

Mongolia Naadam Festival and Gobi Desert-Karakorum Expedition (July 10th -22th)-2022

Key Information:

Trip Length: 13 days/12 nights.

Trip Type: Easy to Moderate.

Tour Code: **SMT-NF2-13D**

Specialty Categories: Adventure Expedition, Cultural Event Journey, Camel riding, Driving tour, Gobi Desert 4x4 Expedition, Local Culture, Nature & Wildlife, and Sports.

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

Special Group Size: **2-16** participants.

Hot Season-2022: **July 10-22**

Total Distance: about +2500kms/1554miles.

Tour Customizable: No

2022 Land Tour Costs per person:

From 2-16 pax: \$ US 3,220 person.

Single Supplement in UB city: \$ US 490 person.

Extra Night at in UB city: \$ US 165 Twin/double room.

Early Check-in/Late Check-out (07:00AM-02:00PM): \$ US 75

Early Check-in/Late Check-out (02:00PM-07:00AM): \$ US 165

PAYMENT CONDITION WITH NAADAM FESTIVAL: These require an immediately booking form and deposit **by wire bank transfer** of \$ US 800 person. Booking requests with deposits will be considered in order of their receipt. Your confirmed hotel during Naadam Festival in Ulaanbaatar, entrance tickets to Naadam Festival in **July 11th and in July 12th**, the specified services, the letter-visa support (if necessary) are guaranteed, once Samar Magic Tours has received the deposit of **800 USD person**.

The Balance of the tour costs: is due before **June 1st -2022**. **Your Naadam Festival Special Group Tour price is guaranteed**, once Samar Magic Tours has received your full payment. All tour prices are in USD 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.

Tour Highlights: Upon your early arrival in **Ulaanbaatar (UB city)**, 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**. 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 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 2010, **Naadam** was inscribed on the **Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity of UNESCO**. We would be pleased to have

you join us!



BRIEF ITINERARY:

July 10, Day 1-Upon your arrival in **Ulaanbaatar New Airport** (UB city), meet **Samar Magic Tours** tea. **Change some money. Ulaanbaatar City tour. Deel Mongol Festival (L)**

July 11, Day 2-**Naadam Festival** in UB city. **(B)(L)**

July 12, Day 3-**Naadam Festival** in UB city. **(B)(L)**

July 13, Day 4-Ulaanbaatar-Great Statue of Genghis Khan-Terelj National Park. **(B)(L)(D)**

July 14, Day 5- Terelj National Park-Bagazarin Chuluu in Middle Gobi. **(B)(L)(D)**

July 15, Day 6-Middle Gobi-Gobi Desert. **(B)(L)(D)**

July 16, Day 7-Gobi Desert: Yolyn Canyon-Hongor Largest Sand Dunes-Camel Family-Camel Riding. **(B)(L)(D)**

July 17, Day 8-Gobi Desert: Bayanzag (Rich in Saxual) or Flaming Cliffs. **(B)(L)(D)**

July 18, Day 9-Gobi Desert-Ruins of Ongi Temple in Middle Gobi. **(B)(L)(D)**

July 19, Day 10-Middle Gobi-Karakorum. **(B)(L)(D)**

July 20, Day 11-Karakorum-Turkish Memorials-Karakorum. **(B)(L)(D)**

July 21, Day 12-Karakorum-Ulaanbaatar. **(B)(L)**

July 22, Day 13-Departure Mongolia. **(B)**

DAY BY DAY ITINERARY:

July 10, Day 1-Upon your arrival in **Ulaanbaatar New Airport** (52 kms/33.33 miles, about 1.30-2.00 hrs, depending of the high traffic!) and after custom formalities and baggage claim, you will be met by **Samar Magic Tours team. Change some money in the New airport.** Taken to the centrally located hotel in Ulaanbaatar **(by hotels policy the check-in time is after 02:00PM/14:00).** **Welcome lunch in traditional Mongolian Barbecue local restaurant. Ulaanbaatar City tour:** visit **the National History Museum**-where you will see artefacts from Mongolia and Central Asia from the Stone Age to the present and **the Sukh Baatar square**-this is the main square in the heart of Ulaanbaatar. 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. Transfer. After, watch **Deel Mongol 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 10th**, 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. Transfer to hotel. Dinner is not included. Overnight at Holiday Inn hotel, 5 stars. **(L)**

July 11, Day 2-Breakfast. **08:00AM**-Meet **Samar Magic Tours team** at reception of the hotel. Transfer to 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 honoured 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 in local restaurant**. Transfer to hotel. Dinner is not included. Overnight at Holiday Inn hotel, 5 stars. **(B)(L)**

July 12, Day 3-Breakfast. 08:00AM-Meet **Samar Magic Tours** team at reception of the hotel. **Drive 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. Lunch is included in local restaurant**. After lunch, we visit the **Winter Palace of the Bogd Khan**-the palace is the only one left from originally four residences of the eighth Jebtsundamba Khutughtu, who was later proclaimed Bogd Khan, or emperor of Mongolia. Built between 1893 and 1903, the complex includes six temples, each one of them contains Buddhist artwork, including sculpture and thangka. It is one of the few Mongolian historical attractions which have neither been destroyed. On display are many of the Bogd Khan's possessions, such as his throne and bed, his collection of art and stuffed animals, his ornate ceremonial ger, a pair of ceremonial boots given to the Khan by Russian Tsar Nicholas II, and also jewelled regalia worn by the Bogd Khan's pet elephant. **06:00 P.M.-Mongolian National Performers** (concert which includes the Tsam dance, traditional Mongolian singers, dancers, Tuvan throat singing and contortionists). **07:30 P.M.**-Transfer to hotel. Overnight at Holiday Inn hotel, 5 stars. **(B)(L)**

July 13, Day 4-Breakfast. 09:00AM-Meet Samar Magic Tours team at reception of the hotel. 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. Here you will have the opportunity to attend a Buddhist ceremony. Afterward, we visit a small dinosaur's fossils museum. Lunch is included in local restaurant. Drive towards to visit the 40 meter /~133,3 feet Genghis Khan Statue on horseback (55km/34mi) 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. After, continuous drive north further to reach Terelj National Park. Seeing grasslands and beautiful vistas. The valley is about 20kms/12miles long at 1600m. This picturesque National Park is a part of Khan Khentii Strictly Protected Area. It is a great place for hiking, trekking, even you can rock climb here at its natural steep granite walls. Explore the Turtle shaped original giant rock - symbol of Terelj National Park. Walking & Trekking to Arryabal Meditation Temple, on the top of the small hill. Accommodation in Tourist Camp in STANDARD GER, with bathrooms outside (that is, shared, 1 building for men, and 1 building for women). **(B)(L)(D)**

July 14, Day 5-Breakfast. 08:00AM-Drive towards by comfortable 4WD Land Cruiser Toyota with A/C vehicle to **Baga Gazriin Chuluu** – 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 burials of Mongols from middle ages. 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. Accommodation in Tourist Camp in STANDARD GER, with bathrooms outside (that is, shared, 1 building for men, and 1 building for women). **(B)(L)(D)**

July 15, Day 6-Breakfast. 07:00AM-Today, we will head by comfortable 4WD Land Cruiser Toyota with A/C vehicle to **Gobi Gurvan Saikhan National Park** in South Gobi province via Dalanzadgad the southernmost city with only some 300 kms/187 miles from Chinese border. Arrive and to be transferred. Overnight in Luxury Tourist Gers Camp. **(B)(L)(D)**

July 16, Day 7- Breakfast. 08:00AM-Drive to 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, Yoliin 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 Yoliin 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**. In the afternoon, we drive towards to **Hongor Largest Sand dunes**. Arrive and to be

transferred. **Exploration and enjoy and climb up to over 200 m high Khongoryn els** (Singing sand dunes). 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 and **ride two humped camels** around picturesque desert oasis Khongor river. Accommodation in Tourist Camp in STANDARD GER, with bathrooms outside (that is, shared, 1 building for men, and 1 building for women). **(B)(L)(D)**

July 17, Day 8-Breakfast. 08:00AM-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 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 colours and shape). **Enjoy the Gobi sunset at the legendary "Flaming Cliffs,"** which glow brilliantly at sunrise and sunset. Accommodation in Tourist Camp in STANDARD GER, with bathrooms outside (that is, shared, 1 building for men, and 1 building for women). **(B)(L)(D)**

July 18, Day 9-Breakfast. 08:00AM-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. Accommodation in Tourist Camp in STANDARD GER, with bathrooms outside (that is, shared, 1 building for men, and 1 building for women). **(B)(L)(D)**

July 19, Day 10-Breakfast. 08:00AM-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. Overnight in Luxury Tourist Gers Camp in Karakorum. **(B)(L)(D)**

July 20, Day 11-Breakfast. 08:00AM-In the morning, **we 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. **Drive to Okhon river Valley.** Subsequently the 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 Uighurs, the Kidans, and finally the Mongols. Today, the cultural heritage of the valley constitutes a **UNESCO World Heritage. We visit the Turkish memorial sites of the 6th-7th centuries.** Khushuu Tsaidam Monuments to Bilge Khaan and Kul-Tegin, dated 732 AD, were found 47 km to the northwest of Karakorum, part of **the Orkhon Valley Cultural Landscape UNESCO world heritage site.** This collection of historical heritage includes stone monuments with runic inscriptions, stone turtles, human statues and other relics. Both monuments were dedicated to Turkish khans who ruled Mongolia between the 6th and 8th centuries. Overnight in Luxury Tourist Gers Camp in Karakorum. **(B)(L)(D)**

July 21, Day 12-Breakfast. 08:00AM-Drive back to Ulaanbaatar. Transfer to hotel. **01:00P.M.**-Farewell lunch in local restaurant. **Shopping for souvenirs and pure cashmere.** Transfer to hotel. **Dinner is not included.** Overnight at Holiday Inn hotel, 5 stars. **(B)(L)**

July 22, Day 13-Breakfast. By hotels policy the check-out time is before 12:00 noon. Transfer to Ulaanbaatar New Airport. Departure Mongolia or Post tour **(B). Tour Ends.**

What's Included?

4 nights of accommodation at Holiday Inn hotel, 5 stars or similar, based on Twin/double standard room, with daily breakfast.

3 nights in luxury tourist camps, based on Twim Ger for 2 people.

5 nights in Tourist Camp in STANDARD GER for 2 people, with bathrooms outside (that is, shared, 1 building for men, and 1 building for women).

All transportation in private by tourist bus or microbus with A/C (according to the confirmed group) in Ulaanbaatar-Terelj National Park, including all petrol.

All transportation in private by comfortable 4WD Land Cruiser Toyota vehicle with A/C (**1** Mongolian speaking driver + **4** tourists in one vehicle. **Limit weight:** 15kg per person), outside of Ulaanbaatar, including all petrol.

All specified food (**B**-breakfast, **L**-lunch, **D**-dinner), including one bottle of mineral water, per person a day!

Welcome lunch in traditional Mongolian Barbecue local restaurant.

Farewell lunch in luxury local restaurant.

Services of **Spanish** speaking local guide.

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

Entrance fees to the all specified national parks, Great Statue of Genghis Khan, museums, monuments, and monasteries.

One Mongolian traditional folk songs concert.

1 hour of camel riding on the largest sand dunes.

Visits authentic nomadic & camel families.

Taxes and services.

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

Accommodation in Mongolia

Ulaanbaatar city: Holiday Inn hotel 5* (standard room): 4 nights.

Terelj National Park: Tourist Standard Gers Camp: 1 night.

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

Gobi Desert: Luxury Tourist Gers Camp: 1 night.

Gobi Desert Hongor Largest Sand Dunes: Tourist Standard Gers Camp: 1 night

Bayanzag Gobi Desert: Tourist Standard Gers Camp: 1 night



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

Karakorum: Luxury Tourist Gers Camp: 2 nights.

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 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.

ULAANBAATAR HOTEL FOR NAADAM FESTIVAL-2022

ULAANBAATAR HOTEL	ROOMS	LOCATION
<p>Holiday Inn Hotel 5*</p> 	<p>Double Standard Room</p> 	<p>Located very near to Gandan Buddhist Monastery, to Peace Main Avenue about 1km, to Ulaanbaatar train station about 2.0km, and to the Central square about 2.0 km. The hotel has 169 rooms, 20-storey building, 1 restaurant Inn Joy (American, Pizza, Asian food. Open for Breakfast, Brunch, Lunch, Dinner, High tea, Cocktail hour. Menu Buffet) Free Wi-Fi in all rooms.</p>

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 CONDITION WITH NAADAM FESTIVAL: These require an immediately booking form and deposit by **wire bank transfer** of \$ US 800 person. Booking requests with deposits will be considered in order of their receipt. Your confirmed hotel during Naadam Festival in Ulaanbaatar, entrance tickets to Naadam Festival in **July 11th and in July 12th**, the specified services, the letter-visa support (if necessary) are guaranteed, once Samar Magic Tours has received the deposit of **800 USD person**.

The Balance of the tour costs: is due before **June 1st -2022**. **Your Naadam Festival Special Group Tour price is guaranteed**, once Samar Magic Tours has received your full payment. All tour prices are in USD and are based on tariff and rates of currency exchange in effect at the time of printing. 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.

CANCELLATIONS WITH NAADAM FESTIVAL IN JULY:

Refunds: Deposits are non-refundable.

60-19 working days prior to departure: 50% of Land Cost.

18-00 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**. By hotels policy check-out time is **before 12:00 noon**.

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 traveller'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 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.