


NOMADIC EXPEDITIONS



Extension to the Eagle Festival

Especially created for: The Delegation for Friendship Among Women

September 17-21, 2016

-Detailed Itinerary-

Day 1, Sep 17, Sat Ulgii/ Golden Eagle festival

Ulgii, capital of Bayan-Ulgii, Mongolia's westernmost province. Dominated by the Mongolian Altai Mountains, the highest mountains in Mongolia, this isolated area has preserved the language, culture, and traditions of the Kazakh people found here.

Transfer to the airport for a morning flight to Ulgii (3 hours), capital of Bayan-Ulgii, Mongolia's westernmost province. Ninety percent of the population of Bayan-Ulgii is Kazakh, and there will be ample opportunities to meet local families and experience Kazakh culture. Our journey will also take us past ancient stone men statues, reminders of Mongolia's rich ancient history.

The official opening ceremony commences with the participants parading in on horseback with their eagles. The competition begins with each Kazakh hunter displaying his hunting outfit and accessories, the most elaborate and beautiful of which receive the highest points. In the afternoon the Golden Eagles will be evaluated for their speed and agility. The eagles will be released from a cliff while their owners stand below, signaling for them to land upon their arms, as they do while hunting. Those with the fastest times and best technique will be awarded the highest scores.

In the evenings gather around the place of honor – the Kazakh table – learning traditional Kazakh songs and enjoying tea and *bortdsig* (fried cakes.) Overnight in local hotel.

(Local Hotel or Homestay; B, L, D)

Day 2, Sep 18, Sun Golden Eagle Festival/ Award Ceremony

In today's competition, the Golden Eagles will be released from a cliff to attack fox skins being dragged by their owners on horseback. The eagles will be judged on speed, gripping technique, and success in grabbing the fox. As the points for the competitions are being tallied, the Kazakh hunters will compete in a traditional game called *kukbar*, a tug-of-war on horseback that tests horse-riding skills, strength, and agility. There will also be the horse race and displays of various traditional horseback Kazakh games, including *Tenge Illu*, which involves picking bag of coins up from the ground in a full gallop, and *Kyzguar*, which young men and women play as a way to better get to know each other. In the late afternoon, the winners of the festival will be announced at the awards ceremony. Enjoy a celebration dinner in the evening

(Local Hotel or Homestay; B, L, D)

Day 3, Sep 19, Mon Tolbo Lake

Drive to crystal-clear Tolbo Lake, which mirrors the dramatic Khunguin Mountains. This saline lake attracts numerous birds such as swans and gulls, and is home to over eight different types of fish. Spend the day trekking along the eastern shore of the lake, visiting Kazakh families along the way.

(Local Hotel or Homestay; B, L, D)

Day 4, Sep 20, Tue Ulaanbaatar

In the morning, transfer to the airport to catch a flight back to Ulaanbaatar. Upon arrival check into your hotel.

(Shangri-La Hotel Deluxe Room; B)

Day 5, Sep 21, Wed Departure

In the morning transfer to the airport for departure home.

(B)

Trip Price:

7-12 Travelers: \$1,995 per person based on twin occupancy

Single Occupancy Supplement Fee: \$295 per person

Land Price includes:

- Ground transportation in Mongolia as described in the itinerary (Russian vans in Ulgii);
- All internal flights;
- Transfers on arrival and departure;
- All accommodations based on twin occupancy;
- Meals as noted in itinerary;
- All excursions, entrance fees, and visits as described in itinerary;
- Extensive pre-departure Travel Guide, reading list, important information about your trip, map and luggage tags;
- English speaking leading Nomadic Expeditions guide throughout your stay;

Land Price does not include: International; passport and visa fees; comprehensive medical and trip insurance; airport taxes; excess baggage charges; gratuities to guides and drivers; photography and video fees; food and beverages not included in the group meals; items of personal nature including alcoholic beverages, laundry and telephone calls; other items not specifically mentioned as included.

Single Supplements

Single supplements guarantee single accommodations in hotels and gers. If single travelers wish to share accommodations, every effort will be made to match them with a roommate. If a suitable roommate is not available at the time of booking, a single supplement fee will be invoiced. A refund will be issued if a share situation subsequently becomes available.

International Airfare

The most popular gateway cities to Mongolia's capital Ulaanbaatar are Beijing (Air China or Mongolian Airlines), Seoul (Korean Air or Mongolian Airlines), Moscow (Aeroflot or Mongolian Airlines) and Tokyo (Mongolian Airlines). Additionally, there are weekly flights from Berlin (Mongolian Airlines) and Hong-Kong (Mongolian Airlines) and Istanbul (Turkish Airlines) as well. Due to the time difference, passengers originating from the USA or Europe, will have to leave 1-2 days prior to the trip commencement date.

Please indicate on your Trip Application Form if you would like us to assist you in booking international flights. Flight availability and pricing is subject to change and Nomadic Expeditions cannot guarantee the availability of flights close to the departure date, so it is in the client's best interest to make reservations as early as possible in the trip planning process. Airline ticketing fees will be applied to tickets purchased through Nomadic Expeditions.

It is imperative that you send a copy of your international flight itinerary to Nomadic Expeditions at least 30 days prior to departure so that we may arrange for any additional services and/or airport transfers.

Visa requirements

U.S. citizens do NOT require a visa to enter Mongolia. However, if you are traveling to Mongolia via China, you are only permitted 72 hours or less in Beijing or Shanghai without a visa. If you plan to travel to other cities or extend your stay beyond 72 hours, it is imperative that you obtain a double-entry Chinese visa in advance.

Reservations for Group Departure

Reserve your space on this trip by completing our Trip Application and mailing it to us with a \$500 deposit per person (\$200 deposit per person for extensions.) Please mail to:

Nomadic Expeditions
1095 Cranbury South River Road Suite 20A
Monroe Township, NJ, USA, 08831

Once we receive your Trip Application and deposit, we will send you written confirmation of your reservation and our extensive pre-departure information packet, which includes our Travel Guide, recommended reading, insurance information, cultural and environmental guidelines, medical information, and travel tips. This information should answer most of the questions you may have about your upcoming adventure. However, if any other questions arise, please do not hesitate to contact us. We will also include an invoice for the balance of your trip payment, which will be due 90 days prior to your departure date, payable by check, credit card, money order or wire transfer to Nomadic Expeditions, Inc. (Please note that there is an additional fee for payment by wire transfer to cover bank service charges.)

Approximately three weeks prior to departure, after receipt of full payment, we will send your final departure package, which includes a participant list, final itinerary, contact numbers, luggage tags, map and air tickets (if applicable.)

Cancellation Policy

All cancellations must be submitted in writing to Nomadic Expeditions. Cancellation charges are based on the number of days from the date we receive the written cancellation notice until the main trip departure date.

Cancellation charges:

90 days or more	Deposit
89-60 days	25% of land
59-30 days	50% of land
29-0 days	No refund
After trip departs	No refund

In addition, any unrecoverable charges or fees imposed by suppliers or vendors on advance payments will be assessed. Airfares are refundable in accordance with the policy of the airline carrier being used, subject to a \$50 handling charge.

If full payment is not received 90 days prior to departure, Nomadic Expeditions reserves the right to consider this a cancellation. A Late Payment Fee will apply to all payments made less than 90 days prior to departure.

Nomadic Expeditions reserves the right to cancel or postpone any travel services prior to departure for any reason, including insufficient number of participants. In the event that a trip cannot depart on the dates specified due to unforeseeable events that render the itinerary inoperable or inadvisable, Nomadic Expeditions reserves the right to postpone services until such time as it is deemed appropriate by Nomadic Expeditions. Trip payments will be held by Nomadic Expeditions, and subject to the same conditions as for the original scheduled trip.

Nomadic Expeditions is not responsible for any unrecoverable expenses incurred by trip participants due to trip cancellation or postponement, including non-refundable airline tickets, medical expenses and visa fees, or additional arrangements, made either through Nomadic Expeditions or another provider, purchased to coincide with this scheduled departure.

This trip is subject to cancellation, refund, and other policies set forth under the general terms and conditions of the Trip Application. We urge you to read this information carefully and call us if you have any questions.

Delays

We are not responsible for any additional charges incurred arising from the delay or extension of a trip due to weather, equipment failure, illness, or other causes beyond our control. No refunds can be made for any unused services or accommodations on the trip.

What to Expect

The rewards of visiting a seldom-explored country require traveling with flexibility, a spirit of adventure, and a willingness to accept local standards of amenities and services. Mongolia is a developing country in terms of infrastructure; delays or changes in the itinerary are possible, and indeed likely. Accommodations are comfortable and clean and include first-class hotels in major cities and traditional nomadic gers in the Mongolian countryside (dome-shaped tents constructed of latticed walls, covered by felt and canvas.) There is a greater diversity of food choices nowadays in Mongolia; however, meals are typically meat-based. Transportation is by bus and four-wheel drive vehicle; most roads are unpaved and are very bumpy and dusty.

It is very important that travelers contact Nomadic Expeditions with any special needs, such as dietary or medical restrictions, as soon as possible so that every effort can be made to accommodate special needs. However, it is ultimately the responsibility of the client, in conjunction with their health care provider, if necessary, to determine whether their needs can be met sufficiently to allow for a safe and comfortable journey.

Please note that most scheduled flights originate in Ulaanbaatar, so to fly from one destination within Mongolia to another, you will almost always return to Ulaanbaatar first. Also, it is not possible to arrive in Ulaanbaatar and connect with another flight on the same day. Therefore, you must overnight in Ulaanbaatar for at least one night before flying to another destination. Scheduled flights to the various destinations in the countryside do not operate everyday, and sometimes only once or twice per week. Therefore, the number of days spent in a destination may be dictated by the flight schedule.

All itineraries should be taken as an approximate schedule of events, though every attempt will be made to adhere to the given schedule. Itineraries are subject to change due to weather, airline schedule changes, road conditions, and other reasons beyond our control. When changes occur in routing or activities, we do our best to provide the best alternatives possible to accommodate all of our clients.

Cultural and Environmental Responsibility

In our rapidly changing and shrinking world, travel is increasing to destinations that were once inaccessible. Contact between unique cultures, such as the traditional nomadic horse-based culture of Mongolia, and the outside world can have a definite impact on both sides. By promoting cultural interaction based on mutual respect and an understanding of

cultural differences, we strive to maintain a delicate balance, neither accelerating the modernization of ancient cultures, nor suppressing their natural evolution.

Nomadic Expeditions is committed to making positive impact on the destinations it visits and to giving back to those who dwell there and thus encourage our travelers to participate in our philanthropic activities. Ask your Expedition Specialist about how you can be part of our efforts aimed at sustainable tourism, conservation and cultural preservation.

About Nomadic Expeditions

Nomadic Expeditions has been arranging exceptional adventures to Mongolia since the country's democratic transition in 1990 and the true opening of its borders to western visitors. Our objective is to create an unforgettable experience for our travelers, and our staff is dedicated to providing insight and guidance so that time in this remarkable country will be memorable and rewarding.

With full-time staff, operations, and offices in the United States and our affiliate office in Mongolia, Nomadic Expeditions brings a unique and enriching cross-cultural perspective to travel to Mongolia. Our offices are staffed both by native Mongolians and Americans with a genuine love of Mongolia and her culture. Our approach to business includes extended exchange programs for our employees, ensuring that each member of our staff is aware of the expectations and sensitivities of our clients and also has an understanding of the Mongolian spirit and way of life. An underlying requirement for anyone involved with Nomadic Expeditions, be they staff, suppliers, or guides, is a respect and love for Mongolia's environment and people.

Our foremost commitment is to Mongolia and her people. Nomadic Expeditions' commitment is a reflection of our founder and president, Jalsa Urubshurow, a Mongolian-American with a deep love and respect for his ancestral homeland. Having traveled much of the globe, he believes that Mongolia is one of the world's last unspoiled treasures and is dedicated to the preservation of its natural and cultural wonders. We believe that Mongolia can benefit greatly from the development of an ecologically conscientious and sustainable approach to tourism, as well as research and exploration that could reduce the demand and need for industrial development and exploitative mining of Mongolia's precious natural resources.

We believe that one of Mongolia's greatest treasures is its pristine environment and we are deeply committed to its conservation. As members of the Ecotourism Society, we are dedicated to providing sustainable travel in Mongolia through working to eliminate the negative effects of tourism, while enhancing the positive. By maintaining an ongoing dialogue with non-profit, university, and government organizations we hope to reinforce

to Mongolians and visitors alike that in the long term, the environment is most valuable to us all when it is in a healthy, balanced state.

Nomadic Expeditions Recent Awards:

2015 **Wendy Perrin WOW List** – Trusted Travel Expert for Mongolia (Jalsa Urubshurow)

2015 **National Geographic Unique Lodges of the World** – Founding Member (Three Camel Lodge)

2015 **Transformational Travel** – PURE Life Experiences Award (Nomadic Expeditions)

2013-2008 **World's Top Travel Specialist for Mongolia-** Condé Nast Traveler Magazine (Jalsa Urubshurow)

2013 **"25 World's Best Lodges"** National Geographic Traveler (Three Camel Lodge)

2013 **"50 Tours of a Lifetime"** – National Geographic Traveler

2013 **"50 Dream trips"** – Travel and Leisure Magazine