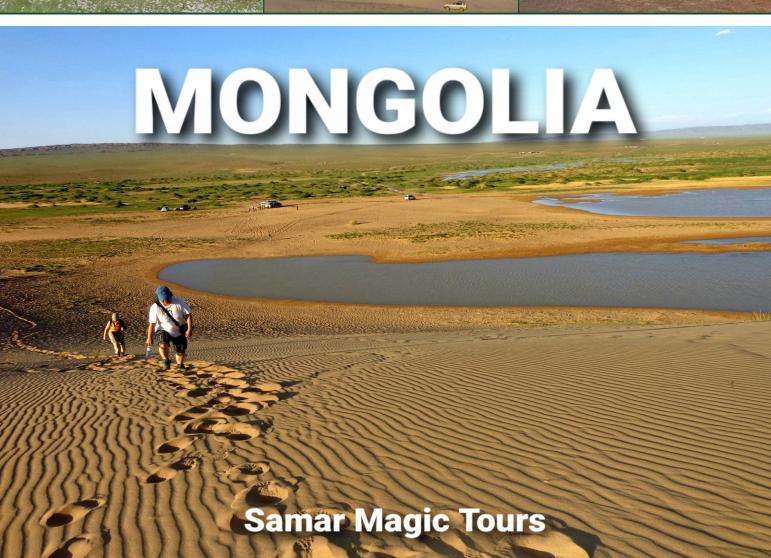
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**SAMAR MAGIC TOURS** 



# **GOBI DESERT MONGOLIA ADVENTURE TOUR WITH SAMAR MAGIC TOURS**

### **Key Information:**

Trip Length: 12 days/11 nights.
Trip Type: Easy to Moderate.
Tour Code: SMT-12D
Specialty Categories: Adventure Expedition, Cultural Event Journey, Camel riding, Driving tour, 4x4 Expedition, Local Culture, Nature & Wildlife.
Meeting/Departure Points: Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia. Your international flight to Mongolia is on your own arrangement.
Group Size: 3-32 travelers-guaranteed!.
Valid Season: June, July, August, September 15th.
Total Distance: about 2500 km/1554 miles.

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#### **BRIEF ITINERARY:**

Day 1-Upon your arrival in Ulaanbaatar ``Genghis Khan`` New Airport (UB city), meet Samar Magic Tours team. Ulaanbaatar City tour. (L)

Day 2-Ulaanbaatar-Bagazarin Chuluu (Rock Formations) in Middle Gobi. (B)(L)(D)

Day 3-Tsagaan Tsuvarga (Stupas or White Pagodas) in Middle Gobi. (B)(L)(D)

Day 4-Tsagaan Tsuvarga-Gobi Desert-Yolin Canyon. (B)(L)(D)

Day 5-Gobi Desert: Moltsog Sand Dunes-True Camel Family-Camel Riding Bayanzag (Rich in Saxual) or Flaming Cliffs. (B)(L)(D)

Day 6-Gobi Desert-Ruins of Ongi Temple in Middle Gobi. (B)(L)(D)

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

**Day 8**-Karakorum-Tsenkher Hot Springs. (B)(L)(D)

Day 9-Tsenkher Hot Springs-Orkhon Valley-Turkish Memorials-Ugii lake. (B)(L)(D)

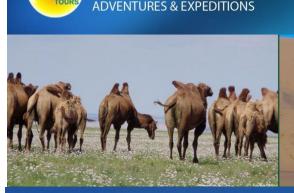
Day 10-Ugii lake-Karakorum-Hustai Nuruu National Park. (B)(L)(D)

Day 11-Hustai Nuruu National Park-Ulaanbaatar. (B)(L)

Day 12-Departure Mongolia. (B)

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#### DAY BY DAY ITINERARY:

**Day 1**-Upon your arrival in **Ulaanbaatar** ``**Genghis Khan**'´ **New Airport** 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 Grand 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. **10:00AM**-Here you will have the opportunity to attend a Buddhist ceremony.

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Next, we will visit a small museum of dinosaur fossils. The centerpiece of the museum is the 4m-tall, 3-ton ultraviolet Tarbosaurus bataar (cousin of Tyrannosaurus rex) and a smaller Saurolophus, with its distinctive cranial crest. The Tarbosaurus bataar made international headlines in 2012, when it sold for more than US\$1 million at an 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. Nicolas Cage has agreed to return a rare dinosaur skull to the Mongolian government. The Oscar-winning actor bought the Tyrannosaurus bataar skull in 2007, not knowing it had been stolen. Authorities said he voluntarily agreed to hand over the skull after learning of the circumstances. 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 1974. While there are plans to expand it into a world-class institution. Visit the National History Museum-where you will see artefacts from Mongolia and Central Asia from the Stone Age to the present. 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. 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. **06:00PM-Mongolian National Performers** (concert which includes the Tsam dance, traditional Mongolian singers, dancers, Tuvan throat singing and contortionists). Transfer to hotel. Overnight at selected and confirmed hotel. **Dinner is not included**. **(L)** 

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**Day 2**-Breakfast. Meet Samar Magic Tours team at reception of the hotel. Drive towards south to **Baga Gazariin Chuluu Rock Formations** – 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 buries of Mongols from Middle Ages. Today, 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. Accommodation in tourist Gers camp. **(B)(L)(D)** 

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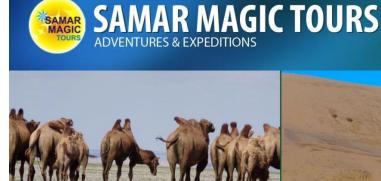




**Day 3-**Breakfast. Meet Samar Magic Tours team. Drive towards to **Tsagaan Tsuvarga White Stupas or White Pagodas**, about 280 km/174 miles), 5-6hours drive from the **Bagazarin Chuluu (Rock Formations)**. **Tsagaan Tsuvarga (Stupas or White Pagodas)** are located approximately 426 km (265 miles) from 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. Overnight in tourist Gers camp. **(B)(L)(D)** 

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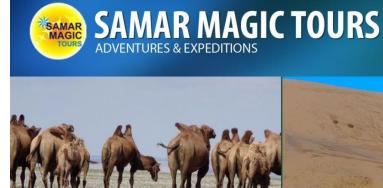


**Day 4-**Breakfast. Meet Samar Magic Tours team. Drive to **Gobi Desert** in South Gobi province. Explore **Yolin Canyon** on foot in **Gobi Gurvansaikhan National Park**-was established in 1993, and expanded to its current size in 2000. This is the **largest national park in Mongolia**. Famed for its rich bird habitat, **Yolin 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 **Yolin 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)** 

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Day 5-Breakfast. Meet Samar Magic Tours team. Drive towards to Moltsog Sand dunes. Exploration and enjoy and climb up. Visit an authentic camel breeding family. See their real nomadic life and ride two humped camels around. Afternoon, drive towards to Bayanzag (Rich in Saxual) or Flaming Cliffs in 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. 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)

#### **Bayanzag or Flaming Cliffs**



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# Ruinas del Templo Ongii en Gobi Central

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**Day 6**-Breakfast. Meet Samar Magic Tours team. 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 com plex that was formerly one of the largest monasteries in Mongolia and founded in 1760 and consisted of two separate temples com plexes, 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)** 



**Day 7**-Breakfast. Meet Samar Magic Tours team. 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. **(B)(L)(D)** 

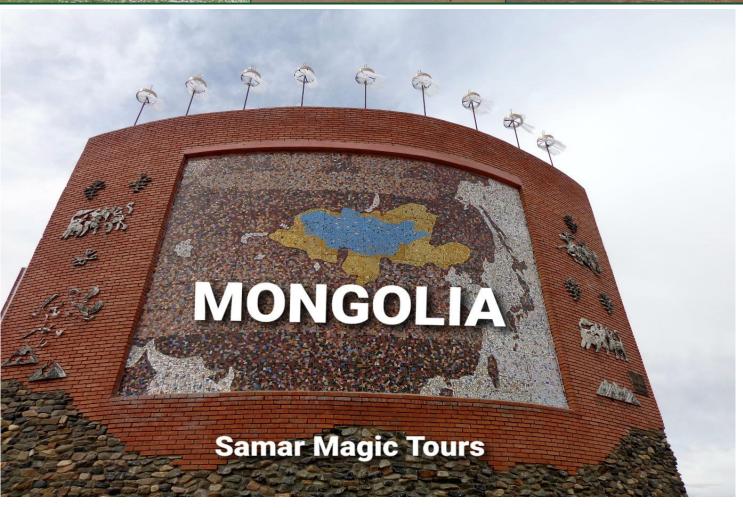
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Day 8-Breakfast. Meet Samar Magic Tours team. Today, we will visit the Monument to the Mongol States located on a hill overlooking the city of Karakorum (Kharkhorin), on the bank of the Orkhon River. It was built in 2004. The monument consists of a large pile of stones (a **shamanic ovoo**) carefully assembled into a cone shape, approximately the same size as a tipi, with nine posts protruding from the top. This structure is mounted on a stone and concrete platform and is surrounded by three walls that represent three sections of a circle. The outer sides of these walls feature three colorful mosaics representing three maps, one for each of the empires.

1. First, there was the Xiongnu Empire, a confederation of nomadic tribes that lived on the steppes from about the 3rd century BC. until the 1st century AD.

2. The Turkish Khaganate Empire followed, established by the Göktürks in 682 and lasting only until 744.

3. Finally, and famously, Genghis Khan founded the Mongol Empire of the 13th and 14th centuries.

The iconic place of the Mongol Empire in culture, combined with the shamanic symbolism of the ovoo at the center of the monument, prompts people to leave offerings of vodka, milk, tea, rice and other edible delicacies that inevitably attract birds and some than another herd of goats and sheep

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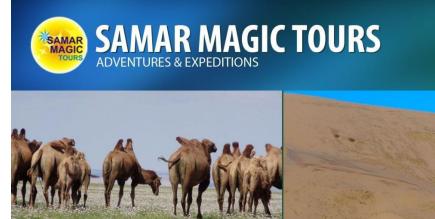


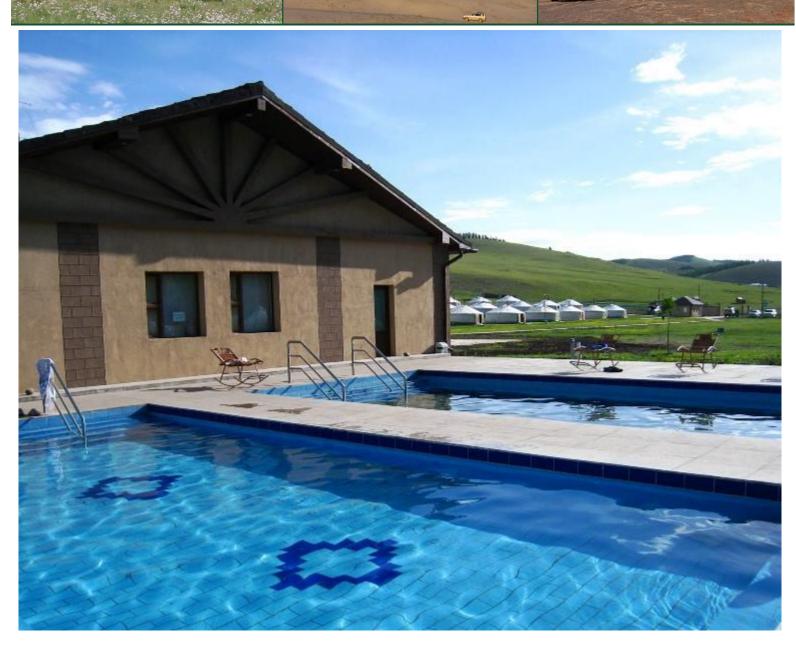


passing by. You can also find several animal skulls around the monument, completing the surreal scene. It is no coincidence that the Monument of The Imperial Map is located in Kharkhorin, as this city (then called Karakorum) was the capital of the Mongol Empire under ``Genghis´´ Khan's successor, Ogedei Khan. The Imperial Map Monument is a great vantage point from which to look out over the city of **Kharkhorin** and the **Orkhon River**, and imagine what this collection of dirt roads and low-rise buildings may have looked like in its glory days. Also, today, we will visit to 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. 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. Mongol lunch is included front Erdene zuu monastery. Nest, 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. Overnight in Tourist Gers Camp. (B)(L)(D)

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**Day 9**-Breakfast. Meet Samar Magic Tours team. Today, departure via Karakorum by asphalt road (\*with the help of the Turkish Government) in the direction of the **Gokhturk museum in Khoshoo Tsaidam (Turkish Memorials,** about 197km/122.41 miles, 4.0hrs) in honor of the Turkish princes in the **Orkhon Valley-UNESCO** lists the **Orkhon Valley** as a **World Heritage Site** (about 47.2km/30miles, 1hr from Karakorum), from the early **8th century Bilge Khan and Kul Tigin** with their Orkhon inscriptions, written in the **Old Turkic alphabet**, which are admitted as the most impressive monuments of **the nomadic Gokturk Khaganate**. They were excavated and deciphered by Russian archaeologists in the years 1889-93. Next, departure by embankment towards **Lake Ugii** (about 33km/21miles, 1hr), an appropriate place for birds such as: swans, geese, cranes, ducks, pigeons, storks and other migratory species are cited in this area at the end

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of April, May and throughout the summer). **Lake Ugii** is located in the province of Uvurkhangai, where many migratory birds arrive at certain times of the year due to the abundance of fish. It is of great importance as a breeding and stopping place for waterfowl, for example, the white-necked crane (Grus vipio), the swan goose (Anser cygnoides), the great bustard (Otis tarda), the duck (Oxyura leucocephala), cranes common (Grus Grus), demoiselle cranes (Anthropoides virgo), black storks (Ciconia nigra), and species declared vulnerable or endangered in the Red Book. We will be able to admire and photograph a great variety of species such as the White-necked Crane and the Monk Crane surrounded by a beautiful valley where herds of sheep, horses, bulls, and yaks graze. Over 200 species of birds have been recorded at **Lake Ugii**, and where there are so many fish there are sure to be plenty of waterfowl; black-tailed godwit; Swan goose; Great Crested Grebe; whooper swan; Bar-headed goose; Rudy Shelduck; common goldeneye; Common Crane; and Northern Lapwing. Migratory birds arrive from May to June, from as far away as Siberia and the Himalayas. **Ornithological observation. Here there is an opportunity for optional horseback riding, fishing, boat rides, kayaks, etc (\*pay extra on site!). Bring binoculars.** Overnight in Tourist Standard Gers Camp, close to Lake Ugii. (**B**)(**L**)(**D**)



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Day 10-Breakfast. A long drive further to explore Hustain Nuruu National Park (about 400km/249 miles, +6.0hrs). 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). Accommodation in tourist camp in Gers Camp. (B)(L)(D)

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Day 11-Breakfast. Drive to Ulaanbaatar (about 120km/75miles, 2.0hrs). Last Shopping for souvenirs and cashmere. Lunch is included in local restaurant in Ulaanbaatar. Transfer to the hotel (\*the rooms can be used after 2:00 p.m. on the day of arrival). Overnight at selected and confirmed hotel. **Dinner is not included**. (B)(L)



Day 12-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 ``Genghis Khan'' New Airport (52 km/32.31miles, +2hrs). Departure Mongolia (B). Tour Ends.

# **INCLUDED SERVICES:**

2 nights of accommodation in the selected and confirmed hotel, based on the indicated room, with breakfast.

9 nights of lodging in the typical traditional tourist camps based on standard ger for 2 people or more (according to the request!) with bathrooms outside (that is, shared, 1 building for the gentlemen, and 1 building for the ladies), in the rest of the route.

Food as specified (11D,11L,9D) with 1 bottle of mineral water per person/daily.

Welcome lunch in a traditional restaurant.

All transfers in private, traveling in a comfortable 4x4 vehicle FURGON UAZ (occupancy: 6 tourists + 1 Mongolian speaking driver in 1 vehicle, Limit: 15 kg per person) or in Delica Mitsubishi 4x4 (occupancy: 5 tourists + 1 Mongolian speaking driver in 1 vehicle, Limit: 15 kg per person) on the rest of the route, with all fuel included.

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

All entrance fees to 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 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.

### What's Not Included?

Airfares. Occasional flight delays or cancellation. Excess baggage (**Limit: 15** kg per person). Visa. Any rescue costs or costs of early departure. Changing of date of departure from Ulaanbaatar. **Early Check-in or Late Check-out**. 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, road conditions, etc.



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### **OUTSTANDING EXPERIENCES:**

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• We will walk through the dunes and we will be able to climb the highest peak, where we will be able to observe a wonderful landscape of 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.

- Relaxing baths in the Tsenkher hot springs.
- Enjoy the ornithological observation in Ugii Lake.

• Explore Hustain Nuruu National Park 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.

• Listen to the mesmerizing sounds of Khoomi throat singing during a traditional dance performance.

### **TO CONSIDER:**

- Guaranteed services from **3-32** people.
- 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.

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# **RESERVATION CONDITIONS AND FINAL PAYMENT**

Please note: Naadam Festival surcharge applies for travel from Jul 01 to Jul 15 - Peak Season in Mongolia, where all services, accommodations are overcrowded.

• At the time of registering for the trip, the amount of 600 € euros or \$ US 600 per person (six hundred + 60 € or \$ US 60, due to the bank discount of the intermediary banks) will be paid immediately by bank transfer as a guarantee deposit, with a minimum advance notice of 240-**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 the hotels in Ulaanbaatar, or 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 120-95 business days before arrival in Mongolia, in order to guarantee the 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).

Refunds: Deposits are non-refundable. 90-19 days: 50% 18-00 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 cancelled on the day of issue.

#### PERSONAL TRAVELING FOR FREE IN MONGOLIA:

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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.

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**CONDITIONS OF FORCE MAJEURE:** Although it is our absolute desire to fulfil 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:

SEX:

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:

THE SELECTED HOTEL'S NAME FROM OUR HOTEL'S LIST:

**MAR MAGIC TOURS**