



Genghis Khan Warrior Training - Mongolia

Inclusions:

• All accommodation (mixture of hotels and felt gers) • All meals • All activities as mentioned • Services of an English-speaking guide throughout • All transportation and transfers • Tailor-made Mongolian robe

Exclusions:

• International flights and taxes • Personal spending money • Tips and gratuities • Mongolian Visa • Travel insurance

Unique holiday features

• Getting to grips with your archery skills as you gallop across the plains • Sharing koumiss as you make friends with the Mongolian herders • Rated one of 40 'Unforgettable Things To Do Before You Die' in a recent BBC book

Extensions available?

• Yes - Tailormade on request

Min/Max passenger nos.:	5 to 12
Local departure dates and city of departure:	Ulaanbaatar - This tour can only be carried out from very late April to late September. Fixed Group Departures Sat 5th June - 13th June 2010 Sat 4th Sept - 12th Sept 2010 Tailormade departures may be available on request
Total local duration: (excl. Travel to/from destination)	9 Days
Climate Care supp. per person: (optional)	£15
Grade:	Moderate
Land Only Price per person from:	£2450

Description

'One must not perceive the attack of the medieval Mongols' as a chaotic advance of a tribe of brutes. It was indeed a well-planned campaign run by highly disciplined, and organized army'. - *Napoleon Bonaparte*

'It exceeded all my expectations; there was a great mixture of fun and a true experience of Mongolian culture and hospitality'. - *Caroline Mumford*

This trip, featured in a recent BBC book *Unforgettable Things To Do Before You Die*, will show you first hand what it felt like to be a Mongol warrior under the mighty Genghis Khan. Genghis Khan established the Mongol nation, conquered most of the known world, and rightfully earned the reputation as one of the great military leaders of all time. Uniting a small confederation of rival nomadic tribes on the Central Asian steppes, he created the largest empire the world has ever witnessed. The Mongol warriors under the Khan were the strongest, swiftest and most agile military force of their day, employing highly advanced tactics and strategies. By the time of his death in 1227, the Mongol empire extended all the way from Beijing to the Caspian Sea. The site of his grave has still not been found, although it is believed to be somewhere in the Khentii mountains.

This adventure will show you what it really felt like to be a warrior under the Great Khan.

Starting from the Mongolian capital Ulaanbaatar, we begin at the National History Museum, where there are unique pieces of traditional dress from the various different ethnic groups living in the country, and you will be able to get a vivid insight into Mongolian History. Next we visit the Mongolian Military museum, which provides an excellent introduction to the secrets of Mongol's military prowess of the thirteenth century.

The following day, the real adventure begins as we head out by 4WD into the Mongolian grasslands for three days of training in thirteenth century battle skills. Dressed in full costume and staying in felt gers (the portable tents designed for a nomadic lifestyle), you can have a taste of what it felt like to be a Mongol warrior, and discover the reasons that made them such a power. Every aspect of this adventure is a discovery: learn bow and arrow making, orientation techniques, field cooking, how to shoot from a standing position and on horseback, learn the different knots used in the daily life of the steppe nomads, how to herd horses and lasso them, as well as discovering the battle tactics used by the great Khan, such as the art of lighting many campfires quickly so as to confuse the enemy at night. You also prepare your own weaponry, and re-enact different tactical techniques to ensure a successful war campaign.

Mongols moved great distances, and it was only by adopting a basic lifestyle and employing simple but well-proven technologies that they were able to do so. A perfectly organized network of urtuuns - a day's riding - stretched across the entire Mongol Empire, enabling messages to be delivered from as far as the Black Sea in just two weeks. While riding, we visit nomadic families who move across the grasslands in search of good pastures, and share a lifestyle that has not changed in centuries. There will be opportunities to taste the renowned koumiss (fermented mare's milk) and Mongolian milk vodka, and through your interpreter, understand how these people eke out a living in this harsh but astonishingly beautiful landscape. In the evenings, sitting by the campfire, you can listen to the old legends as you gaze up at the unbelievably clear night skies.

On the afternoon of the last riding day you are met by our support team and taken to Ulaanbaatar for a farewell dinner, before transferring to the airport for your flight home the next day.





Day-by-Day Itinerary

- Day 1** Arrive in Ulaanbaatar and transfer to the Chinggis Khaan Hotel for overnight accommodation. In the afternoon enjoy sightseeing of Ulaanbaatar, including a visit to the National History Museum and the Mongolian Military Museum. Collect your traditional Mongolian robes or 'del', which will have been tailor-made to fit your body shape prior to your arrival. A welcome dinner will be served at a local restaurant. Overnight in hotel.
- Day 2** Before departing Ulaanbaatar you will visit a bow & arrow workshop and meet your archery trainer. You will then travel by 4WD to the training camp, located 3 hours outside of Ulaanbaatar. Here you will begin your warrior training with introductory lessons in archery and horse riding. After dinner at your ger camp you will mount your horse and ride to a guarding post, maintaining the camp's security and protecting the horses from wolves, enemies and thieves in the same way as Khan's soldiers would have done 800 years ago. Overnight at ger camp.
- Day 3** After breakfast, collect your horses and learn how to cook a meal fit for a true Mongol warrior (this will then become your lunch later in the day). You will also learn how to make Mongolian milk products, including some special recipes which are still common. Later in the day you will master your riding skills and learn traditional Mongolian techniques for lassoing horses. Further archery lessons, learning to shoot from a standing position and on horseback before returning to the ger camp for dinner. Overnight at ger camp.
- Day 4** After breakfast there are several battle tactics classes for you to participate in, designed to give you a good general knowledge of Khan's most successful battle methods. This will include a lesson on Mongolian wrestling tricks, and a tactics performance. Later in the afternoon there is a chance to learn an ancient Mongolian song to sing during the farewell festival and arts performance. Before setting off for war, Genghis Khan would invite a shaman to call the spirit of war victory, followed by a festival of food and arts. Overnight at ger camp.
- Day 5** Begin a day of riding from Maikhan Tolgoi to Terelj (35km). Overnight in a tented camp.
- Day 6** Another day of riding, from Terelj to Dund Bayan (35km). Overnight in a tented camp.
- Day 7** Final ride from Dund Bayan to Gunjin Temple, a scenic and rewarding ride, with an evening return to Gunjin camp area (30km). Overnight in a tented camp.
- Day 8** After a relaxed morning you will be driven to Ulaanbaatar and checked into your hotel. After lunch you will have ample time for souvenir shopping at your leisure. A farewell dinner will be organised in a local restaurant where you will receive your certificate of achievement. Overnight in hotel.
- Day 9** Transfer to the airport for your international departure.



Key information

Trip Comments and Style:

This extraordinary adventure really lets you feel what it was like to live like a warrior under Genghis Khan, in an area whose nomadic customs have remained surprisingly unchanged since the thirteenth century. You will learn a number of new skills, and have experiences that are likely to stay with you forever. We do recommend that you have at least some previous riding experience to get the most out of the adventure, but beginners are well catered for too.

Food:

A mixture of local and western food, with opportunities to sample specialities such as koumyss (fermented mare's milk). Vegetarians are recommended to take along supplementary snacks and will consume lots of eggs!

Joining Details:

Your final instructions and any relevant tickets will be sent to you approximately 4 weeks before date of travel, after full payment has been received.

International Flights:

We can help you organise and book your flights if departing from the UK, if you have not already done so. Please contact us for information and a quote.

Maximum Elevation:

Around 1,500 metres.

Kit List:

A kit list relevant to each trip can be sent to you upon payment of your deposit at your request, otherwise a copy will be sent with your final documents approximately 4 weeks before date of travel.

Insurance:

Travel and medical insurance is compulsory for this trip, and it is highly recommended to include emergency air evacuation as standard. Travelling without insurance can result in extremely high medical or repatriation charges in the event of an accident; check your policy inclusions and exclusions carefully.

We will require proof of insurance before you travel. It is also very useful to keep this information on our files in the unlikely case of an emergency during your trip, where we may be required to provide administrative assistance.

Passport and Visa information:

It is your responsibility to ensure that your passport has a minimum of 6 months validity at the date of your return from travel and that your visa requirements are met. If you would like some advice on where to find up to date information for each country's entry requirements and how to organise your visas, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Immunisation:

Required vaccinations and health risks can vary greatly from country to country and region to region. It is strongly recommended that you arrange a visit to your GP, or ideally a specialist travel clinic, prior to your trip. Although we may point you in the right direction for your inoculations, we are unfortunately not qualified to advise you on specific medical requirements. Taking along a copy of your itinerary can be helpful for doctors to identify the areas you may visit.