



SAMAR MAGIC TOURS
ADVENTURES & EXPEDITIONS

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**MONGOLIA SPECIAL GROUP TOUR FOR THE RELIGIOUS FESTIVAL DANSHIG
NAADAM IN JUNE WITH SAMAR MAGIC TOURS**

TOUR DURATION: 8 days / 7 nights

TOUR CODE: **SMT-DANSHIGNAADAM-8D**

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

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

FOR GROUP RATES AND HOTEL INFORMATION, CONTACT US.

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MAP OF MONGOLIA



TOUR DESCRIPTION:

We will begin our route at the new "Genghis" Khan International Airport in Ulaanbaatar (inaugurated on July 3, 2021, located 52 km / 32.3 miles away, approximately **+2-3** hours' drive depending on traffic), capital of Mongolia, with a warm welcome by the **Samar Magic Tours** team.

The **Danshig Naadam Festival** began to be held annually, **by decree of the Mongolian Government**, starting in **2025**, during the **last seven days of June** (*previously celebrated in **August**), in the western area of Ulaanbaatar (in a place known as **Hui Doloon Khudag**), approximately 35 km (18 miles) from the city.

The **Danshig Naadam Festival** celebrates ancient Buddhist traditions, such as the Tsam mask dance, and is dedicated to **Zanabazar**, the first Buddhist leader of Mongolia. "**Khuree Tsam**," meaning religious mask dance, was first introduced to Mongolia in the **early 18th century**. Dancers wearing sacred masks perform divine movements, representing the arrival of gods and deities physically to Jambudvipa ("Earth" in Tibetan).

Visitors can attend the **Naadam Festival activities, such as traditional Mongolian wrestling, horse racing, archery, and musical performances**. This is an excellent opportunity to **photograph Buddhist dances, national wrestling competitions, horse races, and archery contests**.

The **spiritual journeys to Mongolia** with **Samar Magic Tours** focus **on the experience of Tibetan Buddhism**, combining the exploration of desert and mountain landscapes with visits to Mongolia's three most important monasteries, including the "**Gandan**" Monastery in Ulaanbaatar. These journeys offer the chance to connect with the nomadic culture, meditate in sacred places, and learn about the Kalachakra Tantra prophecies, which evoke the ideal of Shambhala, the hidden Buddhist kingdom.

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-In the first part of this great journey, we will visit the grand **"Gandantegchinlin" Monastery**, or **"Gandan" Monastery**, a historic Buddhist monastery in Ulaanbaatar, known as the **"Great Place of Complete Joy."** Founded in **1809**, it was the **only active monastery** in the country between **1944 and 1989**, and today houses **several hundred monks**, serving as the **center of Buddhism in Mongolia**.

Its main attraction is an **impressive statue approximately 25 meters high**. Inside, visitors can witness **traditional Buddhist ceremonies**, including **collective prayers, mantras, and rituals of devotion** that seek **inner peace and spiritual balance**.

History and Meaning of the Gandan Monastery:



Foundation: The monastery was founded in 1809.

Persecution and Restoration: It was closed during the Stalinist persecutions in 1939 but became the only active monastery in the country until 1989.

Reactivation: Beginning in 1990, it was restored and revitalized, and today it serves as an important center for Buddhism in Mongolia.

Main Attractions

Statue of Migjid Chenrezig (Avalokiteśvara), the Bodhisattva of Compassion: The most famous feature is a statue over 25 meters high of the Bodhisattva of Compassion, made of gilded bronze and adorned with precious stones.



Buildings: It houses several Tibetan-style buildings and serves as the main Buddhist study center.

Teaching Center: Gandan hosts a Buddhist university where monks study philosophy, rituals, and practices. Courses in Tibetan, Sanskrit, and English are also offered.

Religious Activities: Daily ceremonies and rituals, such as chanting and prayer, are held and open to both locals and tourists. The monastery's prayer drums create a uniquely spiritual atmosphere.

Other Temples and Colleges: The complex includes several temples and colleges, many of which have been rebuilt and restored since the 1990s.

Cultural Environment: The monastery remains an active and vital spiritual center, offering visitors a true experience of the heart of Buddhism in Mongolia's capital.

About the Statue of Migjid Chenrezig (Avalokiteśvara):

The original statue was made of gold and bronze and erected in 1913 through donations from Mongolians for the Bogdo Khan (the Eighth Javzandamba, who had become Emperor of Mongolia) to help him recover his eyesight. The statue stood 32 meters (105 feet) tall and symbolized Mongolia's independence from the Manchu system. Twenty-four years later, in 1937, Soviet troops demolished it—its remains are believed to have been used to make bullets during the Siege of Leningrad.

After the democratic revolution of 1990, the government guaranteed freedom of religion. The reconstruction of the statue symbolizes the goodwill of the government and its commitment to ensuring security, freedom, and independence. The Mongolian government and people placed great importance on its rebuilding.

The **Dalai Lama** inaugurated the new statue of **Megjid-Janraiseg** (meaning "The Lord Who Looks in All Directions") in 1996, after five years of work. This 25-meter-high statue, weighing more than 20 tons, is made from copper mined in Erdenet. It is gilded with gold donated by Nepal and Japan and wrapped in gold-embroidered brocade and over 100 kilograms (220 pounds) of silk. The statue contains **2,286 precious stones, 27 tons of medicinal plants, 334 sutras, and 2 million mantras**. One thousand small statues of the deity Amitabha (Ayush) surround it. Two stone lion statues are placed nearby according to Buddhist sculptural tradition.

The Temples that Make Up the Monastery:

The first temple of the monastery was built under the initiative of Luvsanchultimjigmed Dambijantsan, the fifth incarnation of the Bogd. Constructed by Mongolia's finest architects, the temple was primarily made of wood and earth according to traditional Mongolian architectural concepts of that period, with roofs covered in gold. It also housed highly valuable symbolic Buddhist decorations. Many statues and images of Bodhisattvas within Gandan hold great significance. Among them are:

- A bronze statue of **Zanabazar**, the first living Buddha incarnation, sculpted by himself at his mother's request;

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- The *Tripitaka* (Gangjur), a collection of Buddhist teachings in 108 volumes;
- A silver statue of the famous Tsongkhapa of Amdo, made in the 16th century in Western Mongolia.

The **Vajradhara Temple**, built between 1840 and 1841, is made of stone and brick with ceramic roofs and golden decorations. On the main altar of the Dzu Temple stands a statue of Buddha and his two disciples, created in Dolon Nuur, Inner Mongolia, in the early 19th century. Religious services are held there daily.

The "**Dedanprovan**" building, built in the early 20th century, was originally a two-story library for the fifth incarnation of the living Buddha, Luvsanchultimjigmed Dambijantsan. It features ceramic roofs and valuable golden decorations. In 1904, the 13th Dalai Lama stayed there. Today, this fifth building, known as the "Library," holds more than 50,000 books and 1 million sutras written in Mongolian, Tibetan, and Sanskrit. It also preserves 16th-century surgical instruments.

The temples display the *Eight Noble Symbols*, *Damdin Choijil*, Mahayana and Hinayana representations, and sixteen Arhats crafted by Mongolian, Tibetan, and Indian artists. Embroideries and paintings depicting Bodhisattvas by Mongolian artists, as well as numerous satirical drawings and illustrations, are also found throughout the monastery.

The **Dechingalav Datsan** teaching center was originally located in downtown Ulaanbaatar before being rebuilt within the monastery in 1992. Every spring, this school performs the **Kalachakra Ritual**. Its construction began in 1800 after the Fourth Bogd Jevzundamba visited the Kalachakra Zuu Baruun Monastery in Tibet. At that time, Lkhokh Jalsrai Gegeen introduced him to the *Kalachakra* (Wheel of Time) philosophy. The Bogd inaugurated the **Dechen Gelpa Datsan** in 1801, which functioned until its closure in 1937.

When His Holiness the Dalai Lama performed a **Kalachakra initiation** in Varanasi, India, in 1990, he announced that the next initiation would be held in Mongolia at Gandantegchinlen Monastery. Preparations began immediately, and the datsan was reconstructed. The initiation took place in 1995. Before that, Tibetan masters visited to teach local lamas how to create a sand mandala. During the summer of 1995, the Dalai Lama visited the monastery and conducted the initiation. Since then, the **Kalachakra ritual** has been held annually on the 15th day of the last month of spring (lunar calendar).

The **Idgachoinzinlin Teaching Center** was founded by the Eighth Bogd Jevzundamba, based on the works of Tibetan scholar Sera Jebzunpa. The datsan was destroyed in 1938 but reopened in 1990 thanks to the efforts of his former disciples Tserendemchig and Naidan. A new temple was inaugurated in 2004.

The **Tashchoimphel Teaching Center** was established in 1756 by the Second Bogd Jebzundamba and Manjusri Khutagtu. It was destroyed in 1938 and restored in 1990; the temple was completed in 1994. The **Gungaachailing Center**, founded in 1809 by the Fourth Bogd Jetsundamba, taught the works of the Tibetan scholar Panchen Sonamdagva. The datsan trained over 3,000 lamas, including renowned Mongolian masters such as



Agvanrinchen, Darp Pandita, and Zava Damdin Gavju. It resumed activity in 1990 and continues to train new disciples.

The **Mongolian Buddhist University**, founded in 1970, combines modern education with traditional methods. It offers a four-year post-secondary program with two main divisions:

- **Internal Sciences Section:** Buddhist philosophy and chanting.
- **General Knowledge Section:** Tibetan, Sanskrit, and English languages, traditional medicine, and astrology.

The **Badam Yoga Teaching Center**, built in 1745 by the Second Bogd Jebzundamba, was devoted to chanting and prayer recitation. It ceased activity in 1938 and reopened in 2002 at the **Geser Temple**, on the eastern side of Gandan. Its main goal is to practice traditional Mongolian medicine and astrology, predicting auspicious and inauspicious dates for events. Doctors diagnose illnesses and treat patients accordingly.

The **Lud Teaching Center**, founded in 1739 by the Second Bogd Jebzundamba, was closed in 1938 and reopened fifty years later, in 1998. It specializes in tantric services and ritual chants.

Additionally, there are **three Buddhist philosophy colleges (datsans)**, one of **medicine and astrology**, and **two tantric colleges**:

- **Dashchoimphele College**, founded in 1736 by the Second Jebtsundamba, follows the *Gunchen Jamyan Shadba* principle of the Tibetan Gelug tradition.
- **Gungaachoilin College**, founded in 1809, follows the *Banchen Sodnamdagva* principle.
- **Idgaachoinzinlin College**, founded in 1912, follows the *Sera Jebtsunba* principle.
- **College of Medicine and Astrology**, teaching traditional Mongolian medicine and astrology. **Jud Tantric College** and **Kalachakra Tantric College**, where students are trained in tantric Buddhist practices and rituals.



In Ulaanbaatar, we will also visit the **Choijin Lama Monastery-Museum:**

This monastery-museum, a masterpiece of Buddhist architecture, offers an in-depth look into Mongolian Buddhist teachings and practices. Visitors can admire its sculptures, paintings, and ritual objects, connecting with the spirituality that continues to thrive in the country today. The complex consists of **six temples**, originally occupied by **Choijin Lama Luvsankhaidav**, the brother of the **Eighth Bogd Jetsun Dampa Khan**, who was the **State Oracle** and Khutugtu of "Precious Wisdom and Clear Devotion" at the time. The complex was initiated in 1904 and completed in 1908 in honor of the State Oracle Lama Luvsankhaidav, brother of the Eighth Bogd Khan. Originally, it was a Buddhist temple complex, comprising a main temple and five subsidiary temples. It remained active until 1937, when it was closed during the height of the Stalinist repression against Buddhism and other religious traditions.

Restoration of the Yadam Temple: Faced with deterioration, one of Mongolia's few surviving temples from the period of religious repression received international assistance for its preservation. Following the creation of a master conservation plan in collaboration with the Arts Council of Mongolia (ACM), the World Monuments Fund (WMF) organized a scientific advisory team to support the **restoration of the Yadam Temple** within the **Choijin Lama Museum** complex. This initiative also promoted local capacity building focused on traditional craftsmanship and conservation techniques.



Funded by the U.S. Ambassadors Fund for Cultural Preservation (AFCP) and the U.S. Embassy in Ulaanbaatar, restoration works began in May 2022 and concluded in October 2023, when the official inauguration ceremony took place.

The **main temple** features an **18th-century gilded statue of Buddha Sakyamuni**, with a **statue of Choijin Lama Luvsankhaidav** to the Buddha's right and the **embalmed body of Baldan Choephel** to his left. The temple also holds a **rich collection of religious instruments, thangka paintings, silk embroideries, wood carvings, statues**, and an **impressive assortment of cham dance masks**.

An annex within the temple contains another structure known as **"Zankhang"**, along with a **central courtyard** where Choijin Lama Luvsankhaidav performed **State Oracle trance rituals**.

The "Zuu" Temple, dedicated to **Buddha Shakyamuni**, displays papier-mâché sculptures of Buddha in his past, present, and future forms. The 16 Arhat disciples of Buddha are painted on the temple walls, accompanied by the four Maharaja protectors seated in cave-like niches on either side of the entrance.

The "Yidam" Temple served as **Choijin Lama Luvsankhaidav's** private prayer temple, and was once closed to the public. It is now open for visitors. At its center stands a gilded bronze sculpture of one of the 84 Indian yogis, or Mahasiddhas. Also represented are tantric deities such as Kalachakra, Mahamaya, and Vajradhara, depicted with their shakti (consorts) in meditative postures symbolizing power and divine energy.

The fourth temple, known as the **"Amugulang" or "Peace" Temple**, is dedicated to the first Mongolian reincarnation of **Bogd Jevzundamba, Öndör Gegeen Zanabazar**.

The Choijin Lama Monastery-Museum preserves a rich collection of Buddhist artifacts. During Mongolia's monastic golden age, nearly 700 monasteries were built, yet the Choijin Lama Temple stands out for its distinctive history and artistic character. It represents a sublime legacy of Mongolian craftsmanship, fine arts, and sculpture from the late 19th and early 20th centuries. **Located in central Ulaanbaatar**, directly south of Sukhbaatar Square, the museum is open year-round (with reduced hours during winter months).

The explanations of the almost overwhelming collection are not as detailed as they could be, but each temple has room attendants who can provide additional information.

The museum itself, along with its exhibits, also reflects the revival of Buddhism in Mongolia after communist repression, featuring a particularly fascinating exhibition on the Buddhist cham dance and its modern-day resurgence.



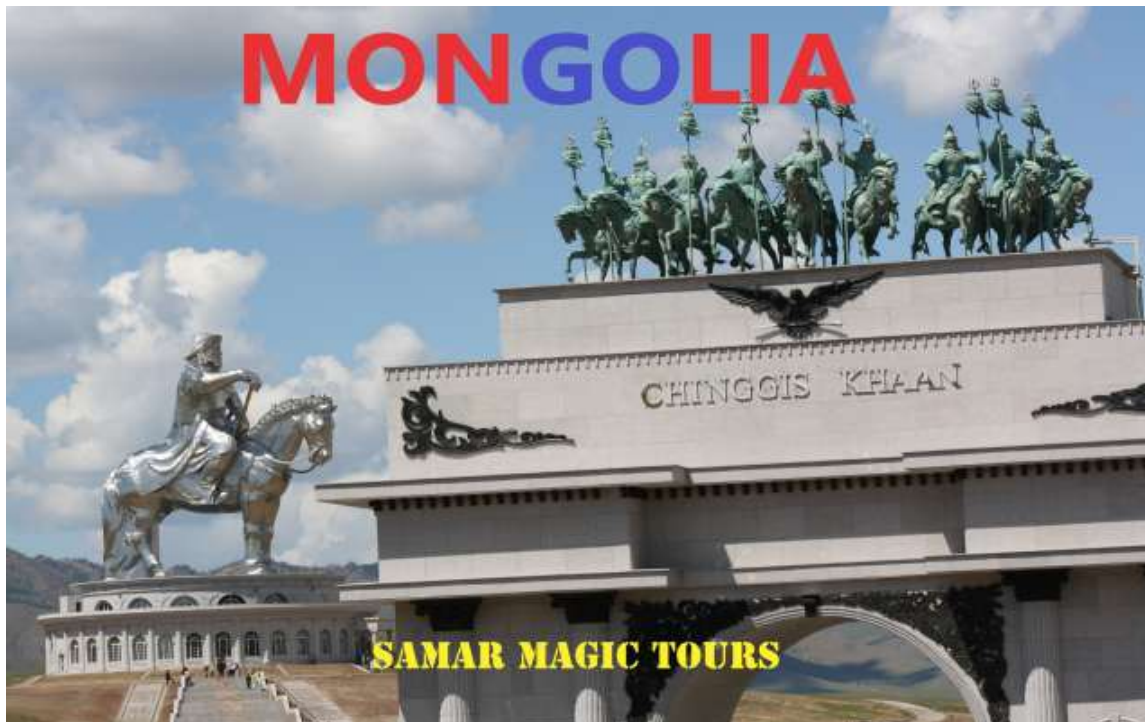
Departure **westward** to a place known as **Hui Doloon Hudag**, approximately 35 km (18 miles) from Ulaanbaatar. Here, you will have the opportunity to enjoy and observe the mythical **Tsam** dance ceremony, as well as several Buddhist rituals.

The **Danshig Naadam Festival** celebrates ancient Buddhist traditions, such as the **Tsam** masked dance, and is dedicated to **Mongolia's first Buddhist leader, Zanabazar. "Khuree Tsam,"** meaning "religious mask dance," was first introduced to Mongolia in the early 18th century. Dancers wearing elaborate masks perform the movements of gods and deities, as if the divine beings had physically descended upon Jambudvipa ("earth" in Tibetan).

During the festival, visitors can also witness traditional Naadam Festival events, including Mongolian wrestling, horse racing, archery, and musical performances. This is an excellent opportunity to photograph the Buddhist dances, as well as the traditional Mongolian wrestling matches, horse races, and archery contests.

Additionally, an **Authentic Mongolian Nomadic Show** takes place, showcasing the traditional lifestyle of Mongolian nomads—their herding practices, and the use of the five types of livestock as they move from one pasture to another, using ox carts, yaks, camels, and horses.

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In the final part of this grand journey, we will head northeast to visit the Great Equestrian Statue of Genghis Khan. The statue symbolically faces east, toward his birthplace in Khentii Province.

At the base of the monumental complex stands a **10-meter-high** visitor center, featuring **36** columns representing the **36 Khans** descended from **Genghis Khan to Ligdan Khan**. The statue was inaugurated in **2008**. Visitors can ascend through the horse's chest and neck to reach its head, where a panoramic view of the surrounding landscape awaits.

The area around the main statue is planned to be surrounded by 200 designed Gers (still under construction), arranged following the hoofprint pattern used by Mongol tribes in the 13th century.

The museum inside the complex features exhibitions related to the Bronze Age and Xiongnu archaeological cultures of Mongolia, showcasing everyday utensils, belt buckles, knives, and sacred animal depictions, among others. A second exhibition highlights the great Khan period (13th–14th centuries), displaying ancient tools, fine metalwork, and several Nestorian crosses and rosaries. Adjacent to the museum lies a tourist recreation center spanning 212 hectares. At the base of the statue, visitors can see a replica of the legendary **Golden Whip of the Great Khan**. Nearby, visitors can take beautiful photos with **Kazakh falconers and their Golden Eagles**, enjoy rides on **Bactrian camels or Mongolian horses across the steppes**, and even try traditional archery **(additional cost, payable on-site)**.

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Next, departure toward the **Gorkhi-Terelj National Park**, located in the **northeast** at an altitude of **1,600 meters** above sea level, featuring towering **Mesozoic granite formations**, mountains, steppes, alpine forests, and vast rocky structures with curious shapes dating from the Mesozoic era — such as the **Turtle Rock**.



Declared a **National Park** in 1990, **Gorkhi/Terelj** covers an area of approximately 300,000 hectares. There will be a stop to take photos, purchase souvenirs, and enjoy an easy hike to the large **Turtle Rock**, the symbol of the park.

A gentle walk leads to the **Arribal Meditation Temple**, a Buddhist meditation center located on a mountainside, notable for its 108 steps that lead to the temple, a gallery with Buddhist paintings, and a thangka depicting the myth of **Shambhala**, all situated atop a hill.

The Steps: There are **108** steps, symbolizing the number 108 as an auspicious figure in Buddhism, as well as representing the trunk of an elephant.

Gallery of Buddhist Philosophy: On the ground floor, visitors can view **220** paintings by **Bayantsagaan**, illustrating various Buddhist beliefs.



Main Temple: Dedicated to the Kalachakra philosophy (the "Wheel of Time"), it houses a thangka depicting the myth of Shambhala and a Kalachakra mandala.

Buddha Sculpture: A modern sculpture of Buddha is carved into the rock of a nearby hill, completing the spiritual and serene atmosphere of this sacred site.

MONGOLIA SPECIAL GROUP TOUR FOR THE RELIGIOUS FESTIVAL DANSHIG NAADAM IN JUNE WITH SAMAR MAGIC TOURS

Ulaanbaatar – Danshig Naadam Festival – Ulaanbaatar – Great Equestrian Statue of Genghis Khan – Arryabal Meditation Temple in Gorkhi/Terelj National Park – Ulaanbaatar

BRIEF ITINERARY:

B-Breakfast, **L**-Lunch

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, approx. +**2-3** hours, depending on traffic). If the clients arrive in Ulaanbaatar on **OM138 (Mongolia Airlines)** from **FRAN (Frankfurt, Germany)** at **05:10 AM** or **TK236 (Turkish Airlines)** from **IST (Istanbul, Turkey)** at **07:10 AM**. **Clients must prepay for early check-in (early access to hotel rooms). Rooms can only be used starting from 2:00 PM on the day of arrival. Today there are no activities or meals included. Rest at the hotel to adapt to the local time zone.** Selected Hotel.

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

Days 3–4: Ulaanbaatar / **Danshig Naadam Festival** / Ulaanbaatar. Selected Hotel. **(B)(L)**

Day 5: Ulaanbaatar / Great Equestrian Statue of Genghis Khan / Arryabal Meditation Temple in Gorkhi-Terelj National Park / **Deluxe** Resort. **(B)(L)**

Day 6: Gorkhi-Terelj National Park / Ulaanbaatar. Selected Hotel. **(B)(L)**

Day 7: Full City Tour in Ulaanbaatar / Golden Buddha Statue / Last Shopping. Selected Hotel. **(B)(L)**

Day 8: Check-out from hotel rooms in Ulaanbaatar is at **12:00 PM**. Meeting with the **Samar Magic Tours** team at the hotel reception. Transfer to the new "Genghis" Khan Airport (52 km / 32.3 miles, approx. **4-5** hours, depending on traffic in Ulaanbaatar). **Departure from Mongolia. END OF THE TOUR.**



**MONGOLIA SPECIAL GROUP TOUR FOR THE RELIGIOUS FESTIVAL DANSHIG
NAADAM IN JUNE WITH SAMAR MAGIC TOURS**

DETAILED ITINERARY:

DAY 1:

ARRIVAL IN ULAANBAATAR / FREE DAY TO ADJUST TO THE TIME ZONE

Arrival at the new "Genghis" Khan Airport of Ulaanbaatar, capital of Mongolia. Reception by the **Samar Magic Tours** team. **Exchange money at the airport banks.** Transfer to the hotel (52 km / 32.3 miles, +**2-3** hours' drive depending on traffic). Rooms will be available **from 2:00 PM on the day of arrival. Early check-in must be paid if tourists wish to enter their rooms early or leave their luggage at the hotel reception until 2:00 PM (14:00). No activities or meals today.** Rest at the hotel to adapt to the local time. Accommodation at the selected hotel.

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

Breakfast and Lunch

09:00 AM – Meeting with the **Samar Magic Tours** team in the hotel lobby. Panoramic tour of Ulaanbaatar: visit to the highest and most important Buddhist monastery in Mongolia, "**Gandan**," which houses a **25-meter-tall Buddha.** **The Gandan Monastery** was founded in

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1809 under the name "Yellow Temple." The monastery houses a library with Buddhist scriptures of Gandjuur (8 volumes), their commentaries (225 volumes), and other scriptures using the 9 precious stones. It was declared a **State Heritage** site in 1994. Then visit the **Choijin Lama Monastery Museum**, a masterpiece of Buddhist architecture that offers insight into Mongolian Buddhist teachings and practices. You can observe its sculptures, paintings, and rituals, connecting with the spirituality still alive in the country. The complex consists of six temples originally occupied by the **brother of the 8th Bogd Jetsun Dampa Khan, Choijin Lama Luvsankhaidav**, who was the state oracle and Khutugtu of "Precious Wisdom and Clear Devotion" at the time. Visit to the **Central Sukhbaatar Square and the "Genghis" Khan Monument Complex**, built in 2006 on the occasion of the 800th Anniversary of the Founding of the Mongol State or Mongol Empire by "Genghis" Khan (1206–2006), located in front of the Parliament and Government House of Mongolia. **Welcome lunch included at a traditional local restaurant. 06:00 PM – Enjoy a Mongolian folk music and dance performance. Transfer to the hotel. Accommodation at the selected hotel. Dinner not included, on your own.**



DAYS 3-4:

ULAANBAATAR / RELIGIOUS FESTIVAL DANSHIG NAADAM / ULAANBAATAR

Breakfast and Lunch

Breakfast. **07:00 AM** – Meeting with the **Samar Magic Tours** team in the hotel lobby. Then, departure westward to attend the **Danzhig Naadam Festival**, celebrated annually since **2025 by decree of the Government of Mongolia**, during the last 7 days of **June** (previously held in **August**), **west** of Ulaanbaatar (in a place known as **Hui Doloon**



Hudag), approximately 35 km (18 miles) away. The **Danshig Naadam Festival** celebrates ancient Buddhist traditions, such as the **Tsam Dance**, and is dedicated to **the first Buddhist leader of Mongolia, Zanabazar**. "Khuree Tsam," meaning religious mask dance, was first introduced to Mongolia in the early 18th century. Dancers wearing masks perform the movements of gods and deities as if the divine beings had physically arrived on Jambutiva ("earth" in Tibetan). Visitors can attend **Naadam Festival activities such as Mongolian wrestling, horse racing, archery, and musical performances**. This is an excellent opportunity to photograph Buddhist dances, wrestling competitions, horse races, and archery contests. Picnic lunches included at the site. Return to **Ulaanbaatar** (35 km / 22 miles, +2 hours' drive, depending on traffic). Transfer to the hotel. Accommodation at the selected hotel. **Dinner not included, on your own.**



DAY 5: ULAANBAATAR / GENGHIS KHAN EQUESTRIAN STATUE / GORKHI-TERELJ NATIONAL PARK / UVGUN MEDITATION TEMPLE

Breakfast and Lunch

Breakfast. **09:00 AM** – Meeting with the **Samar Magic Tours** team in the hotel lobby. Excursion northeast to the **Genghis Khan Equestrian Statue** (55 km / 34.2 miles, +2 hours' drive, depending on traffic), part of the Genghis Khan Sculpture Complex — a **40-meter-high** statue of **Genghis Khan** on horseback, located on the banks of the Tuul River.

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The statue symbolically points east, toward his birthplace. At the base of the complex is a **10-meter-high** visitor center with **36** columns representing the **36 Khans of Genghis from Ligdan Khan**. Designed by sculptor D. Erdenebileg and architect J. Enkhjargal, it was inaugurated in 2008. Visitors can reach the horse's head through its chest and neck for a panoramic view. The integrated museum exhibits artifacts from the **Bronze Age** and **Xiongnu archaeological cultures** of Mongolia, including daily utensils, belt buckles, knives, and sacred animal figures, as well as a second exhibition on the **Great Khanate Period (13th–14th centuries)** featuring ancient tools, jewelry, and some Nestorian crosses and rosaries. **At this site, visitors can rent horses and camels with local guides and take photos with Golden Eagles and Kazakh trainers (extra charge paid directly on-site). Mongolian traditional lunch included in route.** Continue drive to **Gorkhi-Terelj National Park** (50 km / 31.1 miles, 1 hour), located northeast at **1,600 m** above sea level, featuring **Mesozoic granite cliffs, mountains, steppes, alpine forests**, and large rock formations of curious shapes, such as the **Turtle Rock**. Located at the foot of the Khenti Mountains — the region where Genghis Khan was born — it was declared a **National Park** in 1993, covering an area of 300,000 hectares. Stop for photos, souvenir shopping, and an easy hike to the **Turtle Rock**, symbol of the park. Gentle hike to the **Arryabal Meditation Temple**, located on a hill top. This Buddhist meditation center is notable for its **108** steps leading to the temple, a **gallery of Buddhist paintings**, and a **thangka depicting the myth of Shambhala**. Transfer. Accommodation at a **Deluxe** Resort located inside Gorkhi-Terelj National Park. **Dinner not included, on your own.**

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DAY 6: GORKHI/TERELJ NATIONAL PARK / ULAANBAATAR

Breakfast and Lunch

Breakfast. **Free morning for walks and hiking in Gorkhi/Terelj National Park. 12:00 PM** – Meeting with the vehicle and **Samar Magic Tours** team at the resort reception. **Return to Ulaanbaatar** (70 km / 44 miles, +2 hours' drive, depending on traffic). **Lunch included at a local restaurant.** Transfer to the selected hotel (rooms available from **2:00 PM** on the day of arrival). Accommodation at the selected hotel. **Dinner not included, on your own.**



DAY 7: GRAND TOUR IN ULAANBAATAR / LAST SHOPPING

Breakfast and Lunch

Breakfast. **09:00 AM** – Meeting with the **Samar Magic Tours** team in the hotel lobby. Visit the **Winter Palace of Bogd Khan**, one of the imperial palaces of **Bogd Khan** (1869–1924), located south of Ulaanbaatar on the road to Zaisan. Now a museum, it is the only remaining residence of the four original palaces of **the Eighth Jebtsundamba Khutughtu**, later proclaimed **Bogd Khan** of Mongolia. The complex includes six temples. Exhibits include many of Bogd Khan's possessions such as his throne, bed, art collection, stuffed animals,



ceremonial Ger, and a pair of ceremonial boots gifted by **Tsar Nicholas II of Russia**. Next, visit a **pure Mongolian cashmere factory store** for last shopping. Continue drive to **Zaisan Memorial**, a monument in southern Ulaanbaatar, and visit the **Golden Buddha Statue** at the base of the memorial, standing 75 feet (23 meters) tall. **1:00 PM – Lunch included at a local restaurant. Final souvenir shopping at the State Department Main Store.** Transfer to the hotel. Accommodation at the selected and confirmed hotel. **Dinner not included, on your own.**

DAY 8: DEPARTURE FROM MONGOLIA

Breakfast

Breakfast. Hotel check-out at **12:00 PM**. Meeting with the **Samar Magic Tours** team in the hotel lobby. Transfer to the new "Genghis" Khan Airport (52 km / 32.3 miles, **4-5** hours' drive depending on traffic in Ulaanbaatar). **Departure from Mongolia. END OF THE GRAND TOUR.**

WHAT IS INCLUDED?

- **6** nights of accommodation in the selected and confirmed hotel, based on the indicated double room with breakfast, in Ulaanbaatar.
- **1** night of accommodation in a **Deluxe** Resort in Gorkhi-Terelj National Park, based on a minimum group of **2** adults (*or more people upon request).
- Welcome lunch in a traditional local restaurant.
- Meals as specified (**7B, 6L**) with 1 bottle of mineral water daily.
- All private transfers in a comfortable Japanese vehicle or similar, with all fuel included throughout the trip. **Samar Magic Tours** reserves the right to change the vehicle depending on the number of participants; no claims will be accepted for these reasons, and no refund will be issued.
- English-speaking local guide or Spanish-speaking local guide.
- All entrance fees to the Great Equestrian Statue of Genghis Khan, Gorkhi-Terelj National Park, monuments, museums, and all indicated monasteries and temples.
- Attendance at a traditional folk performance featuring the fascinating sounds of Mongolian throat singing (*khoomi*) and dance.
- Entry to the **Danshig Naadam Festival**.
- Camelback excursion across the sand dunes.
- Gentle hiking through wonderful landscapes.
- Service rates include 10% VAT, 2% Ulaanbaatar city tax, and 5% hotel service charge in the city of Ulaanbaatar.



WHAT IS NOT INCLUDED?

- Flights or trains.
- Delays or occasional flight cancellations.
- **Early hotel check-in.**
- **Late hotel check-out.**
- Excess baggage in our vehicles (weight limit: **15** kg per person. Excess luggage **must be left free of charge** at the hotel in Ulaanbaatar).
- Visa.
- Any rescue or early departure costs.
- Change of departure date from Ulaanbaatar.
- Travelers are responsible for having proper travel documents, such as a valid passport and required passport photos.
- Travel insurance.
- Personal expenses such as hotel porter tips, phone/telex/fax charges, laundry, beverages, meals, optional activities, and services not specified in the itinerary.
- **Mongolia is not recommended** for travellers with respiratory or heart problems, wheelchair users, invalids, or children under **3** years old (***must be reported prior to arrival and a supplement paid for disability, wheelchair users, disabled travellers, or children under 3 years of age, etc.***).
- Any circumstances beyond our control, such as the imposition of quarantine restrictions, weather conditions, or road conditions, etc.

HIGHLIGHTED EXPERIENCES:

- We will attend and enjoy the **Danshig Naadam Festival**, which celebrates the ancient Buddhist traditions, such as the **Tsam Dance**, and is dedicated to **Zanabazar**, the first Buddhist leader of Mongolia. "**Khuree Tsam**," which means religious mask dance, was introduced in Mongolia in the early 18th century. Dancers wearing masks perform the movements of gods and deities, as if the divine beings had physically descended upon Jambutiva ("Earth" in Tibetan). Visitors can also attend **Naadam Festival activities, such as Mongolian wrestling, horse racing, archery, and musical performances. This is an excellent opportunity to photograph Buddhist dances, traditional wrestling, horse racing, and archery contests.**
- Visit the grand "Gandantegchinlin" Monastery, or "Gandan" Monastery, a historic Buddhist monastery in Ulaanbaatar, known as the "Great Place of Complete Joy."
- Visit the "Chojin Lama" Monastery Museum—a masterpiece of Buddhist architecture that offers insight into Mongolian Buddhist teachings and practices. You can admire its sculptures, paintings, and rituals, connecting with the spirituality still alive in the country today. The complex consists of six temples, originally occupied by Chojin Lama Luvsankhaidav, brother of the Eighth Bogd Jetsun Dampa Khan, who served as the state oracle and Khutugtu of "Precious Wisdom and Clear Devotion."



- Listen to the fascinating sounds of Khoomi throat singing during a traditional Mongolian dance performance.
- Visit the Great Equestrian Statue of Genghis Khan.
- Visit the "Arryabal Meditation Temple", located in Gorkhi-Terelj National Park. This Buddhist meditation center sits on a mountainside and is notable for its 108 steps leading to the temple, as well as its gallery of Buddhist paintings.
- Enjoy excursions and hikes in Gorkhi-Terelj National Park, located in the northeast at 1,600 meters above sea level, featuring towering Mesozoic granite rocks, mountains, steppes, alpine forests, and large rock formations with curious shapes—such as the famous Turtle Rock, symbol of the park.

IMPORTANT TO NOTE:

- Mongolia visa not included.
- International flights and trains not included.
- Hotel check-in time in Ulaanbaatar is at **02:00PM**. Early check-in is not included.
- Hotel check-out time in Ulaanbaatar is at **12:00 noon**. Late check-out is not included.
- There is a surcharge during the **Naadam Festival**, applicable for travel between **July 1 and July 20 – Peak Season in Mongolia**, when all services and accommodations are fully booked.
- **In the capital city of Ulaanbaatar & Gorkhi-Terelj National Park: Dinners are not confirmed. Dinners are on your own.**
- **Samar Magic Tours** reserves the right to arrange lunches on the route where possible. In no case will complaints be accepted on these grounds, nor will refunds be issued.
- **Samar Magic Tours** reserves the right to change the vehicle depending on the number of participants. In no case will complaints be accepted on these grounds, nor will refunds be issued.
- **Vegetarians must pay a supplement, since vegetables are very expensive in Mongolia**, and the Mongolian diet is based on meat rather than vegetables. You must notify us in advance and pay the supplement, which depends on the number of days in Mongolia.
- **MONGOLIA** is not recommended for people with respiratory or heart problems, wheelchair users, disabled travellers, or children under **3** years of age.
- **When visiting nomadic families:** you must enter the Ger on the left side and step in with your right foot. Once you cross the threshold, your hosts will invite you inside and indicate where you should sit. It is customary to bring a small gift for the nomadic children,




but never money, as it is offensive. Acceptable gifts include sweets, cookies, chocolates, candies, colored pencils, caps... small treats of this kind.

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



PROPOSED HOTELS IN ULAANBAATAR

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



MILLENNIUM PLAZA HOTEL 4*



STANDART TWIN ROOM



Millennium Plaza Hotel 4★

Situated less than 1.5 km from Sukhbaatar Square in central Ulaanbaatar, and 52 km (32.3 miles) from the new "Chinggis Khaan" Airport. The hotel has 72 well-equipped rooms, a Korean restaurant, and a lobby café. Five event venues: elegant ballroom, large conference hall, and other entertainment spaces. In addition, luxurious karaoke rooms.

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

RAMADA HOTEL 4*



STANDART TWIN ROOM



Ramada Hotel 4★

Located in a shopping complex with 17 floors of modern architecture, offering 121 rooms and suites. The Hotel Ramada is situated in the heart of Ulaanbaatar, 52 km (32.3 miles) from the new "Chinggis Khaan" Airport and a 15–20-minute walk from Gandan Monastery.

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



PREMIUM PALACE HOTEL 4*



STANDART TWIN ROOM



Premium Palace Hotel 4★

The is located 20 minutes on foot from the Gandan Monastery, the most important in Mongolia, and 2.3 km from Sukhbaatar Central Square.

The Premium offers 192 rooms, 2 elevators, 2 restaurants: Yu Long Chinese and buffet breakfast, number of floors: 20, Wi-Fi, gym, CU café on the 1st floor, and a small parking area.

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

NOVOTEL HOTEL 5*



STANDART TWIN ROOM



Novotel Hotel 5★

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

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



LIST SUGGESTED PACKING LIST

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



GENERAL CONDITIONS FOR TRAVEL TO MONGOLIA

PRICE: Prices are calculated based on **double occupancy**. Prices and rates are quoted in EUROS and USD and are subject to change.

PLEASE NOTE: A **Naadam Festival** surcharge applies for travel from **July 1 to July 20 (Peak Season in Mongolia)**, when all services and accommodations are fully booked.

RESERVATION FORM DETAILS:

FULL NAME(S) AND SURNAME(S) (AS WRITTEN IN THE PASSPORT):

CITIZENSHIP:

VALID PASSPORT NUMBER:

GENDER:

DATE OF ARRIVAL IN ULAANBAATAR, FLIGHT NUMBER, AND ARRIVAL TIME:

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

SELECTED HOTEL IN ULAANBAATAR (FROM THE INDICATED OPTIONS):

SELECTED TOUR CODE:

- At the time of registering for the trip, **the reservation form must be completed**, and **the reservation guarantee** must be paid immediately by bank transfer, at least **165** business days before arrival in Mongolia.
- **The final payment for the trip** must be made by bank transfer, at least **95** business days before arrival in Mongolia.
- Banks in Mongolia do not operate on **Saturdays, Sundays, or public holidays** such as **March 8, June 1**, or during the **Naadam Festival (July 1–15)**.
- Bank transfers take **5** business days to be received.

VERY IMPORTANT NOTE: If payments are **not made on the indicated dates**, we cannot guarantee the requested services. In such cases, you will need to check the new rates and availability in other hotels.

CANCELLATION POLICY:

180–91 days before arrival: the reservation guarantee is non-refundable.

90–19 days before arrival: 50% refund.

18–00 business days before arrival: 100% cancellation fee – NO REFUND.

For air and train ticket cancellations: separate conditions apply. International and domestic air and train fares are subject to modification depending on availability at the time of booking. Air and train fares are only guaranteed once tickets are issued and fully paid. Tickets are non-refundable and can only be cancelled on the same day of issuance.

HOTELS: Rooms may be used from **2:00 PM (14:00)** on the day of arrival and must be vacated before **12:00 noon** on the day of departure.



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

COMPLIMENTARY TRAVEL STAFF IN MONGOLIA:

- For groups of **16** people (**15** paying + **1** free, based on **DOUBLE** occupancy: **8** rooms), **Samar Magic Tours** will cover all ground expenses and accommodation in **DOUBLE** rooms. **Not included: single room supplement, domestic air tickets in Mongolia.**
- For groups of **32** people (**30** paying + **2** free, based on double occupancy: **16** rooms), **Samar Magic Tours** will cover all ground expenses and accommodation in **DOUBLE** rooms. **Not included: single room supplement, domestic air tickets in Mongolia.**

PLEASE NOTE: MONGOLIA is not recommended as a destination for travellers with respiratory problems, heart conditions, those in wheelchairs, disabled persons, or children under **3** years of age. **(It is necessary to inform us before arriving in Mongolia and pay the required supplement for travelers with disabilities, wheelchair users, etc.)**

CHILD POLICY IN MONGOLIA:

- 0–3 years:** free of charge
- 4–11 years:** 50% of the regular adult price
- 12 years and above:** 100% of the regular adult price

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

TRAVEL CONDITIONS:

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



FORCE MAJEURE CONDITIONS:

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

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

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

SIGNATURE: _____

DATE: _____

VALID PASSPORT NUMBER: _____

CITIZENSHIP: _____



FACT SHEET OF MONGOLIA

Currency: The official currency in Mongolia is the Tugrik or Tugrug (T). It comes in banknotes of 10, 20, 50, 100, 500, 1,000, 5,000, 10,000, and 20,000 Tugrik. It is advisable to bring EUROS or USD and exchange them progressively. Currency exchange can be done at banks and hotels in Ulaanbaatar.

Climate: Known as the land of the blue sky, but its climate is extreme and severe. Siberian winters cover the Gobi Desert with snow until April and keep lakes frozen until May. The rainy season is short, from mid-**July to September**, with brief and light showers. Nights are cool even in summer.

Approximate temperatures in Mongolia:

Spring:	May	[around 14°C daytime, 6° °C nighttime. Occasional rain, generally cool.]
Summer:	June-August	[28–30 °C daytime, 18 °C nighttime. Mostly dry with occasional rain.]
Autumn:	September.	[21–16 °C daytime, 0 °C nighttime. Dry and cold.]

Luggage: The lighter the luggage, the better. A soft backpack or travel bag is recommended, plus a small daypack for essentials during the day (camera, skin and lip cream, binoculars, canteen, and flashlight). A raincoat or poncho and a good parka, warm clothes for high places, light cotton clothes, sunglasses, and a cap for midday heat, as well as comfortable footwear, are recommended. Clients are advised to bring binoculars.

Small first-aid kit: mosquito repellent, saline solution, gauze, aspirin, paracetamol.

Electricity: 220V, 50Hz. European round plug.

Clothing: No special requirements regarding dress, just respect local customs.

Photography: The country is one of the most photogenic in the world, with its landscapes, wildlife, culture, and people. Entrance fees to museums, National Parks, and Monasteries are included in the trip according to the program, but photography is not. In many monasteries and temples, photos are not allowed unless you pay the set fee. Always check before taking photos, as notices are written in Cyrillic or Mongolian, often unintelligible for us; once you take a picture, payment is immediate.

Food: The basis of food in Mongolia is meat. Lamb and flour form the base of most meals. The Mongolian diet also includes horse meat. Milk and yogurt have an exquisite though strong flavor. Cow and goat cheese are common. Milk may not be pasteurized, and some dairy products can therefore be unsafe. It should be boiled, and foods should preferably be



consumed cooked. This is the health guideline, but in reality, once you stop at a Ger, guests are always invited to enter and offered aromatic *airag* (fermented mare's milk) and goat, yak, or sheep cheese, all acidic and dry. Refusing would not be polite.

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

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

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



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HOLIDAY INN HOTEL 5*



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BLUE SKY & TOWER HOTEL 5*



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