



Gobi Desert & Karakorum Mongolia Land Cruiser Toyota 4X4 Expedition with Great Naadam Festival in Ulaanbaatar (July 1st-July 13th)

Key Information:

Trip Length: 13 days/12 nights.

Trip Type: Easy to Moderate.

Tour Code: **SMT-NF1-13D**

Specialty Categories: Adventure Gobi Desert Expedition, Cultural Event Journey, Camel riding, Driving tour, Local Culture, Nature & Wildlife, and Sports.

Meeting/Departure Points: Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia (excluding the flights).

Naadam Festival Special Group Size: 2-9 people or more participants.

Hot Season: July 1st-July 13th

Total Distance: about +2500kms/1554miles.

Airfare Included: No.

Tour Customizable: Yes

Tour Highlights: Upon your arrival in **Ulaanbaatar (ULN or UB)**, capital of **Authentic Mongolia**, 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. In 2010, **Naadam** was inscribed on the **Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity of UNESCO**. We would be pleased to have you join us!

Brief Itinerary:

July 1, Day 1-Upon your arrival in Ulaanbaatar, meet **Samar Magic Tours team**. (L)

July 2, Day 2-Ulaanbaatar-Bagazarin Chuluu in Middle Gobi. (B)(L)(D)

July 3, Day 3-Middle Gobi-Gobi Desert. (B)(L)(D)

July 4, Day 4-Gobi Desert: Yolin Canyon-Largest Sand dunes in Gobi Desert-Nomadic Family-Camels. (B)(L)(D)

July 5, Day 5- Gobi Desert: Bayanzag (Rich in Saxual) or Flaming Cliffs. (B)(L)(D)

July 6, Day 6-Gobi Desert-Ongi Temple's Ruins in Middle Gobi. (B)(L)(D)

July 7, Day 7-Middle Gobi-Karakorum. (B)(L)(D)

July 8, Day 8-Naadam Festival Rural (**NOTE: IN CASE, THAT IT WILL NOT BE CONFIRMED, THE TOUR IS TO KARAKORUM - TURKISH MEMORIALS IN ORKHON VALLEY-KARAKORUM**) in Karakorum. (B)(L)(D)

July 9, Day 9-Khogno Khaan National Reserve-Uvgun Temple-Bayangobi desert. (B)(L)(D)

July 10, Day 10-Hustain Nuruu Wild Horses National Park-Ulaanbaatar. (B)(L)

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

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

July 13, Day 13-Departure Mongolia or Post tour. (B)

Day-by-day itinerary:

July 1st, Day 1-Upon your arrival in **Ulaanbaatar**, meet **Samar Magic Tours team** and transfer to confirmed hotel (**By hotels policy the check-in time is after 02:00PM/14:00**). **Welcome lunch in Itraditional Mongolian Barbecue restaurant. Ulaanbaatar City tour:** visits **small dinosaur's fossils museum, the National History Museum**-where you will see artefacts from Mongolia and Central Asia from the Stone Age to the present and **the Sukh Baatar square**-this is the main square in the heart of Ulaanbaatar. Here you will **see a large statue of the Genghis or Chinggis Khaan**- 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. Transfer. Overnight at confirmed hotel. **(L)**

July 2th, Day 2-Breakfast. Drive towards south to **Bagazarin Chuluu** in Middle Gobi-this is 1768m high, 15km long, 10km wide rocky mountain and is perfect for short trekking and walks around the surrounding area. 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. Dinner and overnight in tourist Gers camp. **(B)(L)(D)**

July 3th, Day 3-A long drive towards South to **Gobi Desert**. Arrive and to be transferred. Free time in your own. Overnight in tourist Gers camp. **(B)(L)(D)**

July 4th, Day 4-In the morning, we drive towards 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. 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**. In the afternoon, a long trip **towards to Hongor Largest Sand dunes in Gobi Desert**. Arrive and to be transferred. Exploration and **enjoy and climb up to over 200 m high Khongoryn els** (Singing sand dunes) and **ride two humped camels** around picturesque desert oasis Khongor river. 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. Overnight in tourist Gers camp. **(B)(L)(D)**

July 5th, Day 5-Drive towards to **Bayanzag (Rich in Saxual) or Flaming Cliffs** in South Gobi Desert. **Explore Bayanzag (Rich in Saxual) or Flaming Cliffs**-here Roy Chapman Andrews, an American palaeontologist 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**. Dinner and overnight in tourist Gers camp in Bayanzag. **(B)(L)(D)**

July 6th, Day 6-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 temples complexes, Barlim khiid and Khutagt khiid, on the North and South of the Ongi Gol river. Dinner and overnight in tourist Gers camp in Middle Gobi. **(B)(L)(D)**

July 7th, Day 7-Continue 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. During the trip, you will also have opportunities to **visit a local nomadic family on the way**. Visitors, such as Marco Polo, described its ornate building, including a 2500 sq. meters Palace of Worldly Peace. 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. Today, **we visit 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. Free time in your own in **Orkhon valley constitutes a UNESCO World Heritage Site**. Overnight in tourist Gers camp. **(B)(L)(D)**

July 8th, Day 8-Today, we attend the **Authentic Rural Naadam Festival in Karakorum** (**NOTE: IN CASE, THAT IT WILL BE NOT CONFIRMED, THE TOUR IS TO KARAKORUM-TURKISH MEMORIALS IN ORKHON VALLEY-KARAKORUM**). Experience the traditional customs and lifestyle of local residents. Overnight in tourist Gers camp. **(B)(L)(D)**

July 9th, Day 9-Breakfast. **Drive to visit and explore Khogno Khaan Mountain Nature Park**-it is located about 270kms/135miles west of Ulaanbaatar. Covering an area of 47000 hectares, this park contains many historical monuments, forests of silver birches and poplar trees, and sources. The ecosystem of this park is particularly interesting because the steppe and the taiga meet here. Created in 1997 as a natural reserve, it became in 2003 a natural park. One of the main attractions of this area is the **small Uvgun monastery** which was built in 17th century by Saint Zanabazar who was a great sculptor and the biggest representative of Buddhism in Mongolia. **Continuous drive further to visit Elsen Tasarkhai (also known as Bayangobi desert)**-is a part of the 80kms/50miles long Mongol Els Sand Dunes and is located on about 270kms/135miles west from the capital Ulaanbaatar. The nature in this area is really spectacular and great for relaxing. During the trip, you will also have opportunities to visit a local nomadic family, optional ride two-humped Bactrian camel, walk on sand dunes, experience staying in a traditional Mongolian dwelling ger, and walk and relax in beautifully serene nature. Enjoy the sunset. Overnight in tourist Gers camp. **(B)(L)(D)**

July 10th, Day 10-Breakfast. **Drive back to Ulaanbaatar city. Stop in route, to visit Hustain Nuruu National Park** (**Hustai** is Mongolian for birch and **Nuruu** means mountains) measures about 57,000 hectares, or including the buffer zone 120.000 ha., and is located on about 100 kms/62 miles west from the capital Ulaanbaatar. The flagship species for the **Hustain Nuruu Nature Reserve** is the reintroduced Przewalski or takhi horse. Currently the park is home to a hundred fifty specimens. **Visit small local museum of the wild horses. Continuous drive to Ulaanbaatar city.** Arrive and transfer to the hotel **(by hotels policy check-in time is after 02:00P.M (14:00))**. Overnight at hotel. **(B)(L)**

July 11th, Day 11-After early breakfast, transfers to the 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 **Erkhiiin Mergen Kharvaach** that means **Archer of Greatest Wisdom**. **Lunch is included in local restaurant.** Free time in your own. Overnight at hotel. **(B)(L)**

July 12th, Day 12-After early breakfast, **drives 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 **Tumnii Ekh or Top Horse of 10,000** is given to the winning horse. Drive back to Ulaanbaatar. **Lunch is included in local restaurant.** Continuous attending the **Naadam Festival** in the National Sports. Some shopping. **06:00PM**-National Performers (concert which includes the Tsam dance, traditional Mongolian singers, dancers, Tuvan throat singing and contortionists). **07:30PM**-Transfer to hotel. Overnight at hotel. **(B)(L)**

July 13th, Day 13-Breakfast. **By hotels policy the check-out time is before 12:00noon.** Transfer to the airport. Departure Mongolia or Post tour **(B)**. **Tour Ends.**

What's Included?

4 nights of accommodation at selected & confirmed hotel, based on double standard room, with daily breakfast.

8 nights in tourist traditional camps, based on Standard Ger for 2 people.

All transportation in private by tourist bus with A/C in Ulaanbaatar (*according to the confirmed group), including all petrol.

All transportation in private by comfortable 4WD LAND CRUISER TOYOTA vehicle, outside of Ulaanbaatar, including all petrol.

All specified food (**B**-breakfast, **L**-lunch, **D**-dinner), including one bottle of mineral water. Welcome lunch in traditional Mongolian Barbecue restaurant.

Services of English speaking guide.

All entrance fees to **Naadam Festival** in **July 11th** and **July 12th**.

Attend the **Authentic Naadam Festival Rural** in **Karakorum** (**NOTE: IN CASE, THAT IT WILL BE NOT CONFIRMED, THE TOUR IS TO KARAKORUM-TURKISH MEMORIALS IN ORKHON VALLEY-KARAKORUM**).

Entrance fees to the all specified national parks, museums, monuments, and monasteries.

1 hour of camel riding on the largest sand dunes. One Mongolian traditional folk songs concert. Visits authentic nomadic & camel families.

Taxes and services.

Letter-visa support (if it will be necessary).

Accommodation in Mongolia

Ulaanbaatar city: hotel 4* (**standard room**), hotel 5* (**standard or superior room**): **4** nights.

Bagazarin Chuluu in Middle Gobi: Tourist Gers Camp: **1** night.

South Gobi Desert: Tourist Gers Camp: **3** nights.

Ruins of Ongi Temple in Middle Gobi: Tourist Gers Camp: **1** night.

Karakorum: Tourist Gers Camp: **2** nights.

Bayangobi desert: Tourist Gers Camp: **1** night.

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.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

HOW TO JOIN SAM AR MAGIC TOURS: All the tours are "Land Only", so you need to book your own International flights, unless otherwise specified in the tour description. Joining information will be sent to you upon confirmation.

PAYMENT SCHEDULE: These require a booking form and an immediately deposit which is non-refundable. Booking requests with deposits will be considered in order of their receipt. A booking form is accepted and acceptance becomes definite only from the date that we have confirmed acceptance in writing and issued a confirmation invoice. At this point, a contract between the applicant and us comes into existence. We reserve the absolute right to decline any bookings for any legal reasons whatsoever, at our sole discretion.

Payment of the balance: of the tour cost is due not later than **ten weeks before the departure date**. **Your tour price is guaranteed:** once Samar Magic Tours has received your full payment. All tour prices are in US dollars and in Euro and are based on tariff and rates of currency exchange in effect at the time of printing.

No further reminder will be sent and, if payment is not received by the due date, I reserve the right to treat the booking as cancelled and charge a cancellation fee, the amount of which will not exceed the total cost of the holiday. You are therefore strongly recommended to take out travel insurance at an early stage to cover you in event of cancellation. All itineraries are as written but reserve the right to alter these due to any unforeseen circumstances and will notify you of any changes as soon as possible.

60-26 working days prior to departure: 50% of Land Cost.

25-00 working days prior to departure: No refund.

Air or Train cancellation terms are additional: The air fares or train tickets are subject to change based on availability at the time of entering the reservation. Rates in international or national flights or train tickets only freeze the issuance and payment in full of the tickets. Tickets are not refundable and can only be annulled on the day of issue. All cancellation requests are required in writing. Telephone / verbal cancellation is not accepted.

HOTELS: By hotels policy check-in time is **after 14:00**. By hotels policy check-out time is **before 12:00 noon**.

FREE MONGOLIA TOUR: If you have **16** persons (**15** paying persons + **1** free, based on twin specified room: **8**). Whenever you sign up a group of **16** people or more to **Samar Magic Tours**, you will enjoy a free trip to yourself, travelling as the group leader with the group. **Excluding the flights, and the single room at hotels.**

PASSPORT, VISA AND HEALTH REQUIREMENTS: All participants are responsible for, and must be in possession of, a full passport, valid for at least six months beyond the end of the tour. In addition, participants must obtain any necessary visas and vaccination certificates required for the tour.

BAGGAGE: Baggage is at owner's risk throughout. For traveller's convenience, baggage allowance is suggested to one piece per person each for check-in and carry-on baggage. Excess baggage charge and insurance is at owner's responsibility. **Excess baggage:** the max. Weight of your luggage on domestic flights and our calculated vehicles is **10 kg (20lbs) a, hand luggage 5 kg (5lbs)** (overweight you need, before your departure to the countryside), extra luggage can be stored at hotels **FREE**, prior to your departure to the countryside.

ACCEPTANCE OF RISK: The Client acknowledges that the nature of the tour is adventurous and that such holidays may involve a significant amount of personal risk. The Client hereby assumes all such risk and does hereby release the Company from all claims and causes of action arising from any damages or injuries or death resulting from these inherent risks.
