Discovery Mongolia Gobi Desert-Karakorum Tour

Key Information:
Trip Length: 11 days/10 nights.
Trip Type: Easy to Moderate.
Tour Code: SMT-11D
Specialty Categories: Adventure Expedition, Cultural Journey, Camel riding, Driving tour, E-co Travel, Gobi Desert Expedition, Hiking & Trekking, Horseback riding, Local Culture, Nature & Wildlife.
Meeting/Departure Points: Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia (excluding flights).
Group size: 2-9 adults or more participants.
Season: Daily, June-September.
Total Distance: about 2500kms/1554miles.
Airfare Included: No.
Tour Customizable: Yes

Tour Highlights: Upon your arrival in Ulaanbaatar, meet Samar Magic Tours team. Discovery Mongolia Gobi Desert-Karakorum Tour gets you to the Natural Wonders of Southern regions of Gobi Desert, and Karakorum, in Central Mongolia. The Gobi Desert is the source of many important fossil finds, including the first dinosaur eggs. Despite the harsh conditions, these deserts and the surrounding regions sustain many animals, including black-tailed gazelles, marbled polecats, Bactrian camels, Mongolian wild ass and sand plovers. They are occasionally visited by snow leopards, brown bears, and wolves. Camel riding, meeting nomadic people, staying in a traditional tent, seeing grasslands and beautiful vistas. Explore Yolyn Am Canyon in Gobi Desert. Climb up the towering piles of the Largest Hongor Sand dunes. Expedition to the Spectacular Flaming Cliffs in Gobi Desert, where many fossilized dinosaur bones and eggs have been found. Journey 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. We would be pleased to have you join us!

The Best Time to Travel to Mongolia: The travel season begins in mid-May, when the tourist Gers camps start opening. July and August are the peaks tourist season. September is autumn.

Brief Itinerary:
Day 1- Upon your arrival in Ulaanbaatar, meet Samar Magic Tours team. (L)
Day 2-Ulaanbaatar-Great Statue of Genghis Khan-Terelj National Park. (B)(L)(D)
Day 3-Ulaanbaatar-Bagazarin Chuluu-ruins of Sum Khukh Burd Temple in Middle Gobi. (B)(L)(D)
Day 4-Bagazarin Chuluu-Gobi Desert. (B)(L)(D)
Day 5-Yolion Canyon or Valley of Vultures/Hongor Largest Sand dunes. (B)(L)(D)
Day 6-Bayanzag (Rich in Sxual) or Flaming Cliffs in Gobi Desert. (B)(L)(D)
Day 7-Ruins of Ongi Temple in Middle Gobi. (B)(L)(D)
Day 8-Middle Gobi-Karakorum. (B)(L)(D)
Day 9-Karakorum-Bayangobi desert. (B)(L)(D)
Day 10-Bayangobi desert-Hustain Nuruu Wild Horses National Park-Ulaanbaatar. (B)(L)
Day 11-Departure Mongolia or Post tour (on early request!) (B)
Day-by-day Itinerary:

Day 1- Upon your arrival in Ulaanbaatar (ULN or UB), meet Samar Magic Tours team. Change some money. Transfer to your selected hotel (the check-in time at hotel is after 02:00PM). Welcome lunch in traditional Mongolian Barbecue. 06:00PM - National Performers (concert which includes the Tsam dance, traditional Mongolian singers, dancers, Tuvan throat singing and contortionists). 07:30 P.M.- Transfer to the hotel. Overnight at selected hotel. (L)

Day 2-Breakfast. 09:00AM-Meet Samar Magic Tours team. UB 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. Visit small museum of the fossils of dinosaurs, 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 Genghis or Chinggis 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. Lunch is included in local restaurant. After, drive towards N/E to visit the 40-meter (~133,3 feet) Statue of Genghis or Chinggis 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 drive north further to reach 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 Khetii 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 Terelj National Park. Overnight in tourist fixed Gers camp in Terelj National Park. (B)(L)(C)

Day 3-Breakfast. 08:00 A.M-Meet Samar Magic Tours team and drive south 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 buries 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. Overnight in tourist Gers camp in Bagazarin Chuluu. (B)(L)(D)

Day 4-Breakfast. 07:00 A.M-Drive south towards to Gobi Desert. Free time and rest in your own. Overnight in tourist Gers camp. (B)(L)(D)

Day 5-Breakfast. 07:00 A.M-Drive to explore Yolyn Am Canyon or Valley of Vultures, located in Gobi Gurvansaikhan National Park. The Gobi Gurvansaikhan National Park was established in 1993 and expanded to its current size in 2000. This 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. Explore the area on foot. In the afternoon, a long trip towards to the Largest Hongor Giant Sand dunes in Gobi Desert. Arrive and to be transferred. Free time. Overnight in tourist fixed Gers camp in Hongor sand dunes. (B)(L)(D)

Day 6-Breakfast. 08:00 A.M-Drive to explore and enjoy and climb up to over 200 m high Khongoryn els (Singing sand dunes). Visit an authentic camel breeding family. See their real nomadic life. Walking and ride two humped camels around picturesque desert oasis Khongor river. In the afternoon, 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. Overnight in tourist Gers camp in Bayanzag. (B)(L)(D)

Day 7- Breakfast. 07:00 A.M-A long trip towards north to reach the ruins of Ongi Temple-the unique 17th century sole monastery at the heart of the desert. Ongini khilid (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 khild and Khutag khild, on the North and South of the Ongi Gol river about 18 km from Saikhan-Ovoo sub-provincial center, Dungobi (middle) province. Overnight in tourist fixed Gers camp in Middle Gobi. (B)(L)(D)

Day 8- Breakfast. 07:00 A.M-Continue north 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. Now there is a museum and restored. Erdene Zuu monastery retains much of its ancient glory and is well worth visiting. Overnight in tourist Gers camp in Karakorum. (B)(L)(D)
Day 9-Breakfast. 08:00 A.M.-In the morning, we visit the legendary 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. 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. In the afternoon, 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 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. Accommodation in Tourist Gers Fixed Camp in Elsen Tasarkhai sand dunes. (B)(L)(D)

Day 10-Breakfast. 07:00 A.M.-Drive back to Ulaanbaatar. Stop in route, to visit & explore Hustai 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 100kms/62 miles west from the capital Ulaanbaatar. The flagship species for the Hustai Nuruu Nature Reserve is the reintroduced Przewalski or takhi horse. Currently the park is home to a hundred fifty specimens. Visit the small local museum of the wild horses. Continuous drive. Arrive and transfer to hotel. Shopping for souvenirs and cashmere. Transfer to hotel. Overnight at selected hotel. (B)(L)

Day 11-Breakfast. By hotels policy check-out time is before 12:00 noon. Transfer. Departure Mongolia. (B). End of our services.

What's Included?
2 nights at selected hotel in Ulaanbaatar, based on double indicated room, with daily breakfast.
8 nights in the tourist gers camps, based on Ger for 2 people.
Food as specified (B-breakfast, L-lunch, D-dinner), including one bottle of mineral water.
English speaking guide.
All transportation on tourist bus or tourist micro-bus with A/C in private, in Ulaanbaatar city and Terelj National Park, including the petrol.
All transportation on comfortable 4WD Land Cruiser Toyota 4x4 vehicle with A/C in private outside of Ulaanbaatar city, including the petrol.
Entrance fees to all specified protected areas, national parks, museums, and the monasteries.
One Mongolian traditional folk songs concert.
Camel riding on Honorg Largest Sand dunes (1 hr).
Meeting Nomadic people.
Taxes and Services.
Letter-visa support (if necessary).

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 an immediately deposit of $ US 500 or 500 € per person, 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.

Refunds: Deposits are non-refundable.
60-16 working days prior to departure: 50% of Land Cost.
15-00 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. Early check-in fee is required. By hotels policy check-out time is before 12:00 noon. Late check out extra fee is required.

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.