



16-DAY OF GRAND MONGOLIA GROUP TOUR, TRAVEL BY 4X4 TOYOTA LAND CRUISER TO THE GOBI DESERT AND CENTRAL MONGOLIA & THE GRAND NAADAM FESTIVAL WITH SAMAR MAGIC TOURS (JUN 28 – JUL 13)

MINIMUM DURATION: 16 days / 15 nights

TOUR CODE: **SMT-GNF-16D**

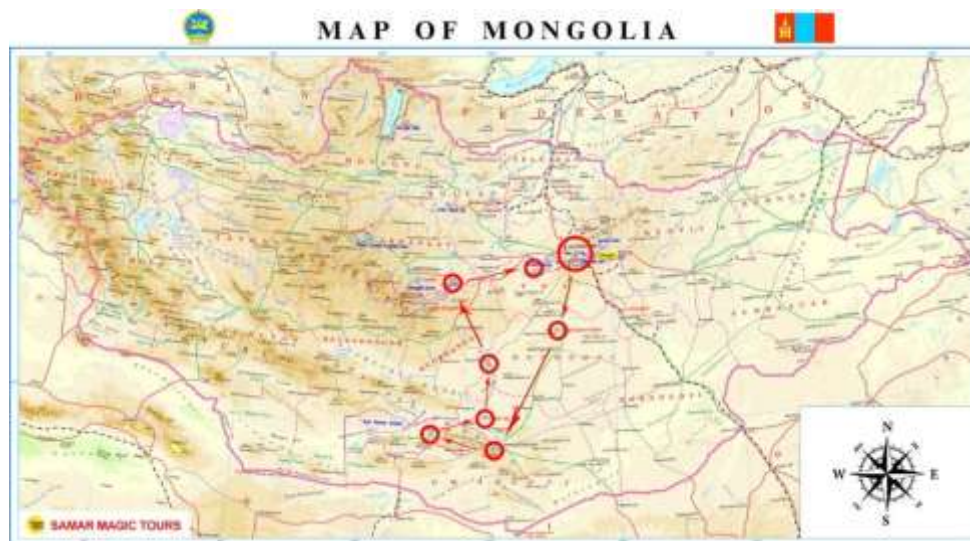
START/END POINT: Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia (flights not included).

SPECIAL GROUP DEPARTURE NAADAM FESTIVAL: **June 28 – July 13. High and peak season in Mongolia; hotels and services are heavily booked.**

MINIMUM GROUP SIZE: **6/10** adults or more participants.

MAXIMUM GROUP SIZE: **+ 16** participants.

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TOUR DESCRIPTION: We will begin our journey at the new “Genghis” Khan International airport of Ulaanbaatar (inaugurated on July 3, 2021, located 52 km / 32.3 miles away, about +2 hours’ drive), the capital of Mongolia, with a welcome by the **Samar Magic Tours** team. This is Mongolia’s most fascinating route, covering more than 2,500 km / 1,553.4 miles.

We will attend the **Opening Ceremony of the National Festival** in Ulaanbaatar. **This is the most important cultural, nomadic, social, and sporting event in Mongolia.** It formally commemorates the **1921** Revolution, when Mongolia declared independence from China. This is Mongolia’s **high season**, when all hotels and services are crowded, and large gatherings take place. However, the content and vibrant atmosphere attract hundreds of thousands of tourists from all over the world to witness this important event.

The **three traditional games—wrestling, horse racing, and archery**—were recorded in a 13th-century book, **The Secret History of the Mongols**. In 2010, Naadam was inscribed on **UNESCO’s Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity**. Another popular **Naadam** activity is playing **games with shagai** (sheep ankle bones), which are used as game pieces and as symbols of divination and friendship.

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 legendary Golden Whip of the Great Khan. Tourists can take an elevator inside the statue, exiting at the level of Genghis Khan’s thigh, from where it is possible to walk to the horse’s head and enjoy a panoramic view of the steppe. We will also visit a small Bronze Age Museum located in the basement of the **Great Equestrian Statue of Genghis Khan**. Departure toward **Gorkhi-Terelj National Park**, located 1,600 meters above sea level, featuring high granite rock formations from the Mesozoic era, mountains, steppes, alpine forests, and striking rock formations such as the famous Turtle Rock or the Reading Monk. Situated at the foot of the Khentii Mountains, the region where **Genghis Khan** was born, the park was declared a National Park in 1993 and covers an area of 300,000 hectares.

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Then we head south toward the **Baga Gazarin Chuluu Rock Formations** (meaning “Rocks” in Mongolian), a granite rock complex in the Middle Gobi at 1,768 meters in height, stretching 15 km long and 10 km wide. It is said that Genghis Khan once camped here during his expeditions. Arrival and accommodation. After some rest, 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 Cliffs)**, located about 426 km (265 miles) from Ulaanbaatar, and 30 km east of the main Ulaanbaatar–Umnugobi road (South Gobi). This colorful limestone formation stands 30–60 meters (98–196 ft) high and stretches 400 meters (1,312 ft) long, once the seabed where visitors can still find marine fossils and shells. Its colors are particularly striking in the morning and evening. **Tsagaan Suvarga** takes its name because its shape resembles ancient Buddhist stupas or pagodas. There are trails leading up and down the cliffs, offering opportunities for photography at sunrise and sunset.

Then we continue south, heading to the **fascinating Gobi Desert**. We will explore the **“Yolyn” Am Canyon (Vulture Gorge)** in the **Gobi Gurvan Saikhan National Park** (meaning “Three Beauties” of the Eastern, Middle, and Western ranges). We will visit paleontological sites **the legendary “Flaming Cliffs of Bayanzag”**, where fossils of giant dinosaurs were discovered, and the majestic **“Khongor” Singing Largest Sand Dunes**. Visit to a nomadic family with Bactrian camel herds, followed by an excursion riding Bactrian camels through the dunes.

In **Central Mongolia**, we will visit **Karakorum, the ancient capital of the Mongol Empire founded by Genghis Khan**, and 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 also explore the beautiful **Lake Ugii**, an important bird sanctuary for swans, geese, cranes, ducks, pigeons, storks, and other migratory species.

A large part of Mongolia’s population still lives a nomadic lifestyle, moving from place to place on horseback, by camel, or by yak, with their Gers and herds. The occasional encounter with one of these families and their traditional way of life is an unforgettable experience. To fully enjoy it, one must accept beforehand the conditions mentioned above, set aside preconceived notions of how things “should be,” and remain open to all that this country has to offer.



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BRIEF ITINERARY:

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

Ulaanbaatar – Genghis Khan Equestrian Great 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 Cliffs) in Central Gobi – Gobi Desert – ‘Yolyn’ Am Canyon (Vulture Valley) – Largest Singing Sand Dunes ‘Khongor’ – the legendary ‘Flaming Cliffs’ of Bayanzag – Ruins of Onguin Temple in Central Gobi – Karakorum (Central Mongolia) – Orkhon Valley – Turkic Memorials – Ugii Lake – Karakorum – Ulaanbaatar – Naadam Festival Horse Races – Ulaanbaatar – Opening Ceremony of the Great Naadam Festival – Closing Ceremony of the Great Naadam Festival – Ulaanbaatar

JUNE 28, 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). For the clients arriving on flight **OM138 (Mongolia Airlines)** from **FRAN (Frankfurt, Germany)** at **05:10AM** or on flight **TK236 (Turkish Airlines)** from **IST (Istanbul, Turkey)** at **07:10AM**. **Early check-in** must be paid in advance (hotel rooms are available only from **2:00PM** on arrival day). **No activities and no meals are included today. Rest at the hotel to adjust to local time.** Selected Hotel.

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JUNE 29, Day 2: 10:00AM – Meeting with the **Samar Magic Tours** team at the hotel reception. Grand Tour of Ulaanbaatar / Welcome Lunch in local traditional restaurant / **05:00PM** – National Mongolian Concert. Selected Hotel. **(B)(L)**

JUNE 30, Day 3: Ulaanbaatar / Genghis Khan Equestrian Statue / Terelj National Park / Ulaanbaatar. Selected Hotel. **(B)(L)**

JUNE 01, Day 4: Ulaanbaatar / Baga Gazarin Chuluu Rock Formations / Ruins of Sum Khunkh Burd Temple. Tourist Gers Camp. **(B)(L)(D)**

JUNE 02, Day 5: Tsagaan Suvarga (White Stupas or White Cliffs) in Central Gobi. Tourist Gers Camp. **(B)(L)(D)**

JUNE 03, Day 6: Gobi Desert: **"Yolyn" Am Canyon** (Vulture Valley). Tourist Gers Camp. **(B)(L)(D)**

JUNE 04, Day 7: Gobi Desert: **Largest Singing Sand Dunes "Khongor"** / Excursion riding Bactrian camels. Tourist Gers Camp. **(B)(L)(D)**

JULY 05, Day 8: Gobi Desert: **the legendary ``Flaming Cliffs of Bayanzag**. Tourist Gers Camp. **(B)(L)(D)**

JULY 06, Day 9: Ruins of Onguin Temple in Central Gobi. Tourist Gers Camp. **(B)(L)(D)**

JULY 07, Day 10: Onguin Temple Ruins / Karakorum (Central Mongolia). Tourist Gers Camp. **(B)(L)(D)**

JULY 08, Day 11: Imperial Monument to the Mongolian States / Erdene Zuu Monastery / Karakorum Museum / Monuments / Orkhon Valley / Turkic Memorials / Ugii Lake / Karakorum. Tourist Gers Camp. **(B)(L)(D)**

JULY 09, Day 12: Karakorum / Ulaanbaatar. Selected Hotel. **(B)(L)**

JULY 10, Day 13: 07:00AM – Meeting with the **Samar Magic Tours** team at the hotel reception. Departure towards **Western Mongolia** (35 km/22 miles, +2.00-04:00 hours of travel, depending on traffic leaving Ulaanbaatar). **Ulaanbaatar – Naadam Festival Horse Races – Ulaanbaatar** (35 km/22 miles, +2.00-4.00 hours of travel, depending on traffic upon entering Ulaanbaatar). **Picnic lunch included at the site.** Overnight at the selected hotel. **(B+L).**

JULY 11, Day 14: 08:00AM – Meeting with the **Samar Magic Tours** team at the hotel reception. **Departure to the Central Stadium. 11:00AM – Opening of the Grand Naadam Festival. Competitions begin. 13:00 – Lunch included at a local restaurant.** Overnight at the selected hotel. **(B+L).**

JULY 12, Day 15: 09:00AM – Meeting with the **Samar Magic Tours** team at the hotel reception. City Tour. **13:00 – Lunch included at a local restaurant. Departure to the Central Stadium. Continuation of the Naadam Festival Competitions.** Closing of the **Grand Naadam Festival. Last Shopping.** Overnight at the selected hotel. **(B+L).**

JULY 13, Day 16: Rooms must be vacated by **12:00 noon** on 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, must to leave **5** hours prior your flight departure). **Departure from Mongolia. End of the Grand Journey. (B)**

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ITINERARY IN DETAILS

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

JUNE 28, Day 1-Arrival at Ulaanbaatar's "Genghis" Khan new airport, capital of Mongolia. Reception by the **Samar Magic Tours** team. Currency exchange at airport banks. Transfer to the hotel (52 km / 32.3 miles, approximately +2 hours, depending on traffic). Hotel 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 access their rooms early; otherwise, luggage can be left at the hotel reception until 2:00 PM.** Today there are no planned activities and no meals included. Rest at the hotel to adjust to the local time zone. Accommodation at the selected hotel.

JUNE 29, Day 2-Breakfast. **10:00AM**-Meet **Samar Magic Tours** team at reception of the hotel. Panoramic city tour of Ulaanbaatar. Visit to the highest and most important Buddhist Monastery in Mongolia, **Gandan Monastery**, which houses a **25-meter-high Buddha**. **Gandan Monastery** was founded in 1809 under the name **Yellow Temple**. The monastery preserves a library with Buddhist scriptures of Gandjuur (08 volumes), its commentaries (225 volumes), and other writings using the nine precious stones. It was declared a **State Heritage site** in 1994. Visits continue to the **Museum of Mongolian History**, with a rich collection of historical and cultural treasures from the Stone Age to the present, **Sukhbaatar Central Square**, and the **"Genghis" Khan Monumental Complex**, built in 2006 on the occasion of the 800th Anniversary of the Foundation of the Mongol State or Mongol Empire by **"Genghis" Khan (1206–2006)**. The complex is located in front of the Mongolian Parliament and Government House. **Welcome Lunch included at a traditional local restaurant. 05:00PM – Enjoy a folk performance of Mongolian singing and dance.** Transfer to the hotel. Overnight at the selected and confirmed hotel. **Dinner not included, on your own. (B)(L)**

JUNE 30, Day 3-Breakfast at hotel. **10:00AM**-Meet **Samar Magic Tours** team at reception of the hotel. Departure northeast toward the **Genghis Khan Equestrian Statue** (55 km / 34.2 miles, about +2 hours depending on traffic). Part of the **Genghis Khan Sculpture Complex**, this impressive **40-meter-tall statue of Genghis Khan on horseback** stands on the bank of the Tuul River. The statue symbolically faces east, toward his birthplace. At the base of the complex lies a **10-meter-high visitor center supported by 36 columns**, representing the **36 khans from Genghis Khan to Ligdan Khan**. Designed by sculptor D. Erdenebileg and architect J. Enkhjargal, the monument was inaugurated in **2008**. Visitors can ascend to the **horse's head** via an internal staircase through its chest and neck, enjoying a **panoramic view** from above. We will also visit the **museum integrated into the complex**, which displays exhibits related to **the Bronze Age and the Xiongnu archaeological cultures of Mongolia**, featuring everyday utensils, belt buckles, knives, sacred animal figures, etc. A second exhibition focuses on the **Great Khan period (13th–14th centuries)**, showcasing ancient tools, metalwork, and Nestorian crosses and rosaries. At this location, visitors can **rent horses or camels with local guides and take photos with Golden Eagles and Kazakh handlers (extra cost paid directly to locals on-site)**. Then, continue toward the **Gorkhi-Terelj National Park** (50 km / 31.1 miles, about 1 hour). Situated in the northeast at an altitude of **1,600 meters** above sea level, the park features **Mesozoic granite rock formations**, mountains, steppes, alpine forests, and large rock formations with unique shapes such as the **Turtle Rock**, among others. Located at the foot of the Khentii Mountains, the region is believed to be the birthplace of Genghis Khan. Declared a

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National Park in 1993, Gorkhi-Terelj covers an area of **300,000** hectares. We'll stop for photos, souvenir shopping, and a leisurely walk to **Turtle Rock**, the park's iconic symbol. Continue with a gentle hike to the **Arryabal Meditation Temple**, a Buddhist meditation center located on a mountain slope, notable for its **108** steps leading to the temple, a **gallery of Buddhist paintings**, and a **thangka depicting the myth of Shambhala**. **Return to Ulaanbaatar** (70 km / 44 miles, about **+2** hours depending on traffic). Accommodation at the selected hotel. **Dinner not included (at your own expense).**

JULY 01, Day 4-Breakfast. **10:00AM**-Meet **Samar Magic Tours** team at reception of the hotel. Drive towards south to Baga Gazariin Chuluu Rock Formations – located in Delgertsogt sum, Dundgovi province (Central Mongolia) and surrounded by plain. The highest one is 15 km long and 10 km wide granite stone-mountain elevated at 1768m above sea level. You will see rocks and stones in unique shapes and burials of Mongols from Middle Ages. Today, we explore the ruins of Sum Khukh Burd Temple. It was built in the 10th century from rocks transported from over 300kms/187 miles away. Accommodation in tourist Gers camp. (B)(L)(D)

JULY 02, Day 5-Breakfast. **10:00AM**-Meet **Samar Magic Tours** team. Drive towards to **Tsagaan Tsuvarga White Stupas or White Pagodas**, about 280 km/174 miles), 5-6 hours' drive from the **Bagazarin Chuluu (Rock Formations)**. **Tsagaan Tsuvarga (Stupas or White Pagodas)** are located approximately 426 km (265 miles) from Ulaanbaatar, and 30 km east of the main road Ulaanbaatar - Umnugobi (Gobi South). The 30-60 m (196.85 ft) high, 400 m (1312.34 ft) long, colorful limestone formation was once the ocean floor where visitors find marine fossils and shells. Its colors stand out in the morning and at night. **Tsagaan Tsuvarga** got its name because its shape resembles relict Buddhist stupas or pagodas. There are some trails to walk down and up through the cliffs. **Opportunity to photograph its colors.** Overnight in tourist Gers camp. (B)(L)(D)

JULY 03, Day 6-Breakfast. **10:00AM**-Meet **Samar Magic Tours** team. Drive to **Gobi Desert** in **South Gobi province**. Explore "**Yolin**" **Canyon** on foot in **Gobi Gurvansaikhan National Park**-was established in **1993**, and expanded to its current size in **2000**. This is the **largest national park in Mongolia**. Famed for its rich bird habitat, **Yolin Canyon or commonly known as (Vulture's Gorge)** was originally established as a bird preserve and later for its stunning beauty and great hiking options **Yolin Canyon** became one of the major destinations in Gobi. **There is a small museum**, which displays dinosaur eggs, some bones and stuffed birds and leopards. **Here you will have the opportunity for hiking** in the valley of Gobi, the stunning landscapes. **Here there is an opportunity to enjoy horseback riding** in the valley of Gobi (***pay directly on site!**). Overnight in tourist Gers camp. (B)(L)(D)

JULY 04, Day 7-Breakfast. **09:00AM**-Meet **Samar Magic Tours** team. Today, a long trip towards to ``**Hongor**`` **Largest Sand dunes**. **Exploration and enjoy and climb up** to over 200 m high **Khongoryn els (Singing sand dunes)**. At the north end of the dune, it has formed a beautiful oasis where they grow grass and flowers, so it is nice to see vegetation in the desert. **Visit an authentic camel breeding family. See their real nomadic life and ride two humped camels around picturesque desert oasis Khongor river.** Overnight in Tourist Gers Camp. (B)(L)(D)



JULY 05, Day 8-Breakfast. **09:00AM**-Meet **Samar Magic Tours** team. Drive towards to **Bayanzag (Rich in Saxual)** or the legendary **"Flaming Cliffs"** in Gobi Desert. **Explore Bayanzag (Rich in Saxual) or Flaming Cliffs**-here **Roy Chapman Andrews**, an American palaeontologist and staff of the Museum of Natural History in New York first found 4-6 inches dinosaur eggs here in 1922. **Bayanzag** is referred as **Flaming Cliffs** for its amazing colours and shape). **Enjoy the Gobi sunset at the legendary "Flaming Cliffs," which glow brilliantly at sunrise and sunset.** Overnight in Tourist Gers Camp. **(B)(L)(D)**

JULY 06, Day 9-Breakfast. **09:00AM**-Meet **Samar Magic Tours** team. A long trip towards north, to reach **the ruins of Ongi temple**-the unique 17th century sole monastery at the heart of the desert. **Ongiin khiid** (also referred as **Ongi Monastery ruins**) is an active small monastery with a temple which was built on the ruins of a monastery complex that was formerly one of the largest monasteries in Mongolia and founded in 1760 and consisted of two separate temples complexes, Barlim khiid and Khutagt khiid, on the North and South of the Ongi Gol river. Overnight in tourist Gers camp. **(B)(L)(D)**

JULY 07, Day 10-Breakfast. **09:00AM**-Meet **Samar Magic Tours** team. Today, we will head North to **Karakorum** in **Central Mongolia**-the **Genghis (Chinggis) Khan's** 13th century capital and heart of the mighty **Mongolian Empire and Okhon river Valley**, cradle of **Mongolian civilization**. Visitors, such as **Marco Polo**, described its ornate building, including a 2500 sq. meters **Palace of Worldly Peace**. **Free time in your own.** Overnight in tourist Gers camp in Karakorum. **(B)(L)(D)**

JULY 08, Day 11-Breakfast. **10:00AM**-Meet **Samar Magic Tours** team. Today, 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 ovoos**) carefully assembled into a cone shape, approximately the same size as a tipi, with nine posts protruding from the top. This structure is mounted on a stone and concrete platform and is surrounded by three walls that represent three sections of a circle. The outer sides of these walls feature three colorful mosaics representing three maps, one for each of the empires.

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

The iconic place of the Mongol Empire in culture, combined with the shamanic symbolism of the **ovoos** at the center of the monument, prompts people to leave offerings of vodka, milk, tea, rice and other edible delicacies that inevitably attract birds and some than another herd of goats and sheep passing by. You can also find several animal skulls around the monument, completing the surreal scene. It is no coincidence that **the Monument of The Imperial Map** 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 is a great vantage point from which to look out over the city of **Kharkhorin** and the **Orkhon River**, and imagine what this collection of dirt roads and low-rise buildings may have looked like **in its glory days**. Also, today, we will visit to the legendary **Erdene zuu** (Hundred Treasures) Monastery, **the**

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Turtle monument, and the **Karakorum Museum**, to see the 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 seat. Currently it constitutes an impressive sight, with its walls, stupas and temples, occupying an enclosure of **400 square meters**, and surrounded by the steppe. The construction was continued by his son '**Ogedei**' **Khan**, after his death. After 40 years, '**Kublai**' **Khan** (grandson of '**Genghis**' **Khan** and host of **Marco Polo**) moved the capital of the Empire to **Beijing** (Peking-Yuan dynasty), already invaded. In the year 1792, there were 62 temples left and more than 10,000 Lamas. In the year 1930, the Stalinist purges destroyed most of their temples and the Lamas were banished to die in Siberia. Of its more than one hundred temples, only three have survived to our era, **it**

The Three Great Temples That Survived the Purge:

These temples are dedicated to the **three stages of Buddha's life**—childhood, youth, and adulthood.

1. **The Western Temple**, built by **Abtai Khan and his son**, is dedicated to the **adult Buddha**. Inside, on either side of Sakyamuni (the historical Buddha), there are statues of **Divangar** (adapted from the Sanskrit *Dīpankara*), the Buddha of the past, on the left, and **Maidar** (from the Sanskrit *Maitreya*), the Buddha of the future, on the right. The latter is one of the most beloved bodhisattvas—a deity who delays his own attainment of nirvana to guide others. In fact, Zanabazar himself, after one of his visits to Tibet, performed a series of ceremonies that included a circumambulation of the monastery while carrying an image of this Buddha—an act that became a tradition in Mongolian Buddhism and is still occasionally practiced at the monastery today. Other exhibited items include a **golden "Wheel of Eternity"**, the **Naimin Takhel**, or eight auspicious symbols (in this case: umbrella, fish, vase, flowers, cards, luck diagram, victory banner, and wheel), figurines from the 17th and 18th centuries, and traditional ornaments called **balin**, made of wheat dough and beautifully decorated, accompanied by **mutton and goose fat**.

2. **The Central Temple**, known as the **Zuu of Buddha**, features an entrance flanked by the deities **Tsagaan Mahagal** (from the Sanskrit *Sita Mahākālā*, or White Mahakala) on the left and **Baldan Lkham** (from the Tibetan *Palden Lhamo*, Sanskrit *Shri Devi*, translated into Mongolian as *Ukin Tengri*) on the right. Both are **Dharmapalas**, wrathful protective deities—emanations of bodhisattvas—that embody their fierce actions. Their role is to destroy and remove obstacles that appear before sincere followers of the Buddhist teachings, as reflected in their title *Dharmapala*, meaning "Defenders or Protectors of the Dharma."

3. **The Eastern Temple** houses a statue representing the **Adolescent Buddha**. To his right stands **Tsongkhapa**, founder of the **Gelug tradition** or "Yellow Hat tradition" of Tibetan Buddhism. To his left is **Migjid Janraisig** (from Tibetan *Jainraisig*, Sanskrit *Avalokiteśvara*, translated into Mongolian as *Nidüber Üjegci*), the **Bodhisattva of Compassion**.

1:00PM-Lunch is included. Next, departure via paved road (46.4 km/29 miles, financed by the **Turkish Government**) to the **Khushuu Tsaidam Memorials Museum** in the **Orkhon River Valley**, erected in honor of the early **8th-century Turkic princes Bilge Khan and Kul Tigin**, with their Orkhon inscriptions, regarded as the most impressive monuments of the **Gokturk nomads**. Afterwards, departure via embankment (hard road) to **Lake Ugii** (33 km/21 miles, 1 hour driving) – a suitable site for migratory birds in late April, May, and throughout summer, with over 25 km/16 miles in a beautiful valley where herds of yaks, sheep, horses, and cattle graze. **Visit to a small museum of local flora and fauna. Birdwatching opportunities available here. Return to Karakorum** (80 km/50 miles, 2.0 hours driving). Overnight in a tourist Gers Camp in Karakorum. **(B+L+D)**



JULY 09, Day 12-Breakfast. **09:00AM**-Meet **Samar Magic Tours** team. **Today, we will return to Ulaanbaatar** (approx. 395 km/245.4 miles, +6-7 hours, depending on traffic upon entry). **1:00PM-Lunch included in route at LUN.** Transfer to the hotel. Overnight at the selected and confirmed hotel. **Dinner not included, on your own. (B+L)**

JULY 10, Day 13-Breakfast at the hotel. **07:00 AM** – Meet the **Samar Magic Tours** team at the hotel reception. Departure heading west (35 km; **2–3** hours' travel time, depending on traffic leaving Ulaanbaatar). **Ulaanbaatar – Naadam Festival Horse Races – Ulaanbaatar. Lunch included at the venue.** Return to Ulaanbaatar (35 km; **2–3** hours' travel time, depending on traffic entering Ulaanbaatar). Transfer to the hotel. Overnight stay at the selected and confirmed hotel. **Dinner not included, on your own. (B+L).**

JULY 11, Day 14-Breakfast at the hotel. **08:00 AM** – Meet the **Samar Magic Tours** team at the hotel reception. Departure for the Central Stadium. **11:00 AM** – **Opening of the Grand Naadam Festival.** Competitions begin. **01:00 PM** – **Lunch included at a local restaurant.** Overnight stay at the selected and confirmed hotel. **Dinner not included, on your own. (B+L).**

JULY 12, Day 15-Breakfast at the hotel. 09:00 AM – Meet the Samar Magic Tours team at the hotel reception. City tour. **01:00 PM** – **Lunch included at a local restaurant.** Departure for the Central Stadium. **Naadam Festival** competitions continue. **Closing ceremony of the Grand Naadam Festival.** Last-minute shopping. **07:00 PM** – **Farewell dinner at a local restaurant.** Overnight stay at the selected and confirmed hotel. **(B+L+D).**

JULY 13, Day 16-Pick up picnic-style breakfast at reception (*if your departure flight is very early). Rooms must be vacated by **12:00 PM** on the day of departure. Meet **Samar Magic Tours** at the hotel reception. Transfer to the new Ulaanbaatar "Genghis Khan" airport (52 km; *you must leave the hotel at least **5** hours before your departure flight). Departure from Mongolia. **END OF THE GREAT JOURNEY! (B).**



WHAT IS INCLUDED IN MONGOLIA?

7 nights' accommodation at the selected and confirmed hotel (double room basis) with breakfast.
2 nights' accommodation at a **DELUXE** tourist complex in a **DELUXE** Ger featuring a private en-suite sink, shower, and toilet for **2** adults (**SINGLE GER ACCOMMODATION NOT AVAILABLE**) in Karakorum (**2** nights, Central Mongolia).

6 nights' accommodation at tourist camps in a **STANDARD** Ger with external bathroom facilities (shared: one building for men, one for women) for **2, 3, or 4** adults (depending on request). **SINGLE GER ACCOMMODATION NOT AVAILABLE IN RURAL MONGOLIA. *If you wish to stay in a DELUXE Ger with an en-suite sink, shower, and toilet in the Gobi Desert (3 nights), a supplement as indicated in the net price table applies.**

All meals as specified (**15** breakfasts, **14** lunches, **9** dinners), including one bottle of mineral water per person, per day.

Welcome lunch at a traditional local restaurant.

7:00 PM (19:00) – Farewell dinner at a local restaurant.

All private transfers in Ulaanbaatar, to the Genghis Khan Equestrian Great Statue, and to Gorkhi/Terelj National Park; transfers between Ulaanbaatar airport and the hotel via tourist bus or van (depending on the confirmed group size), with fuel included.

All private transfers for the remainder of the tour in a comfortable Japanese 4x4 Toyota Land Cruiser (minimum occupancy: **4** tourists + **1** Mongolian-speaking driver per vehicle; luggage limit: **15** kg per person), with fuel included. **Excess luggage may be left free of charge at the hotel in Ulaanbaatar before departing for the countryside. Samar Magic Tours** reserves the right to change the vehicle based on the number of participants; no claims regarding this will be accepted, and no refunds will be issued.

Spanish/English-speaking local guide throughout the tour (according to your early request!).

All entrance fees for the Genghis Khan Equestrian Statue, Gorkhi-Terelj National Park, Baga Gazarin Chuluu rock formations, Yolyn Canyon in Gobi Gurvansaikhan National Park, the giant "Khongor" sand dunes in Gobi Gurvansaikhan National Park, the Bayanzag "Flaming Cliffs" archaeological site, Ongin Temple ruins, Karakorum, Turkic memorials, monuments, museums, and the specified monasteries.

Attendance at a folklore performance featuring the fascinating sounds of *khoomei* (throat singing) and Mongolian dance in Ulaanbaatar.

Attendance at a Mongolian nomadic performance (lunch included) at the Mongol Cultural Park.

Visits to an authentic nomadic family that raises camels among the dunes.

A **one-hour** excursion across the giant Khongor dunes on the back of a Bactrian camel.

Walking and light hiking through magnificent landscapes.

An opportunity to experience and learn about authentic nomadic life.

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



WHAT IS NOT INCLUDED IN MONGOLIA?

- International flights.
- Occasional flight delays or cancellations.
- **Early hotel check-in.**
- **Late hotel check-out.**
- Excess luggage for the overland journey through Mongolia **(Limit: 15 kg per person)**. Excess luggage must be left free of charge at the hotel in Ulaanbaatar before departing for the Mongolian interior.
- **Single supplement at hotels.**
- **Single *Ger*.**
- Visa.
- Any rescue or early departure costs.
- Changes to the departure date from Ulaanbaatar.
- Travelers are responsible for possessing appropriate travel documents, such as a valid passport and necessary passport photos.
- Travel insurance.
- Personal expenses such as hotel porter tips, telephone charges, laundry, drinks, meals, optional activities, and services not specified in the itinerary.
- Travelers with health issues such as respiratory problems, sinusitis, asthma, heart conditions, or mobility impairments. Healthcare facilities outside Ulaanbaatar are very limited, distances are vast, and weather conditions or altitude can aggravate respiratory or heart ailments or mobility issues.
- Any circumstances beyond our control, such as the imposition of quarantine restrictions, weather conditions, road conditions, etc.
- Any other items not mentioned in the "services included" section.



HIGHLIGHTS:

- Visit the massive 40-meter (approx. 133.3 ft) equestrian statue of Genghis Khan.
- Explore Gorkhi/Terelj National Park, located northeast at an altitude of 1,600 meters above sea level. The Park features towering Mesozoic granite rock formations, mountains, steppes, alpine forests, and unique rock shapes—such as the famous Turtle Rock. We will stop at Turtle Rock for photos, souvenir shopping, and a walk around this iconic symbol of the park. Enjoy a gentle hike up to the hilltop Aryapala Meditation Temple.
- Attend a nomadic cultural performance at the Mongol Cultural Park.
- Explore "Yolyn Am" (Vulture Canyon/Gorge) within Gobi Gurvansaikhan National Park.
- Walk across the giant "Khongor" singing dunes and climb the highest peak to take in the striking contrasts of the Gobi Desert landscape.
- Visit an authentic family that raises Bactrian camels.
- Enjoy a Bactrian camel ride in the Gobi Desert.
- Explore the "Flaming Cliffs" of Bayanzag on foot; this is the site where hundreds of fossilized dinosaur eggs and complete skeletons of massive Cretaceous-era reptiles have been discovered.
- Visit Central Mongolia: tour the Erdene Zuu Monastery and the Karakorum Museum to view relics from the ancient capital of the mongol Empire. Erdene Zuu—featuring 108 stupas and established as the first Buddhist lamasery in the 16th century—was a major religious center. It currently presents an impressive sight, with its walls, stupas, and temples occupying a 400-square-meter enclosure surrounded by the steppe.
- We will visit the Khushuu Tsaidam Memorials Museum in the Orkhon Valley.
- We will visit beautiful Ugii Lake for birdwatching; it is a prime spot for migratory birds—which gather here in late April, May, and throughout the summer—and an area where herds of yaks, sheep, horses, and cattle graze.
- We will explore and enjoy the sand dunes of the Bayangobi Desert.
- We will take a Bactrian camel excursion across the sand dunes of the Bayangobi Desert.
- We will attend the **Naadam Festival**, Mongolia's most important nomadic cultural, social, and sporting event.
- We will attend the Naadam Festival competitions, featuring horse racing, national wrestling, archery, and *taba* (ankle-bone) games.
- We will visit the new "Genghis Khan" ("Chinggis Khaan") museum, which finally opened its doors on October 11, 2022. The museum is designed to showcase the history of Mongol rulers, spanning from the reign of the Xiongnu (Hunnu) leader Modun Shanyu to the abdication of the Eighth Jebtsundamba.
- We will listen to the fascinating sounds of *khoomei* (throat singing) during a traditional dance performance.

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



IMPORTANT NOTES FOR MONGOLIA:

1. **MINIMUM GROUP SIZE:** A minimum of **6/10** adults' participants is required to guarantee the tour's departure.
2. We require exact details regarding arrival and departure dates, times, and flight numbers for Mongolia (provided well in advance).
3. We require information on the selected hotel in Ulaanbaatar, as well as the number of single and twin rooms needed (provided well in advance).
4. **Single *Ger* accommodation cannot be confirmed at tourist camps; travelers requiring single occupancy must find their own roommates, as we cannot arrange this.**
5. Single room accommodation can only be confirmed in Ulaanbaatar upon payment of the single supplement listed in the table.
6. One person travels for free (land portion only) only when there are **16** confirmed participants (**15** paying full price + **1** free traveler) staying in **double/twin rooms (8 rooms total)**. **This offer does not include single room supplements or flights.**
7. **Weight Limit: 15** kg per person. Excess luggage must be left—free of charge—at the hotel in Ulaanbaatar before departing for the countryside. Samar Magic Tours reserves the right to cancel the trip due to excess luggage; no claims will be accepted, and no refunds will be issued in such cases.
8. Hotel check-in time in Ulaanbaatar is **2:00 PM (14:00)**. Early check-in is not included. Hotel check-out time in Ulaanbaatar is **12:00 PM (noon)**. Late check-out is not included.
9. **Mongolia** is a country where tourism infrastructure is virtually non-existent and is currently under development. Distances are vast, involving many hours of travel and high fuel costs. The journey takes place largely along dirt and sand tracks. Depending on the condition you may spend many hours on the road. A large part of the Mongolian population remains nomadic, moving from place to place on horseback, camel, or yak with their *Gers* and herds; an occasional encounter with one of these families and their way of life is an unforgettable experience. To fully enjoy this, one must accept the aforementioned conditions in advance, set aside preconceived notions about how things "should" be according to our own mindset, and remain open to what the country has to offer.
10. **July 1st to July 20th – Peak season in Mongolia; services and accommodations are often fully booked.**
11. **In the capital, Ulaanbaatar, and Gorkhi-Terelj National Park: Dinner is at your own expense and is not included.**
12. **Samar Magic Tours** reserves the right to arrange lunches along the route at available locations; no claims regarding this matter will be accepted, and no refunds will be issued.
13. **Mongolia** is not recommended for individuals with health issues such as respiratory problems (sinusitis, asthma), heart conditions, or mobility impairments. Healthcare facilities outside Ulaanbaatar are very limited, distances are vast, and weather conditions or altitude can aggravate respiratory or heart ailments and mobility issues.



Health and risk factors:

Limited medical care: Advanced hospitals are located only in the capital; rural areas lack rapid-response resources for emergencies.

Extreme climate: Intense cold or desert heat can aggravate asthma, bronchitis, and circulatory problems.

Vaccinations: No mandatory vaccinations are required for entry.

14. **When visiting nomadic families:** You must enter the *Ger* on the left side, leading with your right foot. Once you cross the threshold, your hosts will invite you in and indicate where you should sit. The proper thing to do is to bring a gift for the nomads' children—never money, as that is offensive. Suitable items include sweets, cookies, chocolates, hard candies, colored pencils, caps or other small treats of that kind.



ACCOMMODATION IN THE MONGOLIAN COUNTRYSIDE:

Samar Magic Tours always arranges stays at the best available "Ger" tourist camps—provided payment is made within the specified timeframe to guarantee the booking. These are traditional nomadic-style dwellings that are spacious and equipped for tourists, featuring external bathroom facilities (i.e., shared facilities: one building for men and one for women). **SINGLE GER ACCOMMODATION CANNOT BE GUARANTEED**. All Ger tourist camps have on-site restaurants.

NOTES:

1. *If you wish to stay in a **DELUXE** Ger with an en-suite sink, shower, and toilet in the Gobi Desert (**3** nights), **the supplement listed in the net price table must be added.**
2. At some Ger tourist camps, the electricity supply may be cut off starting at **10:00 PM** or midnight. Please keep this in mind when planning to recharge batteries, etc.
3. The published net prices are based on double/twin room accommodation at hotels in Ulaanbaatar. Single room accommodation can only be confirmed for the hotel stays in Ulaanbaatar.



CONTRACTED HOTELS IN ULAANBAATAR DURING NAADAM FESTIVAL

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



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



SUGGESTED PACKING LIST

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



SPECIAL PAYMENT & CONDITIONS FOR NAADAM FESTIVAL MONGOLIA TOURS

All tour prices are calculated on the basis of double occupancy rooms per person and expressed in EUROS or in USD, based on current rates and currency exchange at the time of printing.

- At the time of booking, the reservation form must be completed, and a **reservation guarantee** must be paid immediately via bank transfer, **before December 1st**.
- The **2nd payment (50%)** must be paid via bank transfer **before March 1st**.
- The **final payment** must be completed via bank transfer **before April 1st**.

MONGOLIAN HOLIDAYS:

Banks in Mongolia do not operate on **Saturdays, Sundays, and on Mongolian public holidays**, such as **March 8th, June 1st, and the Naadam Festival (July 1st–15th)**.

Bank transfers take approximately **5 business days** to be received.

IMPORTANT NOTE: If you do not make payments by the specified deadlines, we cannot guarantee the indicated services. In this case, you will need to consult new rates and availability in other hotels.

The price of your tour is guaranteed once **Samar Magic Tours** has received full payment.

PLEASE COMPLETE THE RESERVATION FORM:

- FULL NAME (as written in passport):
- NATIONALITY:
- VALID PASSPORT NUMBER:
- GENDER:
- ARRIVAL DATE IN ULAANBAATAR, FLIGHT NUMBER AND ARRIVAL TIME:
- DEPARTURE DATE FROM MONGOLIA, FLIGHT NUMBER AND DEPARTURE TIME:
- SELECTED HOTEL IN MONGOLIA:
- TOUR CODE: **SMT-GNF-16D**

HOTELS: Rooms are available from **2:00 PM on the day of arrival** and must be vacated by **12:00 PM on the day of departure**.

FREE PAX OF CHARGE TRAVELING IN MONGOLIA:

- If the minimum group is **16 adults (15 paying + 1 person free of charge on land services, based on DOUBLE OCCUPANCY: 8 rooms)**, Samar Magic Tours will cover all land expenses and accommodations in double occupancy. **Not included:** single room and domestic flight tickets.
- If the minimum group is **32 adults (30 paying + 2 persons free of charge on land services, based on DOUBLE OCCUPANCY: 16 rooms)**, Samar Magic Tours will cover all land expenses and accommodations in double occupancy. **Not included:** single room and domestic flight tickets.



CLIMATE CONDITIONS IN MONGOLIA: Not included in our services. These are external conditions. In such cases, we will do our best to find the best available solution. Under no circumstances will claims be accepted for the consequences of temperature changes, and no refunds will be issued.

TRAVEL CONDITIONS: Mongolia is a country where tourist infrastructure is almost non-existent and still under development. Distances are vast, requiring many hours of travel and significant fuel costs. The journey is mostly along dirt and sand tracks. Depending on their condition, long hours may be spent on the road.

Much of Mongolia's population remains nomadic, moving from place to place on horseback, camel, or yak, with their Gers and herds. The occasional encounter with these families and their way of life is an unforgettable experience. To fully enjoy the trip, participants must accept these conditions in advance, let go of preconceived notions of how things "should be," and remain open to what this country has to offer.

MONGOLIA is not recommended for people with respiratory problems, heart problems, wheelchair users, disabled people, or children under **3** years of age.

TRANSPORTATION: **Samar Magic Tours** reserves the right to change vehicles depending on the number of participants. We will not accept claims for these reasons, and this will not entail a refund.

FORCE MAJEURE CONDITIONS: Although it is our absolute intention to fulfil the trip exactly as detailed in the program, on some occasions force majeure conditions may require modifications. **Samar Magic Tours** is not legally responsible for such force majeure circumstances beyond the organization's control that may require changes to the itinerary.

These reasons and circumstances include possible situations such as traveler insecurity, political instability or violence, rebellions or risk of rebellion, strikes, riots, violent actions, government or local authority decisions, technical or maintenance problems related to transportation, changes in flight schedules or routes, natural disasters, epidemics, adverse weather conditions, and any other circumstance beyond the control of **Samar Magic Tours**.

If, due to exceptional force majeure circumstances, the trip must be cancelled, there is no obligation of compensation.

I have read and understood the section on Obligations and Liability detailed earlier in the form, as well as the General Information and Special Booking Conditions as stated in the tour information literature, and I accept them on my behalf and on behalf of my group. I declare that I am not traveling against any medical advice.



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



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

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

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