



Mongolia Exotic Tour with Samar Magic Tours

Key Information:

Trip Length: 10 days/9 nights.

Trip Type: Easy to Moderate.

Tour Code: **SMT-ORKHON-10D**

Specialty Categories: Adventure Expedition, Cultural Journey, Camel riding, Driving tour, Eco-Travel, Hiking, Hot springs, Local Culture, Nature & Wildlife.

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

Small Groups: **2-32 travelers-guaranteed!**

Private Departures: **June-September .**

Total Distance: about 2000kms/1243miles.

Airfare or Train Included: No.

Tour Customizable: Yes

Tour Highlights: Upon your arrival in **Ulaanbaatar ``Genghis (Chinggis) Khan`` New Airport** (52 km / 31.33 miles, 2hrs driving, depending on the high traffic!), meet **Samar Magic Tours team**. **Mongolia Exotic Ecotour** takes you to the **Natural Wonders of Central Mongolia**. This journey designed especially for small groups, families, private, and funny travel. **Exploration to Karakorum-the Genghis (Chinggis) Khan's 13th century capital, Orkhon Waterfall (also called Ulaan Tsutgalan)**-this is perfect for swimming, fishing, short trekking and walks around the surrounding area, stop at **VIII century Turkish monuments in the Orkhon Valley, Tsenkher Hot Springs** and many more. **Karakorum** was the **capital of the Mongol Empire** in the 13th century and of the Northern Yuan in the 14–15th centuries. Its ruins lie in the north-western corner of the Ovorkhangai Province of Mongolia, near today's town of **Kharkhorin**, and adjacent to the **Erdene Zuu monastery**. They are part of the upper part of the **World Heritage Site Orkhon Valley Cultural Landscape**. Ride horses on the steppes, meeting nomadic people, staying in a traditional tent, seeing grasslands and beautiful vistas. You will need to bring your Binoculars, telescopes and tripod. **We would be pleased to have you join us!**

Travel Season: **June, July, August, September.**



Mongolia Top Destinations:

Karakorum-is located about 390kms/242miles 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, cradle of Mongolian civilization. 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. Now there is a museum and restored.

Orkhon Valley-is located west of Ulaanbaatar, 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. Today, the cultural heritage of the valley constitutes a **UNESCO World Heritage Site**.

Tsenkher Hot Springs-is located in Tsenkher sum (district) of Arkhangai province. Tsenkher hot springs-have healing properties notably on articular diseases and nervous system's diseases. Heat of the water reaches 86 celsius degree (65-90C). Relaxing and enjoy baths in Tsenkher Hot Springs.



Orkhon Waterfall: The Orkhon river derives its name from the Old Turkic prefix "or" meaning "middle", and "khan" or king. It rises in the Khangai Mountains in the Tsenkher sum (local town) of Arkhangai province at the foot of the Suvraga Khaikhan mountain. From there, it crosses the border into Uvurkhangai province and follows the upper Orkhon valley in an eastern direction until it reaches Karakorum. On this stretch, very close to the Orkhon, the Ulaan Tsutgalan river features a waterfall, ten metres (33 ft) wide and twenty metres (66 ft) high, which is a popular destination for tourists. With 1,124 km (698 mi), the Orkhon is longer than the Selenge, making it the longest river in Mongolia. Major tributaries of the Orkhon river are the Tuul River and Tamir River. Fish in the Orkhon River include pike, carp, perch, taimen and catfish. UNESCO lists the Orkhon Valley as a **World Heritage Site**. Wikipedia

Shankh Monastery (Mongolian: Шанх хийд, Shankh Khiid): located in Uvurkhangai Province, Central Mongolia, 25 kilometres (15.5343 miles) South East of Karakorum (Kharkhorin city), is one of Mongolia's oldest and most historically significant monasteries. It was founded in 1647 by Zanabazar, the first Jebtsundamba Khutuktu, or spiritual head of Tibetan Buddhism for the Khalkha in Mongolia. Like most of Mongolia's religious centers, **Shankh Monastery** was closed down in 1937 and most of its standing structures destroyed by the country's regime as part of violent Stalinist purges. Many of its monks were executed or sent to labor camps in Siberia while 5 young novices were permitted to return to their families. The main temple, which had escaped major damage, was later used as a warehouse. Fortunately, most of the monastery's precious relics were removed and hidden away by one of the young novices, Gombo, and thus survived the destruction of the monastery. Wikipedia

Khustain Nuruu National Park (Mongolian: Хустайн нуруу, Birch Mountains): located in Tuv Province (Aimag), is a national park of Mongolia. It is also known as Hustai National Park. The Tuul River runs through the park. The Mongolian Government declared Hustai National Park as a Specially Protected Area in 1993, one year after the initiation of the reintroduction project of the Takhi (Przewalski's horse) to the Hustain Nuruu. The HNP extends through the Khentii Mountains and includes the western edge of the Mongolian steppe at



the boundaries of Altanbulag, Argalant and Bayankhangai Soums (districts or regions) of Tuv Province. The park is about 120 km (74.7645 miles) from the capital city of Ulaanbaatar to the west.

In 2002, the Man and the Biosphere Reserves organization of **UNESCO** certified the HNP as a **member of the world biosphere network of natural reserves**. The HNPT was enrolled as a member of IUCN in 2007.

Since 1993, the HNP has implemented the following international projects, supported by the **Dutch Government**:

- Hustain Nuruu nature reserves, 1993–1997.
- Conservation of the biodiversity of the HNP, 1998–2003.
- Support to the management of the HNP, 2004–2008.
- Development of sustainable livelihoods in the buffer zone of the HNP, 2004–2008.
- Adaptation to changing conditions in the HNP and its buffer zone, 2009–2012. Wikipedia.



Ugii Lake (Mongolian: Өгий нуур): is a freshwater lake in eastern Arkhangai province, in central Mongolia. Ugii Lake is located about 352 km (201.946 miles) west of Ulaanbaatar. The lake, designated as a **Ramsar Site of International Importance**, is known for its fish and for birdlife. It is a stopover point for migrating waterbirds of the family Anatidae. Almost half the lake is less than 3 meters (10 ft) deep. Wikipedia.



The Orkhon inscriptions: also known as the Orhon inscriptions, Orhun inscriptions, Khöshöö Tsaidam monuments (also spelled Khoshoo Tsaidam, Koshu-Tsaidam or Höshöö Caidam), or Kul Tigin steles (simplified Chinese: 阙特勤碑; traditional Chinese: 闕特勤碑; pinyin: Què tèqín bēi), are two memorial installations erected by the Göktürks written in **Old Turkic alphabet** in the early 8th century in the Orkhon Valley in Mongolia. They were erected **in honor of two Turkic princes, Kul Tigin and his brother Bilge Khagan**. The inscriptions, in both Chinese and Old Turkic, relate **the legendary origins of the Turks**, the golden age of their history, their subjugation by the Chinese, and their liberation by Ilterish Qaghan. According to one source, the inscriptions contain "rhythmic and parallelistic passages" that resemble that of epics. Wikipedia.

Khugnu Khan National Park (Mongolian: Хөгнө Хан) is centered on Khugnu Khan Mountain, about 60 km (37.2823 miles) east of Kharakorum. The park features many historical sites, including the ruins of a 17th-century monastery. It is located in Gurvanbulag District of Bulgan Province, about 280 km (173.984 miles) west of Ulaanbaatar. Wikipedia.



Elsen tasarkhai is a part of the Mongol Els Sand Dunes (Bayangobi Desert): which stretch from the Tuv, Uvurkhangai, and Bulgan provinces all the way west to become part of the Khugnu Khan mountain range. It is located about 280 km (173. 984 miles) west of Ulaanbaatar. The sand dunes are 80 km (49.7097 miles) long total. Dividing the southern part of the sand dunes with the so-called northern Mongolian sand, Khugnu Tarna is a main road. River Tarnat flows in the western part of the sand dunes, it is sodden under its surfaces, so shrubberies such as willow, elm, dogwood, shrubbery grow there. In the north there is the rocky and woody mountain “Khugnu khaan”. in the south lies Ikh Mongol which defines the central point of Mongolia and is surrounded by the Elsen tasarkhai. The widest section of the sand dune is located in the Ikh Mongol mountain area and covers an area of 9-10 km². Half of the Ikh Mongol sand is covered by plants, so its mostly not loose sand.

Brief Itinerary:

- Day 1**-Upon your arrival in Ulaanbaatar “Genghis (Chinggis) Khan” New Airport, meet Samar Magic Tours team. **(L)**
- Day 2**-Ulaanbaatar- the 40 meter /~133,3 feet “Genghis Khan” Statue on horseback-Gorkhi/Terelj National Park-Ulaanbaatar. **(B)(L)**
- Day 3**-Ulaanbaatar-Athentic Nomadic Mongol Show-Hustain Nuruu National Park. **(B)(L)(D)**
- Day 4**-Hustain Nuruu National Park-Karakorum. **(B)(L)(D)**
- Day 5**-The Monument to the Mongol States-Erdene zuu monastery-Karakorum museum-Orkhon Valley-Turkish Memorials-Ugii Lake. **(B)(L)(D)**
- Day 6**-Ugii Lake-Tsenkher Hot Springs. **(B)(L)(D)**
- Day 7**-Tsenkher Hot Springs-Shankh monastery-Orkhon Waterfall. **(B)(L)(D)**
- Day 8**-Orkhon Waterfall-Khugnu Khaan Nature Reserve-Uvgun Temple-Elsen Tasarkahi Sand Dunes (Bayangobi Desert). **(B)(L)(D)**
- Day 9**-Bayangobi Desert-Ulaanbaatar. **(B)(L)**
- Day 10**-Departure Mongolia. **(B)**



MONGOLIA



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 Great 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.** 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, for now it is still a bit limited in specimens.** 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. Next, visit the **New Museum "Genghis Kan" ("Chinggis Khaan")**, opened in the month of **October 11-2022**. 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. **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. **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 confirmed hotel. **Dinner is not included. (L)**

MONGOLIA

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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/34miles) 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**. 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)**





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MONGOLIA



Day 3-Breakfast. 08:00AM-Trip towards West to attend the Authentic Mongol Nomadic Mongol Show (will take place from **10:00AM-12:00M**). It demonstrates traditional living way of real Mongolian nomads and breeding and using of five kinds of lives tock and movement from one place to another using ox, yak, camel and horse carts which are the carts. Here you will have the opportunity to hear a Mongolian folk song, to see 5 herding animals, to observe the demonstration of catching and milking sheep, goat, to observe the demonstration of making dairy products. Also, we will see the Mongolian archery, playing traditional games, the demonstration of making felt and tanning, the demonstration of moving one place to another use by cart, yak freight, camel and horse carts. Next, drive to visit **Hustain Nuruu National Park of Wild Horses** (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 100kms/62 miles west from the capital Ulaanbaatar. The flagship species for the **Hustain Nuruu Nature Reserve** is the reintroduced Przewalski horse. Overnight in tourist Gers Camp. **(B)(L)(D)**



Day 4-Breakfast. Trip towards West to Karakorum-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. 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. Overnight in tourist Gers Camp. **(B)(L)(D)**

Day 5-Breakfast. Next, 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 oboo) 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 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. Visits **Erdene zuu monastery**, the **Turtle monument** and the **Karakorum museum**. Next, drive towards to stop at **VIII century Turkish monuments in the Orkhon Valley**. **Continuous drive to Lake Ugii**-this a freshwater lake located in the **Valley of the Orkhon River**, is also renowned for its fishing and birdwatching. It is a stopover point for migrating water birds of the family Anatidae. Almost half the lake is less than 3m deep. Here you will have the opportunity to do several optional activities as fishing, boating, horseback or yakriding, etc, (payment on site!). Overnight in Tourist Gers Camp. **(B)(L)(D)**



Day 6-Breakfast. Drive West to **Tsenkher hot springs**. Relaxing and enjoy baths at **Tsenkher Hot Springs (89C/192.2F)**. Visit a **Yak breeder's family** and experience the traditional customs and lifestyle of local residents. Overnight in tourist Gers camp. **(B)(L)(D)**

Day 7-Breakfast. Next, drive towards to **Orkhon Waterfall (also called Ulaan Tsutgalan)**. This is perfect for swimming, fishing, short trekking and walks around the surrounding area. On the way, we visit **Shankh monastery**-is one of the oldest and most important monasteries in Mongolia. **Zanabazar** founded this monastery in 1648 at the age of 13. Overnight in tourist Gers camp. **(B)(L)(D)**

Day 8-Breakfast. Today, drive towards to **Elsen Tasarkhai (Bayangobi Desert)**, is a part of the 80 km (49.7097 miles) long Mongol Els Sand Dunes and is located about 280kms (173. 984 miles) 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, ride two-humped Bactrian camel, walk on sand dunes, and relax in beautifully serene nature. Overnight in tourist Gers camp. **(B)(L)(D)**



Day 9 -Breakfast. **Drive back to Ulaanbaatar. Shopping for souvenirs and cashmere.** Arrive and transfer to hotel. The check-in time at hotel is after **02:00PM**. Overnight at selected hotel. **(B)(L)**

Day 10 -Breakfast. By hotels policy the check-out time is before **12:00 noon**. Transfer to Ulaanbaatar ``**Genghis (Chinggis) Khan**`` New Airport (52 km / 31.33 miles, 2hrs driving, depending on the high traffic!). **Departure Mongolia or Post tour. (B). End of our services.**

What's Included?

3 nights at confirmed hotel in Ulaanbaatar, based on double/twin indicated room, with breakfast.

7 nights in traditional tourist Gers camps, based on standard Ger for **2** people.

Food as specified (**9 B, 9 L, 6 D**), including one bottle of mineral water, per person/a day.

Services of English or Spanish speaking local guide (according to your request!).

All transportation on comfortable vehicle Mitsubishi Delica or similar in private, including the petrol.

Entrance fees to the all specified protected areas, the 40 meter /~133,3 feet ``Genghis Khan`` Statue on horseback, national parks, museums, and the monasteries.

One Mongolian traditional folk songs concert.

Relaxing and enjoy baths at Tsenkher hot springs (**1 hr**).

Enjoy Bactrian Camel riding on Elsen Tasarkhai sand dunes (Bayangobi Desert).

Authentic Mongol Nomadic Mongol Show (from **10:00AM-12:00M**).

Meeting Nomadic people.

Taxes and services.

What's Not Included?

Flights and occasional flight delays or cancellation. Visa.

Excess baggage.

The binoculars, telescopes and tripod (if necessary). 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, proper visa, the necessary passport pictures, and the international airfares.

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, etc.



TERMS AND CONDITIONS

HOW TO JOIN: 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 a 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 **twelve or 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.

Refunds: Deposits are non-refundable.

90-19 working days prior to departure: 50% of Land Cost.

18-00 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.

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.

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.

CHARGE FOR CHILDREN IN MONGOLIA:

0-3 years old: free;

From 4-11 years old: 50% at the regular adult price.

From 12 years old and above: 100% at the regular adult price.

For children 11 and under: if they are sharing bed with either parent and do not ask for a third bed in the same room, they will be charged the child fare. If they need the third bed in parents' room, they will be charged 80% of the adult fare.

For children 12 and over: they will be charged at the regular adult price.