

Монголын Сүм Хийдийн Түүхэн Товчоо Төсөл

UB 34 Mongoliin Ikh Khüree khiid

English name: Mongolian Ikh khüree monastery

On the way up to Gandan (Zanabazar street), on the right side.

NOTE in 2011: the monastery has been under renovation

Informant: Ölziin Bazar, lama of the temple (aged 22)

This monastery was founded by the same Z. Sanjiddorj, who founded *Ikh khüree zurkhai datsan* in 1995 and *Ikh khüree mamba datsan* in 2003 and heads now all three of them. Now, with the opening of the bigger *Ikh khüree khiid*, the building of which was started in 2006, he has three temples situated by each other on the road, Zanabazar street, leading to *Gandan* monastery. This newest one was opened in September, 2006.

The building itself is a huge pink coloured one, on the north of the two other temples. In the basement of the temple there is a restaurant that can be entered from inside the temple, and on its upper floor another one. If one enters the building, the assembly room is on the left, and on the right there is the reception for requesting readings by individuals.

There are two chanting masters, one disciplinary master, some chanters (*golch*) and two shrine supervisors (*duganch*). There are two *lovon* monks, but it seems that these are common for the three temples, similarly to their common abbot. There are 25 lamas, and the three temples together have a lama community of about 60, most of whom have *getsel* vows. There are about 4-5 lamas in the temple who perform the readings of *Lüjjin*.

The main deities of the temple are *Tsagaan Dari ekh* (Tib. *sgrol dkar*, Skr. Sitatara, the White Tara), *Ochirvaani* (Tib. *phyag-na rdo-rje / phyag-rdor*, Skr. Vajrapani) and *Lkham* (shortly for *Baldan Ikham*, Tib. *dpal-ldan lha-mo*, Skr. Shridevi). The main objects of worship and images on the altar are a sculpture of Buddha, a big photo of the Dalai Lama, and an image of *Lkham*.

Daily chanting is held from 9am. In this temple people can request readings with no fixed prices. In this temple, on the 8th of the lunar month the ceremony of the Medicine Buddha (*Manal*, Tib. *sman-bla*, Skr. Bhaishajyaguru) is held, on the 15th a ceremony in honour of *Dari ekh* (Tib. *sgrol-ma*, Skr. Tara), called The Four Mandalas of Tara (*Dari Ekhiin mandal shivaa*), and on the 29th a ceremony is performed in honour of the trinity of the wrathful deities *Gombo* (Tib. *mgon-po*, Skr. Mahakala), *Chojoo* (Tib. *chos-rgyal*, Skr. Dharmaraja, epithet of Yama) and *Lkham* (shortly for *Baldan Ikham*, Tib. *dpal-ldan lha-mo*, Skr. Shridevi) (*Gonchoi Ikhaa süm / Gonchoo Ikhaa süm*, the collective name of these three, is also the name of the ceremony).