

# ULAANBAATAR

MONGOLIA

Welcome to  
Historic, Harmonious and Hospitable  
ULAANBAATAR

THE CITY You'll  
never get bored

A GUIDE TO NOMAD CUISINE

Six parties in a single night

EVENTS 2015

# Ulaanbaatar Official Travel Guide

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Historic, harmonious and hospitable  
**ULAANBAATAR**  
MONGOLIA

HUB Historic UB Harmonious UB Hospitable UB

## City of **Contrasts**

This ever-changing city may be the biggest surprise of your Mongolian adventure

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## GREETINGS

“Guests whelm the hospitable home, and fish flock the algae-rich lake,”  
a Mongolian proverb says.

For centuries, the hospitable culture of the nomadic Mongolians - people that have left distinct marks in the history of the world - has been recorded in the writings by many, including the famous explorer Marco Polo. Today the capital city of Mongolia, Ulaanbaatar, a major cultural, economic and intellectual center of Mongolia, with inherited age-old traditions of hospitality and generosity of Mongolian people, is growing fast as an infrastructure, economic and commercial hub in Asian region.

People who have visited Ulaanbaatar witness its own type of beauty. The traditional Mongolian felt ger amongst the modern glass skyscrapers, people dressed in business suits rub shoulders with people in Mongolian traditional clothing deal in the downtown boulevards are unique scenes of the city that elicits excitement of the mixture of Western and Eastern cultures and contrast between modern and traditional lifestyles.

The world-famous Naadam Festival, the stainless-steel grand equestrian statue of Great Chinggis Khaan, beautiful natural landscape of Terelj and wildlife of Khustai national parks are the starting point to explore rich culture, history and adventure of Mongolia.

We cordially invite you to visit Ulaanbaatar, a city of nomads in the center of a free and vibrant Asian democracy. You can do so by Trans-Siberian railway connecting Asia and Europe or by direct flights from over 20 cities in the world.

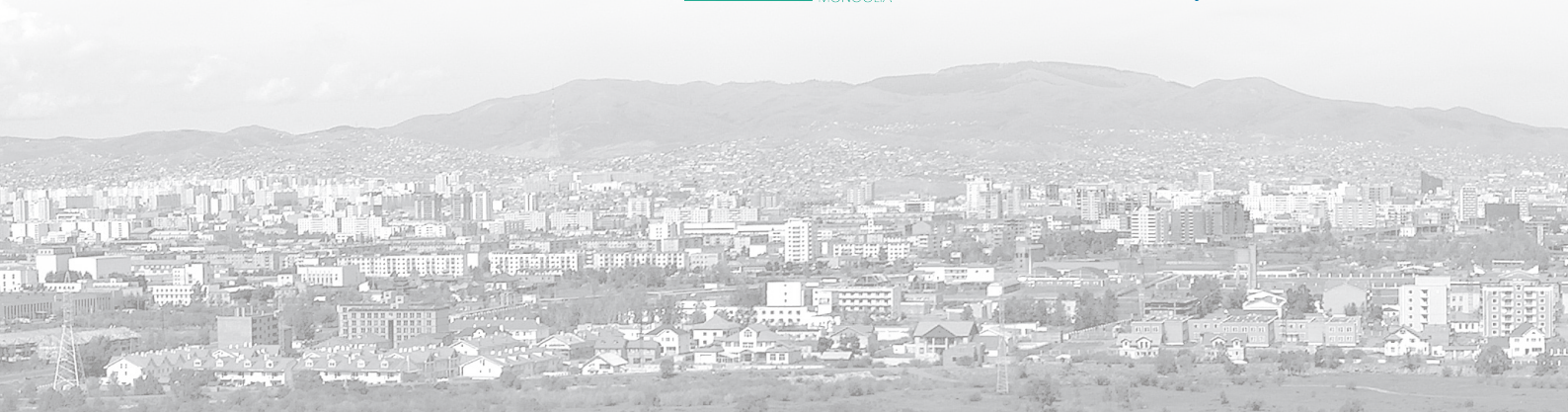
We assure you that Ulaanbaatar offers something surprising and exciting for everyone.

With kind regards,

BAT-UUL Erdene  
Governor of the Capital city of Mongolia,  
Mayor of Ulaanbaatar

Historic, harmonious and hospitable  
**ULAANBAATAR**  
MONGOLIA

**MONGOLIA**  
Nomadic by Nature



# WHY UB

Ulaanbaatar today is a vibrant city of more than one million residents. The city reflects a close and sometimes amusing juxtaposition of nomadic traditions and modern society, perhaps best summarized by its skyline dotted with both the nomadic ger dwellings and towering skyscrapers. The city's contrast can also be found among those who call it home, from traditional-clad herders, to Armani-suited business men and women, to a growing number of expatriates hailing from nearly every corner of the globe. In short, there is something for everyone, and always a sight to behold in Ulaanbaatar.



## HISTORIC

Like nearly a half of the Mongolian population, the capital city of Ulaanbaatar itself is nomadic. The city has changed its locations about 20 times over the past 350 years before taking root in its current location in sweeping valley bounded by four sacred mountains including Mt Bogdkhan, the first national park in the world.

Ulaanbaatar is the economic, political and industrial center of Mongolia and central hub for trips to all the enjoy destinations within the country. Many of museums have interesting collections and are well worth a visit in Ulaanbaatar, such as Dinosaur museum and Intellectual Museum etc. Major sightseeing places are located close to the downtown surrounding Great Chinggis Khaan square, the heart spot of Ulaanbaatar.

## HARMONIOUS

### Events and Festivals

UB hosts special events during different seasons of the year. Naadam is the most famous of summer, while Ulaanbaatar Winter Festival is in the middle of winter. Other major tourist-attractive events include the Golden Eagle Festival, the Mongolian Traditional Costume Festival and so on.

### UB city night-out

As you might expect in a city of over a million people Ulaanbaatar has an amazing array of nightlife options and a scene for everyone.

### Shopping

As Ulaanbaatar is becoming a metropolitan city, there have been a number of shopping centers, indoor and outdoor whole-sale markets and boutiques have been opening rapidly in the past couple of year. They offer wide variety of unique national brands which include cashmere, carpets, leather goods and organic products.

## HOSPITABLE

Nomads are well known to the world by its hospitality. So as UB city, is welcoming you to the hUB of nomads where hospitality inhabits over centuries. Whether its luxury hotels, ger-camp traditional stay, guesthouses, we've got something to suit for every type of traveler. Spend few hours to get in nature and stay in and around national parks. There are plenty of resorts and lodges nearby the city.

Ulaanbaatar is a city with variety of restaurants and cuisines. Whether it's traditional or modern, European or Asian, small cafe or high class restaurants, UB's got enough eats to fulfill your satisfaction.



# THE CITY YOU'LL NEVER GET BORED

Since its foundation in 1639 as a mobile-yurt monastery and palace, Ulaanbaatar City has moved its location over 20 times. The nomadic origins of Ulaanbaatar distinguish its history from other world capitals. According to Mrs. Sergelen, an art historian and professor at Mongolian University of Science and Technology, Ulaanbaatar settled in its current location at the end of 18th century. From then until today, Ulaanbaatar has developed in waves of concentric circles, known in Mongolian as a Khuree Style of organization and development. Thus, most of the larger business and government buildings fall within the inner, 'Big Circle,' where you'll find in today's modern Ulaanbaatar, with its mix of luxury stores, skyscrapers, government offices and high apartment complexes all located downtown. The outer circle is more traditional, with entire districts composed mostly of nomadic style ger dwellings surrounding the city center. In every corner of Ulaanbaatar, however, you'll find examples of the modern mixed with the traditional way of life.

## DAY ONE

### ■ MORNING: INTRODUCTION TO NOMADIC ART

A visit to a museum or an art gallery can be a great introduction to Mongolian history. The Bogd Khan Winter Palace Museum is worth a stopover for its beautiful 19th century architecture and treasure-trove of sculptures and other art. The Zanabazar Fine Arts Museum displays wonderful exhibits from 7,000 years of local history, with early human-carved rocks, monolithic deer stones, Buddha statues, and traditional Mongol-style paintings by famed artists B. Sharav, Jugder and Tsagaan Jamba. For a taste of modern Mongolian art, the Mongolian National Modern Art Gallery, the 976 Art Gallery, the Tsagaandarium Art Gallery & Museum, and the Blue Moon Art Gallery all have great showcases and a number of public events. The Badamkhand Art Museum as well contains many rich exhibits of modern and Asian art.

### ■ AFTERNOON

**CHINGGIS KHAAN SQUARE** Chinggis Khaan Square at the heart of downtown is the impressive largest square-shaped central plaza, one of the largest of the kind worldwide. The Government Palace, the City Administration Building and the Stock Exchange surround Chinggis Khaan Square. Take a peek inside the Government Honor and Ceremony Hall Room to see the Nine White Banners, the most treasured symbol of the Mongolian state. The Central Cultural Palace Building complex on the east side of the square is representative of 20th century Mongolian architecture, combining the modern with the traditional. The complex includes the

Grand Concert Hall, the Theatre Museum, the State Philharmonics, the National Modern Art Gallery and the Children's Library.

Visit the Central Tower on the square's southeast corner at lunchtime. A variety of chic restaurants on the third floor offer Japanese, Korean, and European cuisine, plus a top-floor restaurant has a beautiful view of Ulaanbaatar from above. Plenty of shopping on the first and second floors, so get your boutique fix at Louis Vuitton, Burberry, Emporio Armani, Hugo Boss, L'Occitane, Shiseido and Hublot.

### ■ EVENING: DINING AND NIGHTLIFE DOWNTOWN

You'll find most of downtown's delicious eateries on Baga Toiruu and Seoul streets. Options include Mongolian, Korean, Japanese, Turkish, Sri Lankan, Uzbek, Czech and American cuisine. The Bull Restaurant on Seoul Street is famous for its lively décor and Asian-style 'hot pot' – trendy, make-your-own-soup fare complete with the freshest ingredients. Each table contains an individual hot plate for every diner to keep your preferred broth base at a boil. The fun starts in deciding what ingredients to add for your soup—choices include fresh beef, lamb and chicken, dumplings, mushrooms and vegetables of all kinds. Both locals and foreigners enjoy getting creative and crafting their own soups on the fly. If you're in the mood for Mongolian cuisine, try Modern Nomads on Baga Toiruu. Order a delicious Mongol-fusion dish from their select 'Avatar' menu.

The best nightlife can be found at the Blue Sky Lounge,

Ulaanbaatar's premier nightclub, on the 23rd and 24th floors of the Blue Sky Hotel & Tower (south across the street from Chinggis Square). Here you can relax with great music and a full bar, while enjoying a panoramic view of the city from Ulaanbaatar's tallest building.

## DAY TWO

### ■ MORNING

The Gandantegchinling Monastery, located near downtown, is one of the most recognizable landmarks in Ulaanbaatar. The first thing you see as you cross through the monastery gate is the Avalokitesvara (Megjid Janraiseg) Temple, housing the largest relic in Mongolian Buddhism – the beautiful, 26.5 meter-high gilt statue of Bodhisattwa Avalokitesvara (Migjid Janraiseg, according to Tibetan and Mongolian canon). The monastery compound also includes 6 temples, each with displays of ancient sutras and antique statues, and a Buddhist university (seminary).

### ■ AFTERNOON SHOPPING DOWNTOWN

Shopping If you walk south down the street from Gandantegchinling Monastery you arrive at Peace Avenue, aligned with dozens of shops, cafes and restaurants. Many large shopping malls, such as the Grand Plaza, Max Mall, the State Department Store, and the Ulaanbaatar Department Store, are conveniently located within walking distance along Peace Avenue. International luxury brands, locally produced quality goods (such as cashmere) and other souvenirs can be found in each mall. The State Department Store, however, is a one-of-a-kind destination to have your name written in

calligraphic Mongolian script.

Narantuu Market, or the old 'Black Market,' is a nearby outdoor bazaar and popular tourist destination. Here vendors sell everything under the sun—from Chinese knockoffs of luxury brands to authentic Mongolian traditional costumes, leather jackets and hats, famous Mongolian leather riding boots and a variety of handicrafts and antiques, all for a reasonable price.

### ■ EVENING

#### CLASSIC AND TRADITIONAL MONGOLIAN PERFORMANCES

Mongolia is well-known within Asia as a great contributor to classical art. Many Mongolian ballet dancers have toured the theatres of America, Germany, Korea and Japan. The wide achievements of Mongolian artists can be seen in the repertoire of the Mongolian State Opera and Ballet Theatre, which have many performances throughout the year. If you wish to get to know traditional Mongolian art, attend a concert by Tumen Ekh, Mongolia's premier traditional performance group, at the National Recreation Center. Performances of 'long songs', throat singing, 'horse head' fiddles and contortionists will give you a great introduction to native Mongolian art, and all are expertly done.

After the performance, drive south to Zaisan Hill World War II Memorial, where you'll have your best view of the city as the sun sets. Stay a little longer until the stars come out and reflect on the sights and sounds of your wondrous visit to Ulaanbaatar.  
- NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC TRAVELER MONGOLIA

# THE FINEST CASHMERE FROM THE HIGH PLAINS OF MONGOLIA

*Light yet strong in texture, exceptionally warm, soft as a feather and all natural. Cashmere is a product like no other. Did you know that the finest cashmere in the world comes from the Mongolian steppes?*

It is obtained from goats herded in open air pristine environment all year round. High altitudes combined with remarkably long periods of cold weather contribute to the fact that Mongolian goats yield the finest (13.7-16 microns in diameter) and longest (38-43 mm/1.50-1.70 inches) fiber to deliver the most elastic and sturdiest yarn in cashmere production.

Often described as a type of wool, cashmere is a very fine undercoat fiber, in fact, a hair grown by goats during the winter months. Since the cashmere fiber layer is air tight, it is naturally very warm and lightweight as compared to sheep's wool. Knitwear made from its fine yarn can keep in warmth 1.5-2 times better than regular wool products. Every spring, during the molting season, Mongolian herders comb each goat by hand. It takes several days to comb out the finest hair under the nape of the goat's neck. On average, the yearly production per goat is estimated at 150 grams (about 1/3 lb). Through careful craftsmanship, Mongolian producers convert the raw cashmere into high-end luxury products. The best Mongolian cashmere brands

like Gobi, Goyo, Altai Cashmere and Buyan are exported and available on international markets, where the future of cashmere is said to rest in innovative technology and competitive design. Moving beyond traditional scarves and sweaters, nowadays the cashmere racks are lined with fashionable polo shirts, suits and jackets. Original Mongolian designs get introduced at world haute-couture houses. Recently, the cashmere collection by designer Katya Zol had received praise at the international 'Fashion-Me' fair in Dubai. Others like Tserendorj Oyuna and Dashnyam Semka successfully seek to fuse the nomadic clothing designs with street fashion of London and Milan.

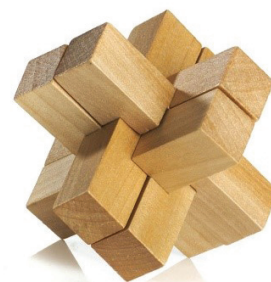
Following the global trend, the country's largest cashmere maker Gobi (est. 1981) now produces 100% organic cashmere dyed with natural products. The Goyo brand (est. 1993) has introduced a regular line of children's cashmere collection. For Mongolian quality cashmere please visit the name stores at the major Ulaanbaatar shopping malls and factory outlets.



Showroom at the Gobi Factory Outlet

## TOP SIX BEST SELLING MONGOLIAN SOUVENIRS

A quick survey of dozen Ulaanbaatar souvenir shops has named six top best-selling local souvenirs consistently sought out by visitors and travelers.



**Mongolian Puzzle Games.** In a way, a wooden puzzle resembles the structure of Mongolian ger. Take a puzzle apart and try assembling it back into a single piece. Authentic Mongolian intellectual toy, it is a good gift for school-age children.

**A Set of Four Anklebones.** Mongolian game of anklebones is played with many objects. However four bones are the minimum set. A player throws bones at a flat surface to check the fortune or to win a score.

**Felt Chess Game.** Unfold a rolled up felt cloth and it becomes a chess board. Arrange the tiger, camel, horse, ox cart etc. Mongolian chess is an original ancient game.

**Mongolian Style Watercolor.** Large selections of watercolor paintings depicting nomadic lifestyle, can be found for sale at every souvenir shop in the city. Similar paintings are also offered by individual street vendors. Mongolian vertical calligraphy is becoming the next trendy form of artistic souvenirs.

**Felt Slippers.** Mongolian felt made home slippers are more than just a souvenir item. They prove to be practically useful and come in all shapes, sizes and colors. Well-made slippers are comfortable and soft, and will keep owner's foot warm and dry. However, when making a purchase, be aware the quality of felt itself is not always equal. Hand-made slippers cost more than factory-made ones.

**Embroidery.** Colorfully embroidered rugs, tablecloths, handbags, coin bags, passport and cell phone covers, mainly hand-crafted by artisan women from Western Mongolia.

# THE SQUARE THAT MAKES OUR MEMORIES



## ANYONE WHO ARRIVES AT CHINGGIS KHAAN SQUARE,

the heart of Ulaanbaatar, feels that they stand at the crossroads of Mongolia's past and future. Tourists coming to Mongolia, "the land of Chinggis Khaan" from far away, wish to stay closer to Chinggis Khaan Square. Chinggis Khaan square is "close to everything", including the Government house, theatres, state organizations, museums, galleries, restaurants and coffee shops. Everything gets clear from the square. Anyone who is lost after finding the square becomes relaxed as if they have met an old acquaintance, in our city.

There isn't much to see at the square, however, here we see everything and enjoy. Happy wedding celebrations, graduation ceremonies, military parades, the nine white





banners of the horse cavalry, an official ceremony of state leaders, convoys of elegant black cars, and a gathering of stars which cannot be seen free of charge elsewhere...

We parade and gather at the square and spend memorable moments. Chinggis Khaan square is a well-known and historic square where Mongolians paraded without losing a drop of blood and stepped into a democratic and free society. Therefore, it is a symbol of our unity.

Everybody likes to walk to the square as if we are in a hurry to see a friend we met the day before. We can hear someone saying "let's meet at the square" anywhere in the city. It is nice to sit at the square reading a book or chatting with friends using Wi Fi, or just sitting and relaxing.

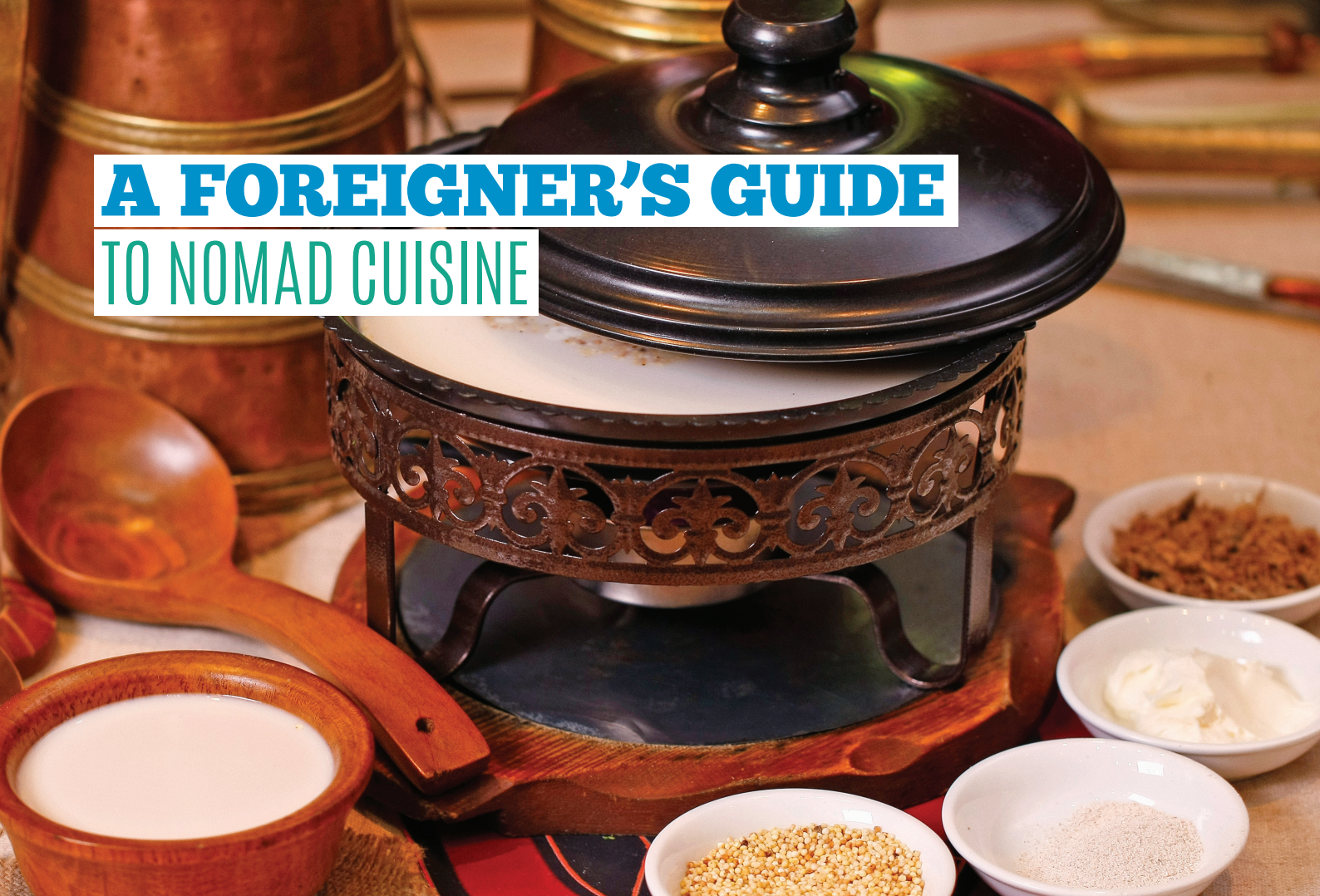
A country boy who lives miles away from the city and who has only seen the city on TV creates a part of his dream to step in this square. The boy dreams of going there when he grows up and becomes a student. You might see a

nomad who has come from the vast steppes of Mongolia to get his photo taken at the square and puts it into his pocket. He is definitely in a rush to show his photo to his neighbouring family. I, perhaps, come here to see happy people... It seems as if all roads lead to the central square and all roads derive from the square...

We create our own history while we walk over the square or by the square. The square makes and keeps our memories.

The boy who was coming to the square holding the hands of his parents will bring his son here as he remembers all those happy moments when he goes through the square. The visitor who has taken a photo of the statue of Chinggis Khaan in Mongolia shall remember the square by looking into the distance, telling their children or grandchildren the amazing history of the Mongolians. — NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC TRAVELER MONGOLIA

# A FOREIGNER'S GUIDE TO NOMAD CUISINE



Mongolian Milk Tea with special ingredients

BY ELAND ROBERT MANN

*One of the best reasons to visit Mongolia — a vast steppe land of pristine natural beauty and generous hospitality — is to discover the delicious food of its resident nomads. For thousands of years, the nomadic Mongol people have lived off domesticated herds of livestock, developing a culinary tradition on the steppe that defines modern Mongolian cuisine. Plates of grilled lamb, fried and steamed dumplings, flavorful vegetable soups and numerous varieties of beef stew are just a few of the traditional highlights. Today, the same wonderful Mongolian dishes can be found in the city, too, fresh from the steppes, at Modern Nomads restaurants.*

Giovanni da Pian del Carpine, one of the first Europeans to visit the court of the Great Khan of the Mongol Empire in Karakorum in 1246, wrote: "Mongolians are rich in five kinds of animals: horses, camels, cattle, sheep and goats. No other nation has as much livestock as they." Then it should come as no surprise that today, in a land of just 3 million people and over 52 million livestock, meat and dairy products are still Mongolia's top dietary staples. The abundance of livestock and its prominence in the nomads' diet is attributed to Mongolia's extensive grasslands and its long winters that allow few crops to grow. To stave off the cold, the nomads survive on a hearty high-fat, high-protein diet. Yet the diet and dishes change with the seasons. On most days during the summer time, the nomads live simply on dairy such as airag — fermented mare's milk, protein-rich and at its peaks deliciousness when the horses are feeding on the new summer grass. The vegetables in the traditional nomadic diet, such as onions, roots and herbs, are those that are native to the wild, and are cooked fresh or preserved for the winter. With such food available to the Mongols, they've perfected a diverse range of dishes each more delectable than the next. As a health-conscious foreigner I especially appreciate the pride Mongolians take in raising livestock that is 100% organic. Chemicals and additives are unheard of

amongst the nomads who raise their herds on the wide-open grassy steppes. And you can taste the quality of the meat in every bite. The renowned beef is rich and tender, while the lamb — whether leg, chop or shank, grilled or boiled in soup — is the finest in the world, never gamey and always succulent.

Over millennia the Mongol nomads have developed many food-related customs. For example: 'white food,' like milk, curds, yoghurt and other dairy products, is eaten during the summer and on national holidays, and is always the first thing offered to guests in one's home. The so-called 'black food,' like pure water or plain liquor, on the other hand, is never used as the first thing offered to guests. The Mongols also preserve much of their meat and dairy for the long winter, preparing their stores by curing, smoking and — most commonly — air-drying. Aaruul, or dried milk curds, is the only Mongolian food that I would describe as an 'acquired taste.' Aaruul has varying textures from crumbly-dry to gumball-hard, can be sweet or sour, and most always has the effervescence of an overripe cheese. It is eaten for breakfast or as a snack, and is unlikely to be found in restaurants. Yet each traditional meal that one is fortunate enough to have in this beautiful country is sure to be amazingly memorable. I have dined in the city homes and

countryside ger of many Mongolians, and on every occasion I always marvel at the wondrous taste of their food. Whether it's homemade buuz dumplings during the winter time Lunar New Year, or horhog grilled meat at an outdoor cookout in the summer, the freshness of the ingredients rivals any other world cuisine. In this respect I would cite, among others, Modern Nomads as a restaurant brand in the country that brings together every plate of Mongolia's great culinary heritage all under one roof, where you can select from the widest range of traditional dishes. And when you compare the prices of meals there to other restaurants in town, you'll find Modern Nomads to be more competitive. I first visited Modern Nomads with several Mongolian friends on a chilly spring day. When I arrived I ordered a cup of suutei tsai, or milk tea. Milk tea combines its titular ingredients with a pinch of salt, to make a savory fortifying beverage that is especially delicious when the weather is colder. A steaming cup of milk tea is always offered to guests visiting a home. The milk tea ceremony at Modern Nomads is a treat for first-time visitors of Mongolia. In the ceremony, a traditionally dressed Mongol woman prepares the milk tea in a copper pot on a stove, ladling the tea with elaborate gestures until the tea achieves the perfect mixture and temperature. For our meal, my Mongolian friends and I shared honiny tolgoi, or sheep's head. The dish is borderline adventurous, as the meal is served atop the lower jaw of the sheep, but the food itself is shredded pieces of tender, slow-cooked mutton, with potatoes, carrots, and onions. When I asked my friends why they ordered such a meal, they responded by saying that only at Modern Nomads can one have true, traditional countryside cuisine—even for the city locals it's overly challenging to cook such time-consuming, labor-intensive meals at home. After tasting the meat of the sheep's cheeks — morsels particularly savory and much tastier than the flavorless meat I was used to as a foreigner — I knew I was forever hooked on the nomad cuisine. I again dined at Modern Nomads during Naadam, the Mongolian summer festival in July. I ordered a plate of huushuur — a wide and flat, crispy fried meat dumpling — as it's the traditional dish of summer. The meal was so good I had it twice more before the Naadam week was over. Many places in Ulaanbaatar serve Mongolian cuisine such as huushuur, however, I've found that though a street vendor's huushuur is occasionally satisfying, it cannot compare to the fluffy, flaky delicacies found in a restaurant, where the huushuur is always stuffed with the highest quality meat, not a mouthful of minced cartilage. The several varieties of buuz on the menu are mouth-wateringly good. Buuz, a steamed meat dumpling, is the traditional food of Tsagaan Sar, the Mongolian Lunar New Year. During the weeks-long New Year celebrations, I've visited the homes of many friends and

eaten my fill of homemade buuz. Every time I eat Modern Nomads' buuz — so juicy, flavorful, and steamed to perfection — I'm reminded of those joyous feast days of Tsagaan Sar. Modern Nomads also specializes in a wide selection of vegetarian appetizers and entrees — a welcome novelty for Mongolian restaurants. Vegetarian huushuur and buuz are refreshing options for those looking for a meatless Mongol experience. If you're looking to sample every Mongolian dumpling dish at once, you must try the special Hamag Mongol, or All of Mongolia platter, which comes with two vegetable and two beef huushuur, two vegetable and two beef buuz, six meat bansh small steamed dumplings — and one grilled lamb rib. There might be enough to share, but that doesn't mean you have to. The diverse array of soups at Modern Nomads are each individually spectacular.

a heap of hot round stones. These ingredients we put with water and salt into a large steel drum, which was then sealed. After a couple hours of pressure-cooking, the meal was finally ready. The meal was fantastically delicious and worth the wait — the broth the richest I've tasted in my life — and yet it was such a laborious treat that I never imagined I'd eat it again anytime soon. Imagine my surprise when I saw horhog on the menu at Modern Nomads. I ordered it, and remained skeptical of its quality until had my first bite. It was as delicious as on that day in the countryside — the broth was better than I remembered — and there was even the requisite hot, smooth stone in the dish. If there are those in your party less interested in nomad cuisine, the menu at Modern Nomads is not lacking in dozens of Western-style dishes. A full bar, cocktail menu and beer on draft



A traditional meal called Three Heights

Borts soup, made of ground dried beef, is a very popular dish generally eaten during the summer, a time when there traditionally was no refrigeration. My personal favorite is bituu shul, a bowl of beef and garlic soup covered on top by a thin layer of noodle. Like a soupie, the noodle keeps the heat trapped within, and it's great to scoop a piece with every spoonful of soup. Horhog, the most delicious meal at Modern Nomads, is likewise one of its most traditional. My first experience with horhog was in the countryside, where a Mongolian family prepared an entire sheep for a feast. I joined in the elaborate preparation, and over the course of several hours we cut up the sheep, prepared sausages, chopped vegetables, and fire-heated

helpfully round out the traditional fare. There are six full-size Mongolian restaurants under Modern Nomads brand in Ulaanbaatar alone. With such delicious food, I've found there is little difference between dining in a countryside ger and dining in a Modern Nomads restaurant, for in both you will delight in the joyful experience of being the honored guest.

# ART & CULTURE

## THEATRES & CONCERT HALLS



The State Opera and Ballet Theatre  
Web: [www.opera-ballet.mn](http://www.opera-ballet.mn)



The State Academic Drama Theatre  
Web: [www.drama.mn](http://www.drama.mn)



The State Philharmonic Hall Horse Fiddle Ensemble  
Web: [www.philharmonic.mn](http://www.philharmonic.mn)

## MONGOLIAN NATIONAL MUSEUM

National Museum of Mongolia established in 1924, concerned with the history of the Mongolian state and artifacts related to that history.

Exhibitions cover prehistory, pre-Mongol-Empire history, Mongol Empire, Mongolia during Qing rule, ethnography and traditional life, and twentieth-century history. The ethnographic collection has significant displays of the traditional dress of various Mongolian ethnic groups and of snuff bottles.

## ZANABAZAR MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS

Named after Zanabazar (1635-1724), the religious leader and first Bogd or Buddhist saint of 17th century, the The Fine Arts G. Zanabazar Museum was founded in 1966. The museum is renowned for the works of G. Zanabazar, which include the statues of Sita Tara, the Five Dhayani Buddhas, the Bodhi Stupa and largest tangka scroll in Mongolia.

Web: [www.zanabazarfam.mn](http://www.zanabazarfam.mn)

## CHOIJIN LAMA TEMPLE MUSEUM

Actually a group of four temples

originally occupied by the Choijin Lama Lubsankhaidav, the brother of the ruler Bogd Khan, who was the state oracle at the same time. The complex was begun in 1904 and completed in 1908. The museum contains precious examples of Buddhist art including sculptures of Zanabazar, coral masks for Tsam Dance and silk tangkas.

Web: [www.zanabazarfam.mn](http://www.zanabazarfam.mn)

## BOGD KHAAN WINTER PALACE

Winter Palace of the Mongolian last emperor, Bogd Khan, was built during 1889-1906. The complex consists of 2 floor wooden winter house, a gift from Russian Tsar Nicolay III, and 10 other Buddhist unique architectural buildings. The Palace is the only remaining one out of four residences of the Bogd Khan. Known as present most popular destination, Bogd Khan Palace museum, exhibits Bogd Khan and his wife Dondogdulam's luxurious collection of personal belongings and wide variety of Buddhist art.

## CENTRAL MUSEUM OF MONGOLIAN DINOSAURS

Mongolia is the country of dinosaurs; though, we've been sending our dinosaurs to

worldwide exhibitions for the last 20 years as Mongolia had not any associated museums.

Due to Mongolian Government's 11th, The Central Museum of Mongolian Dinosaurs was established to protect, register and verify fossils, all in order to preserve our heritage for future generations. The museum operation started officially since 2013.

## MONGOLIAN MILITARY MUSEUM

Mongolian Military Museum, established in 1996, is divided into two sections, the east wing shows Mongolian military history from the Stone Age to the period of Manchu occupation. The west wing shows post-independence military history (1921 to present day). There are over 2000 items on display including flags, uniforms, and weapons (note the gun made in 1372).

## INTERNATIONAL INTELLECTUAL MUSEUM

The International Intellectual Museum is the first privately owned museum and was established on August 13, 1990 in Ulaanbaatar. The museum

Choijin Lama Temple Museum





# MUSEUMS & GALLERIES

Blue Moon art gallery

displays over eleven thousand of intellectual items from 130 countries around the World. All items are classified into 15 sub categories in order to create a friendly environment for visitors.

## MONGOL COSTUMES MUSEUM

Mongol Costumes Museum was officially opened its door on July 23, 2005 by the City Mayor's Office, the World Mongolian Association of Costumes and Academy of the National Costumes Study. The costumes with 400 different designs are displayed in the museum. The collections include the traditional costumes of the Mongolian ethnic groups such as uzemchin, zakhchin, torguud and

khoton and kazakh.  
Web: [www.mongolcostumes.mn](http://www.mongolcostumes.mn)

## XANADU ART GALLERY

Established in 2006, XanaduART gallery became the first commercial art gallery in Mongolia with a continuous exhibition schedule in a permanent space. The gallery has organized and curated exhibitions for a wide range of Mongolian contemporary artists, both established and emerging, working in painting, sculpture, photography, video, installation, performance and new media.  
Web: [xanaduartgallery.org](http://xanaduartgallery.org)

## RED GER ART GALLERY

Operates by the Art Council of Arts Council of Mongolia to support Mongolia's promising young artists.  
Web: [www.artscouncil.mn](http://www.artscouncil.mn)

## TSAGAANDARIUM ART GALLERY & MUSEUM

Tsagaandarium Art Gallery & Museum is where you can see new art exhibition in every 2 weeks and purchase fine quality Mongolian artwork. The gallery has over 500 artworks by Mongolian artists.  
Website: [www.tsagaandarium.org](http://www.tsagaandarium.org)



## CULTURAL HERITAGE MUSEUM OF CHINGGIS KHAAN

The museum has on display over 3000 rare items, collected by Prof.Dr. S.Badral, related to the Mongolian history and cultural heritage dating back to Chinggis khaan period in 13th century. The museum consists of 3 sections and the first part is Chinggis khaan hall displaying the books

on birch-bark and papers of 13th century and other items related to and about the great emperor. The second part mainly introduces about Mongolian literacy heritage, fine arts and ethnography and the third section is a section to introduce the Buddhist heritage of the Mongols.



Central Museum of Mongolian Dinosaurs



Buddha Park

# SIX PARTIES IN A SINGLE NIGHT



## THE NIGHTLIFE IN UB

**PUB & KARAOKE.** C=CRAFT beer? Check. Good food? Check. Live music? Check! Salm Brau Pub on Baga Toiruu Street (for directions see page ..... ) is my favorite place to start a big night out in UB. It's only 6:30pm but my friends and I get there early as the restaurant will fill up with locals keen to get prime position for The Lemons, a famous Mongolian band, who will play later. The menu offers a good mix of Mongolian and Western food, but it's the beer that we're craving for. I'm no beer snob, but I love craft beer and quickly ask the waiter for the 'hoppiest' drink on the menu. He returns with a German-inspired Helles – it hits the spot. My friends try the pale larger, Marzen, and the Pilsner. At about 10:00pm, with full bellies and the band finished, we move to a private karaoke room to warm up our dancing feet – and our vocal chords.

Salm Brau Pub stays filled and active till 3:00 a.m. But almost four hours I spent here dancing, singing, chatting and drinking with old and new friends I have to finally make an effort and continue my planned tour of UB's most popular nightclubs.

**RIGHT NOW, IT'S 10:30 PM.** I'm seated on a wooden bar stool at the far end of a bright oval table in the VLVT Members Club. The bartender pours a beer in a white glass and puts it in front of me. Nearby, a group of young men dressed in suits dance to the music. They all hold similar white glasses, filled with beer or wine. I pull out a black notebook from my pocket and jot down a few notes under the topic 'Ulaanbaatar's Best Nightclubs'. "VLVT," I write. "Heineken, 8,800MNT. In white glassware. A small dance floor. Behind it, space for the DJ." Although there are only a few customers in the club, more people are gradually coming in.

A short while later I speak with the manager of the club. He gives me a tour of the rooms expressly reserved for members only—rooms with a small bar and recessed walls lined with curvy white vases. We visit the Members Lounge, where the music is relaxed and the girls sip cocktails. It is almost midnight. The manager tells me: "On Fridays and Saturdays, late night from 1 to 2 is our peak hour." I ask the manager about the white glassware. "You won't see our customers with beer bottles or soda cans in their hands. The sensibilities of our club are more refined." With these words, he puts his hand on an unmarked space of wall and gives a push. The wall opens like a door to a 'secret' smoking room. It is one of the many perks membership at the club has to offer. I only get a moment's peek before we step away. The wall closes and returns to looking inconspicuous.

## EXPATS EXPERIENCES

### ELAND MANN

Writer

What do you think about Ulaanbaatar's night clubs? How do you feel they compare to clubs in the US, or in other metropolitan cities around the world?

After dinner there's nothing better than taking the party to the next level. That means karaoke or going to a club. Karaoke in UB is a blast with friends — private rooms, bottle service, thousands of songs — even the most timid will be belting away a ballad like Mariah Carey by the night's end.

As for night clubs, 30-year-old version of me would say MINT; it has the lounge and night club at one venue and with good sound system DJ plays the latest house-mix, offers a great selection of drinks and cocktails and always crowded.

The frequent event nights at Marquee-27 are also super fun. More up-scale places — like View Lounge at The Corporate Hotel, or Vegas Night Club — appeal to younger, trendy professionals. With good drinks, chic décor, and lively nightlife, the most popular night clubs in Ulaanbaatar feel very similar to those in the US and around the world. But keep in mind, some bars, karaoke, and clubs close at midnight (last call usually before 11:30 pm), so be ready to have your night end early, or to move the party to the next spot.



**IT'S 11:20 AM.** "Hey, what's up?" shouts my friend, sitting at the bar. He works as a DJ at some of UB's hottest clubs, and he knows the city's night life as well as anybody. "There's always a party at iLoft," he tells me. "You can dance until sunrise to the music, shaking it to the sounds of salsa, trance, hip hop and R&B." He hands me a glass of beer. Suddenly the music stops. The club is silent for a split-second, and then all at once the voices of the club-goers sing out, filling in with the lyrics to the song. The DJ waits a few bars before he flips the music back on. The crowd cheers, the air tingles with electricity.

**IT'S AFTER MIDNIGHT 12:20 AM.** As suggested a friend of mine I walk along to the Blue Sky Tower where is Vegas Night Club, one of the most popular clubs in UB. Its' location is the best in the city which is opposite the Chinggis Khaan Square. The place is an intimate venue for the club scene but their items are a bit of pricy. I find out there is a function going on and I headed to the next place as directed by its show manager.

**12:30 AM.** I arrive at "MINT" club, located at Home Plaza on the bank of Selbe River east of downtown. The club is a newly opened and despite its' youth it's been already a hub

of the city's most trendy people. I spot a girl in a fancy dress who's a friend. "Why are you at MINT tonight?" I ask. She responds thoughtfully: "It's mostly people over 25 who come here. So you don't have to worry about running into party-hard teenagers." Indeed, the crowd is mostly well-dressed professionals in this thriving club. From lounging and chilling to dancing in deep house mix, this up-scale club allows you satisfy in all aspects.

**THE CLOCK ON MY PHONE SHOWS 2:00 AM.** Marquee-27, the last club I visit tonight. As the elevator door opens you are taken to the club's dance floor directly. The place has the biggest dancing floor among the clubs I experience today with powerful sound speakers, sensitive lights and the bar in both sides where is a great place to hit if you want to enjoy in the latest club-mix.

**IT'S PAST 3 O'CLOCK IN THE MORNING.** After visiting six nightclubs in a single evening, I take to the streets. They are dull and quiet, as if the only nightlife in the city happens at those six clubs. I raise my hand to catch one of many taxis that circle in the night.



# ULAANBAATAR

## EVENTS 2015

02 FEB	01	'ULAANBAATAR' WINTER FESTIVAL
04 APR	10   12	'HORECA ULAANBAATAR' EXPO, 'HOSPITABLE ULAANBAATAR' INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION
05 MAY	02	'THE SPLENDOR OF MONGOLIAN SOLDIERS' FESTIVAL
	4   5	ANNUAL FREEDOM ONLINE COALITION CONFERENCE
06 JUN	16	'GEGEEN MUZA' THEATRICAL FESTIVAL
	01	CHILDREN'S DAY FESTIVAL
	06	'ULAANBAATAR' MARATHON
	20	'VIENNESE WALTZ' EVENING
07 JUL	27	'UB DANCE' FESTIVAL
	04	'BEST OF CLASSICS' OPEN-AIR CONCERT
	10	"UCHIRTAI GURVAN TOLGOI" NATIONAL OPERA DAY
	11   13	NATIONAL NAADAM FESTIVAL
	11	'UB NIGHT' FESTIVAL
	12	'SILENCE WHITE' DJ PARTY
	13	'GLORY TO THE MOTHERLAND' CONCERT
	13	MONGOLIAN NATIONAL COSTUME FESTIVAL AND PARADE
	13	'MONGOLIAN DANCE' FESTIVAL
	14	'MORIN KHUUR' TRADITIONAL MUSIC FESTIVAL
	18   19	'PLAYTIME' LIVE MUSIC FESTIVAL
	20	STEPPE MARATHON
	25   26	'GIANT STEPPES OF JAZZ' INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL
08 AUG	29	25TH ANNIVERSARY OF PEACEFUL REVOLUTION IN MONGOLIA
	01	INTERNATIONAL FOOD FESTIVAL
	08   09	'ULAANBAATAR FOOD' FESTIVAL
	08	'DANSHIG NAADAM' CULTURE FESTIVAL
	15	MONGOLIA TOUR CONCERT OF INTERNATIONAL ARTISTS
09 SEP	29	ULAANBAATAR MUSIC FESTIVAL
	12	ULAANBAATAR STREET ART FESTIVAL
	19	'X GAMES MONGOLIA' EXTREME SPORTS COMPETITION
12 DEC	25   30	UB ART FAIR
	25   27	'THE NUTCRACKER' BALLET
	31	'SILVER NIGHT OF ULAANBAATAR' SHOW



### ULAANBAATAR WINTER FESTIVAL

The Winter Festival is a grand festival organized on the first Sunday in February each year. Ice-ankle bone shooting, winter cycling, archery competitions, horse and camel riding tours, dog sledding, performances and other interesting events take place during the Winter Festival in Ulaanbaatar.

### NATIONAL COSTUME FESTIVAL

The national costume festival "Mongolian Naadam in Deels" takes place on the 13th of July every year on Chinggis Khaan Square. Its aim is to promote and introduce the traditional culture of Mongolia, the national dress of Mongolian people and physical and intellectual heritage of Mongolian national arts. During the costume festival, there is a parade with people in Mongolian traditional dress (deel), folk art performances, Mongolian yurt (ger) exhibitions, a fashion show of Mongolian costumes, and traditional dancing.



### BEST OF CLASSICS

On the first Saturday in July every year, world-class entertainment and timeless Mongolian classics are performed open air on Chinggis Khaan Square. Mongolian opera and ballet stars have been recognized internationally and their performances can be seen on the world stage. It is breathtaking to see world-famous Mongolian ballet dancers and opera singers performing in their homeland.

### ULAANBAATAR MARATHON

Similar to other world cities, Ulaanbaatar is host to an annual marathon. The marathon is organized on the first Saturday in June every year and attracts tourists, amateurs and professional athletes from every corner of the world.

A more exotic one is the "Marathon of the Steppe," famed for its wide, open and endless rolling landscape. If you are interested, you are welcome to participate in this event taking place during the famous Naadam Festival week.

Ulaanbaatar city is known by some as Harmonious UB for its interesting, inspiring and unforgettable events. You can find updated information on our regular events in the event calendar. You can also obtain information on any event you are interested in on our website [www.ulaanbaatour.mn](http://www.ulaanbaatour.mn)





# MONGOLIAN NAADAM

## FESTIVAL

The Naadam Festival is the nationwide celebrations known to Mongolians since the antiquity. Its dates generally occurred during mid-summer, and the 20th century brought fixed dates from 11 to 13 July in commemoration of the victory of the 1921 People's Revolution.

Generally known as Eriin gurvan naadam, or "Three Manly Games," primary components of Naadam are wrestling, archery and horse racing. These stem from a millennia-long tradition of annual military drills under the patronage of the great khans and generals for their warrior subjects. Over time those drills grew into competitive sports and participation of well-trained men of high skills transformed the Three Manly Games into the modern event of popular attraction.

As noted above, the official celebrations take place throughout the country between 11 and 13th July annually. The principal festival is held in Ulaanbaatar, while all provinces and counties celebrate their local Naadam festivals, some of which may fall on different dates till August. Each year, over 35 thousand wrestlers, 40 thousand horses and 1500 archers compete in Naadam



throughout the country.

The main ceremony in Ulaanbaatar officially begins with the mounted Honor Guard platoon transferring the symbolic Nine Banners of the Great Mongolian State from the Government House to Central Stadium. Following the opening address by the President the festival continues with folk song, music and dance performances. The winners of the three manly games are given state honors and titles by the decree of the President of Mongolia.

The Naadam is not only festival and holiday for Mongolians, this is a day proud of their tradition and unique way of nomadic culture. During Naadam days there are plenty to admire this colorful celebration outside of the prominent sports, such as anklebone shooting, national costume parade, exhibitions, folklore competitions, handmade souvenirs, and Mongolian traditional food and drinks. The countryside festivals allow their audiences to participate in the games and deal with locals as well. Annually, thousands of tourists head to Mongolia to attend this breathtaking event. In 2010, Naadam was inscribed on the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity of UNESCO.



### HORSE RACING:

Horses competing in the races are trained for at least a month before the festival. There are six racing categories according to the age of the horses, starting from two-years-old horses to fully-grown horses and stallions race between 15km to 30 km in distance. The horse races held in outside Ulaanbaatar in the open fields. The races are performed by small child jockeys. There are a lot to attract your attention at the horse racing field such as folk and horse shows, holiday meals etc.

### WRESTLING:

Wrestlers wear special clothes to show the beauty and strength of their bodies. There is no categorization according to weight. The basic rule of the wrestling is the number of wrestlers must be equal and the higher-ranking wrestlers choose from lower ranking wrestlers as their competitors. The winners remain for the next round whilst the loser leaves the competition. The competition becomes more and more interesting round by round as the winner wrestlers receive titles after the fifth round and further.



### ARCHERY:

This competition is open to both men and women. Women draw 20 arrows at a 60 meters target, while men shoot 40 arrows at a 75 meters target.



# LAND OF LEGEND

*Every time I visit Gorkhi-Terelj I get excited.  
The land seemed to sing, as if it was about to share a  
million year old secret.*

Gorkhi-Terelj National Park, Ulaanbaatar

## TURTLE ROCK

Everyone who comes to Gorkhi-Terelj National Park must stop at the landmark Turtle Rock. 24 meters high, this natural rock formation resembles a turtle in its shell. When I was small, I used to visit my grandparents who spent their summers near Turtle Rock. One night, my grandmother told me one of the park's famous legends. "The rock's name used to be Mungut, or 'possessor of money.' According to the legend, there were two famous heroes – Luuzansharav and Khatanbuuvei – who were always in constant conflict with each other. One day Khatanbuuvei was waiting for Luuzansharav in a nearby place in order to fight and determine who was the strongest. Luuzansharav learned of his rival's plan and decided to run away, knowing he could not possibly beat the other. But when his wife refused to go with him, due to her attachment to their possessions, the enraged hero

killed her and buried her under the rock along with everything they had. Ever since, people say that the voice of a woman and the clinking of coins can be heard near the bottom of the rock." When I told this story to my travelling companions, they enthusiastically rushed to the rock in order to hear the clinking coins. Of course they heard nothing of the kind, but they still had a smile on their face when they came down.

Near the rock, locals wait for potential customers interested in riding horses, camels and four-wheelers. Tourists also can take photos with eagles and vultures. Horse riding costs 20,000 Mongolian tugrugs per hour, but a short trip only cost 5,000-10,000 tugrugs. Sanchir, a member of our group, proposed we ride horses up to Aryabala Temple, to which everyone agreed and we headed for the temple on our horses.





"The king of kings" horse show in Gorkhi-Terelj, Ulaanbaatar

## ARYABALA TEMPLE

The Aryabala Temple rises up the face of a mountain slope. We left the horses with the guide and entered the monastery area through a gate. We saw six phrases of mantra and a portrait of the Buddha arranged in painted rocks on the slope. They reminded me of Zanabazar's painting of the Buddha on the rocky slopes near Tuvkhun Monastery, as described in the novel "Zanabazar" by Sengiin Erdene. The approach to the monastery is a bit adventurous one. First, you hike up along a steep road. Next, you cross a suspended wooden bridge called "The Bridge that Leads to the Wisdom." Lastly, you trek up 108 steps to finally arrive at the temple. On the approach, the path is lined with the signboards displaying the Buddha's teachings, statues of the Buddha and images of the Buddha carved onto the rocks. The Aryabala Temple is special for its spectacular surrounding, a perfectly pristine serenity in which to dive yourself in meditation. - National Geographic Traveler Mongolia



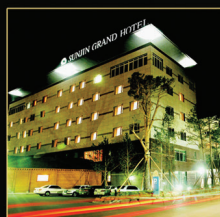
The stainless-steel grand equestrian statue of Great Chinggis Khaan



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