



Mongolia Expat magazine

• APRIL ISSUE
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SPRING 2007 ISSUE

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Getting Out There – Your Guide To Trekking, Travelling & Culture Across Mongolia
Seriously cool stuff for a seriously wild country

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Hi, I'm Chris Devonshire-Ellis, and welcome to the April issue of Mongolia Expat magazine ! We've had a busy winter since our last issue, with our new look website – with many more articles, forums, photos and other information about Mongolia on it than ever before being completely updated, and our new 2007 Guide to UlaanBaatar just about published now, priced at 10,000 tgs – full color and with complete details of everything you need to know about traveling to, visiting, living in, or working in UB. It's available in selected outlets in Ulaan Baatar, Beijing, Hong Kong and online from the website.

For this issue we feature a spring trek through the Gobi Desert – a magical place during April/May when the melt waters irrigate the desert and everything comes to life. We also feature a piece on ice fishing at Lake Khovsgol, and a new section, listing where's hot in Ulaan Baatar right now.

Enjoy the issue and look out for the book and next issue just next month – we go monthly this year !

Best wishes
Chris



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SPRING TREKKING IN THE GOBI DESERT

– By Chris Devonshire-Ellis



Trekking in the Gobi ! Spring – the months of April & May in Mongolia – offers some of the most spectacular scenery and surroundings in the country at this time – not so hot, not so cold, and with all the joy of rebirth as the gobis herds of various animals all seemingly give birth at once to create a sensation of life reborn in this harshest of the worlds environments.

We began our Gobi trek of course in Ulaan Baatar, and with a well prepared Russian 4WD jeep, plenty of supplies, an experienced driver and guide and we were on our way. The plan was to drive south to Erdenedalai to visit the Gobi's primary monastery, visit the ancient gobi saxual forests at Bayan Zag, explore the nearby flaming cliffs with all it's dinosaur bones, swing further south towards the Chinese border to the sand dunes at Moltzog Els, continue further south to the ice filled gorge at Yolin Am, then turn back north via Dalanzadgad, the capital city of Omnogovi, Mongolias southern-most aimag (province), detour via Tsogt Ovoo to see if we could spot Mongolia's wild sheep, the huge Argali, continue via Mandalgovi for a break, and back towards UB through the massive rock formations of Baga Gazriin Chuluu. In all this trip would take six jeep days and involve mainly staying with nomadic Gobi herders – if we could find them.

• Leaving Ulaan Baatar

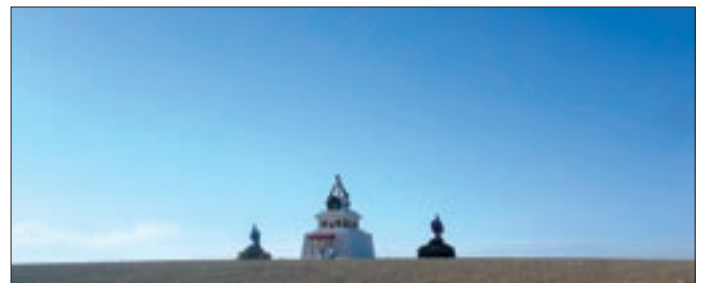
It's about half an hour out of UB that you turn off the paved road and onto the real Mongolian highway of dirt

tracks, in this case, leading directly south. At this stage, grass and horses predominate, and gers, herds of goat and sheep are well in evidence. After three hours though, the terrain starts to change, grass thins out to a tougher, more sparse variety and the landscape begins to darken. The



Mongolians have nearly 40 words for different types of 'gobi' – the word simply means desert – and actually only about 3% of the total gobi landscape is sand dunes. Browning vegetation gives way to a grittier, harder surface, as

we pass by the small town of Bayan Onjuul, camels, rather than horses, begin to take precedence as the pack animal of choice. Seven jeep hours south and we are ready for a stop for the night. A local nomadic family is found, and they agree to put us up, and we walk to the local stupa, high up on an ascending hill.

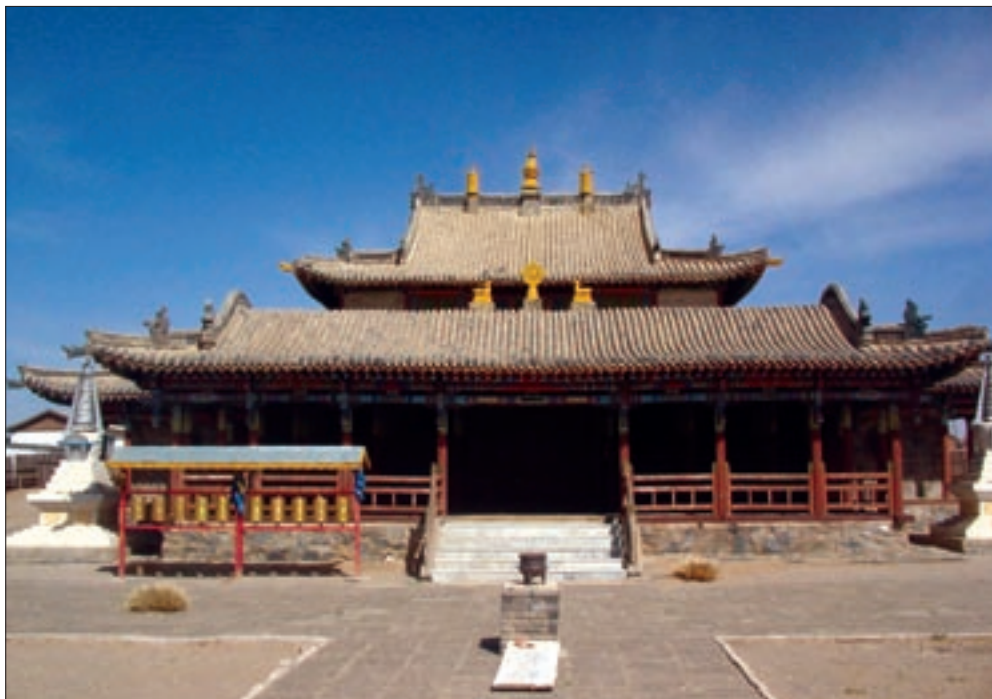


Curiously, they profess to be Christians, rather than the Buddhists one expects to find in these areas, and sure enough the ger is decorated with the sign of the cross. Herding mainly cashmere goats, they look after us well, give us shelter and we watch as the sun disappears below the horizon. Venus appears, and by 11pm we are treated to a spectacular view, in a moonless sky, of the milky way far above. As morning breaks, in this barren landscape, the sound of an icy well being worked explains how they can survive here – the gobi is criss-crossed with underground lakes and streams and even in the harshest conditions – if you can locate water – you can survive. Animals are fed, watered, we feast on a breakfast of hot butter tea and hard tack, collect our belongings, give the nomads some sweets and some cash, and head off further south.



• Erdenedalai

This small, dusty village sits right on the cusp of gritty, sparsely vegetation covered gobi and the beginning of the gobi sand dunes directly to the south. The contrast is obvious, and the sands foreboding. Originally established as a camel herders and traders meeting point, Erdenedalai however is home to the Gimpil Darjaalan Monastery,



built in the late 18th century to commemorate the first visit of the Dalai Lama to Mongolia. It used to house 500 monks in pre-soviet times, now about 50 live here. The monastery was visited again by the current Dalai Lama in 1992 following it's reopening after 50 years of forced closure in 1990. It is a charming monastery, notable for it's brave facing off the huge gobi sand dunes just a thousand meters away. It's also entirely made of thick, massive

pillars of larch – the enterprising original monks trading local Erdenedalai salt for the trees 200 years ago with another monastery over 800 kilometres further north in Khanggai. Apparently it took a caravan of camels over three months to conduct the round trip and return with the timber.

• Bayan Zag – The Flaming Cliffs

Reaching our second nights destination after a full jeep days driving, we are by now deep into the gobi. Having by passed the sand dunes at Erdenedalai, the gritty hard surface of the desert has almost given up any pretence of supporting vegetation. Almost, but not quite, and even in this harsh terrain, the tough, dessicated strands of almost inedible grass are still enough, with the help of a well positioned well, to support a sustainable herd of goats. We camp with another nomadic family, almost directly beneath the Flaming Cliffs, made famous



80 years before by the American geologist Roy Chapman Andrews, who discovered a colossal variety of new-to-science dinosaur fossils just poking out of the red sandstone rocks. Amongst his finds – Veciloraptors (as depicted in Jurassic Park), the Tarbosaurus, which looks like a T-Rex on a bad day, and several species of early mammals – soon to displace the dinosaurs as the dominant species on earth. Staying in the ger that night, a desert storm blew up, and it was good to be huddled up inside as the winds and sands howled across the gobi.

The next morning, camels were provided and we set out to search the cliffs for dinosaurs. It didn't take long. Just sticking out of the sandstone are the telltale white bleached bones of extinct creatures. They're best left alone for the experts to get at, identify and examine, so please don't be tempted to prize them away – it can be dangerous and anyway is highly illegal. It was enough to look, marvel at what the creature must have looked like, photograph it, and move on. The tops of the cliffs provide a spectacular view across the gobi, and it is easy to imagine the plains below as the shallow sea they once were.





• Saxual Forests

A forest ? In a desert ?

Well the gobi is a magical place where it sometimes seems anything is possible. Saxual Trees are a throwback to prehistoric times, and require very little water to survive. They grow however very slowly, and rarely reach a height in excess of ten feet – their knarled, weathered trunks obvious evidence of the hardship of their living conditions. Sprouting dense, thorny branches, incredibly camels can eat these, and digest the pitiful and vicious looking offerings. Indeed it may be their only diet for a long time. Saxual wood is so hard it sinks in water, while the forests also support species that are specific to the tree – various insects, and even the Saxual Sparrow are unique to these eerie woodlands. Close by are also sand dunes – a rarity in the Gobi – with a panting climb to the top but great views of some of natures handiwork from the top.



• Yolin Am – an Ice Clad Desert Gorge

Deep in the heart of the southern gobi lies this spectacular and beautiful gorge – with a desert spring so productive it has formed a small valley in the rocky outcrops about – veering up to 1,000 meters high, with an ice covered, crystal clear river running along the valley floor before disappearing underground. The water is so abundant



here that it has formed an oasis of sorts within the valley – green, fertile and populated with pika – a small, hamster like rodent, many rare bird species, including woodcock, snipe, wagtails, redstarts and coughs – and is a magnet for wildlife from miles around to seek shelter and resuscitation. A walk through this lush valley makes for an enchanting experience and a welcome and surprising respite from the relentless barren moonscape of the surrounding gobi. Camping here is forbidden – so it's onto Dalanzadgad for a stopover.

• Dalanzadgad

This small town is the capital of Omnogovi Aimag and is essentially a trading and supply outpost of about 15,000 people. There's not a lot here – but welcome public baths for a shower and scrub to get rid of the gobi dust and sand, and a stop over for various provisions. Nearby however are a range of sand dunes – as mentioned, quite a rare sight

in the gobi – and these make for picturesque photos and sliding down. The gobi skink will dart about and if lucky you can scare him into freezing just long enough to take a close up photo.



• Mandalgovi

Turning north, away from the Chinese border, this is classic gobi landscape, flat, gritty expanses that run for miles. They are almost dead level – I placed my camera on the desert floor, pointed it at the 1500 metre Mount Goyyot 5 miles away and the picture was revealed as an uninterrupted view. Here run herds of wild gazelle – the white tailed gazelle that can sprint at over 70 mph, zigzagging away from your jeep at an electrifying pace. The landscape is



relentless, but eagles will soar away from you, and even Demoiselle Cranes can be seen dancing their mating rituals in the small lakes and salt dunes that dot the region.

Mandalgovi itself is another trading town, with soviet character, an internet cafe, a few shops and restaurants and an excellent disco / nightclub, decorated with heads of ibex, wild sheep, antelope and deer all displayed along the walls. The chronic sound system breaks down mid-song, so used to this are the locals that they simply sing the missing parts, still dancing, until the tune restarts again. The local gobi vodka is 3,000 tg a bottle, and a good night is had by all. It's probably the only disco in the gobi...





• Delgertsogt

Heading back north, it's a one jeep day drive back to UB, but not before we veer close to Dalgertsog, with the rugged caps of Baruun Shandny Tolgoy ahead, as the route becomes rugged and littered with rocky valleys and mountainous areas. This is the home of the Argali, Mongolia's wild sheep, Ibex, and eagles. Stopping off at a likely remote spot, we scan the rocky horizon and spot, suddenly, nearly half a mile off, three sheep are scurrying for cover. Climbing on the almost sheer cliffs they than

face down on us, their eyes on us all the time. They are indeed Argali – a handsome male with huge horns, his mate and a kid of about 6 months. Staring at us somewhat contemptuously, they are still for about 5 minutes before casually sauntering off amongst the rocks, out of sight. We find their wool, in tufts, caught on thorns, and I weave some into my hat band. Ulaan Baatar is a four hour drive distant, but we are more than happy to have explored such a remote region and have seen the sights only the gobi can provide. [ME](#)



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FOR WHEN YOU WANT TO GET OUT THERE

ICE FISHING IN KHOVSGOL LAKE

– By Chris Devonshire-Ellis

Lake Khovsgol is Central Asia's deepest lake, reaching a depth of some 262 meters, and covers over 2,760 sqkm, making it the source of about 2% of the entire planet's fresh water supply. Sited close to the Russian border in the Khovsgol Nuur National Park, it is surrounded by snow capped mountains – some liken it to Switzerland. Accordingly popular in the summer months, in winter it freezes to a depth of about four feet – strong enough to drive on. Sub-arctic winds chill the lake to -40 at night, with daytime highs of -20, and with forest cover all around, it is left to the wolves, a cold winter sun and the Siberian winds howling down its valley. It's not a place for the faint hearted during winter.



Yet it is the home to spectacular species of fresh water fish – eight species of game fish inhabit the waters, which can be caught during the depths of winter - and we were there to see how it's done.

Having purchased a rod, line, lead weights and hooks from the sleepy store at Khatgal village on the southern end of the lake I was somewhat dubious about having to stand

for hours over a hole cut in the ice waiting for a bite. How naive I was. It's not done like that at all – the locals aren't that dumb, unlike your intrepid reporter who would have willingly – not to mention stupidly - subjected himself to endless hours of freezing torture. Mongolian fishermen are far smarter than that.

The locals simply cut two holes in the ice, 100 meters apart, and then pull through a net, weighed down with



stones to hold it to the bottom – simply tie up the ends at each hole, then leave it for 24 hours to see what swims into it.

In fact, turning up the next morning, you can walk over the crystal clear ice and see below what unfortunate fish has become entangled before hauling them up.

Lenok, trapped in our net underwater, visible through the ice three feet below



A quick break of the surface ice at one of the ice holes later, and we are hauling up our catch: Siberian Grayling, River Perch, and the Lenok, (Asian Trout) which can grow to over four feet in length.



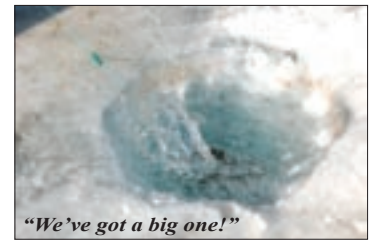
Reeled onto the ice, untangled from the net, they are simply cast onto the ice where they freeze solid in minutes. The net is then fed gradually, via a supporting line to the opposite ice hole, back through the waters, and left for another 24 hours. The entire process takes no more than fifteen minutes.

Locals at Khovsgol do eat fish, and also smoke them, and the Siberian Grayling in particular is very good eaten this way. For us – we enjoyed a good fish stew that night!



• The One That Got Away

As always, it's always the largest one that got away as excuses for fisherman's tales and a poor catch. However in our case it was true. Having spotted a huge Lenok trapped in the nets, completely motionless, through the clear ice above, we were eagerly hauling in the net when its massive head appeared above the ice hole, and we began to haul it onto the ice. But then it suddenly revived, and desperately started trashing about to regain its freedom. It was on the ice, it was in our hands, it twisted, turned, and with a mighty effort broke free and plunged back into the frigid waters below. It had been a four foot monster, at the edge of its upper range for its size, and would have made a grand catch. But then again, we already caught enough, and who could begrudge a mighty trout that size another slice of freedom in Khovsgol's icy waters?



ULAAN BAATAR LISTINGS

This section of Mongolia Expat is a free listings section of bars, restaurants and nightclubs in Ulaan Baatar. Things change, and places close and new places open, so check before you go. If you think you should be listed in this section please contact editor@mongoliaexpat.com with details.

BARS



pints brewing away. A variety of light and dark beers are on tap and there is a good German themed menu.

Isimuss

Just opposite the Wrestling Stadium on Peace Avenue East
Tel: 461146

Worth the visit just to take in the huge statue of Stalin – which used to be opposite the Central library – that now graces this Soviet themed bar. Well cool, and Uncle Joe even suggests a smirk as young buxom beauties cavort around his feet.

Khan Brau, German Beer Garden

Chingisiin Orgon Choloo
Tel 326 626
The German bier garden by excellence. Klaus, the owner of Khan Brau is usually spotted at the regular's table. He will entertain you with his tales of Mongolia while you drink a pint of his excellent home brewed bier and listen to the live Mongolian band. Situated just across from the National Theatre, it is a favourite hang out of the German community of Ulaan Baatar.

Dave's Place

Sukhbaatar Square
Tel 99798185
Dave is the archetypal British pub landlord, and will look after you in his small bar in the basement of the Cultural Palace – or in the summer, on his impressive veranda right on Sukhbaatar Square. Homebase of the UB Yaks, the local rugby team as well as the final target of the Mongol Rally, this bar is popular all year round. Thursday's feature a well attended pub quiz. In winter it is cosy with assorted British regulars there most nights. Typical British menu and beers on tap.

Crystal Lounge

Peace Avenue, just across from the State Dept Store
Ulaan Baatars first lounge bar is a classy, minimalist, all white bar with an eclectic selection of spirits, liquors and wines. The place to come if you want to splash 700USD on a bottle of Cristal. However, cocktails are reasonably priced and it's an inventive menu. Probably not the type of place to turn up at in desert boots and rucksack, so pack your guccis if you want to get in.

Canuckz, Canadian Pub

Embassy area in front of the German Embassy – Negdsen Undestnii Gudamj
Welcome to Tyler and Canuckz new pub. Opened by a Canadian Hockey player and English Teacher, this is a home from home for Canadians in UB. The main room has been decorated by the students of the art college. Normal range of imported beers and a limited but good menu.

The Steppe Inn

British Embassy
Fridays only, from 6pm, sited in the British Embassy, this is the longest running bar in UB. You need to be a British national and / or invited by a member to get in. To be on the safe side it is better to call the Embassy to ask for permission to attend: Tel: 458 036. Pints are pulled by the Ambassador which is an excellent way to deploy Her Majesties diplomats.

Ulaan Baatar has a wealth of bars and there are many to choose from. Here we feature some of the best known and well established, but new bars open up regularly, so ask around for what's hot and where's new. Most bars open 'til late – UB is a late night party city.

Budweiser Bar

Sukhbataar Square, West Side
The original Czech Budweiser, not the pale American imitation, this bar is sited right on Sukhbataar Square and is a good venue to go for the real beer and fried lamb and chicken. Good value.

Ikh Mongol

Seoul Street, next to the State Circus
This large venue is German in style and look with a big central room and various smaller rooms at the back. With a very large outdoor terrace overlooking the circus, it gets very busy during the summer months. Ikh Mongol is a fun place to spend the Oktoberfest as well as those cold winter nights. With their own brews on tap, there is plenty of choice in both drinks and food – German inspired – this is a happening place with live Mongolian bands on the busy nights and a DJ after hours.

Dublin

Seoul Street, on the corner with the circus
The Dublin is a small pub on the corner facing the circus, this extremely popular locale serves Irish and international beers in a clean, comfortable and safe environment, while the service is swift and efficient. A typical Irish style expat bar, and there's nothing wrong with that.

Grand Khan Irish Pub

Seoul Street, Next to the National Theatre
This is by far the largest and most popular bar in town. This large glass structure houses the Irish bar on the ground floor and the VIP rooms as well as a beauty centre on the first floor. The bar itself is large and commercial in its look but always full of expats and wealthy Mongolians, great for meetings or groups, the level of service is professional and the quality constant. In summer there is a large terrace and a stage for the live band. Situated just across from the Prime Minister's residence and next to the National Theatre it is easily accessible by foot from anywhere in the city centre. Who knows? You may see the PM himself in for a pint.

Chinggis Brewery and Pub

Sukhbataaryn Gudamj
A pub sited right next to Ulaan Baatars Chinggis Brewery – how cool is that? Talk about the freshest beer in town – glass walls between the pub and the brewery mean you can see your future

RESTAURANTS



City Coffee

Chingisiin Orgon Choloo
Tel 329 077
City Coffee is located next to Khan Brau. It is a cafe, a bakery, internet and library. They also have some good dishes – mainly Chinese, and a selection of beers and coffees.

Orange Café

By the German Embassy
Orange is a warm relaxing place, with a German menu and imported magazines
There is another Orange café next to the Natural History Museum

Millie's Café

Marco Polo Building, the café faces the Monastery of Chojin Lama.
Tel 330 338
Millie's is an Institution for expats in UB and its perfect location attracts tourists too. Millie's is well known not only because of the location but also for their excellent shakes and smoothies, chocolate cake or the Apple pie, or to enjoy a great breakfast while glancing through their wide selection of magazines. Just next door is the Xanadu bookstore, it's a mandatory stop to stock up on English language Mongolian guides, books, and novels.

Sachers, German Bakery

Peace Avenue and a branch behind the Trade and Development bank (our favourite of the two)
Tel 324 734
An appealing German bakery with a charming cozy atmosphere. Fresh flowers on the tables
Drinks: Coffee, Café Latte, Tea, chocolate; Soft drink: Juice, milkshake; All day Breakfasts Classic German and non –German pastries : apple strudel, quarchle strudel, pineapple pie, bretzle, donut bagels, freshly baked. Also open in the evening, doubling up as a wine bar.

Chez Bernard, European

Peace Avenue 27
Tel 324 622
Chez Bernard is located on central Peace Avenue. It offers a nice, warm atmosphere and is a back packers favorite, with it's notice board used to find travel mates to go to the countryside, second hand gear and so on. Mainly frequented by tourists.

Mongolian Restaurants

World Restaurant

Located behind the London Pub this restaurant serves proper Mongolian food while a reasonable try is made of occidental dishes but they are of varying quality. Big mirrors and world maps decorate this local. Tuya the owner speaks French and would be happy to assist you in any way.

New Mongolia

Behind the State Department Store, you will recognize the restaurant from the sign outside
Tel : 88828999.
Inexpensive but excellent Mongolian, Asian and Central European dishes.

Nomad Legend

Located on the left side of the central museum.
Mongolian Food at a reasonable price.
Tel: 330633.

City Nomads

West side of Sukhbataar square next to the Golomt bank.
Tel : 327700
A buffet restaurant offering good Mongolian dishes and a favourite with expats and locals.

History Club

Juulchin street, near Channel 25 building,
Tel: 311732
Newly open Mongolian restaurant. They serve European dishes and Mongolian traditional food prepared by a professional Mongolian chef.

Ikh Mongol restaurant

Left side of State Circus
Tel: 340450.
Great warm atmosphere, English speaking staff and very traditional Mongolian dishes, you've never tried before! A popular restaurant.

Taliin Mongol restaurant

Chingeltei district, 4th horoo trade street CIA building, 2nd floor
Tel: 319451
Serving traditional Mongolian food, with an excellent barbecue

Modern Nomads

Baga Toiruu north. Just opposite to Chinggis Club.
Tel 318 744 – Reservation recommended the place is always packed!
<http://www.modernnomads.mn/>

If you feel like trying Mongolian Food but do not feel like going to those small street restaurants this is your place - offering high-quality traditional Mongolian dishes". Selection of wine. Nice atmosphere, an outdoor terrace and a favourite of locals and expats.

Western Restaurants

Chinggis Brewery Area – Sukhbataaryn Gudamj

(to the North of Sukhbaatar Square)

Bella - Italian restaurant

Good English Pleasant atmosphere – Piano concert in summer

Very well established and authentic Italian restaurant, with wide selection of pasta and regional Italian dishes and French and Italian wines.

Bora Bora

Just down from the State Department Store towards the Circus on the left hand side, this white minimalist trendy joint does good cheap Italian and Japanese style food.

Los Bandidos, Mexican Indian Restaurant

Baga toiruu ikh surguuliin gudamj
Tel 314167. 99194618. 99095746
A unique combination of Mexican and Indian foods – and very good they are too !

Chinggis Restaurant (Korean)

Huge wood panelled dining room, perfect for groups!
Concert and live band, and an excellent Teppanyaki buffet
French & Australian wines

The Gate Restaurant and Pub

Tel : 11332009
Nice atmosphere, elegant setting. Very friendly staff

Great for business lunch or to spoil yourself, this restaurant was recently chosen to host the Mongolian music awards, and is often regarded as having the best burgers in town. Add to that great desserts and an exhaustive wine list French, Italian, Australian, Chile.. and a cocktails master.

Choijin Lama Monastery Area

(to the South of Sukhbaatar Square)

The Silk Road restaurant

Jamiyan Guunii Gudamj, Close to the Monastery
Tel 9191 4455

A charming, well located restaurant with an open terrace facing the Temple. Good for Mediterranean style cuisine and a great chilled out atmosphere.

La Veranda, European Style

Above Silk Road. Same location, Jamiyan Guunii Gudamj
Great view over the Monastery. Great atmosphere, relaxing place with big sofa, perfect for a date.

The cuisine is good, they have a good selection of wines...and they have that view....

Circus Area

(Just south of the State Department Store)

Marco Polo, Italian restaurant

Seoul Street 27
Tel 325 240
Wood fired Pizza oven in the entrance, with a warm atmosphere, perfect for winter lunch and dinner. You will enjoy the outdoor terrace during summer. Voted best pizzas by many of UB residents. Beware of same named Strip Bar upstairs if you're with kids, but that doesn't open until midnight.

UB Deli

Seoul Street 48
Tel 325 240
The UB Deli serves gourmet sandwiches with salads, pasta and pizza. It has a cosy and comfortable atmosphere. Managed by Lee Cashell the American entrepreneur, the UB Deli has become a popular location for parties and meetings while the English speaking staff is always happy to help with tips and info about Mongolia.

California



Seoul Street. Same street same side as Marco Polo but a bit further along.
Tel 319 031
Nice atmosphere, US styled bar / diner, with red leather bench seating, and an enclosed front terrace. Great steak and salads, western / American dishes but Mongolian dishes as well. Good selection of wines. Reservation recommended the place is often packed. Very popular with the American community.

Emerald Bay

Tserendorjiin Gudamj - the street leading from the State Department Store to the Circus. Opposite to Michele's Bakery. Located above a disc shop, Emerald Bay restaurant offers a small outdoor terrace and great Greek and Mediterranean food

Other Locations

Le Bistrot Français, French Food

Surguuliin Gudamj
Tel (976) 11 32 00 22
More info on their website – in French only - <http://www.bistrot-mongolia.mn/links.html>

Styled as a traditional French Bistrot, Guy the owner manages to import the traditional French Bistrot Atmosphere, with small coffee tables in the entrance, a bar as in every bistrot, French magazines, and traditional French cuisine, with a good selection of wines. A popular place.

Hazara, Indian Restaurant

Behind the Wrestling Palace
Tel 9919 5701
East of the city centre, Hazara, is UB's first Indian restaurant and is a long term expat favourite for their North Indian dishes. They have their own tandoori oven. Recommended by local expats as the best Indian in UB.

Night Clubs



There are a growing number of night clubs in Ulaan Baatar where the city gets up, out and has a good time, dancing to the latest hip hop and cool tunes out of the US or Europe. UB increasingly has a growing selection of upmarket clubs and you can buy anything here from beer on tap to bottles of Krug. Again, places change and go in and out of fashion so check before you turn up. These listed however represent some of the most popular and reliable.

River Sounds

Olympiin Orgon Choloo – south of Sukhbaatar Square
River sounds is one of the most established and best located night clubs in UB. Just south of Sukhbaatar square along Olympic avenue it is easily recognizable by its neon lights spelling out it's name. The inside is modern with a large dance floor surrounded by sofas and chairs. A variety of bands and artists play on Friday and Saturday nights to offer a very wide variety of musical styles. A cover charge is applicable. The River Sounds crowd is generally slightly older than most of the other clubs, it is a favourite spot with the consultants and executives from the expat community.

Strings

Strings is modeled after the Hard Rock Café in Beijing, and is also one of the most popular night clubs of the moment. It's a little hard to find at the back of a little alley way slightly outside of the city centre. It is set on two floors with a large central stage where a live band plays on most nights. Strings is popular with the local Mongolian youth, usually packed on Friday's and Saturday's. Some of the younger expats attend but generally it's a crowded and entertaining venue. The upstairs seating is quieter and has its own bar which is not as busy at the main bar downstairs.

Flux

An enormous night club set just to the south of Sukhbaatar square with bright red neon lights. The inside of the club has a feel of the American 70's while the local crowd dances away on the heavy house music. Popular with locals and worth a visit.

The Oasis Club and Lounge

The Oasis club is the newest and swankiest lounge club in Ulaan Baatar, it is an entirely new and unique concept in Mongolia with a trendy, relaxed and cool interior design which allows you to pose or be more modest, settling down into deep

sofas. They play the latest tunes from the UK and France and is a firm favourite with the expats in UB. Christophe, the French manager of the bar is usually found behind it serving his unique cocktail creations and various alcohols he has travelled the world to find. The Oasis Club and Lounge is situated in the courtyard just behind the popular UB Delicatessen restaurant. In summer there is vast and comfortable seating in the lounge own courtyard with a BBQ and fountains to set the town. An extremely popular venue for the weary travellers after a long tour in the Gobi seeking peace and relaxation from the hustle and bustle of Ulaan Baatar.

Hollywood

Zaluus Youth & Cultural Center, Zaluuchuudyn Orgon Choloo
Located near the Indian Embassy, this small club is pretty cool and popular with the locals. Relatively upmarket with a Hollywood movie theme, the film inspired décor is interesting and it plays the latest tunes.

Muse

Maral Tavern Bldg, Baga Toiruu
Very popular with the new yuppie Mongolians who have just discovered the fun that can be had dancing and dressing up for the occasion. This small venue gets quickly packed but can form the basis of a great night out.

Face

Juulchin Gudamj
Always busy, very popular with the young Mongolians and expats, very black and dark interior decoration with large mirrors and lots of flashing lights. A place to dance rather than relax.

UB Palace

Chingunjavuin Gudamj
The UB palace is a large entertainment complex with several venues within it. It is located north of Peace Avenue on the east side of the 1st micro-district. It plays different music styles to suit all tastes. Plenty of cheap drinks and bar fines for heaving up on the dance floor.

Berlin

Baruun Selbe 14/1
Loud techno joint popular with locals and Russian expats and travelers, open until 5am.

Marco Polo Club

Seoul Street 27
Somewhat notorious, the Marco Polo club is situated above the pizza restaurant of the same name; the club is accessed by a discreet door to the rear of the restaurant, with a cover charge to gain entry. The club was UB's first strip joint and is reasonably classy, with sashaying ladies in various state of undress suggestively dancing along the lounge. 5,000 tg tips tucked in suspenders and underwear will usually result in speedier removal, but no touching.

Seoul Hotel Nightclub

Peace Avenue, to the west of the State Department Store
Another popular strip club, with various assorted views of some spectacular Mongolian hills and valleys.

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