Ger will consist of two or three single wooden beds, linen, and a stove for heating purposes, a thick blanket, one electrical socket and a low bearing table and chairs.

Most of the camps will be equipped with an electricity connection and is typically available between 7-11pm. All Gers will also have electricity as well as electrical outlets. Please note, the electric outlets for your Ger in Hongor will be located within the communal area

*Please note* that your accommodation at the ger camps is in traditional gers, with shared facilities.

The supply of electricity is limited, as is the supply of hot water. Showers are available, however the camp may have enough power to heat water for five or six people only, so the members of your group should keep this in mind and plan ahead for showers. It is recommended to advise staff at least an hour before you intend to shower as hot water will need to be boiled for you.

Cafes and communal areas are also located within the campgrounds. Most of the Ger camps we use will also have a laundry service available, at a small additional cost. Staying in a Ger will allow you to experience the most unique and intrinsic aspect of the nomadic life in Mongolia. Although they are not luxurious, they do offer comfortable accommodation while we travel through the most remote regions of the country.

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#### **PORTERAGE:**

Please be aware that portorage is not included on our tours in GEORGIA, ARMENIA & AZERBAIJAN. You will therefore need to be able to handle your own luggage within the hotel and when using transportation like trains and coaches.

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#### **LUGGAGE:**

All travellers are limited to two items of luggage each: a suitcase with a maximum weight of 20kg and one piece of hand luggage with a maximum weight of 5 kg. It is essential that your luggage is lockable. Please note that the authorities will only allow bottles onto the aircraft if they have been checked in as main baggage. Bottles in hand luggage may be confiscated

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#### **PERSONAL EXPENSES AND OPTIONAL TOURINGS:**

Personal Expense - You will need to take some extra money to cover drinks, laundry and souvenirs, plus any additional sightseeing that may be offered to you.

Optional Tours - May be offered in each city you visit during your tour. These are not included in the standard itinerary and will only be available if time permits and if seats are available.

Please ensure you have additional funds available if you feel you may wish to participate in any extra activities. Each option will be arranged locally by your National Escort/Local Guide, participation and tipping for optional excursions is completely at your discretion.

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#### **EXCHANGING CASH:**

It is highly recommended that extra care and attention is paid when exchanging money when travelling to cities outside of Ulaanbaatar. US Dollars are easily exchanged throughout Mongolia and other currencies such as New Zealand Dollars can generally be exchanged in hotels and airports provided notes are undamaged. Credit cards are also accepted.

We suggest exchanging your money before travelling to remote areas and smaller towns, as exchange facilities can be limited.

Your National Escort will remind you to do this before departure

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#### **TIPPING POLICY:**

Tipping while on holiday is common in most parts of the world and India is no exception. However, it is not always clear who it is appropriate to tip and how much. Furthermore, travellers may not have the right amount of cash available at the right time.

In order to avoid any inconvenience Wendy Wu Tours operates a tipping policy where a stated amount is given to your national escort at the beginning of your tour and tips are disbursed amongst your main service providers (for example local guides and drivers) throughout your tour. The amount is designed to be at a reasonable level for travellers while being fair to the local people and includes a gratuity for the national escort. Any other tipping, such as tips for bathroom attendants or hotel porters that are taking luggage to your room, is at your discretion based on satisfaction of services received, as are gratuities for additional requested special services.

We generally find that most customers appreciate the convenience of our tipping policy, but we do recognize that it may not suit everyone. However, as this is a group tour we ask that everyone follows the same protocol to be fair to other group members and to ensure smooth operation of your tour.

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#### **TRANSPORT:**

There is more than 20,000km of road stretching across Mongolia. Only 1,600km of this distance is paved. In the countryside, you will be travelling across many different surfaces, from gravel highways to wide, open plains where the route is marked out by poles. The roads can be rough, and a level of discomfort can be expected.

In Ulaanbaatar, we use modern, air-conditioned coaches. Everywhere else we use sturdy 4WD vehicles, which best suit this terrain. Each 4WD vehicle will hold three passengers per vehicle and the National Guide will rotate from each vehicle to become the fourth passenger. They will drive in convoy and endeavour to stay within sight of each other throughout the day. Seatbelts are not compulsory by law in Mongolia and local people largely choose not to wear them.



Wendy Wu Tours will ensure that the 4WD vehicles are fitted with seatbelts. Drivers often use seat covers to make their vehicles more presentable. If they obstruct your access to seatbelts, please request that they be adjusted or removed. It is recommended that where seat belts are available customers must use them and remain seated at all times whilst the vehicle is moving. Please see your National Guide if you have any concerns.

#### **VACCINATIONS AND YOUR HEALTH:**

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We recommend that you contact either your doctor or Health centre for advice on vaccinations and travel health. Safetravel has a comprehensive website that you may also find useful [www.safetravel.govt.nz](http://www.safetravel.govt.nz)

#### **BEFORE YOU LEAVE:**

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We strongly recommend registering your travel plans with [www.safetravel.govt.nz](http://www.safetravel.govt.nz) as in the event of an emergency, New Zealand Consular assistance will be more readily available.

Up until the day you travel, it is vital you keep up to date and familiarised with the entry requirements as these can change at short notice. You are personally responsible for completing any entry forms, conducting any covid tests (if necessary), etc and adhering to countries' specific entry requirements.

You can also access the New Zealand Government's travel advisory service for up-to-date information about your destination on the same website.

#### **AFTER YOUR BOOKING:**

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Once you have booked with Wendy Wu Tours, you will receive a confirmation invoice including a visa application form (if applicable), and a help sheet. Your final documentation pack will be sent to you approximately 2-3 weeks prior to departure.

#### **ITINERARY CHANGES:**

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It is our intention to adhere to the day-to-day itinerary as printed; however, the order of events or sightseeing may change as we look to improve our tours or as local conditions dictate. In these circumstances, we will make the best possible arrangements whilst maintaining the integrity of your trip.

**Updated: June 2024**