

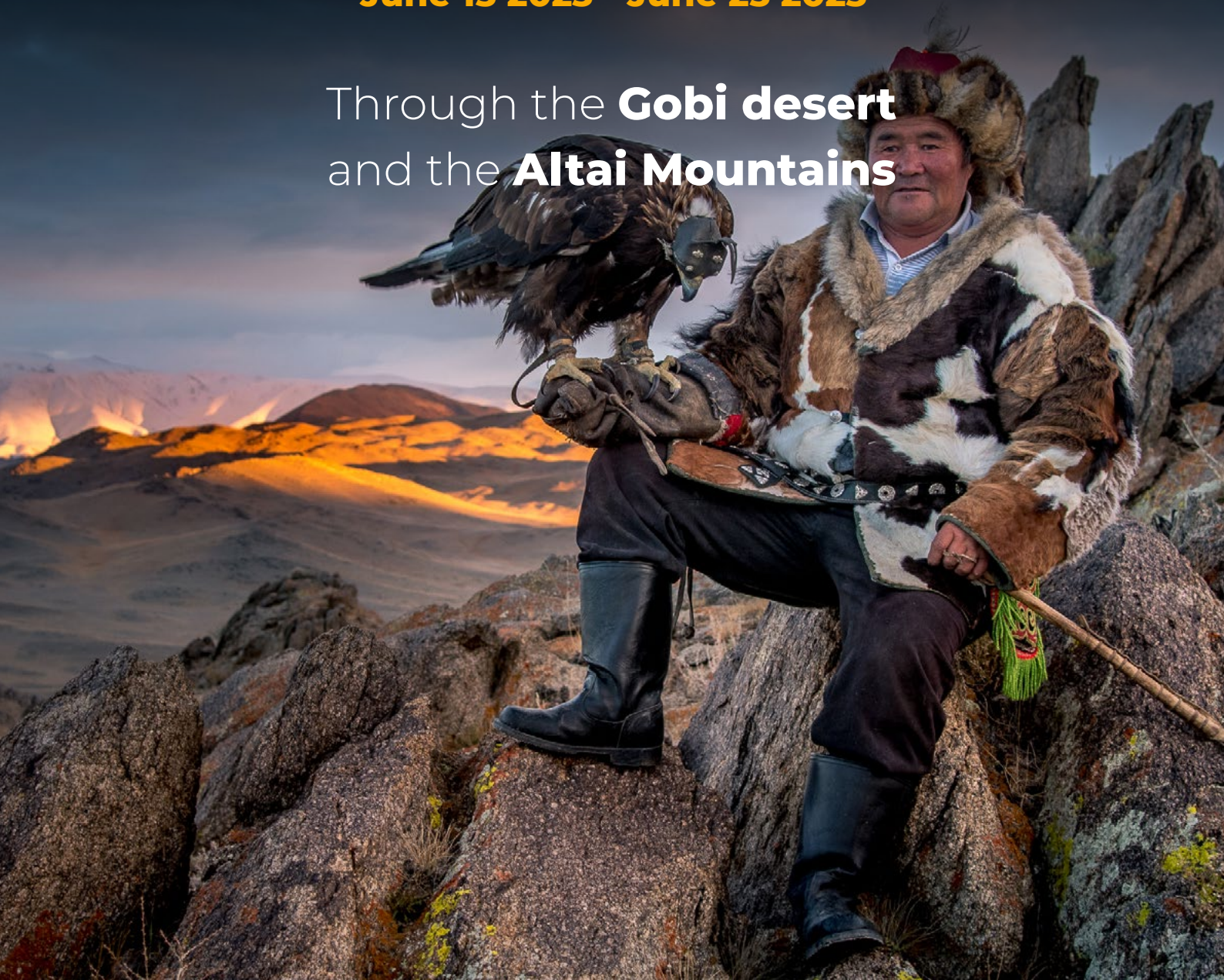


LÄCHELN DER STEPPE  
MONGOLEI REISEN

# Exclusive Photo trip

**June 15 2023 - June 25 2023**

Through the **Gobi desert**  
and the **Altai Mountains**

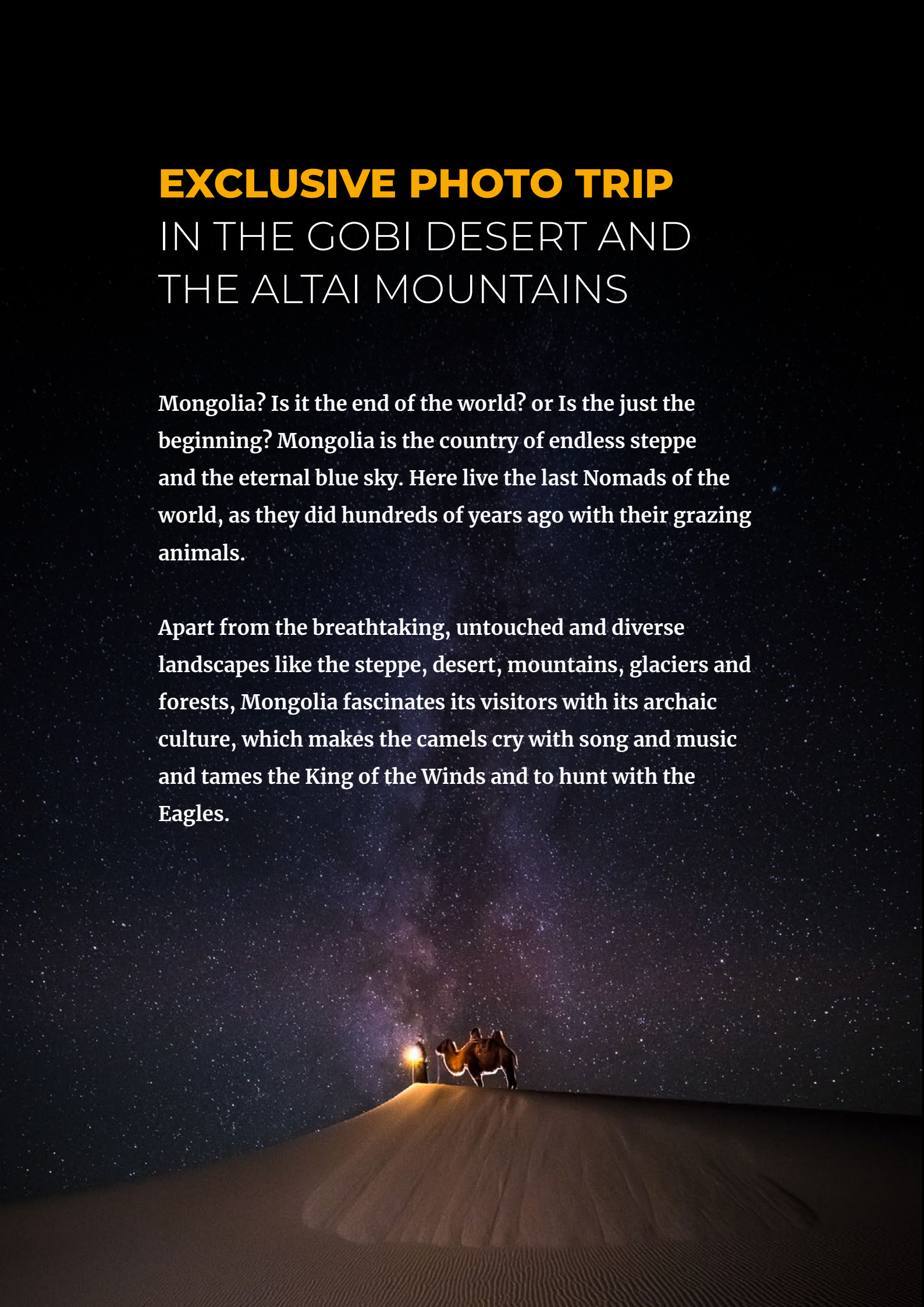




# **EXCLUSIVE PHOTO TRIP** IN THE GOBI DESERT AND THE ALTAI MOUNTAINS

Mongolia? Is it the end of the world? or Is the just the beginning? Mongolia is the country of endless steppe and the eternal blue sky. Here live the last Nomads of the world, as they did hundreds of years ago with their grazing animals.

Apart from the breathtaking, untouched and diverse landscapes like the steppe, desert, mountains, glaciers and forests, Mongolia fascinates its visitors with its archaic culture, which makes the camels cry with song and music and tames the King of the Winds and to hunt with the Eagles.





## IN SHORT ABOUT THE TRIP

The trip first goes to the picturesque landscape in the heart of the Gobi Desert. The Gobi is so colourful and multifaceted in shapes. We travel to the most beautiful places in the Gobi Desert; the “Khongor” dunes, the southern foothills of the Altai Mountains “Govi Gurvan Saikhan” with deep and impressive gorges, the “Saksaul” forest and the flaming cliffs. Meet the locals with their camel herds and enjoy their warm hospitality.

The next destinations of our PhotoTrip is the tall Altai in the far west of Mongolia. The trip goes from South Gobi via Ulaanbaatar to West Mongolia with a domestic flight. Every year Mongolia hosts the famous “International Eagle Hunters Festival”. For us the festival is out of question because of the crowd of people as there is hardly a chance for us to take a good photo/picture. That’s why we organise our own small festival with only three to five eagle hunters for our private group and go to the most beautiful mountain locations, to take beautiful photos of Western Mongolia. There we also visit the nomads and get to know their culture and hospitality.

We travel to the most beautiful landscapes and to the nomads with well equipped Toyota Land Cruisers with local drivers and stay overnight in hotels and Ger camps.



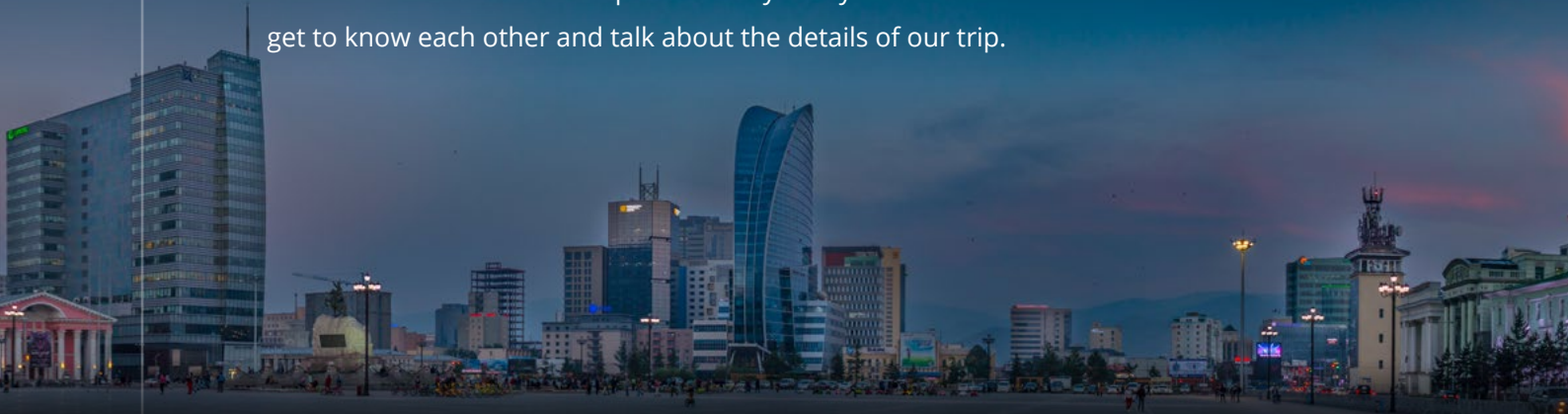




# DAY 1

## Arrival in Mongolia

Individual arrival in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia. You will be picked up at the airport and taken to the hotel. You can spend the day freely and rest. We will meet for dinner to get to know each other and talk about the details of our trip.



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# DAY 2

## Drive to Tsagaan Suvarga (450 km)

The limestone rock formation has naturally created a work of art called "Tsagaan Suvarga" (White Stupa). The cliffs are 30-60 meters high and stretch 400 meters in length. The landscape was once beneath a sea. Formed over millions of years, the colored layers that glow pink, purple, red, orange, and yellow in the sunlight provide stunning photo backdrops at sunrise and sunset. Overnight in Mongolian Ger Camp. Amenities include electricity and showers.



## DAY 3 & 4

### **Drive to Khongor sand dunes** (350 km)

#### **The Gobi Desert at sunrise, sunset and at night.**

We will see the sunrise in the Khongor sand dunes stretching over 170 km. The Khongor Sand Dunes are the most beautiful and largest sand dunes in Mongolia. The first rays of the sun paint the infinite gentle curves on the dunes. The breathtaking mountains on the horizon turn pink. Camels and camel herders are waiting for us for portraits and photo shoots. Overnight in Mongolian Ger Camp. Amenities include electricity and showers.

During the day we relax in the ger camp, edit our recordings and do a workshop. Sunset and night photo shoots are also planned today. We chose the date in the Gobi around the new moon phase, which means that if we have a clear sky, we can photograph the starry sky and Milky Way at night. We stay overnight in the same ger camp.





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## DAY 5

### **Bayanzag (Kingdom of Saksaul) and Flaming Cliff** (250 km)

**Bones and eggs of dinosaurs were found near the Flaming Cliffs.**

We get up early to take another photo of the sunrise in the sand dunes of Khongor. After breakfast we check out and drive to Bayanzag (Rich of Saksaul). We will arrive early in the afternoon. Overnight stay in Ger camp with electricity and showers. We photograph the flaming cliffs from Panorama locations at sunset, where they turn dark red. Overnight in Mongolian Ger Camp. Amenities include electricity and showers.

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## DAY 6

### **Drive to Ulaanbaatar** (650 km)

We will drive relaxed with many stops to take photos and have a picnic in the beautiful nature. Overnight stay in the hotel.





## DAY 7

### **Flight from Ulaanbaatar to Altai Mountains** (1690 km)

We continue flying to Ulgii, the capital of the westernmost province of Mongolia Bayan-Ulgii (flight: two hours) and drive to a Kazakh family where we can take portrait photos of the locals in their traditional clothes.

We also photograph three to five eagle hunters at the breathtaking sunset near the beautiful mountains. After sunset we drive back to Ulgii to stay overnight at the hotel (one to one and a half hour drive on a track). Overnight in a cozy basic hotel in the city with showers and WiFi.





## DAY 8

### The amazing Eagle Festival

**After breakfast we drive back to the Kazakh family. It's a very special day for us. A private eagle festival for us alone. The Kazakh hunters on horseback, dressed in their traditional dark coats and scarlet hats, with golden eagles on their arms.**

The festival is organized by local people who are committed to preserving traditional Kazakh cultural heritage. Enjoy the rare opportunity to see the golden eagles up close and allow one to perch on your arm. We can give each of us a private portrait shot. The entire event is only intended for a maximum of 10 photographers. The eagle hunters will give us many opportunities to photograph mountain ridges and river courses. Each eagle hunter will be ready for a portrait shot and they are very friendly and happy to be with us too. You will feel like you are on a movie set today and take home hundreds of good pictures. After this breathtaking day, we return to Ulgii to the hotel (one to one and a half hour drive).





## DAY 9

### **The holy mountain Tsambagarav, The blue lake and the rocks**

**After breakfast we drive to the snow-capped holy mountain Tsambagarav (4208 meters high).**

Five eagle hunters are also waiting for us for a private photo shoot. With a breathtaking 360-degree view of rocky peaked mountains on one side and snow-capped mountains on the other, we take sunset photos and enjoy the last warm rays of light on the high Altai Mountains. And we drive back to Ulgii. Overnight at the hotel with showers and WiFi.





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## DAY 10

### **Flight from Altai Mountains to Ulaanbaatar**

**In the morning after breakfast we fly from Ulgii back to Ulaanbaatar. (Two hours).**

Check-in at the hotel in Ulaanbaatar around 2:00 p.m. You will have time for a stroll through the city center in Ulaanbaatar. To say goodbye, we have dinner at a restaurant in the evening.



### **Departure**

We will take you to the airport.





**Trip duration:** June 15 2023 - June 25 2023

## MORE INFORMATION:

### TRAVEL COSTS:

**Price:** € 3900,- per person with 10 participants

**Price:** € 4500,- per person with 7 participants

### INCLUDED IN THE PRICE:

- ✓ **Accommodation:** double room in best hotels of the city, Ger camps with with meals
- ✓ **Transports:** Airport transfers, domestic flights and local transport with well-equipped Toyota Land Cruisers (3 people per car)
- ✓ **Tour guide:** the mongolian photographer and the tour guide
- ✓ **Fees:** National park fees
- ✓ **Meals:** Chef's services
- ✓ **Events:** Private mini-eagle-hunting-festival
- ✓ **Services:** Camel herders and eagle hunters for photo shoot.
- ✓ **Drinks:** water, tea, coffee
- ✓ **Extras:** power cables, power generators for remote places without electricity
- ✓ **Workshops**

### NOT INCLUDED IN THE PRICE:

- ✗ **International flight**  
(book only after the announcement of the domestic flights in March 2023)
- ✗ Travel health insurance
- ✗ Alcoholic drinks
- ✗ Additional expenses for single room in hotels (650,- €)
- ✗ **Excess luggage** (free luggage for domestic flight incl. hand luggage: 15kg), One kilo excess luggage costs about 2,- €. The excess luggage can be paid at the airport by credit card.



### **EQUIPMENT THAT PARTICIPANTS SHOULD BRING:**

- DSLR camera with tripod and remote shutter release
- A wide angle lens. For example, Nikon 14-24 or Canon 17-40. Best lens for use in wide-angle scenes or architecture photography
- A middle-zoom lens such as a 24-70 mm
- A telephoto zoom lens, such as a 70-200 mm. Be sure to have additional tripod mount to this lens.

### **CLOTHES:**

- Waterproof and windproof jackets (average temperatures are +5 - 20 ° C)
- Waterproof pants
- Warm down jacket and thermal pants
- Casual clothes for dinners, lunches and workshops

### **THE WEATHER:**

- Average temperatures in July: 10 ° C to + 25 ° C
- **Warmest:** 30 ° C
- **Coldest:** 5 ° C

## **DO YOU NEED MORE INFORMATION?**

If you need more information, contact us.  
For every question you will get a detailed answer.

**The hostess Suvdaa**

**Phone in Mongolia:** 00976 86682403

suvdaa@smile-of-the-steppe.com

www.smile-of-the-steppe.com

*Subject to change without notice*

# **TRAVEL GUIDE:** BAYAR BALGANTSEREN

I was fortunate to have the most experienced photographer in Mongolia Bayar Balgantseren for my travels to enable the landscape photographers to see the last untouched corners of our earth and their inhabitants with an unparalleled archaic culture. He knows the areas and the the conditions of the landscape like no other.



## **BAYAR BALGANTSEREN**

Photographer





**Bayar graduated with a degree in economics. He has mastered the art of photography through extensive online self-study and through practical, hands-on experience and is focused on nature, wildlife, landscape and the traditional Mongolian lifestyle of the nomads.**

His first photography book, Bayar's Photography Impressions, was published in 2013.

### **PHOTO EXHIBITIONS**

- Photo exhibition at the gallery "Blue Moon", Mongolia, January 2013.
- Photo exhibition "Beautiful Sceneries of Mongolia", in three Japanese cities - Tokyo, Saitama and Yokohama, February 2014.
- Photo exhibitions in the cities of Russia such as Ulan-Ude, Buryatia, Irkutsk, Yakutsk, Chita, January 2015 and 2016.
- Photo exhibition in Bassano del Grappa, Italy, September 19 to November 8, 2015.
- Photo exhibition in Dolo, Italy, February 28 - March 6, 2016.
- Photo exhibition in Arxian, China, December 15-30, 2016.
- "Beautiful Mongolia" in Ottawa, Canada, March 2-15, 2017.
- "Beauty of Mongolia" in Krakow, Poland, October 25-30, 2017.

Over the past four years, Bayar's travel photography has been featured in several Mongolian magazines such as National Geographic Traveler, Deejis, Goodali, Mongolian Photo and Wonderful Life appeared:

### **AWARDS:**

- Best Photo at the photo contest of the French CIS company for the worldwide promotion of Mongolia, 2011
- The first place for nature photography at the Mongolian Press Photo Contest, 2012.
- The third place in the "Mongolian Birds Photography" Contest, organised by the Mongolian Center for Wildlife Protection, 2012.
- Best participant in EZNis contest "My beautiful country", 2012.
- Nominated one of the 40 best photos of Mongolian Flickr group, 2012.
- The first place in the competition "Glowing Sunsets Photography", which was organised by Canon in 2014.

# HOSTESS: SUVDAA

Dear everyone interested,

I have been organizing experience and adventure trips in Mongolia since 2006. With me you will experience the life of the nomads up close and immerse yourself in the nomad culture. The wide steppe is waiting for you.



Greetings,  
**SUVDAA**  
The Hostess

