



MONGOLIA GRAND SPECIAL PHOTOGRAPHIC TOUR TO NAADAM FESTIVAL WITH SAMAR MAGIC TOURS (JULY 2-JULY 13)

TOUR DURATION: 12 days / 11 nights

TOUR CODE: **SMT-PHOTONAADAMTOUR-12D**

SPECIAL GROUP DEPARTURE FOR NAADAM FESTIVAL: JULY 2- JULY 13

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

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

PHOTOGRAPHIC TOUR CONDITIONS:

- Suitable for all photographic levels.
- Suitable for all ages, families, and friends.
- A trip you cannot miss.
- Travel to Mongolia and enjoy the adventure with your camera!

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TOUR DESCRIPTION:

We will attend the opening ceremony of the **National Festival** in Ulaanbaatar. **It is the most important nomadic cultural, social, and sporting event in Mongolia.** It formally commemorates the Revolution of **1921**, when Mongolia declared its independence from China. **High Season** in Mongolia, when all hotels and services are congested, and large crowds gather, but the content and color make hundreds of thousands of tourists from around the world travel to Mongolia to attend this important Event. **The three games of wrestling, horse racing, and archery were recorded in a 13th-century book, *The Secret History of the Mongols*. In 2010, the Naadam was inscribed on UNESCO's Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.** Another popular **Naadam** activity is playing games using **shagai**, sheep anklebones that serve as gaming pieces and symbols of divination and friendship.

Note: From July 1 to July 20 – Peak Season in Mongolia, when all services and accommodations are crowded.



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Mongolian National Wrestling: This spectacular event takes place in the Central Stadium. There are a total of **512** wrestlers, of whom only one (1) will be the winner – the first to touch the ground loses, except for hands and feet. The wrestlers honor the judges and the audience with the eagle dance before starting each round of matches, and the winner also performs the eagle dance after each victory. The title of **Nachin or Falcon** is given to a wrestler who wins **5** rounds; **Zaan or Elephant** to one who wins **7** rounds. The wrestler who wins **9** rounds becomes the national wrestling champion and is granted the title of **Arslan or Lion**. A wrestler who has been Lion twice is honored with the title of **Avarga or Champion**.



The Shagai Toss: It consists of flicking a sheep's anklebone (*shagai*) with the fingers, attempting to hit two bones placed on a board about 10 meters away.

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Horse Races: They take place on the steppes over distances of **15 to 30 km**, with **1800–2000** horses participating. This is a demanding test of strength and skill for horses of different ages and for jockeys aged **3 to 10** years. The riders are boys and girls.

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Archery: The target consists of **360** leather rings fixed to a wall **40–50 cm** high and **4 m** long. Men and women shoot **40** and **20** arrows, respectively.

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MONGOLIA GRAND SPECIAL PHOTOGRAPHIC GROUP TOUR TO NAADAM FESTIVAL WITH SAMAR MAGIC TOURS (JULY 2-JULY 13)

BRIEF ITINERARY:

B-BREAKFAST, **L**-LUNCH, **D**-DINNER

JULY 2, Day 1: Arrival at Ulaanbaatar's New "Genghis" Khan Airport. Meeting with the **Samar Magic Tours** team and transfer to the hotel (52 km / 32.3 miles, about **+2-3** hours' drive, depending on traffic). Rooms will be available from **2:00 PM**. **Early check-in must be paid if tourists wish to enter their rooms early** or leave luggage at the hotel reception until **2:00 PM**. Transfer to the hotel. **No activities or meals included today. Rest at the hotel to adjust to the local time.** Accommodation at the selected hotel.

JULY 3, Day 2: Breakfast. **9:00 AM** – Meet the **Samar Magic Tours** team in the hotel lobby. **Purchase mineral water and other items at the State Department Store (Main Store).** Departure **westward** toward the legendary **Karakorum** (approx. 395 km / 245.44 miles, about 6-7 hours' drive), located in **Central Mongolia**. **1:00 PM – Lunch included in route in LUN.** Arrival and transfer. **Free**

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time after a long journey. Accommodation at a Tourist Gers Camp in Karakorum. **(B+L+D)**

JULY 4, Day 3: Breakfast. **9:00 AM** – Meet with the **Samar Magic Tours** team. Visit the **Monument to the Mongolian States** located on a hill overlooking the city of **Karakorum (Kharkhorin)**, on the banks of the Orkhon River. Then 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 Monastery Erdene Zuu**, with its **108 stupas** and the first **Buddhist Lamasery** (16th century), was the most important religious center. Only three of its more than a hundred temples have survived to this day, **remaining Mongolia's most prominent cultural heritage site**. **1:00 PM – Mongolian lunch in front of Erdene Zuu Monastery**. Continue by paved road (46.4 km / 29 miles, financed by the Turkish Government) to the **Khushuu Tsaidam Memorial Museum** in the Orkhon River Valley, erected in **honor of early 8th-century Turkic princes Bilge Khan and Kul Tigin**, whose Orkhon inscriptions are considered the most impressive monuments of the **Göktürk nomads**. Continue on a dirt road to **Ugii Lake** (33 km / 21 miles, about 1 hour) – a suitable area for migratory birds arriving from late April, May, and throughout the summer, over a 25 km / 16-mile-long valley where herds of yaks, sheep, horses, and cattle graze. **Visit a small local flora and fauna museum. Birdwatching opportunities available. Return to Karakorum** (80 km / 50 miles, about 2 hours). Accommodation at Tourist Gers Camp in Karakorum. **(B+L+D)**

JULY 5, Day 4: Breakfast. **9:00 AM** – Meet the **Samar Magic Tours** team. Departure to the **Elsen Tasarkhai dunes** (known as **Bayangobi Desert**, approx. 115 km / 72 miles, about 2 hours' drive). These desert sand dunes stretch over 80 km / 50 miles in a beautiful valley. Opportunity for hiking, walking on the dunes, and landscape photography. **Included excursion to ride Bactrian camels across the dunes. Return to Ulaanbaatar** (approx. 280 km / 174 miles, about 5-6 hours, depending on traffic). **1:00 PM – Lunch included in route in LUN**. Arrival and transfer to hotel. Accommodation at the selected and confirmed hotel. **Dinner not included. (B+L)**

JULY 6, Day 5: Breakfast. **9:00 AM** – Meet the **Samar Magic Tours** team in the hotel lobby. **Join the Naadam Festival Group. Grand City Tour of Ulaanbaatar. 1:00 PM – Welcome Lunch in a traditional local restaurant**. Transfer to the hotel. Accommodation at the selected hotel. **Dinner not included. (B+L)**

JULY 7, Day 6: 7:00 AM – Meet the **Samar Magic Tours** team in the hotel lobby. Depart west to attend an **Authentic Mongolian Nomadic Show** (35 km / 22 miles, about 2 hours' drive, depending on Ulaanbaatar traffic), from **10:00 AM to 1:00 PM**. The **Authentic Mongolian Nomadic Show** demonstrates the traditional lifestyle of Mongolia's nomads, breeding and using five types of livestock while moving from place to place using ox carts, yaks, camels, and horses. **Mongolian lunch included at the camp. Return to Ulaanbaatar** (35 km / 22 miles, about 2 hours' drive,

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depending on traffic). Transfer to the hotel. Accommodation at the selected hotel. **Dinner not included. (B+L)**

JULY 8, Day 7: 9:00 AM – Meet the **Samar Magic Tours** team in the hotel lobby. Ulaanbaatar – Genghis Khan Equestrian Statue – Ulaanbaatar. **Lunch included in a local restaurant.** Accommodation at the selected hotel. **Dinner not included. (B+L)**

JULY 9, Day 8: 9:00–10:00 AM – Attend the **Traditional Costume Parade (DEEL MONGOL)** in Sukhbaatar Central Main Square (a **Pre-Naadam Festival** activity). The **“Deel Mongol” Parade**, known as **“Deeltei Mongol,”** is an annual event in Ulaanbaatar celebrating traditional Mongolian attire. Held in Sukhbaatar Square, it is an important part of the **Naadam Festival**. The event promotes Mongolian cultural heritage, encourages younger generations to wear the **Deel**, and attracts tourists. **Lunch included at a local restaurant.** Accommodation at the selected hotel. **Dinner not included. (B+L)**

JULY 10, Day 9: 7:00 AM – Meet the **Samar Magic Tours** team in the hotel lobby. **Depart west** (35 km / 22 miles, about 2–4 hours’ drive, depending on traffic). Ulaanbaatar – **Naadam Festival Horse Races** – Ulaanbaatar (35 km / 22 miles, about 2–4 hours’ drive, depending on traffic). **Picnic-style lunch included on site.** Accommodation at the selected hotel. **Dinner not included. (B+L)**

JULY 11, Day 10: 8:00 AM – Meet the **Samar Magic Tours** team in the hotel lobby. Departure to the **Central Stadium. 11:00 AM – Opening of the Grand Naadam Festival. Competitions begin. 1:00 PM – Lunch included at a local restaurant.** Accommodation at the selected hotel. **Dinner not included. (B+L)**

JULY 12, Day 11: 9:00 AM – Meet the **Samar Magic Tours** team in the hotel lobby. City Tour. **1:00 PM – Lunch included at a local restaurant.** Departure to the **Central Stadium. Naadam Festival competitions continue. Closing Ceremony of the Grand Naadam Festival.** Last shopping opportunities. Accommodation at the selected hotel. **Dinner not included. (B+L)**

JULY 13, Day 12: Rooms must be vacated before **12:00 PM** on the day of departure. Meet with **Samar Magic Tours** in the hotel lobby. Transfer to Ulaanbaatar’s New “Genghis” Khan Airport (52 km / 32.3 miles, about **4-5 hours’** drive, depending on traffic). **Departure from Mongolia. END OF THE GRAND TOUR. (B)**



MONGOLIA GRAND SPECIAL PHOTOGRAPHIC GROUP TOUR TO NAADAM FESTIVAL WITH SAMAR MAGIC TOURS (JULY 2- JULY 13)

DETAILED ITINERARY:

JULY 2, DAY 1: ARRIVAL IN ULAANBAATAR / FREE DAY TO ADAPT TO THE TIME ZONE

Arrival at the new "Genghis" Khan Airport in Ulaanbaatar, capital of Mongolia. Reception by **Samar Magic Tours** team. **Currency exchange at the airport banks.** Transfer to the hotel (52 km / 32.3 miles, about **2-3** hours' drive depending on traffic). **Rooms available from 2:00 PM. Early check-in must be paid separately if guests wish to enter rooms earlier** or may leave luggage at the reception until **2:00 PM. No activities or meals today. Rest at the hotel to adjust to the local time.** Overnight at the selected hotel.

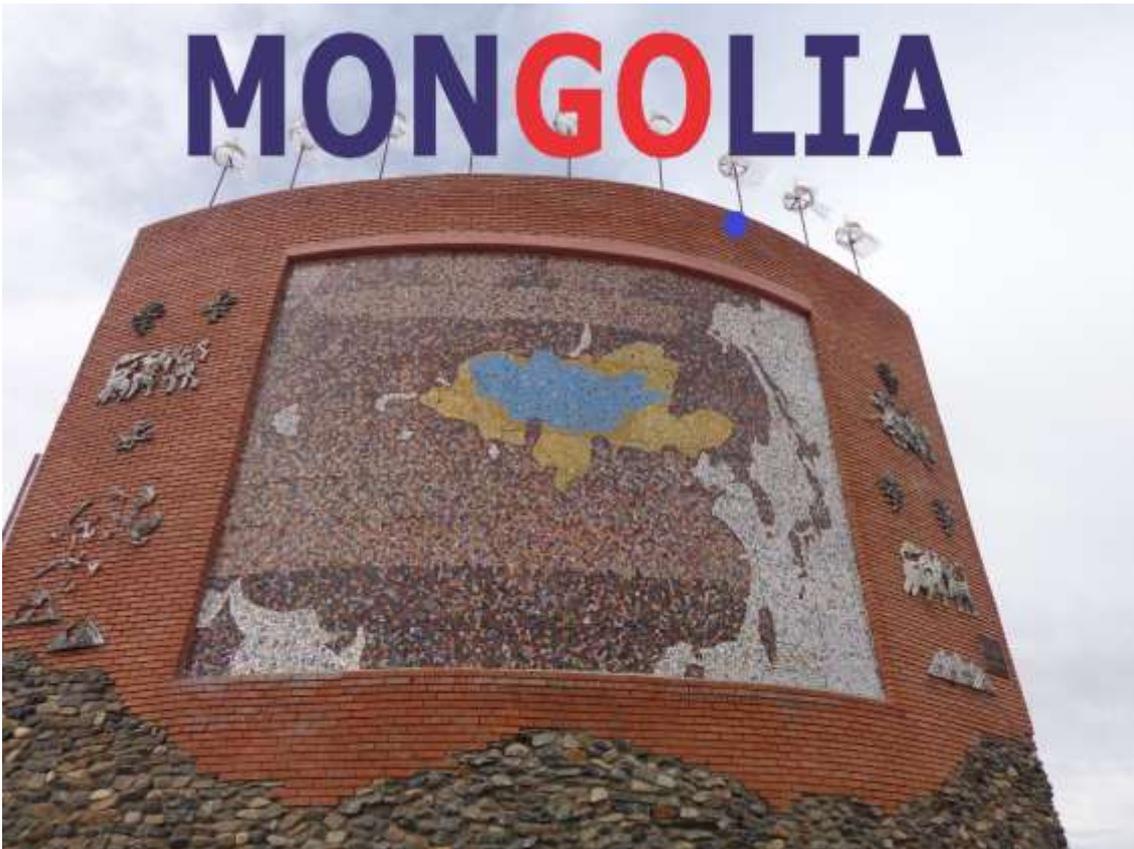
JULY 3, DAY 2: ULAANBAATAR / KARAKORUM (CENTRAL MONGOLIA) Full Board

Breakfast. **09:00 AM** – Meeting with **Samar Magic Tours** team at the hotel reception. **Purchase of bottled water and supplies at the State Department Store (Main Store).** Departure westward toward the legendary **Karakorum** (approx. 395 km / 245 miles, about 6-7 hours' drive) in **Central Mongolia. 1:00**

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PM – Lunch in route in Lun. Arrival and transfer. **Free time to rest after a long drive.** Overnight in a tourist Gers camp in Karakorum.



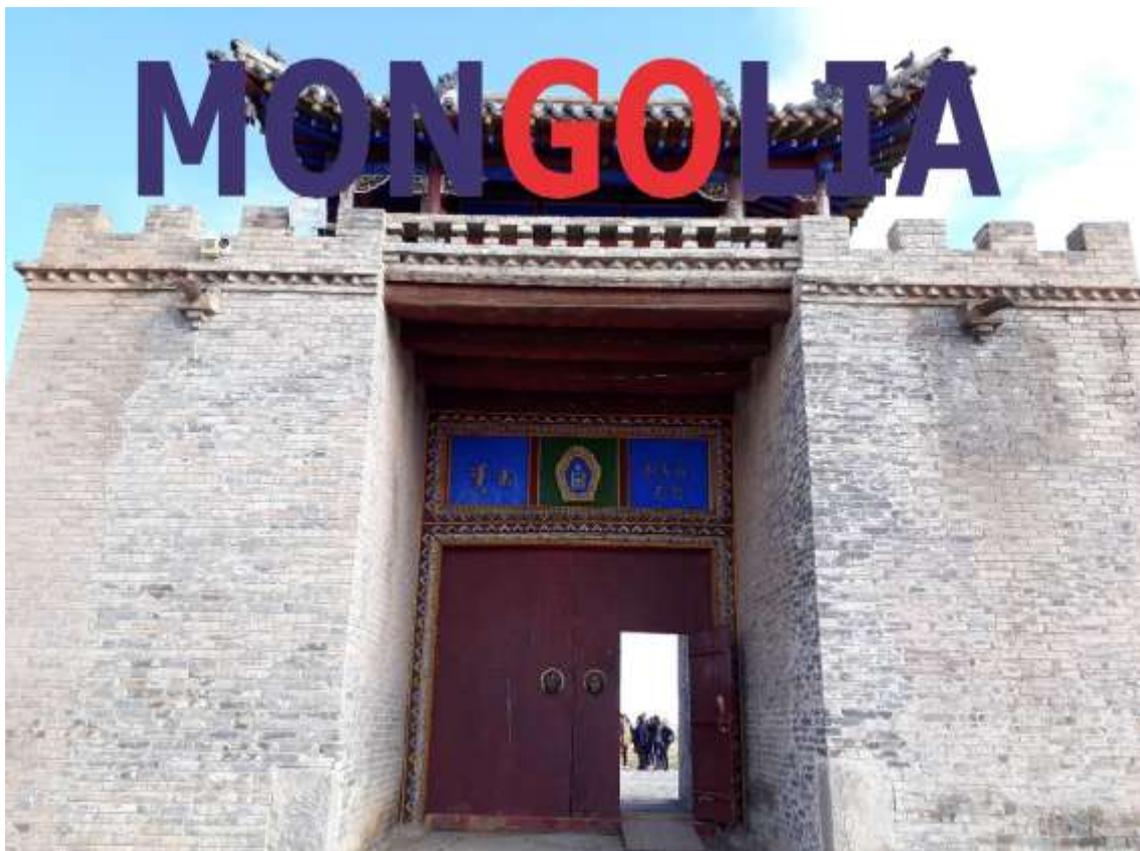
JULY 4, DAY 3: MONUMENT TO THE MONGOL STATES / ERDENE ZUU MONASTERY / KARAKORUM MUSEUM / MONUMENTS / ORKHON VALLEY / TURKIC MEMORIALS / UGII LAKE / KARAKORUM

Breakfast. **09:00 AM** – Meeting with the **Samar Magic Tours** team. Next, we will visit the **Monument to the Mongol States**, located on a hill overlooking the city of **Karakorum (Kharkhorin)**, on the bank of the Orkhon River. It was built in 2004. The monument consists of a large pile of stones (**a shamanic ovo**) carefully assembled in the shape of a cone, approximately the size of a tipi, with nine poles protruding from the top. This structure is mounted on a stone and concrete platform and is surrounded by three walls representing three sections of a circle. The outer sides of these walls display three colorful mosaics depicting three maps—one for each of the empires.

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1. First, there was the **Xiongnu Empire**, a confederation of nomadic tribes that lived on the steppes from approximately the 3rd century BC to the 1st century AD.
2. Next came the **Turkic Khaganate**, established by the Göktürks in 682, which lasted only until 744.
3. Finally, and most famously, **Genghis Khan** founded the **Mongol Empire** in the 13th and 14th centuries.



The iconic location of the Mongol Empire in culture, combined with the shamanic symbolism of the **ovoo** at the monument's center, encourages people to leave offerings of vodka, milk, tea, rice, and other edible treats, which inevitably attract birds and the occasional herd of passing goats and sheep. 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 the successor of **Genghis Khan, Ogedei Khan**. The monument offers a magnificent vantage point to contemplate the city of **Kharkhorin and the Orkhon River** and to imagine how this collection of dirt roads and low buildings might have looked in its

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days of glory. Next, visit the **Erdene Zuu Monastery (Hundred Treasures)**, the **Turtle Monument**, and the **Karakorum Museum** to see relics of the ancient capital of the Mongol Empire. The **Buddhist Monastery of Erdene Zuu**, with its **108** stupas and the first **Buddhist Lamasery (16th century)**, was the **most important religious center**. Today, it remains an impressive sight, with its walls, stupas, and temples spread over an area of **400** square meters, surrounded by the steppe. The construction was continued by his son **Ogedei Khan** after **Genghis Khan's death**. Forty years later, **Kublai Khan (Genghis Khan's grandson and host of Marco Polo)** moved the empire's capital to **Beijing (Yuan Dynasty)**. By 1792, only 62 temples and over 10,000 lamas remained. In the 1930s, the **Stalinist purges** destroyed most temples, and the lamas were exiled to die in Siberia. Of the more than one hundred temples, **only three have survived to this day—still the most prominent cultural legacy of Mongolia**. **1:00 PM – Mongolian lunch included in front of the Erdene Zuu Monastery**. Then, drive along a paved road (46.4 km / 29 miles, financed by **the Turkish Government**) to the **Khushuu Tsaidam Memorial Museum in the Orkhon River Valley**, erected in honor of the 8th-century **Turkic princes Bilge Khan and Kul Tigin**, whose Orkhon inscriptions are considered the most impressive monuments of the **Göktürk nomads**. Continue along a dirt road to **Ugii Lake** (33 km / 21 miles, 1-hour drive)—a prime site for migratory birds seen here in late April, May, and throughout the summer, in a beautiful 25 km (16-mile) valley where herds of yaks, sheep, horses, and cattle graze. Visit a small local flora and fauna museum. There will be opportunities for **birdwatching**. **Return to Karakorum** (80 km / 50 miles, about 2 hours). Overnight at tourist Gers camp in Karakorum.

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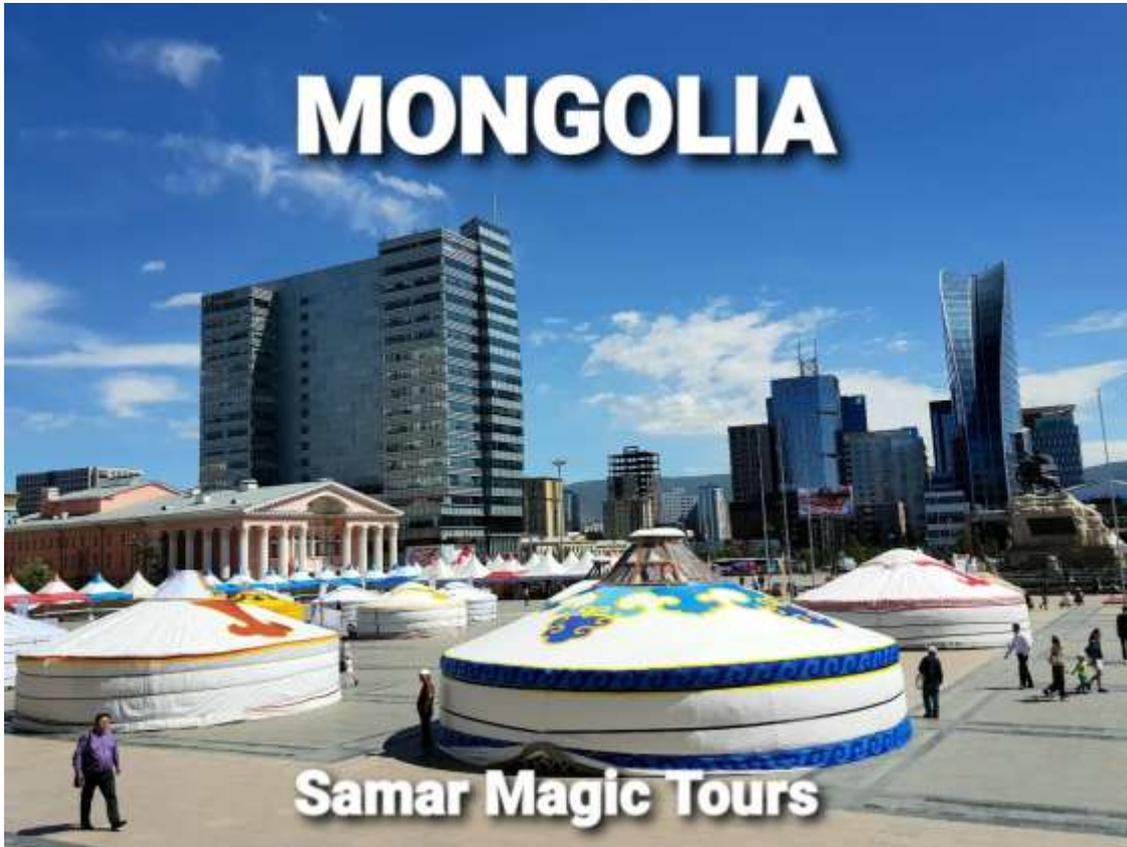


JULY 5, DAY 4: KARAKORUM / BAYANGOBI DESERT / CAMELBACK EXCURSION / ULAANBAATAR

Breakfast and Lunch

Breakfast. **09:00 AM** – Meeting with the **Samar Magic Tours** team. Then, departure toward the **Elsen Tasarkhai dunes** (known as the **Bayangobi Desert**, approx. 115 km / 72 miles, +2 hours of travel). These desert sand dunes stretch for about 80 km / 50 miles across a beautiful valley. Opportunity for hiking, walking on the dunes, and photographing the landscapes. **Included excursion to ride Bactrian camels across the dunes. Return to Ulaanbaatar** (approx. 280 km / 174 miles, +5 hours, depending on traffic upon entry). **1:00 PM – Lunch included in route in Lun.** Arrival and transfer to the hotel. Overnight at the selected and confirmed hotel. **Dinner not included, at your own expense.**

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JULY 6, DAY 5: GRAND TOUR IN ULAANBAATAR / WELCOME LUNCH

Breakfast and Lunch

09:00 AM – Meeting with the **Samar Magic Tours** team in the hotel lobby. **Join the Main NAADAM FESTIVAL Group. Panoramic tour of the city of Ulaanbaatar:** visit the highest and most important Buddhist monastery in Mongolia, **Gandan Monastery**, which houses a **25-meter-high Buddha statue**. **The Gandan Monastery** was founded in **1809** under the name Yellow Temple. The monastery holds a library with Buddhist scriptures of Gandjuur (8 volumes), their commentaries (225 volumes), and other writings inscribed using the nine precious stones. It was declared a State Heritage Site in **1994**. **10:00 AM** – Opportunity to attend a **Buddhist ceremony**. Next, visit **the Museum of Dinosaur Fossils**. The center piece of the museum is the **Tarbosaurus bataar (a cousin of Tyrannosaurus rex)**, standing **4 meters tall**, weighing **3 tons**, along with a smaller Saurolophus featuring its distinctive cranial crest. **The Tarbosaurus bataar** made international headlines in **2012** when it was sold at an auction in Texas. The Mongolian Government protested, stating that the fossil had been illegally removed from Mongolia and demanded its return. The legal battle ended when a U.S. judge ruled in Mongolia's favor. Actor **Nicolas Cage** agreed to return a rare dinosaur skull to the Mongolian government. The Oscar-winning actor had purchased the Tyrannosaurus bataar skull in 2007, unaware that it had been stolen. Authorities stated he

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voluntarily



surrendered it after learning the circumstances. The museum also features fossils of Velociraptor and Protoceratops, as well as an **Oviraptor egg nest**. Visit the **National Museum of Mongolian History**, which has a rich collection of historical and cultural artifacts from the Stone Age to the present day; the **Central Sukhbaatar 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 by Genghis Khan (1206–2006), located in front of the Mongolian Parliament and Government House. **1:00 PM – Welcome Lunch included in a traditional local restaurant.** Transfer to the hotel. Overnight at the selected hotel. **Dinner not included, at your own expense.**

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MONGOLIA

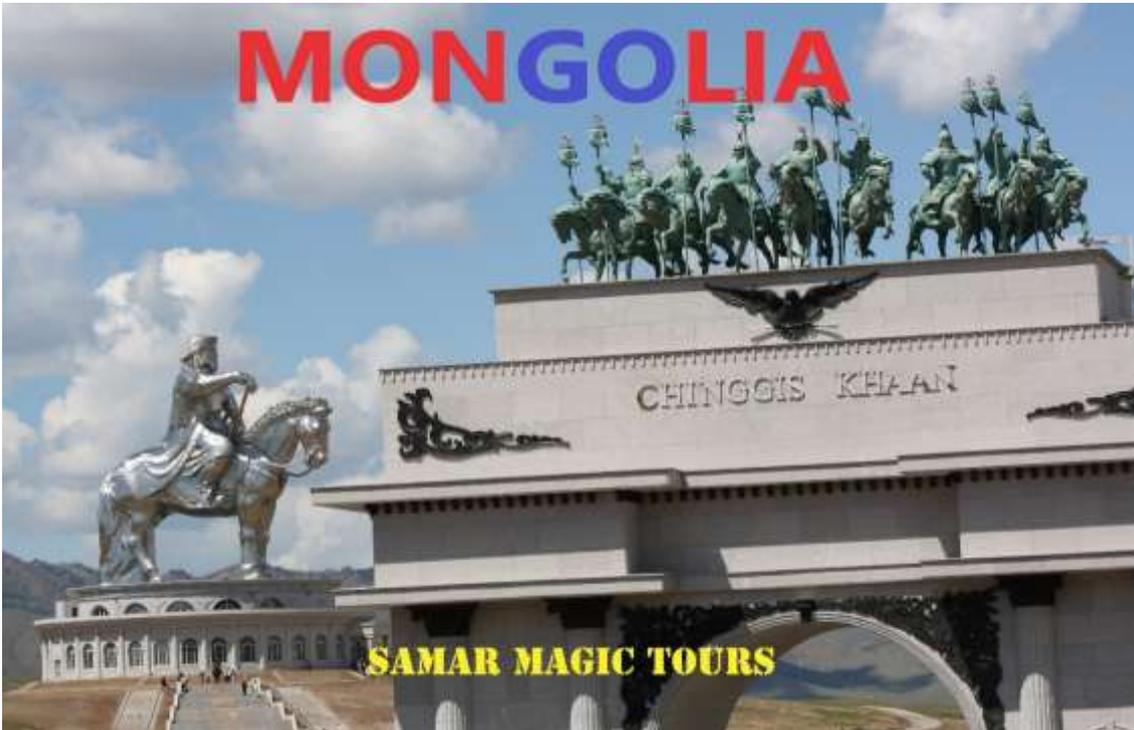


JULY 7, DAY 6:

ULAANBAATAR / AUTHENTIC MONGOL NOMAD SHOW / ULAANBAATAR Breakfast and Lunch

Breakfast. **07:00 AM** – Meeting with the **Samar Magic Tours** team in the hotel lobby. Then, departure **westward** to attend an **Authentic Mongol Nomad Show** (35 km / 22 miles, approximately +2 hours of travel depending on traffic), from **10:00 AM to 1:00 PM**. The **Authentic Mongol Nomad Show** demonstrates the traditional lifestyle of Mongolia's nomads, the herding and use of the five types of livestock as they move from one place to another, using ox carts, yaks, camels, and horses. Additionally, visitors can see **what a Ger is like**. The Mongolian Ger, one of the national symbols of Mongolia, is made using traditional craftsmanship. All the furniture, pots, and garments inside are antiques that reflect the customs and lifestyle of the central Khalkh people. **Mongolian lunch included on site. Return to Ulaanbaatar** (35 km / 22 miles, approximately +2 hours of travel, depending on traffic upon entry). Transfer to the hotel. Overnight at the selected hotel. **Dinner not included, at your own expense.**

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JULY 8, DAY 7: ULAANBAATAR / GENGHIS KHAN EQUESTRIAN STATUE / ULAANBAATAR

Breakfast and Lunch

Breakfast. **08:00 AM** – Meeting with the **Samar Magic Tours** team in the hotel lobby. Departure **northeast** to visit the **Genghis Khan Equestrian Statue** (55 km / 34.2 miles, approximately +2 hours of travel depending on traffic). Part of the Genghis Khan Sculpture Complex, this **40-meter/~133.3 ft**-high statue of **Genghis Khan on horseback** stands on the bank of the Tuul River. The statue symbolically faces east, toward his birthplace. At the base of the monument is a visitor center, **10** meters high, featuring **36** columns representing the **36** Khans from **Genghis to Ligdan Khan**. Designed by sculptor D. Erdenebileg and architect J. Enkhjargal, it was inaugurated in **2008**. Visitors can ascend to the **horse's head** through its chest and neck, where they can enjoy a panoramic view. Inside the complex, there is a **museum** showcasing exhibitions related to the **Bronze Age** and the **Xiongnu archaeological cultures** of Mongolia, highlighting daily-use items such as belt buckles, knives, and sacred animal carvings. A second exhibition focuses on the **Great Khan period** of the 13th–14th centuries, displaying ancient tools, jewelry, and Nestorian crosses and rosaries. **At this site, visitors may rent horses and camels with local guides and take photos with Golden Eagles and Kazakh falconers (extra charge paid directly on-site).** Return to **Ulaanbaatar** (55 km / 34.2 miles, approximately +2 hours of travel depending on traffic). **1:00 PM – Lunch included in a local restaurant in Ulaanbaatar. 6:00 PM – Enjoy a folkloric**

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performance featuring Mongolian throat singing and traditional dance. Transfer to the hotel. Overnight at the selected hotel. **Dinner not included, at your own expense.**



JULY 9, DAY 8: DEEL MONGOL PARADE IN ULAANBAATAR

Breakfast and Lunch

Breakfast. **09:00 AM** – Meeting with the **Samar Magic Tours** team in the hotel lobby. **09:00 AM – 10:00 AM** – Attend the **Traditional Costume Parade (DEEL MONGOL)** at Sukhbaatar Central Main Square (a **Pre-Festival Naadam** activity). The **“Deel Mongol” Parade**, also known as **“Deeltei Mongol”**, is an annual event in Ulaanbaatar that celebrates traditional Mongolian clothing. It takes place in **Sukhbaatar Square** and is an important part of the **Naadam Festival**. The goal of the **“Deel Mongol”** event is to **promote Mongolian cultural heritage, encourage younger generations to wear the traditional Deel, and attract tourists.** **Lunch included at a local restaurant.** Transfer to the hotel. Overnight at the selected hotel. **Dinner not included, at your own expense.**

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MONGOLIA



JULY 10, DAY 9: ULAANBAATAR / NAADAM FESTIVAL HORSE RACES / ULAANBAATAR

Breakfast and Lunch

Breakfast. 07:00 AM – Meeting with the **Samar Magic Tours** team in the hotel lobby. **Departure westward** (35 km / 22 miles, approximately **2–4** hours of travel depending on traffic) to witness the **Naadam Festival Horse Races. NAADAM FESTIVAL:** These races take place across the vast Mongolian steppes, covering distances of **15 to 30 km**, with **1,800–2,000 horses** competing. It is a demanding test of strength and endurance for both the horses of different age groups and their young riders, who range from **3 to 10 years old** — both boys and girls participate. **Picnic-style lunch included on site. Return to Ulaanbaatar** (35 km / 22 miles, approximately **2–4** hours of travel, depending on traffic). Transfer to the hotel. Overnight at the selected hotel. **Dinner not included.**



JULY 11, DAY 10: OPENING CEREMONY OF THE NAADAM FESTIVAL / BEGINNING OF THE COMPETITIONS

Breakfast and Lunch

Breakfast. **08:00 AM** – Meeting with the **Samar Magic Tours** team in the hotel lobby. Transfer to the **Central Stadium**. **11:00 AM** – Upon the arrival of the national flag at the stadium, we will attend the **Opening Ceremony of Mongolia’s National Festival – Naadam**, which celebrates Mongolia’s Revolution and Independence from China. Attendance at the competitions: **512** wrestlers take part in the **Naadam wrestling tournament**. **Archery**: The target consists of **360** leather rings fixed on a wall, measuring **40–50 cm** high and **4 m** long. Men and women shoot **40 and 20 arrows**, respectively. **Ankle bone shooting**: Competitors flick a sheep’s ankle bone with their fingers, aiming to hit two target bones placed on a board about **10 meters away**. **Lunch included at a local restaurant**. Transfer to the hotel. Overnight at the selected hotel. **Dinner at your own expense**. In the evening, numerous **cultural and entertainment programs** are offered throughout the city. **Fireworks show** takes place at night to celebrate the **National Festival**.

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JULY 12, DAY 11: CLOSING CEREMONY OF THE NAADAM FESTIVAL
Breakfast and Lunch

Breakfast. **09:00 AM** – Meeting with the **Samar Magic Tours** team in the hotel lobby. Afterwards, visit the new **“Genghis” Khan Museum (“Chinggis” Khaan)**, which officially opened its doors on October 11, 2022. The museum is designed to showcase the history of Mongolian kings, from the reign of **King Hunnu Modun Shanyu** to the abdication of the **Eighth Jebtsundamba**. Later, enjoy **last-minute shopping for pure Mongolian cashmere** at a factory store. Continue to **Zaisan Hill**, which offers a panoramic view of **Ulaanbaatar**. Then visit the **Golden Buddha Statue**, located at the base of the **Zaisan Memorial**, standing **75 feet (23 meters) tall**. **1:00 PM** – **Lunch included at a local restaurant**. Transfer to the **Central Stadium** to attend the **final competitions** and the **Closing Ceremony of the Naadam Festival**. Transfer back to the hotel. Overnight at the selected hotel. **Dinner at your own expense**. In the evening, various **cultural and entertainment programs** are available throughout the city.

JULY 13, DAY 12: DEPARTURE FROM MONGOLIA

Breakfast

Breakfast. Rooms must be vacated before **12:00 PM (noon)** on the day of departure. Meeting with the **Samar Magic Tours** team in the hotel lobby. Transfer to the **New “Genghis” Khan International Airport** (52 km / 32.3 miles, approximately **4-5** hours of travel, depending on traffic). **Departure from Mongolia. END OF THE GRAND JOURNEY.**

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WHAT IS INCLUDED?

9 nights of accommodation in the selected hotel, based on a 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 according to the request), with bathrooms outside (one building for gentlemen and one for ladies) in Karakorum. 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.**

Welcome lunch in a traditional local restaurant.

Meals as specified (**11B, 10L, 2D**) with **1** bottle of mineral water per person per day.

All private transfers by tourist bus, minibus, or van (*depending on the confirmed group) with all fuel included.

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

All entrance tickets to the Great **Naadam Festival** in Ulaanbaatar on **July 11 and July 12.**

Authentic Mongolian Nomadic Show with experience and knowledge of true nomadic life on **July 7.**

Traditional Costume Parade known as "Deeltei Mongol" on **July 9.**

Naadam Festival horse races on **July 10.**

All entrance fees to the Equestrian Statue of Genghis Khan, Karakorum, Turkic Memorials, monuments, museums, and monasteries.

Attend a folklore show with the fascinating sounds of khoomi throat singing and Mongolian dance.

Explore, enjoy, and climb the sand dunes in the Bayangobi desert.

Camelback ride on the sand dunes.

Birdwatching of migratory birds at Lake Ugii, which gather in this area at the end of April, May, and throughout the summer.

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

WHAT IS NOT INCLUDED?

- Camera equipment.
- International flights.
- Occasional flight delays or cancellations.
- **Early hotel check-in.**
- **Late hotel check-out.**
- Visa.
- Any rescue costs or early departure expenses.
- Change of departure date from Ulaanbaatar.
- **Vegetarians must pay a supplement**, since vegetables in Mongolia are very expensive, and the Mongolian diet is based on meat, not vegetables. They must inform in advance and pay the supplement depending on the number of days in Mongolia.

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- The traveller is responsible for having proper travel documents, such as a valid passport and required passport photos.
- Travel insurance.
- Personal expenses such as hotel porter tips, phone/fax charges, laundry, beverages, meals, optional activities, and services not specified in the itinerary.
- Any circumstances beyond our control, such as quarantine restrictions, weather conditions, road conditions, etc.
- Any other item not mentioned under included services.

HIGHLIGHTED EXPERIENCES:

- Suitable for all photographic levels.
- Suitable for all ages, families, and friends.
- A trip you cannot miss.
- Travel to Mongolia and enjoy the adventure with your camera!
- We will visit in Central Mongolia: the "Erdene Zuu Monastery," the Turtle Monument, and the Karakorum Museum to see relics of the ancient capital of the Mongol Empire. The Buddhist Monastery Erdene Zuu, 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 complex surrounded by the steppe.
- We will visit the Museum of the Khushuu Tsaidam Memorials in the Orkhon Valley.
- We will visit the beautiful Lake Ugii for birdwatching, a suitable site for migratory birds that gather here at the end of April, May, and throughout the summer, where herds of yaks, sheep, horses, and cattle graze.
- Explore, enjoy, and climb the sand dunes in the Bayangobi Desert.
- Camelback ride on the sand dunes.
- We will attend the **Naadam Festival**. It is the most important nomadic cultural, social, and sporting event in Mongolia.
- We will attend the competitions of horse racing, national wrestling, archery, and ankle-bone shooting during the **Naadam Festival**.
- We will attend an Authentic Mongolian Nomadic Show demonstrating the traditional nomadic lifestyle of Mongolia, the breeding and use of five types of livestock while moving from place to place, using ox carts, yaks, camels, and horses.
- We will visit the Great Equestrian Statue of "Genghis Khan."
- We will attend the "Deel Mongol" Parade, known as "Deeltei Mongol," an annual event in Ulaanbaatar celebrating traditional Mongolian clothing. It takes place in Sukhbaatar Square and is an important part of the **Naadam Festival**.
- We will visit the new "Genghis" Khan Museum ("Chinggis" Khaan), which officially opened on October 11, 2022. The museum is designed to showcase the history of Mongol kings from the reign of King Hunnu Modun Shanyu to the abdication of the Eighth Jebtsundamba.
- Listen to the fascinating sounds of khoomi throat singing during a traditional dance performance.

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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. 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. Check-in: from 14:00 Check-out: by 12:00 noon</p>

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<p>MILLENNIUM PLAZA HOTEL 4*</p> 	<p>STANDART TWIN ROOM</p> 	<p>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.</p> <p>Check-in: from 14:00 Check-out: by 12:00 noon</p>
<p>RAMADA HOTEL 4*</p> 	<p>STANDART TWIN ROOM</p> 	<p>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.</p> <p>Check-in: from 14:00 Check-out: by 12:00 noon</p>

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<p>PREMIUM PALACE HOTEL 4*</p> 	<p>STANDART TWIN ROOM</p> 	<p>Premium Palace Hotel 4★</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Check-in: from 14:00 Check-out: by 12:00 noon</p>
<p>NOVOTEL HOTEL 5*</p> 	<p>STANDART TWIN ROOM</p> 	<p>Novotel Hotel 5★</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Check-in: from 14:00 Check-out: by 12:00 noon</p>

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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 and in a GER with **2-3-4** beds or more (according to request). On this trip, **only single-room accommodation can be confirmed in the indicated hotels in Ulaanbaatar.** In the tourist Gers camps in the Mongolian countryside, **A SINGLE GER IS NOT CONFIRMED.**

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LIST OF RECOMMENDED PHOTOGRAPHIC EQUIPMENT TO BRING TO MONGOLIA:

1. Camera.
2. Wide-angle lens. For example, 14–24mm or 16–35mm.
3. Mid-range zoom. FOR EXAMPLE, 24–70MM.
4. Telephoto lens. FOR EXAMPLE, 70–200MM TELEPHOTO.
5. Fixed portrait lens. FOR EXAMPLE, A 14MM 1.8 OR A 20MM 1.4.
6. Tripod. THE MOST STABLE TRIPOD POSSIBLE.
7. Filters.
8. Remote shutter release.

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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

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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.

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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.**

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.**

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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: _____

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LIST OF COUNTRIES ELIGIBLE FOR ELECTRONIC VISA APPLICATION

1. Albania	34. Cabo Verde	67. Rwanda
2. Angola	35. Cambodia	68. Samoa
3. Andorra	36. Kenya	69. San Marino
4. Antigua and Barbuda	37. Kiribati	70. Sao Tome and Principe
5. Armenia	38. Colombia	71. Seychelles
6. Nepal	39. Comoros	72. Saudi Arabia
7. Barbados	40. Congo	73. Senegal
8. Bahamas	41. Democratic Republic of the Congo	74. Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
9. Belize	42. Costa Rica	75. Saint Kitts and Nevis
10. Benin	43. Côte D'Ivoire	76. Saint Lucia
11. Bolivia (Plurinational State of)	44. Cuba	77. Solomon Islands
12. Bosnia and Herzegovina	45. Kuwait	78. Suriname
13. Botswana	46. Lesotho	79. Sierra Leone
14. Brunei Darussalam	47. Mauritius	80. Taiwan
15. Burundi	48. Mauritania	81. United Republic of Tanzania
16. Bhutan	49. Madagascar	82. Togo
17. Vanuatu	50. Malawi	83. Tonga
18. Vatican City State	51. Marshall Islands	84. Central African Republic
19. Venezuela, Bolivarian Republic of	52. Mexico	85. Trinidad and Tobago
20. Vietnam	53. Micronesia (Federated States of)	86. Tuvalu
21. Gabon	54. Mozambique	87. Uganda
22. Guyana	55. Moldova	88. North Macedonia
23. Gambia (Republic of The)	56. Montenegro	89. Fiji
24. Ghana	57. Myanmar	90. Haiti
25. Guatemala	58. Namibia	91. Honduras
26. Guinea	59. Nauru	92. China
27. Guinea Bissau	60. Nicaragua	93. Equatorial Guinea
28. Grenada	61. South Africa	94. El Salvador
29. Dominica	62. South Sudan	95. India
30. Djibouti	63. Palau	96. Eritrea
31. Zambia	64. Panama	97. Eswatini
32. Zimbabwe	65. Papua New Guinea	98. Ethiopia
33. Timor-Leste	66. Paraguay	99. Jamaica

1800-1882 <https://immigration.gov.mn/>

ELECTRONIC VISA TO TRAVEL TO MONGOLIA: The electronic visa application system of Mongolia (<https://evisa.mn/en>) — **In 3 steps and your eVisa is ready!** — has been in service since June 1, 2021, following amendments to the Law on the Legal Status of Foreigners, according to the Immigration Agency of Mongolia (IAM). This means that applicants no longer need to complete any paperwork or send their passport and application form for consular processing. Under these amendments, the service is designed for foreigners who wish to travel to Mongolia for tourism purposes and require an electronic visa from abroad. As of now, nationals of **99** countries are eligible to obtain **visas for tourism purposes (K2)**.

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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*

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(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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