



Naadam Festival Mongolia Special Group Tour with Samar Magic Tours (June 29-July 13)

Key Information:

Trip Length: 15 days/14 nights.

Trip Type: Easy to Moderate.

Tour Code: **SMT-GNF1-15D**

Specialty Categories: Adventure, Cultural Event, Gobi Desert Expedition, Local Culture, Nature, Historic, Hiking, Sports, Wildlife.

Meeting/Departure Points: Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia. Your international flight to Mongolia is on your own arrangement.

Minimum Group Size: **6-32 travellers-guaranteed!**

Hot Season: **June 29-July 13**

Total Distance: about 3500 kms/2175 miles.

Tour Highlights: Upon your arrival in Ulaanbaatar `` **Genghis Khan** `` New Airport (52 km/31.33



miles, 2 hrs driving, depending on the high traffic), meet **Samar Magic Tours team**. **Naadam** is a traditional type of Festival in Mongolia. The festival is also locally termed '**the three games of men**'. The games are **Mongolian wrestling, horse racing and archery** and are held throughout the country. The three games of wrestling, horse racing, and archery had been recorded in the 13rd century book **The Secret History of the Mongols**. It formally commemorates the 1921 Revolution, when Mongolia declared itself independent of China. Women have started participating in the archery and girls in the horse-racing games, but not in Mongolian wrestling.



The biggest festival is held in the Mongolian capital Ulaanbaatar, during the National Holiday from **July 10th-July 12th** in the National Sports Stadium. It begins with an elaborate introduction ceremony featuring dancers, athletes, horse riders, and musicians. **After the ceremony, the competitions begin.** Another popular Naadam activity is the playing of games using shagai, sheep knuckles that serve as game pieces and tokens of both divination and friendship.

Next **Expedition to Bagazarin Chuluu (Rock Formations)** and to **Tsagaan Suvarga** got its name because its shape resembles relict Buddhist stupas or pagodas.

Explore Gobi Desert-is the source of many important fossil finds, including the first dinosaur eggs. Bactrian Camel riding, meeting nomadic people, staying in a traditional tent, seeing grasslands and beautiful vistas.

Explore Yolyn Am Canyon in Gobi Desert. Climb up the towering piles of the **Moltsog sand dunes**. **Expedition to the Spectacular Flaming Cliffs**, where many fossilized dinosaur bones and eggs have been found.

Visit Karakorum and the Erdene Zuu Monastery in the UNESCO World Heritage Orkhon Valley.
We would be pleased to have you join us!

- **The Mongolian National Wrestling:** This spectacular event takes place in the Central Stadium. There are a total of **512 fighters**, of which only one (1) will be the winner, losing the first to touch the ground, except for hands and feet. The wrestlers honor the judges and the public with the eagle dance before to start the round of matches, and the winner also performs the eagle dance after finishing each match. The title of Nachin or Falcón is given to a fighter who wins 5 rounds, Zaan or Elefante is a winner of 7 rounds. The wrestler who wins all **9 rounds** becomes the national wrestling champion and is awarded the title of Arslan or Leon. A wrestler, who has been a Lion twice, is honored with **the title of Avarga or Champion.**





• **Archery:** Archery competitions had great military importance in the times of the **Mongol Empire**. The archers line up and shoot arrows at the target which are the hollow balls of fur stacked in a pyramid shape.



The target consists of 360 leather rings fixed to the wall 40-50 cm high and 4 long. Men and women shoot 40 and 20 arrows respectively. Judges score a hit shot or a missed shot. If the archer is correct, the judges turn their faces towards the archer with their arms raised and sing the praise song. If the archer is correct, the judges turn their faces towards the archer with their arms raised and sing the praise song. The winner of archery is awarded a title Erkhien Mergen Kharvaach, which means **Archer of Greater Wisdom**.

• **Horse races:** they take place in the steppes with **1800-2000 horses** and a distance between **15 to 30kms**. This is a tough test of strength and mastery for riders of different ages, from **3 to 10 years old**.



The riders are girls and boys. They are races designed to value the horse and not the rider, if the rider falls and the horse crosses the finish line first, he is the winner. In addition, the riders do not exceed 10 years. In the horse race, more than 1,800 horses, divided into 6 age groups, take part in the races. The horses compete in the 35km distance, and the colts compete in the 15km distance.



• **The launch of the taba (shagai in**

Mongolian): It consists of throwing a bone with the fingers and trying to hit two tabas placed on a board about 10m away. **Shagai games** are especially popular during Naadam. In the shagai game, the thrown shagai usually lands on one of the following sides: **horse, camel, sheep, or goat**. A fifth side, empty, is possible on uneven ground. The Mongolians venerate some parts of the bones of animals

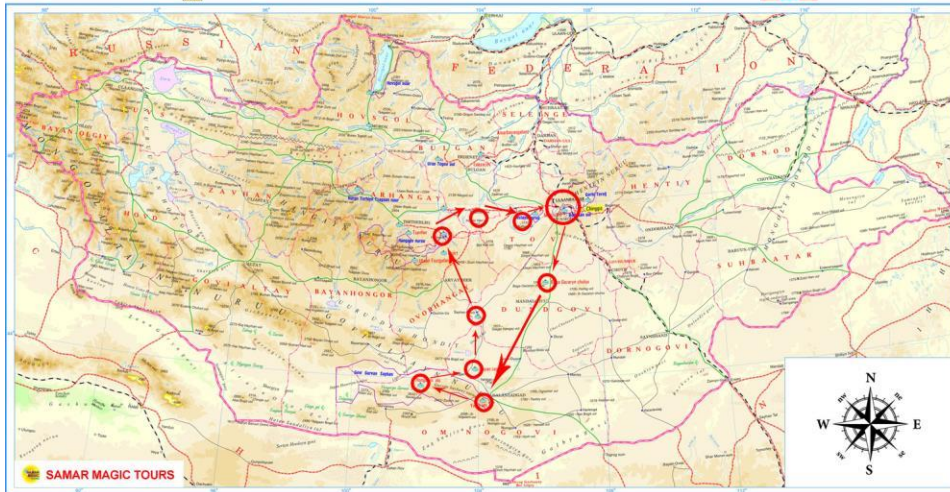
that are part of their domestic livestock and use them both in their religious rites and in their traditional entertainment and games. Knuckleball shooting is one of those traditional games, very popular, which is practiced in teams of six to eight members. On a smooth wooden plank, players throw thirty marble tablets – similar to dominoes – against a target made up of ram's paws to get them to fall within the defined target area. While practicing shooting, the players sing traditional melodies and songs typical of this game. Each member of a team has their own game instruments, made by hand, and wears clothing with badges that indicate their classification and merits. The bonds of friendship between the members of a team are unbreakable and the players are guided



by rules of conduct based on dignity and mutual respect. The rites, knowledge and skills related to bone shooting, as well as the techniques for manufacturing instruments, accessories and equipment are passed on from masters to apprentices. The shooting of the knucklebones creates a propitious climate so that, learning from each other and helping each other, the players contribute to the success of their respective teams, as well as to their personal development and the general well-being of society. This traditional game brings together people of different origins, stimulates their interaction, fosters respect for others – particularly older people – and reinforces social cohesion. **Inscribed in 2014 (9.COM) in the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.**



MAP OF MONGOLIA



Naadam Festival Mongolia Special Group Tour with Samar Magic Tours (June 29-July 13)

BRIEF ITINERARY:

June 29, Day 1-Arrival in Ulaanbaatar `` Genghis Khan `` New Airport, meet Samar Magic Tours team. Ulaanbaatar City tour. **(L)**

June 30, Day 2-Ulaanbaatar-Bagazarin Chuluu (Rock Formations) in Middle Gobi. **(B)(L)(D)**

July 01, Day 3-Bagazarin Chuluu-Tsagaan Suvarga (White Stupas) in Middle Gobi. **(B)(L)(D)**

July 02, Day 4-Tsagaan Suvarga (White Stupas)-Yolin Canyon in Gobi Gurvasaikhan National Park. **(B)(L)(D)**

July 03, Day 5-Gobi Desert: Moltsog Sand Dunes-True Camel Family-Camel Riding-Bayanzag (Rich in Saxual) or Flaming Cliffs. **(B)(L)(D)**

July 04, Day 6-Gobi Desert-Ruins of Ongi Temple in Middle Gobi. **(B)(L)(D)**

July 05, Day 7-Middle Gobi-Karakorum (Central Mongolia). **(B)(L)(D)**

July 06, Day 8-Imperial Monument- Orkhon Valley-Erdene zuu monastery-Karakorum museum. **(B)(L)(D)**

July 07, Day 9-Orkhon Valley-Turkish Memorials-Ugii Lake-Karakorum. **(B)(L)(D)**

July 08, Day 10-Hustain Nuruu National Wild Horses Park-Ulaanbaatar. **(B)(L)**

July 09, Day 11-**Mongol Deel Festival** in Ulaanbaatar. **(B)(L)**

July 10, Day 12-**Horse racing of Naadam Festival**-Ulaanbaatar. **(B)(L)**

July 11, Day 13-**The Opening Ceremony of Naadam Festival**. **(B)(L)**

July 12, Day 14-Ulaanbaatar-the 40meter /~133,3 feet Genghis Khan Statue on horseback-Ulaanbaatar. **The Closing Ceremony of Naadam Festival**. **(B)(L)**

July 13, Day 15-Departure Mongolia. **(B)**



DAY BY DAY ITINERARY:

June 29, Day 1-Upon your arrival in Ulaanbaatar `` **Genghis Khan**´´ New Airport and after custom formalities and baggage claim, you will be met by **Samar Magic Tours team** and taken to the centrally located hotel in Ulaanbaatar (52 km/33 miles, +2 hrs drive. By hotels policy the check-in time is after **02:00PM/14:00**). **Ulaanbaatar City tour:** visit the **Gandantegchinlen Monastery** is a Tibetan-style Buddhist monastery that has been restored and revitalized since 1990. The Tibetan name translates to the "**Great Place of Complete Joy**". It currently has over 150 monks in residence. It features a 26.5-meter-high statue of Avalokitesvara. It came under state protection in 1994. **10:00AM**-Here you will have the opportunity to attend a **Buddhist ceremony**. Next, we will **visit a small museum of dinosaur fossils**. The centerpiece of the museum is the **4m-tall, 3-ton**



ultraviolet **Tarbosaurus bataar** (cousin of **Tyrannosaurus rex**) and a smaller *Sauroplophus*, with its distinctive cranial crest. The **Tarbosaurus bataar** made international headlines in 2012, when it sold at an auction in Texas. The Mongolian Government protested that the fossil had been illegally removed from Mongolia and demanded its return. The legal battle ended when a US judge ruled in favor of Mongolia. **Nicolas Cage** has agreed to return a rare dinosaur skull to the Mongolian government. The Oscar-winning actor bought the *Tyrannosaurus bataar* skull in 2007, not knowing it had been stolen. Authorities said he voluntarily agreed to hand over the skull after learning of the circumstances. The museum also includes examples of *Velociraptor* and *Protoceratops*, and a nest of *Oviraptor* eggs. It is located inside the former Lenin Museum, built in 1974. Here you will see a large statue of the **Genghis Khan**-inaugurated in 2006 on the occasion of 800th Anniversary of the **Great Mongolian Empire** of **Genghis Khan** (1206-2006), the **Sukh Baatar Hero** along with The Parliament House, Stock Exchange, the Drama Theatre and the Palace of Culture. Visit the **National History Museum**-where you will see artefacts from Mongolia and Central Asia from the Stone Age to the present. **Welcome lunch in traditional local restaurant.** Transfer to hotel. Overnight at selected and confirmed hotel. **Dinner is not included. (L)**





June 30, Day 2-Breakfast. Meet Samar Magic Tours team at reception of the hotel. Drive towards south to **Baga Gazariin Chuluu Rock Formations** – located in Delgertsogt sum, Dundgovi province and surrounded by plain. The highest one is 15 km long and 10 km wide granite stone-mountain elevated at 1768m above sea level. You will see rocks and stones in unique shapes and buries of Mongols from Middle Ages. Today, we explore **the ruins of Sum Khukh Burd Temple**. It was built in the 10th century from rocks transported from over 300kms/187 miles away. Accommodation in tourist Gers camp. **(B)(L)(D)**



July 01, Day 3-Breakfast. Meet Samar Magic Tours team. Drive towards to **Tsagaan Tsvurga White Stupas or White Pagodas**, about 280 km/174 miles), 5-6hours drive from the **Bagazarin Chuluu (Rock Formations)**. **Tsagaan Tsvurga (Stupas or White Pagodas)** are located approximately 426 km (265 miles) from Ulaanbaatar, and 30 km east of the main road Ulaanbaatar - Umnugobi (Gobi South). The 30-60 m (196.85 ft) high, 400 m (1312.34 ft) long, colorful limestone formation was once the ocean floor where visitors find marine fossils and shells. Its colors stand out in the morning and at night. **Tsagaan Suvarga** got its name because its shape resembles relict Buddhist stupas or pagodas. There are some trails to walk down and up through the cliffs. Opportunity to photograph its colors in the morning and at night. Overnight in tourist Gers camp. **(B)(L)(D)**



July 02, Day 4-Breakfast. Meet Samar Magic Tours team. Drive to **Gobi Desert** in South Gobi province. Explore **Yolin Canyon** on foot in **Gobi Gurvansaikhan National Park**-was established in 1993, and expanded to its current size in 2000. This is the **largest national park in Mongolia**. Famed for its rich bird habitat, **Yolin Canyon or commonly known as (Vulture's Gorge)** was originally established as a bird preserve and later for its stunning beauty and great hiking options **Yolin Canyon** became one of the major destinations in Gobi. **Here you will have the opportunity for hiking** in the ice valley of Gobi, the stunning landscapes. **There is a small museum**, which displays dinosaur eggs, some bones and stuffed birds and leopards. Overnight in tourist Gers camp. **(B)(L)(D)**



July 03, Day 5-Breakfast. Meet Samar Magic Tours team. Drive towards to **Moltsog Sand dunes**. Exploration and enjoy and climb up. Visit an **authentic camel breeding family**. See their real nomadic life and ride two humped camels around. Afternoon, drive towards to **Bayanzag (Rich in Saxual) or Flaming Cliffs** in Gobi desert. **Explore Bayanzag (Rich in**



Saxual) or Flaming Cliffs-here Roy Chapman Andrews, an American palaeontologist and staff of the Museum of Natural History in New York first found 4-6 inches dinosaur eggs here in 1922. **Bayanzag** is referred as **Flaming Cliffs** for its amazing colours and shape). **Enjoy the Gobi sunset at the legendary "Flaming Cliffs," which glow brilliantly at sunrise and sunset.** Overnight in tourist Gers camp. **(B)(L)(D)**





July 04, Day 6-Breakfast. Meet Samar Magic Tours team. A long trip towards north, to reach **the ruins of Ongi temple**-the unique 17th century sole monastery at the heart of the desert. **Ongiin khiid** (also referred as **Ongi Monastery ruins**) is an active small monastery with a temple which was built on the ruins of a monastery complex that was formerly one of the largest monasteries in Mongolia and founded in 1760 and consisted of two separate temples complexes, Barlim khiid and Khutagt khiid, on the North and South of the Ongi Gol river. Here there is an opportunity to enjoy and relax in the SAUNA or MASSAGE (***pay directly on site!**). In the evenings, cultural and entertainment programs are sometimes offered. Overnight in tourist Gers camp. **(B)(L)(D)**



July 05, Day 7-Breakfast. Meet Samar Magic Tours team. Today, we will head North to **Karakorum** in **Central Mongolia**-the **Genghis (Chinggis) Khan's** 13th century capital and heart of the mighty **Mongolian Empire** and **Okhon river Valley**, cradle of **Mongolian civilization**. Visitors, such as **Marco Polo**, described its ornate building, including a 2500 sq. meters Palace of Worldly Peace. **Free time in your own**. Overnight in tourist Gers camp. **(B)(L)(D)**



July 06, Day 8-Breakfast. 10:00AM-Meet Samar Magic Tours team. Today, we will visit the **Monument to the Mongol States** located on a hill overlooking the city of **Karakorum (Kharkhorin)**, on the bank of the **Orkhon River**. It was built in 2004. The monument consists of a large pile of stones (**a shamanic ovo**) carefully assembled into a cone shape, approximately the same size as a tipi, with nine posts protruding from the top. This structure is mounted on a stone and concrete platform and is surrounded by three walls that represent three sections of a circle. The outer sides of these walls feature three colorful mosaics representing three maps, one for each of the empires.

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

The iconic place of the Mongol Empire in culture, combined with the shamanic symbolism of the **ovo** at the center of the monument, prompts people to leave offerings of vodka, milk, tea, rice and other edible delicacies that inevitably attract birds and some than another herd of goats and sheep passing by. You can also find several animal skulls around the monument, completing the surreal scene. It is no coincidence that **the Monument of The Imperial Map** is located in



Kharkhorin, as this city (then called **Karakorum**) was **the capital of the Mongol Empire** under **Genghis Khan's successor, Ogedei Khan**. The Imperial Map Monument is a great vantage point from which to look out over the city of **Kharkhorin** and the **Orkhon River**, and imagine what this collection of dirt roads and low-rise buildings may have looked like **in its glory days**. Also, today, we will visit to the legendary **Erdene zuu (Hundred Treasures) Monastery, the Turtle monument, and the Karakorum museum, to see the relics of the ancient capital of the Mongol Empire**. The **Erdene Zuu Buddhist Monastery** with its 108 stupas and the first Buddhist Lamasery (16th century) was the most important religious seat. Currently it constitutes an impressive sight, with its walls, stupas and temples, occupying an enclosure of 400 square meters, and surrounded by the steppe. The construction was continued by his son '**Ogedei**' Khan, after his death. After 40 years, '**Kublai Khan**' (grandson of **Genghis Khan** and host of **Marco Polo**) moved the capital of the Empire to Beijing (**Peking-Yuan dynasty**), already invaded. In the year 1792, there were 62 temples left and more than 10,000 Lamas. In the year 1930, the Stalinist purges destroyed most of their temples and the Lamas were banished to die in Siberia. Of its more than one hundred temples, only three have survived to our era, **it remains the most outstanding cultural vestige of Mongolia**. **Mongol lunch is included front Erdenee zuu monastery**. Overnight in tourist Gers camp. **(B)(L)(D)**



July 07, Day 9-Breakfast. **09:00AM**-Meet Samar Magic Tours team. Today, departure via Karakorum by asphalt road (*with the help of the Turkish Government) in the direction of the



Gokhturk museum in Khoshoo Tsaidam (Turkish Memorials, about 47.2km/30miles, 1hr), in honor of the Turkish princes in the **Orkhon Valley** (about 47.2km/30miles, 1hr from Karakorum), from the early **8th century Bilge Khan and Kul Tigin** with their Orkhon inscriptions, written in the **Old Turkic alphabet**, which are admitted as the most impressive monuments of **the nomadic Gokturk Khaganate**. They were excavated and deciphered by Russian archaeologists in the years 1889-93. Next, departure by embankment (off road) towards **Lake Ugii** (about 32.3km, 1hr), an appropriate place for birds such as: swans, geese, cranes, ducks, pigeons, storks and other migratory species are cited in this area at the end of April, May and throughout the summer). **Lake Ugii** is located in the province of Uvurkhngai, where many migratory birds arrive at certain times of the year due to the abundance of fish. It is of great importance as a breeding and stopping place for waterfowl, for example, the white-necked crane (*Grus vipio*), the swan goose (*Anser cygnoides*), the great bustard (*Otis tarda*), the duck (*Oxyura leucocephala*), cranes common (*Grus Grus*), demoiselle cranes (*Anthropoides virgo*), black storks (*Ciconia nigra*), and species declared vulnerable or endangered in the Red Book. We will be able to admire and photograph a great variety of species such as the White-necked Crane and the Monk Crane surrounded by a beautiful valley where herds of sheep, horses, bulls, and yaks graze. Over 200 species of birds have been recorded at **Lake Ugii**, and where there are so many fish there are sure to be plenty of waterfowl; black-tailed godwit; Swan goose; Great Crested Grebe; whooper swan; Bar-headed goose; Rudy Shelduck; common goldeneye; Common Crane; and Northern Lapwing. Migratory birds arrive from May to June, from as far away as Siberia and the Himalayas. We visit the **Ornithological local museum for observation**. Continuous drive further to **Karakorum** (about 80 km/50 miles). Overnight in Tourist Gers Camp in **Karakorum. (B)(L)(D)**



July 08, Day 10-Breakfast. Meet Samar Magic Tours team. Drive Further to explore **Hustain Nuruu National Park** (about 280 km/174 miles, +5 hours drive) of the **Wild Horses Przewalski or Takhi** (as known by the Mongolians). The Takhi is the last species of wild horse left on the planet. In 1878, the Polish-born Russian geographer and naturalist **Nikolai Mikhailovich Przewalski** found a new species of wild horse in Mongolia, known locally as Takhi, and took several foals to European zoos. The only way to prevent the complete extinction of the last species of wild horse was to reintroduce it into the wild. In 1975, the **Dutchman Ian Bouman and his wife**, and other entities that joined later, created the **Foundation for the Conservation and Protection of the Przewalski Horse (FPPPH)**, with the aim of saving the Tahki from extinction through acclimatization. of the zoo specimens in open field pastures, for later release into the wild. In 1992, the FPPPH brought the first 15 horses to the Hustain Nuruu area in Mongolia, to reintroduce them to their original habitat. Currently, the population of takhi in the wild in Hustai Nuruu National Park reaches 220 individuals. The practice of taming wild animals and then returning them to the wild is truly rare. **Visit to a small museum, about the history of the Hustain Nuruu National Park**, about the founders, and the reintroduction of the Przewalski or Takhi wild horses in their original habitat. **Excursion through the interior of the Hustain Nuruu National Park, exploration and observation of wild horses (*bring binoculars and drome)**. Drive back to Ulaanbaatar (about 120 kms/75miles. Transfer to the hotel. Overnight at selected and confirmed hotel. **Dinner is not included.**



July 09, Day 11-Breakfast. Meet Samar Magic Tours team at reception of the hotel. Today, we attend the **Mongol Deel Festival**. A deel is an item of traditional clothing commonly worn since centuries ago among the Mongols and other nomadic tribes of Central Asia, including various Turkic peoples, and can be made from cotton, silk, wool, or brocade. The deel is still commonly worn by both men and women outside major towns, especially by herders. In urban areas, deels are mostly only worn by elderly people, or on festive occasions. **The Deel Mongol Festival** is held in the Main square (*in the heart of Ulaanbaatar) on **July 09**, and is comprised the folk art concert, **parade-show in the Deel of Mongolian national clothes and Mongolian Ger**. A traditional Ger is a portable, round tent covered with skins or felt used as a dwelling by nomads in the steppes of Central Asia. The structure comprises an angled assembly or latticework of pieces of wood or bamboo for walls, a door frame, ribs (poles), and a wheel (crown, compression ring) possibly steam bent. The roof structure is often self-supporting but large yurts may have interior posts supporting the crown. **Lunch is included in local restaurant.** Overnight at selected and confirmed hotel. **Dinner is not included. (B)(L)**



July 10, Day 12-Breakfast. **08:00AM**-Meet Samar Magic Tours team at reception of the hotel. **Drive outside west of Ulaanbaatar city** (about 30-35kms/19-22miles) to see the **horse racing of Naadam Festival**. In horse racing, horses of 6 different ages groups participate, beginning from 2 to 6-year olds. Racetracks vary according to the horses' age: In some races, more than 700 horses take part. Young children of ages 5 to 13 participate in the horse races too. The first 5 horses to finish a race are called Airagdakh which means that the horses are sprinkled with airag. The title Tumnii Ekh or Top Horse of 10,000 is given to the winning horse. **Drive back to Ulaanbaatar. Lunch is included in local restaurant.** Transfer to hotel. Overnight at selected and confirmed hotel. **Dinner is not included.** In the evenings, cultural and entertainment programs are offered. **(B)(L)**



July 11, Day 13-Breakfast. **08:00AM**-Meet Samar Magic Tours team at reception of the hotel. Transfer to National Sports Stadium for **Naadam Festival Opening Ceremony**, featuring dancers, athletes, horse riders, and musicians. After the ceremony, the competitions begin: **archery and wrestling** in Ulaanbaatar. Another popular Naadam activity is the **playing of games using shagai, sheep knuckles** that serve as game pieces and tokens of both divination and friendship. Every year 512 wrestlers compete in the National Naadam. The Nachin or Falcon title is given to a wrestler who wins 5 rounds, Zaan or Elephant is a winner of 7 rounds. The wrestler who wins all nine rounds becomes the national wrestling champion and bestowed with the title Arslan or Lion. A wrestler, who has been Lion twice, is honoured with the title of Avarga or Champion. The winner of archery is given a title Erkhiiin Mergen Kharvaach that means Archer of Greatest Wisdom. **Lunch is included in local restaurant.** Transfer to hotel. Overnight at selected and confirmed hotel. **Dinner is not included.** In the evenings, cultural and entertainment programs are offered. **(B)(L)**



July 12, Day 14-Breakfast. 08:00AM-Meet Samar Magic Tours team at reception of the hotel. Drive towards to visit the **40meter /~133,3 feet Genghis Khan Statue on horseback** (55km/34miles) N/E of the Mongolian capital Ulaanbaatar. The statue is symbolically pointed east towards his birthplace. It is on top of the **Genghis Khan Statue Complex**, a visitor center, itself 10 meters (32 ft 10 in) tall, with 36 columns representing the 36 khans from Genghis to Ligdan Khan. Visitors walk to the head of the horse through its chest and neck of the horse, where they can have a panoramic view. **Drive back to Ulaanbaatar** (55km/34miles). **Lunch is included in local restaurant.** Transfer to **National Sports Stadium** for **Naadam Festival Closing Ceremony. Shopping for souvenirs and cashmere.** Transfer to hotel. Overnight at selected and confirmed hotel. **Dinner is not included.** In the evenings, cultural and entertainment programs are offered. **(B)(L)**

July 13, Day 15-Breakfast. The rooms must be vacated before **12 noon** on the day of departure. Meeting with Samar Magic Tours at the hotel reception. Transfer to Ulaanbaatar `` **Chinggis Khan** `` New Airport (52 km/33 miles, +2 hrs drive). **Departure Mongolia (B). Tour Ends.**



INCLUDED SERVICES:

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

7 nights of lodging in the traditional tourist camps based on standard Ger for **2** people or more (*according to early request!) with bathrooms outside (that is, shared, 1 building for the gentlemen, and 1 building for the ladies), in the rest of the route.

Meals as specified (**14B, 14L, 7D**), with 1 bottle of mineral water per person/daily

Welcome lunch in a traditional restaurant.

All transfers in private, traveling in a tourist bus (*depending on the group) in Ulaanbaatar, during Naadam Festival, the 40 meter /~133,3 feet Genghis Khan Statue with all fuel included.

All transfers in private, traveling in a comfortable Japanese vehicle Land Cruiser Toyota 4x4 or similar (occupancy: **4-5** tourists + **1** driver in **1** vehicle, Limit: **15** kg per person) on the rest of the route, with all fuel included.

English or Spanish speaking local guide (according to early request!).

All tickets to the **Naadam Festival** on **July 11 and July 12**.

The Deel Mongol Festival in the Main square (*in the heart of Ulaanbaatar) on **July 09**.

All entrance fees to Gobi Gurvasaikhan National Park, Hustain Nuruu National Park, Karakorum, Turkish Memorials, the 40 meter /~133,3 feet Genghis Khan Statue on horseback, monuments, museums, and monasteries.

Visits to authentic nomadic families with farms for horses, yaks, bulls on the route, and an authentic family nomad with camel herds in Moltsoog sand dunes.

Attend a folk show with the fascinating sounds of khoomi throat singing and Mongolian dance.

Excursion to explore the dunes on the back of a Bactrian camel.

Gentle hiking through wonderful landscapes.

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

What's Not Included?

Airfares. Occasional flight delays or cancellation. Excess baggage (Limit: **15** kg per person). Visa.

Early check-in/Late Check-out. Any rescue costs or costs of early departure. Changing of date of departure from Ulaanbaatar. The traveller is responsible for having proper travel documents, such as a valid passport, and the necessary passport pictures. Travel insurance. Items of personal nature such as gratuities to porters at hotels, telephone / telex / fax charges, laundry, beverages, meals, optional activities, and services not specified in the itinerary. Any circumstances beyond of our control, such as the imposition of quarantine restrictions, weather conditions, Mongolia road conditions, etc.



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OUTSTANDING EXPERIENCES:

- Attendance at the **Mongolian National Holiday**. It is the most important nomadic cultural, social and sports event in Mongolia.
- We will walk through the dunes, where we will be able to observe a wonderful landscape of sand dunes and we will enjoy the contrast of the Mongolian Gobi desert.
- We will visit an authentic family with Bactrian camel farms. We will get to know the Mongolian nomadic lifestyle.
- We will enjoy an excursion on the back of a Bactrian camel.
- We will explore the Bayan Zag or Fire Cliffs on foot, where hundreds of fossilized dinosaur eggs have been discovered, as well as complete skeletons of these great prehistoric reptiles from the Cretaceous period.
- We will explore the Yolyn Canyon or Vulture Gorge in the "Gobi Gurvan Shaikhan" National Park.
- We will visit the legendary Erdene zuu (Hundred Treasures) Monastery, the Turtle monument, and the Karakorum museum, to see the relics of the ancient capital of the Mongol Empire. The Erdene Zuu Buddhist Monastery with its 108 stupas and the first Buddhist Lamasery (16th century) was the most important religious seat.
- Excursion through the interior of the Hustain Nuruu National Park, exploration and observation of wild horses (*bring binoculars).
- Excursion to the 40meter /~133,3 feet Genghis Khan Statue on horseback.
- Listen to the mesmerizing sounds of Khoomi throat singing during a traditional dance performance.

TO CONSIDER:

- Private Guaranteed Services from **6** people or more.
- This is a Special Group Outing to the **Naadam Festival**. It is not in private. **High season in Mongolia!**
- Mongolian visa not included.
- International flights not included.
- Accommodation outside Ulaanbaatar is in the tourist camps in Ger Standard for 2 people with bathrooms outside (so shared, 1 building for men, and 1 building for women). The tourist camps in Gers do not have an official category.
- The hotel category information is for the Ulaanbaatar hotel.
- The entrance to the rooms in the hotels of Ulaanbaatar is at **02:00PM (14:00)**. Early entry to rooms is not included. The departure of the rooms in the hotels of Ulaanbaatar is at **12:00M**. Late check-out of rooms is not included.



NAADAM FESTIVAL RESERVATION CONDITIONS AND FINAL PAYMENT

PRICE: The price of our trips has been calculated based on exchange rates, transport rates, fuel costs and applicable taxes and fees on the date of publication of the program/brochure or subsequent dates that, if applicable, have been made public in print. Any variation in the price of the aforementioned elements may give rise to the revision of the final price of the trip, both upwards and downwards, in the strict amounts of the aforementioned price variations. These modifications will be notified to the consumer, in writing or by any means that allows proof of the communication made, being able, when the modification made is significant, to withdraw from the trip, without any penalty, or accept the modification of the contract. In no case, will it be revised upwards in the twenty days prior to the departure date of the trip, regarding the requests already made. Prices are calculated based on double room. Prices and fees are quoted in \$ Us dollars or in € euros and are subject to change.

Please note: **Naadam Festival** surcharge applies for travel from **Jul 01 to Jul 15 - Peak Season in Mongolia**, where all services, accommodations are overcrowded.

- At the time of registering for the trip, the amount of \$ US 660 or 660 € (six hundred and sixty) per person will be paid immediately by bank wire transfer as a **guarantee deposit**, with a minimum advance notice of **180-160** business days, before arrival in Mongolia.
- You must send us a photocopy of the original passport with a minimum validity of **6** months, in order to reserve hotels in Ulaanbaatar, and the tickets to the **Naadam Festival** in the month of July.
- No registration will be considered valid until these requirements are formalized.
- The final payment of the trip will be made by bank transfer **120** business days before arrival in Mongolia, in order to all the indicated reservations.

VERY IMPORTANT NOTE: If you do not pay us on the indicated dates, we cannot guarantee the indicated services (*so in this case, you need to check the new rates and if there is availability in other hotels).

CANCELLATION

180-91 days: Deposits are non-refundable.

90-19 days: 50%

18-00 business days: 100%-NO REFUND.

In the case of cancellations of air and train tickets: it is another concept. The rates of air tickets or international and national trains subject to modifications, depending on availability at the time of entering the reservation. Rates on air tickets or on international and national trains are only frozen with the issuance and full payment of the tickets. Tickets are non-refundable and can only be canceled on the day of issue.



PERSONAL TRAVELING FOR FREE IN MONGOLIA:

A) If the group is of **16** people (**15** pax subscribers + **1** person for free by land, based only on **DOUBLE** room: **8**). Samar Magic Tours will pay all expenses for land, accommodation in **DOUBLE** room. **Not included: accommodation in a single room, and domestic air tickets.**

B) If the group is of **32** people (**30** pax subscribers + **2** people for free by land, based only on **DOUBLE** room: **16**). Samar Magic Tours will pay all expenses for land, accommodation in **DOUBLE** room. **Not included: accommodation in a single room, and domestic air tickets.**

CHARGE FOR CHILDREN IN MONGOLIA:

0-3 years: free;

From 4 to 11 years old: 50% of the usual adult price.

From 12 years old: 100% of the regular adult price.

CONDITIONS OF FORCE MAJEURE: Although it is our absolute desire to fulfill the trip as detailed in the program, sometimes there are conditions of force majeure that mean that it may be modified. Samar Magic Tours is not legally responsible for those conditions of force majeure outside the organization of the trip that may force changes to the travel program. These reasons and circumstances of force majeure include possible situations of insecurity for the traveler, political instability or violence, rebellions or risk of rebellion, strikes, altercations and violent actions, decisions of governments or local authorities, technical or maintenance problems related to transportation, changes in schedules or aviation or road routes, natural disasters, epidemics, adverse weather conditions, as well as any other circumstance beyond the control of Samar Magic Tours. If due to unusual circumstances of force majeure it is necessary to carry out a cancellation of the trip, there is no obligation for compensation.

FORM TO FILL IN:

NAMES AND SURNAMES (*HOW IT IS WRITTEN ON THE PASSPORT):

CITIZENSHIP:

VALID PASSPORT NUMBER:

***EXACT DATE OF ARRIVAL IN ULAANBAATAR, NO. OF THE FLIGHT AND TIME OF ARRIVAL:**

***DATE OF DEPARTURE FROM MONGOLIA, NO. OF THE FLIGHT AND THE SCHEDULE:**

THE SELECTED HOTEL: