

Nomadic Mongolia

Amazing Journeys Trip
July 1-12, 2025

Presentation to
FF Club of Sarasota

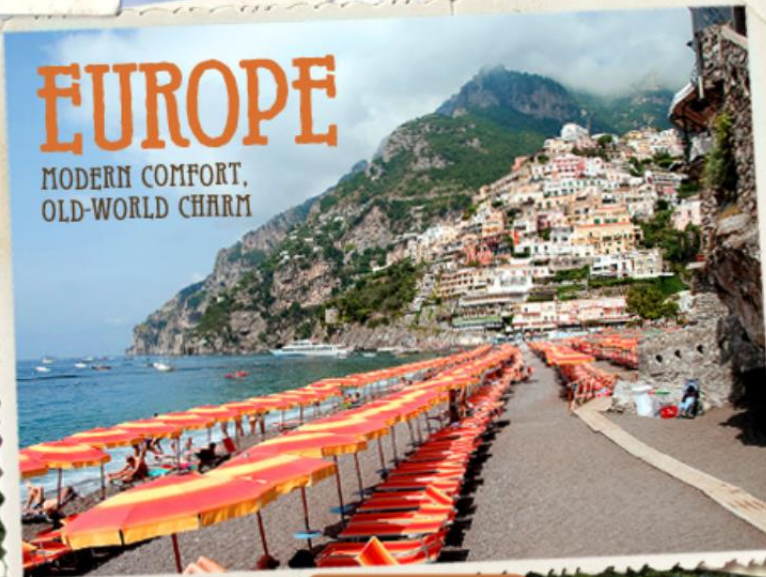
September 2, 2026

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amazing journeys
vacations that change your life

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Departing Soon



**Storybook Europe:
Picturesque Peaks
and Charming
Villages**

June 19-30, 2027

[view all trips](#)

Vacations that change your life. There are vacations, and then there are *journeys*... escapes so unforgettable, you'll be talking about them for years to come. As Amazing Journeys celebrates 25 years of incomparable travel, we're proud to be the company Jewish singles turn to when they want a truly unique way to embrace their wanderlust. No matter which part of the planet has piqued your curiosity, this is Jewish travel at its most effortless – each delightful detail is considered, every whim indulged. Our vacations do more than make memories and foster friendships... they change lives. And yours just might be next.



What are you waiting for?

We're hearing from more travelers that they're done postponing travel. They're choosing the trip, even if no one else in their life is ready to go. But here's the good news: going "solo" doesn't mean going alone. Group travel for singles is one of the best ways to see the world.



"There is no better way to see the world than with Amazing Journeys. No detail is overlooked and everyone is treated like family. It's simply the best in travel!"

—Sharon



Friendship Force Mongolia

🌐 Public group · 109 members

 Join group





Bayar Batbayar

Admin · July 10, 2023 · 🌐

Chinggis Khan square and Parliament House of Mongolia.





MONGOLIA AT A GLANCE

3.57 M

population (2025)

603,909

square miles

**WORLD'S LEAST DENSELY
POPULATED SOVEREIGN
COUNTRY**

≈ 6 people / sq. mi.

Landlocked • 18th-largest country
Capital: Ulaanbaatar

SIZE COMPARISON



Mongolia is only ~9%
smaller
than Alaska by total
area.

POLITICAL SYSTEM TODAY

**Multiparty parliamentary
democracy**

under the 1992 Constitution



PARLIAMENT

State Great Khural

Unicameral legislature
126 members since 2024



PRIME MINISTER

Head of Government

Leads the cabinet and
day-to-day government



PRESIDENT

Head of State

Directly elected; shares
executive responsibilities

MODERN ERA — FROM EMPIRE'S SHADOW TO DEMOCRACY



WHY IT STANDS OUT • Nomadic heritage + vast steppe and Gobi landscapes + a modern democracy strategically positioned between Russia and China

GENGHIS KHAN

TEMÜJIN • THE MAN, THE TITLE & THE LEGACY



Posthumous Yuan-era portrait

TEMÜJIN — HIS REAL NAME

Born Temüjin (c. 1162). In 1206 a great kurultai acclaimed him Chinggis Khan. He died in August 1227 while campaigning against the Western Xia in northwest China. The exact cause is unknown; accounts include illness or complications from a fall from his horse.

WHAT DOES "CHINGGIS KHAN" MEAN?

Khan means ruler. Chinggis is debated; a strong scholarly interpretation is "fierce / hard / tough" — hence "the Fierce Ruler." "Universal" or "Oceanic Ruler" are older interpretations.

A VISION OF UNITY

Temüjin sought to end generations of feuding and bind the steppe tribes into one Mongol polity. His authority was linked to Eternal Blue Heaven (Tengri): at the 1206 kurultai, a shaman proclaimed Heaven's favor. He built loyalty across tribal lines and promoted ability as well as kinship.

AN EXTRAORDINARY GENETIC LEGACY

1 in 200

men worldwide — about 0.5% — was the famous 2003 estimate for a Y-chromosome lineage proposed to be associated with Genghis Khan's male-line family.

Attribution is probable, not genetically proven.

More than a conqueror: Temüjin transformed a fragmented tribal world into a unified Mongol nation.



Mongol Empire

Mongol leader Genghis Khan (1162-1227) rose from humble beginnings to establish the largest land empire in history. After uniting the nomadic tribes of the Mongolian plateau, he conquered huge chunks of central Asia and China. His descendants expanded the empire even further, advancing to such far-off places as Poland, Vietnam, Syria and Korea. At their peak, the Mongols controlled between 11 and 12 million contiguous square miles, an area about the size of Africa. Many people were slaughtered in the course of Genghis Khan's invasions, but he also granted religious freedom to his subjects, abolished torture, encouraged trade and created the first international postal system. Genghis Khan died in 1227 during a military campaign against the Chinese kingdom of Xi Xia. His final resting place remains unknown.



Sūkhbaatar Square — the civic heart of the city

A city of contrasts

Modern towers, Buddhist traditions, Soviet-era planning and ger districts all meet in a mountain-ringed valley.

1.67M

resident population (2025)

~49%

of Mongolia's resident population

1,350 m

approx. elevation / 4,430 ft

Good orientation points

- Sūkhbaatar Square & Government Palace
- Gandan Monastery
- National Museum of Mongolia
- Zaisan Memorial & city views

ULAANBAATAR

THE WORLD'S COLDEST CAPITAL — AND A CAPITAL BORN NOMADIC

Coldest capital city



29°F annual mean temperature

January average lows are around -20s °F; extreme cold can approach -40°F

Why so cold? High elevation, inland location and long, dry Siberian winters

A nomadic capital

1639

1639 Founded as a mobile Buddhist monastic center

29 moves The monastery-town repeatedly packed up and relocated as needs changed

1778 Settled permanently at today's site near the Tuul and Selbe rivers

A modern capital whose extreme climate and nomadic origins make it unlike any other city.

Legendary Nomads Restaurant Show

[Watch Video](#)





Sükhbaatar Square, Ulanbaatar



Whirling Dervish in Ulanbataar



This public art installation in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, depicts a **Whirling Dervish** (or Semazen) performing the traditional Sufi Sama dance. www.overtheedge.com/whirling-dervish-sculpture-ulanbaatar-mongolia/ +2

- **Location:** It stands on a traffic island along a busy city street in Ulaanbaatar, offering a striking artistic contrast to the surrounding urban traffic and modern buildings. [🔗](#)
- **Symbolism:** The spinning pose represents the meditative practice of Sufi mystics seeking spiritual ascension and harmony with the universe.
- **Design:** The golden-yellow sculpture captures the dynamic motion of the dervish's wide, flowing ceremonial skirt mid-spin.

BUDDHISM IN MONGOLIA

TIBETAN VAJRAYĀNA • CENTURIES OF FAITH, PERSECUTION & REVIVAL



Prayer wheels at Gandantegchinlen (Gandan) Monastery, Ulaanbaatar

ARRIVAL & MONGOLIAN FORM

Buddhism reached the Mongols in earlier waves, but Tibetan Buddhism took deep root in the late 1500s. The Gelug ("Yellow Hat") school became especially influential, while Mongolian Buddhism developed its own traditions and leadership.

A MONASTIC SOCIETY

Monasteries became centers of worship, education, art and community life. Erdene Zuu, founded in 1585 near ancient Karakorum, is Mongolia's oldest surviving major Buddhist monastery.

THE 1930s PURGES

Stalinist repression devastated Mongolian Buddhism. Hundreds of monasteries were destroyed or closed and many thousands of monks were killed, imprisoned or forced into secular life. Public religious practice was largely suppressed.

REVIVAL AFTER 1990

With Mongolia's democratic revolution, religious freedom returned. Monasteries reopened, elderly lamas trained a new generation, temples were restored and Buddhism again became a visible part of Mongolian cultural and spiritual life.

TWO LANDMARKS Gandan Monastery in Ulaanbaatar is the center of Mongolian Buddhism today and houses a 26-meter Avalokiteśvara statue. Erdene Zuu near Kharkhorin symbolizes both the flowering of Buddhism and its survival through the communist era.

Mongolian Buddhism survived one of the 20th century's most severe religious persecutions — and has undergone a remarkable revival since 1990.

Buddhist Temples of Mongolia

A photographic journey

[Watch Video](#)





MONGOLIA

RUSSIA

CHINA



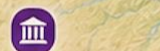
Hustai
National Park



131-foot-tall
Genghis Khan Statue



Thirteenth Century
Park

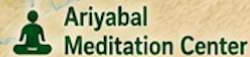


Mongol Nomadic
Cultural Heritage Center
(Argalant Soum, Tur Province)
50–55 km west
of Ulaanbaatar

ULAANBAATAR



Terelj Lodge



Ariyabal
Meditation Center

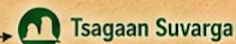


Novotel,
Ulaanbaatar

≈ 265 miles
(≈ 425 km)



Gobi Caravanserai



Tsagaan Suvarga

3 miles



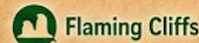
Tugrugiin Shiree



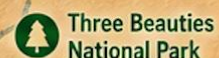
Gobi Nomad Lodge



Yolin Am Canyon



Flaming Cliffs



Three Beauties
National Park



Del Uul
Petroglyphs

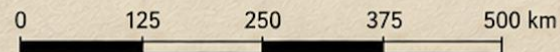
HOTELS

- 1 Novotel, Ulaanbaatar
- 2 Gobi Caravanserai
- 3 Gobi Nomad Lodge
- 4 Terelj Lodge
- 5 Mongol Nomadic Cultural Heritage Center

SITES VISITED

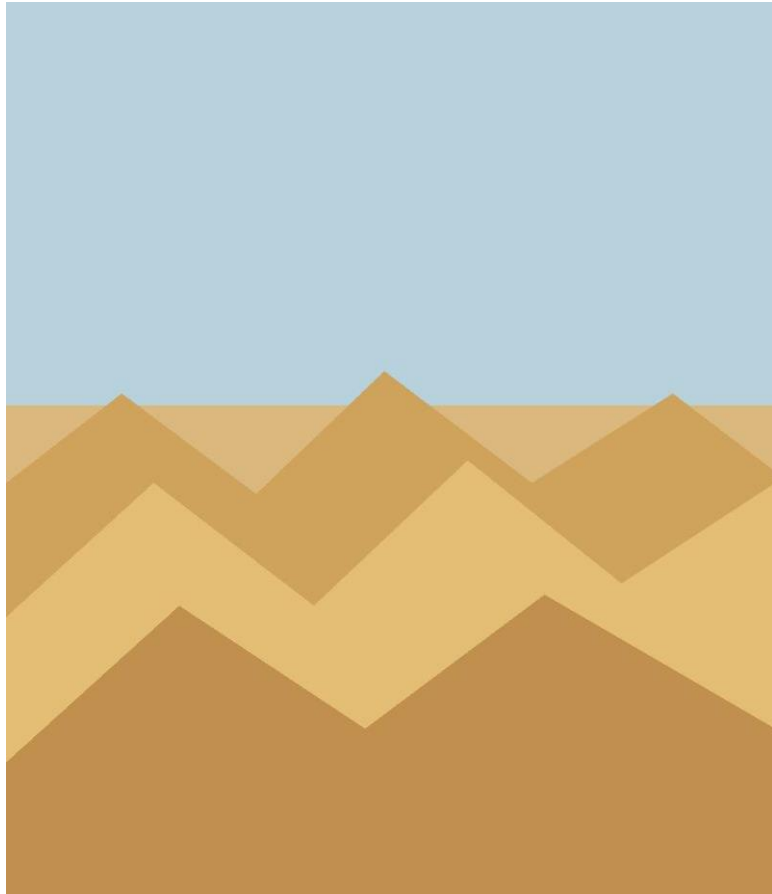
- 1 Tsagaan Suvarga
- 2 Del Uul Petroglyphs
- 3 Three Beauties National Park
- 4 Yolin Am Canyon
- 5 Flaming Cliffs
- 6 Tugrugiin Shiree
- 7 Terelj National Park
- 8 Ariyabal Meditation Center
- 9 Thirteenth Century Park
- 10 131-foot-tall Genghis Khan Statue
- 11 Hustai National Park

GOBI DESERT



THE GOBI DESERT

MONGOLIA'S VAST COLD DESERT • FAR MORE THAN SAND DUNES



Rock, gravel plains, mountains and dunes

A “COLD DESERT”

Stretching across southern Mongolia and northern China, the Gobi is a high-elevation continental desert. Winters can be bitterly cold, summers hot, and temperatures can change dramatically within a single day.

NOT A SEA OF SAND

Much of the Gobi is exposed rock, gravel plain and dry steppe rather than dunes. Its scenery ranges from sand dunes to rugged mountains, deep canyons and red sandstone cliffs.

A DINOSAUR TREASURE HOUSE

The Mongolian Gobi contains some of the world’s richest Cretaceous fossil sites. At Bayanzag — the Flaming Cliffs — 1920s expeditions uncovered dinosaur nests and eggs, transforming understanding of dinosaur reproduction.

LIFE IN AN EXTREME LANDSCAPE

Despite its aridity, the Gobi supports nomadic herders and remarkable wildlife, including Bactrian camels. Mountain areas such as Gobi Gurvan Saikhan create unexpected habitats — including dramatic Yolyn Am canyon.

SITES ON MY TRIP

Tsagaan Suvarga • Del Uul Petroglyphs • Three Beauties National Park • Yolyn Am Canyon • Flaming Cliffs • Tugrugiin Shiree
Tereij National Park • Ariyabal Meditation Center • Thirteenth Century Park • 131-foot-tall Genghis Khan Statue • Hustai National Park

Immense horizons, sparse settlement and landscapes preserving both Mongolia’s nomadic present and its prehistoric past.



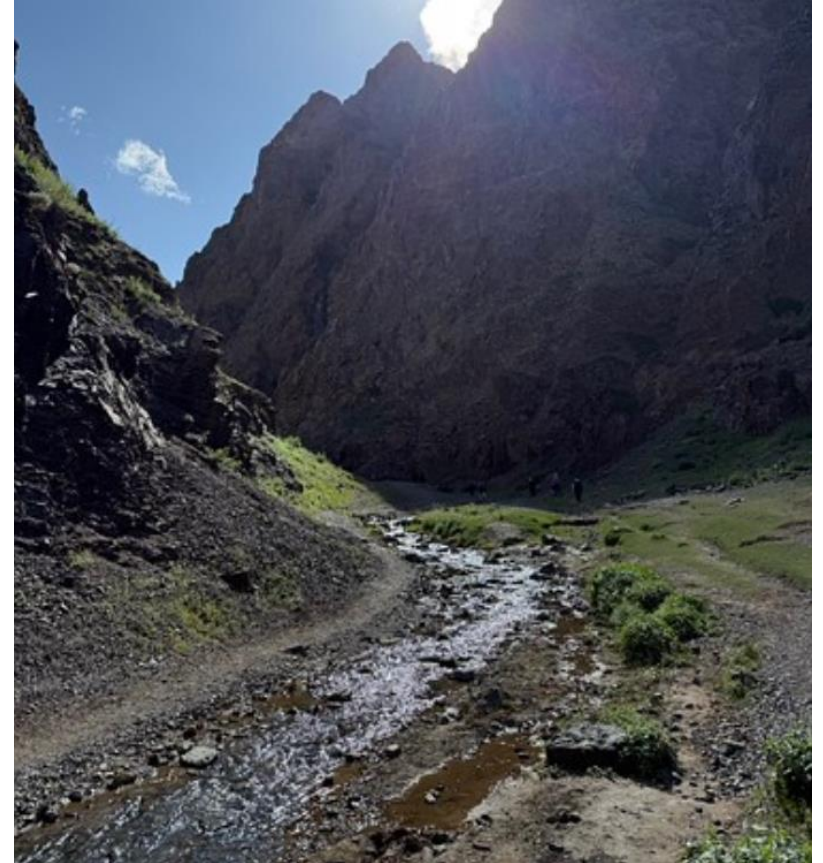
Off to the Gobi Desert we go!

Tsagaan
Suvarga:
Grand Canyon
of the Gobi
Desert
[Watch Video](#)





Del Uul Petroglyphs:
5000 rock carvings dating back to 3000 BCE

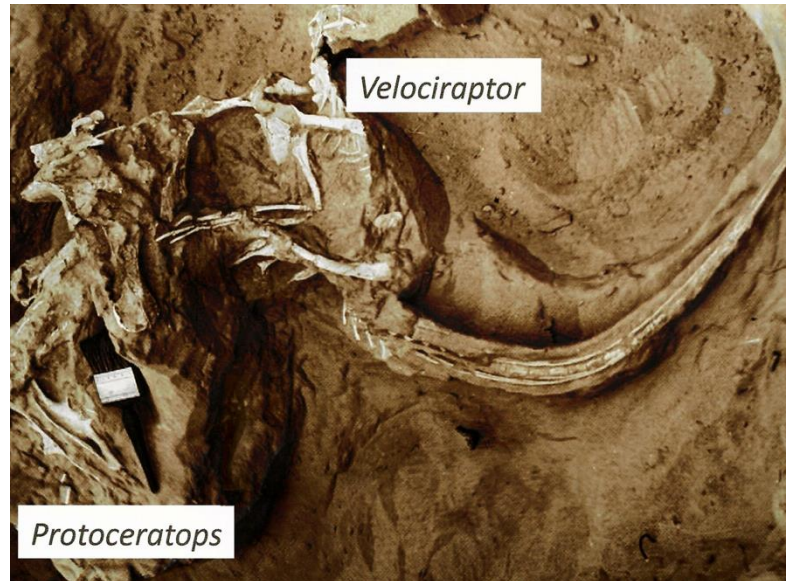


Three Beauties National Park

Flaming Cliffs:

Dinosaur eggs discovered in 1923

Fighting dinosaurs fossils found in 1971 in Tugrugiin Shiree



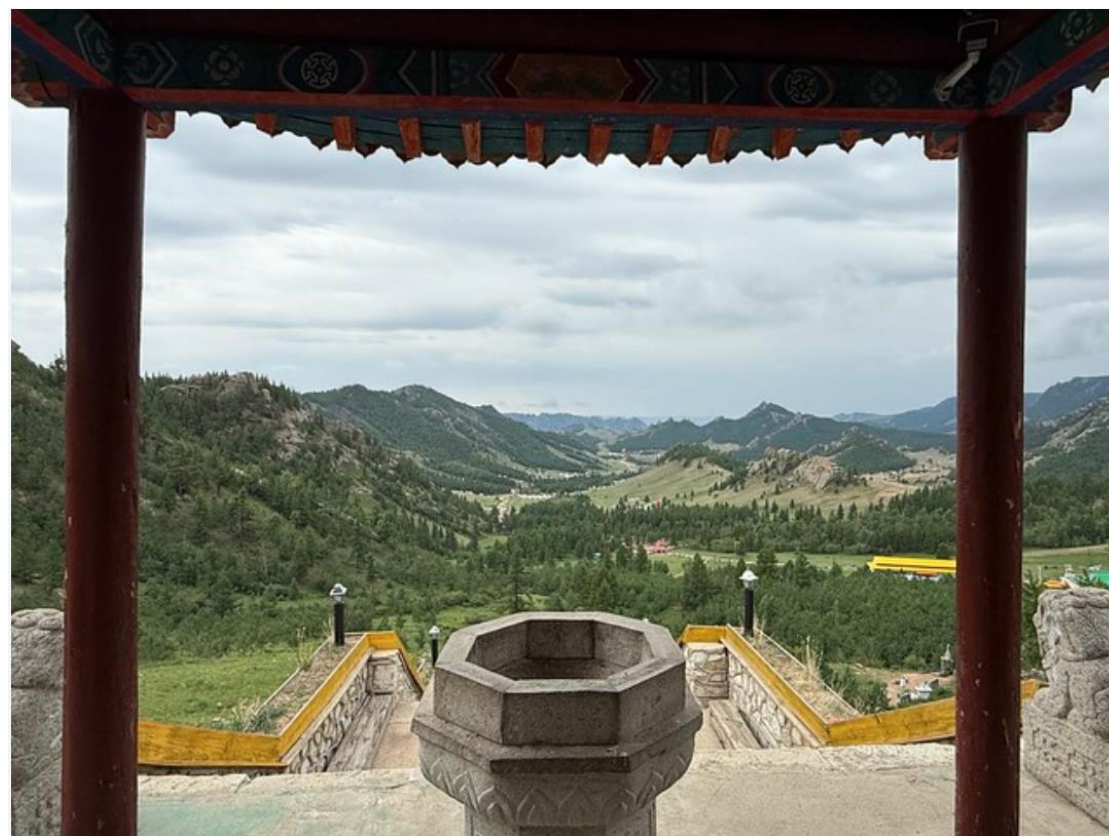
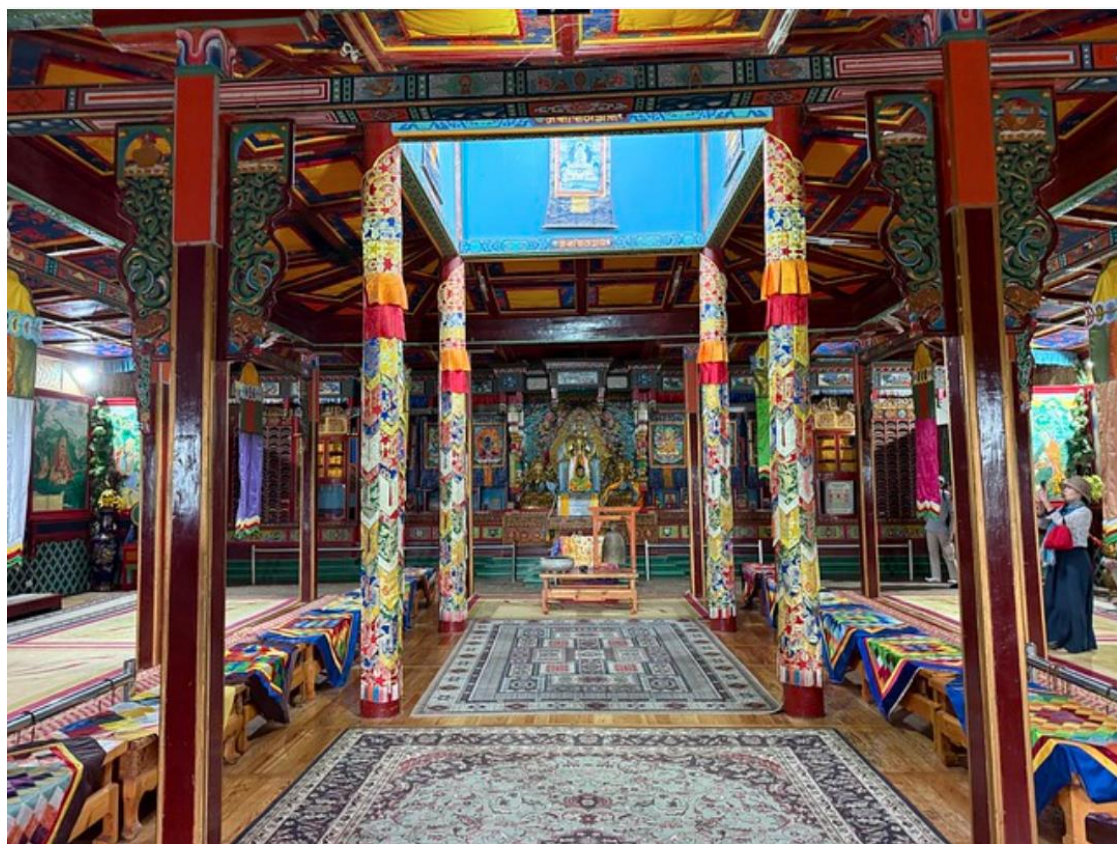


Turtle Rock in Terelj National Park



Aryabal Meditation Center in Terelj National Park











Throat Singer

[Watch Video](#)

Mongolian throat singing, or [Khöömii](#) (also spelled *hoomii*), is an ancient vocal art where a singer produces a deep foundational low note and a high whistling overtone at the same time. This creates the acoustic illusion of one person singing two or more notes simultaneously.







Genghis Khan Statue Complex:
Opened in 2008 to commemorate 800
years since the founding of the Mongol
Empire





ICONIC STATUES OF THE WORLD

HEIGHTS (NOT INCLUDING PEDESTALS)

STATUE OF LIBERTY

New York, USA



CHRIST THE REDEEMER

Rio de Janeiro, Brazil



GENGHIS KHAN STATUE

Tsonjin Boldog, Mongolia



Heights shown are of the statues only,
not including pedestals.

Sources: National Park Service, Corcovado Official Site,
Genghis Khan Statue Complex



◆ AI Overview

This image shows the traditional Mongolian board game [Alag Melkhii](#) (Алаг мэлхий), which translates directly to "**Multicolored Turtle.**"

Overview of the Game

The game is played using [shagai](#), which are cleaned and polished anklebones of sheep or goats. It is traditionally played by families during **Tsagaan Sar** (the Mongolian Lunar New Year) to bring good luck, prosperity, and health to the household and its livestock.

The pieces are meticulously arranged on a felt mat to form the body of a large turtle, which in traditional Mongolian iconography represents the cosmos and the five elements (earth, water, fire,

Hustai National Park:

Home to 400 Przewalski's wild horses

[Watch Video](#)





Abe on various modes of transportation



13th Century Park

NAADAM FESTIVAL

MONGOLIA'S NATIONAL "MINI-OLYMPICS" • JULY 11-13

BACKGROUND & HISTORY Naadam is rooted in Mongolia's nomadic and warrior traditions: wrestling, horsemanship and archery developed as tests of strength, endurance and military skill. By the early 20th century it had become a nationwide celebration of Mongolian statehood and independence. Today it combines sport, ceremony, traditional dress, music and food, and in 2010 UNESCO inscribed Naadam on its Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.



WRESTLING

Bökh has no weight classes. A wrestler loses when anything above the knee touches the ground.



HORSE RACING

Long-distance races cross the open steppe; horses compete by age and are traditionally ridden by young jockeys.



ARCHERY

Men and women use traditional bows to strike small cylindrical sur targets while judges call out encouragement.



ANKLEBONE SHOOTING

Shagai harvaa: competitors flick small bone or tile projectiles toward rows of targets — a major Naadam side competition.

Traditionally called the "Three Manly Games": wrestling, horse racing & archery. Anklebone shooting is now an established National Naadam competition.

Naadam Festival

[Watch Video](#)



Naadam
Festival
[Watch Video](#)



Naadam Festival

[Watch Video](#)



One Last Set of Photos

[Watch Video](#)

