

SAMAR MAGIC TOURS

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

MONGOLIA MOUNTAIN BIKE OR CYCLING IN THE LAND OF GENGHIS KHAN 16 DAYS



Mountain bike across Mongolia in one adventure filled Journey

- Tour Highlights:** Explore the vast beauty of this the land-based culture of its people, and natural places.
- 16 days fully supported biking tour includes 12 days of biking. 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.
 - 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.
- 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.
- Visit the most important monasteries Gandan, Amarbayasgalant, Erdene Zuu, Arraybal and Shankh.
- 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.



 For more information, please visit us at www.samarmagictours.com

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- 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.
- This trip offers plenty of pleasure hikes and interesting cultural encounters.
- Have your first ger camp experience in "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.
- Enjoy the hot baths and relax in Tsenkher hot springs.
- Mountain bike 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.
- We would be pleased to have you join us!**

▶ **Trip summary:**

- ▶ **Tour Code:** SMT-MB-16D
- ▶ **Meeting Point:** Ulaanbataar, Mongolia
- ▶ **Departure Point:** Ulaanbataar, Mongolia
- ▶ **Group size:** Minimum 3-4 adults or more participants-This tour operates on a minimum of 03 and a maximum of +12-16 participants.
- ▶ **Maximum:** 6 participants in each vehicle.
- ▶ **Length:** 16 days/15 nights
- ▶ **Difficulty level:** Easy to moderate.
- ▶ **Weight Limit:** 15-20 kgs (33-44 lbs)-extra luggage can be stored free of cost at hotel in Ulaan Bataar city.
- ▶ **Number of days cycling:** 12 (plus 1 half day)
- ▶ **Average daily distance:** 60-85kms (30-43 miles) or more.

Short Tour Description	Accommodation	Food
Day 1-Ulaanbaatar	Hotel	D
Day 2-Tuul River Nomad's Valley	Chinggis Tourist Camp	B+L+D
Day 3-Terelj -Turtle Rock-Arrayabal Temple	Chinggis Tourist Camp	B+L+D
Day 4-Amarbayasgalant monastery	Tourist Ger Camp	B+L+D
Days 5/7 Amarbayasgalant-Ugii lake	Tent	B+L+D
Day 8-A leisure day in Ugii lake	Tent	B+L+D
Day 9-Karakorum-Erdene zuu monastery	Tent	B+L+D
Day 10-Tenkher Hot Springs	Tourist Ger Camp	B+L+D
Days 11/12-Orkhor river Waterfall	Tent	B+L+D
Day 13-Uvgun Temple-Khogno Khaan mountain	Tent	B+L+D
Day 14-Bayangobi desert-Ulaanbaatar	Hotel	B+L
Day 15-Ulaanbaatar	Hotel	B+D
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 Hotel . Free time. Have welcome dinner at local restaurant "El Latino", featuring Mongolian and Western specialties. Overnight at hotel.

 **Day 2 Ulaanbaatar-Gandan monastery-Chinggis Tourist 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 nomads as they truly respect the nature especially the rivers and the surface water. In route, stop to observe

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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. 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 Camp is Highly recommended by "Lonely Planet Mongolia" by the author Michael Kohn.

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

Breakfast. Today, mountain bike to Tereelj National Park (50kms/25miles) for a walking tour to Turtle Rock and mountain biking 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 Tereelj 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, mountain bike or drive back to Chinggis tourist traditional ger camp (50kms/25miles). Free time for mongolian archery, etc. Dinner and overnight.

Day 4 Chinggis Tourist Camp-Ulaan Baatar-Orkhon Bridge-Amarbayasgalant monastery (B, L, D)

Breakfast. After, drive for 5 and half hours (~360km/180miles) to the starting point of the biking trip in Orkhon Bridge via Ulaanbaatar (lunch in local restaurant in Ulaanbaatar). Mountain bike to Amarbayasgalant monastery (60km/30miles), situated in the northern central Mongolia. After Erdene Zuu monastery in Karakorum, Amarbayasgalant monastery is considered the most important monastery in Mongolia. It's also one of the most beautiful. Visit Amarbayasgalant monastery, 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. Free time. Overnight in traditional ger dwellings at the Tourist camp.

Days 5-7 Amarbayasgalant monastery-Ugii lake (B, L, D)

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 mountain bike through amazing scenery of wide-open steppes in 3 days to Ugii lake. Camping days in tents.

Day 8 Ugii lake (B, L, D)

Breakfast. A free day to relax in the freshwater Lake Ogii. This freshwater lake is located in the valley of the Orkhon River. Ogii lake is a wonderful place for birdlife (cranes and ducks, to name just a few species, migrate to the area around late April & May). This a freshwater lake located in the valley of the Orkhon River. Optional you can fish, boating, ride horses with local nomads. You may be invited to share a cup of airag or koumiss (fermented mare's milk) with these friendly and hospitable people. Camping in tent.

Day 9 Karakorum-Erdene zuu monastery (B, L, D)

Breakfast. Today, we cycle along the Orkhon river till we reach Karakorum - the first capital of the Mongolian Empire of Genghis Khan (~90km/45miles) but on a smooth hard pack ground. "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. The former capital still lies in ruins after being leveled by Chinese Min dynasty troops in 1380-ies. Visitors, such as Marco Polo, described its ornate building, including a 2500 sq. meters Palace of Worldly Peace. 400 meter long with 108 Stupas still surrounds Erdene Zuu Monastery which was

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built in 1586. It was restored in 1760. 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 monastery grounds and several chapels depicts excellent examples of Buddhist iconography dating from the sixteenth century. Camping in tents by Orkhon river.

Day 10 Tsenkher Hot Springs (B, L, D)

Breakfast. Further mountain bike to Tsenkher Hot Springs. Enjoy the hot baths and relax. Overnight in tourist gers base camp.

Days 11/12 Khurjirt-Shankh Temple-Orkhon Waterfall (B, L, D)

Breakfast. Mountain bike to Orkhon Waterfall 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. Mountain bike to Orkhon Waterfall. Camping in tent by the river.

Day 13 Orkhon Waterfall-Khogno Khaan mountain-Uvgun Temple (B, L, D)

Breakfast. Mountain bike 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. Camping in tent

Day 14 Bayangobi desert-Ulaanbataar (B, L)

Breakfast. Afterward, mountain bike or drive for the Bayangobi desert. Explore and hiking to the sand dunes. Drive back to Ulaanbaatar (270kms/135miles). Transfer to the hotel. Free time. Overnight at hotel.

Day 15 Ulaanbataar (B, D)

Breakfast. Free day. Shop for souvenirs, original pure cashmere gifts and garments. Farewell dinner. Overnight at hotel.

Day 16 Departure Mongolia or Post tour (B)

Breakfast. Transfer to Ulaanbaatar airport . Departure Mongolia. **End of our services.**

► **Flower Japanese Top Hotel:** with 180 rooms, the Flower is one of the biggest hotels in the city. Free sauna and Japanese-style Bath for the clients, Chinese, European and Japanese restaurants. Located on a quiet and peaceful hill of Ulaanbaatar overlooking the city center and surrounding mountains, the Hotel is also very convenient for anyone to use as a base for whatever one wishes to do: just 20 min by car from the International and Domestic Airport, 10 min from the Railway Station as well as business/shopping centers of the City.

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ACCOMMODATION SERVICES:

- 180 comfortable rooms
- TV with remote control, cable movie channels
- Full bath amenities
- Iron, ironing boards on request
- Mini bar
- High speed Internet access
- 24-hour room service

RESTAURANT SERVICES:

- Altai restaurant (European and Mongolian national cuisine).
- Fuji restaurant (Japanese cuisine).
- Hana restaurant (Chinese cuisine).
- Karaoke Bar
- Cafe/Lounges

BUSINESS SERVICES:

- Business center in Flower hotel
- Conference hall
- DHL service

THE OTHER SERVICES:

- beauty salon
- business center
- currency exchange
- laundry
- luggage room
- massage
- taxis
- Japanese style Bath
- sauna
- security service

THE TOUR COST INCLUDES:

- All transportation listed in the itinerary, included the patrol.
- 3 nights of accommodation at Hotel based on double occupancy with daily breakfast.
- 4 nights in the specified tourist camps, based on double occupancy.
- 8 nights camping in tents, based on double occupancy, included the camping gear.
- Specified meals per day.
- Services of English speaking guide.
- Entrance fees to the all specified protected areas, museums and monasteries.
- Sightseeing specified cost.
- Specified cultural program.
- One Mongolian traditional folk songs concert.
- All camping materials, tent, kitchen equipments, etc.
- 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.
- ❖ The Bikes: *We can not rent the fishing equipments and the bikes.
- ❖ Visa.

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- ❖ Sleeping bag.
- ❖ Drinks.
- ❖ **Excess baggage:** Private luggage allowance max 15-20kg (33-44lbs) per person, extra luggage can be stored free of cost at hotel in Ulaan Bataar city.
- ❖ Single supplement at hotel in Ulaanbaatar city.
- ❖ 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 city.
- ❖ 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, Mongolia poor road conditions, etc.

IMPORTANT NOTES ABOUT MONGOLIAN TOURS

- 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 city.
- Accommodation in the countryside of Mongolia: Outside Ulaanbaatar, accommodation is in traditional Ger or camping in tents. The Traditional Gers Based Camps which are circular tents or camping in tent. Facilities in Traditional Gers Based Camps are fairly basic, each Ger contains 2 beds, a wood stove, bedding, and a simple chest. Hot water is not always available.
- Mongolia's tourism infrastructure is in its infancy which requires a flexible and adventurous attitude and patience.
- 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.

PAYMENT SCHEDULE AND THE RESERVATION PROCEDURES

1. Deposit Due by Wire Bank Transfer at the time of confirmation of the reservation: **\$600.00 or 500.00 Euro** per person.
2. The final balance is due **45** working days of the departure date.
3. We accept payment in US \$ (US Dollars), or in EURO.

-The following cancellation penalties will be assessed.
-All cancellation requests are required in writing. Telephone / verbal cancellation is not accepted.
-Air or train cancellation terms are additional.

-For cancellations received

Up to 90-65 days before departure \$600.00 or 500.00 Euro 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.

4. **Price Guarantee:** Your tour price is guaranteed once Samar Magic Tours has received your full payment.

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5. If your balance due is not received by the due date before the **45** days of the departure, the reservation will be subject to cancellation without notice. If a booking is made within **45** days of the departure date, full payments are due immediately.

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.

-Please note when you choose your clothes:


April to May, or on September: warm days and cool nights around (6-10°C).

June, July to August: is summertime, days around (15°C-30°C), nights around (10/20°C).

DANGERS/ANNOYANCES

Mongolia is a safe place to be. As a visitor you are unlikely to experience any serious problems. However, like anywhere else there are a few things that visitors should be aware of, things that will need extra care and attention. Pick pocketing and bag slitting is most common in crowded places such as the black market, on buses or at tourist attractions such as Gandan Monastery. Bag-slashers attack "obvious tourists" frequently at the following locations: Black Market (bazaar), outside Post Office, Railway station, and crowded bus lines in Ulaanbaatar city. Valuables should be kept in a money belt and kept underneath your clothing or in the security box at your hotel in Ulaanbaatar city. Be careful about being seen with large amounts of money outside.

In the countryside of Mongolia: there is not any problem. The nomadic families are very hospitable. We ask you to remember that when we visit the nomadic people, we are guests in their homes, so it is appropriate to offer them small gifts in return for their hospitality.

 **Tel:** (976-11-311051);  **Fax:** (976-11-327503);  **USA Voice Mails/Fax:** (1-206-888-4286)