

Tavan Bogd Trek Naadam Extension



trip highlights

Experience Mongolia's Naadam Festival in Ulaanbaatar

Join local crowds celebrating Mongolia's nomadic culture and traditions

Watch traditional Mongolian wrestling and archery competitions

Visit the Naadam horse racing grounds outside Ulaanbaatar



Trip Duration	4 days	Trip Code: NAD
Grade	Adventure touring	
Activities	Naadam Festival	
Summary	4 Days, 3 nights hotel	

welcome to World Expeditions

Since 1975 we have run expedition-style adventures for active travellers, from our first trek in Nepal to remote routes on all seven continents.

Our philosophy is simple: take the paths less travelled. That means small groups, local crew, low impact, and routes most travellers never see.

Everything you need to know about the Tavan Bogd Trek Naadam Extension is in these notes.

why travel with World Expeditions?

Experience Mongolia's Naadam Festival with the arrangements taken care of, allowing you to focus on this celebration of Mongolian culture. With local guides, pre-arranged festival access, accommodation and transport, this extension provides a convenient way to experience the opening celebrations, traditional sporting competitions and horse racing before continuing your main journey

Tavan Bogd Trek Naadam Extension

Experience Mongolia's Naadam Festival in Ulaanbaatar, one of the country's most important cultural celebrations. Witness the opening ceremony, traditional Mongolian wrestling and archery, before travelling to the horse racing grounds to watch hundreds of horses race across the steppe. A vivid introduction to Mongolia's culture, traditions and nomadic heritage.



Single travellers are required to pay for their own room on this departure operated by our local partner

the trip

Experience Mongolia's Naadam Festival, an annual celebration of the country's culture, sporting traditions and nomadic heritage. Held each July, Naadam centres around Mongolia's three traditional sporting disciplines: wrestling, archery and horse racing.

Begin in Ulaanbaatar with the colourful Naadam Festival opening ceremony, where traditional music and performances accompany a parade of athletes and artists dressed in traditional attire. Following the ceremony, experience the excitement of Mongolia's national wrestling competition and traditional archery while joining local crowds celebrating around the National Sports Stadium.

The following day, travel beyond Ulaanbaatar to the Naadam horse racing grounds. Here, hundreds of horses race across the open Mongolian steppe in one of the festival's key events. Surrounded by local families and horsemen in traditional dress, the racing offers a memorable insight into Mongolia's enduring nomadic traditions.

This Naadam Festival extension is an ideal way to experience one of Mongolia's significant cultural events before continuing your journey through the country.

at a glance

DAY 1	DAY 1 – 10 JULY 2027	JOIN ULAANBAATAR
DAY 2	DAY 2 – 11 JULY 2027	NAADAM FESTIVAL OPENING CEREMONY
DAY 3	DAY 3 – 12 JULY 2027	NAADAM HORSE RACING GROUNDS
DAY 4	DAY 4 – 13 JULY 2027	TRIP CONCLUDES

what's included

- 3 breakfasts and 2 dinners including a Naadam Festival Gala Dinner
- 3 nights at the Bayangol Hotel in Ulaanbaatar on a twin share basis
- Naadam Festival Opening Ceremony ticket
- Elevated seating at the Naadam horse racing grounds
- Arrival airport transfer
- Transportation to the Naadam horse racing grounds
- English speaking local guide on Days 2 and 3

Many adventure operators ask travellers to hand over cash on the ground. It avoids local taxes and shifts the cost and the risk of carrying cash onto you.

We do not ask for local cash payments on this trip.

what's not included

- International flights
- Travel insurance
- Visa
- Meals not listed in the itinerary
- Personal expenses
- Bottled water, aerated and alcoholic drinks
- Tips and gratuities
- Items not listed as included

Tavan Bogd Trek Naadam Extension

Experience Mongolia's Naadam Festival in Ulaanbaatar, one of the country's most important cultural celebrations. Witness the opening ceremony, traditional Mongolian wrestling and archery, before travelling to the horse racing grounds to watch hundreds of horses race across the steppe. A vivid introduction to Mongolia's culture, traditions and nomadic heritage.



trip dates

2027 10 Jul - 13 Jul

fast facts

Countries Visited:
Mongolia

Visas:
Please check visa requirements with your reservations consultant*

Vaccinations:
Please consult a travel vaccination specialist for up to date information

Leader:
Expert local bi-lingual leader

Advice for people with limited mobility
Not suitable

*Ask our staff for more information.

detailed itinerary

DAY 1 Day 1 – 10 July 2027 | Join Ulaanbaatar

On arrival at Chinggis Khaan International Airport, you will be met and transferred to your centrally located hotel by our representative. The rest of the day is free to relax or take a short walk to Sukhbaatar Square, where early festival events and performances are often underway. Your guide will join you for Days 2 and 3.

Airport transfer only (1–2 hours, as traffic is heightened around Naadam)

Accommodation: Bayangol Hotel or similar
meals: NIL

DAY 2 Day 2 – 11 July 2027 | Naadam Festival Opening Ceremony

After breakfast, at 10am, you'll join your English-speaking guide for a short walk to Sukhbaatar Square to witness the morning flag ceremony, state honorary guards on horseback carrying the State White Banners to the National Sports Stadium. The Naadam Festival Opening Ceremony begins at 11am, featuring a grand parade of athletes and performers in traditional costume, with music, and dance. The Mongolian president delivers the official address as the Nine White Banners are raised – a symbol of the power of the ancient khans. Following the ceremony, you'll have time to explore the festival grounds, taste local foods and watch the first rounds of wrestling and archery before walking back to your hotel.

Accommodation: Bayangol Hotel or similar

Please note: Naadam is one of the most popular times to visit Ulaanbaatar, so please expect large crowds and possible delays, patience and flexibility will help make the most of this cultural celebration.

meals: B,D

DAY 3 Day 3 – 12 July 2027 | Naadam Horse Racing Grounds

This morning we drive around 1.5 hours to the Naadam horse racing grounds outside Ulaanbaatar, where the atmosphere is electric. Thousands of Mongolians in traditional dress gather to cheer on young jockeys racing across the open steppe. The races span six age categories and often feature hundreds of horses, showcasing Mongolia's deep equestrian heritage. After several hours at the event, we return to the city and enjoy dinner at a local restaurant, a chance to reflect on this cultural experience.

Accommodation: Bayangol Hotel or similar
meals: B,D

DAY 4 Day 4 – 13 July 2027 | Trip Concludes

You are now on Day 2 of your Tavan Bogd Trek. After breakfast you will set out on a full day guided tour of Ulaanbaatar.

meals: B

This itinerary is subject to change with any change in Community regulations as well as Governmental changes and natural circumstances beyond our control.

country information

Mongolia is a vast and landlocked country known for its expansive landscapes and deeply rooted nomadic culture. With an average elevation of 1,580 metres (5,180 feet), it is one of the highest countries in the world, bordered by Russia to the north and China to the south. The terrain ranges from expansive steppe grasslands and forested mountains in the north to

Tavan Bogd Trek Naadam Extension

Experience Mongolia's Naadam Festival in Ulaanbaatar, one of the country's most important cultural celebrations. Witness the opening ceremony, traditional Mongolian wrestling and archery, before travelling to the horse racing grounds to watch hundreds of horses race across the steppe. A vivid introduction to Mongolia's culture, traditions and nomadic heritage.



trip grading Adventure touring

The theme behind most of our trips is active holidays and the fitter you are, the more easily you will adjust and enjoy yourself. On an adventure touring trip such as this you need to be in general good health and moderately fit. The grading overall would be introductory, with some "moderate" activity. Before departure aerobic-type exercise, which increases your breathing, is an obvious advantage. We recommend that for about two to three months prior to departure you try to exercise most days for 30–45 minutes of aerobic type activity.

adventure travel

Adventure travel involves the unexpected. In remote regions conditions change, and itineraries may be altered at short notice.

Flexibility gets you far more out of the trip than a fixed plan will.

If you are unsure whether this trip suits you, talk to us before you book.

important note

These notes are current at the date shown on each page and replace any earlier version.

The itinerary is a guide. It may change due to weather, conditions on the ground or other circumstances beyond our control.

the arid Gobi Desert in the south. Between these extremes lie numerous salt and freshwater lakes - including Lake Hovsgol, which holds nearly 2% of the world's fresh water. The traditional Mongolian lifestyle remains strong even as modern urban areas expand, particularly around the capital, Ulaanbaatar. Here, traditional gers (yurts) sit side-by-side with Soviet-era buildings, a visual reminder of the country's blend of old and new. The ger is central to Mongolian identity, designed for mobility and cultural symbolism: the door always faces south, while the rear of the tent holds the family altar and is reserved as a place of honour for guests. Mongolia's cultural heritage is rich. Following the lifting of a nationwide religious ban in 1990, Tibetan-style Buddhism has seen a strong revival and remains the predominant religion. The country's strong spiritual connection with Tibet is evident in its monasteries, festivals and daily customs. This spiritual and nomadic heritage is reflected in the nation's art, literature and music including throat singing (Khoomi), which allows a performer to produce multiple tones simultaneously, and traditional dance performances that often feature contortionism. Travellers to Mongolia can experience a rare sense of space and solitude, along with genuine encounters with local people and their customs. Horse-riding, hiking, and staying in traditional gers offer insights into daily life on the steppe, while monasteries and historic sites reflect the country's Buddhist and shamanic traditions. Infrastructure outside the main cities is limited, and travel here can be rugged and remote. Mongolia's nomadic culture, expansive landscapes and hospitality make it a destination for those seeking off-the-beaten-path travel.

climate

Mongolia experiences an extreme continental climate, with long, cold winters and short, warm summers. Due to its high elevation and landlocked position, temperatures can vary widely - both seasonally and between day and night. The best time to travel is from May to September, when conditions are generally dry and favourable for outdoor activities. July and August are the warmest months, with daytime temperatures typically ranging between 20–30°C (68–86°F) in central and southern regions. However, evenings and early mornings can still be cool, especially in the steppe or higher altitudes. In spring (May–June) and early autumn (September), days are often clear and sunny, with mild temperatures, while nights may drop to 5–10°C (41–50°F) or lower. Snow can fall in the mountains even during summer, and weather in remote areas can change quickly. Rainfall is generally light and concentrated between July and August, though showers are usually short-lived. Mongolia is also known for its strong winds and dry air, particularly in the steppe and desert regions, so sun protection and layered clothing are essential. It can snow on any day of the year in the mountains. Travellers should be prepared for a range of conditions and pack accordingly, including warm layers for the evenings, a waterproof jacket, and sun protection for exposed landscapes.

dietary requirements

Tell us at least one month before departure and we can cater for vegetarian diets and most medically recommended diets, including allergies and intolerances. Options are limited in remote locations. Some alternatives cost more or are not available, and on some trips you may need to bring your own food. We cannot guarantee a peanut-free or allergen-free trip. Travellers with severe allergies must carry their own medication and be able to self-administer it.

accommodation on the trip



3 nights hotel

Tavan Bogd Trek Naadam Extension

Experience Mongolia's Naadam Festival in Ulaanbaatar, one of the country's most important cultural celebrations. Witness the opening ceremony, traditional Mongolian wrestling and archery, before travelling to the horse racing grounds to watch hundreds of horses race across the steppe. A vivid introduction to Mongolia's culture, traditions and nomadic heritage.



what you carry

In your daypack you will need to carry extra warm clothing (depending on the altitude, location and weather), a rainjacket, water bottle, camera gear, valuables and personal items such as sunscreen and lip balm.

non exclusive trips

Please note that this trip is not exclusive to World Expeditions clients and is operated by our partners in Mongolia. Groups are informal, usually comprising a range of nationalities, and are aimed at healthy, active participants looking for an adventurous trip.

vehicles & safety

We use a range of vehicles, each chosen for the route and the conditions.

Transport safety laws differ from those at home. We use vehicles with seatbelts wherever they are available, but some vehicles will not have them fitted.

visas

The Government of Mongolia has extended the temporary exemption from visa requirements for the nationals of 34 countries, including Australia, New Zealand, the UK for stays up to 30 days to the end of 2026. These 34 countries join the current 27 with existing exemptions which include the US and Canada. All other nationalities should check with your nearest embassy or consulate for visa requirements.

You may also need visas for countries you transit on the way. Check the requirements for every country on your route.

Visa costs and rules change often, so confirm with your Reservations Consultant or travel agent. Obtaining your visas is your responsibility.

carbon neutral

We focus on measuring and reducing emissions rather than relying on carbon offsets. Our Carbon Labels estimate a trip's emissions from accommodation, meals, ground transport, activities and guiding. The calculations are done independently by the carbon consultancy ecollective.

The labels don't include international flights, which are often the biggest part of your footprint. You can reduce yours by flying direct, flying economy, and travelling less often but for longer.

For more detail, go to Climate Action under Responsible Travel on our website.

webinars & events

Join a live webinar to hear about a trip from the people who run it, and ask your questions directly. Can't make it live? Watch it on demand.

Upcoming sessions are on our website and in our enewsletter.

private groups

The adventures you see on our website are just the starting point. We can tailor an itinerary around your interests, preferred dates and group.

Whether you're travelling with friends, family, colleagues, a club or community, talk to our team about creating an adventure that's uniquely yours.

subscribe to our e-newsletter

New trips, new departure dates and offers, straight to your inbox. Subscribe free on our website.



Tavan Bogd Trek Naadam Extension

Experience Mongolia's Naadam Festival in Ulaanbaatar, one of the country's most important cultural celebrations. Witness the opening ceremony, traditional Mongolian wrestling and archery, before travelling to the horse racing grounds to watch hundreds of horses race across the steppe. A vivid introduction to Mongolia's culture, traditions and nomadic heritage.



social networking

Follow @worldexpeditions on Facebook, Instagram and YouTube.

Tag #WorldExpeditions on your trip photos and videos to be featured.

trip availability

We run small groups, so places go early. Check availability online, or call our team, who can often find options the website does not show.

Some trips depend on services we cannot confirm until you book, such as internal flights or permits. Booking early is the surest way to get the departure you want.

how to book

Book online, or call or visit one of our offices. You will complete a Booking Form and pay a non-refundable deposit.

Please do not book flights or make any other arrangements until your Reservations Consultant has confirmed every service on your trip.