



SAMAR MAGIC TOURS
ADVENTURES & EXPEDITIONS

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GRAND MONGOLIA PHOTOGRAPHIC 4X4 EXPEDITION TO THE WONDERS OF THE GOBI DESERT & KARAKORUM WITH SAMAR MAGIC TOURS

TOUR DURATION: 13 days / 12 nights

TOUR CODE: **SMT-GOBIKPHOTOTOUR-13D**

MINIMUM GROUP: **6-16** adults or more participants

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

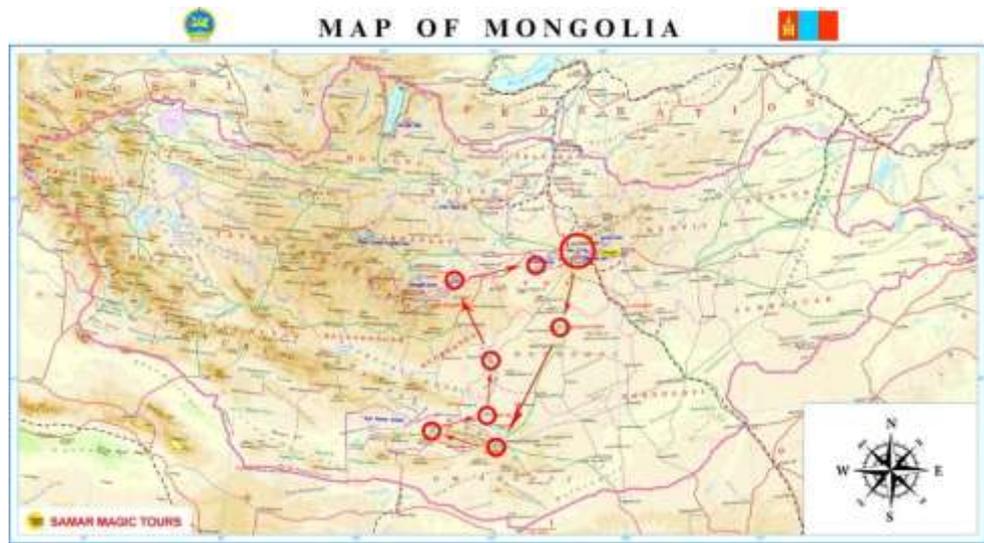
VALID PRIVATE DEPARTURE DATES: **JUNE, JULY** (*except from **July 1-20 – Peak Season!** Check special programs and rates for the **Naadam Festival Group**), **AUGUST, UNTIL SEPTEMBER 20.**

CHECK GROUP RATES AND HOTELS: CONTACT

PHOTOGRAPHIC TOUR CONDITIONS:

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

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TOUR DESCRIPTION:

We will begin the route at the New “Genghis” Khan Airport of Ulaanbaatar (inaugurated on July 3, 2021, located 52 km / 32.3 miles, + **2-3** hours’ drive), the capital of Mongolia, with reception by the **Samar Magic Tours** team. This is the most interesting major route in Mongolia, covering over **2,500 km / 1,553.4 miles**. Next, departure northeast to visit the **Great Equestrian Statue of Genghis Khan**. At the base of the statue, visitors can see a replica of the Great Khan’s legendary golden whip. Tourists can take an elevator inside the statue; the exit is at the height of Genghis Khan’s thigh, from where it is possible to walk up to the horse’s head and enjoy a panoramic view of the steppe. We will visit a small Bronze Age Museum located in the basement of the **Genghis Khan Equestrian Statue**. Departure toward **Gorkhi-Terelj National Park**, located **1,600 m** above sea level, featuring high Mesozoic granite rocks, mountains, steppes, alpine forests, and large rock formations of curious Mesozoic shapes such as **Turtle Rock**. It lies at the foot of the Khentii Mountains, the region where **Genghis Khan** was born. It was declared a **National Park in 1993** and covers an area of 300,000 hectares.

Next, we continue south to the rock **formations of Baga Gazarin Chuluu** (which means “rocks” in Mongolian), a cluster of granite formations in the Middle Gobi, rising 1,768 m high, stretching 15 km long and 10 km wide. It is said that “**Genghis Khan**” once camped here during one of his journeys. Arrival and accommodation. After some rest, an excursion to the ruins of **Sum Khunkh Burd Temple**, built in the 10th century. In Central Gobi, we will explore **Tsagaan Suvarga (White Stupas or White Pagodas)**, located approximately 426 km (265 miles) from Ulaanbaatar and 30 km east of the main Ulaanbaatar–Umnugobi (South Gobi) road. This colorful limestone formation, 30–60 m (98–197 ft) high and 400 m (1,312 ft) long, was once the bottom of an ancient sea, where visitors can find marine fossils and shells. Its

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colors stand out at sunrise and sunset. **Tsagaan Suvarga** was named because its shape resembles Buddhist stupas or pagodas. There are several trails to walk down and up through the cliffs, offering opportunities to photograph its hues in the morning and evening.

We continue south toward the fascinating **Gobi Desert**. We will explore the “**Yolyn**” Canyon or Vulture Gorge in the “**Gobi Gurvan Saikhan**” **National Park** (Three Beauties of the eastern, central, and western mountain ranges), **the legendary ‘ ‘ Flaming Cliffs of Bayanzag ‘ ‘** - the fossil sites of the giant dinosaurs, and the huge singing sand dunes known as “**Khongor.**” Visit a local family breeding Bactrian camel. Excursion on camelback through the dunes.

In **Central Mongolia**, we will visit **Karakorum—the ancient capital of the Mongol Empire of Genghis Khan**—where we will explore **the Orkhon Valley (declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 2004** for representing the evolution of nomadic pastoral traditions for over two millennia). We will explore the beautiful **Lake Ugii**—a suitable spot for birdwatching, where swans, geese, cranes, ducks, pigeons, storks, and other migratory species can be seen in this area.

Much of Mongolia’s population remains nomadic, moving from place to place on horseback, by camel, or by yak, with their Gers and herds. An occasional encounter with one of these families and their way of life is an unforgettable experience. **We emphasize that to enjoy this journey, travellers must accept the above conditions in advance, set aside preconceived notions about how things should be, and remain open to what this country has to offer.**

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BRIEF ITINERARY:

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

Ulaanbaatar – Genghis Khan Equestrian Statue – Gorkhi/Terelj National Park – Ulaanbaatar – Baga Gazarin Chuluu Rock Formations in Central Gobi – Ruins of Sum Khunkh Burd Temple – Tsagaan Suvarga (White Stupas or White Pagodas) in Central Gobi – Gobi Desert – Yolyn Canyon or Vulture Valley – Largest Singing Sand Dunes known as “Khongor” – the legendary ‘ ‘ Flaming Cliffs of Bayanzag ‘ ‘ – Ruins of Ongiin Temple in Central Gobi – Karakorum (Central Mongolia) – Orkhon Valley – Turkic Memorials – Lake Ugi – Karakorum – 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 **OM138 (Mongolia Airlines) from FRAN (Frankfurt, Germany) at 05:10 AM** or on **TK236 (Turkish Airlines) from IST (Istanbul, Turkey) at 07:10 AM**. **Clients must pay in advance for early check-in (early hotel room entry)**. Rooms can only be used from **2:00 PM** on the day of arrival. **No activities or meals are included today**. **Rest at the hotel to adjust to the local time zone**. Selected Hotel.

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

Day 3: Ulaanbaatar / Genghis Khan Equestrian Statue / Gorkhi-Terelj National Park / Ulaanbaatar. Selected Hotel. **(B)(L)**

Day 4: Ulaanbaatar / Baga Gazarin Chuluu Rock Formations / Ruins of Sum Khunkh Burd Temple. Tourist Gers Camp. **(B)(L)(D)**

Day 5: Tsagaan Suvarga (White Stupas or White Pagodas) in Central Gobi. Tourist Gers Camp. **(B)(L)(D)**

Day 6: Gobi Desert: "Yolyn" Canyon or Vulture Valley. Tourist Gers Camp. **(B)(L)(D)**

Day 7: Gobi Desert: Largest Singing Sand Dunes "Khongor" / Camelback Excursion on Bactrian Camels. Tourist Gers Camp. **(B)(L)(D)**

Day 8: Gobi Desert: the legendary "Flaming Cliffs of Bayanzag". Tourist Gers Camp. **(B)(L)(D)**

Day 9: Ruins of Ongiin Temple in Central Gobi. Tourist Gers Camp. **(B)(L)(D)**

Day 10: Ruins of Ongiin Temple / Karakorum (Central Mongolia). Tourist Gers Camp. **(B)(L)(D)**

Day 11: Imperial Monument of Mongolian States / Erdene Zuu Monastery / Karakorum Museum / Monuments / Orkhon Valley / Turkic Memorials / Lake Uggii / Karakorum. Tourist Gers Camp. **(B)(L)(D)**

Day 12: Karakorum / Ulaanbaatar. Last Shopping. Selected Hotel. **(B)(L)**

Day 13: Rooms must be vacated before **12:00** noon on the departure day. 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). **Departure from Mongolia. End of the Grand Journey. (B)**



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DETAILED ITINERARY:

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

Arrival at the New "Genghis" Khan International Airport in Ulaanbaatar, the capital of Mongolia. Reception by the **Samar Magic Tours** team. Currency exchange at the airport banks. **Transfer to the hotel** (52 km / 32.3 miles, approximately **+2-3** hours of travel, depending on traffic). **Rooms will be available starting at 2:00 PM on the day of arrival. An early check-in fee must be paid if tourists wish to enter their rooms earlier**, or alternatively, they may leave their luggage at the hotel reception until **2:00 PM. Today there are no scheduled activities and no meals included. Rest at the hotel to adapt to the local time zone.** Overnight at the selected hotel.

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

Breakfast and Lunch

09:00 AM – Meeting with the **Samar Magic Tours** team in the hotel lobby. **Panoramic city tour of Ulaanbaatar:** visit to the "**Gandan**" **Buddhist Monastery**, the largest and most important in Mongolia, home to a **25-meter-high** Buddha statue. The monastery was founded in **1809** under the name the **Yellow Temple**. It houses a library with Buddhist scriptures known as Gandjuur (8 volumes), its commentaries (225 volumes), and other writings made with the nine precious stones. It was declared a **State Heritage Site** in **1994**. Next, we 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

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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 voluntarily surrendered it after learning the circumstances. The museum also features fossils of Velociraptor and Protoceratops, as well as an **Oviraptor egg nest**. Visit to the **National Museum of Mongolian History**, which boasts a rich collection of historical and cultural artifacts from the Stone Age to the present. Continue to **Sukhbaatar Central Square** and the "**Genghis Khan**" **Monument**

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Complex, built in 2006 to commemorate the 800th Anniversary of the Founding of the Mongolian State or Empire (1206–2006). The complex stands in front of the Parliament House and Government Building of Mongolia. **01:00PM-Welcome Lunch included at a traditional local restaurant. 06:00 PM – Enjoy a Mongolian National Folk Concert featuring traditional songs and dances.** Transfer to the hotel. Overnight at the selected hotel. **Dinner not included (at your own expense).**



DAY 3: ULAANBAATAR / GREAT EQUESTRIAN STATUE OF GENGHIS KHAN / GORKHI-TERELJ NATIONAL PARK / ULAANBAATAR

Breakfast and Lunch

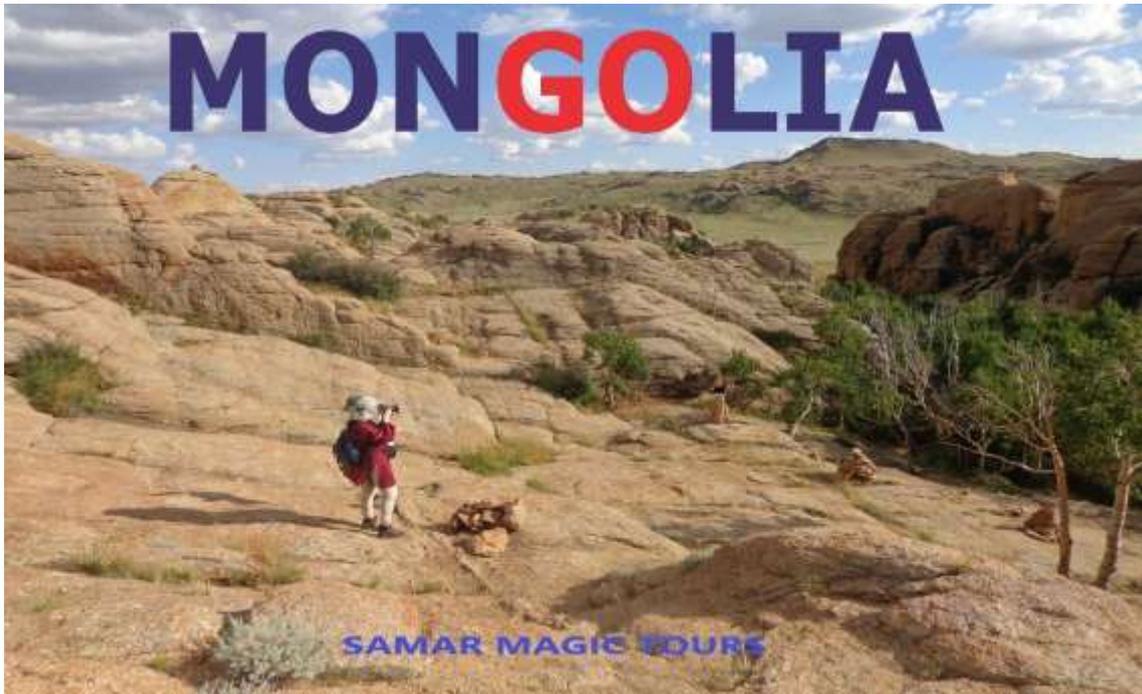
Breakfast. **09:00 AM** – Meeting with the **Samar Magic Tours** team in the hotel lobby. Departure **northeast** toward the **40-meter (133.3 ft) tall Genghis Khan Equestrian Statue** (55 km / 34.2 miles, approximately +2 hours depending on traffic). The statue faces symbolically east, toward **Genghis Khan's** birthplace. At the base of the complex stands a 10-meter (32 ft 10 in) high visitors' center with **36** columns representing the **36** khans from **Genghis Khan to Ligdan Khan**. Visitors may walk through the horse's chest and neck to reach the head, from where there is

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a **panoramic view** of the steppe. Near the statue, there will be opportunities to **take photos with Kazakhs and their Golden Eagles**, enjoy **camel or Mongolian horse rides**, or try **archery (extra payment made directly on site)**. **Traditional Mongolian lunch included en route**. Continue the journey to **Gorkhi-Terelj National Park** (50 km / 31.1 miles, approximately 1 hour), located northeast of the capital at **1,600** meters above sea level. The Park features **high Mesozoic granite formations**, mountains, steppes, alpine forests, and fascinating rock structures such as the famous **"Turtle Rock"**, symbol of the park. It lies at the foot of the **Khentii Mountains**, the region where Genghis Khan was born. Declared a **National Park in 1993**, it covers an area of **300,000** hectares. **Photo stop and souvenir shopping**. **Short walks to Turtle Rock**, followed by a **light hike to the Arryabal Meditation Temple**, located on a hillside. Afterwards, **return to Ulaanbaatar** (70 km / 44 miles, approximately +2 hours depending on traffic). Transfer to the hotel. Overnight at the selected and confirmed hotel. **Dinner not included (at your own expense)**.

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DAY 4: ULAANBAATAR / ROCK FORMATIONS OF BAGA GAZARIN CHULUU / RUINS OF SUM KHUNKH BURD TEMPLE

Full Board

Breakfast. **10:00 AM** – Meeting with **Samar Magic Tours** in the hotel lobby. Afterwards, departure southward in comfortable Japanese 4x4 vehicles (or similar) toward the **Baga Gazarin Chuluu Rock Formations** (which means “Rocks” in Mongolian, approximately 283 km / 176 miles, about 5 hours of travel). This area is a **group of impressive granite formations** located in **Central Gobi**, rising to **1,768** meters above sea level, stretching **15 km** long and **10 km** wide. It is said that **Genghis Khan camped here** during one of his expeditions. After a short rest, excursion to the **Ruins of Sum Khunkh Burd Temple**, also known as **Khukh Burd Lake**. This ruined temple is situated on an island in a seasonal lake—a **historical and cultural site** located in **Dundgobi Province (Central Gobi)**, about **70 km (44 miles)** northwest of the provincial center and **18 km (11.2 miles)** from Baga Gazarin Chuluu. It is considered **the only oasis in the Middle Gobi**. The ruins of the temple are notable for being constructed with stones brought from more than 300 kilometers (187 miles) away. The temple was originally built in the **10th century**. Return to the tourist Ger camp. Overnight in a tourist Gers camp.

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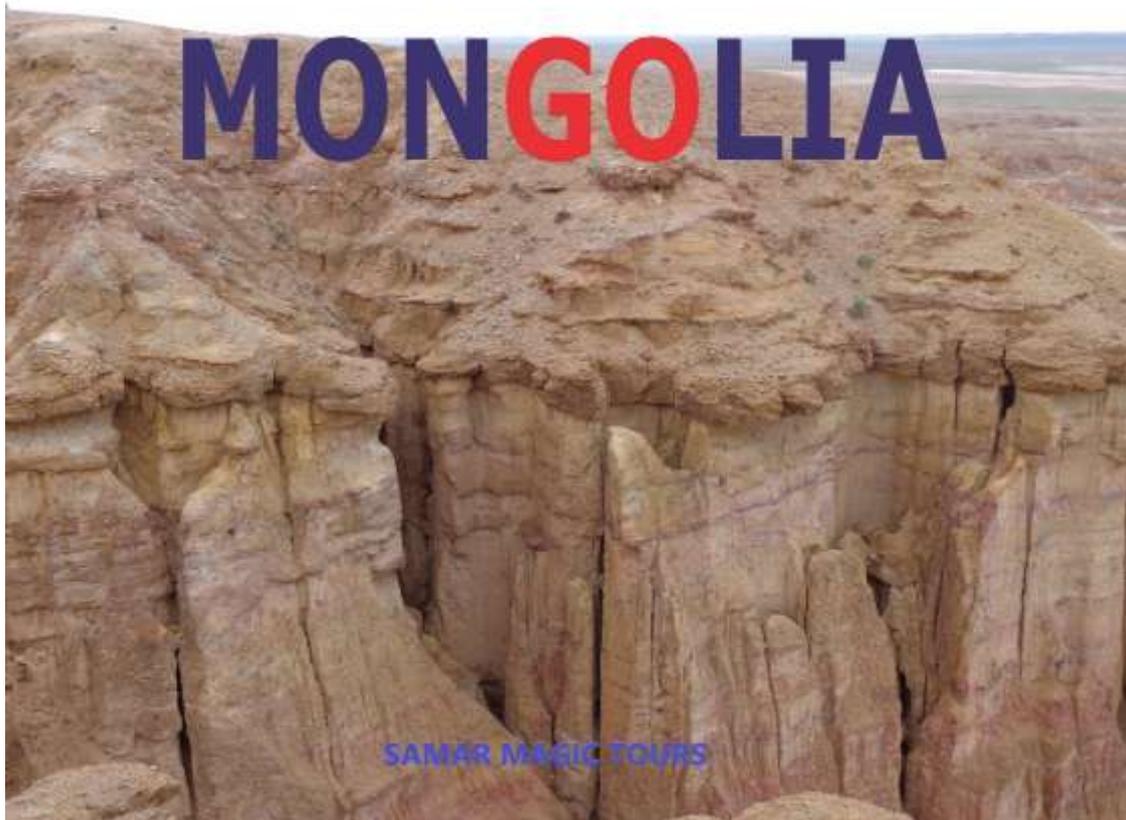


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DAY 5: WHITE STUPAS "TSAGAAN SUVARGA" IN CENTRAL GOBI

Full Board

Breakfast. **09:00 AM** – Meeting with the **Samar Magic Tours** team. Today, we will first drive to explore and visit in route the **Baga Gazarin Chuluu Rock Formations** (approximately 16.2 km / 10.1 miles). Afterward, we continue toward a **tourist Gers camp** located near the **White Stupas or White Pagodas "Tsagaan Suvarga"** (about 280 km / 174 miles, approximately 5 hours of travel) from Baga Gazarin Chuluu (Rock Formations). **Lunch included in route in "LUS."** The **White Stupas or Pagodas "Tsagaan Suvarga"** are located approximately **426 km (265 miles)** from Ulaanbaatar and **30 km east of the main road** between Ulaanbaatar and Umnugobi (Gobi Desert Province). This colourful **limestone formation**, standing **30–60 m (98–197 ft) high** and stretching **400 m (1,312 ft) long**, was once the bottom of an ancient ocean, where visitors can still find **marine fossils and shells**. Its colors are especially vivid **in the morning and evening light**. In the afternoon, we will explore **Tsagaan Suvarga**, whose name comes from its resemblance to **ancient Buddhist stupas or pagodas**. There are **walking trails** leading down and up through the cliffs, offering excellent **photographic opportunities** to capture the dramatic color shifts from dawn to dusk. Overnight in a tourist Gers camp.

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DAY 6. GOBI DESERT / YOLIN CANYON OR VULTURE VALLEY

Full Board

Breakfast. **09:00 AM** – Meeting with the **Samar Magic Tours** team. Departure southward toward the **famous Gobi Desert** (approx. 250 km / 155.3 miles, about 5-6 hours of travel). The word "**Gobi**" means "**desert**" in Mongolian. The **Gobi Desert** is a place full of life, composed mostly of steppes and plains covered with vegetation where herds graze; only about 3% of its surface is actual sand. It is the **largest protected area in Asia** and was designated a **UNESCO Biosphere Reserve in 1991**. The region is also famous for its fossil deposits. Notable features include the **eastern Gobi Mountains**, home to some of the last **desert bears in the world**, as well as various species of **camels, horses, and reptiles**. The **Gobi** is one of the **largest and most important desert regions** in the world, bordered by the **Altai Mountains** and Mongolian steppes to the north. It encompasses various **geographical and ecological regions**, with great diversity in climate and topography. **Historically, the Gobi Desert** was part of the **Mongol Empire** and the location of several important **Silk Road cities**. Occupying **30% of Mongolia's territory**, the vast Gobi features rugged hills, sand dunes, endless plains, fragrant grass steppes, and a rich variety of wildlife. It has yielded some of the most

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extraordinary **fossil discoveries** in history, including the **first dinosaur eggs** ever found. The desert and its surrounding regions support wildlife such as black-tailed gazelles, marbled polecats, and plovers. We will drive to **Dalanzadgad** (capital of the **South Gobi province**, approx. 170 km / 106 miles, 4–5 hours). Then continue to a **tourist Ger camp** in the **Gobi Desert** (approx. 37 km / 23 miles, 1.5–2 hours). **In the afternoon**, we explore on foot the **Yolin Canyon** (about 33 km / 21 miles, 1.5–2 hours), located in the **Gobi Gurvansaikhan National Park**—established in 1993 and expanded to its current size in 2000. It is the **largest national park in Mongolia**. Famous for its rich **birdlife**, **Yolin Canyon**—also known as **Vulture Gorge**—was originally created as a bird reserve and later became one of the Gobi’s main attractions for its **striking scenery and excellent hiking trails**. At the entrance of the protected area, visitors can explore a **small museum** featuring an **interesting collection of desert flora, fauna, and minerals**, along with **dinosaur eggs, bones, taxidermy birds, and snow leopards**. In **Yolin Canyon**, you will have the chance to **hike and admire the stunning landscape**. With some luck, you may spot **bearded vultures**, other birds, and small rodents. **Mongolian horse rentals** are available to ride through the canyon **(extra fee paid directly on site)**. **Return to the tourist Ger camp** (approx. 33 km / 21 miles, 1.5–2 hours). Overnight in a tourist Gers camp.

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DAY 7: GOBI DESERT / LARGEST "KHONGOR" SINGING SAND DUNES / NOMAD FAMILY / CAMELBACK EXCURSION

Full Board

Breakfast. **08:00 AM** – Meeting with the **Samar Magic Tours** team. Departure toward a tourist Gers camp, located near the **largest sand dunes known as "Khongor"** (approx. 170 km / 106 miles, about +3 hours). The **Khongor Sand Dunes**, also called the **"Singing Dunes"**, are massive dunes famous for the humming sound produced by the wind passing through them. Stretching for many kilometers and reaching heights of up to 300 meters, they create an imposing desert landscape. These are the **largest and most spectacular dunes** in the **Gobi Gurvan Saikhan National Park**, covering an area of **over 900 square kilometers (559 sq. miles)**. **After lunch**, visit a **nomadic family** that raises **Bactrian camels**. Enjoy a **one-hour camelback excursion** to explore the dunes. Walk across the sand ridges and, if you wish, **climb to the highest peak** to admire a **magnificent panoramic view** of the Gobi Desert's vastness and the shimmering waves of golden dunes. Overnight in a tourist Gers camp.

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DAY 8. GOBI DESERT / GIANT "KHONGOR" SINGING SAND DUNES / BAYANZAG FLAMING CLIFFS

Full Board

Breakfast. **09:00 AM** – Meeting with the **Samar Magic Tours** team. Afterwards, departure toward a tourist Gers camp (approx. 170 km / 106 miles, about +3 hours). **After lunch**, departure to explore the **Flaming Cliffs of Bayanzag** (60 km / 37.3 miles, 1.5–2 hours). Here, **Roy Chapman Andrews**, an American palaeontologist and staff member of the **American Museum of Natural History** in New York, first discovered **dinosaur eggs (4–6 inches)** in **1922**. **Bayanzag**, known as the **Flaming Cliffs**, is famous for its **spectacular colours and shapes**. Enjoy the **sunset** over these legendary cliffs, which glow with an intense fiery hue at dawn and dusk. **Return to the tourist Gers camp** (60 km / 37.3 miles, 2 hours). Overnight in a tourist Gers camp.

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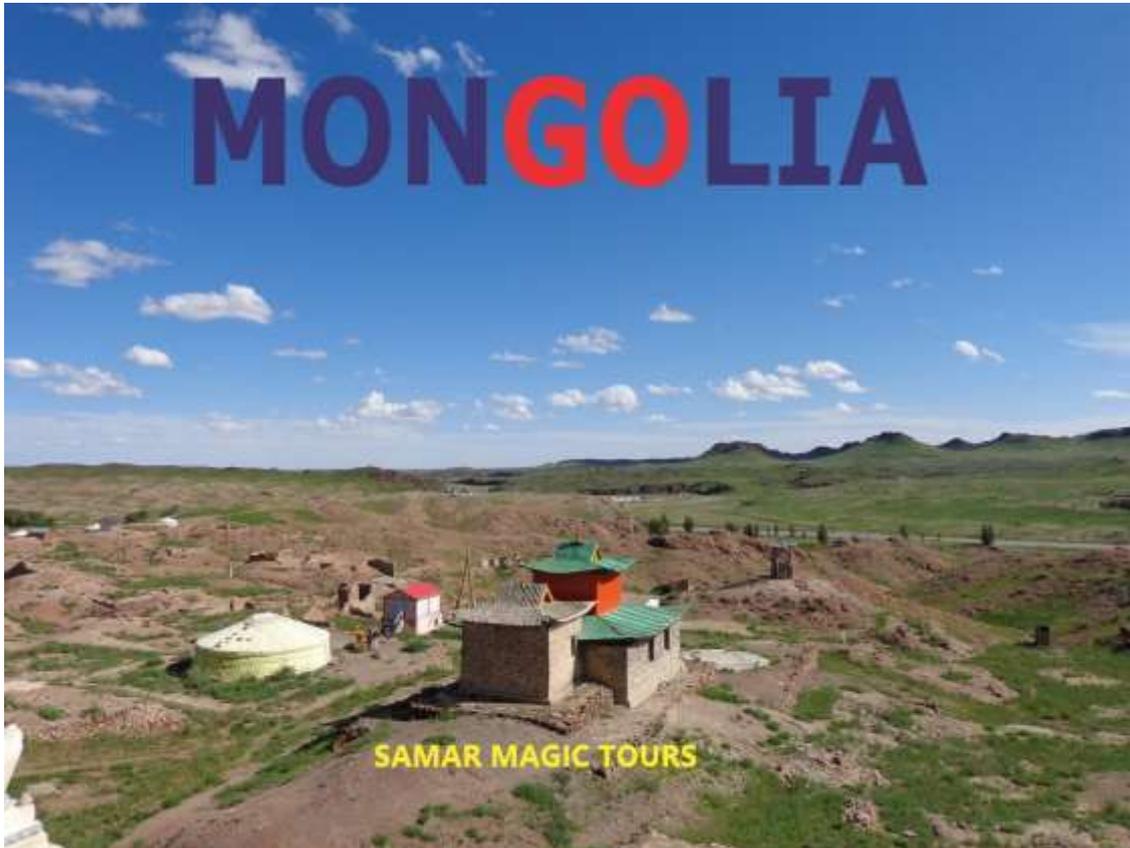


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DAY 9. GOBI DESERT / SAIKHAN OVOO / RUINS OF ONGIIN TEMPLE IN CENTRAL GOBI

Full Board

Breakfast. **09:00 AM** – Meeting with the **Samar Magic Tours** team. Departure through the famous **semi-desert steppes of Saikhan Owoo** (approx. 255 km / 159 miles, about +5 hours), located in **Central Gobi**, toward the **Ruins of Ongiin Temple**, where you will enjoy the **warm, dry air** and a horizon that seems endless. **Lunch included en route or at the tourist Ger camp (depending on schedule).** **In the afternoon, easy walking visit to the Ruins of Ongiin Temple (17th century)**, once the largest Buddhist religious center in southern Mongolia. Overnight in a tourist Gers camp.

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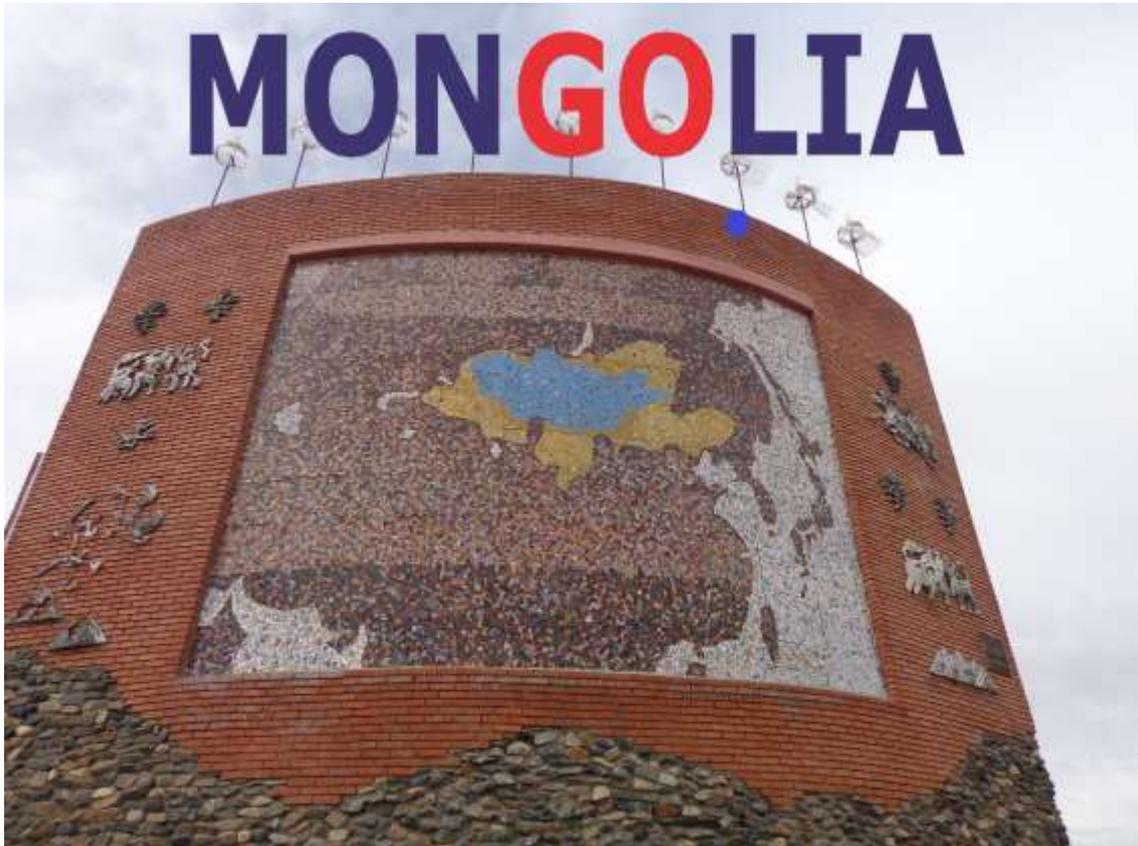


DAY 10. RUINS OF ONGIIN TEMPLE (CENTRAL GOBI) / KARAKORUM (CENTRAL MONGOLIA)

Full Board

Breakfast. **09:00 AM** – Meeting with the **Samar Magic Tours** team. Departure toward **Karakorum** (301 km / 187 miles, 4–5 hours), located in **Central Mongolia**—the **ancient capital of the Great Mongol Empire**, where **Genghis Khan** began construction of his capital in **1220** (later destroyed by Manchu soldiers). **Mongolian lunch included in route. Arrival and check-in. Free time to rest or take a walk around the area.** Overnight in a tourist Gers camp.

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DAY 11.

GRAND TOUR IN KARAKORUM (CENTRAL MONGOLIA) / ORKHON VALLEY / TURKIC MEMORIALS / UGII LAKE / KARAKORUM

Full Board

Breakfast. **09:00 AM** – Meeting with the **Samar Magic Tours** team. We begin by visiting the **Monument to the Mongol States**, located on a hill overlooking **Karakorum (Kharkhorin)** on the banks of the **Orkhon River**. Built in **2004**, the monument consists of a **large pile of stones (a shamanic ovo)** assembled in a conical shape. Its outer walls display **three colourful mosaics**, each representing one of three empires:

1. The **Xiongnu Empire**, a confederation of nomadic tribes that lived in the steppes from the 3rd century BCE to the 1st century CE.
2. The **Turkic Khaganate**, established by the **Göktürks** in 682, lasting until 744.
3. The **Mongol Empire**, founded by **Genghis Khan** in the 13th–14th centuries.

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The **Imperial Map Monument** offers a magnificent **viewpoint** to contemplate **Kharkhorin City** and the **Orkhon River**, imagining how this network of dirt roads and low buildings might have looked in its glorious days. Next, visit the **Erdene Zuu Monastery** (“**Hundred Treasures**”), the **Turtle Monument**, and the **Karakorum Museum** to view relics from the **ancient Mongol capital**. Founded in the 16th century, the **Erdene Zuu Monastery** was the **first Buddhist monastery in Mongolia**, enclosed by **108 stupas** and surrounded by the vast steppe. Construction was continued by **Ogedei Khan**, son of Genghis Khan. Forty years later, **Kublai Khan**, Genghis Khan’s grandson and host of **Marco Polo**, moved the empire’s capital to **Beijing** (Yuan Dynasty). Of more than one hundred temples, only three survived the Stalinist purges of the 1930s. **Lunch in front of the Erdene Zuu Monastery or nearby.** Continue through the **Orkhon Valley** to the **Göktürk Museum in Khoshoo Tsaidam (Turkic Memorials)**, built in honor of **Bilge Khan** and **Kul Tigin**, Turkic princes of the early 8th century. Their **Orkhon inscriptions**, written in ancient Turkic script, are regarded as the most impressive monuments of the **Göktürk Khaganate**. The **Orkhon Valley**, once the center of the **Mongol, Uighur, and Turkic Empires**, as well as the birthplace of **Mongolian Buddhism**, is today recognized as a **UNESCO World Heritage Site**. Afterward, we travel **off-road** toward **Ugii Lake** (33 km / 21 miles, 1 hour), an ideal spot for **migratory birdwatching**—home to **swans, geese, cranes, ducks, storks, and more** during late April, May, and throughout summer. Visit a **local museum** and enjoy **ornithological observation** (bring binoculars).

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Return to Karakorum (80 km / 50 miles, about 2 hours). **Overnight in a tourist Gers camp.**

DAY 12. KARAKORUM (CENTRAL MONGOLIA) / ULAANBAATAR

Breakfast and Lunch

Breakfast. **09:00 AM** – Meeting with the **Samar Magic Tours** team. **Return to Ulaanbaatar** (approx. 395 km / 245.4 miles, about +6 hours, depending on traffic). **13:00 – Lunch included at "LUN." Last shopping.** Transfer to hotel. Overnight in the selected and confirmed hotel. **Dinner not included, on your own.**

DAY 13. DEPARTURE FROM MONGOLIA

Breakfast

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

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- **4** nights of accommodation in the selected and confirmed hotel, in a double room with breakfast.
- **8** nights of accommodation in tourist camps, in **standard** Gers with outside bathrooms (1 building for men and 1 for women), for **2-3-4** adults (*according to request), for the rest of the route. If you wish to stay in a **DELUXE** Ger with a private bathroom **in Gobi Desert and 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.
- All meals as indicated (**12B, 11L, 8D**) with 1 bottle of mineral water per person per day.
- Welcome Lunch in a traditional local restaurant.
- All private transfers in Ulaanbaatar, to the Genghis Khan Equestrian Statue, and Gorkhi-Terelj National Park by tourist bus or van (*depending on the confirmed group) with all fuel included.
- All private transfers during the rest of the journey in a comfortable Japanese 4x4 Toyota Land Cruiser or similar (capacity: **4** tourists + **1** Mongolian-speaking driver per vehicle, luggage limit: **15** kg per person), with all fuel included. 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 number of participants; no complaints will be accepted for these reasons, and no refunds apply.
- English-speaking local guide or Spanish-speaking local guide.
- All entrance fees to the Genghis Khan Equestrian Statue, Gorkhi/Terelj National Park, Baga Gazarin Chuluu Rock Formations, Yolyn Canyon in Gobi Gurvansaikhan National Park, Bayanzag Archaeological Site, Ongiin Temple Ruins, Karakorum, monuments, museums, and monasteries.

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- Attendance at a folk show featuring the fascinating sounds of throat singing (khoomi) and Mongolian dance.
- Visit to an authentic nomadic family breeding Bactrian camel.
- **1**-hour camelback excursion through the dunes.
- Light hiking and scenic walks through stunning landscapes.
- Experience and insight into true nomadic life.
- Service rates include 10% VAT, 2% Ulaanbaatar municipal tax, and 5% service charge at Ulaanbaatar city hotels.

WHAT'S NOT INCLUDED

- Photography equipment.
- Flights.
- Flight schedule changes, delays, or cancellations.
- Visa.
- Excess luggage on the tour vehicle (*limit: **15** kg per person – excess must be left free of charge at the hotel in Ulaanbaatar).
- Single supplement in hotels.
- **EARLY CHECK-IN at hotels.**
- **LATE CHECK-OUT at hotels.**
- Published net prices correspond to double rooms and Gers with **2-3-4** beds or more (as per request). Only single rooms in hotels in Ulaanbaatar can be confirmed. In tourist Gers camps in rural Mongolia, **SINGLE GERS CANNOT BE CONFIRMED.**
- Loss of luggage, belongings, or passport.
- Meals not specified.

HIGHLIGHTED EXPERIENCES:

- 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!.
- Visit the Great Equestrian Statue of Genghis Khan. At the base of the complex is a visitor center, 10 meters high, with 36 columns representing the 36 Khans from Genghis to Ligdan Khan.
- Visit Gorkhi-Terelj National Park, located northeast at 1,600 m above sea level, with high Mesozoic granite rocks, mountains, steppes, alpine forests, and striking rock formations such as Turtle Rock.
- Explore "Yolyn" Canyon or Vulture Gorge in the "Gobi Gurvan Saikhan" National Park.
- Walk on the giant sand dunes known as "Khongor," also called "singing dunes" for the sound made by the wind as it passes through them. Stretching for kilometers, they reach up to 300 meters in height, forming a breathtaking desert landscape—climb to the top to enjoy the contrast of the Mongolian Gobi Desert.
- Visit an authentic nomadic family breeding Bactrian camels and experience Mongolian nomadic life.

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- Enjoy a camelback excursion through the dunes.
- Explore the legendary “Flaming Cliffs of Bayanzag”, where hundreds of fossilized dinosaur eggs and complete skeletons from the Cretaceous period have been discovered.
- Visit the legendary Erdene Zuu Monastery (Hundred Treasures), the Turtle Monument, and the Karakorum Museum to see relics of the ancient Mongol Empire capital.
- Enjoy the Orkhon River Valley (declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 2004).
- Listen to the fascinating sounds of khoomi throat singing during a traditional dance performance.
- Relax in a natural open-air spa surrounded by nature, known for its healing properties.
- Explore beautiful Lake Ugii—a birdwatcher’s paradise where swans, geese, cranes, ducks, pigeons, storks, and other migratory species gather.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION:

1. **Minimum Group:** 6–16 adults or more to guarantee departure.
2. We require your exact arrival and departure dates, flight schedules, and flight numbers (well in advance).
3. We require your selected Ulaanbaatar hotel and the number of single and twin rooms (**well in advance**).
4. **Individual Gers cannot be confirmed under any circumstances.** Guests will stay in Gers with 2–3–4 beds (*as per request) and of the same gender.
5. Only single rooms in Ulaanbaatar hotels can be confirmed with a paid single supplement.
6. 1 free land passenger is confirmed only when 16 participants are booked (15 fully paid + 1 free passenger traveling by land, lodging in a double room, 8 twin rooms). **Not included: single room or domestic flight tickets.**
7. Weight Limit: 15 kg per person. Excess luggage **must be left free of charge** at the hotel in Ulaanbaatar before departure. **Samar Magic Tours** reserves the right to change vehicles depending on the group; no complaints or refunds apply.
8. Hotel check-in time in Ulaanbaatar is **2:00 PM**. Early check-in is not included. Check-out time is **12:00 PM**. Late check-out is not included.
9. **Mongolia’s** tourism infrastructure is still developing. Distances are vast, involving long travel times and high fuel costs. The journey mostly follows dirt and sand roads; depending on conditions, long hours may be spent driving. Much of Mongolia’s population remains nomadic, moving on horseback, by camel, or by yak, with their Gers and herds. Encounters with nomadic families and their lifestyle are unforgettable. **Travelers must accept these conditions in advance, set aside preconceived notions, and remain open to what this country has to offer.**

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10. **Vegetarians must pay a supplement, as vegetables are expensive in Mongolia** and the local diet is primarily meat-based. Please notify in advance and pay the supplement according to the length of stay.
11. From **July 1 to July 20** is **Peak Season** in Mongolia; all services and accommodations are crowded.
12. **In Ulaanbaatar and Gorkhi-Terelj National Park:** only breakfasts and lunches are included. **Dinners are at your own expense.**
13. **Samar Magic Tours** reserves the right to organize route lunches where possible; no complaints or refunds apply.
14. **When visiting nomadic families:** enter the Ger from the left side, stepping in with your right foot first. Once inside, hosts will invite you in and indicate where to sit. It is customary to bring a small gift for the nomads' children—never money, as it is offensive. Suitable gifts include sweets, cookies, chocolates, candies, colored pencils, caps, or small treats of that sort.
15. **Mongolia** is not recommended for travellers with respiratory or heart problems, wheelchair users, or children under **3** years old.
16. All photos are the property of **Samar Magic Tours**. They may be used for promotional purposes when working with **Samar Magic Tours**. **Using them to promote cooperation with other Mongolian tour operators is strictly prohibited.**

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PROPOSED HOTELS IN ULAANBAATAR

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

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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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PREMIUM PALACE HOTEL 4*



STANDART TWIN ROOM



Premium Palace Hotel 4★

The is located 20 minutes on foot from the Gandan Monastery, the most important in Mongolia, and 2.3 km from Sukhbaatar Central Square. The Premium offers 192 rooms, 2 elevators, 2 restaurants: Yu Long Chinese and buffet breakfast, number of floors: 20, Wi-Fi, gym, CU café on the 1st floor, and a small parking area.

Check-in: from 14:00
Check-out: by 12:00 noon

NOVOTEL HOTEL 5*



STANDART TWIN ROOM



Novotel Hotel 5★

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

Check-in: from 14:00
Check-out: by 12:00 noon



ACCOMMODATIONS IN THE MONGOLIAN COUNTRYSIDE

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

NOTES:

1. If you wish to stay in a **DELUXE** Ger with a private bathroom **in Gobi Desert and 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.



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.**

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.**

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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: _____



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.

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Milk may not be pasteurized, and some dairy products can therefore be unsafe. It should be boiled, and foods should preferably be consumed cooked. This is the health guideline, but in reality, once you stop at a Ger, guests are always invited to enter and offered aromatic *airag* (fermented mare's milk) and goat, yak, or sheep cheese, all acidic and dry. Refusing would not be polite.

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

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

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

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