

# CENTRAL ASIA “5 STANS” AND MONGOLIA 31 DAYS ITINERARY — 2023 (UZBEKISTAN, TURKMENISTAN, TAJIKISTAN, KAZAKHSTAN, KYRGYZSTAN AND MONGOLIA)

## 1 JUNE 13 TUESDAY — ARRIVE TO TASHKENT (UZBEKISTAN)

Welcome to Uzbekistan! Upon your arrival to Tashkent airport, you'll be met and transferred to hotel to check in and rest. We'll have a welcome dinner at 7PM with short introduction about Uzbekistan — one of the economically developed states of the Central Asian region, occupying a bit

more than 11% of the territory of Central Asia. Main branches of industry of the republic are linked with the cotton growing, silk production, fruit and vegetable production and irrigation construction. Today we'll overnight in Tashkent hotel.



## 2 JUNE 14 WEDNESDAY — TASHKENT (UZBEKISTAN)

After breakfast first half of the day we'll visit old part of the city: Khast Imam Complex which displays unique Osman Koran thought to be the world's oldest Koran. Chorsu bazaar- is one of the oldest, biggest bazaars of Tashkent. Madrasah Kukeldash — is a significant architectural sight of the 16 century. After lunch we will continue on to modern part of the city: Independent square called Mustakillik, the main square of Tashkent, flanked by largest public buildings and walls of fountains. A. Navoi theatre square built in 1947 by Japanese prisoners in World War 2. Visits to museum of Amir Temur and museum of Handcraft Art will end our excursion of Tashkent, and we'll have dinner at one of the local restaurants and overnight at hotel in Tashkent.



**3** JUNE 15 THURSDAY – TASHKENT – SAMARKAND 190 MI (UZBEKISTAN)

After breakfast we will take a train to world famous Samarkand located 190 mi from Tashkent. The road to Samarkand is via Syrdarya and Jizzakh provinces and takes approximately 3 hours. We will arrive to Samarkand in the afternoon, check in to hotel and have lunch. After short rest we'll start our excursion of Samarkand by visiting Paper Mills Factory where we'll have a presentation of paper production from mulberry tree, Afrasiyob Museum, Ulugbek's observatory – dated to 1428 - 1429 – known as biggest observatory of the East with best equipment to the time. After dinner at one of the local restaurants we'll transfer to hotel for overnight in Samarkand.



**4** JUNE 16 FRIDAY – SAMARKAND (UZBEKISTAN)

After breakfast at the hotel today we'll have a full day sightseeing of Samarkand. Visit heart of the city – Registan Square which played great role in commercial and scientific life of the time. Gur Emir Mausoleum - mausoleum for the males of Temurid's dynasty, real masterpiece of Central Asian architecture. Shaki Zinda Necropolis in the northern outskirts of Samarkand. Bibi – Khanum Mosque construction of which started in 1399 after Victorian campaign of Temur to India. Central bazaar of Samarkand- Siyobian where we'll taste famous round bread (non) made only in Samarkand. After this long day, we'll have dinner at one of the local restaurants and overnight in Samarkand.



**5** JUNE 17 SATURDAY – SAMARKAND – BUKHARA – 172 MI (UZBEKISTAN)

After breakfast at the hotel, we depart Samarkand for Bukhara. Stop on the way at the ruins of medieval monument Caravanserai Rabat-i-Malik. Continue driving to Bukhara via Gijduvan where we'll visit Abdulla's pottery house where we'll be offered short presentation and a cup of tea. Upon arrival to Bukhara, we'll accommodate at the hotel. Visit Chor Minor memorial. Today we'll dinner in one of the local restaurants and will overnight in Bukhara.



**6** JUNE 18 SUNDAY – BUKHARA (UZBEKISTAN)

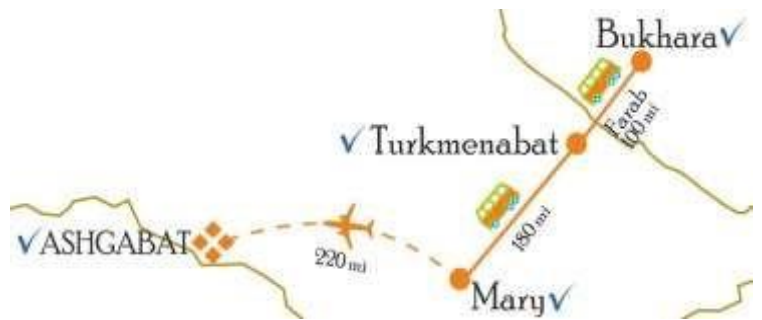
After breakfast we'll have a full day of sightseeing of this ancient city. Bukhara is one of most historically rich cities on the Great Silk Road attracting attention of thousands of people with its unique heritage. Today we'll visit: Samanid's dynasty mausoleum known to be one of the best

architectural samples of the Samanids period (875 - 999). Chashma Ayub Mausoleum – legend say is it of Prophet Jove. Bolo – Khauz Mosque. The Ark Forteress – Citadel is the most ancient memorial of Bukhara, on archeological matter dated to the 3rd century B.C. Kalon Complex – consists of minaret, Mosque and Madrasah both of which are still active. Magoki Attori Mosque. Ulugbek and Abdulazizi Khan madrasahs. Next we'll visit most popular place of Bukhara – reservoir Lyabi Khauz complex built in 1620 by khans' dignitary Nodir Devan Begi. We'll end the day with a dinner at the local restaurant followed by a show program. Today we'll overnight in Bukhara.



## 7 JUNE 19 MONDAY – BUKHARA – FARAB – TURKMENABAT – MARY 290 MI (UZBEKISTAN/TURKMENISTAN)

After breakfast we'll continue with half a day of sightseeing in Bukhara, visiting: former summer palace of Bukhara Emir Said Olimkhan – last Emir of Bukhara Sitora – iMokhi – Khosa, Museum of Decorative- Applied Art. After lunch we say goodbye to Uzbekistan as we make our way to Turkmenistan border which is almost 1.5 hours of driving away. Upon arrival to the border at ~13.00-13.30 point we'll go through custom procedures. After you cross the wire border & passport check you will find a minibus (subject to be



available) which will take you ~800 meters distance to Turkmenistan Customs. Upon arrival proceed with border passing, visa obtaining (if required) & customs procedures. After border passing formalities you need to walk around ~150meters to the next check point where you will find a minibus (subject to be available) which will take you ~600 meters to the last check point where you will find your Turkmenistan guide & transport waiting for you. After the last check point at the border zone you will drive ~280km & 4 hours to Mary via Turkmenabat crossing one of the biggest deserts in the world known as Garagum Desert which means “black sand”. En route we will stop to visit some amazing sand dunes of Garagum Desert. Upon arrival in Mary accommodation & rest. Dinner you will have at one of the local restaurants. Overnight at a hotel in Mary.



## 8 JUNE 20 TUESDAY – MARY – ASHGABAT (TURKMENISTAN)



After breakfast, we will have a morning drive ~35 km & 35min to Bayramaly to have Sightseeing tour of Old Merv which was also known in the past with its title name: Mary Shahu Jahan-King of the World which for about 300 years became one of the biggest city in the World & 8 years Capital of World Islamic Khalifat. Today's excursion at Old Merv will include: Gyz Gala & Oglan Gala (VI-VII), Complex of Askhabs (VIII-XIV), Gyaur Gala (IV BC), Erk Gala (VI BC), Soltan Gala (XI), Shrine & Pilgrimage Complex of Yusup Hemadani: famous scholar who was the founder of one of ways in Sufism whose tomb became a popular pilgrimage sites in Turkmenistan & even among surrounding countries like Iran & etc, Soltan Sanjar Mausoleum (XII), Ibn Zeid Mausoleum (XII). After Old Merv drive back to Mary. Lunch you will have at local restaurant. After lunch break

proceed with Sightseeing in Mary visiting: Local United Museum of History, Ethnography, Flora & Fauna of Mary, Orthodox Church built by Russians at the end of XIX century, Regional Mosque of Mary Province, Central Theater of Mary, Convention & Conference Center “Ruhiyet Koshgi”, Central Park & Monument of Mollanepes-the National Classic Poet who lived in Mary in XVIII-XIXcc. Late afternoon transfer to the airport of Mary for flight to Ashgabat by flight T5-134. Dep: 18.55 & Arr: at 19.35. (subject to change). Upon arrival transfer to hotel with en route stopping have dinner at local restaurant. Overnight in Ashgabat.

Note: Passports & 2 colored photos required to be left at hotel reception for registration at the City Tourist Board (CTB) in Ashgabat.



### 9 JUNE 21 WEDNESDAY – ASHGABAT – NISSA – ASHGABAT (TURKMENISTAN)

Today after breakfast we'll have a full day Sightseeing in/around Ashgabat. Today's sightseeing includes: Memorial Complex with Monuments for Victims of World War II, Patriotic Wars of XIXcc & Monument for the Victims of the Earthquake of 1948, “Turkmenbashynyn Ruhy Metjidi”: the largest mosque in Central Asia & Mausoleum Complex of the tombs of Turkmenbashy (first President of Turkmenistan S. Nyazow) and his parents with his brothers, Old Nissa-The Sanctuary of Parhian Kings. Lunch you will have at one of the local restaurants. After lunch break you will continue with a half day sightseeing in Ashgabat including: Museum of Turkmen Carpets, Park dedicated to Turkmen horses-the pride of Turkmen, Gulistan Bazar which is known as “Russian Bazaar” in public, Monument of Lenin which was erected in 1927 and was one those few monuments which survived the earthquake of 1948, making it the oldest standing monuments in Ashgabat, Ertogrul Gazy Mosque. Dinner you will have at one of the local restaurants. After dinner break night driving city tour along the main avenues/streets of Ashgabat including one stop near Palace of Happiness to have colorful views of night lights of Ashgabat which makes it one of the spectacular cities of Central Asia. Overnight in Ashgabat.



### 10 JUNE 22 THURSDAY – ASHGABAT DASHOGUZ (TURKMENISTAN)

Today after breakfast you will have another full day of sightseeing in Ashgabat which will include: Complex of Monuments of Oguz Han & Sons surrounded with largest in the world fountain complex. The complex includes 27 computerized fountains, with the statue of the founder of the Turkmen nation, Oguz Khan, installed on a central podium, Ashgabat's famous “Altyn Asyr” Oriental Bazaar- Jygyldyk which is located in ~16km to the north of Ashgabat in its new location/complex built in 2011. After Bazaar drive to the Hippodrome of Ashgabat to watch the Horse Race which is free to enter for all which



gives a chance to see & familiarize with the best horses of Turkmenistan: Turkmen Horses-Akhalteke which thought to be the rootstock of Arab, Thoroughbred and etc in motion and “horse crazy” people rooting for their favorite horses without any betting. Lunch you will have at one of the local restaurants in Ashgabat. After lunch break proceed with SS includes: National Museum of History. After Museum proceed with Sightseeing of Monuments of Archabil Shayoly (Berzengi) to have a close impression of the new part of Ashgabat with its modern buildings, monuments & parks which includes: Monument of Constitution, “Alem” Culture & Recreation Center, Arch of Neutrality: famous rocket & tripod style built monument symbolizing neutral status of Turkmenistan. Late afternoon transfer to the airport of Ashgabat for flight to Dashoguz by flight T5-113. Dep: 18.55 & Arr: at 19.45. (subject to change). Upon arrival transfer to have dinner at local restaurant. After dinner accommodation & rest. Overnight in Dashoguz.



## **11** JUNE 23 FRIDAY – DASHOGUZ – KUNYA – URGENCH – KHIYA – 184 MI (TURKMENISTAN/UZBEKISTAN)

After breakfast we will have a morning drive ~110 km which will take 1,5 hours to Koneurgench-the capital of Khorezmshahs (III-XVI cc). The sightseeing of the Old City will include: Turabek Hanum Mausoleum (XIV), Kutlug Timur Minaret (XIV)-one of the tallest minarets in Central Asia, Sultan Tekesh Mausoleum (XIII), Academy of Horezm (III-XIII), Il Arslan Mausoleum (XII), Mausoleums of Najm Ed Din (XIII) & Soltan Ali (XVI) located near Dash Metjit/Medrese (XIX). After sightseeing of Koneurgench drive back to Dashoguz where you will stop for a lunch at one of the local restaurants. After lunch break transfer to the border pass “Dashoguz-Shavat” located in ~15km from Dashoguz. Upon arrival proceed through passport control & customs procedures. After you come out from the Turkmenistan Customs building you will walk ~100 meters to the next check point there will be a minibus (subject to be available) shuttling for ~1000 meters from Turkmenistan Customs to Real Wire Border located between Turkmenistan & Uzbekistan. After you crossing the wire border & last passport check in Turkmenistan side of the border at ~15.00 you will cross in to Uzbekistan & walk for around 200 meters to Uzbekistan Customs where you start again passport control & customs procedures. After you come out of Uzbekistan Customs building you need to walk around 100 meters to get through the last check point where you will find your guide welcoming you back to Uzbekistan.

After border formalities on both sides we’ll continue our way to Khiva. Upon arrival we’ll accommodate in hotel in Khiva for rest and relaxation. Khiva is a fascinating place, walk through Ichan Kala – old walled city of Khiva, will give you an insight into the life led there from ancient days up to the present time. We’ll have a dinner at the local restaurant followed by a show program. Overnight at a hotel in Khiva.

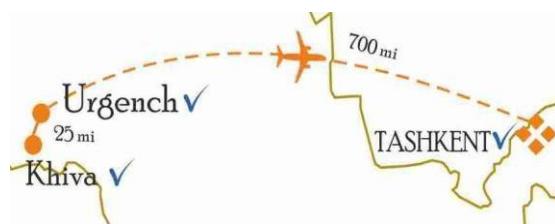


## 12 JUNE 24 SATURDAY – KHIVA – URGENCH – TASHKENT (UZBEKISTAN)



After breakfast at hotel today we'll have a full day sightseeing in Khiva: visit Ichan Kala – a UNESCO World Heritage Site including madrasah Muhammad Amin Khan, Kelta Minar, Kunya Ark, madrasah Muhammad Rakhimkhan. We'll have lunch at local restaurant and continue sightseeing program: visit

Pakhlavan Mahmud Mausoleum, Islam Khodja Minaret and Madrasah, Djuma Mosque and Minaret, Tash Hovli Palace. After dinner at the local restaurant we'll proceed to airport for a flight back to Tashkent leaving at 08:40PM and arriving at 10:10PM (subject to change). Upon arrival to Tashkent, we'll accommodate in hotel for overnight and rest.



Tashkent

## 13 JUNE 25 SUNDAY – TASHKENT – KHUJAND – 104 MI (UZBEKISTAN/TAJIKISTAN)

After early breakfast at the hotel in Tashkent today we'll head on to a one-day excursion of Tajikistan. We'll drive to the border check point Oybek and after border crossing formalities we'll continue on to city Khujand. Upon arrival we'll accommodate at the hotel after a long drive and start sightseeing. Khujand – the country's second largest city – situated in the north of Tajikistan and is one of its most ancient, founded about 2300 years ago during the time of Alexander the Great. Standing in a favorable location in the Ferghana valley, Khujand prospered for a long time, becoming rich and building palaces, mosques, and citadels. In the 13th century it was conquered and destroyed by the Genghis Khan's army. Here we'll have a city tour, visit ancient part of Khujand: Timurlalik fortress, Archeology and History museums, Orient bazaar Panjshanbe – famous Panjshanbe city market is one of the most interesting sights of Khujand. Near the market we'll stop by Sheikh Muslihiddin Mosque and Mausoleum, Museum of Archaeology and Fortification and end the day with a dinner followed by a music show program. We'll overnight in Khujand.



Khujand

## 14 JUNE 26 MONDAY – KHUJAND – DUSHANBE (TAJIKISTAN)

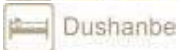
In the morning depart Khujand and drive to Dushanbe (270 km, 5 h.). The mountain road goes via picturesque Anzob pass (3300 m above sea level). Lunch at local restaurant. Mug Tepa-situated in UraTube is one of the ancient settlements in Tajikistan. It is said the city was found by Kir in the north-east boundary of the empire. Khazrati Shoh architectural complex- consists of Khazrati Shoh mausoleum-the grave of brother of Kusam ibn Abbas, Khudayar Valami mausoleum and mosque Namozgoh. There were city cemetery and Medresse too. All these buildings belong to 19th c. Bazaar- an oriental market where you can find everything. Arrive in Dushanbe. Overnight at the hotel.



Dushanbe

## 15 JUNE 27 TUESDAY – DUSHANBE (TAJIKISTAN)

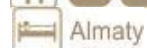
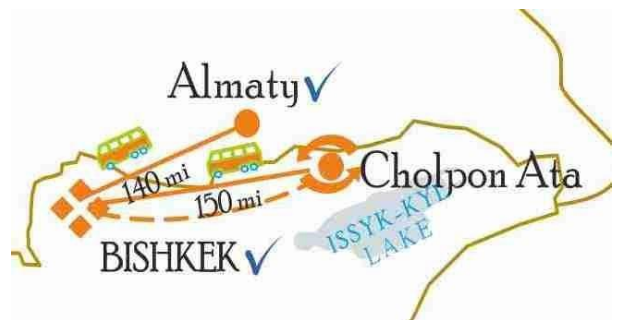
Half day sightseeing tour in Dushanbe including visit of famous Museum of National Antiquities, which opened in 2001. Featuring artefacts from Tajikistan's Islamic and pre-Islamic history (Greek/Bactrian, Zoroastrian, Buddhist and Hindu), the museum shows that Tajikistan was an important crossroads in Central Asia. The centerpiece is the 14m reclining Buddha in Nirvana, (closed on Mondays) a 1,400-year-old statue created by the same Kushancivilisation that made the Bamiyan Buddhas in Afghanistan. Botanical garden – very beautiful garden with many old trees is the favorite place of Tajiks. City tour – Somoni monument, building of a national spirit, Stroll Rudaki Prospect Excursion to Hissor town (23 km from Dushanbe) to see ancient fortress of Hissor - one of the most precious historical sites of Tajikistan. Comfortably located near Dushanbe Hissor Fortress combines the traditional elements of power, trade and culture of the ancient Tajik nation. Visit Medrassah Kuhna (16th c) and Museum of Tajik Way of life there, 19c Medrassah nearby and mausoleum of Sufi saint Mahdumic Azam.



## 16 JUNE 28 WEDNESDAY – DUSHANBE – ALMATY (TAJIKISTAN/KAZAKHSTAN)

We'll have breakfast at the hotel and arrange transfer to the airport for flight to Almaty at 07:00/09:25.

Welcome to Kazakhstan! Upon arrival to Almaty airport, we will meet you and transfer to hotel for rest after flight. It takes about 20 min. of driving to the hotel. After we check in to hotel and have a short rest, we will have a Welcome dinner at one of local restaurants where we'll provide a short introduction about Kazakhstan – the largest country of Central Asia with majestic mountains and plains, glaciers, and deep rivers, lakes and deserts, boundless steppes and the woods adjoin. Such variety of landscapes causes existence of rich natural world. Besides natural sights the country has a lot of rich history which is imprinted in numerous monuments: the remains of ancient settlements, barrows, petroglyphs, mausoleums and mosques being important shrines of Muslim culture. Kazakhstan – is a country of most ancient civilization of Euroasian continent, homeland of nomad tribes, a significant part of Great Silk Road - 1400 km. The republic contains 27 thousand monuments of antiquity. Leading industries of Kazakhstan are: metallurgy, chemical and mechanical engineering. Oil processing and production of building materials are also developed industries of Kazakhstan. After dinner today we'll overnight at hotel in Almaty.



### **17** JUNE 29 THURSDAY – ALMATY (KAZAKHSTAN)

After breakfast at hotel, we have a full day of sightseeing ahead. Today we visit: Panfilov Park, Zenkov Wooden Cathedral, St.Nicholas Cathedral, National Musical Instruments Museum, Central State Museum, Almaty's Green Bazaar and have a Panoramic view at observatory. Alma-Ata is a name of "the southern capital" of Kazakhstan. It is the largest city of country which was state capital during period from 1927 to 1997. Alma-Ata is located in southeast part of Kazakhstan near border with Kyrgyzstan at heights from 670 to 1100 m. The main sight of Alma-Ata are Panfilov Park named in honor of 28 heroes of the panfilovets, stretched in northeast part of the city covering near 18 hectares. Located in center of park is majestic Sacred Voznesensky cathedral. Behind Panfilov park, we come visit to one of biggest market places of Almaty – the Green Bazaar. It is a fine example of a true Asian bazaar. Next we will visit the Museum of national musical instruments named after Ykylas, it was opened in 1980's and contains many types of Kazakh national musical instruments most ancient of which are dated to 17th century. In the southern part of the city we visit Central State Museum – place to see unique archeological finds telling history of Kazakhstan since the most ancient times to present. Museum displays over 120 thousand exhibits. Before dinner excursion to falcon farm with a short show program. After dinner at one of the local restaurants we overnight at hotel in Almaty.



### **18** JUNE 30 FRIDAY – ALMATY – BISHKEK – 170 MI (KAZAKHSTAN/ KYRGYZSTAN)

Today after breakfast at the hotel we depart Almaty and drive to Bishkek via newly built highway. En route which will take approximately 3 hours we will enjoy beautiful landscape. Soon we will welcome you to Kyrgyzstan. On the way we will provide short information about Kyrgyzstan. Republic located in northeast of Central Asia, crossed by two of the world's major mountain ranges: Tien Shan and Pamir. Kyrgyzstan is a mountainous country, with strong continental climate, 93% of its territory is located at over 350 meters above sea level. In the afternoon we will arrive to the capital of Kyrgyzstan – Bishkek. Check in to the hotel for a short rest and have lunch at local restaurant. For the second part of the day we will have a sightseeing of Bishkek - visit Central Museum, Panfilov park, the local bazaar. After dinner at one of the local restaurants followed by a folk show program, today we will overnight in Bishkek.



### **19** JULY 01 SATURDAY – BISHKEK – ISSYK KUL – 165 MI (KYRGYZSTAN)

Today after breakfast at the hotel we depart Almaty and drive to Bishkek via newly built highway. En route which will take approximately 3 hours we will enjoy beautiful landscape. Soon we will welcome you to Kyrgyzstan. On the way we will provide short information about Kyrgyzstan. Republic located in northeast of Central Asia, crossed by two of the world's major mountain ranges: Tien Shan and Pamir. Kyrgyzstan is a mountainous country, with strong continental climate, 93% of its territory is located at over 350 meters above sea level. In the afternoon we will arrive to the capital of Kyrgyzstan – Bishkek. Check in to the hotel for a short rest and have lunch at local



restaurant. For the second part of the day we will have a sightseeing of Bishkek - visit Central Museum, Panfilov park, the local bazaar. After dinner at one of the local restaurants followed by a folk show program, today we will overnight in Bishkek.



**20** JULY 02 SUNDAY – ISSYK KUL – CHOPON ATA – GRIGOREVKA GORGE – BISHKEK – 163MI (KYRGYZSTAN)

After breakfast at the hotel we'll transfer to Grigorievka Gorge. Grigorievka Gorge is located 45 mi. from the city of Cholpon-Ata. Gentle slopes of a valley are covered with a dense fir forest. Length of a valley is 25 mi. The Grigorievka Gorge is considered to be one of the most picturesque in Issyk Kul area. Today we'll have a relaxing day in the nature. Overnight at a hotel in Bishkek.



**21** JULY 03 MONDAY – BISHKEK - ULAANBAATAR (KYRGYZSTAN/ MONGOLIA)

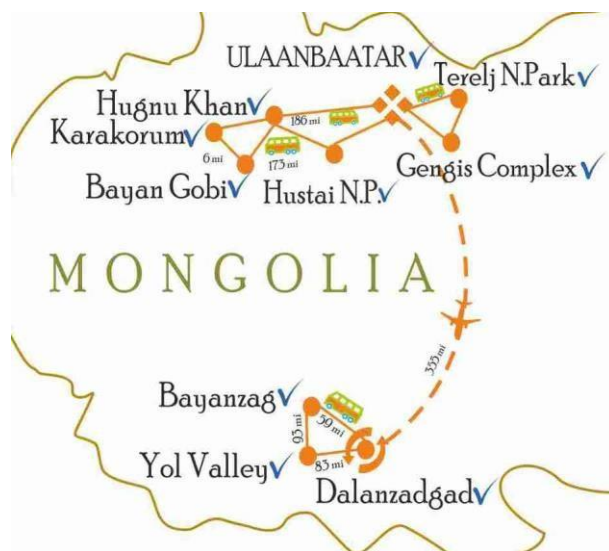
Transfer to the airport for flight to Ulaanbaatar by TK342 at 04:15/10:05 AM. Welcome to Mongolia! Upon arrival, your tour guide will greet you at the arrival hall and accompany you in a comfortable vehicle to your hotel and help you with the check-in procedure.

We leave the rest of the day free for you to be on your own. You may need some time to relax and recover from the long-distance flight or possibly from jet-lag.



**22** JULY 04 TUESDAY – ULAANBAATAR – YOL VALLEY (MONGOLIA)

In early morning, you will be transferred to the city airport for morning flight to Gobi Desert (~1.5 hours). Upon arrival at local airport in Gobi, your Gobi tour guide will be waiting for you and take a short drive to Yol valley situated in "Three beauties of Gobi" Mt. National Park. Yol means Lammergeyer, one of the most endangered bird species of prey. The valley is notable for a deep ice field; it remains frozen for most of the year, except late summer. We will there enjoy soft hiking through grassy meadows, small streams, long and narrow valley with sheltered by high cliff walls, sunlight bouncing off amazing rocks, covered with wild flowers and Gobi plants. You may be lucky enough to spot wild sheep and goat, grazing high on the cliff walls. Afterwards, we will



lunch and check-in at Gobi Nomad Lodge. Rest of the day is free for your own. You can be walking, hiking around the camp or just relax in the camp.



### **23** JULY 05 WEDNESDAY—YOL VALLEY — BAYANZAG (MONGOLIA)

If you get up early this morning, you will have chance to see how the sunrise in the Gobi. After breakfast, we will take 1.5hrs drive to Bayanzag which is a famous for the first discovery of fossilized dinosaurs. Bayanzag is also well known for red tall hillocks formed as a result of wind and water erosion which look like fire in the middle of the desert from distance. We will watch interesting video at Mongol Gobi Ger camp about how Roy Chapman Andrews and American expedition discovered the first dinosaur eggs from Bayanzag and transferred dinosaur skeletons on the camel back through Gobi Desert. Their findings proved to the world that dinosaurs laid eggs. After lunch, we will explore the Flaming cliffs and wander on the red hillocks. We will try to find bones of dinosaurs around Bayanzag. White fossilized bones are still found nowadays. End of day, return to the lodge for dinner and overnight.



### **24** JULY 06 THURSDAY —BAYANZAG — ULAANBAATAR ( MONGOLIA)

In early morning, transfer to the local airport for morning flight to Ulaanbaatar. Upon arrival around 10am at the city airport, transferred to the hotel in Ulaanbaatar. On the way, visit Zaisan Memorial Hill is located in the south side of Ulaanbaatar City, right beside the Bogd Khan Mountain having a best view of the city and surrounding hills. Check-in and lunch at the hotel.

After some personal refreshment in the hotel, at 2.30pm will visit Dinosaur museum. The main exhibit of Dinosaur museum is Tyrannosaurus Bataar which was illegally smuggled out of country and sold in Texas, USA at an auction for over US\$1m in 2012. The government of Mongolia brought a claim through court and brought back the exhibit to Mongolia. The museum is small and can easily be done. However, the collection is quite impressive as all the fossils showcased are originals and complete skeletons. Continue to visit Zanabazar museum which is renowned for the works of G. Zanabazar (1635-1724) who was referred to as the Michelangelo of Asia. After dinner, transferred to the hotel. Overnight at a hotel in Ulaanbaatar.



### **25** JULY 07 FRIDAY — ULAANBAATAR HUGNU KHAN NATIONAL PARK (MONGOLIA)

In the morning at 8am our trip starts Hugnu Khan National Park - It is a picturesque area of Rocky Mountains, semi desert, Gobi sand dunes and steppes all in one location represents three different natural zones. After check-in and lunch at Ger camp near the national park, we will explore the

area. There is ideal for soft hiking, wild life observation and photography. There we will visit Uvgun Monastery in the national park through the semi-desert and interesting Rocky Mountains in beautiful Mountain View.



## **26** JULY 08 SATURDAY – HUGNU KHAN MT. NATIONAL PARK – BAYAN GOBI – KARAKORUM (MONGOLIA)

In After breakfast, we will take short drive to Bayan Gobi magnificent sand dunes - surrounded by hills with willow trees, streams and bushes, and appear as a small desert in the center of the country. This sand dune is 80km long and the widest part of the sand dune is 9-10 km. We will explore the sand dunes and visit local camel herder family in their Ger, explore their unique nomadic lifestyle. Its chance to try drinking Hormog (fermented Mongolian camel milk). Continue to drive towards to a small village and one of the country's major tourist destinations and historically known as Karakorum which was an ancient capital of Mongolia Empire. Also, this was one of the most important cities in the history of the Silk Road. In the afternoon, we will visit museum of Karakorum. Not much of the ancient town still exists but the nearby museum provides an excellent presentation on the archaeological research that has taken place at the site, and on Mongol history before and after occupation of the town. You can see artifacts found by the various archaeological expeditions as well as a scale model of the town prior to its destruction. Karakorum was ancient city of Mongol Empire, which was the largest contiguous empire in the World history. This city founded by Great king Genghis Khan in the 13th century and lately was moved to Khanbalig (modern Beijing) by Kublai Khan, greatest of the successors of Genghis Khan and founder of the Mongol (Yuan) dynasty in China.

Continue to visit the oldest and the magnificent Buddhist Monastery complex of Erdene Zuu, built in the 16th century, with 108 stupas. Here you can see interesting listen to monk chanting Buddhist sutras. Return to the Ger camp for dinner and overnight.



## **27** JULY 09 SUNDAY – KARAKORUM – HUSTAI NATIONAL PARK & WILD HORSE PARK - ULAANBAATAR (MONGOLIA)

After breakfast, we will drive back to Ulaanbaatar. On the way, visit Hustai National Park. The park is home of last wild horses in their natural environment in the world, known as Perzevalski horse (takhi). The National park has over 450 species of vascular plants, 200 of which are medicinal. In the afternoon, we will explore the national park and to see the wild horses. There is great opportunity to take photo for these endangered horses. If you are lucky, you can see fox, deer, marmot, eagle and more wild animals. Besides of the wild animals you can find here beautiful sceneries of the Mongolian nature that features mountain and steppe. Dinner at the hotel restaurant.



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## JULY 10 MONDAY – ULAANBAATAR (MONGOLIA)

Today, we will be attending the opening ceremony of the Festival of naadam in Ulaanbaatar national stadium. It's Mongolia's biggest, most colorful and most important annual cultural event, focusing on three sports: horse racing, Mongolian-style wrestling, and archery. It's no coincidence that all three skills derive from the capabilities of Genghis Khan's legendary military - a force that conquered and controlled the largest empire the world has ever known.

- At 8am picked up from the hotel lobby and visit central naadam stadium.
- First visit is stadium of ankle-bone shooting competition.
- Next, visit the archery field. The field will be filled with men and women archers in colorful ethnic national costumes who shooting arrows from their bows.
- We will wander around outside of the Naadam stadium to watch locals who dressed their national costumes, food and trade corners etc.
- Afterwards, we will enter into main stadium for the opening ceremony of Naadam Festival.
- Once finish the opening ceremony, we will watch the beginning of 1st part of Mongolian national wrestling. In the usual 512 wrestler tournament, there will be nine elimination rounds of wrestling over two days.
- After lunch, we will drive out of the city for a hour to Hui Doloon hudag (horse racing field of Naadam festival) for witness the Naadam horse races, featuring children riding bareback across the steppe. All of these racers from each corners of Mongolia.
- You will experience the brilliant madness of the horse race field and the unsurpassed cultural opportunity to watch the horse racing competition included around 150-200 horses. Also, there are you will have a great opportunity to take photography local horse trainers, peoples with traditional garments and so more contrast.
- End of these experience, return to the city and dinner at local restaurant, then transferred to the hotel.



29

## JULY 11 TUESDAY – ULAANBAATAR (MONGOLIA)

At 9am, take 2hrs drive to "Genghis Khan Statue Complex" which is currently the biggest (40m high) equestrian statue in the world. There is a recreation area, restaurants, and souvenir shops occupy the base structure. From here, we use an elevator or walk to the head of the horse through chest and back neck of the horse, where we can have farseeing and good panorama view over the complex area. Continue towards to Terelj National Park. It's one of the most visited national parks in Mongolia. You can see the extraordinary formation of rocks and stones; some of them look quite similar to turtles. After lunch at Ger camp, we will explore the national park and to see Turtle Rock - interesting rock formation looking like a turtle and visit Ariyabal meditation temple - surrounded by scenic mountains with massive rock formations and sits at top of the mountain. This small hike is seen as a ritual to cleanse one's sins. From the top, you can enjoy the breathtaking view overlooking the Terelj National Park. Also, we will visit local nomadic family to experience firsthand how people live the country side, a lifestyle which has not changed for centuries. Here you can help the herders with their daily tasks to get an idea of how nomadic people alongside of their livestock.



**30** JULY 12 WEDNESDAY – ULAANBAATAR (MONGOLIA)

After breakfast, at 9am our guided city sightseeing tour will start and visit is Gandan Buddhist Monastery, which is Mongolia’s largest functioning Buddhist monastery including the Mongolian Buddhist University. The highlight of visiting to Gandan is 26-meter-high majestic gilded indoor statue of Megjid Janraisig. Continue to visit Museum of Mongolian National History – the museum presents Mongolian history and culture from prehistoric times to the present day. Lunch at "Modern Nomads" restaurant served by national food. Visit Sukhbaatar square (Chinggis Square) which is lies at the heart of the city surrounded by important buildings such as government palace, banks and theaters and post office. There is an equestrian statue of Sukhbaatar and a massive Bronze statue of Chinggis Khan with his four warriors in front of Parliament House. Next visit Bogd Khan Palace museum - the complex was a residence of 8th Bogd Javzandamba in 19th century, the head of Mongolian religion. The palace consists of seven Summer Prayer temples and the winter palace. In the evening, we will visit “Wonders of Mongolia” folklore show by famous Tumen-Ekh ensemble - is one of the most successful folk-art groups to share traditional Mongolian music with the world, having traveled to over 40 countries. Transferred to the hotel. Dinner at the hotel restaurant.



**31** JULY 13 THURSDAY – ULAANBAATAR (MONGOLIA)

As your memorable trip comes to end, then you will be transferred to the airport for your flight to your next destination or home.



 PRICE – \$ 12,950.00 PER PERSON IN DOUBLE  
(SINGLE SUPPLEMENT – \$ 1,900.00)

 GUARANTEED DEPARTURE IN 2023:

<b>Start:</b>	<b>End:</b>
June 13	July 13



## HOTELS:

Tashkent (3 nights)	Tashkent Palace or similar
Samarkand (2 nights)	Konstantin or similar
Bukhara(2 nights)	Sasha and Son or similar
Mary (1 night)	Mary or similar
Ashgabat (2 nights)	Yulduz or similar
Dashoguz ( 1 night)	Dashoguz or similar
Khiva (1 night)	Azia Khiva or similar
Khujand ( 1 night)	Parlament or similar
Dushanbe (2 nights)	Sheraton or similar
Almaty ( 2 nights)	Kazzhol or similar
Bishkek ( 1 night)	Ambassador or similar
Issyk Kul ( 1 night)	Kapriz or similar
Ulaanbaatar (6 nights)	Grand Hill or similar
Gobi Nomad Lodge (2 nights)	Deluxe Ger
Bayan Gobi camp (2 nights)	Deluxe Ger



## PRICE INCLUDES:

- ✓ Letter of Invitation;
- ✓ Visa processing;
- ✓ Hotel Accommodation (double room sharing);
- ✓ Full Board Meals (Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner);\*
- ✓ Bottled water (1 lt per person per day);
- ✓ All Land Transfers with A/C;
- ✓ Internal Flights;
- ✓ Railway ticket;
- ✓ Accompany of guide/escort;
- ✓ Guided sightseeing;
- ✓ Entrance Fees;
- ✓ Show programs.

\*Meals: Breakfast at the hotel. Lunch/Dinner consists of: 1 salad, 1 soup, 1 entrée, bread, tea.



## PRICE EXCLUDES:

- ✗ Tips in hotels, to the guides and drivers
- ✗ Any extra expenses for additional services in hotels
- ✗ Video and photo camera charges