

Монголын Сүм Хийдийн Түүхэн Товчоо Төсөл

UB 06 Ikh khüree Zurkhai datsan

Tibetan name: rtsis-pa grwa-tshang

English name: Ikh khüree astrologic monastic school

On the way up to Gandan (Zanabazar street).

Informant: Luvsanchültem, lama of the temple (about 30)

A *Zurkhai datsan* was situated in the area of Züün khüree before 1938, but this temple has no connection with the old one.

This Gelukpa temple is situated between *Lamrim datsan* (New Temples 4) and *Ikh khüree Manba datsan* (New Temples 5) at Zanabazar Street leading to *Gandan* monastery's main gate. Despite its seeming connection to Ikh khüree, through its name, there is no traditional connection with the old capital city.

The abbot and the founder of the monastery is Z. Sanjiddorj, the same who heads and founded *Ikh khüree Manba datsan* next door to this temple. *Ikh khüree Zurkhai datsan* was opened in 1995. In the first years it operated in the building of the present *Ikh khüree Mamba datsan* and moved to its present building in 2002.

Presently the temple has 40 lamas some of who have studied in India and most of whom have *getsel* vows. The ranks are the following: abbot, two *lovons*, two chanting masters and one disciplinary master.

The main deity of the temple is *Tsagaan Dari ekh* (Tib. *sgrol dkar*, Skr. Sitatara, the White Tara). There are the following objects of worship and images on the altar: sculptures of *Tsagaan Dari ekh*, Tsongkhapa, Buddha, *Namsrai* (Tib. *rnam-(thos)-sras*, Skr. Vaishravana), and painted scrolls of *Jigjid* (Tib. *'jigs-byed*, Skr. Bhairava, epithet of Yamantaka) and *Ochirvaani* (Tib. *phyag-na rdo-rje / phyag-rdor*, Skr. Vajrapani). Above the throne of the disciplinary master pictures of *Lkham* (Tib. *dpal-ldan lha-mo*, Skr. Shridevi) and *Ochirvaani* are hanged. The volumes of the whole *Ganjuur* are kept in the monastery.

In this temple, on the 8th of the lunar month the ceremony of the Medicine Buddha (*Manal*, Tib. *sman-bla*, Skr. Bhaishajyaguru) is held and on the 15th the ritual of Buddha's main disciplines, the sixteen sthviras or arhats (*Naidan*). On the 29th the ritual of Amitabha (*Avidiin chogo*) is held and on the 30th Guhyasamaja tantra (*Sanduin jüd*, Tib. *gsang-'dus-kyi rgyud*) is read.

At the left side of the temple, there is a counter selling religious articles and this is also the cash desk where people can request and pay for readings with no fixed prices. The temple gives great emphasis on reading requested texts and giving remedies (*zasal*) to people so it is usual to see people sitting in front of each lama who is reading them their texts up to 4 o'clock in the afternoon.

In the basement of the temple there is a restaurant that can be entered from inside the temple.