

PLANNED FOR MAY 2028 · EXACT DATES TO BE CONFIRMED

Western Mongolia Throat Singing Tour



Experience Mongolia through throat singing, cultural traditions, and breathtaking landscapes. This 13-day journey takes you to the cradle of Mongolian throat singing in Chandmani and across the spectacular mountains and remote regions of western Mongolia.

Dear friends,

For many years, we have shared the music, stories, and traditions of Mongolia in Europe through Altai Cultural Center in the Netherlands. Through workshops, concerts, and cultural events, we have nurtured a wish to invite people to experience this extraordinary culture in the land where it lives and breathes.

For Rowan, Mongolia has been a profound source of inspiration for over 20 years. Together with Saran, he has built Altai Cultural Center around the belief that music brings people closer to cultures, traditions, and one another.

For this journey, we are delighted to collaborate with Baatarsuren Chadraabal (Baatar), an exceptional throat singer and musician from Chandmani, western Mongolia, and our official partner in Mongolia. Together, we invite you to discover the roots of Mongolian throat singing in a region where generations have grown up with this remarkable tradition.

Over 13 days, we will explore western Mongolia's spectacular landscapes, meet local musicians, participate in throat singing workshops, and discover the deep connection between music, nature, and Mongolian culture.

This is more than a journey through beautiful landscapes. It is an opportunity to learn, listen, and connect with Mongolia through its living musical traditions and the people who keep them alive.

Together with our trusted partners and friends in Mongolia, we look forward to sharing this personal and meaningful adventure with you.

We would be honored to travel this path with you.

With warmth,
Rowan, Saran & Baatar

**What makes this
journey so unique**

What makes this journey so unique.

This journey brings together the music, nature, and cultural heritage of Mongolia in a truly special way. Learn directly from master throat singer Baatar, discover the roots of this ancient tradition in Chandmani, and experience the deep connection between music and nature in the breathtaking landscapes of western Mongolia. Combining Rowan's more than 20 years of experience with Mongolian throat singing, Baatar's extraordinary musical talent and local knowledge, and Saran's connection to Mongolian culture, we've created an intimate journey that goes far beyond ordinary tourism. It is a chance to learn, connect, and experience Mongolia with our hearts fully in it.



Experience Mongolia from within: Explore the spectacular landscapes of western Mongolia while discovering its living musical and cultural traditions. Travel beyond the usual tourist routes and experience the country through music, nature, and authentic encounters.



Learn throat singing from a master: Learn the techniques and traditions of Mongolian throat singing with Baatar, an exceptional throat singer from Chandmani, the region often called the cradle of Mongolian throat singing.



Discover music in its homeland: Visit Chandmani, where generations have grown up with throat singing, participate in workshops, and meet local musicians. Experience the deep connection between music, nature, and everyday life in this remarkable region.

**Explore the wonders of western Mongolia:**

Discover breathtaking mountains, waterfalls, remote valleys, and the cave in Mankhan where the ancient Altai harp was discovered. Explore the spectacular landscapes and cultural heritage of Khovd, Bayan-Ölgii, and Uvs.

**Guided by experience and personal**

connections: With over 20 years of experience in Mongolian throat singing, Rowan brings a deep personal connection to Mongolia. Together with Baatar's musical mastery and local knowledge, and Saran's connection to Mongolian culture, he helps create an authentic and meaningful cultural journey.

**A small group, a fully arranged journey:**

Travel with a dedicated team and discover Mongolia through personal encounters and shared musical experiences. Transport, accommodation, domestic flights between Ulaanbaatar and Khovd, and planned activities are organized for you, leaving you free to enjoy the music, landscapes, and adventure.

More than a journey: This journey brings together everything Altai stands for: sharing Mongolian music, culture, and traditions with care, depth, and authenticity. It is an opportunity to deepen our connection with Mongolia, discover the roots of throat singing alongside our local partners, and welcome you into the country that has inspired us for so many years.

**Meet
the team**

Please meet the team behind this journey.



Rowan Hartsuiker

Musician, teacher, and co-founder of Altai. For over 20 years, Rowan has explored Mongolian throat singing, overtone singing, and traditional instruments such as the morin khuur, tovshuur, Altai harp, and jaw harp. Together with his wife Saran, he shares these musical traditions through workshops, retreats, and cultural experiences that connect people with the heart of Mongolian music.



Baatarsuren Chadraabal

Baatarsuren Chadraabal (Baatar) is an accomplished throat singer and musician from Chandmani, Khovd Province, widely known for his deep connection to Mongolia's musical traditions. A professional musician at the Khovd Theatre and an official partner of Altai in Mongolia, he brings exceptional musical knowledge, local insight, and a passion for sharing the living heritage of Mongolian throat singing.



Saran Myagmarsuren-Hartsuiker

Saran is the co-founder of Altai, born and raised in Mongolia in a traditional countryside yurt. Her deep cultural roots, warmth, and love for Mongolian hospitality shape the heart of Altai. Although she won't join the journey, she plays a vital role in its organization.

**Day to day
program**

Baatar and Rowan Invite you to Western Mongolia - The Heart of Throat Singing

Join Baatar, Rowan and Saran on an intimate musical journey through western Mongolia. Discover Chandmani, often called the cradle of Mongolian throat singing, learn directly from experienced musicians, and explore spectacular mountain landscapes, remote valleys, and remarkable cultural sites.

Combining throat singing, cultural discovery, and breathtaking nature, this 13-day journey offers a unique opportunity to experience Mongolia beyond the usual tourist routes. Meet local musicians, take part in workshops, and discover the deep connection between Mongolian music, nature, and everyday life in the region where Baatar grew up.

The detailed day-to-day itinerary is still being finalized. The program and locations may be adjusted as preparations continue.

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At a Glance:

Group size: 10 participants, accompanied by our team

Dates: May 2028 · 13 days / 12 nights · Exact dates to be confirmed

Organizers: Altai (Rowan & Saran) / Baatarsuren Chadraabal (Baatar)

Main regions and locations: Ulaanbaatar, Khovd, Chandmani, Mankhan Bayan-Ölgii, and Uvs.



Frequently Asked Questions

Who is this journey for?

This journey is for anyone interested in Mongolian music, nature, and culture. Whether you're a music enthusiast, a cultural explorer, or simply curious about Mongolia, you're welcome. Curiosity, openness, and a willingness to explore matter more than previous experience.

Do I need musical experience?

No. The throat singing workshops are designed to welcome beginners as well as experienced musicians. Baatar and Rowan will introduce you to the techniques and traditions step by step, with opportunities to learn and practise at your own pace.

What kind of food can I expect during the journey?

We'll enjoy traditional Mongolian meals throughout the journey, with vegetarian options requested wherever possible. Rowan and Saran have been vegetarian/vegan for over 10 years, so accommodating vegetarian preferences is a natural part of how we travel. Meat and dairy products will also be available for those who wish to eat them.

As we travel through remote regions of western Mongolia, ingredients and food availability can sometimes be limited. We'll collect everyone's dietary requirements, allergies, and intolerances in advance and do our best to accommodate them within local possibilities. Please let us know about any specific dietary needs as early as possible.

Is this journey physically demanding?

The journey includes long drives, walks in nature, and time outdoors in mountainous and remote areas. A basic level of fitness is recommended. Some locations have uneven terrain and basic facilities, and weather conditions in May can be unpredictable. Activities may be adapted to the group where possible, and participation is voluntary.

What language is spoken during the journey?

The journey is conducted primarily in English. Rowan also speaks Dutch and Mongolian, while Baatar and local partners will share their knowledge in Mongolian, with translation provided when needed.

Do I need a visa for Mongolia?

Visa requirements depend on your nationality and may change. You are responsible for checking the latest entry requirements and arranging a visa if necessary. Please consult the official Mongolian embassy or consulate serving your country before departure.

Is travel insurance required?

Yes. Valid travel insurance covering your stay in Mongolia, including medical emergencies and repatriation, is mandatory. We also strongly recommend cancellation insurance. Please review our Cancellation Policy before booking.

Is the program fixed?

The journey is planned for May 2028, but the exact dates and detailed day-to-day itinerary are still being finalized. Locations and activities may change due to weather, road conditions, local circumstances, or safety considerations. Flexibility is part of travelling through Mongolia, particularly in remote regions.

What is included in the musical program?

You'll explore the fundamentals of Mongolian throat singing with Baatar and Rowan, including its techniques, cultural significance, and connection to nature. Workshops and encounters with local musicians in Chandmani and Khovd will offer opportunities to experience this tradition where it is deeply rooted in everyday life.

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 will be a combination of hotels in Ulaanbaatar and Khovd, and local guesthouses or tourist camps in the countryside. In rural areas, we may stay in traditional-style gers (Mongolian yurts), offering an opportunity to experience local hospitality and life in Mongolia. Hotel rooms are generally arranged as twin rooms with two separate beds, meaning you'll usually share a room with another participant. Facilities in rural areas vary between locations and may be more basic than in the cities.

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

Meals will be provided by the accommodations where we stay and by local eateries along the way. Traditional Mongolian cuisine often includes meat and dairy, but vegetarian options will be requested wherever possible. We'll collect dietary requirements, allergies, and intolerances in advance. As we travel through remote areas of western Mongolia, food options and ingredients may be limited, so please let us know your needs as early as possible.

What to bring

Clothing

June is generally a warm time of year in Mongolia, but temperatures can drop significantly in the evening and at night, particularly in the open desert. Weather conditions can also change quickly. We recommend bringing both lightweight summer clothing and warm layers, such as a fleece, warm sweater, and windproof jacket. Don't rely on summer clothing alone.

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 road travel through the remote regions of western Mongolia. Road conditions vary considerably, and some journeys may take longer than expected due to weather, road conditions, or local circumstances.

The itinerary includes long drives, remote destinations, and time outdoors in mountainous areas. Please be prepared for an adventurous journey where flexibility is important. The detailed itinerary is still being finalized, and some locations or activities may change.

Airport transfers

Airport transfers in Ulaanbaatar are planned for participants arriving and departing on the official group dates.

Arrival: May 2028 — exact date to be confirmed

Departure: May 2028 — exact date to be confirmed

If you arrive before the agreed arrival date, arrive later, depart earlier, or stay longer, you'll be responsible for arranging your own airport transportation and any additional accommodation.

Airport taxis and other transport options are available in Ulaanbaatar. If you plan to stay extra nights in the city, we recommend arranging your accommodation in advance.

Travel Insurance

All participants must have valid travel insurance covering their stay in Mongolia, including medical emergencies and emergency repatriation. We also strongly recommend cancellation insurance. Please make sure your policy covers the activities and travel conditions involved in this journey, and review our Cancellation Policy before booking.

International Flights and Entry Requirements

International flights to and from Ulaanbaatar are not included in the tour price. Participants are responsible for booking their own international flights and checking the relevant travel documents and entry requirements. The domestic flights between Ulaanbaatar and Khovd are included in the tour price.

Visa requirements depend on your nationality and may change. Please consult the official Mongolian embassy or consulate serving your country before departure to confirm the latest requirements.

Please wait until the official tour dates have been confirmed before booking your international flights.

Pricing and Information

Pricing and Information

€4,300 per person

A fully arranged 13-day musical and cultural journey through western Mongolia, exploring the roots of Mongolian throat singing and the spectacular landscapes of the Altai region.

International flights are not included in the tour price. Costs vary depending on your departure country and booking date, so we recommend checking flight options once the official tour dates are confirmed.

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

The above price includes:

- A unique, fully arranged 13-day journey through western Mongolia
- Accommodation throughout the journey
- Domestic flights between Ulaanbaatar and Khovd
- Local transportation throughout the journey
- Throat singing workshops guided by Baatar and Rowan
- Musical encounters and opportunities to learn from local musicians
- Exploration of spectacular landscapes
- Cultural experiences and opportunities to discover Mongolia's living traditions
- Guidance and local knowledge from Altai and our trusted partners in Mongolia

Ready to sign up?

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

Practical info and Terms

At a Glance

Dates: May 2028 — exact dates to be confirmed

Duration: 13 days / 12 nights

Price: €4,300 per person, including VAT

Group size: To be confirmed

Start and finish: Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia

International flights: Not included

Participation & Payment: Payment and registration details will be provided when bookings open. Any deposit, payment deadlines, and remaining balance will be communicated during registration. Failure to complete payment by the stated due date may result in cancellation of participation in accordance with the applicable terms.

Visa Requirements: Participants are responsible for checking whether their nationality requires a visa to enter Mongolia. Any required visa must be arranged independently and in advance. As entry requirements can change, please consult the official Mongolian embassy or consulate serving your country before departure.

Flights & Insurance: Participants are responsible for booking their own international flights to and from Mongolia. Please wait until the official tour dates have been confirmed before booking. Domestic flights between Ulaanbaatar and Khovd are included in the tour price.

Valid travel insurance is mandatory and must cover medical emergencies and emergency repatriation during your stay in Mongolia. We strongly recommend cancellation insurance to help protect against eligible costs arising from illness or other unforeseen circumstances.

Cancellation by Participant: The applicable cancellation conditions will be provided before registration is confirmed. Please read our Cancellation Policy carefully before booking, including the terms governing cancellation deadlines, refunds, and any non-refundable costs.

Cancellation by Altai & Force Majeure: Altai reserves the right to cancel the journey if the minimum required number of participants is not reached. The minimum group size and applicable refund arrangements will be communicated before registration.

In the event of force majeure, such as extreme weather, political instability, or other circumstances beyond our control, the journey may need to be cancelled or substantially changed. Refunds or alternative arrangements will be handled in accordance with the applicable cancellation terms and circumstances. Altai cannot be held responsible for additional costs such as international flights, independently booked accommodation, or insurance, except where required by applicable law.

Program Flexibility: The detailed day-to-day itinerary is still being finalized. The journey is planned for May 2028 and will explore Ulaanbaatar, Khovd, Chandmani, Mankhan, Bayan-Ölgii, and Uvs.

The itinerary may be adjusted due to weather conditions, road conditions, safety concerns, or unforeseen local circumstances. Altai and its local partners may modify routes, locations, or activities when necessary. Wherever reasonably possible, suitable alternatives will be offered, with the quality and safety of the experience in mind.

Language: The journey will be conducted primarily in English. Rowan also speaks Dutch and Mongolian, while Baatar and our local partners will share their knowledge in Mongolian. Translation will be provided whenever needed to help everyone follow the musical and cultural program.

Organization & Responsibility: Altai Cultural Center, represented by Rowan and Saran, organizes this small-scale cultural journey in collaboration with Baatarsuren Chadraabal (Baatar), our official partner in Mongolia, and other trusted local partners. Altai is not a registered travel agency. Local partners support or provide transportation, accommodation, and on-site activities throughout the journey.

Participants are responsible for their personal belongings, travel documents, and conduct throughout the journey. Altai will take reasonable care in organizing the program but cannot guarantee that every activity or arrangement will proceed exactly as planned. Nothing in these terms excludes or limits liability where prohibited by applicable law.

Conduct & Group Dynamics: This journey is designed as a shared cultural experience and relies on mutual respect and cooperation. Altai reserves the right to take appropriate action, including ending a participant's involvement where reasonably necessary, if their conduct seriously affects the safety, well-being, or experience of the group. Any such action will be handled in accordance with applicable law and the circumstances.

Photography & Media: Photos and videos may be taken during the journey. Any use of identifiable images or recordings for Altai's promotional purposes will follow applicable privacy and data-protection requirements. Participants will be informed how to raise an objection or withhold consent before the journey. Participants are also asked to respect the privacy and wishes of local people when taking or sharing photographs and videos.

Acceptance of Terms: By registering for the Western Mongolia Throat Singing Tour 2028, participants confirm that they have read and understood these Practical Information & Terms and the applicable Cancellation Policy.

Questions or ready to join us?

Email rowan@altaiyurt.nl or WhatsApp +31 6 40 85 18 46 for registration information.