

«BUDDHIST PEARL OF EUROPE»

Russia is a big country with various traditions, customs and religious flavor, which reflect the diversity of nations called the Russians.

It is our pleasure to be able to show different religions in one part of Russia. You will start your journey in Rostov region with the Cossack traditions, based on Orthodox religion and will continue with amazing and surprising the Buddhist temples in Kalmykia.

Kalmykia is considered to be the eastern tale of Russia and the only Buddhist land in Europe. Having started your journey in the morning from Rostov In several hours you will get to the capital of Kalmykia the city Elista where you will find completely another land and traditions.

Main attraction in Elista is the largest Buddhist Temple in Europe. The foundation stone was laid by His Holiness the Dalai Lama XIV.

During an excursion you will see the the Stupa of Enlightenment and the prayer wheel. In accordance with the legend one shall rotate this wheel as much as 108 times In order to accumulate good merits, have god luck and to purify karma.

The ancestors of Kalmyks «Oirats» who earlier inhabited western Mongolia and used to be powerful tribes' alliance, were ruled by great Genghis Khan, outstanding historical character of the century. You can become a part of the national fest and the cultural-ethnic celebration «Dzhangariada» famous for sports contests, kalmyk cuisine, songs and dances.

Celebrations «Hymn to Tulip», «Blooming of Lotus» are carried out in Elista during spells of blooming flowers. These performances are connected with impressive Kalmyk dances of folk bands, unique throats singing and rhapsodies from the Epos «Dzhangar». The Kalmycks are proud of this heroic epos, a masterpiece of the world literature.

Elista hosted the World Chess Championship in 1998 and is famous for the chess contests.

Here is a module, an example of the tour to Elista. We would be delighted to make tailor –made trips and combined tours Rostov–Elista.

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| Day 1 | Rostov-on-Don.
Arrival at the airport (train station).
Transfer and check-in at the hotel.
Optional city-tour. |
| Day 2 | Breakfast in the hotel.
Departure for Elista.
Arrival at the town in the evening.
Transfer and check-in at the hotel.
Folk lore program in the ethnographic style: sings, dances, rituals, ethnic music and national Kalmyk cuisine. |
| Day 3 | After breakfast a tour to the city central area, where you can visit the largest Buddhist Temple in Europe, the Stupa of Enlightenment, Kyurde a huge prayer wheel , the Kazan Mother of God Cathedral, monument «Exodus and Return», «The city-chess», «The golden gates» and a lot of philosophical sculpture compositions.
Lunch.
Free time for shopping, walking in the city center or optional excursion to the Kalmyk steep riding camels.
Return to the hotel. Dinner. |
| Day 4 | Breakfast in the hotel.
Return to Rostov or extension of your stay in Elista. |

