



ARCHEOLOGY IN THE KHUNUU LAND

Archaeological circuit in the valley of Khoyd Tamir , the river of Northern Tamir.

A rarely rich archaeological site in the heart of the green valley of Arkhangay.

Tsatsiin Ereg is a place where the Monegasque archaeological house has chosen to do their research and attempt to reveal the mysteries of the ancestral nomad civilisations.

This archaeological jewel is located on a side of mountains, sepulchres, stones with deer carvings and cave paintings, giving to Tsatsiin Ereg a whole new dimension, a connection between present and past...

It is almost like waiting for the gallops of Khunnus warrior hordes.

About 1 500 years B.C. on the actual territory there were living nomad tribes who practiced pastoralism. These pastors, where they the ones who created these stone sculptures as presents to the spirits of steppes, is it simply a way they marked heir burial zone? Or maybe, these warrior hordes of Khunuus or Xiongnu people were the « Barbarian yellors » that the ancient Chinese writings talk about? Warrior contesters, who managed to spread fear in everyone around central Asia.

Even the Great Wall of China was built to protect the Chinese empire from the regular aggression of Xiongnu hordes.

Not to forget to highlight the big amount of petroglyphs that decorate outcrops of basalts that surround the valley.

Various paintings, scenes with wolves chasing goats and deer, scene of hunting with arbour, different styles, different centuries... where those simple representations of life or where those special symbols related to the cult ?

Questions to ask and ideas to share with the team of archaeologists to guide you the breath-taking past events.

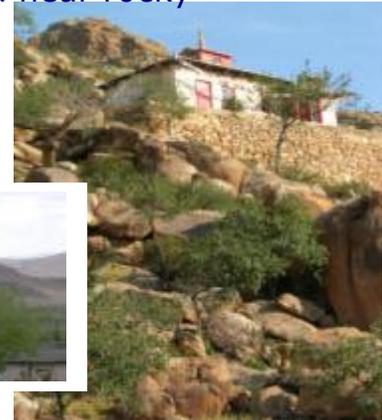


Day 1 : Ulaanbaatar/Khogno Khan

Khogno Khan is a national park, situated between a granite mountain massive and sandy dawns with spectacular sceneries full with contrasts.

Settling in a camping of tepees Eden- a camping located near rocky mountains.

Settling down and camping, afterwards - a visit of a small monastery situated on a side of the mountain. A short walk to climb up to the monastery and a spectacular view on the rocky mountains, downs and green zones.



J2 : Départure to Tsetserleg & Ikh tamir

Tsetserleg - a small village will be your place to stay for the midday meal, after that, visit of local monastery and the museum of Tsetserleg.

The monastery of Tsetserleg is actually renovated by the museum's team from National Museum of Nature of Monaco.

The responsible person is going to be there to reveal to you the secrets of this amazing place's architecture.



After the visit of the monastery you will be guided towards the Taykhar cliff mountains, situated not far from Ikh Tamir.

Settling in a yurt camp not far from these fabulous rock mountains whose carvings haven't revealed all of it's secrets yet.



The Taykhar cliff, a rocky 16 m high block is situated in the middle of steppe and is totally isolated. On it's walls you will be able to see carvings in approximately 150 different languages ; some of them made in the stone age, in Tibetan, Chinese and Manchu languages and leading and even to the 13th century and Turkish period ; several of these symbols are still used today when marking cattle.

Day 3 : Tsatsiin Ereg/Khorogiin Uzuur

In the morning, departure to Tsatsiin Ereg, an archaeological site where Monegasque mission is located.

The place is located only 20 kilometres from Ikh Tamir.

Settling in a camping near the nomad camps, not far from the archaeological expedition site.

A meal together with our archaeologist friends.

A guided visit of petroglyph site of Khorogiin Uzuur situated some hundred meter from there.



Details and commentaries, discussions and explications all around the petroglyphs with one of the archaeologists of the house.

In the afternoon- returning to your campsite and a meal together with your nomad hosts. Your guide will be there to introduce you to the Mongolian costumes and the nomad life.

Day 4 : Deer stones.

Departure on a horse together with your Mongolian guide and an archaeologist, to visit the stone monuments at the back of the valley.

There is no other way to dive in the mist of Mongolia than to skim through the green steppe in a little trot... feeling the ground almost vibrating under the clogs of Khunuus hordes ...



The stones are there in the middle of the steppe, an immutable symbol of the past but yet, so present.



Returning to the "nomad" camping, where you will release your mounts to let them freely find their pack.

An evening with your hosts in the yurt of Bayaa.

The welcoming in the yurt is always a very warm and exciting moment. Your guide will help you to share some moments with the nomads whose lifestyle is not so different from those people who put up the beautifully painted deer stones in this valley of pasture.

The last day to travel on the back of a horse.

This day will be dedicated to the discovery of several burial mounds, ancient burial places, and almost everyone of them was burst open by the raiders of all times.

Certain tombs were opened during the invasions of the last centuries; the burial places have always made us feel a kind of fear and respect, but also a deal of covetousness.

Some of the tomb were despoiled during the invasions of the period of Khans, others later on, but some were made as an object of excavation during the Russian period.

Now the only thing left is the mystery surrounding them; like the archaeologist guide will explain to you, many questions of the reason, placement and the usage of tombs still exist along with many others.



In the afternoon you will leave the nomad life to get in the car and to go to Batsenguel which is located 60 kilometres
Settling in a hotel.

Day 6 : Batsenguel/Ogii Nuur

In Batsenguel there is a monastery, built in a pure Tibetan style, called Duguin Khiid, a very interesting visit, so peaceful that it almost invites you to a meditation. If you wish, you will be bale to visit another monetary, which is situated not far from there, before we will continue on and go to the Turkish part of the city.

Then, going towards Ogii Nuur, a small lake full of fish, situated in the hills that surround Kharkhorim.
Settling in a yurt campsite near the lake where you couldn't resist going down to the lake to spear your feet in the blue water before enjoy the comfort of the campsite.



Day 7 : Ogii/Khoshoo Tsaidam/Khar Balgas

Some twenty kilometres from the South side of the lake is an archaeological site from Turkish period. The first monolith was built during the reign of prince Kul Tegin.

A beautiful marbled stone- you can even see dragons painted at the very top and some Chinese writings.

All around the monolith you can see some other statues partly destroyed but still able to raise interest.

The group of these statues was a part of an important mortuary monument. Several inscriptions are visible and also the mark of prince.

The second monolith is located one kilometre from the first one, is in a worse condition and was made during the reign of Bigle- Kul Tegin's brother.

When continuing your road you will go down to the very South to arrive in Khar Balgas, "The Black Ruins".

Historically Ordo-Balik or the "city camp", the old centre of Ouïgur empire, dated from 715, this fortress was destroyed in 840, during the Kirghiz invasions.

These are beautiful relicts of a city whose prestige lasted for a century. And finally, the last kilometres of the day to arrive in Kharkhorim, the ancient capital Genghis Khaan empire.



Settling in a yurt camp and a well-earned rest.

J8 : visit of the Erden Zuu monastery

Karakorum experienced the luxurious status of an imperial city for about 140 years, but was the empire's capital only for 32.

In 1235, Ogedei, the son of Gengis Khan, made built a 2 kilometre long rampart around the city, and that was also the time when the city became an economical and political centre of the empire.

Saving their nomad habits, the members of royal court were not living in the palace, but in the surroundings of the city in yurts- the palace was used only to welcome visitors.

Only a few traces have left from this rich ancient city, some bricks that were used in the construction of the Erden-Züü temple. Now the actual city is locates a few kilometres from the historical centre, but the relicts of it are visible all around the actual city.



Visit of monastery.

Returning to the actual capital - Ulaanbaatar.

LOGISTICS & PRICES

Dates: from Mai to September – July to enjoy the presence of archaeological mission Monegasque

Group: from 4 to 8 people

Activity: discovery of archaeological tracks, riding on a back of a horse & discovery of the nomad people

Transport: 4X4 vehicle

Price: **522 €/pers for a group of 4 people**

449 €/pers for a group of 8 people

Minimum supplement : 120 €/pers

Price includes:

- 1 guide archaeologist - translator
- 1 guide on a horseback
- Logistics and transfers
- Necessary material for bivouacs



- Overnight stays in campsites
- Restaurant & meals
- Visits in Tsetserleg and Erden Zuu