



Tour 431

## To the Kings of the Air



### Travel itinerary:

Join us on an unforgettable journey and accompany us to the "Golden Eagle Festival" in the Altai Mountains in western Mongolia. "Under the Moon" would be a translation for the word Altai and that is a fitting description for this unique landscape. Bright blue skies, crystal clear rivers and a golden landscape in autumn. Simply pure nature.



In the northwest of Mongolia, lives the minority of the Kazakhs, who have preserved their traditions over the years. The annual autumn hunting season opens with the great traditional eagle festival. In warm summer it is impossible to hunt with an eagle.



The origin of the stinging hunt is in central Asia. It is believed that it has been practiced for more than 3,500 years. An adult eagle has a wingspan of up to 230 cm and can weigh up to 7 kg.

At the festival, on the first weekend in October, the eagle hunters meet every year in the west of Mongolia for their probably unique eagle festival in order to determine the best eagles in a competition. In the disciplines speed, mobility and accuracy, the eagles compete against each other to determine the best eagle. The festival is accompanied by folklore performances. In addition to the eagle competitions, we can also experience a number of other competitions and events related to the festival. The Golden Eagle Festival is a very special experience, probably not for the faint hearted, but it gives the guest a deep insight into the cultural life of the Altai inhabitants.

We combine the eagle festival with the experience of the Altai mountains. The Altai Mountains are an untouched region in Mongolia because of their isolated location and because they are difficult to access. Our journey to the eagle festival takes place via the village of Khovd. This gives us the opportunity to explore a part of the fascinating Altai Mountains.

On our journey through the autumnal Altai Mountains we can also experience the warm hospitality of the nomads in the mountains. Far away from civilization, the people here live in their own rhythm, in harmony with nature. We will have the opportunity to experience the eagle hunters also away from the big eagle festival, we will see how the famous nomad carpets are produced in the yurts in laborious manual work and have the time and peace to enjoy the hospitality of the families.

This trip takes you to regions of Mongolia that have not yet been developed for tourism. Therefore, please adjust to very simple conditions. Sometimes we also stay overnight with nomadic families.

The trip is available in two variants. Arrival and departure by land, or by domestic flight

### Route

Ulaanbaatar – Karakorum – Arwaicheeer – Altai – Khovd – Olgy – Khovd – Nuro - Ulaanbaatar

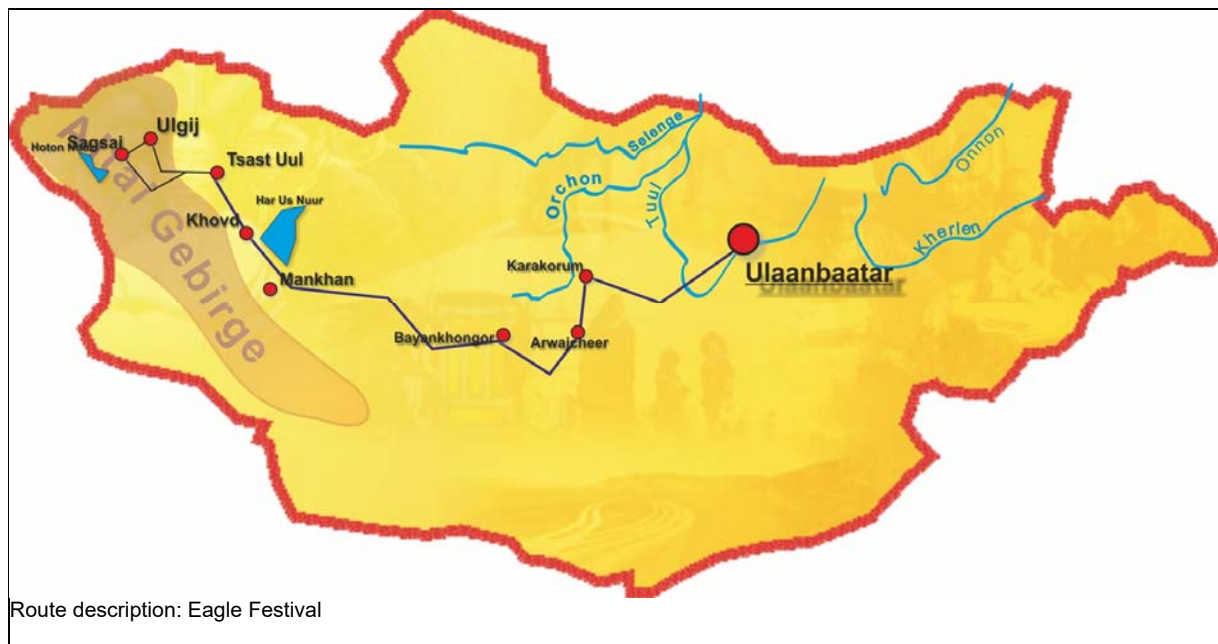


### Itinerary:

1. Day Arrival in Ulaanbaatar, check-in at the hotel, program meeting. Afterwards we will visit Ulaanbaatar. You will see the famous Gandan monastery with the 27 m high Buddha statue, the largest statue in the world, the monastery museum of the Tschojdshjin - Lama, the important lama in the history of Mongolian Buddhism and a small city tour are also on the program.  
Unterkunft: Hotel, Mahlzeiten: - / M / -
  
2. Day Departure to Karakorum. Right after the departure from the city, we will stop at a Mongolian Ovoo to make the earth gods peaceful for the further journey according to old custom. Ovoos are omnipresent in Mongolia. On the way we will cross the second largest river, the Orchon. The drive to Karakorum leads us through the endless expanse of the Mongolian steppe.  
Unterkunft: Jurrencamp, Mahlzeiten: F / M / A
  
3. Day The oldest Buddhist monastery in Mongolia is located in Öwörchangai-Aimag near Charchorin: Erdene Zuu Khiid. It is an impressive complex that was already founded in the 16th century and is today regarded as the tourist highlight of this region. The current outer wall consists of 108 stupas from the 17th century, which are whitewashed and therefore stand out beautifully from the landscape. Today there are four temples and a monastery in the inner area, where a few monks still live. Once about 1,000 monks lived, worked and prayed here.  
  
In the inner courtyard of Erdene Zuu there is a relaxed atmosphere. It is recommended not only to walk from temple to temple, but also to sit in the shade and watch the hustle and bustle of the others. No photos may be taken in the area that is still used as a monastery today. But here you can taste the famous fermented mare's milk Airag.  
  
At noon we start our journey to Arwaicheer, the district capital at the edge of the Archangai mountains.  
Unterkunft: Hotel, Mahlzeiten: F / M / A
  
4. Day We drive towards the Altai Mountains through the vastness of Mongolia. On the way we stop every now and then at nomad families who live at the edge of the road to have a small meal or to drink a tea. In the late afternoon we will reach the city of Altai at the eastern edge of the Altai Mountains.  
Unterkunft: Hotel, Mahlzeiten: F / M / A
  
5. Day Today we go into the Altai mountains. First we will drive on the new asphalt road along the northern edge of the mountains. Here we have a unique view of the mountains, with its snow-covered peaks. Around noon we will arrive at the biggest lake of Mongolia, the Khar Nuur. In the afternoon we will climb the central part of the Altai Mountains. The route takes us up to more than 3,000 mtr. Bayan Olgii, our destination, is very sheltered in a valley basin and we reach the city in the afternoon. The rest of the day we have time to look around in the city. A completely different culture surrounds us as the western part of Mongolia is inhabited by Kazakhs. 95% of the population is Kazakh.  
Unterkunft: Hotel, Mahlzeiten: F / M / A
  
6. Day We are going to the opening ceremony of the Adlerfest. The festival will be opened by a magnificent parade of all participants. On horses the participants ride into the stadium. On their arms they hold the mighty eagles. Afterwards each participant puts his equipment to the show. The most magnificent and artistically crafted equipment will be awarded the highest score. In the afternoon the eagle competitions will take place. Small prey animals that have already been shot are pulled on a leash by the riders, who have to catch the eagles successfully. It is about speed and skill. We spend the whole day on the competition ground.  
Unterkunft: Hotel, Mahlzeiten: F / M / A
  
7. Day Today is the second day of competition at the "Golden Eagle Festival" in the morning we experience the eagle competitions, where the eagles have to capture a fox fur. This is about speed, but also about following orders. In the afternoon we experience the traditional Kazakh game "Kekbar". A competition of the young men for a goat- or sheepskin. At the game everything is allowed to get into the possession of the fur. There are no rules. In this game, everyone against everyone, it is pretty wild. The winner of the competition then throws the captured fur onto a yurt roof and the family is allowed to hold the closing ceremony for the competitors at the end of the festival. Which is a great honour for the family concerned. We then take part in the award ceremony of the competitors and their eagles.

Unterkunft: Hotel, Mahlzeiten: F / M / A

8. Day Today we say goodbye to Olgii and drive a few kilometres into the Altai Mountains. To the Sagsai river and the village of the same name Sagsai. Here we are accommodated in the typical Kazakh yurts. In the afternoon we go for a small ride with the Mongolian horses along the Sagsai river. We will experience the unique landscape.  
Unterkunft: Nomadenjurte, Mahlzeiten: F / M / A
9. Day Today we drive through a remote part of the Altai Mountains to Tolbo Lake. A crystal clear mountain lake, at the edge of which some nomad families live. We visit one of the families. We will spend the night with a nomad family near the lake.  
Unterkunft: Nomadenjurte, Mahlzeiten: F / M / A
10. Day In the morning we drive on the partly new asphalted road back to the village Altai. We once again experience the endless expanse of the Mongolian landscape.  
Unterkunft: Nomadenjurte, Mahlzeiten: F / M / A
11. Day Return journey from the village of Altai to Bayankhongor. For this part of the route we take the newly built road.  
Unterkunft: Hotel, Mahlzeiten: F / M / -
12. Day Return to Ulaanbaatar. In the late afternoon we arrive in Ulaanbaatar and you have time to look around the city.  
Unterkunft: Hotel, Mahlzeiten: F / M / -
13. Day Transfer to the airport and return flight



[Strecke mit Google earth Anzeigen \(http://www.mongolei.com//Sateliten/tour431.kmz\)](http://www.mongolei.com//Sateliten/tour431.kmz)

Due to the circumstances (weather conditions, condition of the route, flooding) within Mongolia, deviations in the exact itinerary may occur. The description of the trip is only a guideline for the course of the tour. Due to adverse weather conditions, for example, the tour can be run in reverse order.

### Necessary equipment:

All technical equipment such as tents, cooking utensils etc. is provided by "Steppenfuchs". You only need the equipment for your personal needs. The list below is limited to what we think is necessary and is only intended as a guide.

Personal laundry, T-shirt or similar, warm jacket, rainwear, sun hat or similar, warm sleeping bag, warm sleeping clothes for the night, sleeping mat, small pillows, washing utensils, towel, bathing things, sturdy shoes, good sunglasses, sun protection cream, photo equipment, small flashlight, medication, if available GPS device. Backpack, or large travel bag to accommodate everything. Suitcases are rather impractical for this type of travel.

### Service specification:

Accommodation in Ulaanbaatar in a middle-class hotel (DZ, HP), airport transfer in Ulaanbaatar, German-speaking tour guide, entrance fees for museums, national parks and cultural programme, off-road vehicle hire incl. fuel and ancillary costs (Russian off-road vehicles), national flights, accommodation in the country in tents, full board in the country.

### Not included:

Costs for personal needs, costs for drinks, such as beer, etc., dinner in Ulaanbaatar, souvenirs, health costs, film photo fees (if required), tips, visa costs, or costs related to the visa regulations of Mongolia, possibly additional overnight stays in yurt camps, vegetarian food in the country.

### What else:

The reservation for the trip becomes only valid when the signed registration form has been returned to Steppenfuchs Reisen. We recommend you have travel health and cancellation insurance. You can buy for example insurance here: [Hanse Merkur Versicherung](http://www.hanse-merkur.de)

Further very useful information to the travel expiration and for the preparation of the journey finds you under the following link: <http://www.mongolei.com/texte/Reiseinformationen.pdf>

Minimum number of participants: four persons.

### Dates:

Start	End
28.09 Di	11.10 Mi 2021
28.09 Mo	11.10 Di 2022

### Prices:

<b>2.180 €</b>	<b>p.P *</b>
<b>2.350 €</b>	<b>p.P **</b>
<b>550 €</b>	<b>p.P ***</b>

\*) Accommodation and program in Ulaanbaatar self-organized  
 \*\*) Accommodation and program in Ulaanbaatar as described  
 \*\*\*) Domestic flights, if arrival/departure into the Altai Mountains is to take place via domestic flight.

### surcharges:

Single room hotel only possible in Ulaanbaatar

Surcharge for vegetarian food in the country

**If the minimum number of participants is not reached**

small group surcharge 1 persons

2 persons

3 persons

150 €	Pauschal
7 €	Pers/ Day

600 € p.P

300 € p.P

150 € p.P

### Comments:

All prices in EURO

Dates for **2021/22**

The dates given are the arrival/departure days in Ulaanbaatar

Price without flight plus current flight rate MIAT or Aeroflot

Individual appointments are possible

### **The cheapest airticket to travel**

Benefit from the fact that Steppenfuchs Reisen has concluded a very favorable agreement with Mongolian Airlines (MIAT) for the necessary flights from Germany to Mongolia. During the season, several times a week directly from Frankfurt or Berlin Tegel to Ulaanbaatar.

Flights from 870 € pers. (if you use our flight dates) and from 950 € for individual flight dates. Please inform yourself on our website about our flight offers. (<http://www.mongolei.com>)

### Helpful links:

Distance auf Google Earth

[Strecke mit Google earth Anzeigen](#)

Packing list proposal:

<http://www.mongolei.com/texte/Packliste.pdf>

travel insurance

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travel informationen

<http://www.mongolei.com/texte/ReiseInformationen.pdf>

travel registration

[http://www.mongolei.com/texte/Steppenfuchs\\_Reiseanmeldung.pdf](http://www.mongolei.com/texte/Steppenfuchs_Reiseanmeldung.pdf)