

SAMAR MAGIC TOURS

Adventure & Active & Cultural Tours, Family, Group & Private Expedition, since 1997!

WILDLIFE, CAMPING, LAKES, MONASTERIES, MONGOLIA ECOTRAVEL EXPEDITION , 16 DAYS



*This 16 day-tour takes us through amazing
scenery of wide-open steppe to the Far
Northern of Mongolia*

Tour Highlights: Explore the vast beauty of this the land-based culture of its people, and natural places. This trip offers plenty of pleasure hikes and interesting cultural encounters. Visit the beautiful Lake Hovsgol- this is a 100 mile long pristine alpine lake located in the far northern of Mongolia, close to the Siberian border.



*Meet local nomads and stay in ger family or in tent.

*Have your first ger camp experience. "Chinggis" Tourist Traditional Ger Camp is Highly recommended by "Lonely Planet Mongolia" by the author Michael Kohn.

*Take some amazing photos to the 40 meter (~133,3 feet) Statue of "Genghis or Chinggis" Khan on a big horse on Tsonjin Boldog Hill is located just ~3kms (~1,5miles) to

"Chinggis" Tourist Traditional Ger Camp.

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*Visit Amarbayasgalant monastery and attend the Buddhist ceremony-was originally built in 1737 by the Manchurian king Kansu.

*Relaxing, fishing, boating, hiking, or horseback riding at the Terkhiin Tsagaan lake National Park.

*Enjoy the hot baths and relax in Tsenkher hot springs.

*Journey to Karakorum, the Genghis (Chinggis) Khan's 13th century capital and heart of the mighty Mongolian Empire and Okhon river Valley, cradle of Mongolian civilization.

*This surely is a journey into a rich and varied land. **We would be pleased to have you join us!**

▶ **Tour Conditions:** This trip is valid only with a min. group of 3-6 persons in each 4WD Vans without patrol (*you should buy the patrol). Our outdoor adventure is for all ages. Include only breakfast inside Mongolia. Private luggage allowance max. 15 kg per person.

▶ **Trip summary:**

▶ **Tour Code:** **SMTECO-16D**

▶ **Meeting Point:** Ulaanbataar, Mongolia

▶ **Departure Point:** Ulaanbataar, Mongolia

▶ **Group size:** Minimum **3** adults or more participants-This tour operates on a minimum of 03 and a maximum of 6 participants in each vehicle.

▶ **Length:** 16 days/15 nights

▶ **Difficulty level:** Easy to moderate.

▶ **2009 Private Tour Calendar:** **Daily departure, from June-September.**

Short Tour Description	Accommodation	Food
Day 1-Ulaanbaatar	Hostel/Hotel	D
Day 2-Tuul River Nomad's Valley	"Chinggis" Tourist Camp	B+L+D
Day 3-Terelj N.P.-Turtle Rock-Arrayabal Temple	"Chinggis" Tourist Camp	B+L+D
Day 4-Amarbayasgalant monastery	Tent or Family	B
Day 5-Volcano Uran Togoo-Tulga Ntl Reserve	Tent or Family	B
Day 6-Moron-Erhel lake-Hovsgol lake	Tent or Family	B
Day 7-Full day in Hovsgol lake	Tent or Family	B
Day 8-Moron-Hangai mountains-Dzuun lake	Tent or Family	B
Day 9-Terkhiin Tsagaan lake-Horgo volcano	Tent or Family	B
Day 10-Taikhar Rock-Tsenkher Hot Springs	Tent or Family	B
Day 11-Karakorum-Erdene zuu monastery	Tent or Family	B
Day 12-Karakorum-Tuvhun Temple-Karakorum	Tent or Family	B
Day 13-Shankh Temple-Orkhon river Waterfall	Tent or Family	B
Day 14-Uvgun Temple-Khogno Khaan mountain-Sand dunes of Bayangobi desert	Tent or Family	B
Day 15-Hustain National Reserve-Ulaanbaatar	Hostel / Hotel	B
Day 16-Departure Mongolia or Post tour	END OF OUR SERVICES	B

THE MAIN TOUR IN DETAILS:

 **Day 1 Arrive in Ulaanbaatar (D)**

Upon arrival in UB, you will be met at the airport or UB Railway station and are transferred to the hostel or to the hotel (2 options). Free time. Have welcome dinner at local restaurant "El Latino", featuring Mongolian and Western specialties. Overnight at hostel or at hotel.

 **Day 2 Ulaanbaatar-Gandan monastery-Chinggis Tourist Ger Camp (B, L, D)**

Breakfast. In the morning, visit Gandan Lamasery, the largest Monastery in Mongolia (80 foot tall statue of Buddha, practicing Tibetan Buddhist Lamas), the buddhist ceremony at 10:00AM and experience the Tibetan-Buddhist tradition. Afterward, drive to the "Tuul river Nomad's Valley" (55kms/27.5miles)-this is a beautiful valley of streams. There are national gers in beautiful natural locations, so it's easy to meet with locals and see their daily lives, interact with them. The river Tuul is one of the longest rivers of the country, flowing from the Khentii Mountain Range. The valley of the river has been called sacred for centuries by the

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nomads as they truly respect the nature especially the rivers and the surface water. In route, we stop to observe and to take some amazing photos to the 40 meter (~133,3 feet) Statue of "Genghis or Chinggis" Khan on a big horse on Tsonjin Boldog Hill is located just ~3kms (~1,5miles) to "Chinggis" Tourist Traditional Ger Camp. Two (2) hours of Mongolian horseback riding tour is included or hiking to meet with the Nomads, to enjoy this amazing scenery of wide-open steppe with rolling hills in the background and river. Welcome dinner with traditional mongolian meal (khorkhog), which is mutton cooked with hot rock and with vegetables, water, potatoes, and onion. Overnight in "Chinggis" Tourist Base Ger Camp. Have your first ger camp experience. "Chinggis" Tourist Traditional Ger Camp is Highly recommended by "Lonely Planet Mongolia" by the author Michael Kohn.

Day 3 Terelj National Park-Turtle Rock-Arraybal Temple (B, L, D)

Breakfast. Today, we drive to Terelj National Park for a walking tour to Turtle Rock and hiking to the Arraybal Buddhist monastery on the top of the mountain. It is famous for its amazing rock formations, pristine alpine scenery and varied bird life. The Terelj National Park incorporates parts of Khenty Mountain Range. The forest consists of Aspen, Larch and Birch trees which support wolf, eagles, birds, and others animals. Picnic lunch is provided. In the afternoon, drive back to Chinggis tourist traditional ger camp. Free time for mongolian archery, etc. Dinner and overnight.

Day 4 Chinggis Tourist Ger Camp-Amarbayasgalant monastery (B)

Breakfast. Drive to "Amarbayasgalant" monastery, situated in the northern central Mongolia. After Erdene Zuu Khiid in Karakhorum, Amarbayasgalant Khiid is considered the most important monastery in Mongolia. It's also one of the most beautiful. Camping in tent or in nomadic family .

Day 5 Amarbayasgalant monastery-Volcano Uran Togoo-Tulga National Reserve (B)

Breakfast. In the morning, visit Amarbayasgalant monastery and attend the Buddhist ceremony-was originally built in 1737 by the Manchurian king Kansu, who dedicated it to the great Mongolian Buddhist and sculptor, Zanabazar. In the 1930s and were destroyed 10 of the 37 temples and statues. The monastery was restored between 1975 and 1990 with the help of UNESCO. You're welcome to watch the 30 resident monks conduct their daily ceremonies, compared to over 2000 in 1936. Afterward, continuing further drive through amazing scenery of wide-open steppe, Selenge river and flowers to Uran mountain & Togoo mountain Natural reserve. Hiking and visit the extinct volcano of Uran mountain (1631m) and Togoo Tulga mountain (1923m) Natural Reserve. Optional excursions are available there: walking, hiking, trekking, climbing, horseback riding, bird watching, etc. Camping in tent or in nomadic family .

Day 6 Uran Togoo-Tulga-Moron-Erhel lake-Hovsgol lake (B)

Breakfast. Next, drive to the Far Northern to Lake Hovsgol National Park. In route, we stop for short visit to Erhil lake. Arrive and spend the remainder of the day at leisure on the Hovsgol lake. Lake Hovsgol is a 100 mile long pristine alpine lake located in the north of Mongolia, close to the Siberian border. The lake lies at an altitude of 1645m and is a rift valley some 262m deep. The Lake is a protected as a National Park and is sacred to Mongolians who call it "Dalai Ej" the "Mother Sea". Camping in tent or in nomadic family .

Day 7 Hovsgol lake National Park (B)

Breakfast. Full day at leisure on the Lake Hovsgol to enjoy this remote location, we recommend you take a walk around the lake or into the foothills to witness this amazing landscapes and wild life. Optional excursions are available on the Lake Hovsgol: walking, hiking, trekking, climbing, fishing, boating, horseback riding, bird watching, etc. Camping in tent or in nomadic family.

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Day 8 Hovsgol lake National Park-Moron-Hangai mountains-Dzuun lake (B)

Breakfast. Next drive to Dzuun lake through amazing scenery of wide-open steppe with rolling hills in the background. This is a long driving day through the mountainous valley with forest, rivers and Khangai Mountain range. Optional excursions are available on the Lake Dzuun: walking, hiking, trekking, climbing, fishing, boating, horseback riding, bird watching, etc. Camping in tent or in nomadic family .

Day 9 Dzuun lake-Terkhiin Tsagaan lake-Horgo volcano (B)

Breakfast. Our journey continuing further long drive through amazing scenery of wide-open steppe and flowers to Terkhiin Tsagaan Lake-Horgo volcano National Park . This is a freshwater lake with volcanic area around it is certainly the highlight of Arkhangai. Optional excursions are available on the Lake Terkhiin Tsagaan Lake-Horgo volcano National Park: walking, hiking, trekking, climbing, horseback riding, bird watching, etc. Camping in tent or in nomadic family .

Day 10 Terkhiin Tsagaan lake-Tsetserleg-Taikhar stone-Tsenkher Hot Springs (B)

Breakfast. Further drive to Tsenkher Hot Springs. Enjoy the hot baths and relax. In route, we stop for short visit to Taikhar stone-it is very unique stone that has 150 old scripts like: Ancient Mongolian, Chinese, Manchu's, Japanese and even wall paintings from ancient people from thousands years ago. Camping in tent or in nomadic family.

Day 11 Tsenkher Hot Springs-Karakorum-Erdene zuu monastery (B)

Breakfast. This morning, we drive through the grassland toward "Karakorum"-was founded in 1220 at the crossroads of the Silk Road. It was the capital of the Mongol Empire until Kublai Khan moved it to Beijing. 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 the restoration of the Monastery is the government's top priority. Erdene Zuu retains much of its ancient glory and is well worth visiting. Visit Erdene Zuu monastery, the Tortoise rock and the men's rock. Camping in tent or in nomadic family, close to the Valley of Orkhon river.

Day 12 Karakorum-Tuvhun monastery-Karakorum (B)

Breakfast. Drive to Tuvhun monastery, was restored in 1971. Tuvkhun Khiid is a monastery a bit away from the Orkhon Valley. The first Bogd Khan, Zanabazar, founded the site in 1653. He worked and lived there for many years. The monastery was destroyed under the Sovjet influence but is now restored. There is also a small cave which has the shape of a whomb. People climb into this cave and make a turn (men clockwise, women anticlockwise). After this they are said to be bord again. Walking and Hiking to visit Tuvhun monastery. Drive back to Karakorum. Free time in Orkhon river valley for photo opportunities and to have experience the nomadic lifestyle. Camping in tent or in nomadic family, close to Orkhon river.

Day 13 Karakorum-Shankh Temple-Orkhon Waterfall (B)

Breakfast. Drive to Orkhon Waterfall (150km) via Shankh monastery. Visit Shankh Khiid is one of the oldest and most important monasteries in Mongolia. Zanabazar founded this monastery in 1648 at the age of 13. He went to Tibet when he was 15 years old during the time of the great 5th Dalai Lama. The Panchen Lama, Lobsang Chogen , gave him the name of Jetsun Dhampa, and ordained him. The present temple, which is being restored, was one of them called Noyon Hamp. Zanabazar (1635-1723), a revered sculptor, politician, religious teacher, diplomat and living Buddha, who became Mongolia's first Bogd Khan (God King). Shankh monastery, Known as the West Monastery, it was one of the foremost seats of Buddhist teaching and practice in the country for almost three centuries. It was in this context that in 1937 Shankh Monastery was closed, its temples burned and most of its monks arrested and executed or sent to labor camps in Siberia.

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Reach the waterfall of Ulaan Tsutgalan of smooth hard pack surface brings us there. Referred as the cradle of Mongolian civilization it contains many ancient graves and historical sites within its boundaries. We camp a few km higher upstream after reaching the Orkhon waterfall and explore the surroundings. Camping in tent by the river.

Day 14 Orkhon Waterfall-Khogno Khaan mountain-Uvgun Temple-Bayangobi desert (B)

Breakfast. Drive to visit to Khogno Khaan mountain and Uvgun monastery. This mountain is at an elevation of 1967m and is perfect for short walks around the surrounding area and there are some remains of an ancient monastery. Afterward, continuing further drive for the to Bayangobi desert. Explore and hiking to the sand dunes. Camping in tent or in nomadic family.

Day 15 Bayangobi desert-Hustain National Reserve-Ulaanbaatar (B)

Breakfast. Drive back to Ulaanbaatar. In route, a short visit to Hustain National Reserve to observe the Przewalski wild horses (Takhi horses), recently re-introduced back into Mongolia. The Przewalski horse (*Equus przewalskii* Poliakov) or Takhi as the Mongolians name them are rather small, sturdy animals with a short, strong neck. The earliest written reports of Przewalski horses or Takhi date from the ninth century and in 1226, a herd of Przewalski horses is said to have caused "Genghis" Khan to fall of his horse. The Hustain Nuruu Reserve (Hustai is Mongolian for birch and nuruu means mountains) measures about 57,000 hectares, or including the bufferzone 120.000 ha., and is located on about 140 km west from the capital Ulaanbaatar. Visit the park museum to learn about the history of the last pure wild horses in the world and the history of the area. Return drive (in two hours) to Ulaanbaatar. Transfer to the hostel or to the hotel (2 options). Free time. Accommodation.

Day 16 Departure Mongolia or Post tour (B)

Breakfast. Transfer to Ulaanbaatar airport or to the Railway Station. **Departure Mongolia. End of our services.**

THE TOUR COST INCLUDES:

- 2 nights at hotel based on double occupancy or at hostel based on triple or quadruple occupancy in Ulaanbaatar city (2 options).
- 2 nights in Chinggis tourist base ger camp based on double occupancy with full board.
- 11 nights camping in tents or in family, included the camping gear and the tents.
- **B**-Breakfast is included per day.
- Accompanied by experienced English speaking local guide.
- Entrance fees to the specified protected areas, national parks, museums, monasteries, and temples.
- One traditional Mongolian meal (khorkhog) in "Chinggis" Tourist Camp.
- Private transport with Mongolian speaking guide, but without patrol (*you should buy the patrol).
- Visa support invitation letter if necessary.
- All expenses at the nomadic families.
- Hot baths in Tsenkher Hot Springs.
- Visa support invitation letter if necessary.

NOT INCLUDED FEATURES

- ❖ Airfare from home city to/from Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia or train.
- ❖ Not specified lunches and dinners.
- ❖ The Patrol (*you should buy it).
- ❖ Visa.
- ❖ Sleeping bag.
- ❖ Single supplement at hotel in Ulaanbaatar city.

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- ❖ Changing of date of departure from Ulaanbataar.
- ❖ Occasional flight delays or cancellation. Samar Magic Tours cannot take over the responsibility for the National or the International Airlines.
- ❖ Additional meal, services or night at hotel in Ulaanbataar.
- ❖ Excess baggage. Extra luggage can be stored at hotel in Ulaanbataar, free of cost.
- ❖ Optional activities: camel riding, horseback riding, boating, fishing, and the fishing equipments, etc.
- ❖ 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, drinks, extra 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.

▶ IMPORTANT NOTES:

- Tour and Tour Information are subject to change.
- Hotels are based on double occupancy in Ulaanbaatar city.
- Check-in at hotels is at 12:00m/Check-out at hotels is at 12:00m.
- Single gers are NOT available, during the high seasonal in Mongolia. Single supplements reflect sharing in gers and *single rooms in hotels in Ulaanbaatar.
- Mongolia's tourism infrastructure is in its infancy which requires a flexible and adventurous attitude and patience.

▶ Payment Schedule and the Reservation Procedures:

1. Deposit Due by Wire Bank Transfer at the time of confirmation of the reservation: \$500 per person.
2. The final balance is due **65** working days of the departure date.
3. All cancellation requests are required in writing.
4. We accept payment in US \$ (US Dollars), or equivalent EURO (for clients outside North America).

-The following cancellation penalties will be assessed.

For cancellations received

Up to 90-65 days before departure \$500 per person penalty applies.

64-30 days before departure 50% of the trip cost per person penalty applies.

29-0 days before departure 100% of the trip cost per person penalty applies.

We strongly recommend Trip Cancellation, Interruption and Travel insurance.

5. Price Guarantee: Your tour price is guaranteed once Samar Magic Tours has received your full payment.
6. If your balance due is not received by the due date before the 65 days of the departure, the reservation will be subject to cancellation without notice. If a booking is made within 65 days of the departure date, full payments are due immediately.
7. **CHARGE FOR CHILDREN:**
 - 0-3 years old:** free
 - 4-11 years old:** 70% at the regular adult price.
 - 12 years old and above:** 100% at the regular adult price.

For children 11 and under, if they are sharing bed with either parent and do not ask for a third bed in the same room, they will be charged the child fare. If they need the third bed in parents' room, they will be charged 80% of the adult fare. For children 12 and over, they will be charged at the regular adult price.

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WHEN IS THE BEST TIME TO GO?: Mongolia is vast! Generally, it is recommended to pay your visit from May to September when the grass is green.

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