

# EXPLORE!

## TRIP NOTES



### Land of the Great Khan (GK 2018 NAADAM FESTIVAL)



TRIPDURATION  
**15**  
DAYS



**Tour Style:** Classic  
**Tour Pace:** Moderate

**Tour Type:** Small Groups  
**Accommodation Grade:** Simple

**Trip Code:** GK

#### Trip Highlights - Land of the Great Khan

- ✓ Enjoy the unique and welcoming nomadic hospitality and experience traditional Mongolian living in ger (Mongolian yurt) accommodation
- ✓ Ulaan Baatar - In a capital city where the modern and the traditional collide, learn about Mongolia's rich cultural heritage in the museums and palaces
- ✓ Jalman Meadows and Hogno Khan Mountain - Do as much or as little as you wish in these tranquil and astonishingly beautiful spots
- ✓ Gobi Desert - Travel through one of the remotest parts of our planet and, as our driver sets off across trackless terrain, marvel at how he knows where he is going
- ✓ Karakorum - Explore Genghis Khan's ruined capital and the revived Erdene Zuu Monastery, once again alive with the sound of chanting, after being destroyed in the Stalinist purges

#### Trip Essentials

**Accommodation:** 5 nights Standard Hotel  
9 nights Simple Ger

**Included Meals:** 14 breakfasts, 13 lunches, 12 dinners

**Start Point:** Join trip: Ulaan Baatar

**End Point:** Trip ends: Ulaan Baatar

**Transport:** Bus, Flight

**Countries:** Mongolia

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## Land of the Great Khan

On this trip, we discover everything that is unique and special about Mongolia - the endless blue sky, picturesque steppe, vast desert and welcoming nomadic hospitality. We enjoy traditional ger (Mongolian yurt) accommodation in the tranquil Mongolian wilderness and soak up the culture in Ulaan Baatar.

### Suitability

We've given each of our tours a comfort rating and a tour pace, walking or cycling grade to give you a general idea about the level of activity on each tour and the standard of accommodation you will be staying in at the end of your day's adventure.

Often you'll stay in different styles of accommodation during your tour; so we make an average rating across the entire tour. For more information on where you'll stay each night, please refer to the day by day tour itinerary.

### Accommodation Grade: Simple

No-frills accommodation which includes berths on sleeper trains, rooms in village houses, boat cabins, campsites, huts and simple family-run lodges, guesthouses and hotels. Sleeping arrangements are simple and amenities are adequate, sometimes with en suite facilities and occasionally communal.

### Tour Style: Classic

Packed with adventure, these tours offer inspiring destinations and authentic travel experiences at a reasonable price. Using all kinds of transport and accommodation, we'll take you off the beaten track to discover the true heart of the people and places you visit.

### Tour Pace: Moderate

These moderately paced tours provide some busy days with plenty of experiences to enjoy, as well as time to relax along the way.

## Your trip itinerary

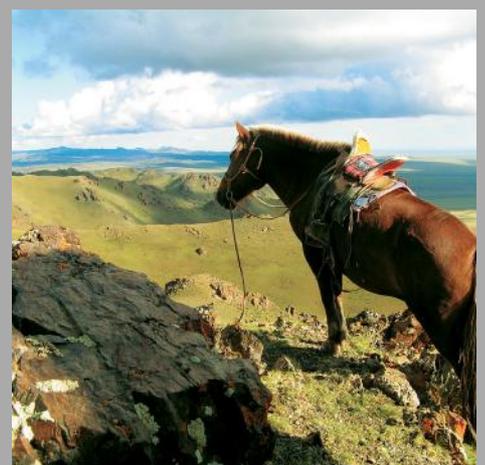
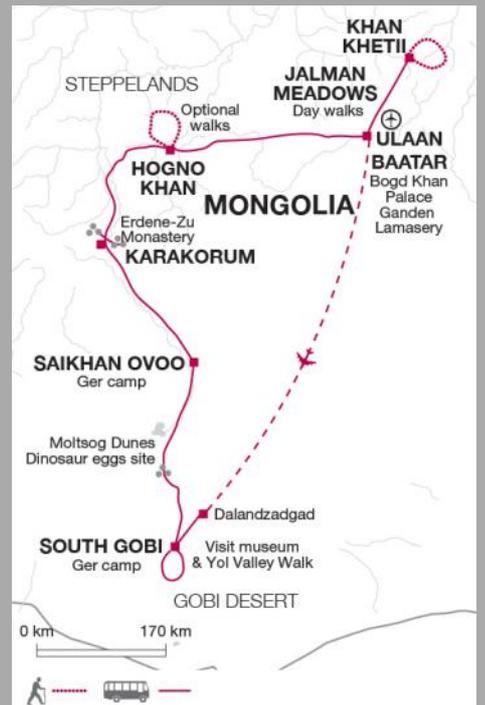
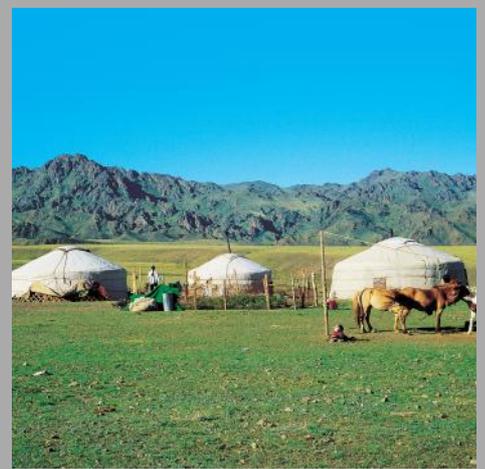
### Tour itinerary notes

While our intention is to adhere to the day-by-day itinerary as printed below, a degree of flexibility is built in. Overnight stops may vary from those suggested.

### DAY 1 Join Tour Ulaan Baatar

Upon arrival in Ulaan Baatar you will be checked-in to your hotel where you will have the opportunity to relax after your flight. Largely modernised, this capital city is the hub of Mongolia in every sense and home to nearly half of the country's population. However, despite its concrete façade, many of its inhabitants can be seen in their traditional dress and a huge proportion continue to live in gers in the suburbs.

Overnight: **Standard Hotel**



 **Included Meals:** None

## DAY 2 Drive to Hognu Khan Mountain

Today, a long yet scenic drive takes us to Hognu Khan Mountain where we will spend the next two nights at our ger camp. Hognu Khan Mountain is a particularly serene spot and you will have plenty of time to explore and relax here.

Overnight: **Simple Ger**

 **Included Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

## DAY 3 Explore the monastery and waterfalls of Hognu Khan

After breakfast there will be the opportunity to hike up Hognu Khan Mountain - a three hour, strenuous walk that is amply rewarded with breathtaking views from the top. The beautiful flowers and butterflies en route also make it worthwhile. You may wish to visit the nearby freshwater pool and watch the impressive birdlife that inhabits this area. There is a chance to visit the Erdene Khombo monastery, led by a lady abbot located in the mountain nearby. Alternatively, simply relax with a good book and an exceptional view.

Overnight: **Simple Ger**

 **Included Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

## DAY 4 Visit Erdene Zu Monastery en route to Karakorum

Leaving Hognu Khan we drive to Karakorum, Genghis Khan's capital in the 13th century. En route, we'll visit the immense Erdene Zuu Monastery - Mongolia's first Buddhist centre established in the 16th century and now an active monastery as well as a museum. At its zenith, there were 1,000 resident monks and, although most of the temples were destroyed in the 1930s, the monastery is slowly being restored and is considered by many as the most important monastery in Mongolia. The political climate in Mongolia is changing and Buddhism, previously suppressed, is currently experiencing a resurgence. On a hill outside the monastery sits an interestingly shaped rock - a reminder for the monks to remain celibate. We also visit the Karakorum Museum which chronicles the history of the Khan Empire along with artefacts from the ruined city.

Overnight: **Simple Ger**

 **Included Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

## DAY 5 Drive to our camp near to Saikhan Ovoo

Today we undertake the longest drive of the trip, but the scenery is so spectacular that the eight hours is sure to pass quickly, especially as it is interspersed with plenty of stops. Once again, there are no roads and few tracks to follow. The other thing that will doubtless strike you when travelling through these great expanses of Mongolia is the varied bird life. Mongolian Lark, Demoiselle Cranes and Black Vultures may be seen, to name but a very few. Very bizarrely, this land-locked country also seems to attract many coastal species, such as plover, redshank and avocet. Our accommodation for the night is in a permanent ger camp, so the bathroom and restaurant facilities are in a purpose-built block, as opposed to our previous ger accommodation which had separate kitchen, restaurant and shower gers. Next to the ger camp are the ruins of the Ongi Monastery - once home to over 1,000 lamas until it was destroyed during the Stalinist purges in the 1930s.

Overnight: **Simple Ger**

 **Included Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

## DAY 6 Cross the Gobi Desert to Bayanzag

Today we drive through one of the remotest parts of our planet. The sheer vastness of the desert is awe-inspiring and, as our driver sets off across terrain with no tracks, let alone roads, we marvel at how he knows where he is going. The Mongol culture of today is still mainly pastoral and we hope to come across itinerant herdsmen, a group of two or three families, their gers pitched on the prairie. The nomads live in harmony with their surroundings and move with the seasons. Many rear camels, sheep and goats. It is likely that, at some point during our trip, we will be invited to share a drink of airag or koumiss (fermented mare's milk) with these friendly people. There are many polite points of etiquette to learn, but our guide will help us through these so we do not inadvertently cause offence. The provision of a gift when you visit a ger is part of the culture in Mongolia, so feel free to pack something small. We plan to visit the spot where the first dinosaur eggs were discovered in Central Asia.

Overnight: **Simple Ger**

 **Included Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

## DAY 7 Explore sand dunes en route to Dungenee

Moving on again today we make our way to Yol Valley. This gorge sees such little sunlight that there are usually traces of ice even though we are in the middle of the desert. Due to the altitude of the surrounding Gurvan Saikhan Mountains, a temperate ecosystem exists, with argali sheep, ibex and snow leopards living here - as opposed to the desert species we might expect. Our accommodation for the night is in a temporary camp, erected for the summer months. With the smell of feverfew, camomile and thyme in the grass and looking out over the Gobi Desert and beside a mountain range, this spot exudes peace and tranquillity.

Overnight: **Simple Ger**

 **Included Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

## DAY 8 Take a walk through the Yol Valley

We spend today exploring the Yol Valley. We start with a visit to the small museum and after visiting we take a short drive to the head of the valley where we join a local guide for a leisurely walk. The pace is relaxed and we take a picnic lunch in the valley before returning to our ger camp in the afternoon.

Overnight: **Simple Ger**

 **Included Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

## DAY 9 Fly to Ulaan Baatar

This morning we will take the short flight back to the capital. In the afternoon we have an opportunity to explore Ulaan Baatar. We will visit the National Museum of Mongolia, which, although stuck in a time warp from a presentation perspective, contains an impressive array of exhibits taking you through the ancient and more recent history. We will also visit the Bogd Khan Palace. Built at the turn of the last century as a winter palace for the last king and eighth living Buddha of Mongolia, this simple two storey wooden building was, for many years, the tallest building in Mongolia.

Overnight: **Standard Hotel**

 **Included Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

## DAY 10 Watch the start of the Nadaam Festival celebrations

Today we have our first experience of the Naadam festivities in and around Ulaan Baatar. The itinerary for the festival is finalised at a very late stage, but we can expect to watch the horse races and wrestling competitions that are typical of this annual festival. It may be possible to watch some of the training sessions for the archery competitions as well. Naadam is the country's largest festival, locally known as 'Eriin Gurvan Naadam' which translates as 'the three games of men' - horse racing, wrestling and archery.

Overnight: **Standard Hotel**

 **Included Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

## DAY 11 Join in with the locals at the Nadaam Festival

Today the festivities officially begin, with pomp and ceremony almost akin to an Olympic Opening Ceremony. Along with much of the population who will be tuning in on their TVs, we start by watching the parade of nine white horsetail banners through Sukhbaatar Square. These banners were originally used by Genghis Khan, with the white colour symbolising peace and nine considered a lucky number. The horses and presidential guards then parade on to the National Stadium for the opening ceremony. We follow them to watch the ceremony which is opened by the President and followed by a wrestling competition featuring up to 500 participants. We'll join the locals for a picnic lunch in the gardens surrounding the stadium.

Overnight: **Standard Hotel**

 **Included Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

## DAY 12 Visit Ganden Monastery; drive to Jalman Meadows

An early start this morning to watch the lamas partake in their morning prayers at Ganden Lamasery. After soaking up the calm atmosphere, we leave the city and head for the countryside, driving for about three and a half hours through the stunning steppe landscape. Jalman Meadows is the peaceful setting of our semi-permanent ger camp which will be our home for the next two nights. Located in a true wilderness between steppe and taiga forest, the meadow may be covered in a blanket of wildflowers during July and August, with butterflies to rival those found in an English meadow one-hundred years ago. Your Tour Leader will lead you on one of the beautiful walks in the area, depending on the wishes of the group. Alternatively, you may wish to simply relax by the river and enjoy the tranquil surroundings.

Overnight: **Simple Ger**



**Included Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

## DAY 13 Relax or try rafting at Jalman Meadows

Today is free to continue to enjoy your surroundings. One option is a two-hour stroll upstream along the banks of the river in the company of a kayak-pulling yak. The one-hour drift back to camp is gentle and with a serene soundtrack of birdsong. Whilst life jackets are provided for rafting, to take part in this optional excursion we recommend you are confident swimming at least 25 metres unaided.

Overnight: **Simple Ger**



**Included Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

## DAY 14 Morning at Jalman; Afternoon drive to Ulaan Baatar

You have the opportunity to spend the morning as you wish. You might choose to walk in the forest or relax at the ger camp, making the most of its well-stocked 'Library ger'. Or, discovering your inner Mongol, you may choose to challenge the rest of your group to an archery competition, using the camp's kit. After lunch we will drive back to the capital for our final night in Mongolia.

Overnight: **Standard Hotel**



**Included Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch

## DAY 15 Tour ends Ulaan Baatar

Our tour ends this morning after breakfast.



**Included Meals:** Breakfast

## Accommodation and Meals

### Accommodation Notes

The ger camps in Mongolia consist of several canvas and felt tents plus a large dining tent or restaurant. Each ger used on this tour has 2 beds, a stove, bedding, plus a table and stools. All are hand painted in local style. Although they are comfortable, we advise that you try to leave behind your western standards to fully appreciate the atmosphere of these traditional dwellings. The ger camps in Mongolia consist of several canvas and felt tents plus a large dining tent or restaurant. Each ger used on this tour has 2 beds, a stove, bedding, plus a table and stools. All are hand painted in local style. Although they are comfortable, we advise that you try to leave behind your western standards to fully appreciate the atmosphere of these traditional dwellings. Toilet and washing facilities are shared and separate to the living gers, with a mixture of flushing and long-drop style toilets.

Should you wish to charge your cameras and electronic devices during your trip, there is electricity in the restaurant gers.

### Food & Drink

Included meals: 14 breakfasts, 13 lunches, 12 dinners included in the price of this trip. Please be prepared to pay for non-included meals. Please note that costs for drinks and meals can vary depending on location.

## Budgeting for your Trip

You will need some extra money to cover meals and drinks not included in the trip price, any optional sightseeing, souvenirs and items of a personal nature such as laundry.

### Food

The costs for meals may vary depending upon location, type of restaurant and number of courses eaten and so the prices given are an average guide. Local restaurants located off the beaten track may be less expensive, whereas an upmarket restaurant located in the centre of a major city may charge more.

### Mongolia

**Lunch £:** 5.00

**Dinner £:** 13.00



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## Drink

The prices for drinks can vary greatly depending upon location and the prices detailed below are an average guide. In general you would expect that drinks purchased in a supermarket or local bar to be less expensive, whilst drinks in an upmarket bar or restaurant may be more expensive.

### Mongolia

**Bottle of Beer £:** 1.50

**Water £:** 0.70

## Other Sightseeing & Activities

The following excursions and/or activities are usually available and may be arranged locally. Estimated costs are provided below for guidance only, are on a per person basis unless shown otherwise, and may depend on the number of participants. Prices quoted are correct as of the date these tour notes were originally issued but may change at any time due to currency fluctuations.

Please note: These activities are booked and paid for direct with the supplier and do not form part of your Explore holiday contract.

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## Optional Excursions

Rafting with yak cart- In Jalman Meadows US\$ 15.

Horseriding - In Jalman Meadows US\$ 7 per hour.

Ulaan Baatar - Cultural evening US\$ 12.

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## Tipping - Tour Leader

At your discretion you might also consider tipping your Tour Leader in appreciation of the efficiency and service you receive.

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## Tipping - Local Crew

Although entirely voluntary, tipping is a recognised part of life in this region of the world. Some local staff will look to members of the group for personal recognition of particular services provided. Accordingly, you should allow US\$ 40 for tipping. In order to make things easier for you, the Tour Leaders may organise a group's tips kitty and if this is the case, they will account for it throughout the tour.

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## Foreign Exchange

### Mongolia

**ATM Availability:** Limited

**Credit Card Acceptance:** In major restaurants.

**Travellers Cheques:** Can be exchanged in Ulaan Baatar.

**Local Currency:** Tugrik.

**Recommended Currency for Exchange:** Most people spend around \$200 to \$300 over the two weeks. It is easier to carry your funds in small denomination US\$ cash as this is the most readily accepted form of currency for the ger camps. Please bring only clean bills issued after 1991.

**Where to Exchange:** In major cities and towns

## Joining your Trip

### Flight Information

You are able to book this tour on a 'land only' basis or as a 'flight inclusive' package. Your flight inclusive package will be fully protected by the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) ATOL protection scheme.

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### Booking a land only package with Explore

Customers who have chosen to book on the 'Land Only' arrangements of our tour, please ensure that you have checked your tour specific 'Joining Instructions' prior to booking your own travel arrangements. Your joining instructions can be found on our website at [www.explore.co.uk](http://www.explore.co.uk), in the tour specific dates and prices section.

You may also be eligible for the Free Explore Transfer. For more information please refer to <https://www.explore.co.uk/transfers>.

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### Joining Tour Abroad

Customers booked on the 'Land Only' arrangements will now receive a Free Transfer, provided you arrive and depart on the tour only itinerary start and end dates. The transfers will be from the Explore designated airport or train station to the joining point of your tour, and then back from the ending point to the designated airport or train station. The exception to this rule is customers who are booked on a tour where the joining and ending point is at the designated airport or train station.

Free transfers are not available for Self-Guided, Tailormade or Tours for Churches customers.

If you are not eligible for the Free Transfer then you will need to make your own way through to the joining and ending point. On a majority of our tours Explore will be able to provide a private transfer at an additional cost. Please ask for a quote at the time of booking.

For more information regarding the Explore Free Transfer please refer to <https://www.explore.co.uk/transfers>.

## Booking a flight inclusive package with Explore

We have a good selection of flights not only from London but from many regional airports around the UK allowing us to compare fares between scheduled carriers as well as low cost and charter airlines. Our dedicated flights team will match the best flight options to your arrival and departure airport.

On our website we display a UK flight inclusive package guide price which is generally based on a London departure. To avoid paying supplements or to secure your preferred flight option, we recommend booking as early as possible, especially for peak travel dates.

## Important Information

### Travel Insurance

It is a condition of booking with Explore that you have adequate valid travel insurance. It is your responsibility to arrange appropriate travel insurance and ensure you have read and understood the full terms and conditions of your travel insurance policy to ensure that you are covered for all activities you intend to undertake whilst on the tour, including all optional activities. Your Insurance Policy must fully cover you for medical expenses and emergency repatriation to your home country. Please ensure your policy includes medical emergency helicopter evacuation in the event of illness or injury and covers the entire duration of your holiday. If you are trekking at altitude please ensure that there is no upper altitude limit which may limit or exclude cover for your trip. Medical and repatriation insurance cover is not mandatory for UK residents who are travelling on trips within the United Kingdom.

**EXPLORE!**  
The Adventure Travel Experts

CAMPBELL IRVINE  
DIRECT TRAVEL INSURANCE



Travel Insurance is essential. If you have not already arranged cover, please contact our recommended Travel Insurance providers [www.campbellirvinedirect.com/Explore](http://www.campbellirvinedirect.com/Explore) who offer Travel Insurance specifically designed to cover travel with Explore or call **Campbell Irvine Direct** on Tel: 020 7938 1734

Explore Worldwide is an Introducer Appointed Representative of Campbell Irvine Ltd who are authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority.

### Travel Aware

We strongly recommend that you check your government's travel advisory for up-to-date information and advice about your destination: safety and security, entry requirements, health, local laws and customs. For UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office Advice follow the link at [www.explore.co.uk/travel-safety](http://www.explore.co.uk/travel-safety)

We strongly advise that you register with the FCO to receive updates to the travel advice for your chosen destination. A hard copy of the current FCO Travel Advice for your chosen destination is available by contacting [cr@explore.co.uk](mailto:cr@explore.co.uk) or 01252 379438.

### Under 18 immigration guidance

Please note that some countries require proof of parental consent when travelling overseas with under 18s. Please check requirements with the relevant embassy or consular office well in advance of travel if this applies to your party.

### Visa Information

Mongolia: A single entry visa is required by British, Irish, New Zealand, Australian, & Canadian citizens and must be obtained prior to departure. A Mongolian visit visa is usually valid for a stay of up to 30 days within six months from the date of issue. All passports must have at least 6 months validity remaining on entry to Mongolia.

If you do require assistance in obtaining a visa then you may consider applying through Explore's recommended visa service in the UK, Travcour. See [www.travcour.com](http://www.travcour.com) to download the relevant visa application for your trip, if applicable (UK citizens only), along with details of how to apply for your visa through Travcour. The Team at Travcour will be happy to answer specific questions relating to visa applications, please call them directly on 0208 5431846.

### Vaccinations & Protection

#### Mongolia

Nothing compulsory, but we recommend protection against typhoid, tetanus, infectious hepatitis and polio. The above is not an exhaustive list. Further information regarding vaccinations and travel health advice can be found by following the NHS and NaTHNaC links at <http://www.explore.co.uk/Travelhealth/> and from your local healthcare provider. Visa and vaccination requirements are subject to change and should be confirmed before departure.

## Preparing for your Trip

### Climate

#### Mongolia

Mongolia has an extreme continental climate similar to that of south-central Siberia or Manchuria and enhanced by a mean elevation of 1500m. Winters are long and very cold. There is a swift transition in May to a short, warm summer and an equally rapid return to the winter cold in October. Summer temperatures vary from around 35°C in the desert to as low as 15°C in the mountains. Frost can occur in the mornings in the Terelj National Park. Rainfall is low everywhere; no more than 38-51cm a year in the mountains and as little as 13cm in the drier lowland parts although do come prepared for the occasional downpour. However, temperatures drop very quickly when rainfall does occur. (Rainfall can be heavy, therefore, a good quality rainjacket and waterproof trousers are essential). Be prepared for all weather conditions during your tour. Additional information and climate charts can be accessed at <http://www.explore.co.uk/weather>. Seasonal weather patterns can be unpredictable. Upto-date information on the weather worldwide can be found by following the BBC weather link on this page.

### Clothing

Daytime temperatures are warm and we recommend lightweight clothing plus some warm layers for the drop in night temperatures experienced in high desert areas and mountains of Mongolia. You will also need a good waterproof jacket and trousers as rain can be heavy.

### Equipment

Wet wipes  
Torch and head torch  
walking poles (if you use them)  
insect repellent  
sun screen

### Footwear

Light walking boots and comfortable shoes and sandals.

### Luggage: On Tour

One main piece of lockable baggage ideally a soft holdall, kitbag or frameless rucksack. Keep luggage to a strict minimum as you will be expected to carry your bag throughout. Porters are not available in Mongolia.

Please note that the luggage allowance for the domestic flight is 10kg per person for the hold plus 5kg hand luggage. It is possible to pay for small amounts of excess baggage at a cost of approximately £1 per kilogram. Excess baggage can also be kept securely in Ulaan Baatar until our return to the city.

Luggage allowance on trip: 20kg

## General Information

### Country details

#### Mongolia

**Population:** 2,754,685

**Size of Country:** 1,564,115 sq km

**Major Language:** Mongolian

**Religion:** Buddhist, Atheist

**Time Difference to GMT:** +7

### Electric Supply & Plugs

#### Mongolia

2 Pin Round

## Why Choose Explore

We've been creating award-winning pioneering adventure holidays for over 30 years, earning the trust of thousands of delighted customers, who feel safe in our hands. Our tour leaders have expert local knowledge and our tours are designed to take you off the beaten track to see the most exotic, inspiring and dramatic places in the world.

- With over 30 years' experience, we are passionate about what we do.

- Pioneering small group adventures, self-guided, private journeys & tailor-made holidays.
- Award winning tour leaders who you can trust.
- Responsible travel is and always has been one of the driving principles of Explore.

Our adventure holidays are full of exciting things to see and do, exploring in small groups travelling by bus, boat, plane, rickshaw, camel, or any number of unusual forms of transport. Often you will stay in family run hotels and village houses and enjoy authentic local cuisine. In this way, it's easy to discover the true heart of the people and the place you travel to – and make some new friends along the way. Each tour is uniquely different, so please feel free to browse through our tours to see what may whet your appetite.

### Cool Earth

Explore are proud to support Cool Earth in their effort to reduce global carbon dioxide levels through the prevention of deforestation in the South America rainforest. Cool Earth focus on areas in immediate danger of deforestation, supporting local communities to be forest guardians. To date 350,000 acres of rainforest has been protected. Saving rainforest also protects rare animals and plants, allows local forest communities to maintain their way of life, and protects a major source of oxygen and fresh water. When you travel on an Explore holiday we make a donation to Cool Earth that exceeds the impact of our customers flights each year.

### Earth Matters

We are passionate about sustainable travel and work hard to create tours where your holiday delivers real benefits to the local communities. We minimise our impact by travelling in small groups, respecting local cultures, reducing waste and offsetting 100% of the CO2 from our flights.

When you travel with Explore, you are directly contributing to local economies and helping empower the people you meet. We currently support a range of charities and good causes, including: Toilet Twinning (helping to flush away poverty), Lone Buffalo Foundation (a community project based in Laos providing creative skills for young people) and have recently supported women's cooperatives in Borneo and Morocco. We are a member of Tourism Concern's Ethical Tour Operator Group ([www.tourismconcern.org.uk](http://www.tourismconcern.org.uk)) and support their campaign for fair and ethical tourism. We also care passionately about the world's wildlife and actively support and promote the Born Free Organisation and Mahouts Elephant Foundation.

## Booking Your Holiday

### Peace of mind - book with confidence

You can book your Explore holiday with confidence, as all monies paid to us for your trip are fully protected. Explore is a fully bonded tour operator licensed by the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) and by ABTOT.

The air holiday packages (Tours including flights) that we advertise are ATOL protected, since we hold an Air Travel Organiser's Licence granted by the Civil Aviation Authority. Our ATOL number is ATOL 2595. In addition, As a member of the Association of Bonded Travel Organisers Trust Limited (ABTOT), Explore has provided a bond to meet the requirements of the Package Travel, Package Holidays and Package Tours Regulations 1992. Please note that packages booked outside the UK are only protected when purchased directly with Explore.

### Reserving your place

To reserve your place on this tour you will need to check availability on the Explore website or through our dedicated call centre based in the UK where you can. Our tours can fill up quickly so you are advised to book as early as possible. If your chosen date is 'Available' or 'Guaranteed' we will be able to provisionally hold you a space for up to 48 hours.

For Self-Guided holidays and Private Journeys simply choose your date of travel and let us know so we can confirm all ground services.

The easiest way to confirm your booking is through our website. When you are ready to book, we normally require a 10% non-refundable deposit, but for some holidays this may be more to cover such items as permit fees, internal flights or other non-refundable services. If your travel starts within 60 days of booking, full payment will be required at the time of booking

### 100% No Surcharge Guarantee

The price paid for our holidays is no longer subject to change. Once booked and confirmed we will guarantee the price you pay will not increase, whatever the circumstances. You will not be approached to pay fuel surcharges unlike the vast majority of other adventure tour operators. The price guarantee applies to all new bookings departing between 1st January 2016 and 31st December 2017.

### Trip Itinerary Versions

Itinerary details may vary depending on departure date and alternative itineraries for this tour may exist. Please refer to the dates and prices page on our website to check which itinerary operates on each departure date.

Please ensure that you have an up-to-date copy of these tour notes immediately before you travel, as from time to time our itineraries may be amended, either for operational reasons or in response to feedback from customers. You will be informed of any major changes to your tour but small changes may just be added to these tour notes.

Please note: 2018 itinerary versions are applicable to tours departing in 2018. 2019/20 itinerary versions are applicable to tours departing from 1st January to 31st December 2019.

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