



## YAK FESTIVAL MONGOLIA TOUR WITH SAMAR MAGIC TOURS

### Key Information:

**Trip Length:** 4 days/3 nights.

**Tour Code:** **SMT-YAKF-4D**

**Specialty Categories:** Yak Festival, Cultural Event Journey, 4x4 Adventure Expedition, Local Culture, Nature & Wildlife.

**Meeting/Departure Points:** Pick up at hotel, hostel, hostel or guesthouse in **Ulaanbaatar (UB)**, Mongolia.

**Group Size:** **2-16** travelers-guaranteed!

**Special Tour Dates:** **July 21-July 24**

**Total Distance:** about 1000 kms/622 miles.

[www.samarmagictours.com](http://www.samarmagictours.com)

# MONGOLIA





**SAMAR MAGIC TOURS**  
ADVENTURES & EXPEDITIONS

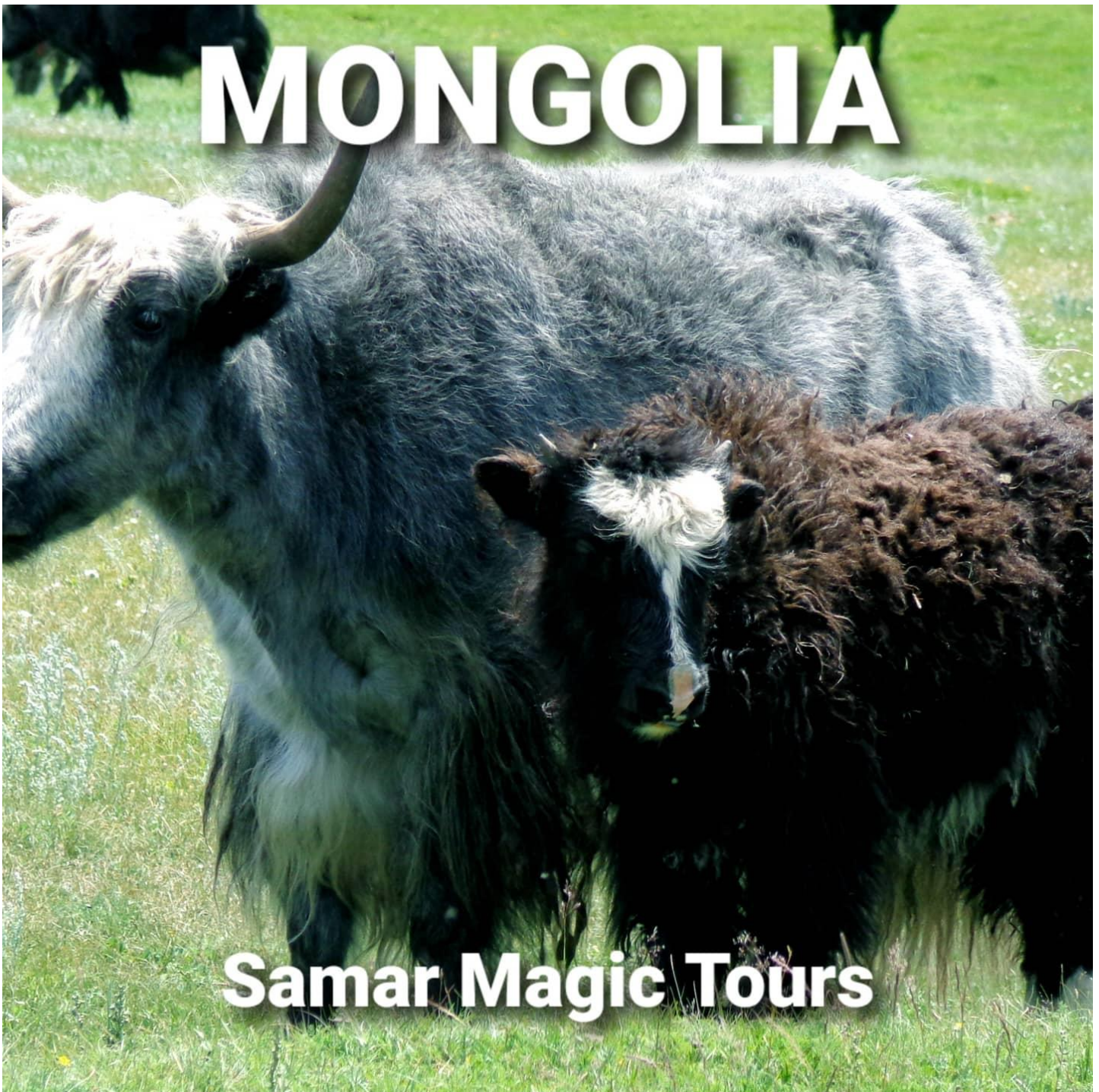
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# MONGOLIA



## Samar Magic Tours

**Tour Highlights:** Pick up at hotel, hostel, hostal or guesthouse in Ulaanbaatar (UB), Mongolia. Meet **Samar Magic Tours** team. **This unforgettable Mongolia journey designed especially for groups, families, private, and funny travel.** Meeting nomadic people, staying in a traditional tent, seeing grasslands and beautiful vistas.



Drive towards west to **Karakorum**-is located about 430kms/268 miles west from the capital Ulaanbaatar in Ovorkhangai province. This is the **Genghis (Chinggis) Khan's 13th century capital and heart of the mighty Mongolian Empire and Okhon river Valley**-is located along the Orkhon River in Ovorkhangai and Arkhangai Provinces, was the center of the Mongol Empire, the center of the Uighur Empire, and the birthplace of Mongolian Buddhism. Visitors, such as **Marco Polo**, described its ornate building, including a 2500 sq. meters Palace of Worldly Peace. Today, the cultural heritage of the Okhon river valley constitutes a **UNESCO World Heritage**.

**The Yak Festival:** The Yak Festival is held in the last week of July in Bat Ulzii village (sum) of Ovorkhangai province, which is considered as the motherland of yaks, with cooperation's of yak herders and yak down product producers. During the festival activities such as, yak parade, yak race, a fashion show and an exhibition of yak down products will be organized. Visit a Yak breeder's family and experience the traditional customs and lifestyle of local residents.

**Övörkhангай /Uvurkhangai (Mongolian: Өвөрхангай, Öwörhangai; "southern Khangai")** is one of the 21 aimags (provinces) of Mongolia, located in the south of the country. Its capital is Arvaikheer. The **Erdene Zuu monastery and Karakorum** are located in this province.

**The Yak Festival** is one of the most important festivals in Mongolia. It's held each year on the **23rd of July** in Orkhon Valley, in Bat Ulzii sum, province of Ovorkhangai. In Mongolia, the yak has a great value for nomadic breeders. It has many uses and is necessary for the good development of a farm. The yak can carry equipment on its back or tract a cart. Its wood is used for doing clothes, and, as any animal, its meat and milk are eaten. The main purpose of the festival is to promote the yak herder nomads, improve and increase the benefits of the yak related products, introduce the yak culture to the public, and attract tourists.



**The main events of the Yak Festival are:**

1. The opening speech of a local governor followed by yak parade and performance.
2. Yak lassoing (the participants lasso a yak from an untrained herd of yaks).
3. Yak training (the participants ride and train the yaks they lasso).
4. Team competition of the yak herders (the competition type differs).
5. Polo sport while riding yaks (could be some of the most interesting and fun sport. Yak is a strong animal among the other animals of the nomads).



6. Yak racing (the Yak Festival tends to be a fun activity and could be some of the slowest races. Almost half of the yaks reach the finish line walking or barely trotting).
7. Best yak product competition (dairy products, yak hair/skin/horn products, and all new ideas or creativity).
8. A demonstration of yak wool rope making (the rope plays in an important role for the nomadic housing and animal tethering).
9. Demonstration of yak dairy product making (you will see how many different types of products the nomads produce).
10. The Yak Festival closes by the competition winner prizes.

**About Mongol Yak:** There are approximately 1,005,000 yaks in 13 provinces of Mongolia. Thus, **Mongolia has the world's second-largest yak heads in the world.** The world yak population is 14.2 million. The mountainous yak habitat areas of Arkhangai, Uvurkhangai, Khuvsgul, Bayan-Ulgii, Uvs, and Khovd provinces are among the top tourist destinations in Mongolia. Not only the mountainous northern and western regions of Mongolia. The yaks are in mountainous areas of the Gobi Desert such as Bayankhongor, Zavkhan, and Gobi Altai provinces. The yaks were domesticated relatively late and their isolated mountainous pastureland influences the animal's strong characters.

Excursion to **Elsen Tasarkhai Dunes** (known as the **Bayangobi Desert**), desert sand dunes spread over 80kms in a beautiful valley. Opportunity for hiking, walking through the dunes, and photographing the landscapes. We will visit an authentic nomadic family with Bactrian camel farms. One hour of excursion included to cross the dunes on the back of a Bactrian camel. **Contact us! / Book Now!:** info@samarmagictours.com. **We would be pleased to have you join us!.**

#### **BRIEF ITINERARY:**

**July 21, Day 1-06:30AM**-Pick up at your hotel or hostel or guesthouse in Ulaanbaatar city. Meet **Samar Magic Tours** team-Karakorum (the old capital of Mongolian Empire of Genghis Khan) of Ovorkhangai province (about 430km/268 miles, 7 driving hours). **(L)(D)**

**July 22, Day 2**-Visits **Erdene zuu monastery-Karakorum museum-Monuments-Orkhon Valley** of Ovorkhangai province. **(B)(L)(D)**

**July 23, Day 3-Yak Mongol Festival** in Bat Ulzii village (sum) of Ovorkhangai province. **(B)(L)(D)**

**July 24, Day 4-Karakorum-Bayangobi Desert-Ulaanbaatar** (about 430km/268 miles, 7 driving hours). To be transferred. **Tour ends or Post tour. (B)(L)**



## DAY BY DAY ITINERARY:

**July 21, Day 1-06:30AM**-Pick up at your hotel or hostel or guesthouse in Ulaanbaatar city. Meet **Samar Magic Tours** team. We will head to **Karakorum** (about 430 km/267.2 miles, 6 - 7 hrs) 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. Free time at your leisure, for walks through the Orkhon River Valley or rest. Overnight in Tourist Gers Camp in Karakorum. **(L)(D)**



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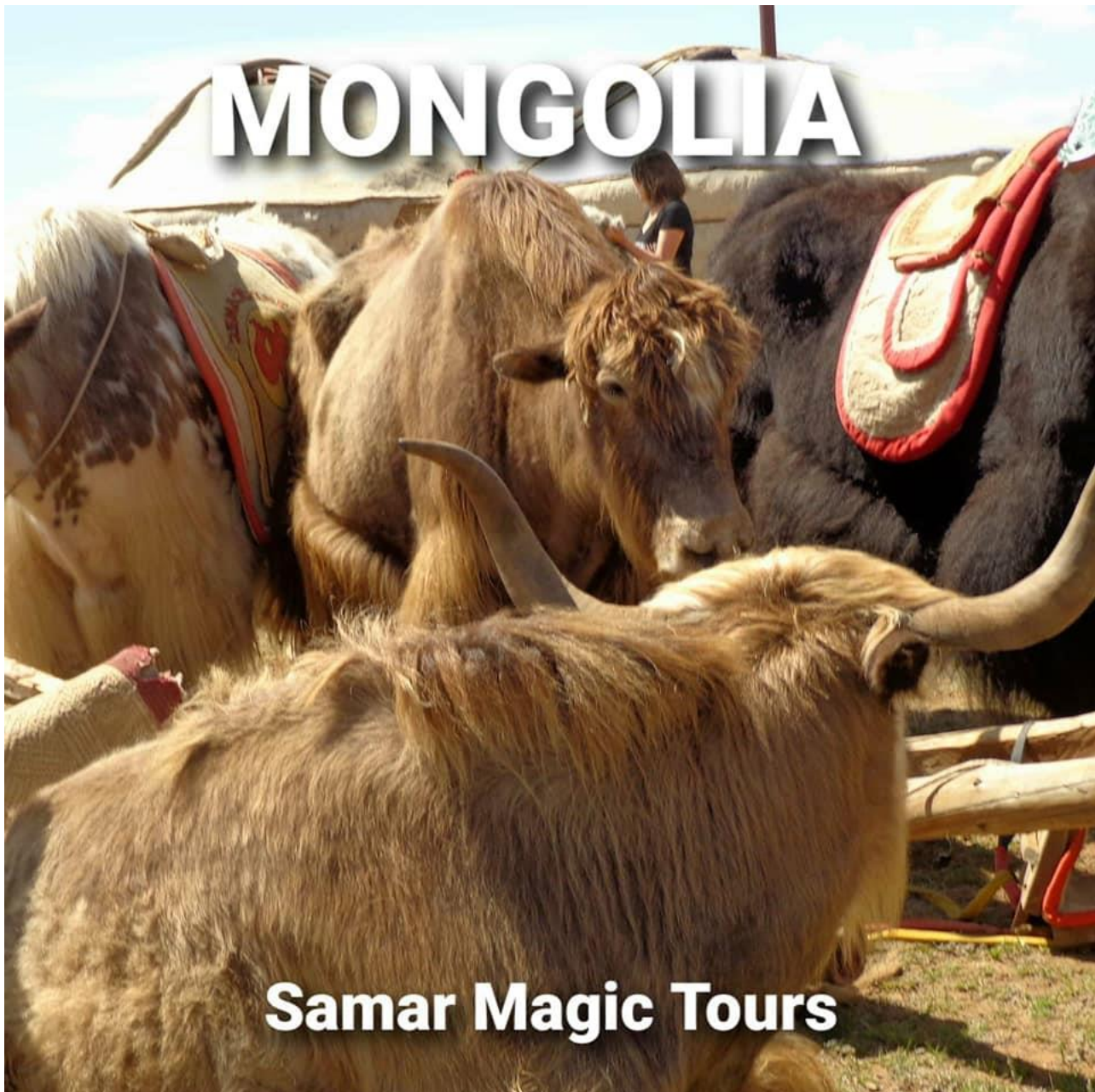




**July 22, Day 2-Breakfast.** In the morning, excursion to see the relics of **the ancient capital of the Mongol Empire: the legendary Erdene zuu (Hundred Treasures) Monastery, the two Turtle monuments, the Karakorum museum** (with the archaeological finds of the early historical period successively including the Xiongnu/Hunnu, and the Turks), and beyond hidden in a small valley, is **the 'phallic rock'**-it is a statue of a penis raised on a platform in the steppe, located near the **Erdene Zuu Monastery** (built in 1585). The statue has dual functions; It is primarily a reminder to monks to remain celibate, but it is also a symbol of fertility and human life. The **Erdene Zuu Buddhist Monastery** with its 108 stupas and the first Buddhist Lamasery (16th century) was the most important religious seat. Currently it constitutes an impressive sight, with its walls, stupas and temples, occupying an enclosure of 400 square meters, and surrounded by the steppe. The construction was continued by his son **'Ogedei' Khan**, after his death. After 40 years, **'Kublai Khan'** (grandson of **Genghis Khan** and host of **Marco Polo**) moved the capital of the Empire to Beijing (Peking-Yuan dynasty), already invaded. In the year 1792, there were 62 temples left and more than 10,000 Lamas. In the year 1930, the Stalinist purges destroyed most of their temples and the Lamas were banished to die in Siberia. Of its more than one hundred temples, only three have survived to our era, it remains the most outstanding cultural vestige of Mongolia. Overnight in Tourist Gers Camp. **(B)(L)(D)**







**July 23, Day 3**-Breakfast. Drive head to enjoy the **Yak Festival**-is one of the most important festivals in Mongolia. It's held each year on the **23rd of July** in Orkhon Valley, in Bat Ulzii sum, province of Ovorkhangai. In Mongolia, the yak has a great value for nomadic breeders. It has many uses and is necessary for the good development of a farm. The yak can carry equipment on its back or tract a cart. Its wood is used for doing clothes, and, as any animal, its meat and milk are eaten. The main purpose of the festival is to promote the yak herder nomads, improve and increase the benefits of the yak related products, introduce the yak culture to the public, and attract tourists.



### The main events of the Yak Festival are:

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9. Demonstration of yak dairy product making (you will see how many different types of products the nomads produce).
10. The Yak Festival closes by the competition winner prizes.

Overnight in Tourist Gers Camp. **(B)(L)(D)**



**Bayangobi Desert**



**July 24, Day 3**-Breakfast. Drive to **Elsen Tasarkhai Dunes (known as the Bayangobi Desert)**, approx. 150km/93.21miles, 2-3 hours drive), desert sand dunes spread over 80kms in a beautiful valley. Opportunity for hiking, walking through the dunes, and photographing the landscapes. We



will visit an authentic nomadic family with Bactrian camel farms. **One hour of excursion included to cross the dunes on the back of a Bactrian camel. Lunch is included in Bayangobi Desert.** After lunch, **drive to Ulaanbaatar** (about 280km/174 miles, 6 hours' drive, depending on the traffic at the entrance to Ulaanbaatar). Transfer. **Tour Ends or Post tour. (B)(L)**

### INCLUDED SERVICES:

**3** nights of lodging in the typical traditional tourist camps based on Standard Ger for 2 people or more (\*depending on the request!) with bathrooms outside (that is, shared, 1 building for the gentlemen, and 1 building for the ladies).

Full Board Regime with 1 bottle of mineral water per person/daily (**3** BREAKFASTS, **4** LUNCHESES, **3** DINNERS).

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 (**4** FULL DAYS), with all fuel included.

English or Spanish speaking local guide (\*according to early request!).

All entrance fees to **Yak Festival**, Erdene zuu monastery, karakorum museum, and the monuments.

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

Gentle hiking through wonderful landscapes.

Rates and services.

### What's Not Included?

Airfares. Occasional flight delays or cancellation. Accommodation, Food, Transport, Guide, Entrance fees in Ulaanbaatar city (**on early request!**). 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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**BIENVENIDOS A MONGOLIA**  
**WELCOME TO MONGOLIA**



**MAP OF MONGOLIA**

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## OUTSTANDING EXPERIENCES:

- We will visit the legendary **Karakorum, 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.
- Enjoy the **Yak Festival** is one of the most important festivals in Mongolia. It's held each year on the **23rd of July** in Orkhon Valley, in Bat Ulzii sum, province of Ovorkhangai. In Mongolia, the yak has a great value for nomadic breeders. It has many uses and is necessary for the good development of a farm. The yak can carry equipment on its back or tract a cart. Its wood is used for doing clothes, and, as any animal, its meat and milk are eaten. The main purpose of the festival is to promote the yak herder nomads, improve and increase the benefits of the yak related products, introduce the yak culture to the public, and attract tourists.
- Excursion to **Elsen Tasarkhai Dunes** (known as the **Bayangobi Desert**), desert sand dunes spread over 80kms in a beautiful valley. Opportunity for hiking, walking through the dunes, and photographing the landscapes. We will visit an authentic nomadic family with Bactrian camel farms. One hour of excursion included to cross the dunes on the back of a Bactrian camel.

## TO CONSIDER:

- Guaranteed services from **2** people.
- Mongolian visa not included.
- International flights not included.
- There is a surcharge during the Naadam Festival and applies to travel from **July 09 to July 15-High Season** in Mongolia, where all services and accommodations are crowded.

Accommodation outside Ulaanbaatar for the Classic Tours (not for the Luxury tours) 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:**