



THE GOBI MIRAGE TOUR

Tour itinerary

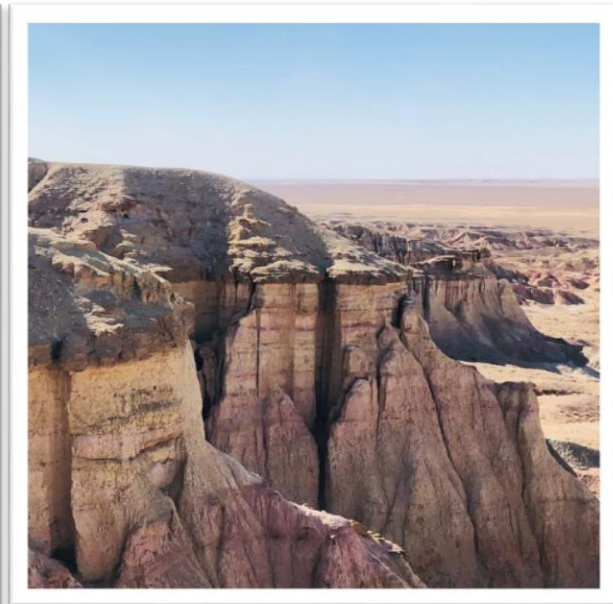
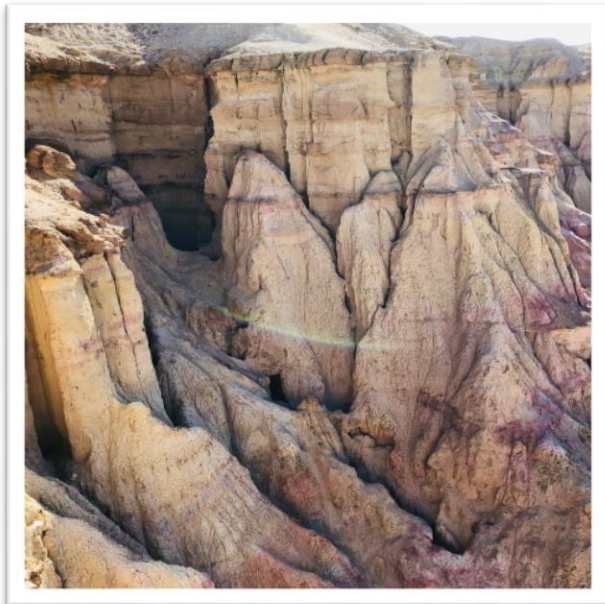
Day 1. Tsagaan Suvarga or The White Stupa / 450 km

The Tsagaan suvarga, located in Ulziit, Dund-Gobi province, is a massive scarp that once was a seabed featuring sedimentary structures. The different minerals on its surface make this place a very colorful site. It is also believed that the timeline of Tsagaan Suvarga's history can be identified through its colored layers in the cliffs.

The name "Tsagaan Suvarga" translates into "White Stupa"- a commemorative Buddhist monument usually housing sacred relics associated with Buddha, saintly persons, and the nature. Thus, Mongolians gave the name "Tsagaan Suvarga" to this place, symbolizing its sacredness.

The cliffs are about 30-60 meters high and over 400 meters wide. The unique rock formation look like ruins of an ancient city from a certain distance.

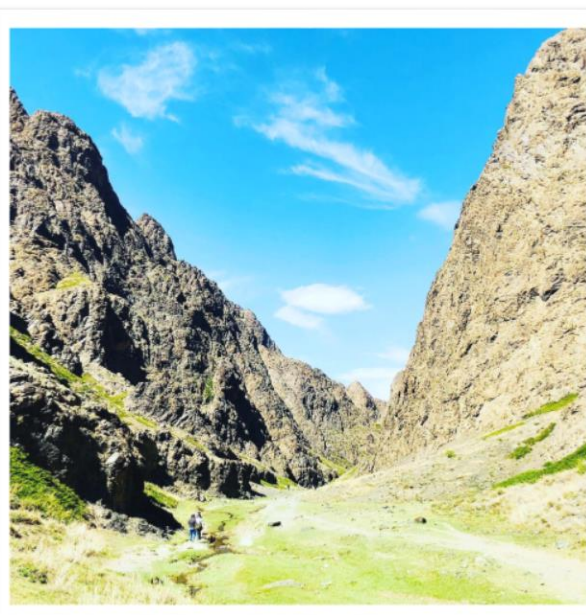
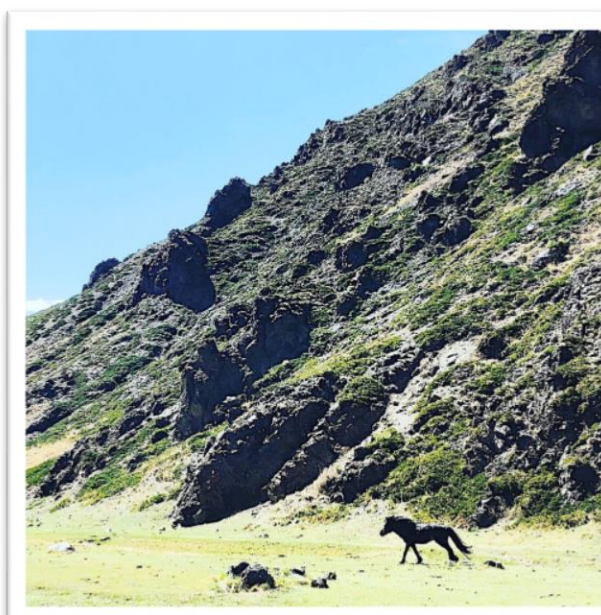
Time	Activities
8-9 am	Pick up service and depart from Ulaanbaatar (supermarket stop)
10-12 pm	Driving / interaction with the guide and the driver
1 pm	Lunch break
2-4 pm	Driving (short breaks for photos and toilet)
4-6 pm	Exploring the site- Tsagaan Suvarga- hiking
7-8 pm	Reaching accommodation and having dinner
After 8 pm	Free time & rest



Day 2. Yolyn Am or Yol Valley / 200 km

Yol is a splendid gorge found in the **Gobi Gurvan Saikhan National Park** (since 1965). The national park is a home for many wild animals such as the Siberian ibexes, Argali, snow leopards, lynxes, foxes, wolves, and especially the Lammergeiers. The gorge is named after by an old vulture called **Yol** (in Mongolian) or **Lammergeier** (in English). Yol is the highest flying (4000m), and yet one of the biggest birds in Mongolia with a wingspan of 2-2,5 m. At an elevation of 2200 meters above sea level, Yol features sheer cliffs rich in juniper as well as a pure stream that freezes in winter and forms a huge ice field like a glacier. The formation of ice starts around December and would stay as ice the whole year around. Unfortunately, the ice usually disappears by the end of July nowadays, due to the global warming. It is an ideal place for horse riding, trekking, and bird watching.

Time	Activities
8-9 am	Breakfast
10-12 pm	Driving / interaction with the guide and the driver (Short breaks for photos and toilet)
12-1 pm	Lunch break (supermarket stop)
1-2 pm	Driving and reaching Yol
3-5 pm	Exploring the site- hiking
6 -7 pm	Reaching accommodation and having dinner
After 8 pm	Free time and rest



Day 3. Khongor Sand Dunes / 160 km

The sand dunes of Khongor are located in Sevrei, Umnu-Gobi province. The 185km long sand dunes extend on the north side of Sevrei and Zoolon mountains. Known as Duut or the Singing dunes, the highest peak of the dunes reach up to 240m.

The river Khongor flows on the north side of the dunes. There are some beautiful pure water springs flowing from underneath the sand such as Seruun Bulag and Orgikhin Bulag.

Time	Activities
7-8 am	Breakfast
8-12 pm	Driving / interaction with the guide and the driver (Short breaks for photos, shop and toilet)
12-1 pm	Reaching the dunes and the accommodation/ lunch
2-3 pm	Camel riding
3-5-6 pm	Free time & rest / dinner
7-9 pm	Climbing to the dunes for sunset
After 10 pm	Free time and rest



Day 4. Bayanzag & Ongi temple / 130 km +170km

Today, we will cover two different destinations in one day- Bayanzag & Ongi

Bayanzag is a formation of red sandstone cliffs located in Bulgan sum, Umnu-Gobi province. The name, Bayanzag, is derived from the saxaul tree in the Gobi desert, whose wood is coarse and bark is spongy.

An American paleontologist Roy Chapman Andrews led an expedition in the South of Mongolia, and discovered the first ever dinosaur eggs in the world along with hundreds of dinosaur skeletons at Bayanzag in 1922. The expedition stopped due to harsh sandstorm in the south.

When the sun shines right at the red sandstone cliffs, it looks almost as if the cliffs were on fire; hence Bayanzag is called the flaming cliffs as well.

Time	Activities
7 am	Breakfast
8-11 pm	Driving / interaction with the guide and the driver (Short breaks for photos, shop and toilet)
11-12 pm	Reaching & exploring Bayanzag- hiking
12-1 pm	Lunch



Day 4. The ruins of Ongi temple / +170 km / 300 km in total

After visiting Bayanzag and having lunch, we continue our adventure to the ruins of Ongi. Ongi was once one of the biggest Buddhist monasteries in Mongolia. The ruins are located 18km to the south of Saikhan Ovoo, Dund-Gobi province. The monastery consisted of 28 temples built on the two side of Ongi River. The southern complex (11 buildings) was called Bari Lama temple and the northern one (18 buildings) was called Khutagt Lama temple. It is believed that Ongi had four big academies where math, meditation, philosophy and medicine were taught. From 1760 to early 1800, the monastery grew to a huge center housing over 1000 monks. Unfortunately, the whole monastery complex was severely destroyed during the communist purge in 1939. A large number of ruins can be seen in this area. The first temple after the destruction was built in 2004. There is a small museum in a ger featuring findings from the old times.

Time	Activities
12-1 pm	Lunch
2-4 pm	Driving / interaction with the guide and the driver
5-6 pm	Sight-seeing and hiking in Ongi
7-8 pm	Reaching the accommodation/ dinner
After 9 pm	Free time and rest



Day 5. Khugnu-Tarni National Park/ 320 km

Khugnu-Tarni National Park is located in Rashaant sum, Bulgan province. This area was taken under state protection in 1997. It offers amazing scenery with river, mountain, trees, and sand dunes all in one place. Wild animals like vulture, deer, foxes, hares, eagles, wolves and migratory birds like swans and cranes inhabit here. The Elsen Tasarhai is one of the main characteristics of the national park. Also known as the Semi-Gobi, it is part of the great Mongolian sand dunes, which extends about 80 km. Hiking or riding camel in here makes one feel like they are in the Gobi desert. In the northern side of the park, lies the impressive mountain range of Khugnu-Khan. These granite rock mountains can get as high as 2000m above sea level. There is a Buddhist temple in the mountain called Uvgun, built in 17th century by St.Zanabazar, the spiritual leader of Buddhism in Mongolia. During the controversial times of Western and Eastern Mongols (Khalkh and Zuungar) after the collapse of Mongolian Empire, the eastern Mongols were searching for its rival Zanabazar and came across the temple and killed the monks, tying their necks with ropes usually used for cattle like goats and sheep. This act is called **Khugnuh** in Mongolian vocabulary. So the origin of the mountain name was drawn from this story.

Time	Activities
7-8 am	Breakfast
9-12 pm	Driving / interaction with the guide and the driver (Short breaks for photos, shop and toilet)
12-1 pm	Lunch (grocery store stop)
2 pm	Reaching the local nomad family
3-6 pm	Interacting with the family, playing traditional games, trying traditional Mongolian dresses, free time- hiking, exploring the area
7-8 pm	Special dinner- Khorkhog and drinks/ vegetarian dish available
After 8 pm	Free time and rest



Day 6. Horse riding & arrival to Ulaanbaatar

Time	Activities
7-8 am	Breakfast
8-10 am	Horse riding
10-12 pm	Driving / interaction with the guide and the driver (Short breaks for photos, shop and toilet)
12-1 pm	Lunch
1-4 pm	Getting to Ulaanbaatar/ drop off the hotel/hostel/ airport/ train station
The end of the tour	

Things to bring on the tour:

- Extra batteries for your devices or solar charger
- Personal sheet for sleeping bags that we provide
- Flexible bags, backpack, torch light, caps & sunglasses
- Sunscreen, toothbrush, wet wipes, toilet roll, and mosquito deed
- Hiking boots (waterproof) and slippers, long boots for horse-riding*
- Personal medication- pain killers, bandages, pills for motion sickness
- Books, cards, music player, and other games for your entertainment
- Snacks (chips, nuts, dried fruits)

Things included in the tour:

- Meal: breakfast, lunch and dinner
- Accommodation: ger guesthouses run by local family, tourist camps, camping
- Fees for museums, national park entrance, road toll
- 4x4 off road vehicle, and petrol
- A tour guide and a driver
- Sleeping bag
- Drinking water (bottled)

Things not included:

- Alcoholic drinks
- International flights
- Travel & medical insurance
- Cost for optional activities
- Excess baggage fee

Please note that the timetables above are not fixed, and could change depending on the circumstances.

Thank you for choosing to travel with Magnificent Mongolia Tour!

