



TRANS-MONGOLIA

CLASSIC

4TH - 26TH JUNE 2021



ANSWER THE CALL OF THE WILD STEPPE ON THE TRANS-MONGOLIA CLASSIC



WELCOME TO THE TRANS-MONGOLIA CLASSIC

Let us welcome you to the Trans-Mongolia Classic, an extraordinary endurance adventure into one of the last true wildernesses on Earth. This is a rally unlike any other, a sweeping, elemental journey across the endless steppe, through ancient desert landscapes, and deep into the remote heart of Central Asia. Mongolia is a land shaped by wind, sky and silence, and driving here feels less like travelling through a country and more like travelling through time.

Created for those who believe that motoring should still feel like an expedition, the Trans-Mongolia Classic invites a small, committed group of adventurers to navigate vast open plains, shifting sand tracks, rugged earth routes and remote mountain passes. It is a test of navigation, of mechanical reliability, and of calm decision-making when the weather changes or the landscape throws up something unexpected, but it is also a celebration of pure, unfiltered exploration. Success is not defined by speed, but by accuracy, consistency and the ability to work together in the face of challenge, just as rallying was always meant to be.

Yet for all its intensity, this journey is rich with beauty. Each day reveals a new horizon: wild horses running free across the steppe, nomadic camps tucked beneath lonely hills, the vast silence of the Gobi at dawn, and night skies so bright they feel close enough to touch. Evenings are spent in privately run wilderness camps, chosen for their solitude, authenticity and unforgettable sense of place, a chance to share stories over dinner and take in the sweep of the stars before the next day's adventure begins.

Reserved for only a handful of entries, the Trans-Mongolia Classic offers intimacy, camaraderie and the joy of sharing a remarkable challenge with the person beside you. It is more than a rally, it is a sweeping odyssey through Mongolia's vast untouched wilderness, a journey that few will ever experience and one that will stay with you long after the steppe dust settles.



ULANBAATAR

TRANS-MONGOLIAN CLASSIC

ITINERARY

DAY - 2: FRIDAY 4TH JUNE | ULAANBAATAR

Our crews arrive in the Mongolian capital, Ulaanbaatar, where they can unwind and recover after their international travels. The day is intentionally open for rest, acclimatization, and casual exploration of the city's vibrant markets, Buddhist monasteries, and modern cultural districts. Our rally support team will be on hand to assist those preparing their vehicles with checks and final touches. As the sun sets over the Bogd Khan mountains, gather for a relaxed welcome drinks reception to meet your fellow participants—adventurers, vintage car lovers, and spirited travellers.

DAY - 1: SATURDAY 5TH JUNE | ULAANBAATAR

Today features the official rally briefing, route book distribution, and a comprehensive walkthrough of rally protocols and navigation techniques. For those new to endurance rallying, our expert Rally Director will host short sessions on navigating the variable Mongolian terrain. Vehicle scrutineering will be completed in the hotel forecourt, followed by a light buffet lunch. In the afternoon, optional guided tours are available to the Zaisan Memorial, Sukhbaatar Square, or local art galleries. In the evening, a private welcome dinner introduces Mongolian culture with traditional throat singing, contortion performances, and a feast of delicacies, hosted in an exclusive setting overlooking the Tuul River.

Route details may be subject to change.

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NORTHBOUND: INTO THE GREEN STEPPES

DAY 1: SUNDAY 6TH JUNE | ULAANBAATAR TO AMARBAYASGALANT

The rally officially begins as crews roll out from Ulaanbaatar at first light. Heading north, we leave the urban bustle behind and enter the vast Mongolian steppe. Today's route is a gentle introduction: sweeping gravel roads, shallow fords, and open plains punctuated by herds of yak and camel. By late morning, the landscape transitions to low hills and river valleys. After a picnic lunch in the open air, the route climbs toward the sacred site of Amarbayasgalant Monastery, one of Mongolia's most important Buddhist landmarks. Nestled in a remote valley, its 18th-century temples are remarkably well preserved. Crews will have time to explore the monastery before settling into a luxury yurt camp nearby, to enjoy a freshly prepared dinner and an open fire under the stars.



DAY 2: MONDAY 7TH JUNE | AMARBAYASGALANT TO UGII LAKE

Day two brings our first navigational challenges, with a mix of roads winding through remote valleys and river crossings. Leaving Amarbayasgalant behind, we head southwest through a beautiful tapestry of grasslands, wildflowers, and rock-strewn plateaus. This is nomad country, and it is not uncommon to see gers (yurts) in the distance and horseback herders waving as we pass. Midday offers a scenic stop for lunch beside a shallow stream before continuing toward Ugii Lake. Known for its tranquil blue waters and rich birdlife, Ugii is one of Mongolia's largest freshwater lakes. The evening is spent at a lakeside, where our crews can relax with a sundowner as swans glide across the tranquil waters.

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DAY 3: TUESDAY 8TH JUNE | UGII LAKE TO UUSHGII UVUR

Today the rally shifts into higher gear as we tackle a diverse range of terrains on route to Uushgiin Uvur, deep in the Arkhangai province. Departing from the serenity of Ugii Lake, the route threads through rolling highlands and into more technically challenging ground, with several timed sections designed to test navigational precision. Expect open steppe tracks, riverbed crossings, and occasional rocky stretches that demand concentration and finesse. Along the way, we pass isolated stone ovoos—sacred shamanic cairns—where locals stop to leave offerings. The route climbs steadily through pine forests and alpine meadows before descending into the valley of Uushgiin Uvur, known for its prehistoric deer stones and burial mounds. Tonight's accommodation is a traditional ger camp nestled in a peaceful glade, where stargazing is unparalleled and dinner is served by candlelight in a heated communal yurt.

Route details may be subject to change.

DAY 4: WEDNESDAY 9TH JUNE | UUSHGIIIN UVUR TO TSENTHER HOT SPRINGS

Following an early departure, crews make their way around the volcanic Terh White Lake—one of Mongolia's most striking natural wonders—before heading southeast toward the forested hills of Tsenkher. Today's drive is scenic and richly varied, with smooth tracks leading to wooded mountain roads and the occasional splashy ford. Regularity sections snake through remote grazing lands and beneath cliffs where golden eagles soar overhead. Around midday, there is a scenic break for lunch beside a forest stream. As the day unfolds, the route begins to descend through flower-filled valleys toward Tsenkher, famous for its naturally heated mineral springs and our stop for the night.



DAY 5: THURSDAY 10TH JUNE | TSENTHER HOT SPRINGS TO KARAKORUM

Revitalised by the springs, crews depart on a shorter but historically rich leg to Karakorum, the ancient capital of the Mongol Empire. The morning includes a mix of gentle navigation sections and cultural highlights, with the route passing through river valleys and grazing lands dotted with herds of goats and yaks, before pressing on to the Orkhon Valley, a UNESCO World Heritage site and cradle of Mongolian civilisation. Arriving in Karakorum by early afternoon allows time to explore the impressive Erdene Zuu Monastery, built on the ruins of Genghis Khan's capital before we gather for a celebratory evening among ancient ruins.

Route details may be subject to change.

TRANS-MONGOLIAN CLASSIC

SOUTHBOUND: INTO THE GOBI

DAY 6: FRIDAY 11TH JUNE | KARAKORUM TO ULAANBAATAR

Our return to Ulaanbaatar marks the end of the first loop of the rally and provides a brief break before the expedition heads south into the Gobi Desert. The route follows part of the ancient Silk Road and includes easy stretches along broad gravel tracks, river crossings, and scenic valleys. The contrast between nomadic life and the capital becomes clear as the skyline of Ulaanbaatar gradually reappears on the horizon. Crews will check back into our host hotel, where our support teams will be available for mechanical checks and servicing. The evening is free for leisure, offering an opportunity to rest or explore the city's vibrant culture and nightlife.



DAY 7: SATURDAY 12TH JUNE | ULAANBAATAR TO ZORGOL KHAIRKHAN

Leaving the capital behind, today's journey heads southeast toward the imposing granite massifs of Zorgol Khairkhan, sacred to locals and steeped in legend. The landscape quickly transforms—urban sprawl giving way to vast open plains and undulating steppe. The horizon opens wide, with herds of wild horses and Bactrian camels often seen in the distance. As the route approaches Zorgol Khairkhan, the stark rock formations rise dramatically from the flatlands, casting long shadows across the valley. Tonight's camp is set in the lee of the sacred mountain, offering panoramic views and a tranquil silence only found in such remote places. Expect a campfire dinner under the stars and tales from Mongolian mythology.

Route details may be subject to change.

DAY 8: SUNDAY 13TH JUNE | ZORGOL KHAIRKHAN TO BAGA GAZRYN CHULUU

Following an early departure, crews make their way around the volcanic Terh White Lake—one of Mongolia's most striking natural wonders—before heading southeast toward the forested hills of Tsenkher. Today's drive is scenic and richly varied, with smooth tracks leading to wooded mountain roads and the occasional splashy ford. Regularity sections snake through remote grazing lands and beneath cliffs where golden eagles soar overhead. Around midday, there is a scenic break for lunch beside a forest stream. As the day unfolds, the route begins to descend through flower-filled valleys toward Tsenkher, famous for its naturally heated mineral springs and our stop for the night.



DAY 9: MONDAY 14TH JUNE | BAGA GAZRYN CHULUU TO TSAGAAN SUVARGA

Revitalised by the springs, crews depart on a shorter but historically rich leg to Karakorum, the ancient capital of the Mongol Empire. The morning includes a mix of gentle navigation sections and cultural highlights, with the route passing through river valleys and grazing lands dotted with herds of goats and yaks, before pressing on to the Orkhon Valley, a UNESCO World Heritage site and cradle of Mongolian civilisation. Arriving in Karakorum by early afternoon allows time to explore the impressive Erdene Zuu Monastery, built on the ruins of Genghis Khan's capital before we gather for a celebratory evening among ancient ruins.

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DAY 10: TUESDAY 15TH JUNE | TSAGAAN SUVRGA TO ONGI MONASTERY

Today's route heads deeper into the heart of the desert, weaving through remote valleys and semi-arid scrublands on route to the haunting ruins of Ongi Monastery. The road surface varies from fine gravel to deep sand and occasional river crossings, offering plenty of technical challenges. As the Gobi's vastness unfolds, the sense of isolation becomes profound. We break for lunch in the shade of a solitary grove of trees—an oasis in this sea of dust and stone. By late afternoon, the silhouette of Ongi Monastery emerges in the distance. Once one of Mongolia's largest religious centres, it was largely destroyed during Stalinist purges in the 1930s. Participants can explore its atmospheric ruins and nearby museum before retreating to a luxurious desert lodge built into the surrounding cliffs. The evening is calm, reflective, and steeped in a sense of timeless history.

DAY 11: TUESDAY 15TH JUNE | WEDNESDAY 16TH JUNE | ONGI MONASTERY TO BAYANZAG

The journey continues across the southern Gobi toward Bayanzag, famously known as the Flaming Cliffs—one of the world's richest paleontological sites. Today's route includes soft dunes, sandy riverbeds, and remote tracks through scrubby steppe, where speed must be balanced with precision. Arriving at Bayanzag, the brilliant red sandstone cliffs glow with an otherworldly intensity at sunset. This is the site where Roy Chapman Andrews discovered dinosaur eggs in the 1920s, and even now, fossil fragments can occasionally be spotted by the observant. Tonight's camp is located within view of the cliffs, offering a truly cinematic setting. Before dinner, our crews can enjoy the extraordinary natural amphitheatre surrounding them.



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DEEP GOBI: THE WILD HEART OF MONGOLIA

DAY 12: THURSDAY 17TH JUNE | BAYANZAG TO DALANZADGAD

Today's route traverses some of the most iconic terrain in all of Mongolia: the vast and majestic Khongor Sand Dunes. Often called the "Singing Dunes" due to the low-pitched sounds created by shifting sands, these towering formations stretch for over 180 kilometres and rise to a height of nearly 300 metres. After an early morning exploration of the dunes—on foot, camelback, or for the bold, in a 4x4—the rally sets off eastward toward Dalanzadgad, the capital of the South Gobi province. The day's driving includes long gravel straights, dune-edge navigation, and wide valley crossings that offer technical challenges and awe-inspiring vistas. Arriving in Dalanzadgad our crews have an opportunity for vehicle maintenance before we gather to enjoy an evening of traditional throat-singing and a hearty feast of regional Gobi delicacies.



DAY 13: FRIDAY 18TH JUNE | DALANZADGAD TO ATS BOGD

Leaving Dalanzadgad behind, the rally continues toward the rarely visited outpost of Ats Bogd. Today's drive is an expedition across the Gobi's lesser-known reaches—wide plains, eroded canyons, and hidden salt pans that test navigation skills and endurance. Several timed sections weave through dry riverbeds, and for much of the day, the horizon remains unbroken. This isolation makes this leg special: the silence, the scale, and the raw beauty of Mongolia's emptiest landscapes. Wildlife sightings are common—gazelles, marmots, and possibly even the elusive Pallas's cat. Upon reaching Ats Bogd, our crews settle into a remote ger camp set against low hills, where the sunset reveals a palette of golden, crimson, and mauve.

Route details may be subject to change.



DAY 14: SATURDAY 19TH JUNE | ATS BOGD TO KHAMAR MONASTERY

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From the arid wilds to spiritual serenity, today's route transitions from the desert plateau to the tranquil setting of Khamar Monastery. Founded in the 19th century by the famed monk and poet Danzanravjaa, the monastery is deeply tied to Mongolian spiritualism and cultural heritage. The day's route blends open desert with technical terrain, including dry lake beds and broken rock trails. Navigation here is critical, there are few landmarks, and timing is everything. As the monastery's white walls and golden stupas appear on the horizon, our crews will feel a deep sense of arrival. This evening is quieter, reflective. Guests can attend a guided meditation or enjoy the peaceful gardens and distant mountain views.



DAY 15: SUNDAY 20TH JUNE | KHAMAR MONASTERY TO ULAAN LAKE

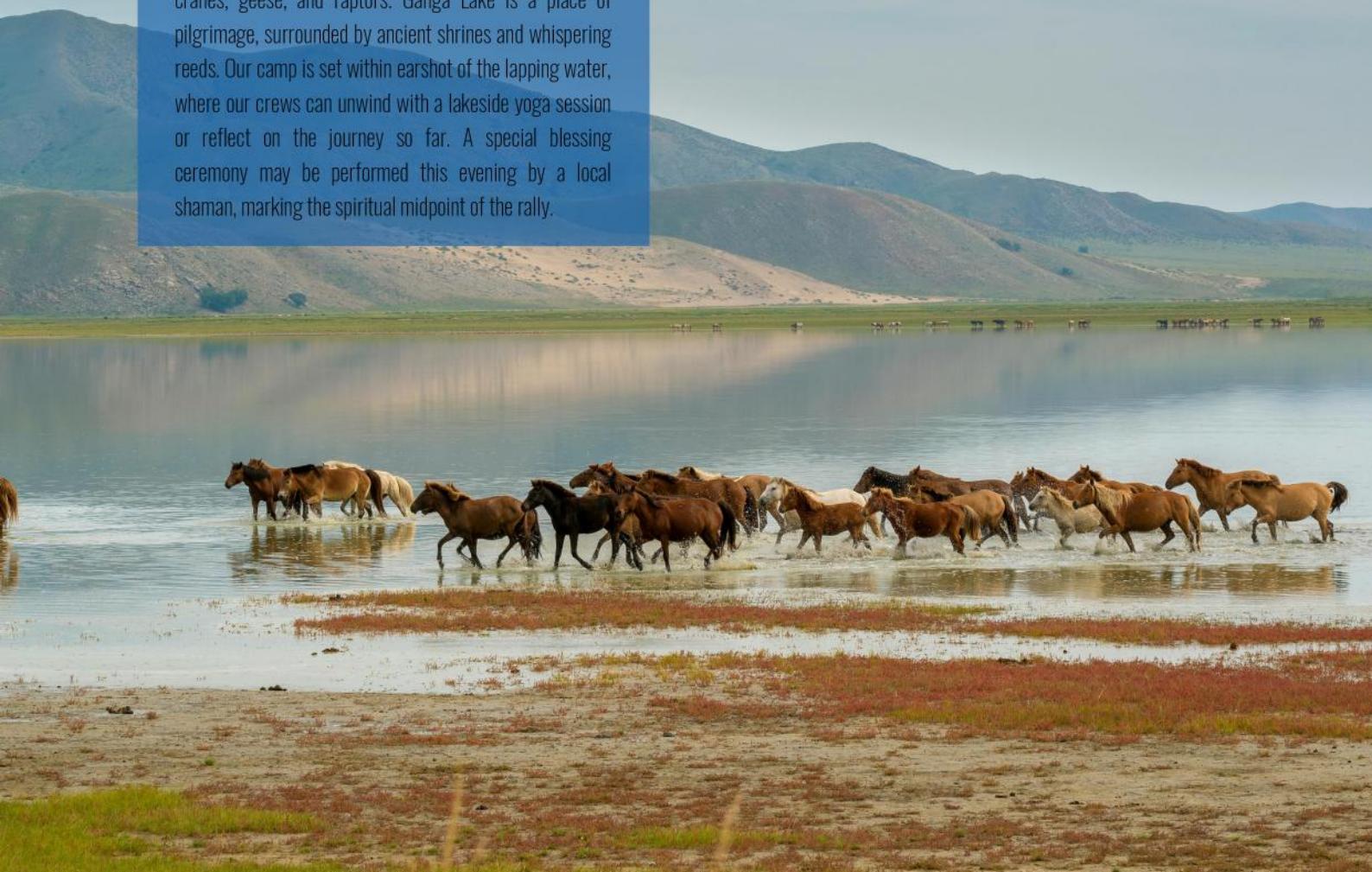
The rally now veers east toward the glimmering expanse of Ulaan Lake. The day's drive is one of contrast: rugged rock trails give way to soft sand, salt flats, and finally the mirrored waters of the lake itself. Along the way, a highlight is passing through several seasonal herding settlements, where nomadic families may invite guests for airag (fermented mare's milk) or salted tea. Several navigation sections today require keen attention to compass bearings and distances, as paths often fade into the terrain. The lake, when reached, is a spectacular sight—an oasis in a wild land. Our camp is on the lake's northern shore, where the surrounding cliffs reflect off the water at dusk. This is a perfect evening for a lakeside bonfire and a swim for those brave enough to embrace the cold.

Route details may be subject to change.

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DAY 16: MONDAY 21ST JUNE | ULAAN LAKE TO GANGA LAKE

Another lake-to-lake crossing, today's route spans open desert, stony plains, and surprisingly lush grasslands as we make our way east to Ganga Lake—a sacred site for local shamans. The drive includes one of the rally's longer timed sections, cutting across unmarked steppe with only the most subtle topographic cues. Around midday, there is a scenic picnic stop near a salt marsh, followed by an afternoon drive through birdwatching havens rich in cranes, geese, and raptors. Ganga Lake is a place of pilgrimage, surrounded by ancient shrines and whispering reeds. Our camp is set within earshot of the lapping water, where our crews can unwind with a lakeside yoga session or reflect on the journey so far. A special blessing ceremony may be performed this evening by a local shaman, marking the spiritual midpoint of the rally.



TRANS-MONGOLIAN CLASSIC

EAST TO WEST: RETURN THROUGH HISTORY

DAY 17: TUESDAY 22ND JUNE | GANGA LAKE TO TÖVSHINSHIREE

Today's leg of our journey leads crews into the remote and little-visited eastern steppe, a land of endless skies, gentle hills, and sweeping grasslands. Departing Ganga Lake, the route winds through sacred groves, salt flats, and ancient burial grounds that mark this region's deep spiritual and cultural roots. Navigation challenges are subtle but relentless—small track deviations can lead far astray in this largely featureless terrain. The route passes through small herder communities and isolated gers, where time seems to stand still. The day's lunch stop is in the shade of a larch grove, with local herders offering fresh bread and yak butter. By late afternoon, the rally arrives in Tövshinshoree, a quiet provincial town that provides a rare glimpse into everyday Mongolian life.



DAY 18: WEDNESDAY 23RD JUNE | TÖVSHINSHIREE TO KHUDUU ARAL

From pastoral farmland to historical resonance, today's drive carries deep cultural weight. Crews head northwest toward Khudu Aral, a significant site believed to be where "The Secret History of the Mongols"—the 13th-century chronicle of Chinggis Khan's life—was written. Today's roads are faster and smoother than in recent days, allowing for more flowing driving and beautiful views of the Selenge River basin. As the day draws on, golden pastures give way to riverbanks and softly undulating hills. Upon arrival in Khudu Aral, there's time to visit the monument commemorating the famous manuscript, followed by a riverside camp setup. Dinner is accompanied by a live Morin Khuur (horsehead fiddle) performance—a stirring tribute to Mongolia's literary and musical heritage.

Route details may be subject to change.



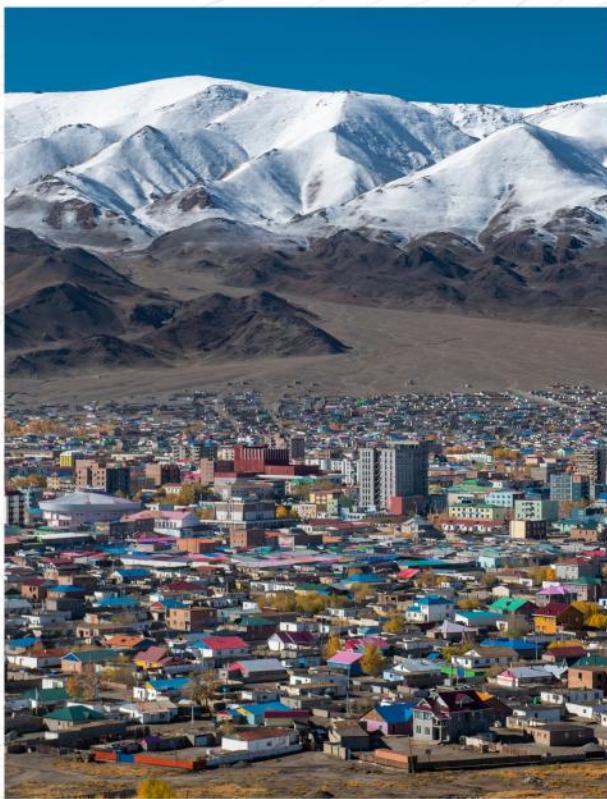
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THURSDAY 24TH JUNE | KHUDUU ARAL TO TSONJIN BOLDOG

As the penultimate driving day begins, spirits are high for this symbolic stage that follows the legacy of Chinggis Khan himself. The road leads to Tsonjin Boldog, the site of the monumental equestrian statue of the Khan—towering at 40 metres and visible from miles away. The route features classic Mongolian rally terrain: grassy tracks, dried creek beds, and fast open plains. Crews will be tested on their ability to maintain speeds across varying surfaces. Midday offers a stop at a nomadic cultural centre, where our crews can enjoy archery, traditional games, and a final taste of steppe hospitality. Approaching Tsonjin Boldog, the giant statue dominates the horizon, signalling the rally's nearing end. The group will overnight in a luxury ger camp with modern amenities and then conclude with dinner beneath the stars.

DAY 20: FRIDAY 25TH JUNE | TSONJIN BOLDOG TO ULAANBAATAR

The final day of driving on the Trans-Mongolia Classic brings a mix of nostalgia and celebration. The last leg is a scenic but emotionally charged journey back to Ulaanbaatar. A shorter day in the distance, the route still includes a final navigational challenge through hilly terrain and pine forests before descending onto paved roads leading into the city. As our crews roll into the finish line, they are welcomed with cheers, traditional dancers, and a ceremonial khadag (blessing scarf) presentation. Vehicles are lined up for a celebratory photo in front of the National Museum, and crews transfer to the host hotel to relax and prepare for the evening's festivities. This is a day of pride, reflection, and camaraderie.



DAY 20: SATURDAY 26TH JUNE | ULAANBAATAR

After 20 days and over 5,000 kilometres of extraordinary adventure, today is a well-earned rest. Our crews can enjoy optional spa treatments, shopping for cashmere and antiques, or guided tours of Ulaanbaatar's cultural highlights such as the Gandan Monastery and Choijin Lama Temple. The rally concludes with a Gala Dinner at one of the city's finest venues. The evening features live music, a presentation of the rally's highlights, and awards for notable performances—whether for precision, perseverance or simply best team spirit. It is a night of laughter, toasts, and memories that will last a lifetime.

Route details may be subject to change.



READY FOR AN ADVENTURE?

