



# Mongolia Expat magazine

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## MONGOLIA'S TIGERS

The Amur Siberian and Caspian Tigers \* Trekking To Manzushir Khiid Monastery  
Mongolia's Wild Tiger Lily \* The Lama of the Gobi

GETTING OUT THERE - YOUR GUIDE TO TREKKING, TRAVELLING AND ADVENTURE ACROSS MONGOLIA  
SERIOUSLY COOL STUFF FOR A SERIOUSLY WILD COuntry

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Hi, I'm Chris Devonshire-Ellis and welcome to the June issue of Mongolia Expat magazine !

In this issue we take a look at two of Mongolia's Tiger species – the Siberian Tiger, still to be found in the far North-East, and the intriguing Caspian Tiger – of which no-one is sure is really extinct or not – elusive pug marks and sightings still occasionally filter in. Keeping with the tiger theme we feature an article on the wild tiger lily – a native species to Mongolia, and have a short trek to Manzushir Khiid. This, coupled with book reviews retracing Chingghis Khans conquest of China, and a fascinating read about the Lama of the Gobi, and these, coupled with our regular updated listings section, usher in the Mongolian summer. Next month we'll have a Naadam Festival special – and as always – check out our main website at [www.mongoliaexpat.com](http://www.mongoliaexpat.com) to keep abreast of what's going on and where.

Thanks as usual to our tour partners, Ric and Tseren at Tseren Tours for their support – check them out if looking fore adventure in Mongolia.

“Ayam Zamdaa Sain Yavaarai” – Happy Travelling !

Best wishes  
Chris



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# MONGOLIA'S TIGERS

– By Chris Devonshire-Ellis



Tigers are generally not associated with Mongolia – but the country had at least two species, and today the Amur (Siberian) Tiger, though rare, still exists in small pockets in the northern larch forests today.

This tiger is the largest big cat in the world, with a range extending from the Russian Far East down through Mongolia and into the rugged northern parts of North Korea and Heilongjiang Province in China. It needs a huge area to survive – at least 50qm km by 50 sq km, and inhabits territory typically dense forest in summer, but heavily snowbound in winter. Reduced to just 40 in the wild by 1940, extensive work by the WWF and Russian authorities have coaxed the numbers back up to a more respectable, but still critically endangered 500. Lack of food and a reduction in territory is still causing problems – just six years ago a pair turned up in the city streets of Vladivostok looking for food. They were shot and killed, and the ultimate fate of the species remains highly uncertain. This tiger has a paler fur not skin, tending to a white underbelly and has larger fat reserves than it's cousins.

The Caspian tiger however is thought to have become extinct in the 1950s. Also known as the Persian Tiger, it's range extended from Eastern Turkey right the way across to Western Mongolia and the Altai. Reported sightings and pug marks come in every now and then from Afghanistan and Turkey, but no serious evidence it still exists has been found for the past 40 years. The Caspian Tiger was a golden-orange, with full face mantle, resembling the Bengal Tiger.

We detail these two remarkable species as follows.

## AMUR TIGER (*Panthera tigris altaica*)

The Amur Tiger is a rare subspecies of tiger (*P. tigris*). Also known as the Siberian,

Korean, Manchurian, or North China Tiger, it is the largest and most powerful natural animal in the feline family Felidae.

The male Amur Tiger can weigh as much as 318 kilograms (700 lb), although in past years, scientists believed that these cats could weigh up to 350 kilograms (800 lb), a supposition based largely on the estimates of hunters. On average, a tigress weighs about 160 kilograms (350 lb), and a male weighs about 225 kilograms (500 lb). At these sizes, the Amur Tiger is the largest natural creature of the cat family, though not as large as the liger, a panthera hybrid generally only found in captivity. The largest captive Amur tiger was 3.7 metres (12 ft) long and weighed over 423 kilograms (932 lb), compared to the largest captive African lion that weighed 366 kilograms (806 lb). Apart from its size, the Amur Tiger is differentiated from other tiger subspecies by its paler fur and dark brown (rather than black) stripes.

The Amur Tiger is critically endangered. In the early 1900s, it lived throughout the Korean Peninsula, northeastern Mongolia,

southeastern Russia, and northeastern China. Today, it has virtually disappeared from South Korea and is largely confined to a very small part of Russia's southern Far East (the Amur-Ussuri region of Primorye and Khabarovsk, a location where it and the Amur Leopard are now being actively protected). There are very few tigers in Manchuria (northeastern China) and fewer still in North Korea and Mongolia. Captive breeding and conservation programs are currently active.

The tiger population in the wild was probably lower than 50 in the 1930s, increasing to more than 200 in 1982. Illegal poaching has been brought under better control thanks to frequent road inspections.

A count, taken in 1996 reported 430 Amur tigers in the wild. However, Russian conservation efforts have led to a slight increase, or at least to a stable population of the subspecies, as the number of individuals in the Siberian Forests was estimated between 431 and 529 in the last count in 2005.



Like all other cats, the Amur Tiger is a carnivorous predator; an adept hunter, it preys primarily on wild boar, roe deer, sika deer and goral, but will also take smaller prey like lagomorphs (hares, rabbits, and pikas) and fish, including salmon. Unlike the Bengal Tiger, the Amur Tiger rarely attacks humans. It has sometimes even been known to kill and eat small Asiatic black bears and even brown bears. There have been cases in which an Amur tiger has killed adult brown bears. Since it is estimated that 85% of an Amur Tiger's diet is composed of red deer and wild boar, protecting these and other prey animals from illegal hunting may be just as important to the tiger's survival as preventing direct killing of the big cats. It is thought a few still roam in the northern part of Mongolia.

### CASPIAN TIGER (*Panthera tigris virgata*)

The Caspian tiger or Persian tiger was the westernmost subspecies of tiger, found in Iran, Iraq, Afghanistan, Turkey, Mongolia, Kazakhstan, Caucasus, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan until it probably became extinct in the 1970s. Although thought to be extinct, there have been several alleged sightings of the tiger over the years.

Of all the tigers known to the world, the Caspian tiger was the third largest. The body of this subspecies was quite stocky and elongated with strong legs, big wide paws and unusually large claws. The ears were short and small, and gave the appearance of being without hair on the tips. Around the cheeks the Caspian tiger was generously furred and the rest of its fur was long and thick. The coloration resembled that of the Bengal tiger. The skin specimen in the British Museum has a yellow-gold color over the back and flanks, while the sides of the body are lighter than the back and the striping also varies from light to dark brown. The chest and abdomen is white with yellow stripes, while the facial area is yellow with brown stripes on the forehead and obvious white patches around the eyes and cheeks. Outer portions of the legs are yellow and the inner areas white. The tail of this subspecies is yellow and has yellowish white stripes. In winter, the hair of the Caspian tiger was very long, and the tiger had a well-developed belly mane and a short nape mane.

Caspian tigers remained solitary for the most of their lives; they rarely socialized with other tigers outside the mating season.



The male tiger was larger than the female and lived from ten to fifteen years. Caspian tigers bred at any time of year, but they usually mated in winter or spring. The mating period of the tigers lasted twenty to thirty days. If a female did not find a mate at this time, she came into heat again later. After a gestation period of approximately 100 days, the tigress gave birth to about two to three cubs. These cubs were born blind and did not open their eyes until about ten days after birth. The cubs would drink their mother's milk for about the first eight weeks of their life. The father took no responsibility in raising the young, which was done by the mother alone. The curious, playful cubs first left the den with their mother after about two weeks. The mother needed to hunt for three instead of for one; however, hunting was severely restricted by the amount of time she needed to spend looking after the cubs. The cubs themselves began to hunt after about eleven weeks but until then they were dependent on their mother. A Caspian tigress bore cubs only once every three to four years.

The Caspian tiger was the subspecies of tiger (along with the Bengal) used in the Roman arenas. To Romans this subspecies was the most accessible as it inhabited the eastern borders of the Roman Empire. They were imported from Caucasus, Kurdistan, Mesopotamia and Persia. The first tiger that fought in Rome was a gift from an Indian ambassador to Roman emperor Augustus in the year 19 BC. In the Roman arenas the tiger fought against Roman Gladiators and other animals like the aurochs and the Barbary lion.

At the beginning of the 20th century, the Russian government worked heavily to eradicate the Caspian tiger during an extensive land reclamation program. There was no room for the tiger in their plans, and government officials instructed the

Russian army to exterminate all tigers found around the area of the Caspian Sea, a project that was carried out very efficiently. Once the extermination of the Caspian tiger was almost complete, farmers cleared forests and planted crops such as rice and cotton. Due to intensive hunting and deforestation, the Caspian tiger retreated first from the lush lowlands to the forested ranges, then to the marshes around some of

the larger rivers, and finally, deeper into the mountains, until it almost certainly became extinct.

The last stronghold of the Caspian tiger in the former Soviet Union was in the Tigrovaya Balka area. Though the tigers were reported as being found there until the mid-1950s, the reliability of these claims is unknown.

An exact date of extinction is unknown. Some reports state that the last Caspian tiger was shot in Golestan National Park in Northern Iran in 1959. There are claims of a documented killing of this subspecies in the Uludere district in Turkey - a few dozen kilometers from the Iraqi border - during the 1970s. Yet other reports state that the final Caspian tiger was captured and killed in Northeast Afghanistan in 1997. The most frequently quoted date for extinction is the late 1950s, but there is almost no evidence to back that claim. It appears this date came to be accepted after being quoted by H. Ziaie in "A Field Guide to the Mammals of Iran." More evidence reflects an even earlier date of extinction. The area of Iran that contained the last Caspian tigers was the eastern region of Mazandaran, Northern Iran. According to E. Firouz in "A Guide to the Fauna of Iran, 1999", the last tiger was killed in 1947 near Agh-Ghomish Village, 10 km East of Kalaleh (Golestān Province), on the way to Minoodasht/Bojnourd. No one really knows for certain. We can only hope that somewhere a small pocket of Caspian Tigers is still managing to hold on.

Assistance with Tiger Preservation can be made via these websites:

<http://www.amur.org.uk/tigers.shtml>

<http://www.savethetigerfund.org/>





# A SHORT TRIP TO MANZUSHIR KHIID MONASTERY

— By Chris Devonshire-Ellis



**L**ying just two hours drive south of Ulaan Baatar is the small town of Zuunmod, with its monastery and Buddhist temple. It's well worth the trip as a quick get-me-out-of-UB antidote, either as a quick day trip, or for those wanting a good weekend hike, trekking all the way there, or driving out and trekking back. It's about a seven hour hike on a good day, but it may be wise to allow for an overnight trip and camp en route.

The main entrance is via road, with a toll booth to purchase a ticket just alongside. You can buy a entry there or in the nearby ger, priced at TG5,000.

The original monastery, which housed about 400 monks in its day, was founded in 1733, and



had over 20 temples. It was destroyed by the Russians in the 1930's, and as can be seen, rather a good demolition job they did too. The eerie, still standing ruined walls a testament to one of Mongolia's darkest periods. A form of Buddhist rebirth exists though in the shape of the new temple that has arisen, wooden, and proud, on the main site of the original main temple. It still contains many of the precious sutras and religious objects that were hurriedly buried for safekeeping when the original monastery was razed.

Conifers and larch spring up around this pleasant spot, and there are still caves of solitude in the mountains above for hermits and monks in retreat for meditation. Walking through the woods to walk up to the main temple you may also see dead trees where the rare Black Woodpecker has bored numerous holes in the trunk to forage for insects, and occasionally store nuts and other delicacies. The monastery is set in the Zuunmod valley, with elk, wolves and foxes and other wildlife around.

The huge, two tonne bronze cauldron was cast in 1726 and was used to cook up to 10 sheep at one time. The way back to UB lies through the mountains to the rear of the monastery. Climbing up, from the top are spectacular views down the valley, and a huge pine forest. The best approach is to the right of the monastery as you face it, you'll find a stream running down. Just follow that path up, and continue heading north. Twin summits will appear in front of you, with views right across to UB and two sacred Oovo piles. This is the highest part of the ridge, from here it is all downhill to Ulaan Baatar. [MC](#)

# THE MONGOLIAN WILD TIGER LILY



**“I took a day to search for God  
And found him not.  
But where the scarlet lily flamed  
I saw his footprint in the sod”**

– By Chris Devonshire-Ellis



Mongolia is blessed with a profusion of plant life, with the wild Tiger Lily to be found in Hustaii and Khentii, growing in wooded glades, moist meadows close to rivers, and occasionally out on the steppe. It is a native Mongolian species, also known by its latin name *Lilium philadelphicum*, and is the direct ancestor of all the propagated species now cultivated, grown and sold throughout the world. Indeed, so used to we at seeing it in flower shops it is a bit of a shock to see it flourishing in its natural habitat ! The Tiger Lily was first described by the famous Swedish botanist Carl von Linne (Linnaeus) in 1753.

It's also a remarkably useful plant, and Mongolia's nomads know it well. The bulb of this plant is edible – it is cooked like potatoes in a stew, or can be used to thicken soup. The roots are starchy and slightly

sweet, while the flower is also edible and is probably the most delicious salad herb you could ever eat – although the Mongolians don't eat it raw, the rest of the plant has been consumed by Mongolians for centuries. For medical purposes, shamans use the root in the form of a tea for coughs, consumption, fever, stomach disorders – including morning sickness for pregnant women - and to expel placenta. It is also used externally for wounds, sores, bruises and swellings. As a poultice it can be applied to spider bites and other grazes and stings.

Wild Tiger Lilies can grow up to 6 feet tall, and bloom in mid-summer. This plant also has small black “bulbils” (baby bulbs) that form up and down the stem in the leaf axils. These little bulbs drop to the ground naturally, and spring up the next year as baby tiger lily plants. Consequently they

can often be found growing in clumps of several plants all close together. Tiger Lilies are a treat to find in the wild – but please – just take photos and not the plant. The photos will last for ever and the plant can live to be enjoyed by others.

There is an old Mongolian legend about the Tiger Lily. A Buddhist hermit befriended a wounded tiger by removing an arrow from its body. The tiger asked the hermit to use his magic to perpetuate their friendship after the tiger died. The hermit agreed and when the tiger died, his body became a tiger lily. Eventually the hermit drowned in a flash flood after heavy rain, and his body was washed away. The tiger lily spread everywhere looking for its friend....which is why you generally find it along river banks.

ME

# MONGOLIA EXPAT GUIDE TO ULAAN BAATAR & THE MONGOLIAN COUNTRYSIDE LAUNCHED

## Launch Proceeds Given to Local Children's Charity



**Mongolia Expat** launched the new *“Travel Guide to Ulaan Baatar & The Mongolian Countryside”* on Friday 25<sup>th</sup> May at the British Embassy in UB, with all proceeds from the book launch going to a local charity of the Ambassadors choice, The Equal Steppe Centre, which has gone to building a summer camp for underprivileged children in Mongolia. The event, televised by Mongolian Channel 9, raised 360,000 togrog (about USD400) and allowed the centre to meet their financial targets for the year to complete the work needed to get the camp ready for this summer. Pictured are Chris Devonshire-Ellis (left) with British Ambassador Chris Osborne (right), with the donation and a copy of the book. We would like to thank all those who attended and gave generously to this event.

# Travel Guide to Ulaan Baatar & The Mongolian Countryside — OUT NOW !!!



This 140 page, full color guide, illustrated with over 250 photos, details all the places to see and visit in Ulaan Baatar, as well as trips from UB out into the Mongolian countryside. These include articles on:

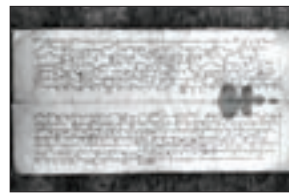
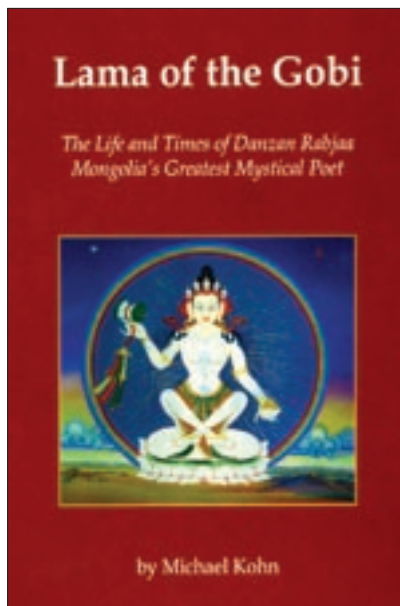
- Mongolia's Naadam Festival
- Trekking The Gobi
- Fishing at Lake Khovsgol
- Hunting With Eagles at Bayan Olgii
- Staying with the Tsataan Nomads Herding Reindeer
- Crossing The Khakirra with Two Horses & A Camel
- An Evening With the Shaman

Plus many more detailed articles about Mongolia's nomads, staying in gers, Mongolia's birds, wildlife and flowers, how to get around Mongolia and complete tour guide, hotel, bar, restaurant and nightclub listings in Ulaan Baatar.

Available priced 10,000 tg from all good bookstores in UB, or for USD10 plus p&p via mail from [tuya@mongoliaexpat.com](mailto:tuya@mongoliaexpat.com)



## Book Review: **Lama Of The Gobi** - *The Life & Times of Danzan Rabjaa, Mongolia's Greatest Mystical Poet* - Michael Kohn



Danzan Rabjaa, born in 1803, was the official Fifth Noyon Incarnate Lama of the Gobi Desert, and is perhaps Mongolia's most revered saint. This wonderful book tells of his eventful life – commencing as a child, whereby the Fourth Noyon Incarnate had been such a wicked lama, involved with prostitutes, theft, and disgraceful levels of debauchery that the authorities forbade the rituals required to seek the fifth incarnate to be reborn – and nearly assassinated the young child when it was found he had been discovered! Only direct appeals by the Dalai Lama at the time saved his life – just as well, for he went on to become the greatest mystic and creative geniuses of 19<sup>th</sup> c Mongolia. This book, by Michael Kohn, the author of the 4<sup>th</sup> Lonely Planet Guide to Mongolia – is a vivid and exciting description and investigative account of the life and times of this extraordinary man. It carries the reader through Mongolian history, Buddhism and the traditions of Mongolian culture, and generates an appreciation of both the man and the many legends that surround him. It's a well told and fast paced account that will live in your memory for a long time after completion. [ME](#)



## Book Review: **"In The Footsteps of Genghis Khan"** - John DeFrancis

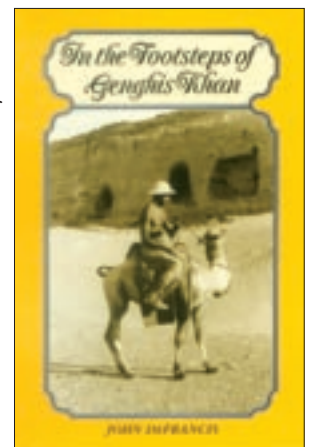
– Reviewed by Chris Devonshire-Ellis

Beijing, 1935. China is beset with problems – the capital has been moved to Nanjing, the Japanese are invading Manchuria, and warlords jostle for positions of power elsewhere. Chiang Kai-shek is fighting the Communists supported by Muslims from China's western regions. It is just before WWII, and China is in a mess as the world plunges towards global havoc.

John DeFrancis, then a young man in his 20's, steps into the expat hangout bar in the Beijing Hotel, then the place to have a drink, to ponder the growing chaos, have love affairs and file stories back to the international news agencies (The bar has recently reopened as the Writers Bar in the Beijing Raffles Hotel). Looking for adventure, excitement and basically, something crazy to do, he hooks up with Desmond Martin, a Canadian explorer with just such tastes.

Over gin and tonics, the pair of them come up with a scheme to explore the China-Mongolian borders where Genghis Khan invaded China, twelve hundred years earlier. Quite apart from the dangerous situation at the time in China's countryside, they have to endure large tracts of the Gobi, marauding bandits, a lack of supplies with really only their wits and the goodwill of a few friendly temples to help them on their way. They travel north to Hohhot, across Inner Mongolia to Baotou, following the Yellow River down to Lanzhou, then up the Gansu corridor to Jiuquan, until they reach their final destination – the lost Mongol city of Etsina (now in western inner Mongolia). They are shot at, starve, get sunburnt, freeze, and explore some of the least accessible and remote parts of the region. In the process they become the last to travel large sections of their route—most of the area became militarized and has been off limits for more than 60 years.

DeFrancis, now in his 90's, relates this tale of adventure and madness with aplomb, ready wit and a remarkable capacity to remember his exploits as a young man. This is a thunderously good adventure tale, and one can only marvel at the impetuous nature of youth and how they managed to pull off such a journey without getting killed. It is exciting, dynamic and a must read for all those who love to get out into China's wild areas. [ME](#)



# 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](mailto: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 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

### Micheles Bakery

1st Khoroo, Chingeltei

(turn left on Peace Avenue opposite the Russian Embassy)

Tel: 9916 9970

Michele's is back! For all of you who missed your daily French fix of coffee and croissants - Alex has reopened with all his usual array of home baked pastries. Open 8am to 8pm, great snacks or for lunch.

### 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 backpackers favorite, with its 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.

### Talin 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 91910211

<http://www.silk-road.mn>

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**

Chingunjavijn 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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