



MONGOLIA PHOTOGRAPHIC SPECIAL TOUR TO REINDEER NOMADS AND SHAMANS (INCLUDED TWO FLIGHTS) WITH SAMAR MAGIC TOURS

TOUR DURATION: 12 days / 11 nights

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

STARTS/ENDS IN: Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia (*flights excluded).

MINIMUM GROUP: **6-11** adults or more participants.

VALID PRIVATE DEPARTURE DATES: **MAY 20, JUNE, JULY** (*except from **July 1-20 - Peak Season!**. Check programs and for **NAADAM FESTIVAL GROUP RATES**), **AUGUST, UNTIL SEPTEMBER 15.**

CHECK GROUP RATES AND HOTELS: CONTACT

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!



TOUR DESCRIPTION:

Mongolia is the Land of Eternal Blue Sky, a country of great contrasts and vast natural reserves. There is nothing to limit the view; from any point, only the horizon can be seen — the green of the steppe plains and the deep blue of the sky — both colors merging so far away that it is possible to perceive the curvature of the earth.

We will begin the route in **Ulaanbaatar, the capital of Mongolia**, with reception by the **Samar Magic Tours** team. Then, departure toward the **West** to attend an Authentic Mongolian Nomadic Show, which demonstrates the traditional lifestyle of Mongolia's nomads — the breeding and use of five types of livestock, moving from place to place using ox carts, yaks, camels, and horses.

At the scheduled time, meeting with **Samar Magic Tours** at the hotel reception (*rooms must be vacated by **12:00 noon**). Transfer to the new "Genghis" Khan Airport in Ulaanbaatar. **Included flight Ulaanbaatar/Murun. Domestic flights pending final schedule.** Meeting at Murun local airport with the local vehicle and private transfer to the Great Khuvsgul Lake National Park, crossing the city of Murun, capital of Khuvsgul Province (a town of only about 28,000 inhabitants, at an elevation of **1,283 m** above sea level). The **Great Khuvsgul Lake**, bordering Siberia, is Mongolia's **Paradise or Mother Lake** due to its great beauty. This is a magnificent and vast blue lake, surrounded by dense Siberian forests and abundant wildlife. The water is so clear that it is perfectly drinkable; mountains everywhere (about 2,000), fresh pine forests, and graceful yaks and horses galloping elegantly. There we will meet the **Tsaatan**, better known as the **Reindeer Nomads (some are powerful shamans)**, since they mainly breed these animals for their meat and hides.

Mongolian shamanism, broadly understood as Mongolia's folk religion and sometimes also called **Tengrism**, refers to the ethnic animist and shamanic religion historically practiced in Mongolia.

Tuva became independent in 1921, when **Mongolia achieved independence**. The **Tsaatan** people fled from the city of Tuva at the outbreak of World War II, when Tuva was annexed by the Soviet Union in 1944. The tribe settled in Mongolia because of food shortages caused by the war — domestic animals were confiscated by the Soviet Union, among other reasons.

The Tsaatan practice shamanism, a religion based on the worship of nature. The tribe believes that the souls of their ancestors live in the forest, guiding the living. They worship shamans, whom they call "Boo," and follow many sacred texts and different teachings in their daily lives, such as hunting or driving away rain.



In the second part of this great circuit, departure in the N/E direction to visit the **40-meter / ~133.3 ft Equestrian Statue of Genghis Khan** on horseback. The statue symbolically points east toward his birthplace. It is located atop the **Genghis Khan Statue Complex**, a visitor center 10 meters (32 ft 10 in) high, with **36** columns representing the **36** khans from **Genghis Khan to Ligdan Khan**. Visitors walk up to the horse's head through its chest and neck, where they can enjoy a panoramic view. Then, departure toward the **Gorkhi-Terelj National Park**, located in the N/E at 1600m above sea level, with high **Mesozoic granite rocks**, mountains, steppes, alpine forests, and large rock formations of curious shapes from the Mesozoic era, such as the **Turtle Rock**, etc. Next, departure toward **Karakorum (Central Mongolia)**, 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). Here, 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 a conical shape, roughly 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 feature three colorful mosaics representing three maps, one for each empire.

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. Then followed the **Turkic Khaganate Empire**, established by the Göktürks in 682 and lasting only until 744.
3. Finally, and most famously, **Genghis Khan founded the Mongol Empire** in the 13th and 14th centuries.

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The iconic place of the Mongol Empire in culture, combined with the shamanic symbolism of the ovoos in the center of the monument, encourages people to leave offerings of vodka, milk, tea, rice, and other edible treats that 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 Imperial Map Monument** is a great viewpoint to contemplate the city of Kharkhorin and the Orkhon River, and to imagine what this collection of dirt roads and low buildings might have looked like in its days of glory.

Next, visits to the **Erdene Zuu Monastery (One Hundred Treasures)**, the **Turtle Monument**, and the **Karakorum Museum**, to see relics of the ancient capital of the Mongol Empire. The **Erdene Zuu Buddhist Monastery**, with its 108 stupas and first **Buddhist Lamasery** (16th century), was the most important religious center. Today, it remains an impressive sight, with its walls, stupas, and temples occupying an enclosure of **400** square meters, surrounded by the steppe. 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)**.

We continue the route toward the **Elsen Tasarkhai dunes** (known as the **Bayangobi Desert**). These desert sand dunes extend for 80 km across a beautiful valley. Opportunity for hiking, walking along the dunes, and photographing the landscapes. **Included excursion to ride the Bactrian camels across the dunes**. Finally, **return to Ulaanbaatar** for last-minute shopping.

A large part of the Mongolian population remains nomadic, moving from place to place on horseback, camel, or yak, with their **Gers** and herds, and the occasional encounter with one of these families and their way of life is an unforgettable experience. **We emphasize that, to fully enjoy this experience, one must accept in advance the conditions mentioned earlier, renounce some preconceived ideas of how things should be according to our mindset, and remain open to what this country can offer.**



MONGOLIA PHOTOGRAPHIC SPECIAL TOUR TO REINDEER NOMADS AND SHAMANS (INCLUDED TWO FLIGHTS) WITH SAMAR MAGIC TOURS

BRIEF ITINERARY:

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

Ulaanbaatar – Included Flight Ulaanbaatar/Murun – Great Khuvsgul Lake National Park – Included Flight Murun/Ulaanbaatar – Genghis Khan Equestrian Statue – Gorkhi/Terelj National Park – Ulaanbaatar – Authentic Mongolian Nomadic Show – Karakorum (Central Mongolia) – Orkhon Valley – Turkic Memorials – Karakorum – Bayangobi Desert – Ulaanbaatar

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' drive depending on traffic). If the clients arrive in Ulaanbaatar on flight **OM138 (Mongolia Airlines)** from **FRAN (Frankfurt, Germany)** at **05:10 AM** or **TK236 (Turkish Airlines)** from **IST (Istanbul, Turkey)** at **07:10 AM**. **Clients must pay in advance 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. **No activities or meals included today**. Rest at the hotel to adjust to the local time. Selected Hotel.

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Day 2: 09:00 AM–Meeting with the **Samar Magic Tours** team at the hotel reception/Grand Tour in Ulaanbaatar/Welcome Lunch/**06:00 PM (18:00)**–National Mongolian Concert. Selected Hotel. **(B)(L)**

Day 3: Included Flight Ulaanbaatar/Murun/Great Khuvsgul Lake National Park. Tourist Gers Camp. **(B)(L)(D)**

Days 4–5: Great Khuvsgul Lake National Park/Meeting with the **Tsaatan**–The Reindeer Herders. Some members of this small community are traditionally very strong shamanic healers. **(Note: transportation inside Great Khuvsgul Lake National Park is not included).** Tourist Gers Camp. **(B)(L)(D)**

Day 6: Included Flight Murun/Ulaanbaatar. Selected Hotel. **(B)(L)**

Day 7: Ulaanbaatar/Genghis Khan Equestrian Statue/Gorkhi-Terelj National Park/Ulaanbaatar. Selected Hotel. **(B)(L)**

Day 8: Ulaanbaatar/Authentic Mongolian Nomadic Show/Karakorum (Central Mongolia). Tourist Gers Camp. **(B)(L)(D)**

Day 9: Karakorum: Monument to the Mongol States/Erdene Zuu Monastery/Karakorum Museum/Orkhon Valley/Turkic Memorials/Karakorum. Tourist Gers Camp. **(B)(L)(D)**

Day 10: Karakorum/Bayangobi Desert/Excursion on Bactrian Camelback/Ulaanbaatar. Selected Hotel. **(B)(L)**

Day 11: Ulaanbaatar. Last Shopping. Selected Hotel. **(B)(L)**

Day 12: Rooms must be vacated before **12:00 noon** on the day of departure. 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). **Departure from Mongolia. (B)**



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PHOTOGRAPHIC TOUR CONDITIONS:

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

DETAILED ITINERARY:

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 the **Samar Magic Tours team**. **Exchange money at the airport banks**. Transfer to the hotel (52 km / 32.3 miles, about **2-3** hours' drive, depending on traffic). *Rooms will be available starting from **2:00 PM** on the day of arrival. **Early check-in must be paid in advance** if tourists wish to enter the rooms early or leave their luggage at the hotel reception until **14:00**. **Today there are no activities and no meals included**. Rest at the hotel to adjust to the local time. Accommodation at the selected hotel.

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DAY 2. GRAND TOUR IN ULAANBAATAR / WELCOME LUNCH / MONGOLIAN NATIONAL CONCERT

Breakfast and Lunch

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

Panoramic tour of Ulaanbaatar city: visit to the highest and most important Buddhist Monastery in Mongolia, "**Gandan**," which houses a **25-meter-tall** Buddha statue. **The Gandan Monastery** was founded in 1809 under the name "**Yellow Temple**." The monastery holds a library with Buddhist scriptures of the Gandjuur (8 volumes), their commentaries (225 volumes), and other writings using nine precious stones. It was declared a **State Heritage Site** in 1994. Visits to the **Museum of the History of Mongolia**, with a rich collection of historical and cultural artifacts from the Stone Age to the present, **Sukhbaatar Central Main Square**, and the "**Genghis**" **Khan Monument Complex**, built in 2006 on the occasion of the 800th Anniversary of the Founding of the Mongolian State or the Mongol Empire by "**Genghis**" **Khan** (1206–2006), located in front of the Mongolian Parliament and Government House. **Welcome lunch included at a traditional local restaurant. 06:00 PM** – **Enjoy a Mongolian folk show of singing and dancing.** Transfer to the hotel. Accommodation at the selected hotel. **Dinner not included, at your own expense.**

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DAY 3. INCLUDED FLIGHT ULAANBAATAR / MURUN / GREAT LAKE KHUVSGUL NATIONAL PARK

Full Board

Breakfast. At the scheduled time, meeting with **Samar Magic Tours** at the hotel reception (***rooms must be vacated by 12:00 PM. Late check-out not included**). Transfer to the New "Genghis" Khan Airport (52 km / 32.3 miles, about **+2-3** hours' drive) in Ulaanbaatar. **Included flight Ulaanbaatar/Murun** (approx. 1 hour and 30 minutes). **Domestic flights subject to final schedule confirmation.** **Meeting at Murun** local airport with the local vehicle and private transfer to the **Great Lake Khuvsgul National Park** (approx. 120 km / 75 miles, about 3 hours' drive), passing through the **city of Murun, capital of Khuvsgul province** (a small town with about 28,000 inhabitants, elevation 1,283 m above sea level). The **Great Lake Khuvsgul** is the **Paradise of Mongolia** or the **Mother Lake** for its great beauty. This is a beautiful and huge blue lake surrounded by lush Siberian forests and abundant wildlife. The water is so clear that it is perfectly drinkable; mountains everywhere (around 2,000), fresh pine forests, and graceful yaks and horses galloping elegantly. **Free time for walking excursions around the lake or relaxation.** Accommodation at a Tourist Gers Camp.

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DAYS 4-5. GREAT LAKE KHUVSGUL NATIONAL PARK

Full Board

Breakfast. **Two full free days for walking excursions around the lake or relaxation (Note: transportation inside the Great Lake Khuvsgul National Park is not included).** The Khuvsgul Lake's water is so pure it is still drinkable. **Meeting with the Tsaatan.** One of the most interesting ethnic groups living near the lake is the Tsaatan or, as they are better known, "**The Reindeer Nomads.**" A small Tsaatan tribe consisting of about **40** families lives with their reindeer herds in the forests surrounding the lake. Some members of this small community are **traditionally very powerful shamanic healers.** **Multiple optional activities available (*extra payment on-site):** fishing, boats, motorboats, sailing, horseback riding, sauna. Accommodation at a Tourist Gers Camp.



DAY 6. MURUN / INCLUDED FLIGHT MURUN / ULAANBAATAR

Breakfast and Lunch

Breakfast. At the scheduled time, meeting with the local vehicle, **transfer to Murun local airport** (approx. 120 km / 75 miles, +3 hours of travel). **Included flight from Murun** to the New "Genghis" Khan Airport in Ulaanbaatar (approx. 1 hour and 30 minutes). **Domestic flights pending final schedule.** Transfer to the hotel (*rooms can be used starting from **2:00 PM** on the day of arrival). Accommodation at the selected and confirmed hotel.

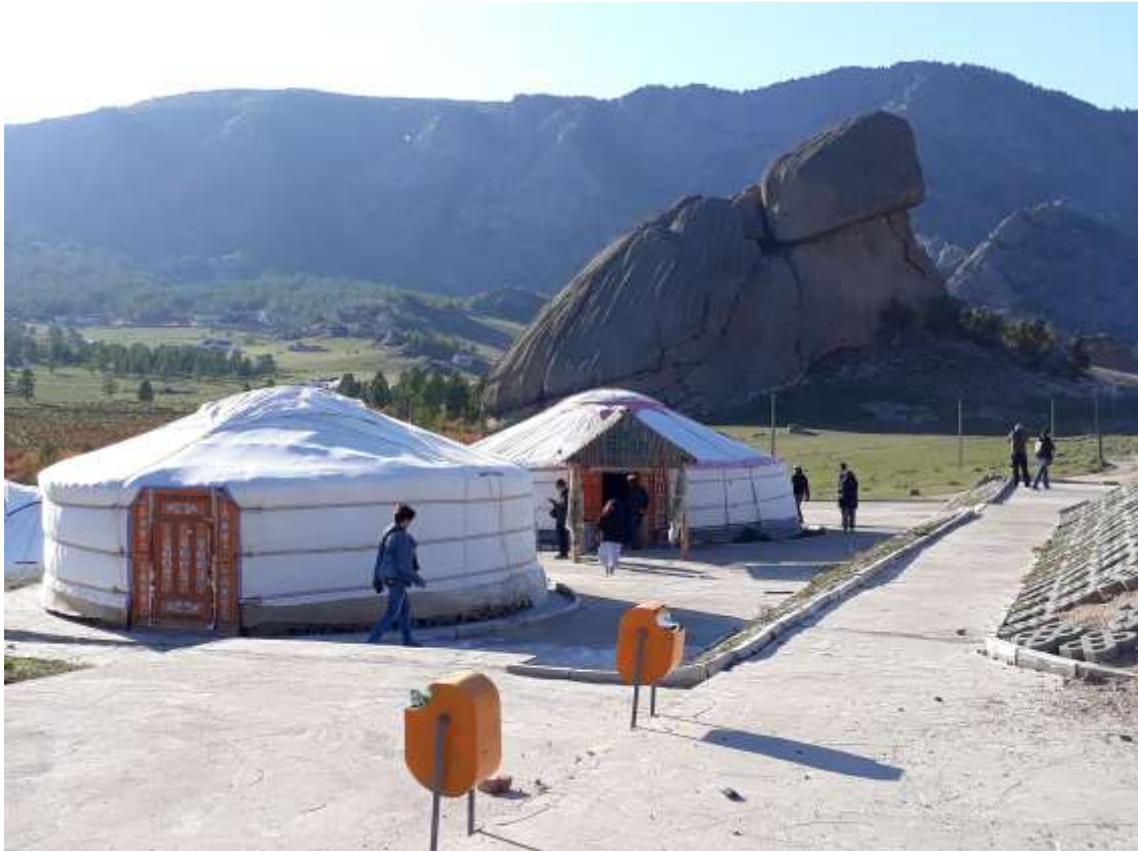


DAY 7. ULAANBAATAR / GRAND EQUESTRIAN STATUE OF GENGHIS KHAN / GORKHI-TERELJ NATIONAL PARK / ULAANBAATAR

Breakfast and Lunch

Breakfast. **09:00 AM** – Meeting with the **Samar Magic Tours** team at the hotel reception. Departure **northeast** to the **40-meter / ~133.3 ft Equestrian Statue of Genghis Khan** (55 km / 34.2 miles, **+2-3** hours, depending on traffic when leaving). The statue symbolically points east toward his birthplace. It is located at the top of the Genghis Khan Statue Complex, a **10-meter** (32 ft 10 in) visitor center with **36** columns representing the **36** khans from **Genghis to Ligdan Khan**. Visitors walk up to the horse's head through its chest and neck, where they can enjoy a panoramic view. Near the **Genghis Khan Equestrian Statue**, you

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can take beautiful photos with Kazakhs and their Golden Eagles, ride Bactrian camels, or take Mongolian horse rides across the steppe, archery and arrow shooting (*extra payment on-site). **Mongolian traditional lunch included in route.** Then, departure toward **Gorkhi-Terelj National Park** (50 km / 31.1 miles, 1 hr), located northeast at 1,600 m above sea level, with tall Mesozoic granite rocks, mountains, steppes, alpine forests, and large rock formations of curious Mesozoic shapes such as **Turtle Rock**, etc. It is located at the foot of the Khenti 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, some souvenir shopping, and walks to the Great Turtle-shaped Rock, symbol of Gorkhi/Terelj National Park. Easy hike to the Arryabal Meditation Temple, located on a hill. Then, return to Ulaanbaatar** (70 km / 44 miles, +2 hours, depending on traffic upon entry). Transfer to the hotel. Accommodation at the selected and confirmed hotel. **Dinner not included, on your own.**



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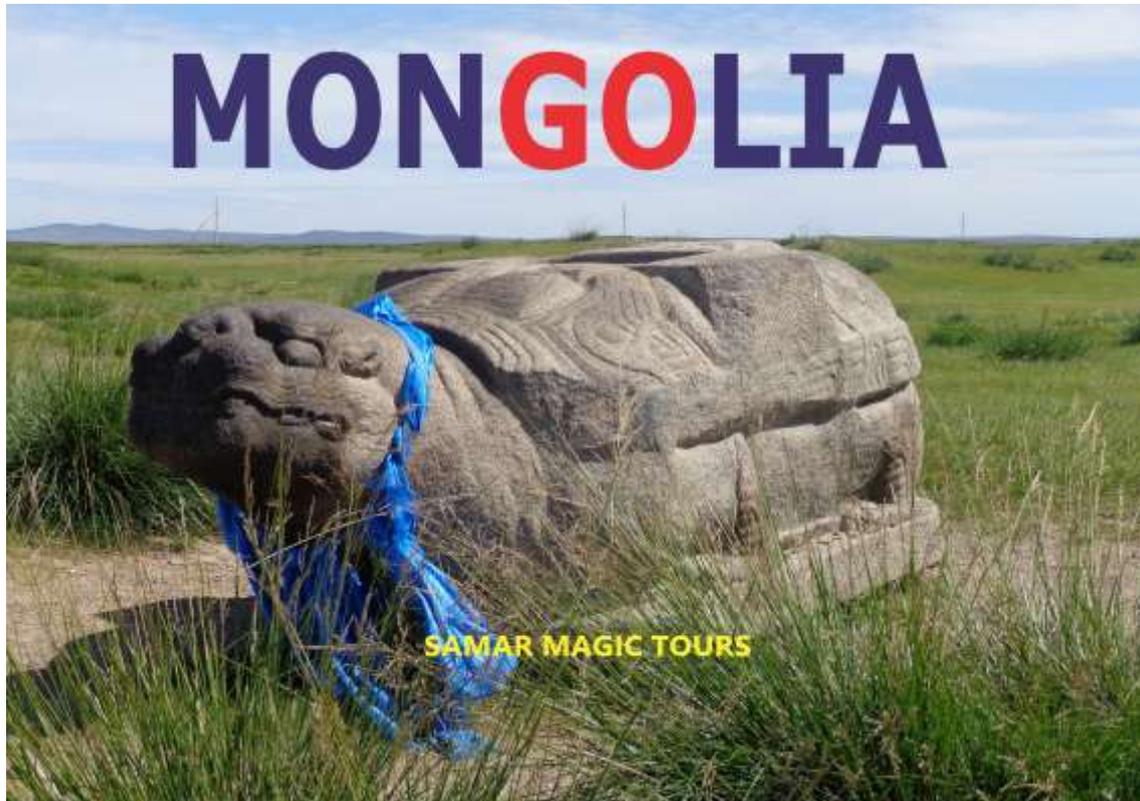
MONGOLIA



DAY 8. ULAANBAATAR / AUTHENTIC MONGOLIAN NOMADIC SHOW / KARAKORUM (CENTRAL MONGOLIA)

Full Board

Breakfast. 07:00 AM – Meeting with the **Samar Magic Tours** team at the hotel reception. Then, departure **west** to attend an Authentic Mongolian Nomadic Show (35 km / 22 miles, +2 hours' drive, depending on traffic), from **10:00 AM to 01:00 PM**. **The Authentic Mongolian Nomadic Show** demonstrates the traditional lifestyle of Mongolia's nomads, the breeding and use of five types of livestock while moving from one place to another, using ox carts, yaks, camels, and horses. Then, departure **west toward the legendary Karakorum** (approx. 360 km / 224 miles, +6-7 hours), **the ancient capital of the Mongol Empire, where 'Genghis' Khan** began the construction of the capital in 1220 (later destroyed by Manchu soldiers). **Lunch included in Lun.** Arrival and accommodation. **Free time or rest at leisure.** Accommodation at a Tourist Gers Camp in Karakorum.



DAY 9. GRAND TOUR IN KARAKORUM / ORKHON VALLEY

Full Board

Breakfast. 09:00 AM – Meeting with the **Samar Magic Tours** team. Then, visit to 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 oboo**) carefully assembled in a conical shape, approximately the same size as a tipi, with nine poles protruding from the top. This structure stands on a stone and concrete platform and is surrounded by three walls representing three sections of a circle. The outer sides of these walls feature three colorful mosaics depicting three maps, one for each of the empires.

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



The iconic site of the Mongol Empire in culture, combined with the shamanic symbolism of the ovoos at the monument's center, encourages people to leave offerings of vodka, milk, tea, rice, and other delicacies that 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 **Genghis Khan's successor, Ogedei Khan**. The **Imperial Map Monument** offers a great viewpoint to contemplate the city of **Kharkhorin and the Orkhon River** and imagine what this collection of dirt roads and low buildings might have looked like in its glory days. Then, visits to the **Erdene Zuu Monastery (Hundred Treasures), Turtle Monument, and 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** enclosure surrounded by the steppe. The 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 Empire's capital to **Beijing (Yuan Dynasty)**, already invaded. In 1792, there were 62 temples and more than 10,000 Lamas. In 1930, Stalinist purges destroyed most temples, and the Lamas were exiled to die in Siberia. Of its more than a hundred temples, only three have survived to this day,

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remaining the most prominent cultural legacy of Mongolia. **1:00 PM – Mongolian lunch included in front of Erdene Zuu Monastery. In the afternoon, free time at leisure.** Accommodation at a Tourist Gers Camp in Karakorum.



DAY 10. KARAKORUM / BAYANGOBI DESERT / ULAANBAATAR

Breakfast and Lunch Included

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' drive). These desert sand dunes stretch over 80 km / 50 miles in a beautiful valley. Opportunity for hiking, walks on the dunes, and landscape photography. **Included excursion riding Bactrian camels through the dunes. Return to Ulaanbaatar** (approx. 280 km / 174 miles, +5-6 hours, depending on traffic). **Lunch included in Lun.** Arrival and transfer to the hotel. Accommodation at the selected and confirmed hotel. **Dinner not included, on your own.**



DAY 11. GRAND TOUR IN ULAANBAATAR / LAST SHOPPING

Breakfast and Lunch

Breakfast. 09:00 AM – Meeting with the **Samar Magic Tours** team at the hotel reception. Then, visit to the **new "Genghis" Khan Museum ("Chinggis" Khaan)**, which finally opened on **October 11, 2022**. The museum is designed to showcase the history of Mongolian kings from the reign of **Hunnu King Modun Shanyu** to the abdication of the **Eighth Jebtsundamba**. **The Genghis (Chinggis) Khaan National Museum** has been named one of the 20 must-visit museums by **National Geographic**. **The "Best of the World"** list is compiled annually by **National Geographic** editors. **Next, visit a store at the pure Mongolian cashmere factory for last shopping.** Then, visit the **Bogd Khan Winter Palace**, one of the imperial palaces of Bogd Khan (1869–1924), located in southern 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 Jebtsundamba Khutughtu, who later proclaimed himself Bogd Khan of **Mongolia**. The complex includes six temples. The exhibition displays many of Bogd Khan's possessions, such as his throne and bed, his art and taxidermy collection, his ornate ceremonial ger, and a pair of ceremonial boots given to the Khan by Tsar Nicholas II of Russia. Then, visit the **Zaisan Memorial**, a monument in the south of Ulaanbaatar. Visit the **Golden Buddha statue located at the base of the Zaisan Memorial**, 75 feet tall (23 meters). **1:00 PM – Lunch included at a local restaurant. Last**

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Mongolian souvenir shopping at the main store (State Department Store). Transfer to the hotel. Accommodation at the selected and confirmed hotel. **Dinner not included, on your own.**

DAY 12. DEPARTURE FROM MONGOLIA

Breakfast Included

Breakfast. Hotel check-out in Ulaanbaatar is at **12:00 PM**. 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' drive, depending on traffic in Ulaanbaatar). **Departure from Mongolia. END OF THE GRAND TOUR.**

WHAT IS INCLUDED?

2 air tickets Ulaanbaatar/Murun/Ulaanbaatar, including domestic tax. **Domestic flights pending final schedule.** In such cases, we will do everything in our power to find the best available solution; under no circumstances will we accept complaints for schedule changes or cancellations, nor will this imply any refund. Tourist Ger camps do not have official category.

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

3 nights of accommodation in tourist camp, based on standard Ger for **2** people or more (*according to request) with outdoor bathrooms (1 building for men and 1 for women), in the Great Khuvsgul Lake National Park.

2 nights of accommodation in tourist camp, based on standard Ger for **2** people or more (*according to request) with outdoor bathrooms (1 building for men and 1 for women), in Karakorum (Central Mongolia). 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.

Meals as indicated (**11B,10L,5D**) with **1** bottle of mineral water per person daily.

All private transfers in a bus or tourist minibus (*depending on 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 complaints for these reasons, nor will this imply any refund.

All private transfers in a local vehicle (Limit: **15** kg per person) from Murun Local Airport–Great Khuvsgul Lake National Park–Murun Local Airport, with all fuel included.

English-speaking local guide or Spanish-speaking local guide with **2 air tickets Ulaanbaatar/Murun/Ulaanbaatar.**

Authentic Mongolian Nomadic Show.

All indicated entrance fees to Great Khuvsgul Lake National Park, Great Genghis Khan Statue, Gorkhi-Terelj National Park, Karakorum, Turkic Memorials, monuments, museums, and monasteries.

Light hiking through wonderful landscapes.

Meeting with the **Tsaatan**, better known as "The Reindeer Nomads."

Experience and knowledge of true nomadic life.

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

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WHAT IS NOT INCLUDED?

Photographic equipment.

Flights not indicated.

Schedule changes, delays, or flight cancellations.

Domestic flights pending final schedule. In such cases, we will do everything in our power to find the best available solution; under no circumstances will we accept complaints for schedule changes or cancellations, nor will this imply any refund. Tourist Ger camps do not have official category.

Visa.

Early check-in to hotel rooms.

Late check-out from hotel rooms.

Excess baggage on domestic flights (*local flight allows **15** kg per person, excess weight fee: +\$1.5 per kg).

Excess baggage in our vehicles (**15 KG PER PERSON—EXCESS BAGGAGE MUST BE LEFT FREE OF CHARGE AT THE HOTEL BEFORE DEPARTURE TO THE MONGOLIAN COUNTRYSIDE**).

The published net prices correspond to double-room accommodation. On this trip, single rooms can only be confirmed at the indicated hotels in Ulaanbaatar.

In tourist Ger camps in the Mongolian countryside, **single Ger accommodation cannot be guaranteed.**

Single supplement in hotels.

Loss of luggage, belongings, or passport.

Unspecified meals.

Cold beverages outside Ulaanbaatar.

Unspecified visits and excursions such as sauna or massages, etc.

Photography and video inside monasteries and museums.

Personal extras, laundry, phone, etc.

Travel insurance.

Beverages.

Weather conditions.

Road and track conditions.

Changes in the indicated itinerary.

Any other concept not mentioned as included.

HIGHLIGHTED EXPERIENCES:

- Suitable for all photography levels.
- Suitable for all ages, families, and friends.
- A trip you cannot miss.
- Travel to Mongolia and enjoy the adventure with your camera!
- Listen to the fascinating sounds of khoomi throat singing during a traditional dance performance.
- Attend an Authentic Mongolian Nomadic Show, demonstrating the traditional lifestyle of Mongolia's nomads, the breeding and use of five types of livestock moving from one place to another using ox carts, yaks, camels, and horses. Learn about the Mongolian nomadic way of life.

Prices, services, and other information about the products detailed on this page and on the website www.samarmagictours.com are non-binding and may change without prior notice.



- Enjoy the Paradise of Mongolia or Mother Lake for its great beauty. This is a beautiful and giant blue lake, surrounded by lush Siberian forests and abundant wildlife. The water is so clear that it is perfectly drinkable; mountains everywhere (about 2000), fresh pine forests, and graceful yaks and horses galloping elegantly.
- Two full days free at leisure for walking excursions around the lake or relaxation (Note: **transportation in Great Khuvsgul Lake National Park not included**). The Great Khuvsgul Lake has water so pure it is still drinkable. Meeting with the Tsaatan. One of the most interesting ethnic groups living near the lake is the Tsaatan, better known as "The Reindeer Nomads."
- Visit the Genghis Khan Equestrian Statue.
- Visit Gorkhi/Terelj National Park, located in the N/E at 1600m above sea level, with high Mesozoic granite rocks, mountains, steppes, alpine forests, and large rock formations of curious shapes from the Mesozoic era such as Turtle Rock, etc.
- Visit the legendary Erdene Zuu Monastery (Hundred Treasures), the Turtle Monument, and the Karakorum Museum to see relics of the ancient capital of the Mongol Empire. The Erdene Zuu Buddhist Monastery, with its 108 stupas and the first Buddhist Lamasery (16th century), was the most important religious center.
- Enjoy the Orkhon River Valley (declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 2004).
- Enjoy an excursion riding Bactrian camels.

IMPORTANT TO NOTE:

1. **MINIMUM GROUP: 6-16** adults or more participants to guarantee departure.
2. We need to know the exact arrival and departure dates from Mongolia, flight schedules, and flight numbers (in advance).
3. We need to know the selected hotel in Ulaanbaatar, number of single rooms, and number of twin rooms **(in advance)**.
4. **No single Ger can be confirmed in tourist camps under any circumstances.** Clients must stay in Gers of **2-3-4** beds (*according to request) of the same gender.
5. **Only single rooms in Ulaanbaatar can be confirmed**, with the individual supplement indicated in the price table.
6. **Baggage limit on domestic flights 15** kg per person: **5** kg hand luggage and 10 kg checked. ***Domestic flights pending final schedule.** The national air ticket fare is subject to changes depending on availability at the time of booking. The national air ticket fare is only guaranteed once issued and fully paid. Domestic air tickets are non-refundable and can only be cancelled on the same day of issue. **The program may undergo unexpected changes depending on domestic flight confirmations.** In such cases, we will do everything in our power to find the best available solution; under no circumstances will we accept complaints for schedule changes or cancellations, nor will this imply any refund. **TO RESERVE AIR TICKETS, WE NEED TO RECEIVE A VALID COPY OF EACH PASSENGER'S PASSPORT IN ADVANCE.**

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7. Only **1** free land passenger is confirmed when there are **16** confirmed participants (**15** fully paid + **1** free passenger traveling by land) and accommodated in double rooms, **8 TWIN** rooms. **Not included:** single room and internal flight tickets.
8. **Weight limit: 15** kg per person. Excess luggage **must be left free of charge** at the hotel in Ulaanbaatar before departure to the countryside. **Samar Magic Tours** reserves the right to change vehicles depending on the group; under no circumstances will we accept complaints, nor will this imply any refund.
9. Hotel check-in in Ulaanbaatar is at **2:00 PM**. Early check-in not included. Hotel check-out in Ulaanbaatar is at **12:00 noon**. Late check-out not included.
10. **Mongolia** is a country where the tourist infrastructure is almost non-existent and is still developing. Distances are vast, with many hours of travel and high fuel costs. The trip runs mostly along dirt and sand tracks. Depending on their condition, long hours on the road are possible. A large part of the Mongolian population remains nomadic, moving from place to place on horseback, camel, or yak with their Gers and herds, and meeting one of these families and their way of life is an unforgettable experience. To enjoy this, one must accept the previously mentioned conditions, let go of preconceived notions of how things "should be," and remain open to what this country can offer.
11. **Vegetarians must pay a supplement, as vegetables** in Mongolia are very expensive, and the **Mongolian diet is based on meat**, not vegetables. This must be reported in advance, and the supplement paid depending on the number of days in Mongolia.
12. From **July 1 to July 20 – Peak Season in Mongolia**, when all services and accommodations are fully booked.
13. **In Ulaanbaatar & Gorkhi-Terelj National Park:** only breakfasts and lunches are included. **Dinners are on your own, not included.**
14. **Samar Magic Tours** reserves the right to organize lunches along the route at possible locations; under no circumstances will we accept complaints for these reasons, nor will this imply any refund.
15. **Mongolia is not recommended** for travellers with respiratory or heart problems, wheelchair users, invalids, or children under **3** years old.
16. **When visiting nomadic families:** enter the Ger from the left side and with your right foot first. Once inside, your hosts will invite you to sit where they indicate. It is polite to bring small gifts for the nomadic children, never money, as it is offensive. Gifts can be sweets, cookies, chocolates, candies, colored pencils, caps... small thoughtful treats of this kind.
17. All photos are property of **Samar Magic Tours**. They may be used for advertising when working with **Samar Magic Tours**. **Our photos are prohibited from being used for promotion when working with other Mongolian tour operators.**



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.



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★</p> <p>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★</p> <p>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 Ger 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 Ger 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.**



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 canceled 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 travelers 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

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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.