



SAMAR MAGIC TOURS
ADVENTURES & EXPEDITIONS

www.samarmagictours.com

Member of Ministry of Nature, Environment and Tourism Mongolia
Adventure & Cultural & Expeditions, since 1997!



TRAIN JOURNEY FROM MONGOLIA TO CHINA WITH SAMAR MAGIC TOURS

MINIMUM TOUR DURATION: 11 days/10 nights

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

MINIMUM GROUP SIZE: **2-15** adults or more participants.

STARTS IN: Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia (International flights not included).

ENDS IN: Beijing, China (International flights not included).

VALID PRIVATE DEPARTURES: **MAY, JUNE, JULY (EXCEPT FROM JULY 01-20 – PEAK SEASON!)**

PLEASE CONSULT SPECIAL PROGRAMS AND GROUP FESTIVAL NAADAM RATES), AUGUST, AND SEPTEMBER.

***REGULAR DEPARTURE FROM ULAANBAATAR, MONGOLIA: FRIDAY**

***REGULAR DEPARTURE FROM BEIJING, CHINA: VIERNES**

CHECK GROUP RATES AND OTHER HOTEL OPTIONS: CONTACT

SUPPLEMENTS IN BEIJING: **1 extra night in Beijing (pre-tour or post-tour): USD 155.00 per person, based on DOUBLE/TRIPLE occupancy.**

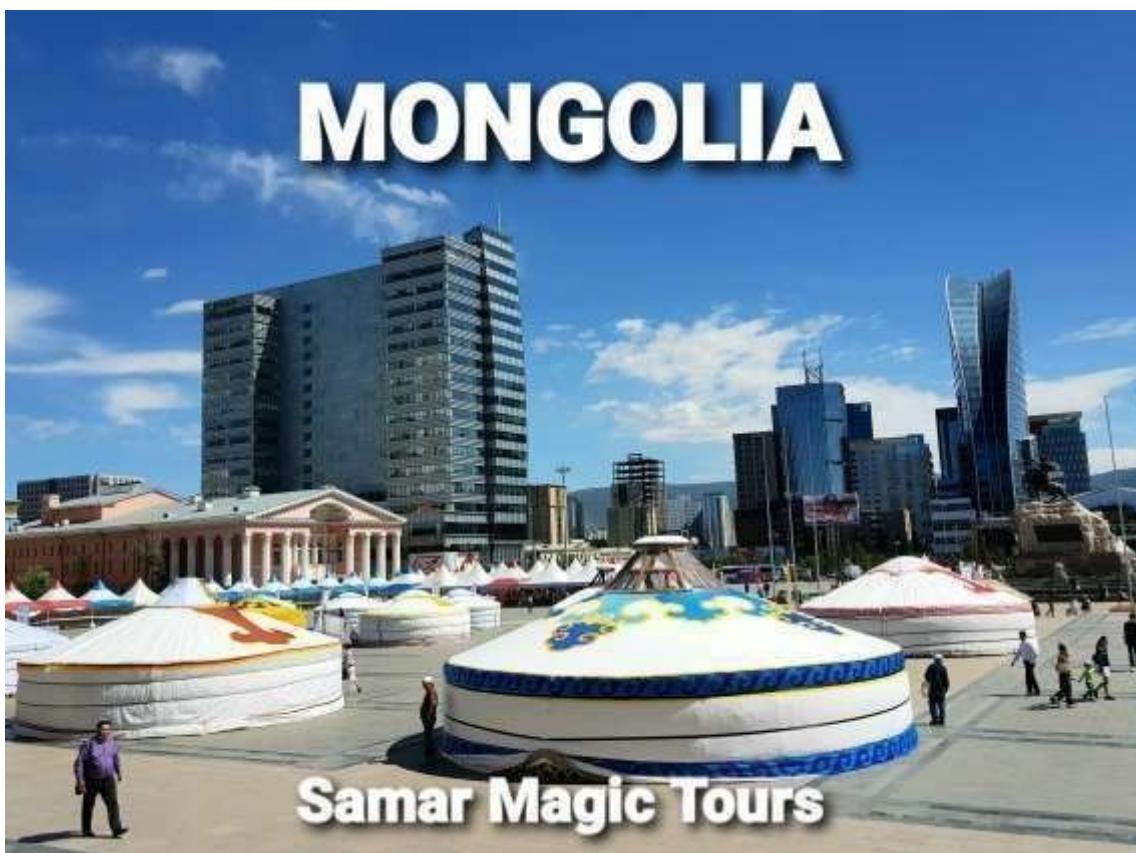
Single Supplement in China: USD 155.00 per person.

Supplement for trains or flights arriving in Beijing before 8:00 am: USD 55.00 per person.

Supplement for flights departing from Beijing before 9:30 am or after midnight: USD 55.00 per person.

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MONGOLIA: Mongolia is a sovereign, landlocked state located in East Asia. It borders Russia to the north and China to the south. Its capital is Ulaanbaatar, where half of the total population resides. This nation traces its roots to the ancient Mongol Empire of Genghis Khan, which dominated much of Asia and even Europe during the 13th and 14th centuries. The Mongol Empire was the largest empire on Earth.



Capital: Ulaanbaatar

Official Language: Mongolian

Currency: Tugrik (MNT)

Continent: Asia

Population: 3.525 million (2024) **World Bank**

Area: 1.564 million km²

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TRIP DESCRIPTION IN MONGOLIA: We will begin our journey at the new Genghis Khan airport in Ulaanbaatar (opened July 3, 2021, located 52 km/32.3 miles away, plus a 2-3 hours drive depending on traffic), the capital of Mongolia, where you will be met by the Samar Magic Tours team. This grand route, traveling **on the famous Trans-Mongolian Railway, is a unique way to experience Mongolia and China.** This is the most interesting and famous train route in the world, traveling on the Trans-Mongolian Railway and crossing two vast countries: Mongolia and China. **We will traverse the Gobi Desert in Mongolia and the Great Wall of China in China.**

In Mongolia, we will depart northeast to visit **the Great Equestrian Statue of Genghis Khan.** At the base of the statue, visitors can see a replica of **the Great Khan's legendary golden whip.** Tourists can take an elevator inside the statue. The exit is at the level of Genghis Khan's crotch, from where you can walk to the horse's head for a great panorama of the steppe. We will visit a small Bronze Age museum located in the basement of the Great Equestrian Statue of Genghis Khan. We then depart northeast for **Gorkhi-Terelj National Park**, situated at an altitude of **1,600** meters above sea level. The park features towering Mesozoic granite boulders, mountains, steppes, alpine forests, and striking Mesozoic rock formations such as **Turtle Rock.** It lies at the foot of the **Khentii Mountains,** the region where Genghis Khan was born. **Declared a National Park in 1993,** it covers an area of 300,000 hectares.

Following this, we depart west **to attend an authentic Mongolian nomadic performance,** showcasing the traditional way of life of Mongolian nomads, including the raising and use of five types of livestock as they move from place to place using oxcarts, yaks, camels, and horses. Much of the Mongolian population remains nomadic, moving from place to place on horseback, camel, or yak, with their gers

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and herds, and the occasional encounter with one of these families **and their way of life is an unforgettable experience.**



CHINA: The most populous nation in East Asia and the world, its vast landscapes encompass grasslands, deserts, mountains, lakes, rivers, and over 14,000 km of coastline. The capital, Beijing, blends modern

architecture with historical sites such as **the Forbidden City palace complex and Tiananmen Square.** Shanghai is a global financial center adorned with skyscrapers. The iconic Great Wall of China runs east to west across the north of the country. China has the second-highest number of **UNESCO World Heritage Sites in the world**, with fifty-two. Among the country's top tourist destinations are the Great Wall of China, the Forbidden City, the Mausoleum of Qin Shi Huang, the Guilin Mountains, the Yangtze River, the Potala Palace, and

Jiuzhaigou Valley.

Capital: Beijing

Official Languages: Mandarin, Pudonghua

Currency: Yuan

Population: 1.409 billion (2024) **World Bank**

Continent: Asia

Area: 9.6 million km²

Población: 1,409 miles de millones (2024) Banco Mundial

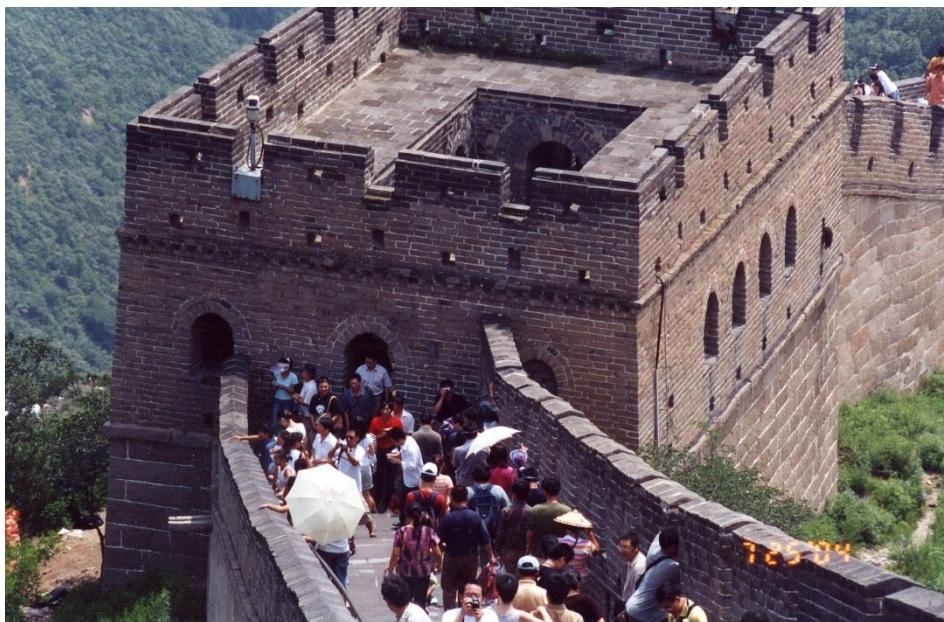
Continente: Asia

Superficie: 9,600.000 millones km²



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CHINA TRIP DESCRIPTION: We will begin our tour in **Beijing**.

REGULAR DEPARTURES FROM BEIJING: FRIDAYS

We will **visit the Summer Palace**, which was a summer garden for the imperial family of the Qing Dynasty, and a Pearl Workshop. We will also **visit the Olympic Park** to see the main stadiums of the 2008 Olympics (from the outside, without entering): such as **the Bird's Nest** (the main stadium of the Olympic Games) and **the Water Cube** (swimming stadium). We will also visit **the Great Wall of China (Juyongguan Pass)**, one of the oldest and most magnificent human-made structures in the world, located 70 km from Beijing. We will visit **Tiananmen Square**, one of the largest squares in the world, **the Imperial Palace**, known as the "**Forbidden City**," **the Temple of Heaven**, built in 1420 and covering 267 hectares, and **a Chinese Tea House**. We'll get **a foot massage** to relieve the fatigue from the trip.

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SUMMARY ITINERARY:

Arrival in Ulaanbaatar – Grand Tour in Ulaanbaatar – Great Equestrian Statue of Genghis Khan – Gorkhi-Terelj National Park – Mongolian Nomad Show in Gorkhi-Terelj National Park – Ulaanbaatar – Authentic Mongolian Nomad Show – Ulaanbaatar – Train Ulaanbaatar/Beijing – Beijing – Summer Palace – Olympic Park – Great Wall of China – Tian An Men Square – The City Forbidden – Temple of Heaven – Chinese Tea House – Exit from China or Extension

DETAILED ITINERARY:

***REGULAR DEPARTURES FROM ULAANBAATOR: FRIDAY**

B-Breakfast, L-Lunch

FRIDAY, Day 1. Arrival in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia

Arrival in Ulaanbaatar (UBN), the capital of Mongolia. Meet 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 time, depending on traffic). If clients arrive in Ulaanbaatar on **OM138 (Mongolia Airlines)** from **FRAN (Frankfurt, Germany)** at **5:10 AM** or on **TK236 (Turkish Airlines)** from **IST (Istanbul, Turkey)** at **7:10 AM**. **Clients must prepay for early check-in** (*early access to hotel rooms). Rooms will only be available from **2:00 PM (14:00)** on the day of arrival. **Rest at the hotel to adjust to the local time. No activities or meals are included today.** Accommodation at **the Holiday Inn 5*** or **the Premium Palace 4*** or similar.

SATURDAY, Day 2: Grand Tour of Ulaanbaatar/Welcome Lunch

Breakfast at the hotel. **9:00 AM** - Meet the **Samar Magic Tours** team in the hotel lobby/**Grand Tour of Ulaanbaatar/Welcome Lunch/6:00 PM - Mongolian National Concert**. Transfer to the hotel. Accommodation at **the Holiday Inn 5* or the Premium Palace 4* hotel** or similar. **Dinner not included, at your own expense.** (B)(L)

SUNDAY, Day 3: Great Equestrian Statue of Genghis Khan/Gorkhi-Terelj National Park

Breakfast at the hotel. Ulaanbaatar / **Great Equestrian Statue of Genghis Khan/Gorkhi-Terelj National Park/** Accommodation at the Resort on the Terelj. **Dinner not included, at your own expense.** (B)(L)

MONDAY, Day 4: Gorkhi-Terelj National Park/Ulaanbaatar

Breakfast. **Free time at your leisure for walks, hikes, or horseback riding through the steppes (*extra payment directly to locals).** **12:00 PM** - Meet the **Samar Magic Tours** team at the reception. **Gorkhi-Terelj National Park / Ulaanbaatar.** Accommodation at **the Holiday Inn 5* or the Premium Palace 4* hotel** or similar. **Dinner not included, at your own expense.** (B)(L)

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TUESDAY, Day 5: Ulaanbaatar - Authentic Mongolian Nomad Show - Ulaanbaatar

Breakfast at the hotel. Ulaanbaatar/**Authentic Mongolian Nomad Show**/Ulaanbaatar. Overnight at the **Holiday Inn 5* or Premium Palace 4*** or similar. **Dinner not included, at your own expense.** **(B)(L)**

WEDNESDAY, Day 6: Grand Tour of Ulaanbaatar/Last-Night Shopping

Breakfast at the hotel. **Grand Tour of Ulaanbaatar. Last-Night Shopping.** Overnight at the **Holiday Inn 5* or Premium Palace 4*** or similar. **Dinner not included, at your own expense.** **(B)(L)**

THURSDAY, Day 7: Departure by train from Ulaanbaatar to Beijing

Breakfast at the hotel. Meet the **Samar Magic Tours** team in the hotel lobby. **Transfer to Ulaanbaatar train station. Departure by train. Overnight on the train.** **(B)**

FRIDAY, Day 8: Arrival in Beijing by train from Ulaanbaatar

Arrival at **Beijing train station**. Meet and transfer to the hotel. Rest. Accommodation at the **Beijing Grand Metropark Hotel, 5*** or similar.

SATURDAY, Day 9. Grand Tour of Beijing

Breakfast at the hotel. In the morning, we will visit **the Summer Palace**, which was a summer garden for the imperial family of the Qing Dynasty, and a **Pearl Workshop**. Afterward, we will stop at the **Olympic Park** to see the main stadiums of the 2008 Olympics (*exterior view only, without entering the stadiums): such as **the Bird's Nest** (main stadium of the Olympic Games) and **the Water Cube** (swimming stadium). **Lunch included.** In the afternoon, we will visit **the Great Wall of China (*Juyongguan Pass)**, one of the oldest and most magnificent human-made structures in the world, located 70 km from Beijing. **Return to the hotel.** Overnight at the **Beijing Grand Metropark Hotel, 5*** or similar. **Dinner not included, on your own.** **(B)(L)**

SUNDAY, Day 10. Grand Tour of Beijing

Breakfast at the hotel. Today, we will visit: **Tiananmen Square**, one of the largest squares in the world; **the Imperial Palace**, known as the "Forbidden City"; **the Temple of Heaven**, built in 1420 and covering 267 hectares; and a **Chinese Tea House**. **Lunch included.** Before returning to the hotel, we **will enjoy a foot massage** to relieve travel fatigue. **Return to the hotel.** Overnight at the **Beijing Grand Metropark Hotel, 5*** or similar. **Dinner not included, at your own expense.** **(B)(L)**

MONDAY, Day 11. Departure from China or Extension

Breakfast at the hotel. **Transfer to the airport. End of services.** **(B)**

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WHAT'S INCLUDED IN MONGOLIA?

Train ticket Ulaanbaatar/Beijing in a **Deluxe 2-person** compartment (***a photocopy of your valid passport and proof of train ticket payment must be sent well in advance to guarantee your seat**).

5 nights' accommodation at the **Holiday Inn 5*** or **Premium Palace 4*** hotel or similar, based on **double/twin** occupancy with breakfast, in Ulaanbaatar.

1 night's accommodation at **a resort in Terelj**, based on **double/twin** occupancy with breakfast, in Gorkhi-Terelj National Park.

Welcome lunch at a traditional local restaurant.

Meals as specified (**6** breakfasts, **5** lunches) with **1** liter of mineral water per day.

All private transfers by tourist bus or tourist van (*depending on the confirmed group) with all fuel included. **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 refund will be issued.

Local Spanish-speaking or English guide (*according to your **early request**!).

All entrance fees to Gorkhi-Terelj National Park, Arryabal Meditation Temple, Great Equestrian Statue of Genghis Khan, monuments, museums, and monasteries listed.

Attendance at a folklore show featuring the captivating sounds of Khoomi throat singing and Mongolian dance.

Entrance to a **Mongolian Nomad Show**, located in Gorkhi-Terelj National Park, including a traditional Mongolian lunch.

Entrance to an **Authentic Mongolian Nomad Show**, located west of Ulaanbaatar.

Experience and knowledge of true nomadic life.

Gentle hike through stunning landscapes.

Service fees include 10% VAT, 2% Ulaanbaatar city tax, and a 5% service charge at Ulaanbaatar hotels.

WHAT IS NOT INCLUDED IN MONGOLIA?

International flights.

Occasional flight delays or cancellations.

Visa.

Early check-in.

Late check-out.

Single accommodation.

Meals and drinks on the Ulaanbaatar/Beijing train.

Excess baggage.

Any rescue or early departure fees.

Change of departure date from Ulaanbaatar.

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The traveler is responsible for having the appropriate travel documents, such as a valid passport and required passport photos.

Travel insurance.

Personal expenses such as tips for hotel porters, telephone charges, laundry, drinks, meals, optional activities, and services not specified in the itinerary.

Any circumstances beyond our control, such as quarantine restrictions, weather conditions, road conditions, etc.

HIGHLIGHTS OF MONGOLIA:

- Listen to the captivating sounds of Khoomi throat singing during a traditional dance performance.
- Visit the Great Equestrian Statue of Genghis Khan.
- Visit Gorkhi-Terelj National Park, located in the northeast at an altitude of 1600m above sea level, featuring towering Mesozoic granite boulders, mountains, steppes, alpine forests, and large, curiously shaped Mesozoic rock formations such as Turtle Rock, etc.
- Entrance to a **Mongolian Nomad Show**, located in Gorkhi-Terelj National Park, including a traditional Mongolian lunch.
- We will witness an **Authentic Mongolian nomadic spectacle**, demonstrating the traditional way of life of Mongolian nomads, raising and using five types of livestock moving from place to place, using oxcarts, yaks, camels and horses.
- We will visit the new ``Genghis'' Khan Museum (``Chinggis'' Khaan), which finally opened on October 11, 2022. The museum is designed to showcase the history of the Mughal kings from the reign of King Hunnu Modun Shanyu to the abdication of the eighth Jebtsundamba. The ``Genghis'' Khan Museum has been named one of **National Geographic's** "World's Best" list of 20 must-see museums.

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WHAT'S INCLUDED IN CHINA?

3 nights' accommodation at the **Beijing Grand Metropark Hotel, 5*** or similar, based on **double/triple** occupancy with breakfast.

Meals as indicated: (**3** breakfasts, **2** lunches at a local restaurant).

Transfers and tours **on regular departures** as indicated, **in Spanish**.

1 complimentary foot massage in Beijing.

WHAT IS NOT INCLUDED IN CHINA?

International flights.

Occasional flight delays or cancellations.

Visa fees and processing (if required).

Single accommodation.

Early check-in.

Late check-out.

Meals and drinks on the Ulaanbaatar/Beijing train.

Drinks at lunch.

Personal expenses and tips.

Travel insurance.

Tips in Beijing.

Any rescue or early departure costs.

Any circumstances beyond our control, such as quarantine restrictions, weather conditions, road conditions, etc.

HIGHLIGHTS OF CHINA:

- Visits to **the Summer Palace**, which served as a summer retreat for the Qing Dynasty imperial family and a Pearl Workshop.
- Visits to **the Olympic Park**, to see the main stadiums of the 2008 Olympics (from the outside, without entering): such as **the Bird's Nest** (main stadium of the Olympic Games) and **the Water Cube** (swimming stadium).
- Visit to **the Great Wall of China (Juyongguan Pass)**, one of the oldest and most magnificent human-made structures in the world, located 70 km from Beijing.
- Visit to **Tiananmen Square**, one of the largest squares in the world.
- Visit to **the Imperial Palace**, known as the "**Forbidden City**".
- Visit to **the Temple of Heaven**, built in 1420 and covering an area of 267 hectares.
- Visit to **a Chinese Tea House**.
- We will have **a foot massage** to relieve travel fatigue.

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THINGS TO KEEP IN MIND IN MONGOLIA:

- International train fares are subject to change, depending on availability at the time of booking. International train fares are only guaranteed upon ticket issuance and full payment. Tickets are non-refundable and can only be canceled on the day of issuance.
- Mongolian visa not included.
- International flights not included.
- Check-in time at Ulaanbaatar hotels is **2:00 PM. Early check-in is not included.**
- Check-out time at Ulaanbaatar hotels is **12:00 PM. Late check-out is not included.**
- A surcharge applies during **the Naadam Festival**, valid for travel from **July 1st to July 20th – peak season** in Mongolia, when all services and accommodations are at full capacity.
- In the capital city of Ulaanbaatar and in Gorkhi-Terelj National Park: **Dinners are at your own expense.**
- **Samar Magic Tours** reserves the right to arrange lunches along the route at locations where possible. Under no circumstances will we accept claims for this reason, and no refund will be issued.
- **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 refund will be issued.
- **Vegetarians must pay a supplement**, as vegetables are very expensive in Mongolia, and the Mongolian diet is based on meat, not vegetables. Please inform us in advance and pay the supplement, which depends on the number of days in Mongolia.
- **Mongolia** is not recommended for people with respiratory or heart problems, wheelchair users, or children under **3** years old.
- **When visiting nomadic families:** enter the ger from the left side with your right foot. Once you cross the threshold, your hosts will invite you in and show you where to sit. It is appropriate to bring a small gift for the nomads' children; never money, as it is offensive. Gifts such as sweets, cookies, chocolates, candies, colored pencils, hats, etc., are acceptable.
- **All photos are the property of Samar Magic Tours.** You may use them for your advertising when working with **Samar Magic Tours. Our photos may not be used for advertising purposes when working with other Mongolian tour operators.**

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HOTELS PLANNED IN ULAANBAATAR

HOTELS	ROOM	LOCATION
HOLIDAY INN HOTEL 5* 	STANDARD TWIN ROOM 	The 5-star Holiday Inn Hotel is located a 20-minute walk from Gandan Monastery—the most important monastery in Mongolia—and 1.2 km from Sukhbaatar Square in Ulaanbaatar. It features two elevators, a restaurant, 20 floors, Wi-Fi, a café on the first floor, and parking. Check-in is from 2:00 PM and check-out is at 12:00 PM .
PREMIUM PALACE HOTEL 4* 	STANDARD TWIN ROOM 	The 4-star Premium Palace Hotel is located a 20-minute walk from Gandan Monastery – the most important monastery in Mongolia – and 2.3 km from Sukhbaatar Square. The Premium Palace has 192 rooms, 2 elevators, 2 restaurants (Yu Long Chinese Restaurant and a buffet breakfast), 20 floors, Wi-Fi, a gym, a CU café on the 1st floor, and a small parking area. Check-in is from 2:00 PM . Check-out is at 12:00 PM .

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GENERAL CONDITIONS FOR PACKAGE TOURS WITH **MONGOLIA**

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

PLEASE NOTE: The **Naadam Festival** surcharge applies to travel from **July 1st to July 20th – Peak Season** in Mongolia, **when all services and accommodations are fully booked.**

PLEASE COMPLETE THE RESERVATION FORM:

FIRST AND LAST NAME (*AS WRITTEN ON PASSPORT):

CITIZENSHIP:

VALID PASSPORT NUMBER:

GENDER:

ARRIVAL DATE, FLIGHT NUMBER AND ARRIVAL TIME:

DEPARTURE DATE, FLIGHT NUMBER FLIGHT AND SCHEDULE:

SELECTED ROUTE CODE:

- Upon registration for the package tour, complete the booking form and pay the booking guarantee immediately via bank transfer, at least **185 business days** prior to arrival in Mongolia.
- The final amount of the trip will be paid via bank transfer, at least **125 business days** prior to arrival in Mongolia.
- Banks in Mongolia are closed on Saturdays, Sundays, and Mongolian public holidays, such as **March 8th, June 1st, and the Naadam Festival (July 1st-15th)**.
- Bank transfers may take up to **5 business days** to be received.

VERY IMPORTANT NOTE: If you do not make payment by the indicated dates, we cannot guarantee the services listed (*in this case, you need to check the new rates and availability at other hotels).

CANCELLATION OF PACKAGE TOURS: The reservation guarantee is **non-refundable**.

185-36 days: 50%

35-00 business days: 100% - **NO REFUND**.

In the case of cancellations of airline and train tickets: **this is a different matter.** Fares for international and domestic airline and train tickets are subject to change, depending on availability at the time of booking. Fares for international and domestic airline and train tickets are only locked in upon issuance and full payment of the tickets. Tickets are non-refundable and can only be canceled on the same day they are issued.

HOTELS: Rooms can be used from **2 pm** on the day of arrival and must be vacated before **12 pm** on the day of departure.

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TRANSPORTATION: **Samar Magic Tours** reserves the right to change the vehicle depending on the number of participants. Under no circumstances will we accept claims for these reasons, and no refund will be issued.

PLEASE NOTE: The destination of **MONGOLIA** is not recommended for people with respiratory problems, heart problems, wheelchair users, disabled individuals, or children under **3** years of age.

CLEARANCE CHANGES: These are not included in our services. These are external conditions. In these cases, we will do everything within our power to find the best available solution. Under no circumstances will we accept claims for the consequences of temperature changes, and no refund will be issued.

TRAVEL CONDITIONS: **Mongolia** is a country where tourist infrastructure is almost nonexistent and is currently being developed. The areas are vast, requiring many hours of travel and significant fuel costs. The journey is mostly on dirt and sand tracks. Depending on their condition, you may spend several hours on the road. A large part of the Mongolian population remains 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. **We emphasize that to truly enjoy this trip, you must accept the aforementioned conditions beforehand, relinquish some preconceived notions about how things should be according to your own mindset, and be 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, occasionally force majeure conditions may arise that necessitate modifications. **Samar Magic Tours** is not legally responsible for force majeure conditions beyond the control of the trip organizers that may require changes to the travel program. These force majeure reasons and circumstances include potential situations of insecurity for the traveler, political instability or violence, rebellions or risk of rebellion, strikes, riots and violent actions, decisions by governments or local authorities, technical or maintenance problems related to transportation, changes in air or road schedules or routes, natural disasters, epidemics, adverse weather conditions, as well as 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 to provide compensation. I have read and understand the Obligations and Responsibilities section detailed above in the form, as well as the General Information and Special Booking Conditions as set out in the tour information materials, and I accept them on my own behalf and on behalf of my group. I declare that I am not traveling against any medical advice.

SIGNATURE: _____

DATE: _____

VALID PASSPORT NUMBER: _____

CITIZENSHIP: _____

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MONGOLIA FACT SHEET

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

Approximate temperatures in Mongolia

Spring:	May	[14° day, 6° nights, sometimes rains, cold]
Summer:	June-August	[28-30° day, 18° nights, dry, sometimes rains]
Autumn:	Sept.	[21-16° day, 0° night, dry, cold]

Luggage: The lighter the luggage, the better. A frameless backpack, rucksack, or duffel bag is advisable, along with a small daypack to carry essentials (camera, sunscreen, binoculars, water bottle, and flashlight). A raincoat or poncho and a good anorak are also recommended, as well as warm clothing for higher altitudes, lightweight cotton clothing, sunglasses and a visor for the hottest hours of midday, and comfortable shoes. Clients are advised to bring binoculars.

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

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

Clothing: There are no dress requirements, but please be respectful of 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 tour program, but photography is not. Many monasteries and temples do not allow photos unless the established fee is paid. It is essential to check before taking a picture, as these notices are in Cyrillic or Mongolian, which are unintelligible to us, and once the camera has been taken, payment is required immediately.

Food: Meat is the staple of Mongolian cuisine. Lamb and flour form the basis of their meals. The Mongolian diet also includes horse meat. Milk and yogurt have a delicious, though somewhat strong, flavor. Cow's milk and goat's milk cheese are common. Milk may not be pasteurized, and therefore some dairy products can be unsafe. It should be boiled, and food should preferably be cooked. This is the standard hygiene practice, but in reality, once you stop at a ger (yurt), every traveler is invited inside

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and offered aromatic "airag" (fermented mare's milk) and cheeses made from goat, yak, and sheep milk—all of which are acidic and dry. Refusal would be considered improper.

Shopping: Keep in mind that haggling is practically unheard of in Mongolia. Even with bargaining, you won't get paid less than 70% of the asking price. Some shops sell handicrafts, postcards, and clothing. You'll also find carpets, leather goods, and products made from cashmere and camel hair. Wooden toys, puzzles, and games are also available, as well as oil paintings and watercolors. In the capital, shops carry expensive European products, especially in the State Department Store and other newer shopping centers that offer virtually everything you could want, both Mongolian and international.

Precautions: **Mongolia is a safe place for tourists** because there are no drugs, robberies, or weapons. However, as anywhere in the world, it's essential to be aware of pickpockets.

Upon arrival at the hotel, it is recommended that you immediately deposit your passport, visas, money, documents, valuables, etc., in the hotel safe (either in your room or at reception) before going out to explore Ulaanbaatar. Be cautious in restaurants, pizzerias, cafes, markets, the central post office, and monasteries, as pickpockets are common.

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