

# SAMAR MAGIC TOURS

*Adventure & Active & Cultural Tours, Family, Group & Private Expedition, since 1997!*

## **EXOTIC BIRD WATCHING TOUR IN THE FAR WESTERN OF MONGOLIA 13 DAYS**



***This 13 day tour gets well off the beaten track  
into the Far Western of Mongolia***



**Tour Highlights:** An incredible bird watching journey in just thirteen days.

**Specialty Category:** Mongolian Bird watching, Ecotourism, Wildlife tours, Wildlife National Park visits, Active Adventures, Experiencing Mongolia's of life, Expedition, Nature, Hiking, the rivers and lakes of Mongolia.

**Introduction:** **Khovd province** is situated in the Far Wild West of Mongolia. On the West and South-West Khovd province borders with the Peoples Republic of China. The Highest point of the territory is the Munkhkhairkhan peak. Its altitude is 13,793 feet (4204 m) above sea level, and the lowest point is Altain Bor tsonj, its altitude being 3694 feet (1,126 m) above sea level. About 20 percent of the territory is semi-desert and steppe.

**Khovd Population:** 35,000.

**Elevation:** 1406m. It was one of the last cities to be liberated from the Chinese, in 1912 (and again in 1921), by the forces of the Mongolian commanders Dambijantsan, Magsarjav and Damdinsiren.

### ► **Places to Watch Birds:**

► **Khar Us Nuur National Park** (850,272 hectares). Protects the breeding grounds for antelopes and rare species of migratory pelicans, falcons and bustards. About 40km (20miles) to the East of Khovd city is Khar Us Nuur (Black Water Lake), the second largest freshwater lake (15,800 sq km) in Mongolia . Khovd river flows into this lake, creating a giant marsh delta. Khar Us Nuur is the perfect habitat for wild ducks, geese, wood grouse, partridges and seagulls, including the rare relict gull and herring gull. The best time to see the birdlife is in May and late August. The outflow from Khar Us Nuur goes into a short river called **Chono Kharaikh**, which flows into another freshwater lake, Khar Nuur (Black Lake), home to some migratory pelicans. There are varies species of birds in the province such as condors, eagles, bearded vultures, upband burrards, hawks, snowcocks and kites. **Khar Us Lake National Park was established in 1997 on WWF recommendation.**

► **Tuul River Valley and Terelj National Park-** The broadleaved and coniferous forests around Terelj, which is situated at 1600 m in the Hentii Mountains northeastern of Ulaan Baatar support a fine selection of

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Siberian and eastern Palearctic Birds.

▶ **Trip summary:**

▶ **Tour Code:** SMT-BWH-13D

▶ **Meeting Point:** Ulaanbataar, Mongolia

▶ **Departure Point:** Ulaanbataar, Mongolia

▶ **Group size:** Minimum 2 adults or more participants-This tour operates on a minimum of 02 and a maximum of 12-16 participants.

▶ **Length:** 13 days/12 nights

▶ **Difficulty level:** Easy to moderate.

▶ **2010/2011/2012 Regular Tour Calendar:** Daily departure, from very late May, June-September

**Ulaanbaatar - Tuul river Nomad's Valley - Terelj National Park - Flight to Khovd-Khar Us-Nuur Lake-Chono Kharaikh river-Har Nuur-Durgun Nuur lake-Mongol els Sand Dunes-Buyant river-Khovd-Flight back to Ulaanbaatar or Post tour to Gobi desert**

Day	Itinerary:	Main Schedule	Food
1+	Ulaanbaatar	Upon your arrival in <b>Ulaan Baatar (UB)</b> , you will be met at the airport and are transferred to the hotel. Free time at hotel. This afternoon city tour includes a visit to the "Genghis or Chinggis" Khaan's main monument in the Sukh Bataar Central square, the <b>Museum of Natural History</b> , where you will see the Ornithological Gallery with over 200 species, Mongolia's geography, flora and fauna and the <b>National History Museum</b> , where you will see artifacts from Mongolia and Central Asia from the Stone Age to the present. 18:00- <b>Evening National Performers</b> (concert which includes the Tsam dance, traditional Mongolian singers, dancers, Tuvan throat singing and contortionists). <b>Have welcome dinner</b> at local restaurant "El Latino", featuring Mongolian and Western specialties. Overnight at hotel.	D:Local Rest.
2+	Tuul river Valley	Breakfast. Drive to the " <b>Tuul river Nomad's Valley</b> " (55kms/27.5miles)-this is a beautiful valley of streams. There are national gers in beautiful natural locations, so it's easy to meet with locals and see their daily lives, interact with them. The river Tuul is one of the longest rivers of the country, flowing from the Khentii Mountain Range. The valley of the river has been called sacred for centuries by the nomads as they truly respect the nature especially the rivers and the surface water. In route, we stop to observe and to take some amazing photos <b>to the 40 meter (~133,3 feet) Statue of "Genghis or Chinggis" Khan on a big horse</b> on Tsonjin Boldog Hill is located just ~3kms (~1,5miles) to "Chinggis" Tourist Traditional Ger Camp. <b>Horseback riding bird watching Exploration down the Tuul River</b> . Here you can see Oriental cuckoo, Ducks, Demoiselle Crane, Black Stork and Saker Falcon or Spotted Eagle. <b>Welcome dinner with traditional Mongolian meal (khorkhog)</b> , which is mutton cooked with hot rock and with vegetables, water, potatoes, and onion. Have your first ger camp experience at the "Chinggis" Tourist Camp is Highly recommended by "Lonely Planet Mongolia" by the author Michael Kohn.	B:Hotel L:Camp D:Camp

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- |          |                                  |  |   |
|----------|----------------------------------|--|---|
| 3➤       | <b>Terelj National Park</b>      | Breakfast. This morning we will drive through the grassland toward to <b>Terelj National Park</b> (50kms/25miles) in the Khan Khentii Strictly Protected Area. Visit the Tortoise rock. This is a picturesque place of high cliffs eroded in granites of Mesozoic age. The forest consists of Aspen, Larch and Birch trees which support wolf, eagles, birds, and others animals Hiking excursion down the Terelj river to observe Oriental cuckoo, Ducks, Demoiselle Crane, Black Stork, Saker Falcon or Spotted Eagle, white-backed woodpecker, siberian rubythroat, siberian blue Robin, dark-sided flycatcher, crested honey buzzard, hawk owl, pine and meadow bunting, etc. Overnight in tourist ger camp or Camping in tents. Here you can see Oriental cuckoo, Ducks, Demoiselle Crane, Black Stork and Saker Falcon or Spotted Eagle. Picnic lunch is provided. Drive back to overnight in "Chinggis" Tourist Camp. | B:Camp<br>L:Picnic<br>D:Camp                  |
| 4➤       | <b>Fly to Khovd-Khar Us lake</b> | Today, be transferred to the Ulaanbaatar airport (~1hr, 30min) and <b>flight to Hovd</b> . The flight takes 1 hour 55 minutes. Arrive Hovd town and drive directly to <b>Khar Us lake</b> . About 40kms (20miles) to the East of Khovd city is Khar Us Nuur (Black Water Lake), the second largest freshwater lake (15,800 sq km) in Mongolia - but with an average depth of only 4m. Khovd river flows into this lake, creating a giant marsh delta. Khar Us Nuur Lake is the perfect habitat for wild ducks, geese, wood grouse, partridges and seagulls, including the rare relict gull and herring gullKhar. We will stop where the Khovd river enters the lake - the best place to watch the Khar Us lake. We will have Dalmatian Pelican, Great White Egret, Eurasian Spoonbill, Black Sotrok, Bar-headed Goose, Whooper Swan, White-headed Duck (rare) and other birds. Camping in tents.                             | B:Hotel<br>L:Rest. local or<br>Camp<br>D:Camp |
| 5-<br>6➤ | <b>Khar Us Nuur lake</b>         | We'll spend these two days around Khar Us Nuur Lake. In this remote wilderness we'll find wild ducks, geese, wood grouse, partridges and seagulls, including the rare relict gull and herring gullKhar, but there will be many other birds, migrants and residents alike. Nights camping.  | B:Camp<br>L:Camp<br>D:Camp                    |
| 7➤       | <b>Chono Kharaikh</b>            | Today, we will drive to the outflow from Khar Us Nuur Lake goes into a short river called <b>Chono Kharaikh</b> , which flows into another freshwater lake, Khar Nuur (Black Lake), home to some migratory pelicans. <b>Watching birds in this area.</b> Camping in tents by the lake.   | B:Camp<br>L:Picnic<br>D:Camp                  |
| 8➤       | <b>Chono Kharaikh</b>            | Spend one day of <b>Birdwatching tour at the Har Nuur Lake</b> . Camping in tents by the lake.   | B:Camp<br>L:Camp<br>D:Camp                    |
| 9➤       | <b>Durun Nuur-Mongol Els</b>     | Today, will drive to <b>Har Nuur lake-Durgun Nuur lake-Mongol els sand dunes</b> . Drive to down of the lake and reach to Durgun lake. Water birds and waders, and birds in Reed habitats. Move to north east of the lake and will <b>visit Mongol els sand dunes</b> . We should also see more Desert Wheatears and Asian Desert Warblers, while Goitered and Mongolian Gazelles are possible. Overnight in tent.   | B:Camp<br>L:Picnic<br>D:Camp                  |
| 10➤      | <b>Buyant river</b>              | Today, drive back to <b>Khovd city</b> . Camping in tents, close to the <b>Buyant river</b> for some bird watching. Camping in tents.  | B:Camp<br>L:Picnic<br>D:Camp                  |
| 11➤      | <b>Khovd-Ulaanbaatar</b>         | Arrive in <b>Khovd city for the return flight back to UB city</b> . Arrive. Be met and to be transferred to the hotel. Free time at hotel. Overnight at hotel.   | B:Camp<br>L:Picnic                            |


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- 12+** **Ulaanbaatar** Today is spent on a guided city tour of UB city, highlights include **Bogd Khan Winter Palace**, and the **war memorial Zaisan Hill**. Lunch in local restaurant. Shop for souvenirs, original pure cashmere gifts and garments. Farewell dinner. Overnight at hotel. B:Hotel  
L:Rest.  
local  
D:Rest.  
local
- 13+** **Departure Mongolia or Post tour to Gobi desert** Breakfast. Transfer to UB airport. Departure Mongolia or Extension (Post) tour to Gobi desert. **End of our services.** [Book Now!](#) B:Hotel

## THE TOUR COST INCLUDES:

- ▶ Birden local guide only for a minimum group of 2 persons or more participants.
- ▶ The **round trip air fares (two ways) from Ulaanbaatar-Khovd-Ulaanbaatar+domestic tax.**
- ▶ All private transportation by 4WD, included the all patrol, and Mongolian speaking drivers.
- ▶ 3 nights of accommodation at hotel, 4\* based on double occupancy in UB city.
- ▶ 2 nights of accommodation in Chinggis Tourist Camp, based on double occupancy.
- ▶ 7 nights camping in tents in Hovd, in the Far Western of Mongolia, based on double occupancy, included the camping gear.
- ▶ Specified meals per day (**B**-Breakfast, **L**-Lunch, **D**-dinner).
- ▶ Services of English speaking guide.
- ▶ Entrance fees to the all specified National Parks and to the protected areas.
- ▶ Sightseeing specified cost.
- ▶ Specified cultural program.
- ▶ All camping materials, tents, and the kitchen equipments.
- ▶ Specified Horseback riding bird watching exploration along the Tuul River Nomad's Valley.
- ▶ One Mongolian traditional folk songs concert in UB city.
- ▶ One special welcome dinner with traditional Mongolian meal (khorkhog) in Chinggis Tourist Camp.
- ▶ Road's taxes.
- ▶ Visa support invitation letter if necessary.

## ▶ NOT INCLUDED FEATURES

- ❖ Airfare from home city to/from UB, Mongolia or train.
- ❖ Visa.
- ❖ Single supplement at hotel in UB city.
- ❖ Changing of date of departure from UB.
- ❖ Occasional flight delays or cancellation. Samar Magic Tours cannot take over the responsibility for the National or the International Airlines. **The internal flight schedule sometimes means we have an extra day at the tourist camp, the ground agents and leader will adjust the itinerary accordingly when the flight schedule becomes available.**
- ❖ Additional services or night at hotel in UB city.
- ❖ The binoculars, telescopes and tripod.
- ❖ Sleeping bag.
- ❖ Excess baggage. Extra luggage can be stored at hotel in UB, free of cost.
- ❖ Optional activities: camel riding, horseback riding, boating, fishing, etc.
- ❖ The traveler 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.

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- ❖ Any circumstances beyond of our control, such as the imposition of quarantine restrictions, weather conditions, etc.

## SOME COMMENTS ABOUT MONGOLIAN TOURS

-This Expedition requires flexibility, tolerance and spirit of adventure of every journey participant due to the remote wilderness areas of Mongolia. Anyhow the tourism infrastructure has somewhat developed. Participants must be people with a strong sense of the adventure, excellent physical conditions, experience in overland OFF ROAD, hiking & trekking. Require the knowing of the basis Mongolian conditions and technics of the activity. All travellers should bring their own guide book for birds, binoculars, telescopes and tripod.

-Your tour involves some days of travelling off the beaten track, with long road journeys by 4WD transport over difficult terrain. Outside UB city, accommodation is in traditional Gers which are circular tents or camping in tents. Facilities at the tourist gers camp are fairly basic, each Ger contains 2 beds, a wood stove, bedding, and a simple chest. Hot water is not always available.

-Tour and Tour Information are subject to change.

-Hotels are based on double occupancy in Ulaanbaatar city.

-Check-in at hotels is at 12:00m/Check-out at hotels is at 12:00m.

-Single gers are NOT available, during the high seasonal in Mongolia. Single supplements reflect sharing in gers and \*single rooms in hotels in Ulaanbaatar.

**-Accommodation in the countryside of Mongolia:** Most tourists will stay in specially constructed gers camps. These camps provide accommodation in the round felt houses used by nomads and usually have separate toilet, washing and restaurant facilities.

**-Mongolia Weight Limit: 15 kgs (33lbs) per person.** Extra luggage can be stored at hotel in UB city, free of cost.

-Please, make your reservations at your earliest convenience, **180-90** days prior to departure. Especially flights to and inside Mongolia are fully booked at this time. Especially flights to the Far Western of Mongolia are fully booked at this time. Seats can be difficult to get in Spring, Summer and in Autumn seasonal. Seats can be difficult to get in Summer seasonal.

**-The internal flight schedule sometimes means we have an extra day at the tourist camp or at hotel in Ulaanbaatar city, the ground agents and leader will adjust the itinerary accordingly when the flight schedule becomes available.**

-These Complete Tours include arrival and departure transfer services to/from Airport. All you have to do is to make necessary International air arrangements.

## SPECIAL PAYMENT SCHEDULE AND THE RESERVATION PROCEDURES FOR BIRD WATCHING NATURE TOURS

-Reservations will be accepted in order of receipt if accompanied by a completed reservation form and a deposit of 500.00 Euro or \$ 600.00 per person **immediately**, to guarantee your internal air ticket, the birder local guide and the specified services.

-The final balance is due minimum **45 days prior** to your arrival in UB city.

-The following cancellation penalties will be assessed. **Air or train cancellation terms are additional.**

**For cancellations received:** Refunds, less a cancellation fee of 500.00 Euro or \$ US 600.00 per person, will be made if we are notified before **45 days** prior to your arrival.

**Up to 90-45 days before departure:** \$600.00 or 500.00 Euro per person penalty applies.

**44-16 days before departure:** 50% of the trip cost per person penalty applies.

**15-0 days before departure:** 100% of the trip cost per person penalty applies-No refunds will be granted after that date.

-All cancellation requests are required in writing. Telephone / verbal cancellation is not accepted.

-We strongly recommend Trip Cancellation, Interruption and Travel insurance.

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**-Price Guarantee:** Your tour price is guaranteed once Samar Magic Tours has received your full payment.  
-If your balance due is not received by the due date before **45 days prior to your arrival**, the reservation will be subject to cancellation without notice. If a booking is made within **45 days** of the departure date, full payments are due immediately.

## DANGERS/ANNOYANCES

Mongolia is a safe place to be. As a visitor you are unlikely to experience any serious problems. However, like anywhere else there are a few things that visitors should be aware of, things that will need extra care and attention. Pick pocketing and bag slitting is most common in crowded places such as the black market, on buses or at tourist attractions such as Gandan Monastery. Bag-slashers attack "obvious tourists" frequently at the following locations: Black Market (bazaar), outside Post Office, Railway station, and crowded bus lines in Ulaanbaatar city. Valuables should be kept in a money belt and kept underneath your clothing or in the security box at your hotel in UB city. Be careful about being seen with large amounts of money outside.

**In the countryside of Mongolia:** there is not any problem. The nomadic families are very hospitable. We ask you to remember that when we visit the nomadic people, we are guests in their homes, so it is appropriate to offer them small gifts in return for their hospitality.

## WHAT IS THE WEATHER LIKE?

Mongolia is vast! Generally, it is recommended to pay your visit from May to September when the grass is green. **Please note when you choose your clothes:** April to May, or on September: warm days and cool nights around (6-10°C). June, July to August: is summertime, days around (15°C-30°C), nights around (10/20°C).

<b>Spring:</b>	<b>March-May</b>	<b>[14° days, 6° nights, sometimes rain]</b>
<b>Summer:</b>	<b>June-August</b>	<b>[28-30° day, 18° nights, dry, sometimes rain]</b>
<b>Autumn:</b>	<b>Sep. –Oct.</b>	<b>[21-16° days, 0° nights, dry]</b>
<b>Winter:</b>	<b>Nov.-Fr.</b>	<b>[-15/-25° days, -30° nights, dry]</b>

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