



Gobi desert & Karakorum Mongolia Expedition with Naadam Festival (July 01-July 13)

Key Information:

Trip Length: 13 days/12 nights.

Trip Type: Easy to Moderate.

Tour Code: **SMT-NF-13D**

Specialty Categories: Adventure Expedition, Cultural Event Journey, Camel riding, Driving tour, Gobi desert Expedition, Local Culture, Nature & Wildlife, and Sports.

Meeting/Departure Points: Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia.

Land Group Size: 2-16 participants.

Free Tour: If you have 16 persons (15 paying persons + 1 free, based on twin standard room: 8). Whenever you sign up a group of 16 people or more to Samar Magic Tours, you will enjoy a free trip to yourself, travelling as the group leader with the group. **Excluding the flights, and the single room at hotels.**

Extreme Season: July 1st-July 13th

Total Distance: about +2500kms/1554miles.

Airfare Included: No.

Tour Customizable: Yes

Tour Highlights: Upon your arrival in Ulaanbaatar, 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 during the midsummer holidays. 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 11th - July 13th, 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. In the larger Nadaam festivals, tournaments may take place in a separate venue. **We would be pleased to have you join us!**

Brief Itinerary:

July 1, Day 1-Upon your arrival in Ulaanbaatar, meet Samar Magic Tours team. (D)

July 2, Day 2-Ulaanbaatar-Bagazarin Chuluu in Middle Gobi. (B)(L)(D)

July 3, Day 3-Middle Gobi-South Gobi desert. (B)(L)(D)

July 4, Day 4-Yolin Canyon-Hongor Largest Sand dunes in Gobi desert-Camel riding-Camel Family. (B)(L)(D)

July 5, Day 5-Bayanzag (Rich in Saxual) or Flaming Cliffs in Gobi desert. (B)(L)(D)

July 6, Day 6-Gobi desert-Ongi Temple in Middle Gobi. (B)(L)(D)

July 7, Day 7-Middle Gobi-Nomadic Family-Karakorum. (B)(L)(D)

July 8, Day 8-Naadam Festival Rural in Karakorum-Elsen Tasarkhai Sand dunes. (B)(L)(D)

July 9, Day 9-Hustain Nuruu Wild Horses National Park-Ulaanbaatar. (B)(L)

July 10, Day 10-Mongolia Naadam Festival Preview. (B)(L)

July 11, Day 11-Mongolia Naadam Festival in Ulaanbaatar. (B)(L)

July 12, Day 12-Mongolia Naadam Festival in Ulaanbaatar. (B)(L)(D)

July 13, Day 13-Departure Mongolia or Post tour. (B)

Day-by-day Gobi desert & Karakorum Mongolia Expedition with Naadam Festival Special Itinerary:

July 1, Day 1- Upon your arrival in Ulaanbaatar, meet Samar Magic Tours team and transfer to your selected & confirmed hotel. **By hotels policy check-in time is after 02:00P.M (14:00).** In the afternoon, Ulaanbaatar City tour: visits the National History Museum-where you will see artifacts from Mongolia and Central Asia from the Stone Age to the present and the Genghis or Chinggis Khaan square-this is the main square in the heart of Ulaanbaatar. Here you will see a large statue of the Genghis or Chinggis Khaan-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 Theater and the Palace of Culture.. **06:00 P.M.-National Performers** (concert which includes the Tsam dance, traditional Mongolian singers, dancers, Tuvan throat singing and contortionists). Welcome dinner in local restaurant. Overnight at selected & confirmed hotel. **(D)**

July 2, Day 2-09:30 A.M.-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. Visit small dinosaur's fossils museum. Drive back to the hotel (**by hotels policy check-out time is before 12:00 noon**). Lunch is included in local restaurant in Ulaanbaatar. After lunch, drive towards south to Bagazarin Chuluu in Middle Gobi-this is 1768m high, 15km long, 10km wide rocky mountain and is perfect for short trekking and walks around the surrounding area. You will see rocks and stony shapes and buries of Mongols from middle ages. Dinner and overnight in tourist Gers camp. **(B)(L)(D)**

July 3, Day 3-A long drive towards South to Gobi desert. On the way, 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. Arrive and to be transferred. Dinner. Overnight in tourist Gers camp. **(B)(L)(D)**

July 4, Day 4-In the morning, we drive towards to explore the Yolyn 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. 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. In the afternoon, a long trip towards to Hongor Largest Sand dunes in Gobi desert. Arrive and to be transferred. Exploration and enjoy and climb up to over 200 m high Khongoryn els (Singing sand dunes) and ride two humped camels around picturesque desert oasis Khongor river. At the north end of the dune it has formed a beautiful oasis where they grow grass and flowers, so it is nice to see vegetation in the desert. Visit an authentic camel breeding family. See their real nomadic life. Overnight in tourist Gers camp. **(B)(L)(D)**

July 5, Day 5-Drive towards to Bayanzag (Rich in Saxual) or Flaming Cliffs in South Gobi desert. Explore Bayanzag (Rich in Saxual) or Flaming Cliffs-here Roy Chapman Andrews, an American paleontologist and staff of the Museum of Natural History in New York first found 4-6 inches dinosaur eggs here in 1922. The large dinosaur skeletons placed at the Museum of Natural History in Ulaanbaatar was also found here by a Russian-Mongolian expedition. Bayanzag is referred as Flaming Cliffs for its amazing colors and shape). Enjoy the Gobi sunset at the legendary "Flaming Cliffs," which glow brilliantly at sunrise and sunset. Dinner and overnight in tourist Gers camp in Bayanzag. **(B)(L)(D)**

July 6, Day 6-A long trip towards North to reach 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. Dinner and overnight in tourist Gers camp in Middle Gobi. **(B)(L)(D)**

July 7, Day 7-Continue 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. During the trip, you will also have opportunities to visit a local nomadic family on the way. 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. Today, we visit 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. Free time in your own in Orkhon valley constitutes a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Overnight in tourist Gers camp. **(B)(L)(D)**

July 8, Day 8-In the morning, we attend the Authentic Rural Naadam Festival in Karakorum. Experience the traditional customs and lifestyle of local residents. In the afternoon, we drive east to reach Elsen Tasarkhai Sand dunes (Bayangobi desert). Great opportunities for nature lovers to hike over the sand dunes and optional camel Bactrian ride (optional payment on site!). Overnight in tourist Gers camp in Elsen Tasarkhai Sand dunes. Dinner. Overnight in tourist Gers camp. **(B)(L)(D)**

July 9, Day 9-Drive back to Ulaanbaatar city. Stop in route, to visit Hustain Nuruu Wild Horses Reserve (hustai is Mongolian for birch and nuruu means mountains) measures about 57,000 hectares, or including the buffer zone 120,000 ha., and is located on about 100 kms /62 miles west from the capital Ulaanbaatar. The flagship species for the Hustain Nuruu Nature Reserve is the reintroduced Przewalski or takhi horse. Currently the park is home to a hundred fifty specimens. Visit the small local museum of the wild horses. Lunch is included in Hustain Nuruu Wild Horses Reserve. Continuous drive. Arrive and transfer to hotel (by hotels policy check-in time is after **02:00P.M (14:00)**). Free time and rest at your own at hotel. Overnight at selected & confirmed hotel. **(B)(L)**

July 10, Day 10-After breakfast, we will see **the preview of the Naadam Festival** and experience the festivities up at Chinggis Khaan Main Square. Lunch is included at local restaurant. Optional, you can enjoy a national folklore performance at Chinggis Khaan Main Square. Free time in your own. Overnight at hotel. **(B)(L)**

July 11, Day 11-After early breakfast, transfers to the National Sports 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 honored with the title of **Avarga or Champion**. The winner of archery is given a title **Erkhiin Mergen Kharvaach** that means **Archer of Greatest Wisdom**. Lunch is included at local restaurant. Free time in your own. Overnight at hotel. **(B)(L)**

July 12, Day 12-After early breakfast, drives outside of Ulaanbaatar city (about 30-35kms/19-22miles) to observe the horse racing. 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 to continuous attending the **Naadam Festival** in the National Sports. Some shopping. Farewell dinner in local restaurant. Overnight at hotel. **(B)(L)(D)**

July 13, Day 13-Breakfast. **By hotels policy check-out time is before 12:00 noon**. Transfer to the airport. Departure Mongolia or Post tour **(B). Tour Ends**.

What's Included?

5 nights of accommodation at selected & confirmed hotel, based on double specified room with daily breakfast.

7 nights in tourist traditional camps, based on private Ger.

All transportation in private by tourist bus in Ulaanbaatar, including all petrol.

All transportation in private by Japanese 4WD vehicle, outside of Ulaanbaatar, including all petrol.

All specified food (**B**-breakfast, **L**-lunch, **D**-dinner), including one bottle of mineral water.

Welcome dinner at local restaurant.

One farewell dinner at local restaurant.

Services of English speaking guide.

All entrance fees to Naadam Festival in **July 11** and **July 12**.

Attend the Authentic Naadam Festival Rural in Karakorum.

Entrance fees to the all specified national parks, museums, monuments, and monasteries.

2 hours of camel riding on the largest sand dunes.

One Mongolian traditional folk songs concert.

Visits authentic nomadic & camel families.

Taxes and services.

Letter-visa support (if it will be necessary).

Accommodation in Mongolia

Ulaanbaatar city: hotel 3* (**standard room**), hotel 4* (**deluxe room only**), hotel 5* (**deluxe room only**): **5** nights.

Bagazarin Chuluu in Middle Gobi: Tourist Gers Camp: **1** night.

South Gobi desert: Tourist Gers Camp: **3** nights.

Ongi Temple in Middle Gobi: Tourist Gers Camp: **1** night.

Karakorum: Tourist Gers Camp: **1** night.

Elsen Tasarkhai Sand Dunes: Tourist Gers Camp: **1** night.

What's Not Included?

Airfares. Occasional flight delays or cancellation. Excess baggage. Visa. 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, 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.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

HOW TO JOIN SAMAR MAGIC TOURS: All the tours are "Land Only", so you need to book your own International flights, unless otherwise specified in the tour description. Joining information will be sent to you upon confirmation.

PAYMENT SCHEDULE: These require a booking form and a deposit which is non-refundable. Booking requests with deposits will be considered in order of their receipt. A booking form is accepted and acceptance becomes definite only from the date that we have confirmed acceptance in writing and issued a confirmation invoice. At this point, a contract between the applicant and us comes into existence. We reserve the absolute right to decline any bookings for any legal reasons whatsoever, at our sole discretion.

Payment of the balance: of the tour cost is due not later than **eight or ten weeks before the departure date.**
Your tour price is guaranteed: once Samar Magic Tours has received your full payment. All tour prices are in US dollars and in Euro and are based on tariff and rates of currency exchange in effect at the time of printing.

No further reminder will be sent and, if payment is not received by the due date, I reserve the right to treat the booking as cancelled and charge a cancellation fee, the amount of which will not exceed the total cost of the holiday. You are therefore strongly recommended to take out travel insurance at an early stage to cover you in event of cancellation. All itineraries are as written, but reserve the right to alter these due to any unforeseen circumstances, and will notify you of any changes as soon as possible.

60-16 working days prior to departure: 50% of Land Cost.

15-00 working days prior to departure: No refund.

Air or Train cancellation terms are additional: The air fares or train tickets are subject to change based on availability at the time of entering the reservation. Rates in international or national flights or train tickets only freeze the issuance and payment in full of the tickets. Tickets are not refundable and can only be annulled on the day of issue. All cancellation requests are required in writing. Telephone / verbal cancellation is not accepted.

HOTELS: By hotels policy check-in time is **after 14:00.** Early check-in is 30% of regular day **extra charge directly to the tourists** and **NO** to Samar Magic Tours. By hotels policy check-out time is **before 12:00 noon.**

Late check out extra fee is required directly from the tourists and No from Samar Magic Tours.

From 12:00 - 15:00: 30%,

From 15:00 - 18:00: 50% charge

After 18:00: its full day charge.

FREE MONGOLIA TOUR: If you have **16** persons (**15** paying persons + **1** free, based on twin specified room: **8**). Whenever you sign up a group of **16** people or more to **Samar Magic Tours**, you will enjoy a free trip to yourself, travelling as the group leader with the group. **Excluding the flights, and the single room at hotels.**

PASSPORT, VISA AND HEALTH REQUIREMENTS: All participants are responsible for, and must be in possession of, a full passport, valid for at least six months beyond the end of the tour. In addition, participants must obtain any necessary visas and vaccination certificates required for the tour.

BAGGAGE: Baggage is at owner's risk throughout. For traveler's convenience, baggage allowance is suggested to one piece per person each for check-in and carry-on baggage. Excess baggage charge and insurance is at owner's responsibility. **Excess baggage:** the max. Weight of your luggage on domestic flights and our calculated vehicles is **10 kg (20lbs) a, hand luggage 5 kg (5lbs)** (overweight you need, before your departure to the countryside), extra luggage can be stored at hotels **FREE**, prior to your departure to the countryside.

ACCEPTANCE OF RISK: The Client acknowledges that the nature of the tour is adventurous and that such holidays may involve a significant amount of personal risk. The Client hereby assumes all such risk and does hereby release the Company from all claims and causes of action arising from any damages or injuries or death resulting from these inherent risks.