

Golden eagles festival



Days: 14
Price: 1790 EUR
International flight not included
Comfort: ★★☆☆☆
Difficult: ★★☆☆☆
📌 Festival 📌 Culture
📌 Ethnic minority
📌 Off the beaten track 📌 Adventure
📌 Horse riding 📌 Hiking

The Kazakhs of the **province of Bayan Olgii** still live in the respect of their ancestral traditions. **Kazakhs** are famous for their ability to hunt small preys (foxes, wolves,...) thanks to their **golden eagles**. Attend the **Golden eagles festival**, in which more than 60 **Kazakh falconers** take part with their splendid eagles, then **go hunting with a falconer**.

Day 1. Arrival in Ulan Bator and visit of the city



Ulan Bator 📍

- Arrival at the airport, meeting with our driver. **Transfer to your hotel**, settling in, and rest.
- Appointment at 12 o'clock at your hotel with your guide. He will take you to the restaurant of your choice.
- Let's immerse ourselves in the heart of the **Mongolian history**, in the wonderful National History Museum. Three floors of a rich, glorious, violent and noble past, from prehistory to Soviet period, including the creation of the great Mongolian Empire by **Genghis Khan**.
- Walk in the centre of Ulan-Bator. Discovery of Gengis Khan Square and the House of Parliament.
- At 18 o'clock, Mongolian traditional show at Tumen Ekh: folkloric dances, contortion, and of course **khoomi**, the overtone singing.

🏠 Accommodation

Holiday Inn Hotel

Day 2. Flight to the Mongolian Far West



Ulan Bator 📍

✈️ 1500km - ⌚ 1h 30m
Khovd 📍

Ulan Bator - Khovd

- We leave the hectic Mongolian capital to embark on our inner flight to **Khovd**.
- Khovd was an **important commercial centre** located North of the silk road, that had forged links with Russia and China. In 1763, the Manchu administration made build the **fortress of Sangiin Kherem**. 3-metres (9,84 feet) high and 2-metres (6,56 feet) wide walls enclosed the city that covered an area of 4 hectares. Today, the province of Khovd houses **18 Mongolian ethnic groups**.
- **Visit of the local market.**
- Walk on the banks of Lake Khar Us, Southeast of the city.

🍳 Breakfast

Holiday Inn Hotel

🍽️ Lunch

Local restaurant

🍷 Dinner

Local restaurant

Day 3-5. Trekking in Tsambagarav mounts



Khovd 📍

🚗 100km - ⌚ 4h

Tsambagarav mounts 📍

Khovd - Tsambagarav mounts

- We drive until **Tavan Belchir Mount**, whose name means *"the five pastures"*. The mount is located North from Tsambagarav mounts, whose snow-covered peaks culminate at 4195 metres (2,61 miles) above the sea level. Many minorities live in this area, such as **Uriankhai** and **Kazakhs**.

Also

4 5

From Tavan Belchir, we start a 2-days trek in the valleys of Tsambagarav National Park. We'll meet Kazakh and Uriankhai nomads (Mongolian ethnies living in West of the country). **We'll meet a Kazakh falconer** who will show us his eagle.

From Northwest of Tsambagarav mountains, we go closer to the snow-covered summits. **View on the glacier.**

🍳 Breakfast

3 Khovd Tsambagarav

4 5 Made by your team

🍷 Lunch

Made by your team

🍷 Dinner

made by the family

🏠 Accommodation

Yurt for guests with a family

Day 6-7. Eagles Festival



Tsambagarav mounts 📍

🚗 130km - ⌚ 3h 30m

Olgii 📍

Tsambagarav mounts - Olgii

- Stop on the banks of lake Tolbo.

Day 6

- We arrive in the capital of **Bayan-Ölgii** province that is located in the most Western part of Mongolia and that is the farthest city from any ocean in the world. Olgii is located at 1636 km (1,02 mile) from Ulan-Bator, at 1710 metres (1,06 mile) above the sea level. Principally Kazakhs live there and its atmosphere is very influenced by Central Asia: many signs written in Arabic, mosques and their cupolas pricked up to the sky.
- Visit of **Olgii Museum** that shows an exhibition about the fauna and flora of the area. We discover the **Kazakh culture**, notably with traditional costumes and with a Kazakh yurt built in the museum.

Day 7

- Each year, **falconers** living in the area get together on the occasion of the Eagles Festival that symbolizes the opening of the shooting season, where everyone can come with its eagle-hunter and show its skill. Preys are foxes, rabbits, or small wolves. Skill tournaments are held all day long, but also **bushkashi trials**, over the course of which Kazakh horsemen compete to catch the corpse of a sheep. The first one who catches it must bring it behind a predefined line, while the other ones try to snatch it from him.

You'll attend this trial all day long.

🍳 Breakfast

6 Made by your team

7 Baavgain khondii camp

🍷 Lunch

Local restaurant

🍴 Lunch	6 Local restaurant 7 Picnic from the camp
🍷 Dinner	Baavgain khondii camp
🏠 Accommodation	Baavgain khondii camp

Day 8-11. Hunting with a falconer and its golden eagle



Olgii 📍
🚗 30km - 🕒 45m
Sagsai 📍

Olgii - Sagsai

- You'll attend the second day of the Eagles Festival. The trials come one after another before the presentation of the prizes.
- At the end of the day, we follow a falconer to his home, in the **village of Sagsai**, where we spend the night.

Also

9 10 11

We go with our host during **three days** for a shooting party. On horseback, we follow the falconer in the neighbouring mountains. Once upright, **the falconer removes the mask from its eagle and the eagle scans the horizon with its sharp eyes...** If it can see a prey (rabbit, fox, wolf), it lets out a small cry to tell its master it saw something ; so the latter releases the animal that goes swooping on its prey.

For this ancestral hunting technique, patience is queen, because the animal does not catch game each time, but seeing this proud animal united with man in this hundreds of years-old practice is indisputably **the key moment of any travel in Central Asia**.

🍳 Breakfast	Made by your team
🍷 Lunch	8 Picnic from the camp 9 10 11 Made by your team
🍷 Dinner	made by the family
🏠 Accommodation	CHS kazakh

Day 12-13. Return flight to Ulan Bator



Sagsai 📍
🚗 30km - 🕒 45m
Olgii 📍
✈️ 1700km - 🕒 2h
Ulan Bator 📍

Olgii - Ulan Bator

- We arrive in Olgii and embark on our plane to fly back to Ulan-Bator.

Day 12

- Arrival in town and transfer to your hotel where you can rest a few moments.
- Rest of the day free. With our guide, you can go and shop in the centre of the city.

Day 13

- There are not flights between Ulan Bator and Olgii every day, so this day serves as buffer and can be held now, at the end of the tour, or at the beginning. We may also spend this day in Altai instead of Ulan Bator.
- Visit of Gandantegchinlen Monastery. In the morning, lamas get together to pray. They will answer your questions at the Mongolian Buddhist Centre.
- Visit of the Bogd Khan Winter Palace.

☕ Breakfast

12 Made by your team

13 Holiday Inn Hotel

🏠 Accommodation

Holiday Inn Hotel

Day 14. Have a nice journey and see you soon !



Flight back 📍

- Breakfast at the hotel. We go with you to the international airport of Ulan Bator. The transfer can be organized at the time you want, according to the schedule of your flight.

☕ Breakfast

Holiday Inn Hotel

Itinerary map

Departure dates

Start date	End date	Available	Status	Price
2019/09/29	2019/10/12	4	Confirmed	1790 EUR

Individual price per person

2-2	3-3	4-4	5-8	9-10
2800 EUR	2400 EUR	1990 EUR	1890 EUR	1790 EUR

Included

- Transfers airport / hotel / airport
- Flights Ulan Bator / Khovd & Olgii / Ulan Bator
- 3 nights in 3* hotel in Ulan Bator, breakfast included
- Full pension during the tour
- Water
- 2 nights in comfortable Kazakh yurts camp with warm showers
- 7 nights in a host family, in a guest yurt
- 1 night in a provincial hotel in Khovd
- Journeys in Russian 4x4 UAZ + driver
- Petrol
- English-speaking guide
- Assistant for groups > 8 persons
- 3 days horse riding during which you'll follow the falconer hunting
- Local guides during the treks
- Entrance fee for the Eagles Festival
- Entrance fees for parks and museums indicated in the program
- Traditional show
- Equipment for meals (camping tables and chairs) and nights (sleeping bags)

Not included

- International transport
- Passport and visa fees
- Repatriation insurance
- Travel insurance
- Drinks / alcohols extras
- Meals in Ulan Bator
- Phone calls
- Any excursion that is not indicated in the program
- Additional charges for luggage exceeding 15kg (total weight for both carry-on checked luggage) on the domestic flight