



## Naadam Festival with Gobi Desert & Karakorum Mongolia Expedition (July 09 -July 23)

### Key Information:

**Trip Length:** 15 days/14 nights.

**Trip Type:** Easy to Moderate.

**Tour Code:** **SMT-NF2-15D**

**Specialty Categories:** Adventure Expedition, Cultural Event Journey, Camel riding, Driving tour, Gobi Desert

4x4 Expedition, Local Culture, Nature & Wildlife, and Sports.

**Meeting/Departure Points:** Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia. Your international flight to Mongolia is on your own arrangement.

**Group Size:** 3-16 travelers-guaranteed!.

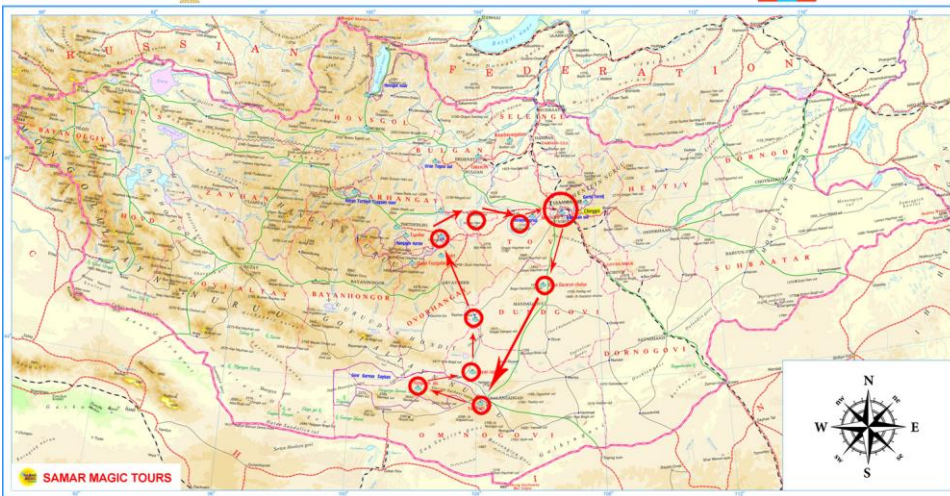
**Hot Season:** **July 09-July 23**

**Total Distance:** about 3500 kms/2175 miles.

**Tour Highlights:** Upon your arrival in Ulaanbaatar New Airport (52 km/32.3 miles, 2 hrs driving, depending on the high traffic), meet **Samar Magic Tours team**. **Naadam** is a traditional type of Festival in Mongolia. The festival is also locally termed 'the three games of men'. The games are **Mongolian wrestling, horse racing and archery** and are held throughout the country. The three games of wrestling, horse racing, and archery had been recorded in the 13rd century book **The Secret History of the Mongols**. It formally commemorates the 1921 Revolution, when Mongolia declared itself independent of China. Women have started participating in the archery and girls in the horse-racing games, but not in Mongolian wrestling. The biggest festival is held in the Mongolian capital Ulaanbaatar, during the National Holiday from **July 11th-July 13th**, in the National Sports Stadium. It begins with an elaborate introduction ceremony featuring dancers, athletes, horse riders, and musicians. After the ceremony, the competitions begin. Another popular Naadam activity is the playing of games using shagai, sheep knuckles that serve as game pieces and tokens of both divination and friendship. Next Expedition to **Tsagaan**



MAP OF MONGOLIA



**Tsuvara White Stupas or White Pagodas**, about 280 km/174 miles), 6 hours drive from the **Bagazarin Chuluu (Rock Formations)**.



**Tsagaan Tsuvarga (Stupas or White Pagodas)** are located approximately 426 km (265 miles) from Ulaanbaatar, and 30 km east of the main road Ulaanbaatar - Umnugobi (Gobi South). The 30-60 m (196.85 ft) high, 400 m (1312.34 ft) long, colorful limestone formation was once the ocean floor where visitors find marine fossils and shells. Its colors stand out in the morning and at night. Tsagaan Suvarga got its name because its shape resembles relict Buddhist stupas or pagodas. There are some trails to walk down and up through the cliffs. Opportunity to

photograph its colors in the morning and at night. Explore Gobi Desert-is the source of many important fossil finds, including the first dinosaur eggs. Bactrian Camel riding, meeting nomadic people, staying in a traditional tent, seeing grasslands and beautiful vistas. Explore Yolyn Am Canyon in Gobi Desert. Climb up the towering piles of the Largest Hongor Sand dunes. Expedition to the Spectacular Flaming Cliffs in Gobi Desert, where many fossilized dinosaur bones and eggs have been found. Visit Karakorum and the Erdene Zuu Monastery in the UNESCO World Heritage Orkhon Valley. We would be pleased to have you join us!



• **The Mongolian National Wrestling:** This spectacular event takes place in the Central Stadium. There are a total of 512 fighters, of which only one (1) will be the winner, losing the first to touch the ground, except for hands and feet. The wrestlers honor the judges and the public with the eagle dance before to start the round of matches, and the winner also performs the eagle dance after finishing each match. The title of **Nachin or Falcón** is given to a fighter who wins 5 rounds, **Zaan or Elefante** is a winner of 7 rounds. The wrestler who wins all 9 rounds becomes the national wrestling champion and is awarded the title of **Arslan or Leon**. A wrestler, who has been a Lion twice, is honored with the title of **Avarga or Champion**.



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• **Archery:** Archery competitions had great military importance in the times of the **Mongol Empire**. The archers line up and

shoot arrows at the target which are the hollow balls of fur stacked in a pyramid shape. The target



consists of 360 leather rings fixed to the wall 40-50 cm high and 4 long. Men and women shoot 40 and 20 arrows respectively. Judges score a hit shot or a missed shot. If the archer is correct, the judges turn their faces towards the archer with their arms raised and sing the praise song. If the archer is correct, the judges turn their faces towards the archer with their arms raised and sing the praise song. The winner of archery is awarded a title Erkhiiin Mergen Kharvaach, which means **Archer of Greater Wisdom**.

- **Horse races:** they take place in the steppes with **1800-2000 horses** and a distance between **15 to 30kms**. This is a tough test of strength and mastery for riders of different ages, from **3 to 10 years old**. The riders are girls and boys. They are races designed to value the horse and not the rider, if the rider falls and the horse crosses the finish line first, he is the winner. In addition, the riders do not exceed 10 years. In the horse race, more than 1,800 horses, divided into 6 age groups, take part in the races. The horses compete in the 35km distance, and the colts compete in the 15km distance.



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- **The launch of the taba (shagai in Mongolian):** It consists of throwing a bone with the fingers and trying to hit two tabas placed on a board about 10m away. **Shagai games** are especially popular during Naadam. In the shagai game, the thrown shagai usually lands on one of the following sides: **horse, camel, sheep, or goat**. A fifth side, empty, is possible on uneven ground. The Mongolians venerate some parts of the bones of animals that are part of their domestic livestock and use them both in their religious rites and in their traditional entertainment and games. Knuckleball shooting is one of those traditional games, very popular, which is practiced in teams of six to eight members. On a smooth wooden plank, players throw thirty marble tablets – similar to dominoes – against a target made up of ram's paws to get them to fall within the defined target area. While



very popular, which is practiced in teams of six to eight members. On a smooth wooden plank, players throw thirty marble tablets – similar to dominoes – against a target made up of ram's paws to get them to fall within the defined target area. While



practicing shooting, the players sing traditional melodies and songs typical of this game. Each member of a team has their own game instruments, made by hand, and wears clothing with badges that indicate their classification and merits. The bonds of friendship between the members of a team are unbreakable and the players are guided by rules of conduct based on dignity and mutual respect. The rites, knowledge and skills related to bone shooting, as well as the techniques for manufacturing instruments, accessories and equipment are passed on from masters to apprentices. The shooting of the knucklebones creates a propitious climate so that, learning from each other and helping each other, the players contribute to the success of their respective teams, as well as to their personal development and the general well-being of society. This traditional game brings together people of different origins, stimulates their interaction, fosters respect for others – particularly older people – and reinforces social cohesion. **Inscribed in 2014 (9.COM) in the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.**

#### BRIEF ITINERARY:

**July 09, Day 1**-Upon your arrival in Ulaanbaatar New Airport (UB city), meet **Samar Magic Tours team**. Ulaanbaatar City tour. Deel Mongol Festival (L)

**July 10, Day 2**-The 40 meter/~133,3 feet Genghis Khan Statue-Gorkhi/Terelj National Park-Ulaanbaatar. **Mongolia Flag Day.** (B)(L)

**July 11, Day 3**-**Naadam Festival.** (B)(L)

**July 12, Day 4**-**Naadam Festival.** (B)(L)

**July 13, Day 5**-Ulaanbaatar-Bagazarin Chuluu (Rock Formations in Middle Gobi. (B)(L)(D)

**July 14, Day 6**-Tsagaan Tsuvarga (Stupas or White Pagodas) in Middle Gobi. (B)(L)(D)

**July 15, Day 7**-Gobi Desert-Yolin Canyon. (B)(L)(D)

**July 16, Day 8**-Gobi Desert: Hongor Largest Sand Dunes-True Camel Family-Camel Riding. (B)(L)(D)

**July 17, Day 9**-Gobi Desert: Bayanzag (Rich in Saxual) or Flaming Cliffs. (B)(L)(D)

**July 18, Day 10**-Gobi Desert-Ruins of Ongi Temple in Middle Gobi. (B)(L)(D)

**July 19, Day 11**-Middle Gobi-Karakorum. (B)(L)(D)

**July 20, Day 12**-Karakorum-Orkhon Valley-Tsenkher Hot Springs. (B)(L)(D)

**July 21, Day 13**-Tsenkher Hot Springs-Hustain Nuruu National Park. (B)(L)(D)

**July 22, Day 14**-Hustain Nuruu National Park-Ulaanbaatar. (B)(L)(D)

**July 23, Day 15**-Departure Mongolia. (B)



## DAY BY DAY ITINERARY:

**July 09, Day 1**-Upon your arrival in **Ulaanbaatar New Airport** (52 km/32.3 miles, 2 hrs driving, depending on the high traffic) and after custom formalities and baggage claim, you will be met by **Samar Magic Tours team** and taken to the centrally located hotel in Ulaanbaatar (by hotels policy the check-in time is after **02:00PM/14:00**). **Ulaanbaatar City tour:** visit the **Gandantegchinlen Monastery** is a Tibetan-style Buddhist monastery that has been restored and revitalized since 1990. The Tibetan name translates to the "Great Place of Complete Joy". It currently has over 150 monks in residence. It features a 26.5-meter-high statue of Avalokitesvara. It came under state protection in 1994. Here you will have the opportunity to attend a Buddhist ceremony. Next, we will visit a **small museum of dinosaur fossils**. The centerpiece of the museum is the 4m tall, 3 tonne UV light Tarbosaurus bataar (cousin of Tyrannosaurus rex) and a smaller Saurolophus, with its distinctive skull crest. The Tarbosaurus bataar made international headlines in 2012, when it sold for more than US\$1 million at auction in Texas. The Mongolian government protested that the fossil had been illegally removed from Mongolia and demanded its return. The legal battle ended when a US judge ruled in favor of Mongolia. The museum also includes examples of Velociraptor and Protoceratops, and a nest of Oviraptor eggs. It is located inside the former Lenin Museum, built in



the year 1974. While there are plans to expand it into a world-class institution, for now it is still a bit limited in specimens. After, watch **Deel Mongol Festival**: a deel is an item of traditional clothing commonly worn since centuries ago among the Mongols and other nomadic tribes of Central Asia, including various Turkic peoples, and can be made from cotton, silk, wool, or brocade. The deel is still commonly worn by both men and women outside major towns, especially by herders. In urban areas, deels are mostly only worn by elderly people, or on festive occasions. **The Deel Mongol Festival is held in the Main square (\*in the heart of Ulaanbaatar)** on **July 09** (\*in 2022, it was agreed to celebrate it on **July 09**) and is comprised the folk-art concert, parade-show in the Deel of Mongolian national clothes and Mongolian Ger. A traditional Ger is a portable, round tent covered with skins or felt used as a dwelling by nomads in the steppes of Central Asia. The structure comprises an angled assembly or latticework of pieces of wood or bamboo for walls, a door frame, ribs (poles), and a wheel (crown, compression ring) possibly steam bent. The roof structure is often self-supporting but large yurts may have interior posts supporting the crown. Here you will see a large statue of the Genghis Khan-inaugurated in 2006 on the occasion of 800th Anniversary of the Great Mongolian Empire of **Genghis Khan** (1206-2006), the Sukh Baatar Hero along with The Parliament House, Stock Exchange, the Drama Theatre and the Palace of Culture. **Welcome lunch in traditional local restaurant.** Visit the **National History Museum**-where you will see artefacts from Mongolia and Central Asia from the Stone Age to the present. Transfer to hotel. Overnight at Holiday Inn hotel 5 stars or at Premium Palace hotel 4 stars or similar. Dinner is not included. **(L)**

**July 10, Day 2**-Breakfast. **08:30AM**-Meet Samar Magic Tours team at reception of the hotel. Drive towards to visit the **40 meter /~133,3 feet Genghis Khan Statue on horseback** (55km/34mi) N/E of the Mongolian capital Ulaanbaatar. The statue is symbolically pointed east towards his birthplace. It is on top of the Genghis Khan Statue Complex, a visitor center, itself 10 meters (32 ft 10 in) tall, with 36 columns representing the 36 khans from Genghis to Ligdan Khan. Visitors walk to the head of the horse through its chest and neck of the horse, where they can have a panoramic view. After, continuous drive north further to reach **Gorkhi/Terelj National Park**. Seeing grasslands and beautiful vistas. The valley is about 20kms/12miles long at 1600m. This picturesque National Park is a part of Khan Khentii Strictly Protected Area. It is a great place for hiking, trekking, even you can rock climb here at its natural steep granite walls. Explore the **Turtle shaped original giant rock** - symbol of Gorkhi/Terelj National Park. Walking & Easy Trekking to **Arryabal Meditation Temple**, on the top of the small hill. Drive back to Ulaanbaatar. Next, visit the **New Museum "Genghis Kan" ("Chinggis Khaan")**, opened in the month of Octubre-2022. The museum is designed to show the history of the Mongol kings from the reign of King Hunnu Modun Shanyu to the abdication of the Eighth Jebtsundamba. Transfer to hotel. Overnight at Holiday Inn hotel 5 stars or at Premium Palace hotel 4 stars or similar. Dinner is not included. **(B)(L)**

**July 11, Day 3**-Breakfast. **08:00AM**-Meet Samar Magic Tours team at reception of the hotel. Transfer to National Sports for **Naadam Festival Opening Ceremony**, featuring dancers, athletes, horse riders, and musicians. After the ceremony, the competitions begin: **archery and wrestling** in Ulaanbaatar. Another popular Naadam activity is the **playing of games using shagai, sheep knuckles** that serve as game pieces and tokens of both divination and friendship. Every year 512 wrestlers compete in the National Naadam. The Nachin or Falcon title is given to a wrestler who wins 5 rounds, Zaan or Elephant is a winner of 7 rounds. The wrestler who wins all nine rounds becomes the national wrestling champion and bestowed with the title Arslan or Lion. A wrestler, who has been Lion twice, is honoured with the title of Avarga or Champion. The winner of archery is given a title



Erkhiin Mergen Kharvaach that means Archer of Greatest Wisdom. Lunch is included in local restaurant. Transfer to hotel. Overnight at Holiday Inn hotel 5 stars or at Premium Palace hotel 4 stars or similar. Dinner is not included. **(B)(L)**



**July 12, Day 4-Breakfast. 08:00AM**-Meet Samar Magic Tours team at reception of the hotel. Drive outside of Ulaanbaatar city (about 30-35kms/19-22miles) to observe **the horse racing**. In horse racing, horses of 6 different ages groups participate, beginning from 2 to 6-year olds. Racetracks vary according to the horses' age: In some races, more than 700 horses take part. Young children of ages 5 to 13 participate in the horse races too. The first 5 horses to finish a race are called Airagdakh which means that the horses are sprinkled with airag. The title Tumonii Ekh or Top Horse of 10,000 is given to the winning horse. **Drive back to Ulaanbaatar. Lunch is included in local restaurant.** After lunch, we visit the **Winter Palace of the Bogd Khan**-the palace is the only one left from originally four residences of the eighth Jebtsundamba Khutughtu, who was later proclaimed Bogd Khan, or emperor of Mongolia. Built between 1893 and 1903, the complex includes six temples, each one of them contains Buddhist artwork, including sculpture and thangka. It is one of the few Mongolian historical attractions which have neither been destroyed. On display are many of the Bogd Khan's possessions, such as his throne and bed, his collection of art and stuffed



animals, his ornate ceremonial ger, a pair of ceremonial boots given to the Khan by Russian Tsar Nicholas II, and also jewelled regalia worn by the Bogd Khan's pet elephant. **06:00PM-Mongolian National Performers** (concert which includes the Tsum dance, traditional Mongolian singers, dancers, Tuvan throat singing and contortionists). Transfer to hotel. Overnight at Holiday Inn hotel 5 stars or at Premium Palace hotel 4 stars or similar. Dinner is not included. (B)(L)

**July 13, Day 5**-Breakfast. Meet Samar Magic Tours team at reception of the hotel. Drive towards by comfortable 4WD vehicle with A/C vehicle to **Baga Gazariin Chuluu** – located in Delgertsogt sum, Dundgovi province and surrounded by plain. The highest one is 15 km long and 10 km wide granite stone-mountain elevated at 1768m above sea level. You will see rocks and stones in unique shapes and burials of Mongols from middle ages. On the way, we explore **the ruins of Sum Khukh Burd Temple**. It was built in the 10th century from rocks transported from over 300kms/187 miles away. Overnight in Tourist Gers Camp. (B)(L)(D)

**July 14, Day 6**-Breakfast. Drive towards to **Tsagaan Tsvarga White Stupas or White Pagodas**, about 280 km/174 miles), 6 hours drive from the **Bagazarin Chuluu (Rock Formations)**. **Tsagaan Tsvarga (Stupas or White Pagodas)** are located approximately 426 km (265 miles) from Ulaanbaatar, and 30 km east of the main road Ulaanbaatar - Umnugobi (Gobi South). The 30-60 m (196.85 ft) high, 400 m (1312.34 ft) long, colorful limestone formation was once the ocean floor where visitors find marine fossils and shells. Its colors stand out in the morning and at night. Tsagaan Tsvarga got its name because its shape resembles relict Buddhist stupas or pagodas. There are some trails to walk down and up through the cliffs. Opportunity to photograph its colors in the morning and at night. Overnight in Tourist Gers Camp. (B)(L)(D)

**July 15, Day 7**-Breakfast. Drive to **Gobi Desert** in South Gobi province via Dalanzadgad the southernmost city with only some 300 kms/187 miles from Chinese border. Arrive and to be transferred. Next, drive to explore **Yolin Canyon** on foot in **Gobi Gurvansaikhan National Park**-was established in 1993, and expanded to its current size in 2000. This is the largest national park in Mongolia. Famed for its rich bird habitat, **Yoliin Canyon or commonly known as (Vulture's Gorge)** was originally established as a bird preserve and later for its stunning beauty and great hiking options Yoliin Canyon became one of the major destinations in Gobi. Here you will have the opportunity for hiking in the ice valley of Gobi, the stunning landscapes. There is a small museum, which displays dinosaur eggs, some bones and stuffed birds and leopards. Overnight in Tourist Gers Camp. (B)(L)(D)

**July 16, Day 8**-Breakfast. We drive towards to **Hongor Largest Sand dunes. Exploration and enjoy and climb up** to over 200 m high Khongoryn els (Singing sand dunes). At the north end of the dune it has formed a beautiful oasis where they grow grass and flowers, so it is nice to see vegetation in the desert. **Visit an authentic camel breeding family. See their real nomadic life and ride two humped camels around picturesque desert oasis Khongor river.** Overnight in Tourist Gers Camp. (B)(L)(D)

**July 17, Day 9**-Breakfast. Drive towards to **Bayanzag (Rich in Sauxal) or Flaming Cliffs** in Gobi desert. **Explore Bayanzag (Rich in Sauxal) or Flaming Cliffs-here Roy Chapman Andrews**, an American paleontologist and staff of the Museum of Natural History in New York first found 4-6 inches dinosaur eggs here in 1922. The large dinosaur skeletons placed at the Museum of Natural History in Ulaanbaatar was also found here by a Russian- Mongolian expedition. Bayanzag





is referred as Flaming Cliffs for its amazing colours and shape). **Enjoy the Gobi sunset at the legendary "Flaming Cliffs," which glow brilliantly at sunrise and sunset.** Overnight in Tourist Gers Camp. **(B)(L)(D)**



**July 18, Day 10**-Breakfast. A long trip towards north, to reach **the ruins of Ongi temple**-the unique 17th century sole monastery at the heart of the desert. Ongiin khiid (also referred as Ongi Monastery ruins) is an active small monastery with a temple which was built on the ruins of a monastery complex that was formerly one of the largest monasteries in Mongolia and founded in 1760 and consisted of two separate temple complexes, Barlim khiid and Khutagt khiid, on the North and South of the Ongi Gol river. Here there is an opportunity to enjoy and relax in the SAUNA or MASSAGE (\*pay directly on site). In the evenings, cultural and entertainment programs are sometimes offered. Overnight in Tourist Gers Camp. **(B)(L)(D)**



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**July 19, Day 11**-Breakfast. Today, we will head North to **Karakorum in Central Mongolia-the Genghis (Chinggis) Khan's 13th century capital and heart of the mighty Mongolian Empire and Okhon river Valley, cradle of Mongolian civilization.** Visitors, such as Marco Polo, described its ornate building, including a 2500 sq. meters Palace of Worldly Peace. Overnight in Tourist Gers Camp in Karakorum. **(B)(L)(D)**

**July 20, Day 12**-Breakfast. In the morning, we visit **the legendary Erdene zuu monastery, the turtle monument and the Karakorum museum,** which is recently opened to show the public, remains unique in Kharakorum found during an excavation organized by Mongolia and Germany together. In 1792 the Monastery still had 62 temples and 10,000 lamas. But in 1930 it became a victim of the Stalin's purges. All but three of the Temples were destroyed and most of the monks were either killed or sent to Siberia. Subsequently the **Orkhon Valley** was continuously occupied throughout the Prehistoric and Bronze ages and in proto-historic and early historic times was settled successively by the Huns, Turkic peoples, the Uighurs, the Kidans, and finally the Mongols. Today, the cultural heritage of the valley constitutes a **UNESCO World Heritage.** After lunch, departure to the **Tsenkher Hot Springs** (120 km/75 miles, about 2.30hrs), located near the Khangai mountains and in a forested area, in the province of Arkhangai. These hot springs are sulphurous springs that flow at a temperature of more than 80 degrees, allowing visitors to enjoy an open-air spa in the middle of nature. These waters are appreciated for their healing properties. In this area there is a presence of nomadic families where they graze with their herds of horses, yaks, sheep, bulls, etc. There is an opportunity to optionally ride a horse or yak at your leisure (\*pay extra on site). Overnight in Tourist Gers Camp. **(B)(L)(D)**

**July 21, Day 13**-Breakfast. Drive East to **Hustain Nuruu National Park** (about 330 km/205 miles, 5-6 hours drive) of the **Wild Horses Przewaslki or Takhi** (as known by the Mongolians). The Takhi is the last species of wild horse left on the planet. In 1878, the Polish-born Russian geographer and naturalist **Nikolai Mikhailovich Przewaslki** found a new species of wild horse in Mongolia, known locally as Takhi, and took several foals to European zoos. The only way to prevent the complete extinction of the last species of wild horse was to reintroduce it into the wild. In 1975, the **Dutchman Ian Bouman and his wife,** and other entities that joined later, created the **Foundation for the Conservation and Protection of the Przewalski Horse (FPPPH),** with the aim of saving the Tahki from extinction through acclimatization. of the zoo specimens in open field pastures, for later release into the wild. In 1992, the FPPPH brought the first 15 horses to the Hustain Nuruu area in Mongolia, to reintroduce them to their original habitat. Currently, the population of takhi in the wild in Hustai Nuruu National Park reaches 220 individuals. The practice of taming wild animals and then returning them to the wild is truly rare. Visit to a small museum, about the history of the Hustain Nuruu National Park, about the founders, and the reintroduction of the Przewaslki or Takhi wild horses in their original habitat. **Excursion through the interior of the Hustain Nuruu National Park, exploration and observation of wild horses (\*bring binoculars).** Overnight in Tourist Gers Camp. **(B)(L)(D)**

**July 22, Day 14**-Breakfast. Return to Ulaanbaatar (about 120 km/75 miles, 1.30-2 hour drive, depending on the traffic at the entrance to Ulaanbaatar). Transfer to the hotel (\*the rooms can be used after **2:00 p.m.** on the day of arrival). Latest purchases of Mongolian souvenirs and pure Mongolian cashmere. **Farewell dinner at a fancy local restaurant.** Transfer to the hotel. Overnight at Holiday Inn hotel 5 stars or at Premium Palace hotel 4 stars or similar. **(B)(L)(D)**



**July 23, Day 15**-Breakfast. The rooms must be vacated before **12 noon** on the day of departure. Meeting with Samar Magic Tours at the hotel reception. Transfer to Ulaanbaatar New Airport.  
**Departure Mongolia (B). Tour Ends.**

### **INCLUDED SERVICES:**

**5** nights of accommodation in the selected and confirmed hotel, based on the INDICATED DOUBLE room, with breakfast.

**9** nights of lodging in the typical traditional tourist camps based on STANDARD GER for 2 people with bathrooms outside (that is, shared, 1 building for the gentlemen, and 1 building for the ladies), in the rest of the route.

Full Board Regime (\*except from July 09-12), with 1 bottle of mineral water per person/daily (14 BREAKFASTS, 14 LUNCHESES, 10 DINNERS).

Welcome lunch in a traditional restaurant.

Farewell dinner in a luxury restaurant.

All private transfers in Ulaanbaatar and Gorkhi/Terelj National Park by tour bus or minivan (\*depending on confirmed group), all fuel included.

All transfers in private, traveling in a comfortable and modern Land Cruiser Toyota 4x4 vehicle (occupancy: 4 tourists + 1 driver in 1 vehicle, Limit: 15 kg per person, INDICATED IN THE RATES TABLE, EXCEPT FOR THE GROUP OF 4 PEOPLE) or in Delica Mitsubishi 4x4 with A/C (occupancy: 5 tourists + 1 driver in 1 vehicle, Limit: 15 kg per person) on the rest of the route (10 FULL DAYS), with all fuel included.

English speaking local guide.

All tickets to the **Naadam Festival, July 11 and July 12.**

All entrance fees to Gorkhi/Terelj National Park, Gobi Gurvasaikhan National Park, Hustain Nuruu National Park, Karakorum, monuments, museums, and monasteries.

Visits to authentic nomadic families with farms for horses, yaks, bulls on the route, and an authentic family nomad with camel herds in the giant dunes of the Gobi Desert.

Attend a folk show with the fascinating sounds of khoomi throat singing and Mongolian dance.

**1** hour excursion to explore the dunes on the back of a Bactrian camel.

**1** hour of relaxing baths in the Tsenkher hot springs.

Gentle hiking through wonderful landscapes.

Rates and services.

Management and payment for the support visa letter, authorized by Mongolian Immigration, for citizens who cannot obtain the Mongolian visa electronically or do not have consulates (\*if necessary).

### **What's Not Included?**

Airfares. Occasional flight delays or cancellation. Excess baggage. Visa. Any rescue costs or costs of early departure. Changing of date of departure from Ulaanbaatar. The traveller is responsible for having proper travel documents, such as a valid passport, and the necessary passport pictures. Travel insurance. Items of personal nature such as gratuities to porters at hotels, telephone / telex / fax charges, laundry, beverages, meals, optional activities, and services not specified in the itinerary. Any circumstances beyond of our control, such as the imposition of quarantine restrictions, weather conditions, Mongolia road conditions, etc.



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## OUTSTANDING EXPERIENCES:

- Attendance at the **Mongolian National Holiday**. It is the most important nomadic cultural, social and sports event in Mongolia.
- Visit the Great Equestrian Statue of Genghis Khan. At the base of the sculpture complex is a visitor center, 10 meters high, with 36 columns representing the 36 khans of Genghis of the Ligdan Khan.
- Visit to the most beautiful Gorkhi/Terelj National Park, located in the N/E at 1600m above sea level, with high Mesozoic granitic rocks, mountains, steppes, alpine forests and large rock formations with curious Mesozoic shapes such as it is the rock of the Tortoise or the Monk Reading the Book, etc.
- We will walk through the dunes and we will be able to climb the highest peak that the nomads call "Singing Peak" because of the noise made by the wind, where we will be able to observe a wonderful landscape of sand dunes located in an oasis, surrounded by rocky mountains and we will enjoy the contrast of the Mongolian Gobi desert.
- We will visit an authentic family with Bactrian camel farms. We will get to know the Mongolian nomadic lifestyle.
- We will enjoy an excursion on the back of a Bactrian camel.
- We will explore the Bayan Zag Fire Cliffs on foot, where hundreds of fossilized dinosaur eggs have been discovered, as well as complete skeletons of these great prehistoric reptiles from the Cretaceous period.
- We will explore the Yolyn Canyon or Vulture Gorge in the "Gobi Gurvan Shaikhan" National Park.
- We will visit the legendary Erdene zuu (Hundred Treasures) Monastery, the Turtle monument, and the Karakorum museum, to see the relics of the ancient capital of the Mongol Empire. The Erdene Zuu Buddhist Monastery with its 108 stupas and the first Buddhist Lamasery (16th century) was the most important religious seat.
- Excursion through the interior of the Hustain Nuruu National Park, exploration and observation of wild horses (\*bring binoculars).
- Listen to the mesmerizing sounds of Khoomi throat singing during a traditional dance performance.



## TO CONSIDER:

- Guaranteed services from **3** people.
- This is a Special Group Outing to the **Naadam Festival**. It is not in private. **High season in Mongolia!**
- Mongolian visa not included.
- International flights not included.
- Accommodation outside Ulaanbaatar is in the tourist camps in Ger Standard for 2 people with bathrooms outside (so shared, 1 building for men, and 1 building for women). The tourist camps in Gers do not have an official category.
- The hotel category information is for the Ulaanbaatar hotel.
- The entrance to the rooms in the hotels of Ulaanbaatar is at **02:00PM (14:00)**. Early entry to rooms is not included.
- The departure of the rooms in the hotels of Ulaanbaatar is at **12:00M**. Late check-out of rooms is not included.
- All private transfers outside of Ulaanbaatar, are traveling in a comfortable modern Land Cruiser Toyota 4x4 vehicle (occupancy: 4 tourists + 1 Mongolian driver in 1 vehicle, Limit: 15 kg per person) or in Delica Mitsubishi 4x4 with A /C (occupancy: 5 tourists + 1 driver in 1 vehicle, Limit: 15 kg per person). Excess baggage must be left for free at hotels in Ulaanbaatar before departure to the countryside of Mongolia.

## RESERVATION CONDITIONS AND FINAL PAYMENT

**PRICE:** The price of our trips has been calculated based on exchange rates, transport rates, fuel costs and applicable taxes and fees on the date of publication of the program/brochure or subsequent dates that, if applicable, are have been made public in print. Any variation in the price of the aforementioned elements may give rise to the revision of the final price of the trip, both upwards and downwards, in the strict amounts of the aforementioned price variations. These modifications will be notified to the consumer, in writing or by any means that allows proof of the communication made, being able, when the modification made is significant, to withdraw from the trip, without any penalty, or accept the modification of the contract. In no case, will it be revised upwards in the twenty days prior to the departure date of the trip, regarding the requests already made. Prices are calculated based on double room. Prices and fees are quoted in \$ Us dollars or in € euros and are subject to change.

**Please note: Naadam Festival** surcharge applies for travel from **Jul 09 to Jul 15 - Peak Season in Mongolia**, where all services, accommodations are overcrowded.

- At the time of registering for the trip, the amount of \$ US 600.00 (six hundred \$ US dollars + the bank discount of the intermediary banks) per person will be paid immediately by bank transfer as a deposit, with a minimum advance notice of **150** business days, before arrival in Mongolia.



- You must send us a photocopy of the original passport with a minimum validity of 6 months, in order to reserve and purchase domestic air tickets in Mongolia, hotels in Ulaanbaatar, and tickets to the Naadam Festival in the month of July.
- No registration will be considered valid until these requirements are formalized.
- The final payment of the trip will be made by bank transfer **95** business days before arrival in Mongolia, in order to guarantee the domestic air tickets (if any on the route) and all the indicated reservations.

**VERY IMPORTANT NOTE:** If you do not pay us on the indicated dates, we cannot guarantee the indicated services (\*so in this case, you need to check the new rates and if there is availability in other hotels).

### CANCELLATION

**180-91 days:** \$ US 600.00 per person.

**90-16 days:** 50%

**15-00 business days:** 100%-NO REFUND.

**In the case of cancellations of air and train tickets:** it is another concept. The rates of air tickets or international and national trains subject to modifications, depending on availability at the time of entering the reservation. Rates on air tickets or on international and national trains are only frozen with the issuance and full payment of the tickets. Tickets are non-refundable and can only be canceled on the day of issue.

### PERSONAL TRAVELING FOR FREE IN MONGOLIA:

A) If the group is of **16** people (15 pax subscribers + **1** person for free by land, based only on DOUBLE room: **8**). Samar Magic Tours will pay all expenses for land, accommodation in DOUBLE room. **Not included:** accommodation in a single room, and air tickets.

B) If the group is of **32** people (30 pax subscribers + **2** people for free by land, based only on DOUBLE room: **16**). Samar Magic Tours will pay all expenses for land, accommodation in DOUBLE room. **Not included:** accommodation in a single room, and air tickets.

### CHARGE FOR CHILDREN IN MONGOLIA:

**0-3 years:** free;

**From 4 to 11 years old:** 50% of the usual adult price.

**From 12 years old:** 100% of the regular adult price.





**CONDITIONS OF FORCE MAJEURE:** Although it is our absolute desire to fulfill the trip as detailed in the program, sometimes there are conditions of force majeure that mean that it may be modified. Samar Magic Tours is not legally responsible for those conditions of force majeure outside the organization of the trip that may force changes to the travel program. These reasons and circumstances of force majeure include possible situations of insecurity for the traveler, political instability or violence, rebellions or risk of rebellion, strikes, altercations and violent actions, decisions of governments or local authorities, technical or maintenance problems related to transportation. , changes in schedules or aviation or road routes, natural disasters, epidemics, adverse weather conditions, as well as any other circumstance beyond the control of Samar Magic Tours. If due to unusual circumstances of force majeure it is necessary to carry out a cancellation of the trip, there is no obligation for compensation.

**FORM TO FILL IN:**

**NAMES AND SURNAMES (\*HOW IT IS WRITTEN ON THE PASSPORT):**

**CITIZENSHIP:**

**VALID PASSPORT NUMBER:**

**\*EXACT DATE OF ARRIVAL IN ULAN BATOR, NO. OF THE FLIGHT AND TIME OF ARRIVAL:**

**\*DATE OF DEPARTURE FROM MONGOLIA, NO. OF THE FLIGHT AND THE SCHEDULE:**

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