From the Altai Mountains to the Gobi Desert

Featuring the Naadam Festival

On Select Departures

NOMADIC EXPEDITIONS®

From the Altai Mountains to the Gobi Desert

*Featuring the Naadam Festival**

This Mongolian adventure blends two of Mongolia's iconic destinations: the Altai Mountains in the West, home to Kazakh eagle hunters, and the Gobi, the dramatic semi-arid desert in the south. This journey begins with a cultural exploration of Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia's capital city where modern and ancient worlds collide. Next, fly to western Mongolia, where you will meet the two ethnic minorities living in the area – the Uulds and the Kazakhs. A deep cultural immersion awaits as you spend time with a local Kazakh family and learn about their ancient tradition of training and hunting with eagles. You will also have the opportunity to meet an ethnic Uuld family.

After a fascinating cultural immersion in the Altai Mountains, head to the Gobi in southern Mongolia. Staying at the award-winning Three Camel Lodge, you will have three days to explore the incredible array of memorable landscapes here. One of the most memorable is certainly Bayan Zag, named the Flaming Cliffs for the orange glow of its rock at dawn and dusk.

Breathtaking sites and once-in-a-lifetime interactions make this a journey into the heart and soul of Mongolia.

*Naadam Festival Departure Dates: June 17-18, July 15-26, and August 12-23

DEPARTURE DATE(S) - LOCAL NAADAM FESTIVAL:
JUNE 17-28, 2027
JULY 15-26, 2027
AUGUST 12-13, 2027

DEPARTURE DATE(S) - ALTERNATE TOURING:
JULY 4-15, 2027
JULY 29 - AUGUST 9, 2027
AUGUST 29 - SEPTEMBER 9, 2027

RECOMMENDED FOR:
Travelers interested in exploring the dramatic landscapes and unique culture of the western Altai mountains and the Gobi Desert in the south.

HIGHLIGHTS:

Meet with Kazakh eagle hunters

Visit local Uriankhai Archer family

Attend a local Naadam Festival

Hike through the canyons of Yol Valley National Park

Explore Flaming Cliffs

Discover the petroglyphs at Havsgait

Ride Bactrian Camels at Moltsog Els

ACCOMMODATIONS:

4 nights at Shangri-La Hotel, Ulaanbaatar

3 nights at Three Eagle Camp

4 nights at the award-winning Three Camel Lodge

Day 1

WELCOME TO ULAANBAATAR

The contrast between ancient traditions and a 21st-century democracy is most visible in Ulaanbaatar, where traditional gers and Buddhist monasteries sit side by side with modern high-rises.

Upon arrival at the airport, you will be welcomed by your private Nomadic Expeditions guide and driver and transferred to the deluxe Shangri-La Hotel, a luxury hotel located just steps from various museums and shops. Check-In time at the hotel is 2:00 PM

(Shangri-La Hotel - Deluxe Room)

Day 2

ULAANBAATAR

Begin the day with a visit to Gandan Monastery, the seat of Buddhism in Mongolia. Woven through Mongolia's nomadic culture is a rich Tibetan Buddhist tradition in which ancient shamanist practices are still evident. Although Buddhist monasteries were either destroyed or converted into museums during the Stalinist purges of the 1930s, Gandan Monastery continued to operate as a showpiece for government officials. However, in spite of the government's efforts to suppress Buddhism and other religious beliefs, Mongolia's spirituality persisted and a significant resurgence of Buddhism began in 1990 when Mongolia became a democracy. Monasteries across the country are again opening their doors to worshippers, and the few lamas who survived the purges are training once again. Strolling through the monastery grounds, hear the low tones of the horns used to call the lamas to the temple and observe their daily rituals, including the reading of sutras, or the teachings of the Buddha. Visit the magnificent statue of Migjid Janraisig, "the lord who looks in every direction." This 82-foot high statue, gilded in pure gold and clothed in silk and precious stones, completely fills one of Gandan's temples.

Next, visit to Chinggis Khan Museum, Mongolia's newest and largest museum. The five-story museum showcases over 10,000 cultural exhibits revealing 2000 years of history linked to Mongolia's Great Khans, nobles, nomads, and their statehood from the Xiongnu Empire to the end of the 20th century. After lunch, stop to explore the National Museum for an excellent overview of Mongolia's history and culture. The museum displays traditional implements of daily nomadic life including Stone and Bronze Age artifacts, historical costumes of Mongolia's minority tribes, sacred religious relics, and agricultural, fishing and hunting equipment.

Visit the Zanabazar Fine Arts Museum. Named in honor of Zanabazar, the renowned 17th century artist and politician, who was also the first Buddhist leader of Mongolia, the museum contains one of the best collections of Buddhist art and artifacts in the world, including many of Zanabazar's original works.

In the evening, enjoy a performance featuring traditional Mongolian dancers and khoomi throat singers, followed by a welcome dinner at a local restaurant.

(Shangri-La Hotel - Deluxe Room; B, L, D)

Day 3

FLY TO HOVD

Transfer to the airport for your flight to Hovd (2.5 hours). On arrival, drive (2-hours) to Nomadic Expeditions Three Eagle Camp

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located at the base of permanently snow-capped Tsambagarav Mountain (13,783 ft.) in the Bayan Ulgii region. Ninety percent of the population of Bayan-Ulgii is Kazakh. There will be ample opportunities to meet local families and experience Kazakh culture in the next few days. 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.

On arrival, settle into your gers and if time permits, enjoy a short hike around the camp. Dinner and overnight at the camp.

(Three Eagle Camp - Deluxe Ger; B, L, D)

Day 4

NAMARJIN VALLEY | NOMAD FAMILY VISIT

After breakfast, drive to Namarjin Valley (25 minutes), that lies in the shadow of Tsambagarav mountain. The valley is inhabited by the Uuld people, descendants of the once-powerful Zungarian Empire that rose after the fall of the Yuan Dynasty.

One of the highlights of Namarjin Valley is the attractive Khar Yamaat canyon, a stunning natural formation. Enjoy a delightful hike and as you traverse through the canyon, keep an eye out for the elusive Siberian Ibex. This species of mountain goat is known for its impressive horns and can often be spotted in the rocky terrain of the valley.

The afternoon is spent learning and understanding the nomadic way of life through the eyes of a local family. Not surprisingly, there is strong emphasis on dairy and dairy products, as the Mongol nomads for generations, have used milk products from the animals that they herd. Every region has their own ways of making dairy products. The most common of all is called "aaruul" or simply hardened milk curd. Today there are over 100 varieties of dairy products in Mongolia.

Next, visit an Uriankhai family, a minority tribe of Mongolia, who are known for speaking a unique dialect and preserving their ancient customs and traditions. The Uriankhai are skilled in crafting formidable compound bows, which with their advanced design were a significant asset to Chinggis Khan and his descendants during their years of conquest. Attend an archery exhibit and learn more about their craftsmanship before returning to your camp for dinner.

(Three Eagle Camp - Deluxe Ger; B, L, D)

Day 5

RIDING WITH EAGLE HUNTERS

In the morning witness the horsemanship of the local nomads, as they demonstrate how they lasso horses and ride bare back. Followed by "Tinge Ilu", a game of grabbing coins from the ground while riding a horse at full gallop. Another fun game is the "Kizguar", a Kazakh "courting" horse game, where the boy on a horse chases the girl on a horse and if he can catch her he gets to kiss her on the cheek and in return if the girl likes the boy, she can chase the boy back.

The afternoon/evening will be spent visiting with Kazakh falconers. For over a millennium the Kazakh's have been practicing the art of falconry, a tradition passed down from their Turkic ancestors, using golden eagles as their choice of rapture. Female eagles are preferred for their aggression and size. Weighing up to fifteen pounds, the females are nearly one-third bigger than the males and their vision is eight times more acute than the human eye. Through the winter months the Kazakhs hunt foxes, rabbits and marmots, with their eagle.

After a conversation, where all your questions on falconry, training, care and well being of the eagle will be answered, we head outside to see a demonstration of how the eagle and the hunter

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interact, communicating with each other and together hunt.

We will have dinner with the Kazakh family of their traditional cuisine - Kazakh meat platter, locally known as "Besbermakh." Kazakh are great musicians and singers and over dinner we will also be entertained by a musical performance.

(Three Eagle Camp - Deluxe Ger; B, L, D)

Day 6

RETURN TO ULAANBAATAR

Drive to Hovd Airport (2 hours) for your flight to Ulaanbaatar.

Upon arrival, transfer to your hotel and spend the rest of the afternoon at leisure. Your dinner is independent this evening

(Shangri-La Hotel – Deluxe Room; B, L)

Day 7

FLY TO GOBI | HAVSGAIT PETROGLYPHS

Today, continue with your journey south to the Gobi (1.5 hours) by plane, Mongolia's southernmost province of semi-arid desert. Contrary to the sameness that the word "desert" suggests, the Gobi is a fascinating and diverse region, and includes sites of some of the most important paleontological discoveries of the 20th century. For the next few days, explore the stunning landscapes of the Gobi, habitat for Bactrian camels, Argali mountain sheep, goitered gazelle, golden eagles, Saker falcons, jerboas (similar to kangaroo rats), and many endemic reptiles.

The Gobi is also home to some of the Northern Hemisphere's most rare and elusive mammals, such as the dhole, snow leopard, wild camel, and Gobi bear.

Upon arrival, drive to the award-winning Three Camel Lodge located at Bulagtai Mountain on the edge of Gobi Gurvansaikhan National Park (1 hour). The lodge offers a wide variety of activities to travelers from horseback riding, mountain biking and archery lessons to enjoying a relaxing massage.

In the evening drive to the Havsgait Valley (25 minutes), site of ancient rock drawings left by early Gobi settlers more than 15,000-40,000 years ago. Hundreds of petroglyphs adorn rocks are scattered on top of the mountain. Return to the lodge for dinner. Note: This is a steep hike on loose gravel covered ground.

(Three Camel Lodge - Deluxe Ger; B, L, D)

Day 8

YOL VALLEY NATIONAL PARK

Drive (1.5 hrs) to Yol Valley National Park, cradled in the foothills of the Altai Mountains. An ancient river carved this surprisingly green valley, and its remnant streams create ice formations that sometimes persist as late as July. A hike through the valley leads to the habitat of indigenous vulture-like lammergeiers, Altai snowcocks, ibex, yaks, and Argali mountain sheep. After exploring the valley, visit the local natural history museum for an overview of the flora and fauna of the surrounding area, followed by a drive to Dungenee Valley, a deep and narrow gorge where it is possible to view Argali sheep, Altai snowcocks, and ibex.

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In the evening, enjoy a relaxing walk around the hillside, located behind the lodge. Here you will be able to see 8,000-year-old petroglyph and learn more about the unique Three Camel Lodge.

(Three Camel Lodge - Deluxe Ger; B, L, D)

Day 9

MOLTSOG ELS | FLAMING CLIFFS

In the morning, drive to Moltsog Els, one of the few regions of the Gobi covered by sand dunes. Explore the sand dunes on foot or on back of a Bactrian camel. You have the opportunity to visit a local camel herding family and experience their hospitality and way of living.

In the late afternoon, visit the legendary "Flaming Cliffs" (1 hour), named for the red-orange sandstone which glows brilliantly at sunrise and sunset. It was here, in 1922, that Dr. Roy Chapman Andrews and his exploration team from the American Museum of Natural History found the first nest of dinosaur eggs the world had ever seen. To the trained eye, the ancient formations of the Flaming Cliffs are rich with fossils, and paleontological expeditions continue to make significant discoveries at this site.

(Three Camel Lodge - Deluxe Ger; B, L, D)

Day 10

LOCAL NAADAM FESTIVAL OR EXCURSION

FOR DEPARTURES JUNE 15, JULY 15 & AUGUST 12

Spend today enjoying the local Naadam Festival. True to its name, the festival is dedicated to the "Three Manly Games." including wrestling, archery, and horse racing. These three sports traditionally measured the courage, strength, and pride of nomads and warriors, although men, women, boys, and girls all take part in contemporary Naadam games.

In the evening, if time permits, visit Bulgan, a small town near a natural spring. Bulgan has one of the only farms in the Gobi, which supplies local ger camps with fruits and vegetables, an example of local businesses being supported by ecotourism.

After a delicious dinner at the lodge, take advantage of the dark Gobi skies and enjoy an evening of stargazing with your guide.

OR

FOR DEPARTURES JULY 4, JULY 29 & AUGUST 29

After breakfast, drive to Tugregiin Shiree (1.5 hours), first explored by Polish expeditions in the late 1960's and early -1970's. Tugregiin Shiree is best known for the famous 'Fighting Dinosaurs", a fossil of a Protoceratops and Velociraptor locked in combat.

In the afternoon visit Bulgan, a small town near a natural spring. Bulgan has one of the only farms in the Gobi, which supplies local ger camps with fruits and vegetables, an example of local businesses being supported by ecotourism.

After a delicious dinner at the lodge, take advantage of the dark Gobi skies and enjoy an evening of stargazing with your guide.

(Three Camel Lodge - Deluxe Ger; B, L, D)

Day 11

RETURN TO ULAANBAATAR

After breakfast, experience ger building firsthand. Join locals to learn the process of raising a traditional Mongolian Ger.

Transfer to the airport for your flight to Ulaanbaatar. On arrival, enjoy your farewell dinner at a local restaurant.

(Shangri-La Hotel - Deluxe Room; B, L, D)

Day 12

DEPARTURE

Transfer to the airport for your departure.

(B)

B=Breakfast L=Lunch D=Dinner
Nomadic Expeditions reserves the right to change the above itinerary if necessary.

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2027 LAND PRICE
ALL DEPARTURES EXCEPT JULY 4-15, 2027

5-14 Travelers: $10,850 per person

Internal Airfare: $895 per person

Single Supplement: $3,010 per person

2027 LAND PRICE
JULY 4-15, 2027

5-14 Travelers: $12,150 per person

Internal Airfare: $895 per person

Single Supplement: $3,620 per person

NOTE: Land Price is based on double occupancy and Internal Airfare is subject to change by airlines

LAND PRICE INCLUDES:

- Ground transportation in Mongolia as described in the itinerary;
- Transfers upon arrival and departure;
- All accommodations based on double or twin occupancy (hotel rooms and gers);
- Meals as noted in itinerary;
- Bottled/filtered water throughout the trip and soft drinks during meals;
- All excursions, entrance fees, and visits as described in itinerary;
- Extensive pre-departure Travel Guide, reading list, important information about your trip;
- Bilingual Nomadic Expeditions guide throughout your stay.

LAND PRICE DOES NOT INCLUDE:

- International airfare; internal airfare is quoted separately and subject to change by airlines;
- Tips to guides/drivers;
- Passport and visa fees;
- Comprehensive medical and trip insurance;
- Airport taxes;
- Excess baggage charges;
- Photography and video fees;
- Food and beverages not included in the group meals;
- Items of a personal nature, including alcoholic beverages, laundry and telephone calls;
- Other items not specifically mentioned as included.

WHY TRAVEL WITH NOMADIC EXPEDITIONS?

Unrivaled Expertise

Nomadic Expeditions was founded in 1992. Nothing can compete with the experience we have attained over 30+ years of designing luxury adventure travel to Asia. While each trip we design is slightly different than its predecessor, our breadth of knowledge, network of contacts, and experience in the field is unrivaled.

Our People

We hire the best in the business to create and execute memorable journeys for our clients. From our Expedition Specialists in the United States, Ulaanbaatar, Lhasa, and Thimpu who turn wish lists into reality to our English-speaking, professionally trained guides who share their extensive knowledge of the culture and natural history of our destinations, our staff is what makes Nomadic Expeditions successful.

Passion for Travel

While our journeys open your eyes to a whole new world of experiences, we understand that choosing to book a trip with us requires time spent away from friends, family, and work. Your time is precious and we take that to heart. It's why we design journeys that go beyond a checklist of attractions. When you travel with us, we want you to remember drinking tea with a nomadic family or digging for fossils with a renowned paleontologist. We imbue our trips with encounters, whether it's with a local resident, a high-ranking government official, or a renowned wildlife conservationist, so you take home more than a set of photographs to frame on your nightstand.

Our Philosophy

Nomadic Expeditions was founded on the principle of treading lightly long before sustainable travel was a buzz phrase. Every expedition is undertaken with the greatest respect for the lands we explore and the local people we meet. Those who travel with us do so with the assurance that the preservation and protection of the ecosystems and cultures we visit is of the utmost importance to us, both as individuals and as a company. Respect for the places we travel to is at the heart of everything we do, but over our 30+ years we have realized additional opportunities where we can lend a hand. We have gone beyond simply treading lightly and have wholeheartedly partnered with local communities and regions. Read more about our sustainable practices and philanthropic efforts on our website.

We would love to share this exceptional adventure with you!

Our Expedition Specialists are available from 9:00 AM- 5:00 PM EST, Monday thru Friday

Nomadic Expeditions, Inc. | 57 Station Road | Cranbury, NJ 08512 USA

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PRE-TRIP EXTENSION TO KHARAKHORUM

June 14-17, 2027 | July 1-4, 2027 | July 26-29, 2027 | August 9-12, 2027 | August 26-29, 2027

Day 1

ARRIVAL IN ULAANBAATAR

Upon arrival at the airport, you are welcomed by your Mongolian guide and transferred to a centrally located hotel within walking distance of various museums and shops.

(Shangri-La Hotel - Deluxe Room)

Day 2

HUSTAIN NURUU NATIONAL PARK/ KHARAKHORUM

Depart early morning for Hustain Nuruu National Park (2 hours), home to the last remaining species of wild horse, the takhi - commonly known as Przewalski's horse. Twenty-five years after becoming extinct in the wild, the takhi was reintroduced to the Mongolian steppe from zoo populations by the Foundation for the Preservation and Protection of the Przewalski's Horse. Sixteen horses were flown from the Netherlands to Mongolia in 1994, and nearly 400 now roam re-introduction sites in Mongolia and China. Learn about current conservation efforts and the status of the herds found within the reserve at the visitor's center, before trying to spot these beautiful horses in their natural habitat.

Continue with your journey by heading to Kharakhorum (4 hours), site of the 13th century capital of the Mongol Empire. The empire created by Chinggis Khan and his descendants was the largest contiguous land empire in recorded history, and its scope has never been matched. Travelers in the 13th century were impressed not only with the beauty of Kharakhorum, but also by the internationalism and openness of this city where traders, intellectuals, and clergy enjoyed religious freedom. On arrival, settle into your camp. Dinner and overnight at the camp.

(Asa Land Resort, Deluxe Ger; B, L, D)

Day 3

EXPLORE KHARAKHORUM

After breakfast, visit the Kharakhorum Museum. Founded to showcase the research findings from the ancient capital of Mongolia by the Mongolian and German joint archaeological expedition, the newly established Kharakhorum museum offers fascinating insight into what was once the center of arts, politics, trades, and religions of the world.

Our next stop is Erdene Zuu Monastery, Mongolia's largest monastery was reputedly constructed from the ruins of Kharakhorum in the 16th century. Surrounded by 108 stupas, Erdene Zuu has been a place of Buddhist activity for more than 500 years. Explore the monastery grounds and observe the monks as they perform their prayers and rituals. The temples are richly decorated with spectacular Buddhas, as well as Buddhist art and architecture.

Spend the late afternoon hiking through the magnificent grasslands of the Orkhon Valley, considered to be the cradle of Mongolian civilization. The beautiful Orkhon valley is not just home to many archeological, cultural and historic sites but it also stands testimony to how age-old nomadic culture has shaped and influenced developmental changes in trade, commerce, military and religious practices.

(Asa Land Resort, Deluxe Ger; B, L, D)

Day 4

RETURN TO ULAANBAATAR

After breakfast, visit the Imperial Map Monument, also known as the King's Monument or Monument for the Mongol States. It was built in 2004 to commemorate the three empires that settled along the Orkhon River. Situated on a hill overlooking Kharakhorum, the monument features a shamanic ovoo. Surrounding this are three circular walls adorned with colorful mosaics that depict maps of the Xiongnu Empire, the Turkic Khaganate, and the Mongol Empire. The location is significant, as Kharakhorum was the capital

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of the Mongol Empire under Ögedei Khan. Visiting the monument offers spectacular 360-degree views of Kharakhorum and the surrounding valley.

Visit Erdenesiin Khuree - Arts and Mongolian Calligraphy Center. The center is dedicated to the art of Mongolian calligraphy and its preservation. Initiated by renowned calligrapher Tamir Samandbadraa, it showcases his works and hosts other Mongolian and international artists. The center aims to immerse visitors in traditional Mongolian Calligraphy art and will eventually expand to include other forms of traditional Mongolian art, such as painting, ceramics, and felt work.

Depart for Ulaanbaatar (5–6-hour drive). On arrival, check-in to Shangri-La Hotel and spend the rest of the evening at leisure.

(B, L)

(Reservation at Shangri-La Hotel Included as part of the Main Trip)

2027 LAND PRICE

2-5 Travelers:	$3,185 per person
6-14 Travelers:	$2,635 per person
Single Supplement:	$515 per person

NOTE: Land Price is based on double occupancy.
Hotel check-in time is 2:00 pm

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