



## **GREAT TRANSIBERIAN/TRANSMONGOLIAN REGULAR TRAINS JOURNEYS FROM RUSSIA TO MONGOLIA**

### **KEY INFORMATION:**

**TOUR DURATION:** 21 days/ 20 nights

**TOUR CODE:** **SMT-RUSSIANMONGOLIANTRAIN-21D**

**MINIMUM GROUP SIZE:** **8-16** adults or more participants.

**STARTS IN:** Moscow, Russia (International flights not included).

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

**VALID TOURIST SEASON:** **MAY-OCTOBER, \*JULY (EXCEPT FROM JULY 01-20 – PEAK SEASON IN MONGOLIA !. PLEASE CONSULT THE SPECIAL MONGOLIA NAADAM FESTIVAL TOUR RATES).**

**REGULAR TRAIN DEPARTURES FROM MOSCOW, RUSSIA: **THURSDAYS****

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**TOUR HIGHLIGHTS:** Incredible journey in just twenty-one days. **This is a unique and cheap way to discover Russia, and Mongolia.** A train tour you will never forget...**The longest and most famous railway journey in the world, the Trans Mongolian or Trans-Siberian traverses from Russia to Mongolia.** Especially in Russia and Mongolia it is very difficult to arrange transfers, hotels and transport by yourself. **"Samar Magic Tours"** is pleased to offer Trans Mongolian or Trans-Siberian Railway Journeys from Russia to Mongolia. This is the most legendary train ride in the world. There is time to explore major cities such as Moscow, and Ulaanbaatar. **Discovery Mongolia**-the Land of **Genghis Khan** forming the Mongol Empire, the largest contiguous land empire in world history. **It's an incredible, unforgettable journey to the three unique lands.**

#### **RUSSIAN TRAINS SCHEDULE:**

##### **Train No. 002 "Premium"**

**Route:** Moscow – Kazan

**Departure:** **20:40**

**Arrival:** **08:00**

##### **Train No. 060 "Tyumen"**

**Route:** Kazan – Yekaterinburg

**Departure:** **05:20**

**Arrival:** **20:20**

##### **Train No. 002 "Russia"**

**Route:** Yekaterinburg – Novosibirsk

**Departure:** **12:10**

**Arrival:** **11:54**

##### **Train No. 070 "Moscow – Chita"**

**Route:** Novosibirsk – Krasnoyarsk

**Departure:** **21:33**

**Arrival:** **10:50**

##### **Train "Moscow – Chita"**

**Route:** Krasnoyarsk – Irkutsk

**Departure:** **12:36**

**Arrival:** **08:24**

##### **Train No. 306i / 306y**

**Route:** Irkutsk – Ulaanbaatar

**Departure:** **06:58**

**Arrival:** **06:38**

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TOUR DAY	TRANSIBERIAN/TRANSMONGOLIAN REGULAR TRAINS ITINERARY	ACCOMMODATION/ HOTEL'S NAME	MEALS
	<b>MOSCOW</b>		
1. <b>THURSDAY</b>	Arrival in Moscow (*flights not included). Meeting at the airport. Transfer to the hotel. <b>Dinner not included, at your own expense.</b> Overnight at the Holiday Inn Moscow Sokolniki hotel 4* or similar.	Holiday Inn Moscow Sokolniki 4* or similar Standard room.	-----
	<b>MOSCOW</b>		
2. <b>FRIDAY</b>	Breakfast at the hotel. Panoramic city tour: Red Square, the Mausoleum, the Kremlin, St. Basil's Cathedral, and the Cathedral of Christ the Saviour, the Moskva River, and Moscow State University — the most iconic and beautiful landmarks of the Russian capital. Free time for lunch. Visit to the Moscow Metro: 300 km of metro lines and 182 stations, 44 of which are recognized as part of the country's cultural heritage. <b>Dinner not included, at your own expense.</b> Overnight at the Holiday Inn Moscow Sokolniki hotel 4* or similar.	Holiday Inn Moscow Sokolniki 4* or similar. Standard room.	Breakfast at the hotel.
	<b>MOSCOW – KAZAN</b>		
3. <b>SATURDAY</b>	Breakfast at the hotel. Visit to the Kremlin: The Assumption Cathedral, the Archangel Cathedral, the Annunciation Cathedral, the Ivan the Great Bell Tower, and other major monuments of national importance located within the Kremlin complex. Free time for lunch. Visit to the renovated VDNH Park, where we will see the exhibition pavilions of the former Soviet republics from the Soviet period. Photo stop at the impressive Friendship of Peoples Fountain, along with other remarkable highlights of the park. <b>Transfer to the railway station at 20:40.</b> Overnight on board the train. <b>Train journey: approx. 12 hours – 793 km.</b>	Overnight on board the train.	Breakfast at the hotel.
	<b>KAZAN</b>		

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4. <b>SUNDAY</b>	<b>Morning arrival in Kazan at 08:00AM.</b> Free time for breakfast. Kazan is the capital of the Republic of Tatarstan, with a population of over one million inhabitants, located on the banks of the Volga River. Visit to the Kazan Metro. Panoramic city tour and visit to the Kazan Kremlin. The historical and architectural complex of the Kazan Kremlin is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Visit to the Qul Sharif Mosque, one of the largest mosques in Europe. Visit to the Regional Museum. Free time for lunch. Hotel accommodation. Walking tour along Bauman Street and St. Petersburg Street (pedestrian streets). Overnight at the Cosmos Kazan hotel 4* or similar. <b>Dinner not included, at your own expense.</b>	Cosmos Kazan Hotel 4* or similar. Standard room.	-----
	<b>KAZAN</b>		
5. <b>MONDAY</b>	Breakfast at the hotel. Visit to the island of Sviyazhsk, located at the confluence of the Volga and Sviyaga rivers. The island is home to two monasteries dating back to the 16th century, from the time of Ivan the Terrible. Free time for lunch. Free time in the city. Overnight at the Cosmos Kazan hotel 4* or similar in Kazan. <b>Dinner not included, at your own expense.</b>	Cosmos Kazan Hotel 4* or similar. Standard room.	Breakfast at the hotel
	<b>KAZAN-EKATERINBURG</b>		
6. <b>TUESDAY</b>	<b>Train journey: approx. 12 hours 49 minutes – 721 km.</b> Breakfast in the form of a lunch box. Early morning transfer to the railway station. <b>Departure by train to Ekaterinburg at 05:20AM.</b> Day spent on board the train. <b>Arrival in Yekaterinburg at 20:20.</b> Free time for dinner. Overnight at the Novotel Ekaterinburg Centre hotel 4* or similar. <b>Dinner not included, at your own expense.</b>	Novotel Ekaterinburg Centre 4* or similar. Standard room.	Breakfast in the form of a lunch box.
	<b>EKATERINBURG</b>		
7. <b>WEDNESDAY</b>	Breakfast at the hotel. Panoramic city tour: palaces, historic mansions, and Ascension Hill. Visit to the Europe-Asia border monument — the only place where you can take a photo standing between two continents, with one foot in Europe and the other in Asia. Free time for lunch. Visit to Ganina Yama, the site where the remains of the last Russian Emperor and his family were discovered in 1979 and later transferred and reburied in Saint Petersburg. Overnight at the Novotel Ekaterinburg Centre	Novotel Ekaterinburg Centre 4* or similar Standard room.	Breakfast at the hotel.

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	4* or similar. <b>Dinner not included, at your own expense.</b>		
	<b>EKATERINBURG – NOVOSIBIRSK</b>		
8. <b>FRIDAY</b>	Breakfast at the hotel. Transfer to the railway station. <b>Departure by train to Novosibirsk at 12:10.</b> Day and night on board the train. <b>Train journey to Novosibirsk: approx. 22 hours – 1,525 km</b> Overnight on board the train.	Overnight on board the train.	Breakfast at the hotel.
	<b>NOVOSIBIRSK</b>		
9. <b>SATURDAY</b>	<b>Arrival in Novosibirsk at 11:54AM</b> Transfer to the hotel. Time to rest. Free time for lunch. Panoramic city tour of this modern Soviet-era city (approx. 4 hours). Novosibirsk is the only settlement along the Trans-Siberian Railway that has grown into a city with a population of over one million inhabitants. The excursion covers the main attractions of the city, including: the railway station, the largest on the Trans-Siberian Railway; Krasny Prospekt, one of the longest straight streets in the world (7 km); Lenin Square, the city center, featuring the Opera and Ballet Theatre, the largest in the world after the Teatro Colón in Buenos Aires; historic wooden houses on Gorky Street, the oldest part of the city; St. Nicholas Chapel, marking the geographical center of the former Russian Empire; the embankment of the Ob River, the seventh-longest river in the world; the picturesque Siberian agricultural market. Overnight at the Cosmos Novosibirsk hotel 4* or similar. <b>Dinner not included, at your own expense.</b>	Cosmos Novosibirsk Hotel 4* or similar Standard room	-----
	<b>NOVOSIBIRSK-KRASNOYARSK</b>		

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10. <b>SUNDAY</b>	<p>Breakfast at the hotel. Visit to the Academic Town, including the ethnographic and archaeological museum. Excursion to the scientific city of Akademgorodok (30 km from the center of Novosibirsk). It is a unique scientific town where all branches of science are represented. Akademgorodok is sometimes referred to by European media as the "Scientific Vatican." In 1957, during the Cold War, Nikita Khrushchev and the Soviet mathematician Mikhail Lavrentiev founded a special city for scientific research called Akademgorodok, meaning "academic town." It was built near Novosibirsk, in a forested area, and leading Soviet scientists were invited to relocate there. Today, Akademgorodok is a beautiful town that is home to Novosibirsk State University, several academies, and 35 scientific research institutes. The community is far from factories and industrial plants and enjoys proximity to the Ob Sea, the reservoir created by the Ob River dam. You will enter Akademgorodok via Lavrentiev Avenue, listed in the Guinness Book of Records as the "most scientific street in the world." You will also see the Ob River reservoir (the artificial Ob Sea). Free time for lunch. Free time in Novosibirsk. <b>Transfer to the railway station. Departure by train to Krasnoyarsk at 19:34. Train journey to Krasnoyarsk: approx. 12 hours – 762 km.</b> Overnight on board the train.</p>	Overnight on board the train.	Breakfast at the hotel.
	<b>KRASNOYARSK</b>		

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11. <b>MONDAY</b>	<b>Arrival in Krasnoyarsk at 07:21AM.</b> Free time for breakfast. Panoramic city tour (approx. 3 hours). During the excursion, we will show you the most interesting sights of the city: Mira Square (Peace Square) with an exceptional view of the Yenisei River, the monument to Andrey Dubensky, and Karaulnaya Hill, from where you can see the entire city. You will also visit the Paraskeva Pyatnitsa Chapel and walk along the historic streets, learning the origins of their names and how the city has changed and grown over time. Free time for lunch. Visit to the "Stolby" Nature Reserve — the heart, lungs, and soul of the city. For those who enjoy a peaceful or active holiday, exploring new spaces and observing panoramic views seeking harmony with nature, we offer this excursion to the Stolby Reserve. It is the perfect place to create unforgettable memories while visiting Krasnoyarsk. Overnight at the hotel in Krasnoyarsk. <b>Dinner not included, at your own expense.</b>	Hilton Garden Inn Krasnoyarsk 4* or similar Standard room	-----
12. <b>TUESDAY</b>	<b>KRASNOYARSK-IRKUTSK</b> Breakfast at the hotel. Excursion to the Krasnoyarsk Hydroelectric Power Station in Divnogorsk and the observation point "Tsar Ryba" (approx. 3 hours). The tour bus follows a forest road to the observation point called "Tsar Ryba." The group will then stop at the pier in Divnogorsk and near the Krasnoyarsk Hydroelectric Power Station, the second largest in Russia. Free time for lunch. <b>Transfer to the railway station. Departure by train to Irkutsk at 13:36.</b> Overnight on board the train. <b>Train journey to Irkutsk: approx. 20 hours – 1,088 km.</b>	Overnight on board the train.	Breakfast at the hotel.
13. <b>WEDNESDAY</b>	<b>IRKUTSK- KHUZHIR</b> <b>Arrival in Irkutsk at 08:14AM.</b> Free time for breakfast. Journey through the steppe region near Lake Baikal. Lunch is included in a traditional yurt, including a master class on preparing a local dish, buuz (a type of dumpling). Transfer to the village of Khuzhir (approx. 5 hours). Overnight in Hotel Accommodation Khuzhir at the tourist recreation center. <b>Dinner not included, at your own expense.</b>	Overnight in Khuzhir – Point of Baikal 3* or similar Junior Suite	Lunch in a traditional yurt.

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<b>OLKHON ISLAND – KHUZHIR</b>			
14. <b>THURSDAY</b>	Breakfast at the hotel. Visit to Cape Khoboi. Travel by Russian UAZ vehicle along local roads to reach the cape, where you can see the widest part of Lake Baikal. Lunch is included. Return to the hotel. Overnight in Khuzhir. <b>Dinner not included, at your own expense.</b>	Overnight in Khuzhir – Point of Baikal 3* or similar Junior Suite	Breakfast at the hotel Lunch
<b>KHUZHIR – LISTVYANKA</b>			
15. <b>FRIDAY</b>	Breakfast at the hotel. Drive to Listvyanka, enjoying incredible views, pristine nature, and breathtaking landscapes, with stops for photos along the way. Free time for lunch. Overnight in Hotel accommodation in Listvyanka. <b>Dinner not included, at your own expense.</b>	Listvyanka - Hotel Baikal 4* or similar Deluxe twin/King.	Breakfast at the hotel.
<b>LISTVYANKA – IRKUTSK</b>			
16. <b>SATURDAY</b>	Breakfast at the hotel. Today we immerse ourselves in the world of Lake Baikal, full of hidden and fascinating details. At the Baikal Museum, you will learn about the origin of the lake, its unique flora and fauna. The experience is complemented by a model of a bathyscaphe diving to the lake's depths and an artistic display of the Baikal seal's movements. The final panoramic photo stop will be at the source of the Angara River, the only river flowing from Lake Baikal. Rising 728 meters above sea level, the guide will explain the difference between Chersky Stone and Chersky Mountain and share the story of the explorer Chersky. The culmination of the day is a visit to the Russian village from the 17th-19th centuries at the Taltsy Architectural and Ethnographic Museum. You will see village churches, peasant homesteads, a rural school, and local administration buildings. It feels as if time has stopped here, and the villagers are about to resume their daily activities. You will also learn about the culture of the Evenks, Tofs, and Buryats, the indigenous peoples of Siberia. Free time for lunch. In the evening, arrival in Irkutsk and accommodation at a comfortable hotel in the city center. <b>Dinner not included, at your own expense.</b>	Irkutsk Hotel 3* or similar Standard room	Breakfast at the hotel
<b>IRKUTSK-ULAANBAATAR</b>			

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17. <b>SUNDAY</b>	<p>Breakfast at the hotel. Transfer to the railway station. Departure by train to Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia at <b>6:58 AM</b>. Train journey to Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia: approx. <b>23 hours and 40 min, 517-1113km</b> distance depending on the specific route. <b>You will arrive at the Russian border at around 19:57</b>. The process at each border take approximately <b>1h,40m</b>. Just stay in your cabin. Immigration and custom officers will come and handle the border crossing process. <b>Toilets will be locked during these border crossings</b>. Then train will move into Mongolian side, and arrive at Mongolian border after <b>40</b> minutes. Same thing in Mongolian side (Sukhbaatar). Stay in the cabin, they will come and do the checking. Another <b>1h 50mins</b>). You will get an arrival card for the Mongolian custom in advance. Overnight on board the train.</p>	<p>Overnight on board for a sleeper compartment the train.</p>	<p>Breakfast at the hotel.</p>
<b>ULAANBAATAR, MONGOLIA</b>			

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<p><b>18. MONDAY</b></p>	<p>The train from <b>Irkustk, Russia</b> will arrive in Ulaanbaatar train station early in the morning at <b>6:38 AM</b>. Meet with the <b>Samar Magic Tours</b> team at Ulaanbaatar Railway Station. Change some money on the way. Transfer to the hotel from Ulaanbaatar Railway Station (approx.+ <b>1</b> hour depending on traffic). Clients must pay for <b>early check-in (early entry to hotel rooms with breakfast)</b>. Rooms are only available from <b>2:00 PM (14:00)</b> on the day of arrival. Panoramic city tour of Ulaanbaatar: visit the most important Buddhist Monastery in Mongolia, Gandan, which houses a 25-meter-tall Buddha. The Gandan Monastery was founded in 1809 under the name "Yellow Temple." It also holds a library containing the Buddhist scriptures of Gandjur (8 volumes), their commentaries (225 volumes), and other texts inscribed with the 9 precious stones. It was declared a State Heritage site in 1994. Continue with visits to the National History Museum, with its rich collection of historical and cultural artifacts from the Stone Age to the present day; Sukhbaatar Central Square; and the "Genghis Khan" Monument Complex, built in 2006 to commemorate the 800th Anniversary of the Foundation of the Mongol State or Mongol Empire by Genghis Khan (1206–2006), located in front of the Mongolian Parliament and Government House. Welcome Lunch included in a traditional local restaurant. <b>06:00 PM</b> – Enjoy a folklore performance of Mongolian singing and dance. Transfer to the hotel. Overnight at Holiday Inn hotel 5* or similar. <b>Dinner not included, at your own expense.</b></p>	<p>Overnight at Holiday Inn hotel 5* or Premium Palace hotel 4* or similar.</p>	<p>Welcome Lunch included in a traditional local restaurant.</p>
	<p><b>ULAANBAATAR-THE GENGHIS KHAN GREAT EQUESTRIAN STATUE-TERELJ NATIONAL PARK-ULAANBAATAR</b></p>		

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19. <b>TUESDAY</b>	<p>Breakfast at hotel. <b>08:00 AM</b> – Meeting with the <b>Samar Magic Tours</b> team at the hotel reception. Departure northeast to the 40-meter / 133.3-foot Genghis Khan Equestrian Statue (55 km / 34.2 miles, approx. <b>+2</b> hours, depending on traffic). The statue symbolically faces east towards his birthplace. It stands on top of the Genghis Khan Statue Complex, a visitor center 10 meters (32 ft 10 in) high, with 36 columns representing the 36 khans from Genghis Khan to Ligdan Khan. Visitors walk up to the horse's head through its chest and neck to enjoy a panoramic view. Nearby, travellers may take beautiful photos with Kazakhs and their Golden Eagles, ride Bactrian camels or Mongolian horses across the steppe, or try archery (*extra payment on-site). A traditional Mongolian lunch is included in route. Continue to Gorkhi-Terelj National Park (50 km / 31.1 miles, approx. 1hr). Located northeast at 1600 m above sea level, the park features towering Mesozoic granite formations, mountains, steppes, alpine forests, and iconic rock formations such as Turtle Rock. The Park lies at the foothills of the Khentii Mountains, the birthplace of Genghis Khan. Declared a National Park in 1993, it covers 300,000 hectares. Stop for photos, souvenir shopping, and a short walk to the Great Turtle Rock, symbol of the Gorkhi-Terelj National Park. Gentle hike to the Arryabal Meditation Temple, located on a hillside. Afterwards, return to Ulaanbaatar (70 km / 44 miles, approx. <b>+2</b> hours, depending on traffic). Last chance for Mongolian souvenir shopping at the main State Department Store. Transfer to the hotel. Accommodation at the selected and confirmed hotel. <b>Dinner not included, on your own.</b></p>	<p>Overnight at Holiday Inn hotel 5* or Premium Palace hotel 4* or similar.</p>	<p>Breakfast at hotel. A traditional Mongolian lunch is included in route.</p>
	<p><b>ULAANBAATAR-AUTHENTIC MONGOLIAN NOMADIC SHOW- ULAANBAATAR</b></p>		

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20. <b>WEDNESDAY</b>	<p>Breakfast at hotel. <b>7:00 AM</b> - Meet with the Samar Magic Tours team at the hotel reception. Then, depart west for an Authentic Mongolian Nomadic Show (35 km/22 miles, +2.00 hours travel time, depending on traffic at departure), from <b>10:00 AM to 1:00 PM</b>. The Authentic Mongolian Nomadic Show demonstrates the traditional lifestyle of Mongolian nomads, raising and using five types of livestock while moving from one place to another using oxcarts, yaks, camels, and horses. We can also observe what a Ger looks like. The Mongolian Ger, one of the symbols of Mongolia, is traditionally made. All furniture, pots, and clothing are antiques, reflecting the characteristics and manners of the central Khalks. Mongolian traditional lunch is included on-site. Return to Ulaanbaatar (35 km/22 miles, +2 hours travel time, depending on traffic at the entrance). Transfer to the hotel. Overnight at your selected hotel. <b>Dinner not included, at your own expense.</b></p>	<p>Overnight at Holiday Inn hotel 5* or Premium Palace hotel 4* or similar.</p>	<p>Breakfast at hotel. Mongolian traditional lunch is included on-site</p>
	<b>DEPARTURE MONGOLIA</b>		
21. <b>THURSDAY</b>	<p>Breakfast at hotel. Rooms must be vacated by <b>12 noon</b> on the day of departure. Meet with the <b>Samar Magic Tours</b> team at the hotel reception. Transfer to the new ``Genghis'' Khan Airport (52 km/32.3 miles, <b>+4-5</b> hours travel time, depending on traffic). <b>Departure from Mongolia. END OF THE GREAT TRIP.</b></p>	-----	<p>Breakfast at hotel.</p>

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## WHAT IS INCLUDED IN RUSSIA?

Airport and train transfers (in/out).

Train travel: **4** nights on board (**5** train journeys)-the price is based on accommodation in a **4**-berth sleeper compartment.

**13** nights at hotel accommodation in **3\*-4\*** hotels in the cities.

**13** breakfasts, **2** lunches included.

Local guides in Spanish or in English.

Entrance fees to the museums.

Transportation service for excursions.

Train tickets are based on accommodation in a **4**-berth sleeper compartment.

## WHAT IS NOT INCLUDED IN RUSSIA?

International and the domestic flights.

Unfortunately, we are unable to provide pricing for **2**-berth sleeper compartments on the trains included in our current calculation, as not all of these trains offer this type of accommodation.

Tips.

Insurance.

Personal spending's.

Anything not mentioned in the itinerary.

## IMPORTANT TO NOTES IN RUSSIA:

All timings are subject to local traffic conditions.

Currency fluctuations of more than 3% or changes in local government taxes may result in price changes.

Prices are not applicable on fair dates. We reserve the right to apply supplements or confirm hotels outside the affected city or in alternative cities should the tour include cities affected by a trade fair.

Rates are per person based on twin share/double.

Parking permits, City permits and tolls are quoted at rates applicable at the time of our offer. These rates may be increased by local councils at any time without notice. As this is out of active travel's control, we reserve the right to add a surcharge for any additional costs if necessary.

As per EUR regulations, drivers are not permitted to keep engines running while the coach is parked. Air conditioning will therefore only run when the group is on board.

All meals for driver are included in the package price

Drivers are permitted to work a maximum of 12 hours AND TO DRIVE A MAXIMUM OF 9 HOURS per day including the time that the coach is parked. Additional driver's hours are not permitted.

No reservations have been made at this stage and all hotels/services are subject to availability at the time of

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Where triple rooms are required and hotels are unable to provide a triple room or an extra bed in a twin room, a twin and a single will be provided and you will need to cover any additional costs incurred.

### **IMPORTANT TO NOTES IN RUSSIA:**

1. Price quoted is subject to change without prior notice and subject to availability at the time of booking.
2. No reservation has been made at this point of time and rooms are strictly subject to availability and/or peak period or fair period surcharge may apply. Please note confirmed hotels may differ from those as proposed in the offer sheet and hotels in alternative cities as far as 1hr away may also be booked if rooms are available.

### **WHAT IS INCLUDED IN MONGOLIA?**

- **3** nights of accommodation at Holiday Inn hotel **5\*** or at Premium Palace hotel **4\*** or similar, based in a double room with breakfast in Ulaanbaatar.
- Welcome lunch in a traditional local restaurant.
- Meals according to specification **(3B, 3L)** with 1 bottle of mineral water per day.
- All private transfers by tourist bus or tourist van or similar (\*depending on the confirmed group size) with all fuel included. **Samar Magic Tours** reserves the right to change the vehicle depending on the number of participants; under no circumstances will we accept claims for these reasons, and no refund will be made.
- English or Spanish-speaking local guide (\*according to your request).
- All entrance fees to Genghis Khan Equestrian Statue, Gorkhi-Terelj National Park, monuments, museums, and monasteries.
- Admission to a folklore performance with the fascinating sounds of khoomi throat singing and Mongolian dance.
- Authentic Mongolian Nomadic Show demonstrates the traditional lifestyle of Mongolian nomads, raising and using five types of livestock while moving from one place to another using oxcarts, yaks, camels, and horses.
- Service fees include 10% VAT, 2% Ulaanbaatar municipal tax, and 5% service charge in Ulaanbaatar city hotels.

### **WHAT IS NOT INCLUDED IN MONGOLIA?**

- Flights.
- Occasional flight delays or cancellations.
- **Early check-in** at the hotel.
- **Late check-out** from the hotel.
- Excess baggage in our vehicles.
- Visa.

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- Any rescue costs or early departure expenses.
- Change of departure date from Ulaanbaatar.
- The traveller is responsible for having proper travel documents, such as a valid passport and required passport photos.
- Travel insurance.
- Personal expenses such as tips to porters in hotels, telephone/telex/fax charges, laundry, beverages, meals, optional activities, and services not specified in the itinerary.
- Any circumstances beyond our control, such as the imposition of quarantine restrictions, weather conditions, road conditions, etc.

#### **HIGHLIGHTED EXPERIENCES IN MONGOLIA:**

- Listen to the fascinating sounds of khoomi throat singing during a traditional dance performance.
- Grand Tour in Ulaanbaatar.
- Visit the 40-meter / 133.3-foot Genghis Khan Equestrian Statue.
- Visit the Gorkhi-Terelj National Park-Arryabal Temple.
- Attend the Authentic Mongolian Nomadic Show demonstrates the traditional lifestyle of Mongolian nomads, raising and using five types of livestock while moving from one place to another using oxcarts, yaks, camels, and horses.

#### **IMPORTANT TO NOTES IN MONGOLIA:**

- Restaurant carriage are available on the train except for train from Irkutsk to Ulaanbaatar.
- Mongolian visa not included.
- International flights and trains not included.
- Hotel check-in in Ulaanbaatar is at **2:00 PM (14:00)**. Hotel check-out in Ulaanbaatar is at **12:00 noon**.
- A surcharge applies during the **Naadam Festival** for travel from **July 1 to July 20 (Peak Season in Mongolia)**, when all services and accommodations are fully booked.
- In Ulaanbaatar, the capital: **Dinners at your own expense**.
- **Samar Magic Tours** reserves the right to arrange lunches in route where possible. Under no circumstances will we accept claims for these reasons, and no refund will be made.
- **Samar Magic Tours** reserves the right to change the vehicle depending on the number of participants. Under no circumstances will we accept claims for these reasons, and no refund will be made.
- **Vegetarians must pay a supplement, since in Mongolia vegetables are very expensive** and the Mongolian diet is based on meat rather than vegetables. Requests must be made in advance, and the supplement paid depending on the number of days in Mongolia.

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# SAMAR MAGIC TOURS

ADVENTURES & EXPEDITIONS

www.samarmagtours.com

Member of Ministry of Nature, Environment and Tourism Mongolia

Adventure & Cultural & Expeditions, since 1997!



- All photos are the property of **Samar Magic Tours**. They may be used for publicity purposes when working with **Samar Magic Tours**. **Our photos are strictly prohibited from being used for publicity when working with other Mongolian tour operators.**

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## PROPOSED HOTELS IN ULAANBAATAR, MONGOLIA

HOTELS	ROOM	LOCATION
<b>HOTEL HOLIDAY INN 5*</b>  	<b>STANDART TWIN ROOM</b>  	<b>Holiday Inn Hotel 5★</b> 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.  <b>Check-in: from 14:00</b> <b>Check-out: by 12:00 noon</b>
<b>PREMIUM PALACE HOTEL 4*</b>  	<b>STANDART TWIN ROOM</b>  	<b>Premium Palace Hotel 4 ★</b> 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 <b>buffet</b> breakfast, number of floors: 20, Wi-Fi, gym, CU café on the 1st floor, and a small parking area. <b>Check-in: from 14:00</b> <b>Check-out: by 12:00 noon</b>

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## ABOUT CABIN ACCOMMODATION IN REGULAR RUSSIAN TRAINS:

- 4 berths cabin accommodate 4 pax per cabin.
- 2 Toilets for each carriage, shared among the passengers in 8 cabins
- No attached toilet in the cabin.
- We will not use the same train for the whole journey.
- There is no restaurant wagon on the train between Irkutsk and Ulaanbaatar.
- Free flow drinking boiled water in the train, and there is also a microwave in the attendant room. You can ask the attendant to use microwave to heat your food.
- There are 2 – 4 power sockets with 220V output in each cabin.
- Train cabin usually set at room temperature (Air conditioned).

**A 4-bed cabin (Kupe/Second Class) on the Moscow to Ulaanbaatar train offers** a budget-friendly, authentic experience with two upper and two lower bunks, a small table, storage, and shared carriage facilities like a toilet, sink, and Samovar for hot water; while not luxurious, it's clean, provides bedding, and allows for social interaction, with the option to book all four bunks for more privacy.

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### Cabin Features (Second Class/Kupe)

**Bunks:** Four berths (two lower, two upper) with ladders to reach the top bunks.

**Space:** Enough room for luggage under lower bunks and in overhead racks, plus a small table by the window.

**Bedding:** Clean sheets, pillows, duvets, and blankets are provided.

**Privacy:** A lockable door secures the compartment, though it's shared with three strangers unless you buy all four berths.

**Power:** Charging points are usually available near the window.

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## Carriage Amenities

**Toilet & Sink:** A shared toilet and sink are located at the end of each carriage.

**Samovar:** A constant supply of hot water for tea and coffee is available in the carriage.

**Attendants (Provodnik/Provodnitsa):** Staff keep the carriage clean and help with services.

## Experience & Tips

**Social Atmosphere:** Sharing with others creates opportunities for conversation and making friends.

**Privacy Option:** You can book all four berths in a Second-Class cabin for sole occupancy and privacy, similar to a First-Class cabin but potentially cheaper.

**Bunk Choice:** Lower bunks offer more headroom and are easier to access, while upper bunks give you more personal space during the day.

**Amenities:** Some trains may lack air conditioning or Wi-Fi, contributing to a "simpler time" feel.

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## SECURITY & SAFETY ON THE TRANS-SIBERIAN/TRANS-MONGOLIAN TRAIN

### Is the trans-Siberian safe to travel?

Russia in particular still has a bit of an image problem with regards to personal safety. However, once in Russia, and particularly on the trains, most quickly realize that a Trans-Siberian trip is no more 'dangerous' than any rail trip in Europe or North America.

**In Russia:** On the trains your safety is a top priority for the Provodnik & Provodnitsas who look after your carriage and also for security staff who travel on the trains. If you keep your common-sense hat on you should not have any issues with theft.

Cabins can be locked from the inside by you or from the outside by the conductors on request. At train station stops you are usually only allowed to board the carriage you have a ticket for.

Perhaps the biggest risk is at the start or end of a train journey at the train stations – particularly arriving at stations. Do keep a good eye on your bags and pockets and this applies as much (if not more) to Ulaanbaatar station and all the big stations in Russia where large crowds are the norm.

**In Mongolia:** **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.



## MONEY & PAYMENTS ON THE TRANS-SIBERIAN/TRANS-MONGOLIAN TRAINS

### 1. With regard to money on trains there are the following general rules to take into account:

- Only count on being able to use local currency on the train and at stations – it is rare you can pay in USD or Euros these days.
- Don't count on finding any ATMs at the stations even if told they exist - they also currently won't take Western issued cards such as Visa and MasterCard.
- Bring enough money on to the train with you to get you to your next destination.
- Bring a little more than you think you will need!
- You can change money at the borders if you need to.
- You can change or obtain Russian Rubles or Tugriks in Mongolia.

### 2. Can I pay by card on the Trans-Siberian/Trans-Mongolian Trains?

**Inside Russia** it is now possible to pay by card on some trains and you can't currently use Western issued cards such as Visa and MasterCard in Russia.

However, as this is a new development there can be a reluctance to take a card payment – particularly from foreigners. For whatever reasons, cash is still insisted on. As payment by card becomes more commonplace we hope this will change. As ever, if you are going to use a card make sure you let your bank know in advance where you will be travelling or they may put a block on your card.

Card payments on trains are not yet possible in Mongolia.



## GENERAL CONDITIONS

**PRICE:** Prices are calculated based on **double occupancy**. Prices and rates are quoted in 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 MOSCOW, FLIGHT NUMBER, AND ARRIVAL TIME:

DATE OF DEPARTURE FROM MONGOLIA, FLIGHT NUMBER, AND DEPARTURE TIME:

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 amount of USD 800.00 per person, at least **245** business days before arrival in Moscow, Russia.
- The final payment for the trip** must be made by bank transfer, at least **155** 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:

**245-156 days before arrival:** **the reservation guarantee is non-refundable.**

**155-65** days before arrival: 50% refund.

**64-0** 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.

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**HOTELS:** Rooms may be used from **2:00 PM** on the day of arrival and must be vacated before **12:00 noon** on the day of departure.

**TRANSPORT:** **Samar Magic Tours** reserves the right to change the vehicle depending on the number of participants. Under no circumstances will we accept claims for this reason, and no refunds will be made.

**CLIMATE CHANGES:** Not included in our services. These are external conditions. In such cases, we will do everything possible to find the best available solution. However, no claims will be accepted for the consequences of weather changes, and no refunds will be made.

#### **TRAVEL CONDITIONS:**

Mongolia is a country where tourist infrastructure is almost non-existent and still in development. Distances are vast, requiring many hours of travel and involving significant fuel costs. The journey is carried out mostly on dirt and sand tracks. Depending on their condition, travellers may spend many hours on the road. A large part of the Mongolian population is still nomadic, moving from place to place on horseback, camel, or yak, with their Gers and herds. An occasional encounter with one of these families and their way of life is an unforgettable experience. **To enjoy the trip, travellers must accept these conditions in advance, let go of preconceived notions about how things "should" be, and remain open to what this country has to offer.**

#### **FORCE MAJEURE CONDITIONS:**

While it is our absolute desire to carry out the trip as detailed in the program, on occasion there may be force majeure circumstances that require modifications.

**Samar Magic Tours** is not legally responsible for those force majeure situations beyond the organization's control that may force changes to the travel program. These reasons and circumstances include possible security risks for travellers, political instability or violence, rebellions or the threat of rebellion, strikes, riots and violent actions, decisions by governments or local authorities, technical or maintenance problems related to transport, changes in flight or road schedules or routes, natural disasters, epidemics, adverse weather conditions, and any other circumstances beyond the control of **Samar Magic Tours**.

If, due to exceptional circumstances of force majeure, it becomes necessary to cancel the trip, there is no obligation of compensation.

I have read and understood the section on Obligations and Responsibility detailed above in the form, as well as the General Information and Special Booking Conditions set out in the tour information materials, and I accept them on behalf of myself and my group. I declare that I am not traveling against any medical advice.

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## FACT SHEET – 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:

<b>Spring:</b>	<b>May</b>	[around 14°C daytime, 6°C nighttime. Occasional rain, generally cool.]
<b>Summer:</b>	<b>June-August</b>	[28–30 °C daytime, 18 °C nighttime. Mostly dry with occasional rain.]
<b>Autumn:</b>	<b>September</b>	[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 taste. *Prices, services, and other information of the products detailed on this page and on the website [www.samarmagtours.com](http://www.samarmagtours.com) are not binding and may change without prior notice.*



though strong flavor. Cow and goat cheese are common.

Milk may not be pasteurized, and some dairy products can therefore be unsafe. It should be boiled, and foods should preferably be consumed cooked. This is the health guideline, but in reality, once you stop at a Ger, guests are always invited to enter and offered aromatic *airag* (fermented 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 centre's—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.