G Adventures

Last Updated: August 27, 2020



Naadam Festival Mongolia

15 days, Ulaanbaatar to Ulaanbaatar

Trip code AMNF

What's included

- Your Welcome Moment: Meet Your CEO and Group
- Naadam Festival ceremonies entrance

- Traditional ger stays
- Amarbayasgalant Monastery entrance
- Pot Mountain hike
- Mongolian barbecue meal
- Khovsgol Lake visit
- Lake District stay
- Tsetserleg Monastery Museum visit
- Tsenger Hot Springs stay
- All transport between destinations and to/from included activities

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VERY IMPORTANT: Please ensure that you print a final copy of your Trip Details to review a couple of days prior to travel, in case there have been changes that affect your plans.

VALIDITY: Valid for all trips departing January 1st, 2015 - May 10th, 2016

Itinerary



NOTE: Accommodations vary per departure and are subject to change until tour start date; they are not final and should be used as examples only. Travellers may login to the G Adventures App to view accommodations specific to their departure.

Itinerary Notes

Each departure will visit the same locations for the same amount of time but may run in reverse. Tours in June will end at the Naadam Festival whereas tours in July will begin by visiting the Naadam Festival. Please see your trip voucher for the specific itinerary.

Day 1

Ulaanbaatar

Arrive at any time.

There are no activities planned until an evening welcome meeting.

Today's Activities

ACTIVITY

Your opportunity to meet your CEO and fellow travellers, and learn more about your tour. Opt to join the group for a local meal afterwards. Don't forget to see the notice in the lobby (or ask reception) for the official time and place to meet up with the group.

Day 2

Ulaanbaatar/Amarbayasgalant

Visit Amarbayasgalant Monastery before sleeping in a ger camp. Stargazing takes on a whole new meaning in the Mongolian countryside.

Enjoy a bumpy ride out to the Amarbayasgalant Monastery, the second-most important in Mongolia, located in the beautiful Iven Gol Valley.

Gers are traditional Mongolian tents made with wooden frames and layers of felt. The camps we stay at will have 4 beds per ger with mattresses, linens, and extra blankets. They have a central stove to keep the place cozy and a small table and chairs.

Meals included

Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner

Today's Activities

Private Vehicle | Ulaanbaatar – Amar Hiyd | 6h | 350km

Settle in and scan the scenery from the convenience of a private vehicle.

Amarbayasgalant Monastery Visit | Amar Hiyd | 1h

The second most important monastery in Mongolia, Amarbayasgalantis located in the beautiful Iven Gol valley in Selenge Province within the foothills of Burenkhan Mountain. On the order of Monchu Emperor Yongzheng, it was built between 1726 and 1736 and dedicated to Zanabazar, a renowned Mongolian Buddhist, scholar, and sculptor.

Day 3 Amarbayasgalant/Selenge

Hike up the volcanic (extinct volcano) crater at Pot Mountain. Stay overnight in a traditional Ger camp.

Meals included

Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner

Today's Activities

Private Vehicle | Amar Hiyd – Uran Togoo | 8h

Stop for lunch and photos along the way.

Pot Mountain Hike | Selenge | 2h30m

Venture out for a hike up to the nearby 13th century volcanic crater at Pot Mountain. Enjoy the beautiful views and keep watch for some of the wildlife.

Day 4 Selenge

Enjoy free time in this scenic region and learn more about Mongolian nomadic culture.

Meals included

Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner

Today's Activities

Free Time Selenge

Get out and explore.

Day 5 Selenge/Khövsgöl

Spend the day travelling to scenic Khövsgöl Lake.

Meals included

Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner

Today's Activities

Private Vehicle Selenge – Khövsgöl 6h

Settle in and scan the scenery from the convenience of a private vehicle.

Lake Khövsgöl and Park Visit Khövsgöl

Visit Lake Khövsgöl, the second-most voluminous freshwater lake in Asia. This lake alone holds almost 70% of Mongolia's fresh water, tied closely to Siberia just north of the area. The mountain ranges surrounding the lake offer a stunning view no matter where you look.

Day 6 Khövsgöl

Enjoy a free day here to try archery, horseback riding, or hiking.

Meals included

Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner

Today's Activities

Free Time Khövsgöl

Enjoy a day in the Mongolian wilderness.

Optional Activities - Day 6

Archery Khövsgöl 1-5USD

One of Mongolia's most popular traditional sports, try your hand at shooting a bow and arrow. I bet the locals will win.

Lake Khövsgöl Hike Khövsgöl

Head out by foot to explore the gorgeous area around the lake.

Horseback Riding Khövsgöl 20000MNT

Saddle up to get a new perspective of the area and see the landscape like the locals do.

Day 7 Khövsgöl/Shine-Ider Sum

Travel through the Lake District of Mongolia, looking for wildlife on the way. Spend the evening at a ger camp in Jargal Jiguur.

Meals included

Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner

Today's Activities

Private Vehicle | Khövsgöl – Shine-Ider Sum | 8h

Settle in and scan the scenery from the convenience of a private vehicle.

Day 8

Shine-Ider Sum/Terkhiin Tsagaan Lake

Continue on with another long day of scenic driving to reach Great White Lake. With two days to explore, there are plenty of ways to spend time here.

Please note that facilities at this home are very basic, and travellers will use open-air "bush toilets" in nature, or a bush toilet enclosed by a small hut for privacy.

Meals included

Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner

Today's Activities

Private Vehicle | Shine-Ider Sum – Terkhiin Tsagaan Lake | 3h-3h30m

Settle in and scan the scenery from the convenience of a private vehicle.

Day 9 Terkhiin Tsagaan Lake

Spend a full day exploring the area. Climb the crater of a nearby volcano and crawl inside lava tubes. Spend a free afternoon in the area horseback riding, fishing, or mingling with the locals.

Meals included

Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner

Today's Activities

Khorgo Volcano Visit Khorgo 2h

Explore the area around this volcano. Climb the crater (you can go all the way to the bottom), crawl inside lava tubes, and experience amazing views.

Free Time Terkhiin Tsagaan Lake

Get out and explore.

Optional Activities - Day 9

Horseback Riding - Gorkhi Tereji NP Gorkhi Terelj National Park 20000MNT

Saddle up and explore the area on horseback.

Fishing Terkhiin Tsagaan Lake

Try your luck and see what you can catch from the nearby lake.

Day 10 Terkhiin Tsagaan Lake/Tsenkher

Visit the monastery museum of Tsetserleg before continuing on to the Tsenkher Hot Springs. Opt to experience the waters' healing powers first hand.

Stop en route to Tsenkher in the small town of Tsetserleg to visit the monastery museum. Opt to visit the handicraft shops here or the bakery.

Stay in a ger camp nearby with options to visit the springs, go horseback riding, or chat with the locals.

Meals included

Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner

Today's Activities

Private Vehicle — Terkhiin Tsagaan Lake – Tsenkher — 7h

Settle in and scan the scenery from the convenience of a private vehicle.

Zayain Khüree Monastery Museum — Tsetserleg — 1h30m

Visit the monastery here, now converted into a museum. Learn more about the history of the monastery and the area.

Optional Activities - Day 10

Horseback Riding — Tsenkher — 15000MNT

Saddle up and ride Mongolian horses around the area. It's a great way to see the country in the way the locals do.

Tsenkher Hot Springs Visit — Tsenkher

Enjoy a soak in the natural hot springs. The place is very popular with both locals and tourists as the hot water here is said to have healing powers.

Day 11 Tsenkher/Elsen Tasarhai

Drive to Elsen Tasarhai. Enjoy the activities that so called little Gobi sand dunes has to offer– hiking in sand dunes, visit an ancient stone carving, and soak in the desert atmosphere.

Meals included

Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner

Today's Activities

Private Vehicle | Tsenkher – Elsen Tasarhai | 5h

Settle in and scan the scenery from the convenience of a private vehicle.

Khongoryn Els Sand Dunes Visit | Bayangovĭ | 2h

Visit Khongoryn Els, the biggest sand dunes in the western Gobi. They also are known as "singing sands" because the sand makes a musical noise as it moves with the wind.

Day 12

Elsen Tasarhai/Ulaanbaatar

Travel back to Ulaanbaatar in time for the Naadam Festival ceremonies. Over the next few days, enjoy the opening ceremony, wrestling, archery, Naadam horseracing, and the closing ceremony, as well as free time for exploring Ulaanbaatar.

Meals included

Breakfast

Today's Activities

Private Vehicle | Bayangovĭ – Ulaanbaatar | 5h

Settle in and scan the scenery from the convenience of a private vehicle.

Free Time | Ulaanbaatar

Get into the buzz of Naadam.

Day 13

Ulaanbaatar

Watch the opening ceremony. Observe some of the wrestling matches and also the archery contests. With free time, opt for a wonderful cultural show or souvenir shopping.

Meals included

Breakfast | Lunch

Today's Activities

Naadam Festival (Eriin Gurvan Naadam) Ulaanbaatar 3h

The Naadam festival, called local 'eriin gurvan naadam', or the 'three games of men', is the biggest festival in Mongolia. After the elaborate opening ceremony featureing dancers, athletes, and musicians, the competitions of Mongolia's three main sports begin. These are archery, wrestling, and horse racing.

Free Time Ulaanbaatar

Shop for cashmere or drink in the local English pub near Sukhbaatar Square.

Optional Activities - Day 13

Mongolian Cultural Show Ulaanbaatar 30000MNT

Enjoy an evening of song and dance at the Mongolian Cultural Show. The show includes 15 different performances, including traditional songs, dancing, throat singing, and contortionists.

Day 14

Ulaanbaatar

Head out to see the finish line of the Naadam horserace. Enjoy a free afternoon before attending the Festival Closing Ceremony in the evening.

Meals included

Breakfast | Lunch

Today's Activities

Naadam Festival (Eriin Gurvan Naadam) Ulaanbaatar 3h

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Free Time Ulaanbaatar

Enjoy more of the city.

Day 15

Ulaanbaatar

Depart at any time.

Meals included

Breakfast

What's included

- Your Welcome Moment: Meet Your CEO and Group
- Naadam Festival ceremonies entrance
- Traditional ger stays
- Amarbayasgalant Monastery entrance
- Pot Mountain hike
- Mongolian barbecue meal
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- Lake District stay

- Tsetserleg Monastery Museum visit
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- All transport between destinations and to/ from included activities

What are the main highlights of this trip?

Watch the opening ceremony of the Naadam Festival, cheer on wrestlers and archers, listen to famous throat singing, sleep in traditional gers, devour Mongolian barbecue in the grasslands

Itinerary Notes

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What are the main highlights of this trip?

Watch the opening ceremony of the Naadam Festival, cheer on wrestlers and archers, listen to famous throat singing, sleep in traditional gers, devour Mongolian barbecue in the grasslands

Is there a disclaimer I should read before booking this trip?

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VERY IMPORTANT: Please ensure that you print a final copy of your Trip Details to review a couple of days prior to travel, in case there have been changes that affect your plans.

Is there a travel disclaimer for my itinerary I should review before booking this trip?

While it is our intention to adhere to the route described below, there is a certain amount of flexibility built into the itinerary and on occasion it may be necessary, or desirable to make alterations. The itinerary is brief, as we never know exactly where our journey will take us. Due to our style of travel and the regions we visit, travel can be unpredictable. The Trip Details document is a general guide to the tour and region and any mention of specific destinations or wildlife is by no means a guarantee that they will be visited or encountered. Aboard expedition trips visits to research stations depend on final permission.

Additionally, any travel times listed are approximations only and subject to vary due to local circumstances.

Are there Itinerary notes?

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What important notes should I be aware of before the trip?

Please note the actual order of this itinerary may change to maximize our opportunities to take part in the Naadam Festival. Please see trip details for further info.

What is the role of the group leader during this trip?

All G Adventures group trips are accompanied by one of our Chief Experience Officers (CEO). The aim of the CEO is to take the hassle out of your travels and to help you have the best trip possible. They will provide information on the places you are travelling through, offer suggestions for things to do and see, recommend great local eating venues and introduce you to our local friends. While not being guides in the traditional sense you can expect them to have a broad general knowledge of the countries visited on the trip, including historical, cultural, religious and social aspects. We also use local guides where we think more specific knowledge will add to the enjoyment of the places we are visiting - we think it's the best of both worlds.

What is the maximum and typical number of participants on this tour?

Max 15, avg 12

What meals are included in this trip?

14 breakfasts, 12 lunches, 10 dinners

What are the meals like on this trip?

Eating is a big part of traveling. Travelling with G Adventures you experience the vast array of wonderful food that is available out in the world.
Outside Ulaan Baatar, Mongolian diet consists mainly of mutton and few fresh vegetables. Please, be prepared to very limited variety. If you prefer to spice your food, we recommend you to bring your favourite spices and supplies from home (or buy them in Ulaan Baatar).
Vegetarian option is possible on Mongolia trips, but again - local died provides almost no variety. Vegetarians may choose to supplement meals with supplies bought from home, i.e. protein bars, bags of dried fruits, etc.
Ulaan Baatar has a good selection of imported goods where you can stock up on food such as cereals, UHT milk, chocolate, fruit juice, biscuits, candies & chocolate, rice and pasta.
For all trips please refer to the meals included and budget information for included meals and meal budgets.

What are the modes of transportation on my trip?

Private van

Are local flights included in the cost of the trip?

All local flights are included in the cost of your tour unless otherwise noted. It is important that we have your passport information at the time of booking in order to process these tickets. Internal flight tickets are issued locally and will be given to you prior to the flight departure.

Is there an extra cost for travelling solo?

We believe single travellers should not have to pay more to travel so our group trips are designed for shared accommodation and do not involve a single supplement. Single travellers joining group trips are paired in twin or multi-share accommodation with someone of the same sex for the duration of the trip. Some of our Independent trips are designed differently and single travellers on these itineraries must pay the single trip price.

Where will we stay during the trip?

Hotels (4 nts), nomad family stay/camping (1 nt), Mongolian gers (9 nts, multi-share).

What should I expect from the accommodations on this trip?

Hotels (4 nts), Nomad family stay/camping (1 nt), Mongolian multishare gers (9 nts).

What is the joining hotel?

For details of your joining hotel please refer to your tour voucher, G Account, the G Adventures App or contact your travel agent.

What are the joining instructions?

When arriving at Ulaan Baatar Intl Airport you will notice that the airport is actually very close to the city. After you exit from the baggage hall follow the taxi signs and you will find a queue outside the terminal building. Taxis in Mongolia are metered but you may have to bargain for one from the airport. The fare to our starting point hotel will be about 30 USD and should take about 30-40 minutes.

If you have paid in advance for an arrival transfer, a G Adventures representative will be at the airport to meet you. If for any reason you are not met at the airport, please call our local support line. If you are unable to make contact for whatever reason, please make your way to the joining point hotel via taxi.

Please note that Day 1 is an arrival day and no activities have been planned for that day other then your welcome meeting in the evening, so you can arrive at any time. Similarly the last day is a departure day during which no activities have been planned.

A G Adventures Representative will organize a short meeting soon after arrival, during which you will meet other tour participants and receive information about general and specific aspects of the trip. A welcome note will be left for you in the hotel so you have all the necessary information regarding the meeting time. If you arrive late, s/he will leave you a message detailing what time and where you should meet the next morning.

What should I do if I can’t find my airport transfer or experience arrival issues?

We don't expect any problems, and nor should you, but if for any reason you are unable to commence your trip as scheduled, as soon as possible please contact your starting point hotel, requesting that you speak to or leave a message for your CEO (if you are not on a group tour please refer to the emergency contact details provided in this dossier). If you are unable to get in touch with your leader, please refer to our emergency contact details. If you have pre-booked an airport transfer and have not made contact with our representative within 30 minutes of clearing customs and immigration, we recommend that you make your own way to the Starting Point hotel, following the Joining Instructions. Please apply to your travel agent on your return for a refund of the transfer cost if this occurs.

Who do I contact for arrival issues or in the event of an emergency?

Should you need to contact us during a situation of dire need, it is best to first call either the G Adventures Local Representative (if one is listed below) or our G Adventures Local Office. If for any reason you do not receive an immediate answer, please leave a detailed message and contact information, so they may return your call and assist you as soon as possible.

AIRPORT TRANSFER
If you have purchased an arrival through G Adventures or if an arrival transfer is included in the cost of your tour, please note that:

Your arrival transfer has been arranged based on flight information provided to us. If you are advised of a flight schedule change within 48 hours of your scheduled arrival time, we will do our best to rearrange your arrival transfer however we cannot guarantee this.

If your arrival transfer does not arrive within 30 minutes after you have exited the arrivals area, please try the contact below first. If you do not receive a response, we ask that you please take a taxi to your start point hotel.

If your call is specifically concerning Airport Transfer complications please call our local G Adventures Representative directly at:

Ms. Otgon Tsend
Mobile: +976 99118295

EMERGENCY CONTACT NUMBERS

Mr Laziz Otayarov (Operations Manager - Central Asia)
Mobile 1: +99890 963 4779 (24h)
Mobile 2: +99897 921 7087 (24h)

If you are unable for any reason to contact our local office, please call the numbers listed below which will connect you directly with our Sales team who will happily assist you. Hours of operation by region can be found here.

Toll-free, North America only: 1 888 800 4100
Calls from UK: 0344 272 0000
Calls from Germany: 0800 365 1000
Calls from Australia: 1 300 796 618
Calls from New Zealand: 0800 333 307
Outside North America, Australia, New Zealand, Germany and the UK: +1 416 260 0999

What are the packing guidelines and luggage restrictions?

What you need to bring depends on the trip you have chosen and the countries or regions you are planning to visit. We suggest that you pack as lightly as possible as your are expected to carry your own luggage. As a rule we try not to have to walk more than 15-20 mintues with your bags which is why we recommend keeping the weight of your bags between 10-15kg/22-30lb. Suitcases are not recommended for G Adventures trips! Most travellers carry a backpack or rolling bag of small to medium size (no XXL ones please!) as they need to fit under the beds when travelling on sleeper trains. You will also need a day pack/bag to carry water, cameras and other electronics like ipods and mobile phones. If your trip involves overnights in homestays, villages or camping then you usually have the opportunity to rent sleeping bags if need be instead of bringing them with you.

What should I pack for this trip?

Conservative Dress:

- Modest clothing that covers knees and shoulders (Long pants, long skirts, shirts that cover shoulders)
- Shawl or scarf (for temple visits)

Documents:

- Flight info (required) (Printouts of e-tickets may be required at the border)
- Insurance info (required) (With photocopies)
- Passport (required) (With photocopies)
- Vouchers and pre-departure information (required)
- Visas or vaccination certificates (With photocopies)

Essentials:

- Footwear (required) (Closed toe suggested)
- Toiletries (required) (Shampoo, bodywash, soap, etc.)
- Binoculars (optional)
- Camera (With extra memory cards and batteries)
- Cash, credit and debit cards
- Day pack (Used for daily excursions or short overnights)
- Ear plugs
- First-aid kit (should contain lip balm with sunscreen, sunscreen, whistle, Aspirin, Ibuprofen, bandaids/plasters, tape, anti-histamines, antibacterial gel/ wipes, antiseptic cream, Imodium or similar tablets for mild cases of diarrhea, rehydration powder, water purification tablets or drops, insect repellent, sewing kit, extra prescription drugs you may be taking)
- Flashlight/torch (Headlamps are ideal)
- Fleece top/sweater
- Hat
- Headphones (Noise-cancelling recommended)
- Locks for bags
- Long pants/jeans
- Moneybelt
- Outlet adapter
- Personal entertainment (Reading and writing materials, cards, music player, etc.)
- Reusable water bottle
- Shirts/t-shirts
- Sleepwear
- Small travel towel
- Sunglasses
- Swimwear
- Watch and alarm clock
- Waterproof backpack cover
- Windproof rain jacket

Light Hiking:

- Hiking boots/sturdy walking shoes
- Hiking pants (Convertible/Zip-off and quick dry recommended)
- Walking poles

Sleep Sheet:

- Sleeping bag liner/sleep sheet

Warm Weather:

- Sandals/flip-flops
- Shorts/skirts (Longer shorts/ skirts are recommended)
- Sturdy water shoes/sandals
- Sun hat/bandana
- Swimwear

Where can I do my laundry on this trip?

Laundry facilities are offered by some of our hotels and ger camps for a charge. The cost will be determined by weight in kilos, or per piece. There will be times when you may want to or have to do your own laundry so we suggest you bring non-polluting/biodegradable soap.

What are the visas and entry requirements for my trip?

All countries require a valid passport (with a minimum 6 months validity). Contact your local embassy or consulate for the most up-to-date visa requirements, or see your travel agent. It is your own responsibility to have the correct travel documentation. Visa requirements for your trip will vary depending on where you are from and where you are going. We keep the following information up to date as far as possible, but rules do change and sometimes without warning. While we provide the following information in good faith, it is vital that you check the information yourself and understand that you are fully responsible for your own visa requirements.

Visa information specific to your destination and nationality can be found in our Important Pre-Departure Information page here

Mongolia Visa Exemptions: Citizens of the following countries do not require a visa to enter to Mongolia

Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Ecuador, Philippines, Malaysia, Kazakhstan, Israel, Hong Kong, Kyrgyzstan, The United States of America, Macau, The Lao People's Democratic Republic, Thailand, Japan, Germany, Belarus,Turkey, Serbia, Canada, Russia, Singapore, Uruguay, Peru. Please check (https://consul.mn/home/eng/consuleng1.php?moduls=23) for allowed the duration of stay

Citizens that are eligible to apply for E-Visa online: Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, China, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Monaco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Korea, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, and the UK.

With E-Visa, no need to request LOI or apply for Visa at Mongolian Consulate or Embassy.

Mongolian E- visa website https://evisa.mn/main

Nationalities which are not listed on Mongolia Visa exemptions list or the E-Visa list are required to apply for a Mongolian visa with official Mongolian Letter of Invitation (LOI).

It is the responsibility of the traveller to check with their nearest Embassy and confirm the requirements for entry into Mongolia

IMPORTANT: If your country of citizenship is not mentioned on Mongolia Visa exemptions list or not on E visa list & you require an LOI. Once your trip is confirmed, 90 days prior to your entry into Mongolia, you must submit an application for your Letter of Invitation (https://www.gadventures.com/visa-forms/Mongolia/). The details will be forwarded to our local agent in Mongolia and you will be emailed your Mongolian Invitation Letter about 14 business days after submission. Mongolia LOI's can be rushed in extreme circumstances.

IMPORTANT: Once your trip is confirmed, at 90 days prior to your entry into Mongolia, you must submit an application for your Letter of Invitation. A link will be emailed to you in your confirmation email. The details will be forwarded to our local agent in Mongolia and you will be emailed your Mongolian Invitation Letter about 10 business days after submission. Mongolia LOI's can be rushed in extreme circumstances.

Mongolian visas can be used up to 3 months from the date the visa is issued, and once you have entered Mongolia, the visa is valid for a maximum of 30 days. Therefore, please time your application accordingly and do not apply for the visa more than 3 months in advance of your trip.

Input your name the same way it is in your passport. The information on the application form must match your passport (if you have 2 or more names - all of them have to be listed under "first name").

If you have an umlaut or other character not recognized in the english alphabet in your name (ie. ü), please enter it in the longer form (ie. ue).

If your country has an official Mongolian Consulate/Embassy, you must choose this as as your 'Visa pickup Embassy'. If you do not see a local Consulate/Embassy on this list or you are unable to go there due to prior travel arrangements, please contact your Travel Agent or G Adventures for further assistance.

Once you have received your Mongolian LOI and are completing the visa application from the Mongolian Embassy or Consulate, please refer to the LOI for the Supplier details required.

At time of writing, the below documents will be needed to obtain your visa (however, we do advise you confirm this with your nearest Embassy):

1. A standard visa application form from the Embassy or Consulate where you will collect your visa
2. 2 colour, passport sized photos (taken within 14 days)
3. Payment for the visa (this will be dependent on nationality and will sometimes need to be made at a local nearby bank - check with your Embassy to confirm details)
4. Passport with empty pages and at least 6 months validity
5. Mongolia Letter of Invitation
6. We also recommend bringing your vouchers as well as proof of onward travel (flight tickets entering and leaving the country) and a copy of the itinerary, printable from our website. While this may not be needed, we recommend having a copy on hand if needed.

Please carefully check all the information below prior to submitting

Once you have received your LOI you can apply for your visa by going to the Mongolian Embassy you listed in the online application. Please remember that it is your responsibility to check whether passport details, name spelling and dates on the LOI are correct.

Information accurate as of March 28th, 2022

Where can I read detailed notes about this trip?

Mongolia is a fascinating destination to visit, full of natural, wild beauty and traditional life. Travel is becoming easier for foreigners but please be aware that English is still not widely spoken outside the large cities and that accommodation, toilet facilities and some transportation is not yet at the same level as you would expect in developed countries. If you are able to bring with you a lot of patience, a great sense of humour and a willingness to try and interact with the local people, your travel experience wil be greatly enhanced.

What should I consider when planning my personal expenses and discretionary spending for this itinerary?

Every traveller is different and therefore spending money requirements will vary. Some travellers may drink more than others while other travellers like to purchase more souvenirs than most. Please consider your own spending habits when it comes to allowing for drinks, shopping and tipping. Please also remember the following specific recommendations when planning your trip.

What should I know about currency, credit cards, and exchanging money while on this tour?

As currency exchange rates in Asia fluctuate often we ask that you refer to the following website for daily exchange rates: www.xe.com. As of December 2015 the exchange rate for Mongolia is 1 USD = 2000 MNT (Mongolian Tugrik). There are many ATM machines that accept both Visa and Mastercard but these are limited to major cities. We also recommend the use of cash and travellers cheques in USD currency. Major credit cards are accepted in most shops but they may charge a 2-4% transaction fee.
One of the main things to remember is that Mongolian Tugriks can't be exchanged outside Mongolia.
Because of bank regulations and exchange rate the best USD notes to have are $50 and $100 without any marks/ stamps/holes or stains on them. If a banknote has a mark it might be refused to be exchanged.

What emergency funds do I need access to on this trip?

Please also make sure you have access to at least an additional USD $200 (or equivalent) as an 'emergency' fund, to be used when circumstances outside our control (ex. a natural disaster) require a change to our planned route. This is a rare occurrence!

Do I need to pay a departure tax?

International Departure tax is included in the flight ticket.

What are the tipping guidelines for this trip?

It is customary in Asia to tip service providers such as waiters, at approximately 10%, depending on the service. Tipping is expected - though not compulsory - and shows an expression of satisfaction with the people who have assisted you on your tour. Although it may not be customary to you, it is of considerable significance to the people who will take care of you during your travels. There are several times during the trip where there is opportunity to tip the local guides or drivers we use. You may do this individually, or your CEO will offer to collect the money and tip as a group.
Recommendations for tipping drivers and local guides would range from $2-$3 USD per person per day depending on the quality and length of the service; ask your CEO for specific recommendations based on the circumstances and culture. Also at the end of each trip if you felt your G Adventures CEO did an outstanding job, tipping is appreciated. The amount is entirely a personal preference, however as a guideline $20-25 USD per person, per week can be used.

What activities are optional on this trip?

- Ulaan Bataar Note: Many of the attractions have an additional fee for still cameras (around $3-5) and video cameras (around $10). Monastery Ghandan Khiid $3, Photo Big Bhuddha $5 Winter Palace of Bagd Khan $3, Photos $25 Natural History Museum $3, photos extra National Museum $3, photos $5 extra Museum of Chonin Lama – Monastery $3 Culture show $10-15 Chinggis Khan Cavalry show $50-70. Seasonal, selected days in July and August. See www.chinngis-cavalry.mn for detailed information Countryside Amarbayalgalant Monastery $3 Erdenne Zuu Monastery $3, photos $5, video $10 Ongi Khidd Monastery (near Erdenedalay) $3 Monastery Khongo Khan mountains (Bayan Gobi) $2 Horse ride approx $7 hr Horse ride full day Lake Khorsovol approx $30, depends on group size Camel ride approx $6-10 hr Boat to reindeer family. Depends on group size allow $25 Photos at reindeer family $3 Boat ride Lake Khovosol $6 min (6 pax) Museum Gobi desert $2 All prices are per person (unless stated otherwise), and are subject to change as services are provided by third party operators.

Are there any health considerations I should know before travelling?

Please note inoculations may be required for the country visited. It is your responsibility to consult with your travel doctor for up to date medical travel information well before departure.

You should consult your doctor for up-to-date medical travel information well before departure. We recommend that you carry a First Aid kit and hand sanitizers / antibacterial wipes as well as any personal medical requirements. Please be aware that sometimes we are in remote areas and away from medical facilities, and for legal reasons our leaders are prohibited from administering any type of drug including headache tablets, antibiotics, etc. In Asia pharmacies tend to stock the same western drugs as you get at home but they are usually produced locally so please bring the full drug name with you when trying to purchase a prescription drug. When selecting your trip please carefully read the brochure and itinerary and assess your ability to cope with our style of travel. Please refer to the Physical and Culture Shock ratings for trip specific information. G Adventures reserves the right to exclude any traveller from all or part of a trip without refund if in the reasonable opinion of our CEO they are unable to complete the itinerary without undue risk to themselves and/or the rest of the group.

What general safety tips and free-time guidelines should I follow?

Many national governments provide a regularly updated advice service on safety issues involved with international travel. We recommend that you check your government's advice for their latest travel information before departure. We strongly recommend the use of a neck wallet or money belt while travelling, for the safe keeping of your passport, air tickets, travellers' cheques, cash and other valuable items. Leave your valuable jewellery at home - you won't need it while travelling. Many of the hotels we use have safety deposit boxes, which is the most secure way of storing your valuables. A lock is recommended for securing your luggage. When travelling on a group trip, please note that your CEO has the authority to amend or cancel any part of the trip itinerary if it is deemed necessary due to safety concerns. Your CEO will accompany you on all included activities. During your trip you will have some free time to pursue your own interests, relax and take it easy or explore at your leisure. While your CEO will assist you with options available in a given location please note that any optional activities you undertake are not part of your itinerary, and we offer no representations about the safety of the activity or the standard of the operators running them. Please use your own good judgment when selecting an activity in your free time. Although the cities visited on tour are generally safe during the day, there can be risks to wandering throughout any major city at night. It is our recommendation to stay in small groups and to take taxis to and from restaurants, or during night time excursions.

Protests and Demonstrations- Protests and demonstrations, even those that are well intended, have the potential to turn violent with no warning. Counter protests can also turn violent. Action by security forces to disperse demonstrators and protesters may occur at any time. If you are in an area where demonstrators or protesters are gathering, avoid the temptation of staying for a good photo opportunity and leave the area immediately.

Water based activities have an element of danger and excitement built into them. We recommend only participating in water based activities when accompanied by a guide(s). We make every reasonable effort to ensure the fun and adventurous element of any water based activities (in countries with varying degrees of operating standards) have a balanced approach to safety. It is our policy not to allow our CEOs to make arrangements on your behalf for water based activities that are not accompanied by guide(s).

Swimming, including snorkeling, is always at your own risk.

We take all prudent measures in relation to your safety. For ways to further enhance your personal safety while traveling, please visit:

www.gadventures.com/travel-resources/safety/

Are there any specific safety considerations for this itinerary?

We strongly recommend the use of a neck wallet or money belt while travelling, for the safe keeping of your passport, air tickets, travellers' cheques, cash and other valuable items. Leave your valuable jewellery at home - you won't need it while travelling. Many of the hotels we use have safety deposit boxes which is the most secure way of storing your valuables. A lock is recommended for securing your luggage.

What are the mandatory group rules regarding laws and behaviour?

Illegal drugs will not be tolerated on any trips. Possessing or using drugs not only contravenes the laws of the land but also puts the rest of the group at risk. Smoking marijuana and opium is a part of local culture in some parts of the world but is not acceptable for our travellers. Our philosophy of travel is one of respect towards everyone we encounter, and in particular the local people who make the world the special place it is. The exploitation of prostitutes is completely contrary to this philosophy. Our CEOs have the right to expel any member of the group if drugs are found in their possession or if they use prostitutes.

What are the mandatory travel insurance requirements for this trip?

Travel Insurance: Travel insurance is compulsory in order to participate on any of our trips. When travelling on a group trip, you will not be permitted to join the group until evidence of travel insurance has been sighted by your CEO, who will take note of your insurance details. When selecting a travel insurance policy please bear in mind that all clients must have medical coverage and that we require a minimum coverage of USD 200,000 for repatriation and emergency rescue. We strongly recommend that the policy also covers personal liability, cancellation, curtailment and loss of luggage and personal effects. If you have credit card insurance we require proof of purchase of the trip (a receipt of credit card statement) with a credit card in your name. Contact your bank for details of their participating insurer, the level of coverage and emergency contact telephone number.

What is Planeterra?

Planeterra International Foundation is a non-profit organization committed to turning travel into impact by helping local communities earn an income from tourism. Planeterra connects underserved local communities to the benefits of tourism by developing and supporting small community-owned businesses. These businesses support Indigenous people, empower women, grant youth access to employment opportunities, and protect the environment. Planeterra also works to ensure these businesses have a thriving customer base by integrating their projects into G Adventures' itineraries globally.
G Adventures is Planeterra's largest corporate donor, covering all operating costs, so 100% of your donation will bring opportunity to people in need.

G Adventures Dollar-a-day Program - Make Every Day Count - Turn your travel into impact with Planeterra Foundation.

Did you know? Most communities around the world do not benefit from tourism. Give back to the places you visit on your travels by creating opportunities for local people to earn an income, and protect the environment.

Make every day count by donating $1/day for the length of your trip, and join us in empowering the communities you will visit when you travel. 100% of your donation goes directly to Planeterra projects.

How should I dress to respect local customs during the tour?

In Asia the dress standard is more conservative than it is back home. When packing try to pick loose, lightweight, long clothing that will keep you cool in the usually hot and humid climate of Asian summers. In predominately Buddhist countries we ask that you dress respectfully and avoid very short shorts/skirts and singlets/tanktops when visiting temples or other holy sites.

How can I share feedback about my trip experience?

Earn 5% off your next G Adventures Tour (up to $100 USD)*

After your travels, we want to hear from you! Your feedback information is so important to us and to thank you for your time, we are pleased to offer a 5% discount (up to a maximum of $100 USD) off your next G Adventures holiday. All you need to do is submit the form within 4 weeks of the completion of your tour, and you'll be able to join the thousands of travellers who have taken 2, 3, 4 or even 10 or more tours with us!

Discount cannot be combined with other offers or applied to 'Independent' style trips. Maximum discount value is $100 USD (or equivalent currency). Valid for new bookings only. G Adventures reserves the right to withdraw or modify this offer at any time without notice. Limited to one discount per person.

Does G Adventures have an email newsletter I can subscribe to?

Our adventure travel e-newsletter is full of travel news, trip information, interesting stories and contests. To avoid missing out on special offers and updates from G Adventures, subscribe at www.gadventures.com/newsletters/

Stay current on how our company invests in our global community through our foundation – Planeterra. Sign up for Planeterra's monthly news to learn more about how to give back and support the people and places we love to visit.

What are the age restrictions for this trip?

You must be 18 to travel unaccompanied on a G Adventures tour. For minors travelling with a guardian over 21 years old, the minimum age is 12.

Are international flights included in this trip?

No, international flights are generally not included in the price of your tour.

However, on some tours travelling between two different countries, international flights are included as part of the itinerary and price of the tour. Please speak to your GCO or booking agent for further details.

In addition, check-in times and baggage allowances/restrictions vary by airline and can change at any time. For the most up-to-date information for your flight, please contact your airline. We recommend checking in online in advance to avoid potential delays at the airport.

What should LGBTQ+ travellers know about safety and travel considerations on this trip?

The safety and well-being of all of our travelers is a priority at G Adventures and that includes our travelers who identify as part of the LGBTQ+ community. We recognize that there are specific concerns and questions you may have about your adventure in terms of safety and security. We encourage you to visit our LGBTQ+ page for useful resources to ensure you feel safe and comfortable throughout the duration of your trip. The Equaldex tool linked on this page can be of particular help when deciding where you may want to visit next.

Dossier Disclaimer

The information in this trip details document has been compiled with care and is provided in good faith. However it is subject to change, and does not form part of the contract between the client and the operator. The itinerary featured is correct at time of printing. It may differ slightly to the one in the brochure. Occasionally our itineraries change as we make improvements that stem from past travellers, comments and our own research. Sometimes it can be a small change like adding an extra meal along the itinerary. Sometimes the change may result in us altering the tour for the coming year. Ultimately, our goal is to provide you with the most rewarding experience. Please note that our brochure is usually released in November each year. If you have booked from the previous brochure you may find there have been some changes to the itinerary.

VERY IMPORTANT: Please ensure that you print a final copy of your Trip Details to review a couple of days prior to travel, in case there have been changes that affect your plans.

Itinerary Disclaimer

While it is our intention to adhere to the route described below, there is a certain amount of flexibility built into the itinerary and on occasion it may be necessary, or desirable to make alterations. The itinerary is brief, as we never know exactly where our journey will take us. Due to our style of travel and the regions we visit, travel can be unpredictable. The Trip Details document is a general guide to the tour and region and any mention of specific destinations or wildlife is by no means a guarantee that they will be visited or encountered. Aboard expedition trips visits to research stations depend on final permission.

Additionally, any travel times listed are approximations only and subject to vary due to local circumstances.