

31 JULY – 18 AUGUST 2027

# Exclusive musical journey into the soul of Mongolia



Experience Mongolia in a way few travelers ever do. This 19-day journey weaves music, ancient traditions and vast landscapes into a deeply immersive and unforgettable experience.

Dear friends,

For many years, we have been sharing the music, stories and traditions of Mongolia in Europe through our concept "Altai" here in the Netherlands. We have welcomed people in workshops, concerts, events, retreats... always carrying a deep wish: one day, to invite people to experience this culture where it truly lives.

That moment has now arrived.

In 2007, Rowan joined a journey through Mongolia with one of his throat singing teachers. Traveling across vast landscapes, singing in nature, meeting musicians and nomads: that journey became a turning point. It shaped not only his path as a musician, but also the vision that would later grow into Altai. Now, many years later, it feels incredibly meaningful to invite you to join us on our very first journey through Mongolia: together!

This 19-day experience is our way of opening the door to the soul of Mongolia. We will travel while learning Mongolian throat singing in nature, discovering the Altai Harp with one of its leading masters, and meeting inspiring people who carry musical traditions as part of daily life. Along the way, there will be moments of music, silence, tradition and connection: moments that cannot always be planned, only experienced!

This journey would not be possible without the help of our amazing team in Mongolia: musicians, guides, cooks and culture bearers who you will meet throughout the journey. Thanks to our deep personal connections - family, friends and long-time collaborators - we are able to travel in a way that is respectful, authentic and truly special.

Altai was founded with the mission to share Mongolian culture and arts in Europe with care, depth and honesty. With this journey, that mission comes full circle: not only bringing Mongolia to Europe, but now inviting Europe into Mongolia!

We would be honored to travel this path with you.

With warmth,  
Rowan & Saran

**What makes this  
journey so unique**

# What makes this journey so unique.

This journey is unlike any other. It brings together music, nature, people, tradition and the soul of Mongolia in a way that is deeply rooted, carefully guided and hard to find elsewhere. It may sound like a cliché: but we truly put our hearts into creating something genuinely special.



**A journey into Mongolia itself:** This is not a tour about Mongolia... it is a journey through Mongolia. You don't observe from the outside, but travel slowly through the land, guided by people for whom this culture is a living reality.



**Music where it was born:** You learn Mongolian throat singing in the landscapes that shaped these traditions, guided by throat singer Saruul. Singing in nature, listening to the wind, water and silence, you experience how music and environment are inseparable in Mongolian culture.



**Altai Harp at its roots:** Three full days are dedicated to the Altai Harp at a small-scale yurt camp in nature. Guided by Ganpurev: researcher, composer and one of the key figures in reviving this instrument. You become part of a living musical history.



**Daily throat singing workshops in nature:** Throughout the journey, throat singer Saruul guides daily workshops at special outdoor locations. Together you explore all the throat singing techniques and experience how they are deeply connected to imitating natural elements such as wind, water and animal sounds.



**Meet musicians:** Meet professional Mongolian musicians and teachers through interactive workshops in Morin Khuur, Tsuur and Mongolian jaw harp, learning directly from the people who keep these traditions alive.



**Shamanic traditions experienced with respect:** You are invited to witness and experience shamanic ceremonies and rituals in an authentic way — guided by people who carry these traditions within their families and communities.



**Guided by deep personal connections:** Thanks to our long-standing relationships in Mongolia, such as family, friends and trusted local partners, we travel in a way that opens doors usually closed to visitors. These connections shape the depth, warmth and authenticity of the journey.



**Fully arranged, yet free to breathe:** The journey is fully arranged on the ground, including transport, accommodation, workshops and meals, with private chefs traveling along. At the same time, there is room for flexibility, rest and spontaneous moments — following the rhythm of the land rather than a rigid schedule.

**More than a journey:** This is our very first time inviting people to travel through Mongolia with us. It brings together everything Altai stands for: sharing Mongolian music, culture and tradition with care, depth and integrity... now, finally, in the place where it all began.

**Meet  
the team**

# Please meet the team behind this journey.



## Rowan Hartsuiker

Musician, teacher, and co-founder of Altai. For over twenty years, Rowan has immersed himself in Mongolian throat singing, overtone singing, and traditional instruments such as the Morin Khuur, Tovshuur, Altai Harp, and jaw harp. His music bridges tradition and experience, touching people at their core.

Together with his wife Saran, he shares a passion for cultural exchange through their concept “Altai.” During retreats and workshops, Rowan brings these musical traditions to life in an accessible and personal way.



## Saran Myagmarsuren-Hartsuiker

Founder of Altai and born in Mongolia, where she grew up in a traditional yurt on the countryside. Saran embodies her culture – and you feel it in the hospitality, the atmosphere, and the care with which she embraces every retreat and workshop. Her love for cooking and culture makes each experience truly special.

Together with Rowan, she is the heart of Altai: warm, connected, and genuine. She invites you to taste the Mongolian tradition – in every sense of the word.



Altansuvd  
Gongor

## Suvdaa

Altansuvd Gongor, known as Suvdaa, grew up in a traditional Mongolian yurt and moved to Berlin at the age of eighteen for her studies. Living for many years in Germany, she developed a strong understanding of both Mongolian and European cultures. Since 2006, Suvdaa has been organizing authentic, small-scale journeys through Mongolia for European guests. Thanks to her close connections with nomadic families, musicians and local communities, she offers access to places and traditions that often remain hidden to outsiders.

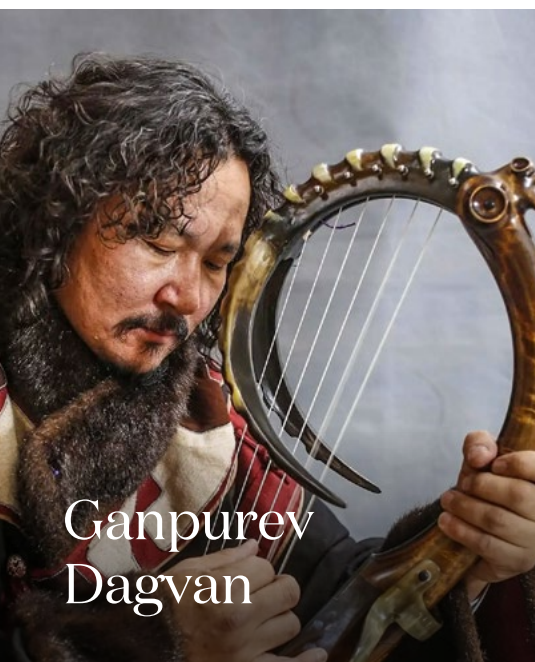


Saruultugs  
Myagmarjav

## Saruul

Saruul was born in Chandman, a village in western Mongolia widely regarded as the birthplace of Mongolian throat singing. Growing up in a family of renowned throat singers, he became part of a living tradition passed down through generations.

Today, Saruul works full-time as a professional throat singer based in Ulaanbaatar. Alongside his performances, he is dedicated to teaching and sharing the many styles and techniques of khöömii, helping others experience its deep connection to nature and sound.



Ganpurev  
Dagvan

## Ganpurev

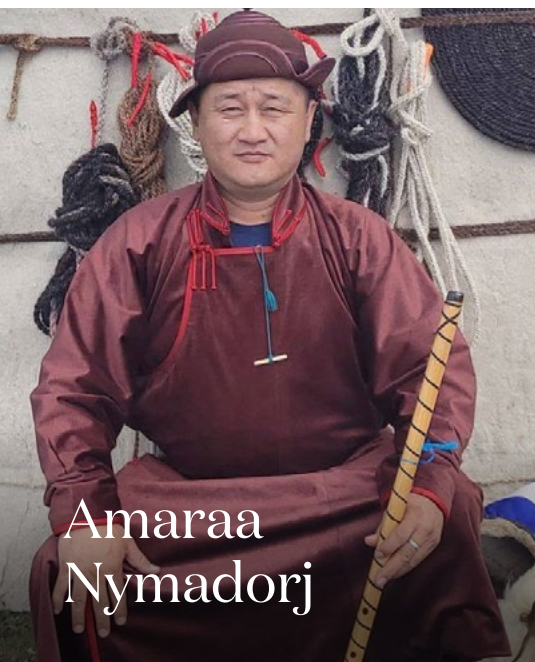
Ganpurev is a musician, composer and researcher dedicated to the revival of the Altai Harp. After the instrument was discovered in 2008, he played a key role in bringing it back to life, developing modern playing and teaching methods.

Through his research and compositions, Ganpurev connects ancient musical heritage with contemporary practice, making the Altai Harp accessible to new generations while honoring its historical roots.



## Shagai

Mungunshagai Gaasuren, known as Shagai, is a professional Mongolian Morin Khuur player and throat singer. With a deep connection to Mongolia's traditional musical heritage, he brings together instrumental performance and traditional throat singing techniques. During the journey, Shagai will lead a workshop exploring Morin Khuur playing and traditional Mongolian songs, introducing participants to the instrument, its musical language and the traditions surrounding it.



## Amaraa

Amaraa Nyamdorj is a professional Mongolian musician, throat singer, Tsuur player and jaw harp player, as well as a skilled traditional instrument maker. He builds many of his own instruments, combining practical craftsmanship with a deep understanding of their musical traditions. During the journey, Amaraa will lead a dedicated day exploring the Tsuur (flute) and Mongolian bamboo jaw harp, introducing participants to both the instruments and the traditional musical culture in which they developed.



## Other

Our days in Ulaanbaatar will be filled with music, encounters and a few surprises. We are bringing together a selection of Mongolian musicians, teachers and cultural practitioners to introduce you to different traditions, instruments and musical styles.

Some of these collaborations are still being arranged, so we will keep part of the program a surprise until closer to the journey. Expect a varied introduction to Mongolia's rich musical culture, with workshops, presentations, performances and personal encounters with the people who keep these traditions alive.

**Day to day  
program**

# Welcome to Mongolia

## 31 July - 18 August 2027

**Organizers:** Altai (Rowan & Saran) / Lächeln der Steppe (Suvdaa)

This journey has been created around our shared love of Mongolian music, culture and landscape. Rather than simply visiting places, we want you to experience Mongolia through the people who were born there, work there, and make music there. During the journey, we will meet professional throat singers, Morin Khuur players and other musicians, learn about traditional instruments, spend time with local people, stay in yurts, explore Mongolia's landscapes and experience the country's living cultural traditions.

The journey begins in Ulaanbaatar, continues with the three-day Altai Harp program at Tsagaan Bulag, and then takes us through Central Mongolia with ongoing throat singing workshops in nature, and several additional workshops.

### **At a Glance:**

**Group size:** 10 participants + 5 team members

**Journey dates:** 31 July – 18 August 2027

**Recommended arrival:** 30 July 2027

**Recommended departure:** 18 August 2027

Main regions and locations: Ulaanbaatar, Tsagaan Bulag camp, Elsen Tasarkhai, Orkhon Valley and Waterfall, Tuvkhun Monastery, Tsenkher Hot Springs, Terkhiin Tsagaan Nuur, Kharkhorin.

Approximately **1,700 km** will be travelled by road during the journey.



# Day 1

## July 31 - Arrival in Ulaanbaatar

Participants arrive in Ulaanbaatar in the early morning and are welcomed at the hotel after an airport shuttle transfer arranged by Altai. After settling in, there is time to rest and recover from the journey during the morning in your hotel room. In the afternoon and evening, the journey officially begins with our first introduction to Mongolia's living musical culture. The program in the city will include a workshop, presentation and live performance, guided by professional musicians.

**Travel:** International flight + airport transfer

**Accommodation:** Hotel in Ulaanbaatar

---

# Day 2

## Aug 1 - Ulaanbaatar

We spend another day in Ulaanbaatar, further discovering Mongolia's living musical traditions and meeting professional musicians. The program may include a jaw harp workshop, a traditional long-song session (Urtiin duu), introductions to different forms of Mongolian music and visits to important cultural locations.

The exact program will be finalized closer to the journey, but the day will be filled with music and guided by professional musicians. We will also meet a Mongolian shaman and receive an introduction to Mongolia's traditional shamanic practices and nature-based worldview.

**Travel:** Local transportation / taxi / walking

**Distance:** Local travel within Ulaanbaatar

**Accommodation:** Hotel in Ulaanbaatar



# Day 3-5

## August 2-4 - Tsagaan Bulag

We leave Ulaanbaatar by private bus and travel to Tsagaan Bulag Camp, where we spend three days surrounded by nature and immersed in the beautiful sound of the Altai Harp.

The Altai Harp is a wonderfully accessible instrument, making it especially suited to those without previous musical experience. Under the guidance of Ganpurev, researcher, musician and composer dedicated to the revival of the instrument within Mongolian traditional music, we learn the basics, explore traditional melodies and discover the history and cultural significance of the Altai Harp.

There is something special about learning an instrument in the landscape where silence, nature and music come together. With the vast Mongolian surroundings as our backdrop, we have time to slow down, listen and create beautiful melodies together.

During our stay, a Mongolian shaman will also join us for a special session exploring Mongolia's shamanic traditions and spiritual connection with nature.

**Travel:** Private bus / minibus

**Distance:** ±110 km from Ulaanbaatar

**Accommodation:** Yurt accommodation



# Day 6

Aug 5 - Ulaanbaatar

After our Altai Harp experience, we return to Ulaanbaatar by private bus. In the afternoon and evening, we step behind the scenes of Mongolia's professional performing arts world. This is also the moment we meet Saruultugs Myagmarjav (Saruul), who will accompany us throughout the Central Mongolia journey as our throat singing teacher and guide. We visit the National Theatre, where Saruul works as a professional throat singer, meet musicians, dancers and other artists, and discover what happens backstage. Later, we experience their performance from the audience: giving us the opportunity to see both sides of Mongolia's professional traditional performing arts.

**Travel:** Private bus / minibus

**Distance:** ±110 km

**Accommodation:** Hotel in Ulaanbaatar



# Day 7

Aug 6 - Ulaanbaatar

We leave Ulaanbaatar and begin our journey through Central Mongolia. Our destination is Elsen Tasarkhai, where the wide steppe meets striking sand dunes and rocky landscapes. From here onwards, we experience rural Mongolia and spend the nights in traditional yurt camps. In the afternoon or evening, we begin our first official throat singing workshop with Saruul, who will accompany us throughout our journey through Central Mongolia. A very idyllic landscape featuring rocky mountains and trees. Here, you can hike up the mountain, enjoy a magnificent view of the vast steppe, and savor the breathtaking silence.

**Travel:** UAZ / 4x4 vehicles

**Distance:** ±260 km

**Accommodation:** Yurt camp at Elsen Tasarkhai



# Day 8-10

## Aug 7-9 - Orkhon Valley and Waterfall

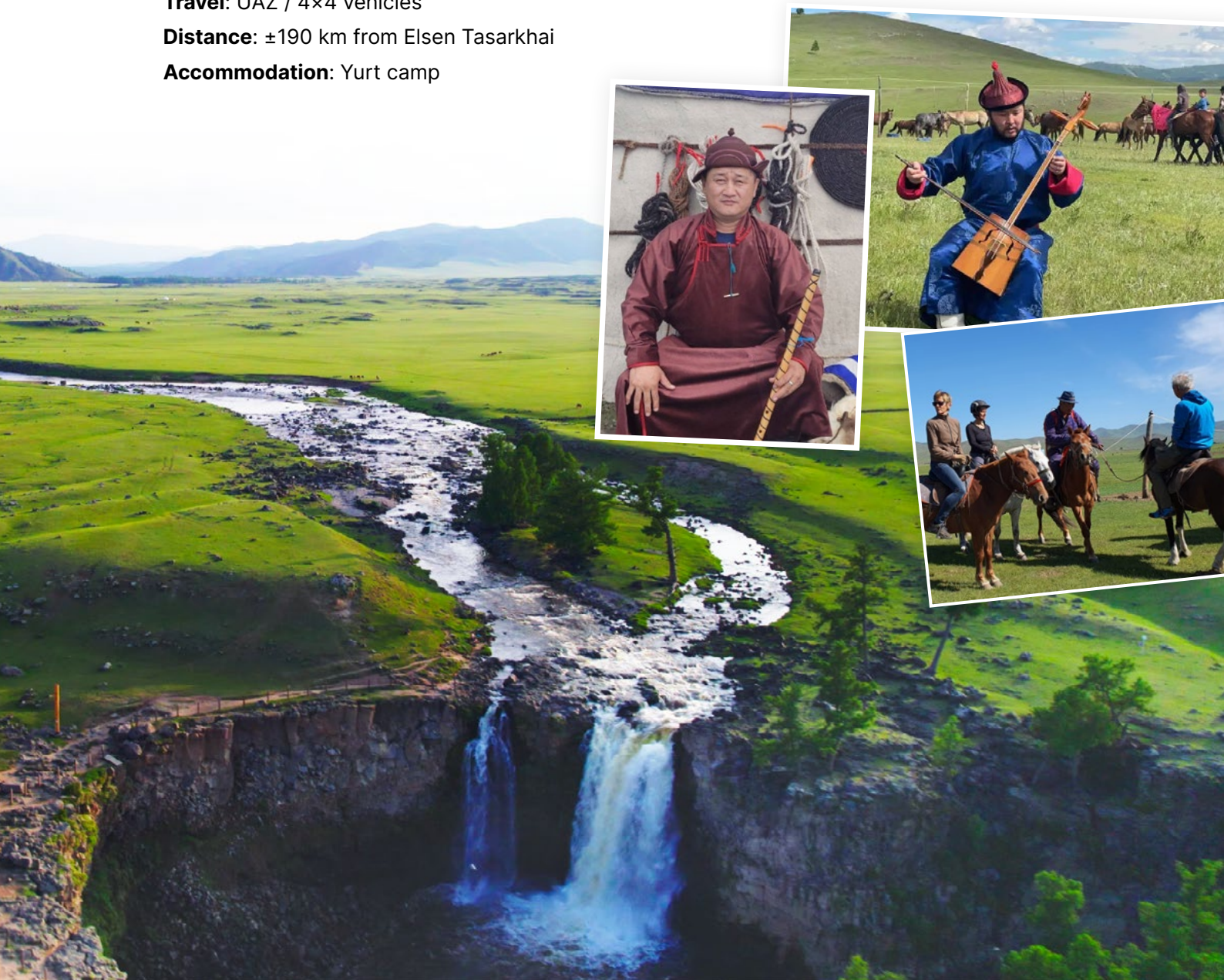
We continue into Mongolia's most famous waterfall, "Ulaan Tsutgalan" (Orkhon Waterfall), plunges more than 20 meters down into the canyon. Surrounded by mountains, rivers and open steppes, we have time to explore the landscape, meet local people and experience rural Mongolia at a slower pace. We will stay with a nomadic family for three days and experience their daily life; milking mares and yaks, making dairy products, and so on. Optional horse riding may also be available. We will ride on horseback from the family's home to the waterfall and back, a journey of about 4 to 5 hours.

Throughout our stay, we continue our throat singing workshops in nature with Saruul. During the stay here we will also take part in a traditional music workshop with professional Mongolian musician Amaraa Nyamdorj (Amaraa). The program focuses on Khulsan Khuur (bamboo jaw harp) and Tsuur (flute), two instruments closely connected to the traditional music of Western Mongolia, which Amaraa both makes and performs at a high level.

**Travel:** UAZ / 4x4 vehicles

**Distance:** ±190 km from Elsen Tasarkhai

**Accommodation:** Yurt camp



# Day 11

## Aug 10 - Tuvkhun Temple

We travel deeper into the Khangai Mountains and visit Tuvkhun Temple, an important historical and spiritual site surrounded by beautiful mountain landscapes.

We traverse beautiful edelweiss-dotted steppes and cross wide rivers, making our way over mountains and through valleys to reach Tuvkhun Temple, situated at an altitude of 600 meters. Built around 1653, Tuvkhun Hiid is also known as the “Land of Blissful Solitude,” as it served as a sanctuary for meditation for the first Mongolian Buddhist saint, Undur Gegeen Zanabazar; the “Great Enlightened One.” It was here that he developed the Soyombo script and created his most renowned works: the portraits of the Five Dhyana Buddhas and the sculptures of the 21 Taras. The Soyombo symbol still adorns Mongolia’s national flag today, representing the history, tradition, and independence of the Mongolian people. Zanabazar is considered the greatest Buddhist sculptor of his era.

The monastery enjoys a magnificent location, perched against a rock face on a mountain covered in splendid deciduous forests. It is of immense cultural significance and has been designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The hike to the temple and back takes approximately 3 hours.

**Travel:** UAZ / 4x4 vehicles

**Distance:** ±40 km

**Accommodation:** Yurt camp



## Day 12

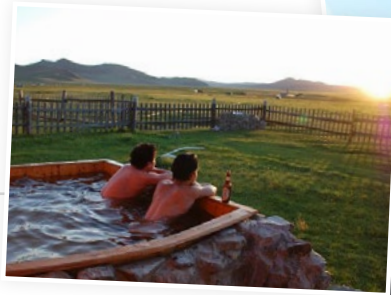
### Aug 11 - Tsenkher Hot Springs

We continue through the Khangai Mountains towards Tsenkher Hot Springs. The hot spring, which contains sulfur and silicic acid, has been used for its healing properties for centuries. It emerges at the foot of a mountain covered in coniferous forest (1,860 meters above sea level) at a temperature of 86 degrees Celsius. Here, we stay overnight at a tourist camp and enjoy a hot bath. We also continue our throat singing workshops with Saruul, using the natural environment as part of our musical experience.

**Travel:** UAZ / 4x4 vehicles

**Distance:** ±150 km

**Accommodation:** Yurt camp



## Day 13-15

### Aug 12-14 - Terkhiin Tsagaan Nuur

We continue our journey to Terkhiin Tsagaan Nuur, one of Mongolia's remarkable volcanic lake landscapes. We spend three nights surrounded by open steppe, mountains and the clear waters of the lake, with plenty of time to explore and experience the landscape.

Terkhiin Tsagaan Nuur is surrounded by the Khangai mountain range and is located near the famous Khorgo Volcano. We hike across lava fields up to the 2,200-meter-high Khorgo Crater, which offers a beautiful view looking down. In various beautiful natural locations around the lake, we continue our throat singing workshops with Saruul.

During these days, we will also follow a separate traditional music workshop with professional Mongolian musician Mungunshagai Gaasuren (Shagai), a highly skilled Morin Khuur player and throat singer. The workshop will focus on the Morin Khuur (horsehead fiddle).

**Travel:** UAZ / 4x4 vehicles

**Distance:** ±200 km from Tsenkher

**Accommodation:** Yurt camp



## Day 16

Aug 15 - Kharkhorin

We leave Terkhiin Tsagaan Nuur and travel towards Kharkhorin, the historic capital of the Mongol Empire. Kharkhorin was founded by Genghis Khan in 1220. Thanks to an attitude of tolerance toward everything new and unfamiliar, the capital city of Kharkhorin became not only the administrative hub of the empire and a center for trade and craftsmanship during the 13th century, but also a melting pot of diverse religions, cultures, and peoples.

At the Kharkhorin Museum, visitors can marvel at the history of the Mongol peoples in the Orkhon Valley. We visit Mongolia's first Buddhist temple (1586), located just outside the gates of Kharkhorin, the capital of the medieval Mongol Empire.

**Travel:** UAZ / 4x4 vehicles

**Distance:** ±280 km

**Accommodation:** Yurt camp



## Day 17

Aug 16 - Elsen Tasarkhai

We begin our return journey towards Ulaanbaatar and spend another night in the countryside at Elsen Tasarkhai. After our journey through Central Mongolia, this gives us one final evening to enjoy the open landscape together. We also have our final throat singing workshop with Saruul, bringing our musical journey through Mongolia towards its conclusion. After the workshop, you can ride a camel, walk on the sand dunes, and enjoy the sunset.

**Travel:** UAZ / 4x4 vehicles

**Distance:** ±100 km

**Accommodation:** Yurt camp



# Day 18

## Aug 17 - Ulaanbaatar

We make our way back to Ulaanbaatar after our journey through Central Mongolia. The afternoon is free to relax and explore the city.

In the late afternoon or evening, a Mongolian shaman will join us for another special and interactive session, giving us an opportunity to further explore Mongolia's spiritual traditions. We then enjoy a final meal together.

**Travel:** UAZ / 4×4 vehicles

**Distance:** ±260 km

**Accommodation:** Hotel in Ulaanbaatar

---

# Day 19

## Aug 18 - Departure

Today our journey comes to an end. We say goodbye and travel to Ulaanbaatar International Airport according to the departure schedule. This is generally very early in the morning.

**Travel:** Private bus / airport shuttle



# Frequently Asked Questions

### **Who is this journey for?**

This journey is for people who feel drawn to music, nature and culture. And of course everyone who has a special interest in Mongolia in general. You don't need prior experience with throat singing, the Altai Harp or Mongolia... curiosity, openness and a willingness to travel mindfully are far more important.

### **Do I need musical experience?**

No. Both the Altai Harp and the throat singing workshops are accessible to beginners. Everything is taught step by step, with space to explore at your own pace.

### **What kind of food can I expect during the journey?**

We travel with a private cook, who prepares fresh, nourishing Mongolian meals every day, inspired by traditional recipes. Vegetarian meals are always available, and Rowan and Saran have been vegetarian/vegan for over 10 years, so this is already a natural part of the way we travel. At the same time, we will also serve animal products such as dairy and meat for those who choose to eat them.

Mongolia is a country of extremes, and this also applies to food availability. As we travel through remote and rural areas, ingredients can sometimes be limited or depend on what is locally available. We will collect everyone's dietary requirements, allergies and intolerances well in advance and do our best to accommodate them within the possibilities of local conditions. If you have specific dietary needs or requirements, please let us know as early as possible so we can discuss what is realistically possible.

### **Is this journey physically demanding?**

The journey includes travel days, walks in nature and time spent outdoors. A basic level of fitness is recommended, but activities are generally accessible and adapted to the group. Participation is always voluntary... listening to your body is encouraged.

### **What language is spoken during the journey?**

The journey is conducted primarily in English. Rowan and Saran also speak Dutch and Mongolian, and Suvdaa speaks also German and English. Mongolian will naturally be spoken by local guides and musicians, and translations will be provided whenever needed.

**Do I need a visa for Mongolia?**

Visa requirements depend on your nationality. Participants are responsible for checking whether a tourist visa is required and arranging this in advance if needed. Please consult the Mongolian embassy or consulate in your country for the most up-to-date information.

**Is travel insurance required?**

Yes. A valid travel insurance is mandatory. We also strongly recommend taking out cancellation insurance, as we cannot guarantee refunds in case of personal cancellation.

**Is this a spiritual or religious journey?**

This journey includes encounters with shamanic (and Buddhist) traditions and rituals, experienced respectfully and authentically. Participation is always optional. No specific beliefs are required — openness and respect are key.

**Is the program fixed?**

Mongolia asks for flexibility. While the journey is carefully planned, the program may be adjusted due to weather, local circumstances or safety considerations. We see this as part of traveling in harmony with the land.

**I still have questions — what should I do?**

Feel free to reach out to us anytime. We're happy to answer questions and help you decide whether this journey is the right fit for you.

# **Practical Information**

## Accommodation

Accommodation during the journey consists of a combination of hotels in Ulaanbaatar and yurt camps in rural Mongolia. Hotel rooms are 2 single-bed rooms, so you share a room. Yurt camps are an important part of the experience, but facilities vary between locations.

Please know: Showers are not always available when traveling in the countryside.  
Some yurt camps have showers, while others may have limited or no shower facilities.

## Food

Our private cook will prepare fresh Mongolian food every day, based on traditional Mongolian recipes. Vegetarian meals are always available. Rowan and Saran themselves eat vegetarian, so this is already part of the way we travel. We will collect everyone's dietary requirements and allergies before the journey.

Because we will travel through rural areas, some ingredients may not always be available. We will do our best to accommodate dietary requirements within the possibilities of local conditions.

## What to bring

### Clothing

Although this is summer, temperatures can drop quickly in the evening and at night, particularly in the mountains and open steppe. Please bring warm layers. Don't rely only on summer clothing.

### Personal eating set

We want to ask you to bring your own simple travel eating set, existing of:  
plate or bowl, cup/mug, knife, fork, spoon

(This makes travelling easier for you and greatly reduces the amount of equipment our team needs to organize)

### **Essentials:**

- **Passport and travel documents**
- **Travel insurance documents**
- **Warm clothing**
- **Summer clothing**
- **Good walking shoes**
- **Light shoes/sandals**
- **Sleeping bag**
- **Sleeping mat**
- **Small pillow**
- **Flashlight/headlamp**
- **Swimwear**
- **Toiletries**

### **Other useful items:**

- **Power bank**
- **Sunscreen**
- **Sunglasses**
- **Hat/cap**
- **Personal medication**
- **Small day backpack**
- **Water bottle**

## Travel conditions

This journey includes substantial travel by road through rural Mongolia. Road conditions can vary significantly. Some journeys may take longer than expected because of road conditions, weather or local circumstances.

We expect to travel with a combination of:

**2 × UAZ / minibus-type vehicles**

**1 × 4x4 / jeep**

Exact vehicles may change depending on availability and local conditions.

The total planned road distance is approximately 1,700 km.

## Airport transfers

Altai provides airport transportation for participants arriving and departing on the agreed group dates.

### **Arrival Flight**

Recommended flight: 30 July 2027

(This means that due to the time difference, you will arrive in Ulaanbaatar on 31 July 2027, at approximately 05:00)

### **Departure Flight**

Recommended departure: 18 August 2027

If you arrive earlier, arrive later, depart earlier or stay longer, you are responsible for arranging your own airport transportation.

Airport taxis and other transport options are available at the airport and in the centre of Ulaanbaatar, and these do not normally need to be booked in advance. However, regarding booking extra hotel nights in Ulaanbaatar, it's advised to book them several months in advance.

# Pricing and Information

# Pricing and Information

**€3650,- per person**

A fully arranged 19-day musical journey through Mongolia, designed for a personal group of 10 participants.

The price includes accommodation, transportation throughout the journey, workshops, cultural experiences and other activities, a private chef for 3 meals a day and the full program as described earlier.

Airline tickets not included. If you book early enough, these costs are between €700-900.

## The above price includes:

- 3-days Altai Harp workshops guided by expert
- Daily musical throat singing workshops accompanied by Saruul
- A unique 19-day, fully arranged tour in a small group
- Visit to some of Central Mongolia's most beautiful places
- Authentic encounters with nomads, guided by Mongolia experts
- Shamanic rituals and spiritual moments
- The power of silence and space like you don't feel anywhere else
- Experience the real dark, with unprecedentedly clear starry skies
- Singing in nature in places with magical acoustics
- Meetings with Mongolian professional artists and additional workshops
- A private chef who travels with you and offers 3 meals a day

---

## Ready to sign up?

Simply send us an email ([rowan@altaiyurt.nl](mailto:rowan@altaiyurt.nl)) or WhatsApp message: **+31 6 40 85 18 46** to receive information about the registration.

# Practical info and Terms

**Participation & Payment:** To confirm your participation, a deposit of €250 is required. The remaining balance will be invoiced approximately eight-six before departure.

**Visa Requirements:** Participants are responsible for checking whether their nationality requires a tourist visa for Mongolia. If a visa is required, it must be arranged independently and in advance. Visa regulations can change every year, so we recommend consulting the official website of the Mongolian embassy or consulate in your country.

**Cancellation by Participant:** You may cancel free of charge up to 4 months before the journey. If you cancel within 4 months of the start date, we can only refund your payment if we are able to fill your spot with another participant. For this reason, we strongly recommend taking out a cancellation insurance.

**Cancellation by Altai:** We reserve the right to cancel the journey if there are fewer than 7 participants. In this case, you will receive a full refund of all payments made.

In the event of force majeure (such as extreme weather, political instability or other circumstances beyond our control), we are not obliged to issue a refund. In such cases, we will always work with you to find a suitable solution, such as rescheduling or a credit for a future journey. Altai cannot be held responsible for additional costs such as flights or insurance.

**Insurance:** A valid travel insurance is mandatory for participation. Participants book their own flight tickets and are responsible for arranging appropriate travel and (optional) cancellation insurance themselves.

**Program Flexibility:** The itinerary may be slightly adjusted due to weather conditions, safety considerations or local circumstances. Any changes will always be made with the quality and safety of the experience in mind.

**Language:** The journey is conducted primarily in English. Rowan also speaks Dutch and Mongolian, Suvdaa speaks fluent Mongolian, German and English, Saran speaks fluent Dutch and Mongolian. During the journey, Mongolian will naturally be spoken (for example by Saruul or local hosts). Whenever needed, translation will be provided to ensure everyone feels included.

**Important to Know:** Altai is not a travel company, but offers a small-scale cultural journey in close cooperation with reliable Mongolian partners. Transportation, accommodations and on-site activities are carried out by experienced local professionals. By signing up, you acknowledge that you travel at your own responsibility and participate properly insured.

# General Terms and Conditions

## **1. Organization & Responsibility**

- Altai (Rowan & Saran) is not a registered travel agency.
- This journey is organized in collaboration with local Mongolian partners, who are responsible for transportation, accommodation and activities on site.
- Participation is at the traveler's own responsibility, and participants must be physically and mentally fit to join the program.

## **2. Flights & Insurance**

- Participants are responsible for booking their own international flights to and from Mongolia.
- A valid travel insurance is mandatory for participation.
- We strongly recommend taking out cancellation insurance, which covers costs in case of illness or other unforeseen circumstances.

## **3. Payment**

- Participation is confirmed after receipt of the deposit.
- The remaining balance must be paid approximately 6-8 months prior to departure.
- Failure to complete payment may result in cancellation of participation.

## **4. Cancellation by Participant**

- In case of cancellation, Altai cannot guarantee a full refund, as costs are incurred with local partners in advance.
- Any eligible reimbursement should be claimed through the participant's own cancellation insurance.
- Altai reserves the right to charge reasonable administration costs.

## **5. Program Changes**

- The itinerary may be adjusted due to weather conditions, safety concerns or unforeseen local circumstances.
- Altai reserves the right to modify routes, locations or activities when necessary.
- Wherever possible, suitable alternatives will be offered.

## **6. Liability**

- Participation in this journey is entirely at the participant's own risk.
- Altai is not liable for injury, loss, damage, delays or changes caused by third parties or circumstances beyond our control.
- Adequate insurance is the responsibility of each participant.

## **7. Conduct & Group Dynamics**

- This journey is designed for a small and harmonious group.
- Altai reserves the right to refuse or terminate participation if a participant's behavior negatively affects the group, safety or overall experience.

## **8. Photography & Media**

- Photos and videos may be taken during the journey.
- By participating, you grant permission for the use of such material for Altai promotional purposes, unless you notify us in writing beforehand.

## **9. Acceptance of Terms**

- By registering for this journey, participants confirm that they have read, understood and agreed to these General Terms & Conditions.