



5-day of Naadam Festival Mongolia Special Group Tour (July 09-July 13)

Key Information:

Trip Length: 5 days/4 nights.

Tour Code: **SMT-NFT-5D**

Specialty Categories: Festival in Mongolia, Cultural Journey, Local Culture, Sports.

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

Group Size: **2-32 travelers-guaranteed!**

Hot Season: **July 09-July 13**

Tour Highlights: Upon your arrival in Ulaanbaatar ``Genghis Khan`` New Airport (52 km/31.33



miles, +2 hrs driving, depending on the high traffic), 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. 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 10th-July 12th**, 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. **We would be pleased to have you join us!**



• **The Mongolian National Wrestling:** This spectacular event takes place in the Central Stadium. There are a total of 512 fighters, of which only one (1) will be the winner, losing the first to touch the ground, except for hands and feet. The wrestlers honor the judges and the public with the eagle dance before to start the round of matches, and the winner also performs the eagle dance after finishing each match. The title of **Nachin or Falcón** is given to a fighter who wins 5 rounds, **Zaan or Elefante** is a winner of 7 rounds. The wrestler who wins all 9 rounds becomes the national wrestling champion and is awarded the title of **Arslan or Leon**. A wrestler, who has been a Lion twice, is honored with the title of **Avarga or Champion**.



• **Archery:** Archery competitions had great military importance in the times of the **Mongol Empire**. The archers line up and shoot arrows at the target which are the hollow balls of fur stacked in a pyramid shape. The target consists of 360 leather rings fixed to the wall 40-50 cm high and 4 long. Men and women shoot 40 and 20 arrows respectively. Judges score a hit shot or a missed shot. If the archer is correct, the judges turn their faces towards the archer with their arms raised and sing the praise song. If the archer is correct, the judges turn their faces towards the archer with their arms raised and sing the praise song. The winner of archery is awarded a title Erkhiiin Mergen Kharvaach, which means **Archer of Greater Wisdom**.





• **Horse races:** they take place in the steppes with **1800-2000 horses** and a distance between **15 to 30kms**. This is a tough test of strength and mastery for riders of different ages, from **3 to 10 years old**.

The riders are girls and boys. They are races designed to value the horse and not the rider, if the rider falls and the horse crosses the finish line first, he is the winner. In addition, the riders do not exceed 10 years. In the horse race, more than 1,800 horses, divided into 6 age groups, take part in the races. The horses compete in the 35km distance, and the colts compete in the 15km distance.



• **The launch of the taba (shagai in Mongolian):** It consists of throwing a bone with the fingers and trying to hit two tabas placed on a board about 10m away. **Shagai games** are especially popular during Naadam. In the shagai game, the thrown shagai usually lands on one of the following sides: **horse, camel, sheep, or goat**. A fifth side, empty, is possible on uneven ground. The Mongolians venerate some parts of the bones of animals that are part of their domestic livestock and use them both in their religious rites and in their traditional entertainment and games.

Knuckleball shooting is one of those traditional games, very popular, which is practiced in teams of six to eight members. On a smooth wooden plank, players throw thirty marble tablets – similar to dominoes – against a target made up of ram's paws to get them to fall within the defined target area. While practicing shooting, the players sing traditional melodies and songs typical of this game. Each member of a team has their own game instruments, made by hand, and wears clothing with badges that indicate their classification and merits. The bonds of friendship between the members of a team are unbreakable and the players are guided by rules of conduct based on dignity and mutual respect. The rites, knowledge and



skills related to bone shooting, as well as the techniques for manufacturing instruments, accessories and equipment are passed on from masters to apprentices. The shooting of the knucklebones creates a propitious climate so that, learning from each other and helping each other, the players contribute to the



success of their respective teams, as well as to their personal development and the general well-being of society. This traditional game brings together people of different origins, stimulates their interaction, fosters respect for others – particularly older people – and reinforces social cohesion. **Inscribed in 2014 (9.COM) in the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.**



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BRIEF ITINERARY:

July 09, Day 1-Upon your arrival in Ulaanbaatar ``Genghis Khan`` New Airport, meet **Samar Magic Tours team. Mongol Deel Festival.** Ulaanbaatar City tour. (L)

July 10, Day 2-Ulaanbaatar-**Horse racing of Naadam Festival**-Ulaanbaatar (B)(L)

July 11, Day 3-**Naadam Festival.** (B)(L)

July 12, Day 4-**Naadam Festival.** (B)(L)

July 13, Day 5-**Departure Mongolia.** (B)



DAY BY DAY ITINERARY:

July 09, Day 1-Upon your arrival in **Ulaanbaatar `` Genghis Khan `` New Airport** and after custom formalities and baggage claim, you will be met by **Samar Magic Tours team** and taken to the centrally located hotel in Ulaanbaatar (by hotels policy the check-in time is after **02:00PM/14:00**). Today, we attend the **Mongol Deel 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 09**, 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. **Welcome lunch in traditional local restaurant. 06:00PM-**
Mongolian National Performers (concert which includes the Tsam dance, traditional Mongolian



singers, dancers, Tuvan throat singing and contortionists). Overnight at selected and confirmed hotel. **Dinner is not included. (L)**



July 10, Day 2-Breakfast. 08:00AM-Meet Samar Magic Tours team at reception of the hotel Breakfast. Drive outside west of Ulaanbaatar city (about 30-35kms/19-22miles) to see 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.** Transfer to hotel. Overnight at selected and confirmed hotel. **Dinner is not included. (B)(L)**



July 11, Day 3-Breakfast. **08:00AM**-Meet Samar Magic Tours team at reception of the hotel. Transfer to **National Sports Stadium** 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 Erkhiiin Mergen Kharvaach that means Archer of Greatest Wisdom. **Lunch is included in local restaurant.** Transfer to hotel. Overnight at selected and confirmed hotel. **Dinner is not included. (B)(L)**



July 12, Day 4-Breakfast. **08:00AM**-Meet Samar Magic Tours team at reception of the hotel. Transfer to **National Sports Stadium** for the competitions continuous: **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. **Lunch is included in local restaurant. Naadam Festival Closing Ceremony. Shopping for souvenirs and cashmere.** Transfer to hotel. Overnight at selected and confirmed hotel. **Dinner is not included. (B)(L)**

July 13, Day 5-Breakfast. The rooms must be vacated before **12 noon** on the day of departure. Meeting with Samar Magic Tours at the hotel reception. Transfer to Ulaanbaatar `` **Genghis Khan** `` New Airport. **Departure Mongolia (B). Tour Ends.**

INCLUDED SERVICES:

- 4 nights of accommodation at confirmed Holiday Inn hotel 5* or Premium Palace hotel 4* o similar, based on double or twin standard room, with daily breakfast.
- All transportation in private by tourist bus or microbus (according to the group), including all patrol.
- All specified food **B (4), L (4)**, including one bottle of mineral water.
- Welcome lunch in traditional local restaurant.
- English or Spanish speaking local guide (according to early request!).
- All entrance fees to **Naadam Festival** in **July 11th and July 12th.**
- Mongol Deel Festival** in Ulaanbaatar in **July 9th.**
- Naadam Festival Horse Racing** in **July 10th.**
- Entrance fees museums, monuments, and monasteries.
- One Mongolian traditional folk songs concert.
- Taxes and services



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. **Early Check-in/Late Check-out.** 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, road conditions, etc.



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OUTSTANDING EXPERIENCES:

- Attendance at the **Mongolian National Holiday**. It is the most important nomadic cultural, social and sports event in Mongolia.
- Attend the **Mongol Deel Festival**.
- Listen to the mesmerizing sounds of Khoomi throat singing during a traditional dance performance.

TO CONSIDER:

- Guaranteed services from **2-32** adults.
- This is a **Special Group** to the **Naadam Festival**. It is not in private. **High season in Mongolia!**
- Mongolian visa not included.
- International flights not included.
- The hotel category information is for the Ulaanbaatar hotel.
- The entrance to the rooms in the hotels of Ulaanbaatar is at **02:00PM (14:00)**. Early entry to rooms is not included.
- The departure of the rooms in the hotels of Ulaanbaatar is at **12:00M**. Late check-out of rooms is not included.



NAADAM FESTIVAL RESERVATION CONDITIONS AND FINAL PAYMENT

Please note: Naadam Festival surcharge applies for travel from **Jul 01 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 500 or 500 € per person (five hundred + \$ US 50 or 50 €-**due to the bank discount of the intermediary & Mongolian banks**) 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 hotels in Ulaanbaatar, and the 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 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).

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

CANCELLATION:

Refunds for Mongolia tours: Deposits are non-refundable.

90-19 business days before departure: 50% of the Land Cost.

18-00 business days before departure: 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, 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, and air tickets.

CHARGE FOR CHILDREN IN MONGOLIA:

0-3 years: free;

From 4 to 11 years old: 50% of the usual adult price.

From 12 years old: 100% of the regular adult price.



FORM TO FILL IN:

NAMES AND SURNAMES (*HOW IT IS WRITTEN ON THE PASSPORT):

CITIZENSHIP:

SEX:

VALID PASSPORT NUMBER:

***DATE OF ARRIVAL IN ULAANBAATAR, NO. OF THE FLIGHT AND TIME OF ARRIVAL:**

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

FORCE MAJEURE CONDITIONS: Although it is our absolute desire to carry out the trip as detailed in the program, sometimes there are force majeure conditions that mean it can be modified. Samar Magic Tours is not legally responsible for force majeure conditions beyond the travel organization that may require 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 air 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 exceptional circumstances of force majeure it is necessary to cancel the trip, there is no obligation for compensation.

I have read and understand the Obligations and Responsibility section detailed above on the form and the General Information and Special Booking Conditions as set out in the tour information literature and accept them on behalf of myself and my group. I declare that I am not traveling against any medical advice.

SIGNATURE: _____

DATE: _____