



## Mountain Bike to Karakorum & Orkhon Valley Mongolia Tour

### Key Information:

**Trip Length:** 9 days/8 nights.

**Trip Type:** Easy to Moderate.

**Tour Code:** **SMT-MB-8D**

**Specialty Categories:** Mountain Bike, E-co Travel, Hot Springs, Local Culture, Nature & Wildlife.

**Meeting/Departure Points:** Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia (excluding flights).

**Groups size:** **3-16 travelers-guaranteed!**

**Request a private:** this is a group tour. You can however request a private, customized version of this tour for yourself or your private group of people. Private departures are usually more expensive.

**Valid Season:** **June-September 15th.**

**Total Distance:** about 1500kms/932miles.

**Average daily distance:** 60-100kms (37-62miles).

**Road Category:** Off Road.

**Weight Limit:** 15 kgs (33 lbs)

**Number of days cycling:** 6

**Tour Customizable:** Yes

**Operated:** in English or in Spanish (according to the early request!).

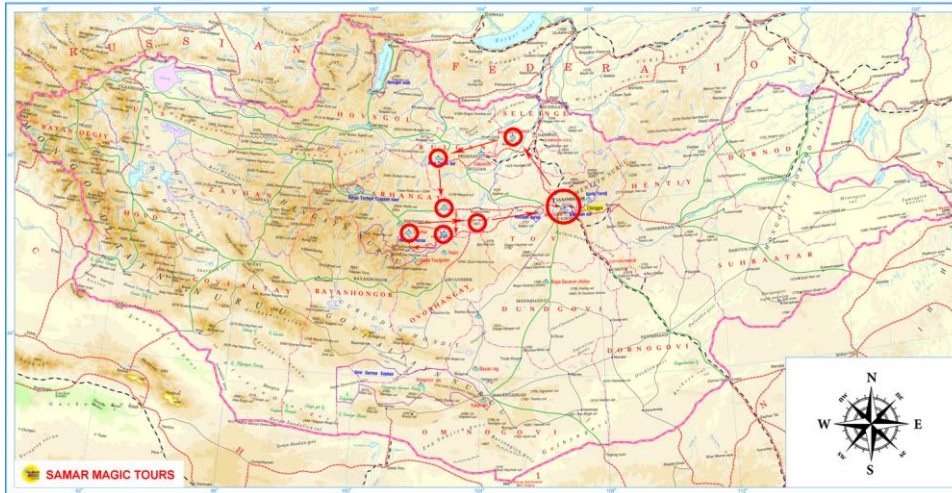
**Tour Highlights:** Upon your arrival in **Ulaanbaatar New Airport**, meet **Samar Magic Tours** team. **9 days fully supported biking tour includes 6 days of biking in Mongolia.** Led by our experienced guides start off at the Ulaanbaatar city to the northern fringes of the **Amarbayasgalant monastery** and traverse the Central Steppes and the Khangai Mountain range to beautiful **Ogii Lake**. Cycling into vast valleys where nomadic horsemen whose lives still revolve around domesticated yaks and camels. Bike route mainly runs on smooth, hard pack surfaces with a number of knee-deep river crossings. Tented camping throughout the tour. Cycle along the **Orkhon Valley to reach Karakorum** - the first capital of the Mongolian Empire of Genghis Khan. **Enjoy hundreds of miles of trails that the Samar Magic Tours has to offer.** Wind your way through steppes, mountain passes and beautiful valleys which are home to numerous nomadic families and clear mountain lakes and streams. Meeting nomadic people, staying in a traditional tent, seeing grasslands and beautiful vistas.

**Experience a Camping Trip with Off Road-**We're passionate about camping and have enhanced the experience of sleeping under the stars with the finest camping gear, irresistible cuisine and expert Leaders and Camp Assistants who make your trip carefree. Your tour involves some days of travelling off the beaten track, with long road journeys by mountain bike with 4WD Vans' support over difficult terrain. Mountain bike across Mongolia in one adventure filled Journey. Our Mountain Biking tours are fully supported with back-up vehicles, tents, cook, a good food and friendly staff. Non riders are welcome to join this **Mountain Bike Mongolia Tour**.

**The Best Time to Travel to Mongolia:** The travel season begins in **June. July and August** are the peaks tourist season. **September** is autumn.



## MAP OF MONGOLIA



### Brief Itinerary:

**Day 1**-Upon your arrival in Ulaanbaatar New Airport, meet Samar Magic Tours team. **(L)**

**Day 2**-Ulaanbaatar-Amurbayasgalant monastery. **(B)(L)(D)**

**Days 3/4**-Cycle to Uran-Togoo Tulga Uul Natural Park. **(B)(L)(D)**

**Days 5/6**-Cycle to Lake Ogii. **(B)(L)(D)**

**Day 7**-Cycle along the Orkhon river valley to Karakorum. **(B)(L)(D)**

**Day 8**-Drive to Ulaanbaatar. **(B)(L)(D)**

**Day 9**-Departure Mongolia. **(B). Tour Ends.**



## Day-by-day Itinerary:

**Day 1**-Upon your arrival in **Ulaanbaatar New Airport**, meet **Samar Magic Tours team**. Change some money. Transfer to hotel (\*the check-in time at hotel is after **02:00PM**). **Welcome lunch in traditional local restaurant. Meet for a trip briefing before, we visit Ulaanbaatar Central Square**-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. Shop mineral water or others things necessary for your Mountain Bike trip in Mongolia. 06:00PM-Evening National Performers** (concert which includes the Tsum dance, traditional Mongolian singers, dancers, Tuvan throat singing and contortionists). Transfer to hotel. Overnight at Holiday Inn hotel 5 stars or at Premium Palace hotel 4 stars or similar. Dinner is not included. **(L)**

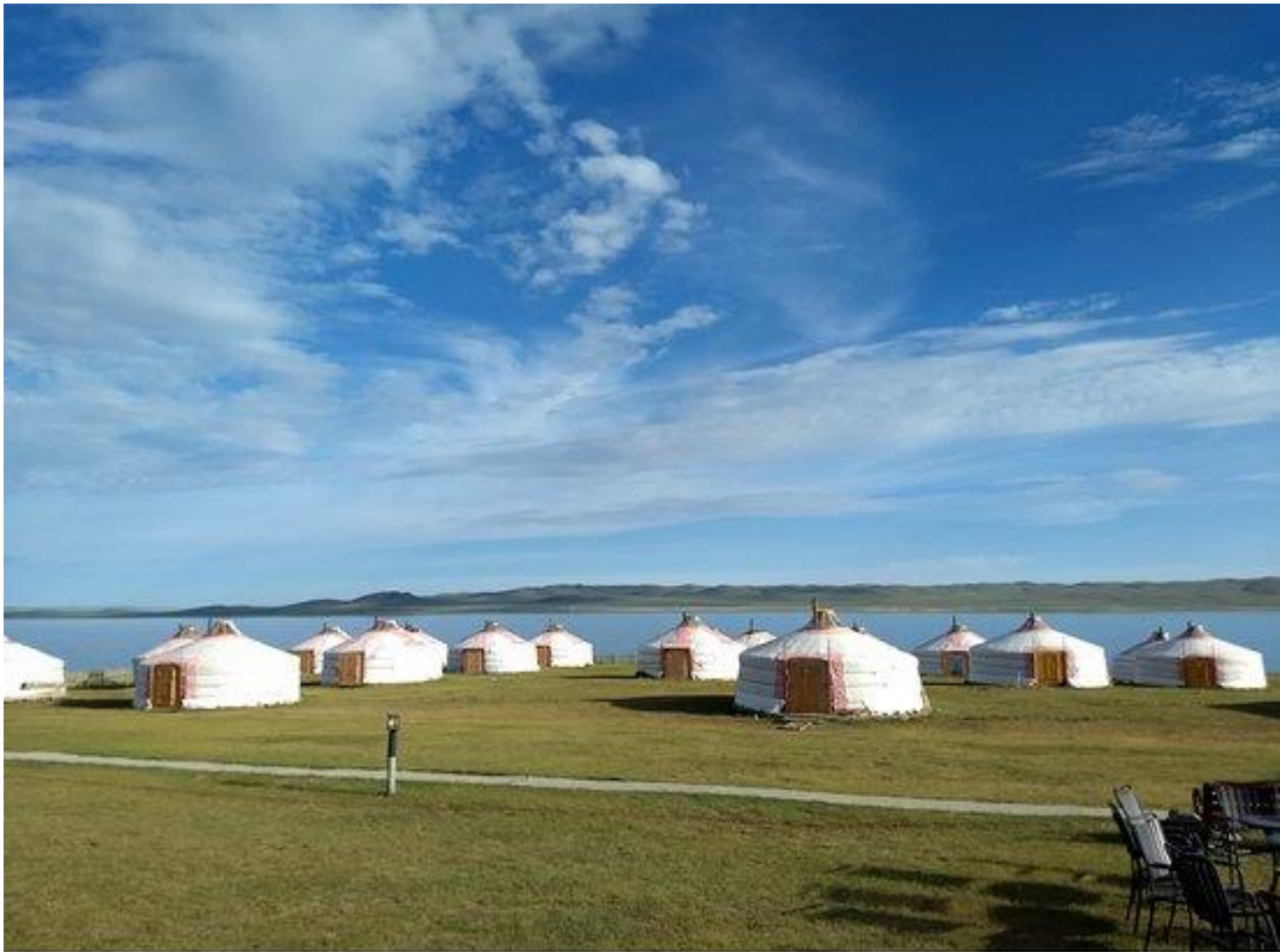


**Day 2**-Breakfast. Meet **Samar Magic Tours team** at reception of the hotel. A long drive northern for 5-6 hrs (about 360kms/224miles) to **the starting point of the biking trip in Orkhon Bridge**. **Mountain bike to Amarbayasgalant monastery** (about 60kms/37miles), the biggest Buddhist center in Northern Mongolia. **Amarbayasgalant monastery** was originally built in 1737 by the **Manchurian King Kansu**, who dedicated it to the great Mongolian Buddhist and sculptor, **Zanabazar**. **The valley** is covered throughout its extent with Turkic-era graves of various geometric shapes marked out in large boulders. These important archaeological features which date from the 3rd-7th centuries are the indication that the valley has long-standing sacred associations for the people of Mongolia, associations which continued and uninterrupted into the Buddhist era when they were re-validated by the construction of **Amarbayasgalant Monastery** on this historic site. **Amarbayasgalant** was one of the greatest Buddhist pilgrimage centers where between the 17th and 19th Centuries about one thousand lamas lived, chanted and studied. In 1996, was designated as a **UNESCO World Heritage Site**. Originally, **Amarbayasgalant Monastery** consisted of over 40 temples built on the special terrace, surrounded by a wall, measuring 207x175 m. Only 28 temples now remain, they have been under State protection since 1944. The monastery has a symmetrical construction. According to which the buildings are hierarchically arranged along the central axis so that all the important buildings run down the centre to north and south. This layout of the Monastery is similar to the general layout of Manchu-style spatial planning of Imperial Palace but stylistically its art has tributary Chinese architectural influences. The size of its Tsogchin (Main) temple is 32x32 m. Its construction expresses the planning features of the Mongolian national architecture and engineering solutions are very original. One of the interesting solutions is routing of roof water through the inside of four columns, under the floor, through stone grooves and away from the Tsogchin temple. Overnight in traditional Gers tourist camp. **(B)(L)(D)**



**Days 3/4-Cycle and drive toward to Uran-Togoo Tulga Uul Natural Park in Bulgan province** (about 250kms/155miles). **Uran-Togoo Tulga Uul Natural Park** is located about 60 km/37.28miles west of **Bulgan city** around the extinct volcanoes Uran Togoo, Tulga Togoo, and Jalavch Uul. Continue cycle to the Hutag Undur village. In route, visits **Erdenet and Bulgan cities**. One night camping in tent or local hotel on the way, and another night overnight in tourist Gers camp in Uran-Togoo Tulga Uul Natural Park. **(B)(L)(D)**





**Days 5/6-Cycle to Lake Ogii** (about 263km/163.42miles for **Millenium Road**-It is currently the best route due to traffic conditions). Wind your way through steppes, mountain passes and beautiful valleys which are home to numerous nomadic families and clear mountain lakes and streams. **Ogii Nuur**-this is a freshwater lake located in the valley of the Orkhon River, is also renowned for its fishing. Migratory birds arrive from May to June, from as far away as Siberia and the Himalayas. **Optional activities** such as fishing, boating, horseback riding, birdwatching, etc (**payment on site!**). One night camping in tent on the way, and another night overnight in tourist Gers camp, close to Lake Ogii. **(B)(L)(D)**



**Day 7**-Continue riding along the green Orkhon valley with grazed by sheeps, yaks, horses, camels, nomadic families to **Karakorum** (about 80km/50miles)-this is a **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. In 1792 the Monastery still had 62 temples and 10,000 lamas. But in 1930 it became a victim of the Stalin's purges. All but three of the Temples were destroyed and most of the monks were either killed or sent to Siberia. **Visit the legendary Erdene zuu monastery, the turtle monument and the Karakorum museum**, which is recently opened to show the public, remains unique in Kharakorum found during an excavation organized by Mongolia and Germany together. In 1792 the Monastery still had 62 temples and 10,000 lamas. But in 1930 it became a victim of the Stalin's purges. All but three of the Temples were destroyed and most of the monks were either killed or sent to Siberia. Subsequently the **Orkhon Valley** was continuously occupied throughout the Prehistoric and Bronze ages and in proto-historic and early historic times was settled successively by the Huns, Turkic peoples, the



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Uighurs, the Kidans, and finally the Mongols. Today, the cultural heritage of the valley constitutes a **UNESCO World Heritage**. Overnight in tourist Gers camp in Karakorum. **(B)(L)(D)**





**Day 8-Breakfast. Return drive to Ulaanbaatar** (about 430km/267.19miles, 5-6 hours drive, depending on the traffic at the entrance to Ulaanbaatar). Transfer to the hotel (\*the rooms can be used after **2:00 p.m.** on the day of arrival). **Latest purchases of Mongolian souvenirs and pure Mongolian cashmere. Farewell dinner in local restaurant.** Transfer to the hotel. Overnight at Holiday Inn hotel 5 stars or at Premium Palace hotel 4 stars or similar (according to the early request!). **(B)(L)(D)**

**Day 9-Breakfast. Transfer. Departure Mongolia. (B). End of our services.**

### What's Included?

- 2** nights at selected & confirmed hotel in Ulaanbaatar, based on twin standard room with breakfast.
- 4** nights of lodging in the typical traditional tourist camps based on STANDARD GER for **2** people or more (according to the request!) with bathrooms outside (that is, shared, 1 building for the gentlemen, and 1 building for the ladies), in the rest of the route.
- 2** nights camping or in Ger or in local hotel on the way, including all camping equipment.
- Full Board Regime (\*except the 1<sup>st</sup> day of arrival), with 1 bottle of mineral water per person/daily (**8** BREAKFASTS, **8** LUNCHESES, **7** DINNERS).
- Welcome lunch in a traditional restaurant.
- Farewell dinner in local restaurant.
- All transportation on **4WD** Vans' support including the petrol.
- Services of English or Spanish speaking local guide (according to the request!).
- Entrance fees to all specified protected areas, national parks, museums, and the monasteries.
- Evening National Performers (concert which includes the Tsam dance, traditional Mongolian singers, dancers, Tuvan throat singing and contortionists).
- Gentle hiking through wonderful landscapes.
- Rates and services.
- Management and payment for the support visa letter, authorized by Mongolian Immigration, for citizens who cannot obtain the Mongolian visa electronically or do not have consulates (\*if necessary).



## What's Not Included?

Flights and occasional flight delays or cancellation.

Visa.

Excess baggage.

Mountain Bikes.

Sleeping bag.

Mineral water (\*you need to buy it in Ulaanbaatar, prior to departure to the countryside).

Any rescue costs or costs of early departure.

Changing of date of departure from Ulaanbaatar.

The traveler is responsible for having proper travel documents, such as a valid passport, proper visa, the necessary passport pictures, and the International airfares.

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, etc.

**TRAVEL INSURANCE: Mountain Bike Mongolia Tour** requires that you have adequate and valid travel insurance covering medical and personal accidents, including repatriation costs and emergency evacuation.

**VISA:** For this **Mountain Bike Mongolia Tour** getting the required visa(s) is the responsibility for each individual traveller, as visa requirements vary depending on your nationality. We recommend to check with your local embassies representing the countries that you are traveling to, as part of this itinerary.

**In our Services is Included:** Management and payment for the support visa letter, authorized by Mongolian Immigration for citizens who cannot obtain the **Mongolian visa electronically** ([www.evisa.mn](http://www.evisa.mn)) or **do not have consulates** (\*if necessary).

## WHAT SHOULD I CARRY WHEN MOUNTAIN BIKING?

**Tool Kit:** A basic tool kit should have at least the following, tire levers, a bike-specific multitool, a few links of chain, a quicklink/masterlink, and zip-ties. Riders going on longer mountain bike rides might want to carry additional tools and spare parts like an extra derailleur hanger and spare shifter cable.

## WHAT DO MOUNTAIN BIKES CARRY IN THEIR BACKPACKS?

Lots of packs have spots for bike tools, helmets, body armor, smartphones and sunglasses. Some are even designed with trail builders in mind so they can carry their tools out into the woods.

## WHAT CLOTHING SHOULD I WEAR FOR MOUNTAIN BIKING?

Waterproof Jackets. Keep an eye out for mountain bike-specific designs in outerwear as they are often made in more durable fabrics than road wear. A cycling-specific design offers better wind protection while also being tailored to provide comfort and coverage. Most will even come with a helmet-compatible hood.



## SUGGESTED PACKING LIST

- Lantern.
- Spare batteries/bulb.
- Personal medications.
- Waterproof mountain boots.
- Waterproof jacket with hood.
- Waterproof overpants.
- Polar jacket or wool sweater.
- Cotton t-shirts
- Long sleeve shirts.
- Light pants.
- Shorts.
- Stockings.
- Underwear.
- Sun hat.
- Flip flops.
- Sunglasses.
- Sunscreen.
- Insect repellent.
- Plastic bags with hermetic closure (ziploc).
- Binoculars/camera.
- Alarm clock.
- Belt/money bag.



## 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, are 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 09 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 600.00 (six hundred \$ US dollars + the bank discount of the intermediary banks) per person will be paid immediately by bank transfer as a deposit, with a minimum advance notice of **150** 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 and purchase domestic air tickets in Mongolia, hotels in Ulaanbaatar, and 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 **95** business days before arrival in Mongolia, in order to guarantee the domestic air tickets (if any on the route) and 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:** \$ US 600.00 per person.

**90-16 days:** 50%

**15-00 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, the mountain bike and 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, the mountain bike and air tickets.

**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 ULAN BATOR, NO. OF THE FLIGHT AND TIME OF ARRIVAL:**

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