



5-day of Authentic Naadam Festival in Karakorum Mongolia Tour (July 5th-July 13th)

Key Information:

Trip Length: 5 days/4 nights.

Trip Type: Easy.

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

Specialty Categories: Naadam Festival Rural in Karakorum, Adventure Land Cruiser Toyota 4x4 Expedition, Cultural Event Journey, Local Culture, Nature & Wildlife, and Sports.

Meeting/Departure Points: Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia (excluding flights).

Small Groups: **2-16 travelers-guaranteed!**

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.

Hot Season in Mongolia: **July 6th - July 10th!**

Total Distance: about + 1500kms/932miles.

Airfare Included: No.

Tour Customizable: Yes

Book by December 15th and save: 100 USD or 90 €!

Tour Highlights: Pick up at hotel or guesthouse in Ulaanbaatar (***not included the accommodation, transport & services in Ulaanbaatar-upon your early request!**), 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. 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 will attend the **Authentic Naadam Festival Rural** in **Karakorum**. Experience the traditional customs and lifestyle of local residents. Naadam festival in the small town gives you more chance to get closer to the people and their culture and events. **We would be pleased to have you join us!**

Mongolia Top Destinations:

Karakorum-is located about 390kms/242miles west from the capital Ulaanbaatar in Ovorkhangai province. This is **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. 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. Now there is a museum and restored. Wikipedia.

Orkhon Valley-is located west of Ulaanbaatar, along the Orkhon River in Ovorkhangai and Arkhangai Provinces, ~~was the center of the Mongol Empire, the center of the Uighur Empire, and the birthplace of~~

Mongolian Buddhism. Today, the cultural heritage of the valley constitutes a **UNESCO World Heritage Site**. Wikipedia.

Khustain Nuruu National Park (Mongolian: Хустайн нуруу, Birch Mountains): located in Tuv Province (Aimag), is a national park of Mongolia. It is also known as Hustai National Park. The Tuul River runs through the park. The Mongolian Government declared Hustai National Park as a Specially Protected Area in 1993, one year after the initiation of the reintroduction project of the Takhi (Przewalski's horse) to the Hustain Nuruu. The HNP extends through the Khentii Mountains and includes the western edge of the Mongolian steppe at the boundaries of Altanbulag, Argalant and Bayankhangai Soums (districts or regions) of Tuv Province. The park is about 120 km (74.7645 miles) from the capital city of Ulaanbaatar to the west.

In 2002, the Man and the Biosphere Reserves organization of UNESCO certified the HNP as a **member of the world biosphere network of natural reserves**. The HNPT was enrolled as a member of IUCN in 2007.

Since 1993, the HNP has implemented the following international projects, supported by the **Dutch Government**:

-Hustain Nuruu nature reserves, 1993–1997.

-Conservation of the biodiversity of the HNP, 1998–2003.

-Support to the management of the HNP, 2004–2008.

-Development of sustainable livelihoods in the buffer zone of the HNP, 2004–2008.

-Adaptation to changing conditions in the HNP and its buffer zone, 2009–2012. Wikipedia.

The Orkhon inscriptions: also known as the Orhon inscriptions, Orhun inscriptions, Khöshöö Tsaidam monuments (also spelled Khoshoo Tsaidam, Koshu-Tsaidam or Höshöö Caidam), or Kul Tigin steles (simplified Chinese: 阙特勤碑; traditional Chinese: 闕特勤碑; pinyin: Què tèqín bēi), are two memorial installations erected by the Göktürks written in **Old Turkic alphabet** in the early 8th century in the Orkhon Valley in Mongolia. They were erected **in honor of two Turkic princes, Kul Tigin and his brother Bilge Khagan**. The inscriptions, in both Chinese and Old Turkic, relate **the legendary origins of the Turks**, the golden age of their history, their subjugation by the Chinese, and their liberation by Ilterish Qaghan. According to one source, the inscriptions contain "rhythmic and parallelistic passages" that resemble that of epics. Wikipedia.

Khugnu Khan National Park (Mongolian: Хөгнө Хан) is centered on Khugnu Khan Mountain, about 60 km (37.2823 miles) east of Kharakorum. The park features many historical sites, including the ruins of a 17th-century monastery. It is located in Gurvanbulag District of Bulgan Province, about 280 km (173.984 miles) west of Ulaanbaatar. Wikipedia.

Elsen tasarkhai is a part of the Mongol Els Sand Dunes (Bayangobi Desert): which stretch from the Tuv, Uvurkhangai, and Bulgan provinces all the way west to become part of the Khugnu Khan mountain range. It is located about 280 km (173.984 miles) west of Ulaanbaatar. The sand dunes are 80 km (49.7097 miles) long total. Dividing the southern part of the sand dunes with the so-called northern Mongolian sand, Khugnu Tarna is a main road. River Tarnat flows in the western part of the sand dunes, it is soddened under its surfaces, so shrubberies such as willow, elm, dogwood, shrubbery grow there. In the north there is the rocky and woody mountain "Khugnu khaan". in the south lies Ikh Mongol which defines the central point of

Mongolia and is surrounded by the Elsen tasarkhai. The widest section of the sand dune is located in the Ikh Mongol mountain area and covers an area of 9-10 km². Half of the Ikh Mongol sand is covered by plants, so its mostly not loose sand. (mongol-guide)

BRIEF ITINERARY:

July 6, Day 1-06:00AM-Ulaanbaatar-Karakorum. (L)(D)

July 7, Day 2-Karakorum-Orkhon Valley-Turkish Memorials-Karakorum. (B)(L)(D)

July 8, Day 3-The Authentic Naadam Festival Rural in Karakorum. (B)(L)(D)

July 9, Day 4-Khugnu Khaan National Reserve-Uvgun Temple-Bayangobi Desert. (B)(L)(D)

July 10, Day 5-Hustain Nuruu National Park-Ulaanbaatar. Tour Ends or Post tour. (B)(L)

Day-by-day:

July 06, Day 1-06:00AM-Pick up at hotel or guesthouse in Ulaanbaatar (*not included the accommodation, transport & services in Ulaanbaatar-upon your early request!). A long drive on comfortable 4WD Land Cruiser Toyota vehicle west towards to **Karakorum** (about 390kms/242miles)-**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. **Free time in your own in Orkhon Valley or rest.** Great opportunities for nature lovers to hike and optional horse ride on the steppes. Overnight in tourist Gers camp in Karakorum. **(L)(D)**

July 07, Day 2-Breakfast. In the morning, **we visit the legendary Erdene zuu monastery, two turtle monuments, the statue of a penis raised** on a platform on the steppe, located near the Erdene Zuu Monastery (built in 1585), 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 tourist Gers camp in Karakorum. **(B)(L)(D)**

July 08, Day 3-Today, we attend the **Authentic Naadam Festival Rural in Karakorum.** Experience the traditional customs and lifestyle of local residents. Naadam festival in the small town gives you more chance to get closer to the people and their culture and events. Overnight in tourist Gers camp in Karakorum. **(B)(L)(D)**

July 09, Day 4-Breakfast. Drive to visit and explore Khugnu Khaan Mountain Nature Park-it is located about 280 km (173. 984 miles) west of Ulaanbaatar. Covering an area of 47000 hectares, this park contains many historical monuments, forests of silver birches and poplar trees, and sources. The ecosystem of this park is particularly interesting because the steppe and the taiga meet here. Created in 1997 as a natural reserve, **it became in 2003 a natural park.** One of the main attractions of this area is the **small Uvgun monastery** which was built in 17th century by Saint **Zanabazar** who was a great sculptor and the biggest representative of Buddhism in Mongolia. Continuous drive further to **visit Elsen Tasarkhai (also known as Bayangobi Desert)-**is a part of the 80kms/50miles long Mongol Els Sand Dunes and is located on about 280 km (173. 984 miles) west from the capital Ulaanbaatar. The nature in this area is really spectacular and great for relaxing. During the trip, you will also have **opportunities to visit a local nomadic family, optional ride two-humped Bactrian camel,** walk on sand dunes, experience staying in a traditional Mongolian dwelling ger, and walk and relax in beautifully serene nature. **Enjoy the sunset.** Accommodation in Tourist Gers Camp in Bayangobi Desert. **(B)(L)(D)**

July 10, Day 5 -Breakfast. Drive back to Ulaanbaatar. Stop in route, to visit & explore Hustain Nuruu National Park (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 100kms/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 specimen. **Visit the small local museum of the wild horses. Continuous drive.** Arrive and transfer **(*not included the accommodation, transport & services in Ulaanbaatar-upon your early request!). Tour Ends or Post tour. (B)(L)**

What's Included?

4 nights in tourist traditional camps, based on twin standard Ger for **2** persons.

All transportation in private by comfortable 4WD Land Cruiser Toyota vehicle, outside of Ulaanbaatar, including all petrol.

All specified food (**B-4** breakfasts, **L-5** lunches, **D-4** dinners), including one bottle of mineral water, per person/a day.

Services of English or Spanish speaking local guide (according to your early request!).

Attend the **Authentic Naadam Festival Rural in Karakorum**.

Entrance fees to Hustain Nuruu National Park, Khugnu Khaan National Reserve, Karakorum museum, Turkish Memorials museum, monuments, and the Erdenene zuu & Uvgun monasteries.

Visit authentic nomadic families.

Taxes and services.

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

Accommodation in Mongolia

Karakorum: Tourist Gers Camp: **3** nights.

Bayangobi Desert: 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 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.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

HOW TO JOIN: 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 **twelve 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.

Refunds: Deposits are non-refundable.

90-19 working days prior to departure: 50% of Land Cost.

18-00 working days prior to departure: No refund.

Air cancellation terms are additional: The air fares are subject to change based on availability at the time of entering the reservation. Rates in national flights 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.

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.

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.**

CHARGE FOR CHILDREN IN MONGOLIA:

0-3 years old: free;

From 4-11 years old: 50% at the regular adult price.

From 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.