



SAMAR MAGIC TOURS
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Adventure & Cultural & Expeditions, since 1997!



**MONGOLIA GRAND SPECIAL GROUP TOUR TO FOR THE RELIGIOUS FESTIVAL
DANSHIG NAADAM WITH SAMAR MAGIC TOURS**

MINIMUM DURATION: 11 days / 10 nights

TOUR CODE: **SMT-DANSHIGNAADAM-11D**

MINIMUM GROUP: **3-16** adults or more participants

STARTS/ENDS IN: ULAANBAATAR (INTERNATIONAL FLIGHTS OR TRAINS ARE NOT INCLUDED)

CHECK GROUP RATES AND HOTELS: **CONTACT**

Prices, services, and other information about the products detailed on this page and on the website www.samarmagictours.com are not binding and may change without prior notice.



MAP OF MONGOLIA



TOUR DESCRIPTION: We will begin the route at the new “Genghis” Khan Airport in Ulaanbaatar (inaugurated on July 3, 2021, located 52 km / 32.3 miles away, about +**2-3** hours of travel, depending on traffic), the capital of Mongolia, with reception by the **Samar Magic Tours** team.

The **Danshig Naadam Festival** began to be celebrated annually **by decree of the Government of Mongolia** starting in **2025**, during the last 7 days of **June** (it was previously held in **August**), in the **western** part of Ulaanbaatar (in a place known as **Hui Doloon Hudag**), approximately 35 km (18 miles) away. The **Danshig Naadam Festival** celebrates ancient Buddhist traditions, such as the **Tsam Dance**, and is dedicated to the first Buddhist leader of Mongolia, **Zanabazar**. “**Khuree Tsam**,” which means **religious mask dance**, was first introduced to Mongolia in the early 18th century. Dancers wearing masks perform the movements of gods and deities as if the gods had physically descended to **Jambutiva** (“earth” in Tibetan). **Visitors can attend Naadam Festival’s activities such as Mongolian wrestling, horse racing, and archery, as well as musical performances. This is an excellent opportunity to photograph Buddhist dances, traditional wrestling competitions, horse races, and archery contests.**

Spiritual journeys to Mongolia with **Samar Magic Tours** focus on **the experience of Tibetan Buddhism**, combining the exploration of desert and mountain landscapes with visits to two of Mongolia’s most important monasteries: the great “**Gandan**” **Monastery** in Ulaanbaatar and the “**Erdene Zuu**” **Monastery** in Karakorum (Central Mongolia). These trips offer the opportunity to connect with **nomadic culture, meditate in sacred places**, and learn about the Kalachakra Tantra prophecies, which invoke the ideal of **Shambhala** as a hidden Buddhist kingdom



- **In the first part of this great journey, we will visit the "Gandantegchinlin" Monastery, or "Gandan" Monastery, a historic Buddhist monastery in Ulaanbaatar, known as the "Great Place of Complete Joy." Founded in 1809, it was the only active monastery in the country between 1944 and 1989, and today houses several hundred monks, serving as the center of Buddhism in Mongolia. Its main attraction is an imposing statue about 25 meters high. Inside, visitors can witness traditional Buddhist ceremonies, including collective prayers, mantras, and rituals seeking inner peace and spiritual balance.**



History and Meaning of the Gandan Monastery:

Foundation: The monastery was founded in 1809.

Persecution and Restoration: It was closed during the Stalinist persecutions in 1939 but became the only active monastery in the country until 1989.

Reactivation: Beginning in 1990, it was restored and revitalized, and today it serves as an important center for Buddhism in Mongolia.

Main Attractions

Statue of Migjid Chenrezig (Avalokiteśvara), the Bodhisattva of Compassion: The most famous feature is a statue over 25 meters high of the Bodhisattva of Compassion, made of gilded bronze and adorned with precious stones.

Buildings: It houses several Tibetan-style buildings and serves as the main Buddhist study center.

Teaching Center: Gandan hosts a Buddhist university where monks study philosophy, rituals, and practices. Courses in Tibetan, Sanskrit, and English are also offered.

Religious Activities: Daily ceremonies and rituals, such as chanting and prayer, are held and open to both locals and tourists. The monastery's prayer drums create a uniquely spiritual atmosphere.

Other Temples and Colleges: The complex includes several temples and colleges, many of which have been rebuilt and restored since the 1990s.

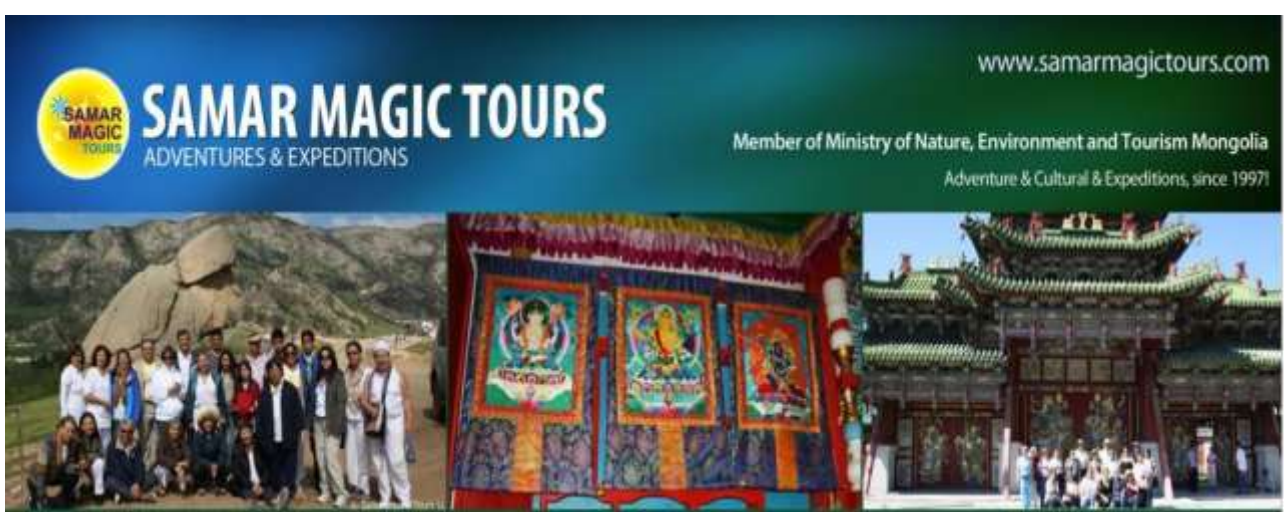
Cultural Environment: The monastery remains an active and vital spiritual center, offering visitors a true experience of the heart of Buddhism in Mongolia's capital.

About the Statue of Migjid Chenrezig (Avalokiteśvara):

The original statue was made of gold and bronze and erected in 1913 through donations from Mongolians for the Bogdo Khan (the Eighth Javzandamba, who had become Emperor of Mongolia) to help him recover his eyesight. The statue stood 32 meters (105 feet) tall and symbolized Mongolia's independence from the Manchu system. Twenty-four years later, in 1937, Soviet troops demolished it—its remains are believed to have been used to make bullets during the Siege of Leningrad.

After the democratic revolution of 1990, the government guaranteed freedom of religion. The reconstruction of the statue symbolizes the goodwill of the government and its commitment to ensuring security, freedom, and independence. The Mongolian government and people placed great importance on its rebuilding.

The **Dalai Lama** inaugurated the new statue of **Megjid-Janraiseg** (meaning "The Lord Who Looks in All Directions") in 1996, after five years of work. This 25-meter-high statue, weighing more than 20 tons, is made from copper mined in Erdenet. It is gilded with gold donated by Nepal and Japan and wrapped in gold-embroidered brocade and over 100 kilograms (220 pounds) of silk. The statue contains **2,286 precious stones, 27 tons of medicinal plants, 334 sutras, and 2 million mantras**. One thousand small statues of the deity Amitabha



(Ayush) surround it. Two stone lion statues are placed nearby according to Buddhist sculptural tradition.

The Temples that Make Up the Monastery:

The first temple of the monastery was built under the initiative of Luvsanchultimjigmed Dambijantsan, the fifth incarnation of the Bogd. Constructed by Mongolia's finest architects, the temple was primarily made of wood and earth according to traditional Mongolian architectural concepts of that period, with roofs covered in gold. It also housed highly valuable symbolic Buddhist decorations. Many statues and images of Bodhisattvas within Gandan hold great significance. Among them are:

- A bronze statue of **Zanabazar**, the first living Buddha incarnation, sculpted by himself at his mother's request;
- The *Tripitaka* (Gangiur), a collection of Buddhist teachings in 108 volumes;
- A silver statue of the famous Tsongkhapa of Amdo, made in the 16th century in Western Mongolia.

The **Vajradhara Temple**, built between 1840 and 1841, is made of stone and brick with ceramic roofs and golden decorations. On the main altar of the Dzu Temple stands a statue of Buddha and his two disciples, created in Dolon Nuur, Inner Mongolia, in the early 19th century. Religious services are held there daily.

The "**Dedanprovan**" building, built in the early 20th century, was originally a two-story library for the fifth incarnation of the living Buddha, Luvsanchultimjigmed Dambijantsan. It features ceramic roofs and valuable golden decorations. In 1904, the 13th Dalai Lama stayed there. Today, this fifth building, known as the "Library," holds more than 50,000 books and 1 million sutras written in Mongolian, Tibetan, and Sanskrit. It also preserves 16th-century surgical instruments.

The temples display the *Eight Noble Symbols*, *Damdin Choijil*, Mahayana and Hinayana representations, and sixteen Arhats crafted by Mongolian, Tibetan, and Indian artists. Embroideries and paintings depicting Bodhisattvas by Mongolian artists, as well as numerous satirical drawings and illustrations, are also found throughout the monastery.

The **Dechingalav Datsan** teaching center was originally located in downtown Ulaanbaatar before being rebuilt within the monastery in 1992. Every spring, this school performs the **Kalachakra Ritual**. Its construction began in 1800 after the Fourth Bogd Jevzundamba visited the Kalachakra Zuu Baruun Monastery in Tibet. At that time, Lkhokh Jalsrai Geegen introduced him to the *Kalachakra* (Wheel of Time) philosophy. The Bogd inaugurated the **Dechen Gelpa Datsan** in 1801, which functioned until its closure in 1937.

When His Holiness the Dalai Lama performed a **Kalachakra initiation** in Varanasi, India, in 1990, he announced that the next initiation would be held in Mongolia at Gandantegchinlen Monastery. Preparations began immediately, and the datsan was reconstructed. The initiation took place in 1995. Before that, Tibetan masters visited to teach local lamas how to create a



sand mandala. During **the summer of 1995**, the **Dalai Lama** visited the monastery and conducted the initiation. Since then, the **Kalachakra ritual** has been held annually on the 15th day of the last month of spring (lunar calendar).

The **Idgachoinzinlin Teaching Center** was founded by the Eighth Bogd Jevzundamba, based on the works of Tibetan scholar Sera Jibzunpa. The datsan was destroyed in 1938 but reopened in 1990 thanks to the efforts of his former disciples Tserendemchig and Naidan. A new temple was inaugurated in 2004.

The **Tashchoimphele Teaching Center** was established in 1756 by **the Second Bogd Jebzundamba and Manjusri Khutagtu**. It was destroyed in 1938 and restored in 1990; the temple was completed in 1994. The **Gungaachailing Center**, founded in 1809 by the Fourth Bogd Jetsundamba, taught the works of the Tibetan scholar Panchen Sonamdagva. The datsan trained over 3,000 lamas, including renowned Mongolian masters such as Agvanrinchen, Darp Pandita, and Zava Damdin Gavju. It resumed activity in 1990 and continues to train new disciples.

The **Mongolian Buddhist University**, founded in 1970, combines modern education with traditional methods. It offers a four-year post-secondary program with two main divisions:

- **Internal Sciences Section:** Buddhist philosophy and chanting.
- **General Knowledge Section:** Tibetan, Sanskrit, and English languages, traditional medicine, and astrology.

The **Badam Yoga Teaching Center**, built in 1745 by **the Second Bogd Jebzundamba**, was devoted to chanting and prayer recitation. It ceased activity in 1938 and reopened in 2002 at the **Geser Temple**, on the eastern side of Gandan. Its main goal is to practice traditional Mongolian medicine and astrology, predicting auspicious and inauspicious dates for events. Doctors diagnose illnesses and treat patients accordingly.

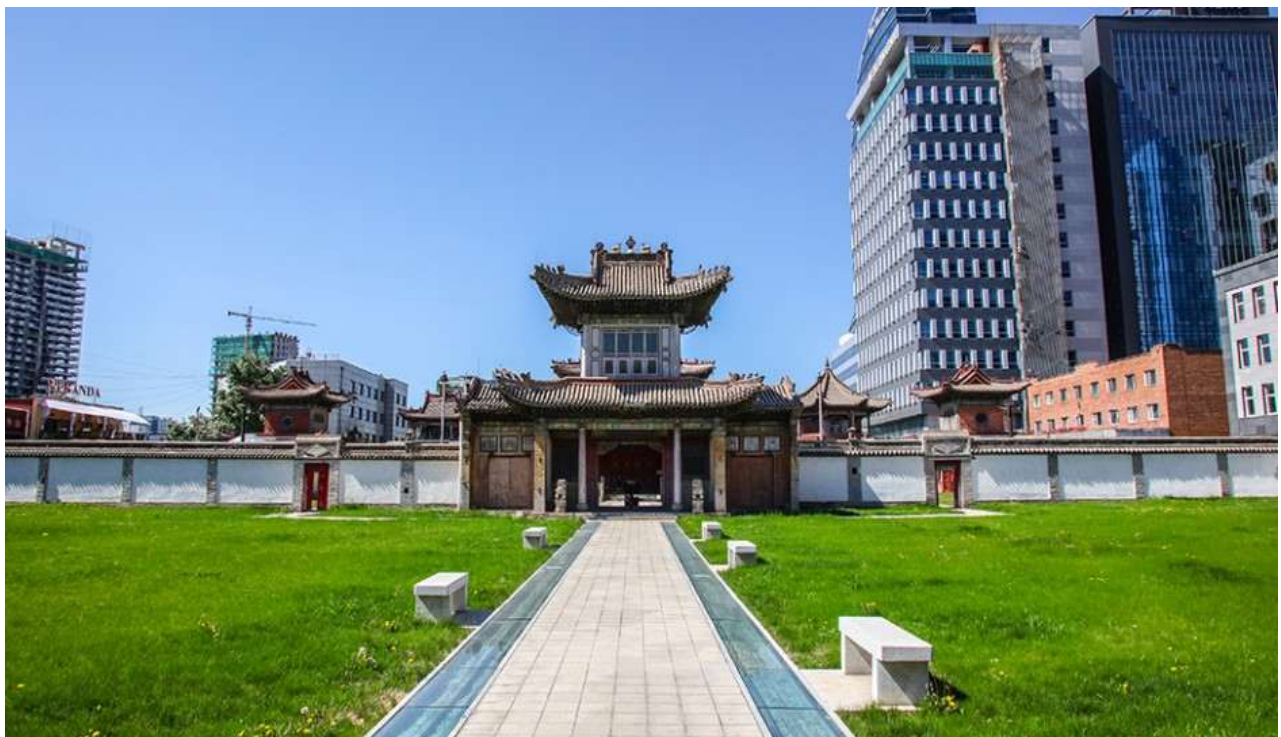
The **Lud Teaching Center**, founded in 1739 by **the Second Bogd Jebzundamba**, was closed in 1938 and reopened fifty years later, in 1998. It specializes in tantric services and ritual chants.

Additionally, there are **three Buddhist philosophy colleges (datsans)**, one of **medicine and astrology**, and **two tantric colleges**:

- **Dashchoimphele College**, founded in 1736 by the Second Jebtsundamba, follows the *Gunchen Jamyan Shadba* principle of the Tibetan Gelug tradition.
- **Gungaachoilin College**, founded in 1809, follows the *Banchen Sodnamdagva* principle.
- **Idgachoinzinlin College**, founded in 1912, follows the *Sera Jebtsunba* principle.
- **College of Medicine and Astrology**, teaching traditional Mongolian medicine and astrology.



- **Jud Tantric College** and **Kalachakra Tantric College**, where students are trained in tantric Buddhist practices and rituals.



In Ulaanbaatar, we will also visit the **Choijin Lama Monastery-Museum**: This monastery-museum, a masterpiece of Buddhist architecture, offers an in-depth look into Mongolian Buddhist teachings and practices. Visitors can admire its sculptures, paintings, and ritual objects, connecting with the spirituality that continues to thrive in the country today. The complex consists of **six temples**, originally occupied by **Choijin Lama Luvsankhaidav**, the brother of the **Eighth Bogd Jetsun Dampa Khan**, who was the **State Oracle** and Khutugtu of "Precious Wisdom and Clear Devotion" at the time. The complex was initiated in 1904 and completed in 1908 in honor of the State Oracle Lama Lubsanhaidub, brother of the Eighth Bogd Khan. Originally, it was a Buddhist temple complex, comprising a main temple and five subsidiary temples. It remained active until 1937, when it was closed during the height of the Stalinist repression against Buddhism and other religious traditions.

Restoration of the Yadam Temple: Faced with deterioration, one of Mongolia's few surviving temples from the period of religious repression received international assistance for its preservation. Following the creation of a master conservation plan in collaboration with the Arts Council of Mongolia (ACM), the World Monuments Fund (WMF) organized a scientific advisory team to support the **restoration of the Yadam Temple** within the **Choijin Lama**



Museum complex. This initiative also promoted local capacity building focused on traditional craftsmanship and conservation techniques.

Funded by the U.S. Ambassadors Fund for Cultural Preservation (AFCP) and the U.S. Embassy in Ulaanbaatar, restoration works began in May 2022 and concluded in October 2023, when the official inauguration ceremony took place.

The **main temple** features an **18th-century gilded statue of Buddha Sakyamuni**, with a **statue of Choijin Lama Luvsankhaidav** to the Buddha's right and the **embalmed body of Baldan Choephel** to his left. The temple also holds a **rich collection of religious instruments, thangka paintings, silk embroideries, wood carvings, statues**, and an **impressive assortment of cham dance masks**.

An annex within the temple contains another structure known as "**Zankhang**", along with a **central courtyard** where Choijin Lama Luvsankhaidav performed **State Oracle trance rituals**.

The "Zuu" Temple, dedicated to **Buddha Shakyamuni**, displays papier-mâché sculptures of Buddha in his past, present, and future forms. The 16 Arhat disciples of Buddha are painted on the temple walls, accompanied by the four Maharaja protectors seated in cave-like niches on either side of the entrance.

The "Yidam" Temple served as **Choijin Lama Luvsankhaidav's** private prayer temple, and was once closed to the public. It is now open for visitors. At its center stands a gilded bronze sculpture of one of the 84 Indian yogis, or Mahasiddhas. Also represented are tantric deities such as Kalachakra, Mahamaya, and Vajradhara, depicted with their shakti (consorts) in meditative postures symbolizing power and divine energy.

The fourth temple, known as the "**Amugulang" or "Peace" Temple**, is dedicated to the first Mongolian reincarnation of **Bogd Jevzundamba, Öndör Gegeen Zanabazar**.

The Choijin Lama Monastery-Museum preserves a rich collection of Buddhist artifacts. During Mongolia's monastic golden age, nearly 700 monasteries were built, yet the Choijin Lama Temple stands out for its distinctive history and artistic character. It represents a sublime legacy of Mongolian craftsmanship, fine arts, and sculpture from the late 19th and early 20th centuries. **Located in central Ulaanbaatar**, directly south of Sukhbaatar Square, the museum is open year-round (with reduced hours during winter months).

The explanations of the almost overwhelming collection are not as detailed as they could be, but each temple has room attendants who can provide additional information.

The museum itself, along with its exhibits, also reflects the revival of Buddhism in Mongolia after communist repression, featuring a particularly fascinating exhibition on the Buddhist cham dance and its modern-day resurgence.



The **Danshig Naadam Festival** began to be celebrated annually **by decree of the Government of Mongolia** starting in **2025, during the last 7 days of June** (previously it was celebrated in **August**), in the west of the city of Ulaanbaatar (in a place known as **Hui Doloon Hudag**), approximately 35 km (18 miles) away. The **Danshig Naadam Festival** celebrates the ancient Buddhist traditions, such as the Tsam dance, and is dedicated to the first Buddhist leader of Mongolia, **Zanabazar**. "**Khuree Tsam**," which means religious mask dance, was first introduced in Mongolia at the beginning of the 18th century. The masked dancers perform the movements of gods and deities, as if the gods had physically arrived in Jambutiva ("earth" in Tibetan). Visitors can attend the **Naadam Festival activities, such as Mongolian wrestling, horse racing, and archery, as well as musical performances. This is a great opportunity to photograph Buddhist dances, Mongolian national wrestling competitions, horse races, and archery contests.**



– In the third part of this great journey, we will head **west** to the **legendary Karakorum**, the ancient capital of the Mongol Empire, where **Genghis Khan** began the construction of the capital in the year **1220** (later destroyed by the **Manchu soldiers**). In this place, we will visit the **Erdene Zuu Monastery**, founded in the **16th century**, the **oldest Buddhist monastery in Mongolia**, representing the enduring influence of Buddhism in the country. With its **impressive walls and white stupas**, **Erdene Zuu** stands as a symbol of **Mongolian faith and cultural resilience**. During the visit, participants will be able to observe **monastic life** and take part in **traditional rituals**.

The Erdene Zuu Monastery: It is located in the province of **Uvurkhangaï**, about **2 kilometers** from the center of **Kharkhorin (Karakorum)**, in the southern area of the ancient capital of the Mongol Empire, Karakorum. It is part of the **World Heritage Site** known as the **Cultural Landscape of the Orkhon Valley**.

History of the Erdene Zuu Monastery: It began to be built by order of **Abtai Sain Khan** in **1585**, after the second introduction of Tibetan Buddhism in Mongolia and following a meeting in **1580**, during which the Dalai Lama of that time instructed him to do so. Blocks from the ruins of **Karakorum** were partly used in its construction. The work was considered complete almost **three centuries later** with the construction of a wall surrounding the



monastery. The sides of this wall measure **400 meters** long, and it contains a total of **100 stupas**, spaced about **15 meters** apart. It was probably intended to have **108 stupas**, the sacred number in Buddhism and the number of beads on a Buddhist rosary, although that number was never reached.

The temple walls were painted, and the **Chinese-style roofs** were covered with green tiles. From its early days, the monastery had a large number of temples, up to **1,000 resident monks**, and hosted about **300 gers** (the traditional felt tents of Mongolian nomads), since monks lived both inside the monastery and around its walls.

It suffered damage during the **Manchu invasions** in the **1680s**, although Chinese pressure in earlier years had already caused a certain abandonment, as had happened before with the ancient Mongol capital and base of the monastery, Karakorum. Several **reconstruction projects** followed: the first led personally by **Zanabazar** after his return in **1701**, which also served to reconsecrate the temples; another began around **1760** and was completed in **1796**; and one more, led by the Mongolian architect **Manzushir**, started in **1806** and finished in **1814**.

After the completion of this reform in the early **19th century**, the monastery contained **62 complete temples** combining **Chinese and Tibetan influences** and was inhabited by more than **1,000 lamas** during its period of greatest splendor.

In **1939**, leader **Horloogiyn Choybalsan** ordered the **destruction** of the monastery as part of a **Stalinist purge** that devastated hundreds of monasteries across Mongolia, killed more than **10,000 monks**, and sent many others to **Siberia**. Only **five temples** remained (including the **three main ones** still standing today), a few small buildings, and the outer wall with its stupas. The temples were converted into **museums** in **1947**.

It is often said that this part of the monastery was spared from destruction due to **pressures from Joseph Stalin**. A researcher claimed that these pressures were related to the brief visit of **U.S. Vice President Henry A. Wallace's delegation** to Mongolia in **1944**.



Despite the devastation, a surprising number of **statues, tsam masks, and parchment paintings** were saved by being **buried in nearby mountains** or **hidden in the homes of local residents**. Even today, **thefts still occur**, and in the early **2000s, alarm systems** had to be installed following the disappearance of several statues.





Erdene Zuu could only continue to exist as a museum because the only monastery officially permitted to remain active in Mongolia was the **Gandantegchinlen Monastery** in Ulaanbaatar. Even after its transformation into a museum, it did not open for this purpose until **1965**, almost twenty years later. This changed in **1990**, when the monastery was returned to the lamas, and **Erdene Zuu** once again became a place of worship. Today, it remains an **active Buddhist monastery** as well as a **museum open to tourists**.



The three large temples that survived the purge are **dedicated to the three stages of Buddha's life**: childhood, adolescence, and adulthood.

1. **The western temple**, built by **Abtai Khan** and his son, is dedicated to the **adult Buddha**. Inside, on either side of **Sakyamuni** (the historical Buddha), there are statues of **Divangar** (from Sanskrit *Dīpankara*), the **past Buddha**, on the left, and **Maidar** (from Sanskrit *Maitreya*), the **future Buddha**, on the right. The latter is one of the most popular bodhisattvas—a deity who delays his own attainment of nirvana to guide others. In fact, **Zanabazar himself**, after one of his visits to Tibet, performed a series of ceremonies that included a **circumambulation of the monastery** while carrying an image of this Buddha, a practice that became traditional in Mongolian Buddhism and is still occasionally performed today. Other objects displayed include a **golden "Wheel of Eternity"**, the **Naimin Takhel** or **Eight Auspicious Symbols** (in this case: umbrella, fish, vase, flowers, cards, fortune diagram, victory banner, and wheel), figurines from the **17th and 18th centuries**, and traditional



decorations called **balin**, made from wheat dough and richly decorated, accompanied by **mutton and goose fat**.

2. **The main and central temple**, known as **Zuu of Buddha**, has an entrance flanked by the gods **Tsagaan Mahagal** (from Sanskrit *Sita Mahākāla*, the White Mahakala) on the left, and **Baldan Lkham** (from Tibetan *Palden Lhamo*, Sanskrit *Shri Devi*; Mongolian name *Ukin tengri*) on the right. Both are **Dharmapalas**, wrathful deities with terrifying appearances who are emanations of bodhisattvas. They represent their furious actions and serve to destroy and remove obstacles that stand before sincere followers of the doctrine. Their title *Dharmapala* literally means **defenders or protectors of the Dharma (law)**.

Inside, on either side of the **child Buddha**, stand **Otoch Manal** (from Mongolian *Оточ Манла*, Sanskrit *Bhaiṣajyaguru*), the **Medicine Buddha**, on the right, and **Amindavaa** (from Mongolian *Аминдаваа*, Sanskrit *Amitābha*, translated as *Tsaglasī ügei gereltü*), the **Buddha of Infinite Light and Justice**, on the left. The temple also contains statues of **Niam and Dabaa**, the gods of the **sun and moon** respectively, several **Tsam masks, guardian figures** carved in aggressive postures from the **16th and 17th centuries**, and samples of works by the revered Buddhist sculptor **Zanabazar**.

3. **The eastern temple** houses a statue representing the **adolescent Buddha**. The statue to his right is **Tsongkhapa**, who founded the **Gelug tradition** or "Yellow Hat Sect" of Tibetan Buddhism. The figure to his left is **Migjid Janraisig** (from Mongolian, Tibetan *Jainraisig*, Sanskrit *Avalokiteśvara*, translated into Mongolian as *Nidüber üjegci*), the **Bodhisattva of Compassion**.

(Source: Wikipedia)



On the way back to **Ulaanbaatar**, we will explore the **Uvgun Temple**, located in the **Khogno Khan Mountain Nature Reserve**. This site was destroyed in the **1930s**, but it still remains an interesting destination and is included in various tours in Mongolia. The **Uvgun Temple** was built in the **17th century** by **Zanabazar**, an important religious figure in Mongolia. The Park offers a **unique landscape** where **taiga and steppes** meet, and to the north lie the **Elsen Tasarkhai dunes (Bayangobi Desert)**.



– In the **last part** of this great journey, we will head **northeast** to visit the **Grand Equestrian Statue of Genghis Khan**. The statue symbolically points **east**, toward his **birthplace** (Khentii Province). At the base of the monumental complex stands a **visitor center**, 10 meters high, with **36** columns representing the **36** Khans of **Genghis from Ligdan Khan**. It was inaugurated in **2008**. Visitors can ascend to the **head of the horse**, through its **chest and neck**, where they can enjoy a **panoramic view**. The area around the main statue will be surrounded by **200** designed Gers (yet to be built), following the **hoof-print pattern** used by Mongol tribes in the **13th** century.

The **museum** within the complex features **exhibitions** related to the **Bronze Age** and **Xiongnu archaeological cultures** of Mongolia, highlighting **daily tools, belt buckles, knives, sacred animal figures**, etc.; and a second exhibition on the **Great Khanate period** of the **13th and 14th centuries**, displaying **ancient tools, jewelry**, and some **Nestorian crosses and rosaries**. Adjacent to the museum is a **tourist recreation center** covering **212** hectares.



At the base of the statue, visitors can see a **replica of the legendary Golden Whip** of the Great Khan. Near the **Grand Statue of Genghis Khan**, visitors can take **beautiful photos** with **Kazakh people and their Golden Eagles**, enjoy **camel rides on Bactrian camels**, **horseback riding on Mongolian horses across the steppe**, and try **archery (extra charge paid directly on site)**.



Next, we will continue toward the **Gorkhi-Terelj National Park**, located in the **northeast**, at an altitude of **1,600** meters above sea level, featuring **tall Mesozoic granite rock formations, mountains, steppes, alpine forests**, and **large rock formations** of curious shapes from the **Mesozoic era**, such as the **Turtle Rock**. It was declared a **National Park in 1990** and covers an area of **300,000** hectares. Stop for **photos, souvenir shopping**, and an **easy walk** to the **Great Turtle Rock**, the symbol of Gorkhi-Terelj National Park. Take an **easy hike** to the **Arryabal Meditation Temple**, a **Buddhist meditation center** located on a



mountain slope, notable for its **108** steps leading up to the temple, a **gallery with Buddhist paintings**, and a **thangka depicting the myth of Shambhala**, located at the top of a hill.

The Stairs: There are **108 steps**, symbolizing the number **108** as an **auspicious figure in Buddhism** and representing **the elephant's trunk**.

Gallery of Buddhist Philosophy: On the ground floor, there are **220** paintings by **Bayantsagaan**, depicting various **Buddhist beliefs**.

Main Temple: Dedicated to the **Kalachakra philosophy** ("the Wheel of Time") and contains a **thangka of the Shambhala myth** and a **Kalachakra mandala**. **Buddha Sculpture:** A **modern Buddha sculpture** is carved into the rock of a nearby hill.

MONGOLIA GRAND SPECIAL GROUP TOUR TO FOR THE RELIGIOUS FESTIVAL DANSHIG NAADAM WITH SAMAR MAGIC TOURS

Ulaanbaatar – Danshig Naadam Festival – Bayangobi Desert – Karakorum (Central Mongolia) – Erdene Zuu Monastery – Uvgun Temple in Khogno Khaan Mountain Nature Reserve – Ulaanbaatar – Grand Equestrian Statue of Genghis Khan – Arraybal Meditation Temple in Gorkhi/Terelj National Park – Ulaanbaatar

BRIEF ITINERARY:

B–Breakfast, **L**–Lunch, **D**–Dinner

Day 1: Arrival in Ulaanbaatar (UBN) / Meeting with the **Samar Magic Tours** team at the reception of the new "Genghis" Khan Airport. Transfer to the hotel (52 km / 32.3 miles, **+2-3** hours of travel, depending on traffic). If the clients arrive in Ulaanbaatar on **OM138 (Mongolia Airlines)** from **FRAN (Frankfurt, Germany)** at **05:10AM** or on **TK236 (Turkish Airlines)** from **IST (Istanbul, Turkey)** at **07:10AM**. **Clients must pay for early check-in (early access to hotel rooms). Rooms can only be used starting at 2:00PM on the day of arrival. No activities or meals are included today. Rest at the hotel to adapt to the local time.** Selected Hotel.

Day 2: 09:00AM – Meeting with the **Samar Magic Tours** team at the hotel reception / Grand City Tour in Ulaanbaatar / Welcome Lunch / **06:00PM** – Mongolian National Concert. Selected Hotel. **(B)(L)**

Days 3–4: Ulaanbaatar / **Danshig Naadam Festival** / Ulaanbaatar. Selected Hotel. **(B)(L)**

Day 5: Ulaanbaatar / Bayangobi Desert / Excursion on Bactrian Camels / Karakorum. Tourist Gers Camp. **(B)(L)(D)**

Day 6: Karakorum: Monument to the Mongol States / Erdene Zuu Monastery / Karakorum Museum / Monuments in the Orkhon Valley. Tourist Gers Camp. **(B)(L)(D)**



Day 7: Karakorum / Uvgun Temple in Khogno Khaan Mountain Nature Reserve / Ulaanbaatar. Selected Hotel. **(B)(L)**

Day 8: Ulaanbaatar / Grand Equestrian Statue of Genghis Khan / Arryabal Meditation Temple in Gorkhi/Terelj National Park / **Deluxe** Resort. **(B)(L)**

Day 9: Gorkhi/Terelj National Park / Ulaanbaatar. Selected Hotel. **(B)(L)**

Day 10: Grand City Tour in Ulaanbaatar / Golden Buddha Statue / Last Shopping. Selected Hotel. **(B)(L)**

Day 11: Hotel check-out in Ulaanbaatar is at **12:00PM**. Meeting with the **Samar Magic Tours** team at the hotel reception. Transfer to the new "Genghis" Khan Airport (52 km / 32.3 miles, **4-5** hours of travel, depending on traffic in Ulaanbaatar). **Departure from Mongolia. END OF THE TOUR. (B)**



GRAND SPECIAL GROUP TOUR TO MONGOLIA FOR THE RELIGIOUS FESTIVAL DANSHIG NAADAM IN JUNE WITH SAMAR MAGIC TOURS

DETAILED ITINERARY:

DAY 1:

ARRIVAL IN ULAANBAATAR / FREE DAY TO ADJUST TO THE TIME ZONE

Arrival at Ulaanbaatar's new "Genghis" Khan Airport, capital of Mongolia. Reception by the **Samar Magic Tours** team. **Exchange money at the banks in the airport.** Transfer to the hotel (52 km / 32.3 miles, + **2-3** hours of travel, depending on traffic). **Rooms can be used starting from 2:00PM on the day of arrival. Early check-in must be paid in advance if tourists wish to access their rooms early or leave luggage at the hotel reception until 2:00PM. No activities or meals today.** Rest at the hotel to adapt to the local time. Accommodation at the selected hotel.

DAY 2:

GRAND CITY TOUR IN ULAANBAATAR / WELCOME LUNCH / MONGOLIAN NATIONAL CONCERT

Breakfast and Lunch

09:00AM – Meeting with the **Samar Magic Tours** team at the hotel reception. **Panoramic**



tour of the city of Ulaanbaatar: visit the highest and most important Buddhist Monastery in Mongolia "**Gandan,**" which houses a **25-meter-high Buddha**. **The Gandan Monastery** was founded in **1809** under the name "**Yellow Temple.**" It contains a library with the Buddhist scriptures of Gandjuur (08 volumes), their commentaries (225 volumes), and other scriptures written using nine precious stones. It was declared a **State Heritage site** in 1994. Next, visit the **Choijin Lama Monastery Museum**, a masterpiece of Buddhist architecture offering insight into Mongolian Buddhist teachings and practices. Observe its sculptures, paintings, and rituals that connect with spirituality still practiced in the country. The complex consists of six temples originally occupied **by the brother of the Eighth Bogd Jetsun Dampa Khan, Choijin Lama Luvsankhaidav**, who was the state oracle and Khutugtu of "Precious Wisdom and Clear Devotion" at the time. **Visit Sukhbaatar Central Square and the "Genghis" Khan Monument Complex**, built in 2006 on the occasion of the 800th Anniversary of the Founding of the Mongol State or Mongol Empire (1206–2006). **Welcome Lunch included in a traditional local restaurant. 06:00PM – Enjoy a Mongolian folk show with singing and dancing.** Transfer to the hotel. Accommodation at the selected hotel. **Dinner not included, on your own.**

DAYS 3–4:

ULAANBAATAR / RELIGIOUS FESTIVAL DANSHIG NAADAM / ULAANBAATAR

Breakfast and Lunch

Breakfast. **07:00AM** – Meeting with the **Samar Magic Tours** team at the hotel reception. Then, departure **westward** to attend the **Danshig Naadam Festival**, held annually since 2025 by decree of the Government of Mongolia, **during the last seven days of June** (previously held in **August**), in the west of Ulaanbaatar (in a place known as **Hui Doloon Hudag**), approximately 35 km (18 miles) away. The Danshig Naadam Festival celebrates ancient Buddhist traditions such as the Tsam dance and is dedicated to the first Buddhist leader of Mongolia, **Zanabazar**. "**Khuree Tsam,**" meaning "religious mask dance," was introduced in Mongolia in the early 18th century. Masked dancers perform the movements of gods and deities as if the gods had physically arrived in Jambutiva ("earth" in Tibetan). You may attend the **Naadam Festival activities, such as Mongolian wrestling, horse racing, archery, and musical performances. This is an excellent opportunity to photograph Buddhist dances, national wrestling competitions, horse races, and archery events. Picnic lunches included on site. Return to Ulaanbaatar** (35 km / 22 miles, +2 hours of travel, depending on city traffic). Transfer to the hotel. Accommodation at the selected hotel. **Dinner not included, on your own.**

DAY 5:

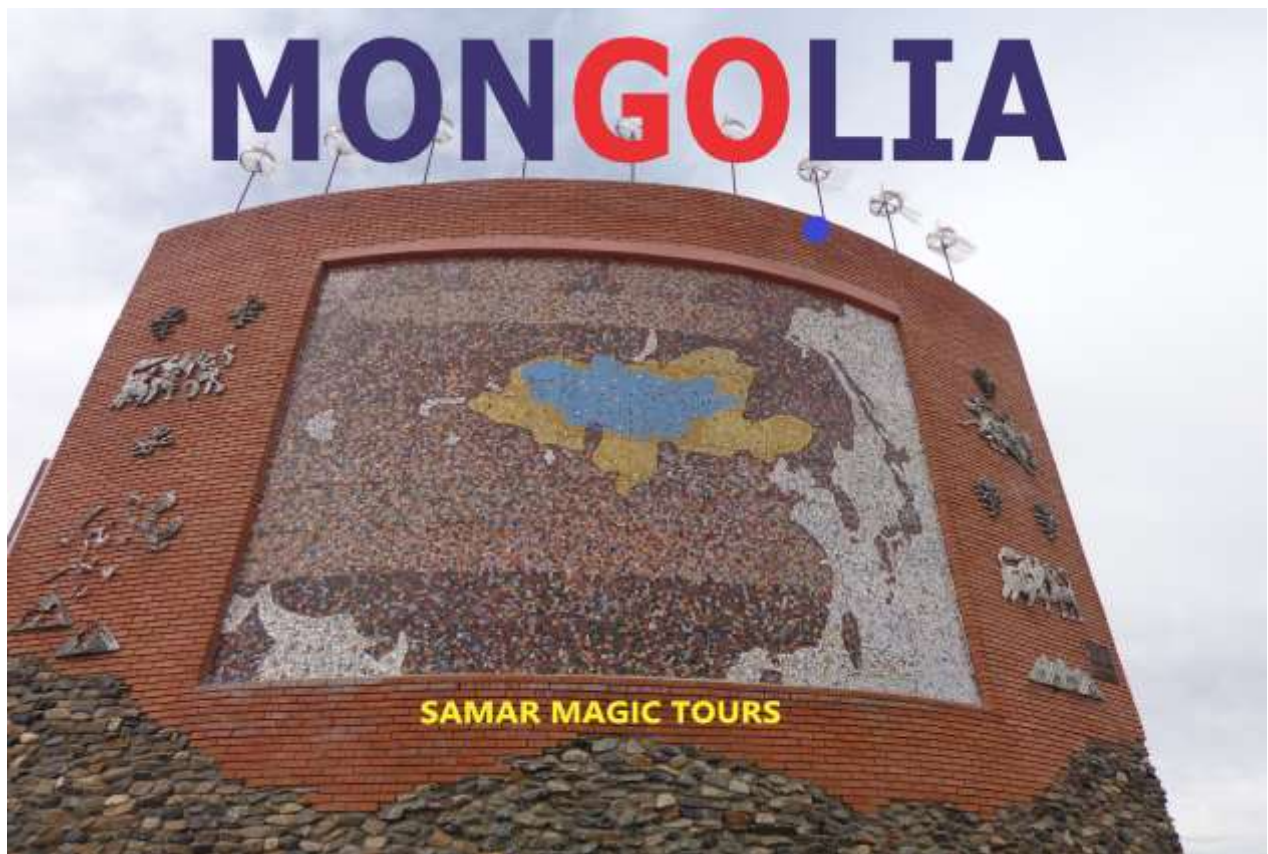
ULAANBAATAR / BAYANGOBI DESERT / KARAKORUM (CENTRAL MONGOLIA)

Full Board

Breakfast. **09:00AM** – Meeting with the **Samar Magic Tours** team at the hotel reception. **Purchase mineral water and other items at the State Department Store (Main Store).** Then, departure **westward to the legendary Karakorum** (approx. 395 km / 245.4 miles, 6–7 hours of travel), located in **Central Mongolia. 13:00 – Lunch included en route in Lun.** On the way, visit and explore the **Elsen Tasarkhai dunes (known as the Bayangobi**



Desert, approx. 280 km / 174 miles, 4–5 hours of travel). These sand dunes stretch over 80 km / 50 miles across a beautiful valley. Opportunity for hiking, walking on the dunes, and photographing landscapes. **Included excursion: riding Bactrian camels over the dunes.** Continue toward **Karakorum** (approx. 100 km / 62.1 miles). **Arrival and transfer. Free time at leisure after a long travel day.** Accommodation at Tourist Ger Camp in Karakorum.



DAY 6:

MONUMENT TO THE MONGOL STATES / ERDENE ZUU MONASTERY / KARAKORUM MUSEUM / MONUMENTS / ORKHON VALLEY

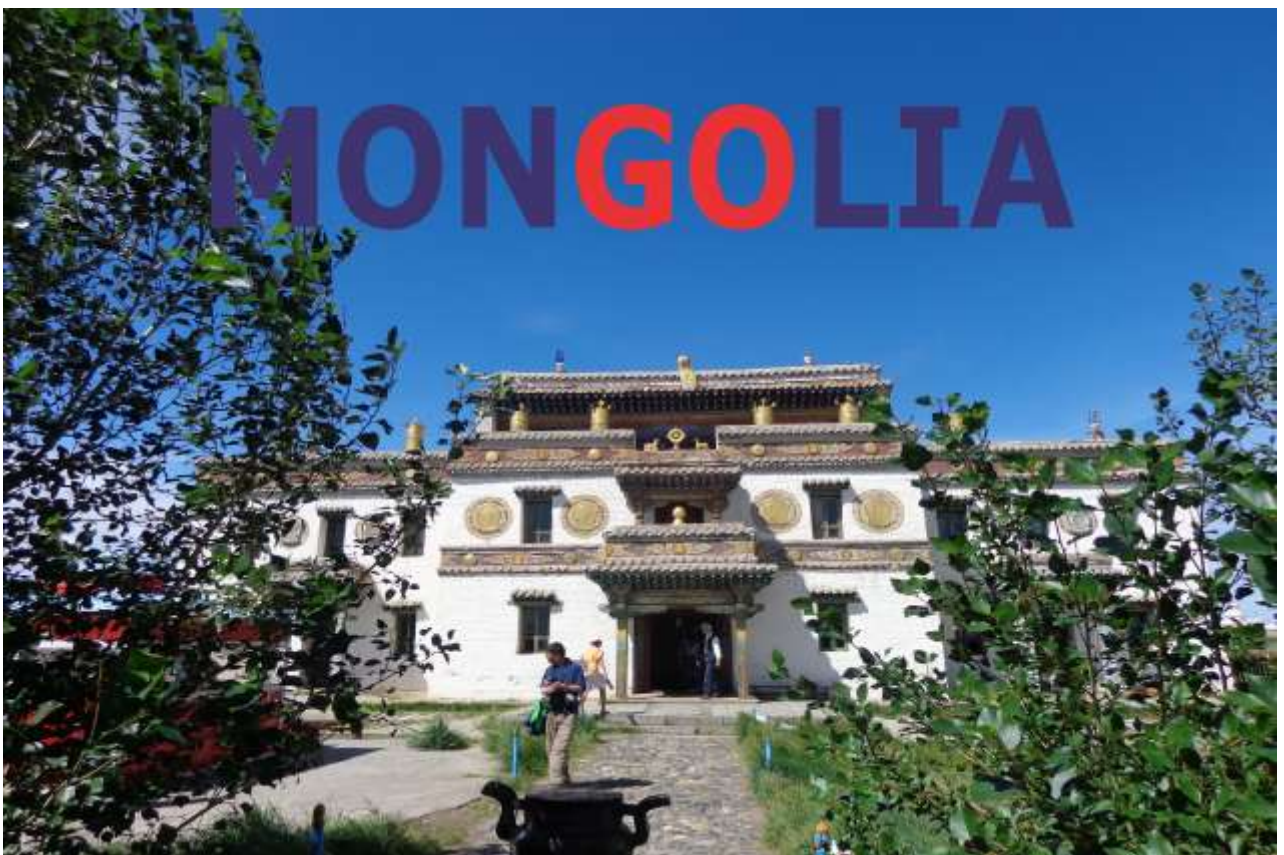
Full Board

Breakfast. **09:00AM** – Meeting with the **Samar Magic Tours** team. Next, visit the **Monument to the Mongol States** located on a hill overlooking the city of **Karakorum (Kharkhorin)**, on the bank of the Orkhon River. Built in 2004, **the monument** consists of a large pile of stones (**a shamanic ovo**) carefully assembled into a cone shape, approximately the size of a tipi, with nine poles extending from the top. This structure is mounted on a stone and concrete platform and surrounded by three walls forming sections of a circle. The outer



sides of these walls display three colorful mosaics representing three maps, one for each empire.

1. First was the **Xiongnu Empire**, a confederation of nomadic tribes living on the steppes from around the 3rd century BC to the 1st century AD.
2. Then came the **Turkic Khaganate Empire**, established by the Göktürks in 682 and lasting until 744.
3. Finally, and most famously, **Genghis Khan founded the Mongol Empire** in the 13th and 14th centuries.



The site's symbolic connection between the Mongol Empire and the shamanic ovoos in the center invites visitors to leave offerings of vodka, milk, tea, rice, and other edible treats, which inevitably attract birds and herds of goats and sheep passing by. Several animal skulls can also be found around the monument, completing the surreal scene. It is no coincidence that the **Imperial Map Monument** 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 monument is a great viewpoint to contemplate the city of **Kharkhorin** and the **Orkhon River** and imagine how this collection of dirt roads and low buildings might



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have looked in its days of glory. Next, visit **Erdene Zuu Monastery (“Hundred Treasures”)**, **the Turtle Monument**, and **the Karakorum Museum** to see relics from the ancient capital of the Mongol Empire. The **Buddhist Erdene Zuu Monastery, with its 108 stupas and the first Buddhist lamasery (16th century), was the most important religious seat.** Today it remains an impressive sight, with its walls, stupas, and temples occupying a **400**-square-meter enclosure surrounded by steppe. Its construction was continued by his son Ogedei Khan after his death. Forty years later, **Kublai Khan (grandson of Genghis Khan** and host of Marco Polo) moved the capital of the Empire to **Beijing (Yuan dynasty)**. By 1792, there were 62 temples and more than 10,000 lamas. In the 1930s, the Stalinist purges destroyed most of the temples, and the lamas were exiled to die in Siberia. Of its more than one hundred temples, only three have survived to this day, **remaining Mongolia’s most important cultural heritage.** **Lunch included in front of Erdene Zuu Monastery.** **Transfer. Free time at leisure.** Accommodation at Tourist Gers Camp in Karakorum.

Prices, services, and other information about the products detailed on this page and on the website www.samarmagictours.com are not binding and may change without prior notice.



DAY 7: KARAKORUM / UVGUN TEMPLE IN KHOGNO KHAAN NATURE RESERVE / ULAANBAATAR

Breakfast and Lunch

Breakfast. **09:00AM** – Meeting with the **Samar Magic Tours** team. Then, departure toward **Uvgun Temple, located in the Khogno Khan Mountain** area, within the **Khogno Khan Nature Reserve** (approx. 100 km / 62.1 miles, 2 hours). This site was destroyed in the 1930s but remains an interesting destination and part of tourist tours in Mongolia. **Uvgun Temple** was built in the **17th** century by **Zanabazar**, an important religious figure in Mongolia. The Park offers a unique landscape where the taiga and the steppes meet. **Return to Ulaanbaatar** (approx. 280 km / 174 miles, 5–6 hours, depending on traffic at the entrance). **13:00 – Lunch included en route in Lun.** Arrival and transfer to the hotel. Accommodation at the selected and confirmed hotel. **Dinner not included, on your own.**





DAY 8: ULAANBAATAR / GENGHIS KHAN EQUESTRIAN STATUE / ULAANBAATAR / GORKHI-TERELJ NATIONAL PARK / UVGUN MEDITATION TEMPLE

Breakfast and Lunch

Breakfast. **09:00AM** – Meeting with the **Samar Magic Tours** team at the hotel reception. Departure excursion toward the N/E to the **Genghis Khan Equestrian Statue** (55 km / 34.2 miles, +2.0 hours of travel, depending on traffic). Part of the **Genghis Khan** Sculptural Complex, this is a **40-meter-high** statue of Genghis Khan on horseback, on the banks of the Tuul River. The statue symbolically points east, toward his birthplace. At the base of the complex is a 10-meter-high visitor center with **36** columns representing the **36** khans from **Genghis to Ligdan Khan**. It was designed by sculptor D. Erdenebileg and architect J. Enkhjargal and inaugurated in **2008**. Visitors can reach the horse's head through its chest and neck, where there is a panoramic view. **We will visit the integrated museum**, showing exhibitions related to the Bronze Age and the **Xiongnu** archaeological cultures of Mongolia are displayed, highlighting their daily utensils, belt buckles, knives, sacred animals, etc.; and a second exhibition about the great khan period of the 13th–14th centuries, featuring ancient tools, jewelry, and some Nestorian crosses and rosaries. **Here, horses and camels can be rented with local guides, and visitors can take photos with golden eagles and Kazakhs (*extra payment on site, directly to locals). Mongolian lunch included en**



route. Then, departure toward **Gorkhi-Terelj National Park** (50 km / 31.1 miles, 1 hour), located in the N/E at **1600 m** above sea level, with high Mesozoic granite rocks, mountains, steppes, alpine forests, and large rock formations with curious shapes such as the **Turtle Rock**, etc. Located at the foot of the Khentii Mountains, the region where **Genghis Khan** was born. It was declared a **National Park in 1993** and covers an area of 300,000 hectares. Stop for photos, souvenir shopping, and walks to the large **rock shaped like a turtle, the symbol of Gorkhi/Terelj National Park**. Light hiking to the **Arryabal Meditation Temple**, located on a hill. It is a Buddhist meditation center situated on a mountainside, notable for its **108** steps leading to the temple, a gallery with Buddhist paintings, and a thangka depicting the myth of **Shambhala**. Transfer. Accommodation in a **Deluxe** Resort located in Gorkhi-Terelj National Park. **Dinner not included, on your own.**



DAY 9: GORKHI/TERELJ NATIONAL PARK / ULAANBAATAR

Breakfast and Lunch

Breakfast. **All morning free for your own leisure, for walks and hiking through Gorkhi-**



Terelj National Park. 12:00PM – Meeting with the vehicle and the **Samar Magic Tours** team at the resort reception. **Return to Ulaanbaatar** (70 km / 44 miles, +2 hours of travel, depending on traffic upon entry). **Lunch included in a local restaurant.** Transfer to the selected hotel (*Rooms can be used starting from **2:00PM** on the day of arrival). Accommodation at the selected hotel. **Dinner not included, on your own.**



DAY 10: GRAND TOUR IN ULAANBAATAR / LAST SHOPPING

Breakfast and Lunch

Breakfast. 09:00AM – Meeting with the **Samar Magic Tours** team at the hotel reception. Then, we will visit the **Winter Palace of Bogd Khan**, one of the imperial palaces of **Bogd**



Khan (1869–1924), located in the south of Ulaanbaatar, on the road to Zaisan. It is now a museum. The palace is the only remaining of the four original residences of the eighth reincarnation of **Jeftsundamba Khutughtu**, who later proclaimed himself **Bogd Khan of Mongolia**. The complex includes six temples. The exhibition contains many of Bogd Khan's possessions, such as his throne and bed, his art collection and stuffed animals, his ornate ceremonial **Ger**, and a pair of ceremonial boots given to the Khan **by Tsar Nicholas II of Russia**. Next, **visit a shop at a pure Mongolian cashmere factory for last-minute purchases**. Then, visit the **Zaisan Memorial**, a monument south of the capital Ulaanbaatar. Visit the **Golden Buddha statue**, located at the base of the **Zaisan Memorial**, 75 feet high (23 meters high). **13:00 – Lunch included in a local restaurant. Final souvenir shopping in the main department store (State Department Store)**. Transfer to the hotel. Accommodation in the selected and confirmed hotel. **Dinner not included, on your own.**

DAY 11: DEPARTURE FROM MONGOLIA

Breakfast

Breakfast. Hotel check-out in Ulaanbaatar is at **12:00PM**. Meeting with the **Samar Magic Tours** team at the hotel reception. Transfer to the new "Genghis" Khan Airport (52 km / 32.3 miles, **4-5** hours of travel, depending on traffic in Ulaanbaatar). **Departure from Mongolia. END OF THE GRAND TOUR.**

WHAT IS INCLUDED?

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

2 nights of accommodation in a **Standard** Tourist Gers Camp, based on a minimum group of **2** adults (*or more people upon request), with outdoor bathrooms (shared facilities: one building for gentlemen and one for ladies). If you wish to stay in a **DELUXE Ger** with a private bathroom in **Karakorum (Central Mongolia)**, **it is necessary to add the supplement indicated in the net price table**. In the other locations mentioned in this itinerary, there are no Deluxe Gers with private bathrooms available.

1 night of accommodation in a **Deluxe** Resort in Gorkhi-Terelj National Park, based on a minimum group of **2** adults (*or more people upon request).

Welcome lunch in a traditional local restaurant.

Meals as specified (**10B, 9L, 2D**) with 1 bottle of mineral water daily.

All private transfers in a comfortable Japanese vehicle or similar, with all fuel included throughout the trip. **Samar Magic Tours** reserves the right to change the vehicle depending on the number of participants; no claims will be accepted for these reasons, and no refund will be given.

English-speaking local guide or Spanish-speaking local guide.

All entrance fees to the Grand Equestrian Statue of Genghis Khan, Gorkhi-Terelj National Park, Karakorum, monuments, museums, and all indicated monasteries and temples.

Attendance at a folkloric show featuring the fascinating sounds of Khoomi throat singing and Mongolian dance.

Admission to the **Danshig Naadam Festival**.



Excursion on Bactrian camels through the sand dunes.

Light hiking through beautiful landscapes.

Service rates include 10% VAT, 2% Ulaanbaatar municipal tax, and 5% service charge in Ulaanbaatar city hotels.

WHAT IS NOT INCLUDED?

Flights or trains.

Occasional flight delays or cancellations.

Early check-in at hotel rooms.

Late check-out from hotel rooms.

Excess baggage in our vehicles (weight limit: **15** kg per person. Excess luggage **must be left free of charge** at the hotel in Ulaanbaatar).

Visa.

Any rescue costs or early departure expenses.

Change of departure date from Ulaanbaatar.

The traveler is responsible for having proper travel documents, such as a valid passport and required passport-size photos.

Travel insurance.

Personal items such as hotel porter tips, phone/telex/fax charges, laundry, beverages, meals, optional activities, and services not specified in the itinerary.

Mongolia is not recommended for travellers with respiratory or heart problems, wheelchair users, disabled persons, or children under **3** years old (***it is necessary to notify in advance and pay a supplement for disability, etc.***).

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

HIGHLIGHTED EXPERIENCES:

- We will attend and enjoy the **Danshig Naadam Festival**, which celebrates the ancient Buddhist traditions, such as the **Tsam Dance**, and is dedicated to **Zanabazar**, the first Buddhist leader of Mongolia. "**Khuree Tsam**," which means religious mask dance, was introduced in Mongolia in the early 18th century. Dancers wearing masks perform the movements of gods and deities, as if the divine beings had physically descended upon Jambutiva ("Earth" in Tibetan). Visitors can also attend **Naadam Festival activities, such as Mongolian wrestling, horse racing, archery, and musical performances. This is an excellent opportunity to photograph Buddhist dances, traditional wrestling, horse racing, and archery contests.**
- Visit the grand "Gandantegchinlin" Monastery, or "Gandan" Monastery, a historic Buddhist monastery in Ulaanbaatar, known as the "Great Place of Complete Joy."
- Visit the "Chojin Lama" Monastery Museum—a masterpiece of Buddhist architecture that offers insight into Mongolian Buddhist teachings and practices. You can admire its sculptures, paintings, and rituals, connecting with the spirituality still alive in the country today. The complex consists of six temples, originally occupied by Chojin Lama Luvsankhaidav, brother



of the Eighth Bogd Jetsun Dampa Khan, who served as the state oracle and Khutugtu of "Precious Wisdom and Clear Devotion."

- Listen to the fascinating sounds of Khoomi throat singing during a traditional Mongolian dance performance.
- Visit the Great Equestrian Statue of Genghis Khan.
- Visit the "Arryabal Meditation Temple", located in Gorkhi/Terelj National Park. This Buddhist meditation center sits on a mountainside and is notable for its 108 steps leading to the temple, as well as its gallery of Buddhist paintings.
- Enjoy excursions and hikes in Gorkhi/Terelj National Park, located in the northeast at 1,600 meters above sea level, featuring towering Mesozoic granite rocks, mountains, steppes, alpine forests, and large rock formations with curious shapes—such as the famous Turtle Rock, symbol of the park.

IMPORTANT TO NOTE:

- Mongolia visa not included.
- International flights and trains not included.
- Hotel check-in time in Ulaanbaatar is at **02:00PM**. Early check-in is not included.
- Hotel check-out time in Ulaanbaatar is at **12:00 noon**. Late check-out is not included.
- There is a surcharge during the **Naadam Festival**, applicable for travel between **July 1 and July 20 – Peak Season in Mongolia**, when all services and accommodations are fully booked.
- **In the capital city of Ulaanbaatar: Dinners are not confirmed. Dinners are on your own.**
- **Samar Magic Tours** reserves the right to arrange lunches on the route where possible. In no case will complaints be accepted on these grounds, nor will refunds be issued.
- **Samar Magic Tours** reserves the right to change the vehicle depending on the number of participants. In no case will complaints be accepted on these grounds, nor will refunds be issued.
- **Vegetarians must pay a supplement, since vegetables are very expensive in Mongolia**, and the Mongolian diet is based on meat rather than vegetables. You must notify us in advance and pay the supplement, which depends on the number of days in Mongolia.
- Please note: **MONGOLIA** is not recommended for people with respiratory or heart problems, wheelchair users, disabled travellers, or children under **3** years of age.
- **When visiting nomadic families:** you must enter the Ger on the left side and step in with your right foot. Once you cross the threshold, your hosts will invite you inside and indicate







where you should sit. It is customary to bring a small gift for the nomadic children, but never money, as it is offensive. Acceptable gifts include sweets, cookies, chocolates, candies, colored pencils, caps... small treats of this kind.

- All photos are the property of **Samar Magic Tours**. They may be used for promotional purposes when working with **Samar Magic Tours**. **Our photos are strictly prohibited from being used to promote work with other Mongolian tour operators.**



PROPOSED HOTELS IN ULAANBAATAR

HOTELS	ROOM	LOCATION
<p>BLUE SKY & TOWER HOTEL 5*</p> 	<p>DELUXE TWIN ROOM</p> 	<p>Blue Sky & Tower Hotel 5★ Located just 50 meters in front of Ulaanbaatar's central Sukhbaatar Square and the Mongolian Government Palace, right in the heart of the city. The hotel features 6 restaurants: Korean (Seoul), Chinese Jade Palace (Cantonese cuisine), Japanese Zen, and All Seasons (offering an excellent buffet breakfast). Facilities include sauna, massages, swimming pool, gym, Wi-Fi, rooftop observation deck, several cafés, and parking. All rooms are equipped with a flat-screen TV, minibar, and safe.</p> <p>Check-in: from 14:00 Check-out: by 12:00 noon</p>
<p>HOLIDAY INN HOTEL 5*</p> 	<p>STANDART TWIN ROOM</p> 	<p>Holiday Inn Hotel 5★ Located a 20-minute walk from Gandan Monastery, Mongolia's most important Buddhist monastery, and 1.2 km from Ulaanbaatar's central Sukhbaatar Square. The hotel offers 20 floors, 2 elevators, a restaurant, Wi-Fi, a café on the ground floor, and parking.</p> <p>Check-in: from 14:00 Check-out: by 12:00 noon</p>



MILLENNIUM PLAZA HOTEL 4*



STANDART TWIN ROOM



Millennium Plaza Hotel 4★

Situated less than 1.5 km from Sukhbaatar Square in central Ulaanbaatar, and 52 km (32.3 miles) from the new “Chinggis Khaan” Airport. The hotel has 72 well-equipped rooms, a Korean restaurant, and a lobby café. Five event venues: elegant ballroom, large conference hall, and other entertainment spaces. In addition, luxurious karaoke rooms.

Check-in: from 14:00

Check-out: by 12:00 noon

RAMADA HOTEL 4*



STANDART TWIN ROOM



Ramada Hotel 4★

Located in a shopping complex with 17 floors of modern architecture, offering 121 rooms and suites. The Hotel Ramada is situated in the heart of Ulaanbaatar, 52 km (32.3 miles) from the new “Chinggis Khaan” Airport and a 15–20-minute walk from Gandan Monastery.

Check-in: from 14:00

Check-out: by 12:00 noon



PREMIUM PALACE HOTEL 4*



STANDART TWIN ROOM



Premium Palace Hotel 4

★ The is located 20 minutes on foot from the Gandan Monastery, the most important in Mongolia, and 2.3 km from Sukhbaatar Central Square.

The Premium offers 192 rooms, 2 elevators, 2 restaurants: Yu Long Chinese and buffet breakfast, number of floors: 20, Wi-Fi, gym, CU café on the 1st floor, and a small parking area.

Check-in: from 14:00

Check-out: by 12:00 noon

NOVOTEL HOTEL 5*



STANDART TWIN ROOM



Novotel Hotel 5★

A modern hotel located in the heart of downtown, within walking distance of the Government Palace, Chinggis Khan Square, and major offices and embassies. It is approximately 2+ hours from the new "Genghis Khan" International Airport and 1 hour from Ulaanbaatar's train station. The hotel features 192 rooms, 2 restaurants, 2 bars, a gym, an indoor swimming pool, and a 362 m² ballroom adaptable for events.

Check-in: from 14:00

Check-out: by 12:00 noon



ACCOMMODATIONS IN THE MONGOLIAN COUNTRYSIDE

Samar Magic Tours always stays in the best available **Tourist Gers Camps**, provided payment is made within the indicated time to guarantee reservations. These are the **traditional dwellings of the nomads**, spacious and equipped for tourists, with **outdoor shared bathrooms** (one building for gentlemen and one for ladies). All Gers Camps have **restaurants**.

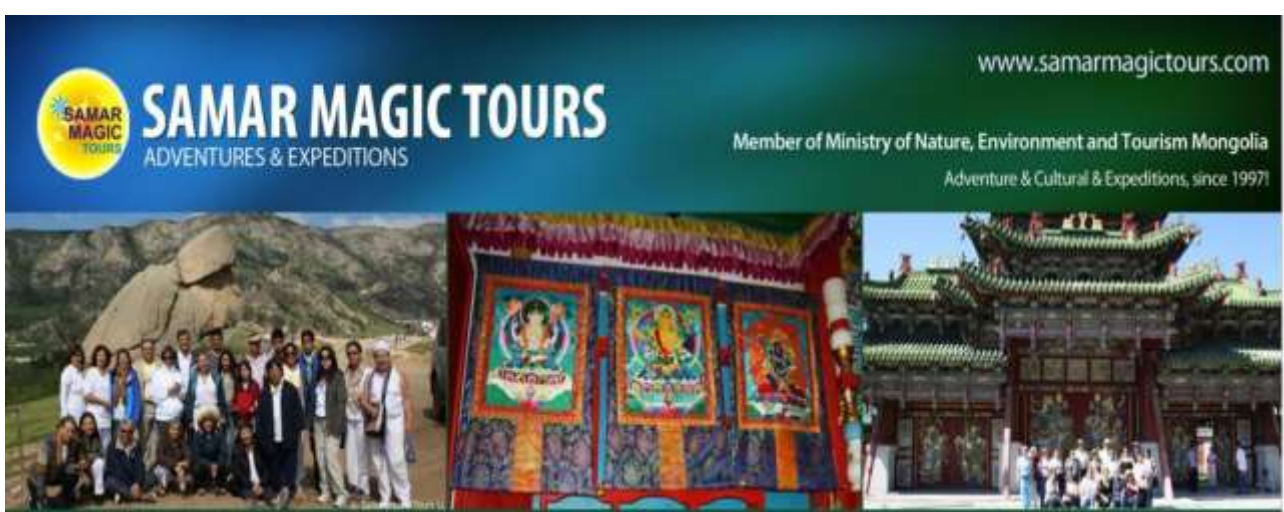
NOTES:

1. If you wish to stay in a **DELUXE Ger** with a private bathroom in **Karakorum (Central Mongolia)**, **it is necessary to add the supplement indicated in the net price table**. In the other locations mentioned in this itinerary, there are no Deluxe Gers with private bathrooms available.
2. In some Tourist Gers Camps, electricity is occasionally turned off after **10:00 or 12:00 at night**. It is advisable to keep this in mind when planning to charge batteries, etc.
3. The published **net prices** correspond to accommodation in **double rooms in hotels in Ulaanbaatar**. On this trip, **single rooms can only be confirmed in hotels in Ulaanbaatar**. In the **Gers Camps in the Mongolian countryside**, **single Gers cannot be confirmed**.



LIST SUGGESTED PACKING LIST

- Flashlight
- Spare batteries/bulb
- Personal medications
- Waterproof hiking boots
- Waterproof jacket with hood
- Waterproof over-pants
- Fleece jacket or wool sweater
- Cotton T-shirts
- Long-sleeved shirts
- Lightweight pants
- Shorts
- Socks
- Underwear
- Sun hat
- Sandals
- Sunglasses
- Sunscreen
- Insect repellent
- Plastic zip-lock bags
- Binoculars/camera
- Watch/alarm clock
- Money belt or travel pouch



GENERAL CONDITIONS FOR TRAVEL TO MONGOLIA

PRICE: Prices are calculated based on **double occupancy**. Prices and rates are quoted in EUROS and USD and are subject to change.

PLEASE NOTE: A **Naadam Festival** surcharge applies for travel from **July 1 to July 20 (Peak Season in Mongolia)**, when all services and accommodations are fully booked.

RESERVATION FORM DETAILS:

FULL NAME(S) AND SURNAME(S) (AS WRITTEN IN THE PASSPORT):

CITIZENSHIP:

VALID PASSPORT NUMBER:

GENDER:

DATE OF ARRIVAL IN ULAANBAATAR, FLIGHT NUMBER, AND ARRIVAL TIME:

DATE OF DEPARTURE FROM MONGOLIA, FLIGHT NUMBER, AND DEPARTURE TIME:

SELECTED HOTEL IN ULAANBAATAR (FROM THE INDICATED OPTIONS):

SELECTED TOUR CODE:

- At the time of registering for the trip, **the reservation form must be completed**, and **the reservation guarantee** must be paid immediately by bank transfer, at least **165** business days before arrival in Mongolia.
- **The final payment for the trip** must be made by bank transfer, at least **95** business days before arrival in Mongolia.
- Banks in Mongolia do not operate on **Saturdays, Sundays, or public holidays** such as **March 8, June 1**, or during the **Naadam Festival (July 1–15)**.
- Bank transfers take **5** business days to be received.

VERY IMPORTANT NOTE: If payments are **not made on the indicated dates**, we cannot guarantee the requested services. In such cases, you will need to check the new rates and availability in other hotels.

CANCELLATION POLICY:

180–91 days before arrival: the reservation guarantee is non-refundable.

90–19 days before arrival: 50% refund.

18–00 business days before arrival: 100% cancellation fee – NO REFUND.

For air and train ticket cancellations: separate conditions apply. International and domestic air and train fares are subject to modification depending on availability at the time of booking. Air and train fares are only guaranteed once tickets are issued and fully paid. Tickets are non-refundable and can only be cancelled on the same day of issuance.

HOTELS: Rooms may be used from **2:00 PM** on the day of arrival and must be vacated before **12:00 noon** on the day of departure.



TRANSPORT: Samar Magic Tours reserves the right to change the vehicle depending on the number of participants. Under no circumstances will we accept claims for this reason, and no refunds will be made.

COMPLIMENTARY TRAVEL STAFF IN MONGOLIA:

- For groups of **16** people (**15** paying + **1** free, based on **DOUBLE** occupancy: **8 rooms**), **Samar Magic Tours** will cover all ground expenses and accommodation in **DOUBLE** rooms. **Not included: single room supplement, domestic air tickets in Mongolia.**
- For groups of **32** people (**30** paying + **2** free, based on **DOUBLE** occupancy: **16** rooms), **Samar Magic Tours** will cover all ground expenses and accommodation in **DOUBLE** rooms. **Not included: single room supplement, domestic air tickets in Mongolia.**

PLEASE NOTE: MONGOLIA is not recommended as a destination for travellers with respiratory problems, heart conditions, those in wheelchairs, disabled persons, or children under **3** years of age (**it is necessary to inform us before arriving in Mongolia and pay the required supplement for travellers with disabilities, wheelchair users, etc.**)

CHILD POLICY IN MONGOLIA:

- 0-3** years: free of charge
- 4-11** years: 50% of the regular adult price
- 12** years and above: 100% of the regular adult price

CLIMATE CHANGES: Not included in our services. These are external conditions. In such cases, we will do everything possible to find the best available solution. However, no claims will be accepted for the consequences of weather changes, and no refunds will be made.

TRAVEL CONDITIONS:

Mongolia is a country where tourist infrastructure is almost non-existent and still in development. Distances are vast, requiring many hours of travel and involving significant fuel costs. The journey is carried out mostly on dirt and sand tracks. Depending on their condition, travellers may spend many hours on the road. A large part of the Mongolian population is still nomadic, moving from place to place on horseback, camel, or yak, with their Gers and herds. An occasional encounter with one of these families and their way of life is an unforgettable experience. **To enjoy the trip, travellers must accept these conditions in advance, let go of preconceived notions about how things "should" be, and remain open to what this country has to offer.**



FORCE MAJEURE CONDITIONS:

While it is our absolute desire to carry out the trip as detailed in the program, on occasion there may be force majeure circumstances that require modifications. **Samar Magic Tours** is not legally responsible for those force majeure situations beyond the organization's control that may force changes to the travel program. These reasons and circumstances include possible security risks for travellers, political instability or violence, rebellions or the threat of rebellion, strikes, riots and violent actions, decisions by governments or local authorities, technical or maintenance problems related to transport, changes in flight or road schedules or routes, natural disasters, epidemics, adverse weather conditions, and any other circumstances beyond the control of **Samar Magic Tours**.

If, due to exceptional circumstances of force majeure, it becomes necessary to cancel the trip, there is no obligation of compensation.

I have read and understood the section on Obligations and Responsibility detailed above in the form, as well as the General Information and Special Booking Conditions set out in the tour information materials, and I accept them on behalf of myself and my group. I declare that I am not traveling against any medical advice.

SIGNATURE: _____

DATE: _____

VALID PASSPORT NUMBER: _____

CITIZENSHIP: _____



FACT SHEET OF MONGOLIA

Currency: The official currency in Mongolia is the Tugrik or Tugrug (T). It comes in banknotes of 10, 20, 50, 100, 500, 1,000, 5,000, 10,000, and 20,000 Tugrik. It is advisable to bring EUROS or USD and exchange them progressively. Currency exchange can be done at banks and hotels in Ulaanbaatar.

Climate: Known as the land of the blue sky, but its climate is extreme and severe. Siberian winters cover the Gobi Desert with snow until April and keep lakes frozen until May. The rainy season is short, from mid-**July to September**, with brief and light showers. Nights are cool even in summer.

Approximate temperatures in Mongolia:

Spring:	May	[around 14°C daytime, 6° °C nighttime. Occasional rain, generally cool.]
Summer:	June-August	[28–30 °C daytime, 18 °C nighttime. Mostly dry with occasional rain.]
Autumn:	September.	[21–16 °C daytime, 0 °C nighttime. Dry and cold.]

Luggage: The lighter the luggage, the better. A soft backpack or travel bag is recommended, plus a small daypack for essentials during the day (camera, skin and lip cream, binoculars, canteen, and flashlight). A raincoat or poncho and a good parka, warm clothes for high places, light cotton clothes, sunglasses, and a cap for midday heat, as well as comfortable footwear, are recommended. Clients are advised to bring binoculars.

Small first-aid kit: mosquito repellent, saline solution, gauze, aspirin, paracetamol.

Electricity: 220V, 50Hz. European round plug.

Clothing: No special requirements regarding dress, just respect local customs.

Photography: The country is one of the most photogenic in the world, with its landscapes, wildlife, culture, and people. Entrance fees to museums, National Parks, and Monasteries are included in the trip according to the program, but photography is not. In many monasteries and temples, photos are not allowed unless you pay the set fee. Always check before taking photos, as notices are written in Cyrillic or Mongolian, often unintelligible for us; once you take a picture, payment is immediate.

Food: The basis of food in Mongolia is meat. Lamb and flour form the base of most meals. The Mongolian diet also includes horse meat. Milk and yogurt have an exquisite though strong flavor. Cow and goat cheese are common. Milk may not be pasteurized, and some dairy products can therefore be unsafe. It should be boiled, and foods should preferably be



consumed cooked. This is the health guideline, but in reality, once you stop at a Ger, guests are always invited to enter and offered aromatic *airag* (fermented mare's milk) and goat, yak, or sheep cheese, all acidic and dry. Refusing would not be polite.

Shopping: Bargaining is not common in Mongolia. Even bargaining, you won't usually pay less than 70% of the asking price. Some shops offer handicrafts, postcards, and clothing. Also available are carpets, leather and fur products, as well as cashmere and camel hair items. Wooden toys, puzzles, and games, along with oil paintings and watercolors. In the capital's stores, European products are available—expensive, especially in the State Department Store and other new shopping centers—which carry almost anything you may want, both Mongolian and foreign.

Precautions: Mongolia is a safe place for tourism; there are no drugs, assaults, or weapons. However, as anywhere in the world, one must be cautious with pickpockets.

It is recommended that upon arrival at the hotel you immediately place in the hotel safe (in the room or at reception): passport, visas, money, documents, valuables, etc., before going out for visits in Ulaanbaatar. Be careful in restaurants, pizzerias, cafés, markets, the central post office, and monasteries, where there are pickpockets.



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