



DINOSAURS OF MONGOLIA



PRIVATE PALEONTOLOGICAL JOURNEY

Trip Date: September 6 - 20, 2023



Trip Summary

This expedition is arranged in the western remote part of the Gobi desert where some of the most significant dinosaur fossils have been discovered. Your trip begins in Ulaanbaatar, where you will visit several of the best-known museums and sites such as the Laboratory of the Mongolian Institute of Paleontology. We will then fly to the heart of the Gobi desert from where we will continue traveling overland to the central and western part of the Gobi Desert where some of the most scenic and obscure landscapes await us. This part of the Gobi belongs from the middle to the late Cretaceous period, about 90-60 million years ago, which was a key period for dinosaur evolution. For the remainder of this trip, you will be living a life of an expedition member, staying in tents. Daily work includes prospecting for fossils accompanied by your paleontologist and guide and exploring the local flora and fauna. Hearty meals will be served each day by our expert field-chef following adventurous days of field prospecting and working.

Detailed Itinerary

Day 1, Sep 6 Arrival

Upon arrival at the airport, meet your guide and transfer to a centrally located hotel located near downtown Ulaanbaatar.

Enjoy a welcome dinner at a fine local restaurant. Ulaanbaatar offers a contrast between ancient traditions and the dawning of a 21st century democracy, which can be seen in the traditional gers and Buddhist monasteries coexisting with modern high-rises. (Hotel Blue Sky or similar; D)

Day 2, Sep 7 Ulaanbaatar

We will begin the day with a visit to Gandan Monastery, the seat of Buddhism in Mongolia. The monastery is considered as the seat of Buddhism and a popular spiritual destination for Mongolian from all across the country. We will visit 26 meter tall standing Buddha and visit monks in service. Next, drive through downtown Ulaanbaatar to the National History Museum for an excellent overview of Mongolia's history and culture. The exhibition includes Stone and Bronze Age art crafts, historical costumes of

Mongolia's minority tribes, sacred religious relics, and agricultural, fishing, and hunting equipment.

In the afternoon, visit Hunnu Mall, where a temporary field museum of Paleontology is in display.

We will then pay a visit to the Paleontological laboratory of Mongolia.

Here, we will have hands on experience about how the institution runs and carries out its research. In the afternoon, visit Bogd Khan Winter Palace museum,

which was home to the last Buddhist leader of Mongolia in the 20th century. Excellent collection of various art crafts and architecture can be seen here.



Enjoy dinner at a fine local restaurant. (Hotel Blue Sky or similar; B, L, D)

Day 3, Sep 8 Gobi Desert / Nemegt formations

After breakfast, fly over a vast steppe to the Gobi Desert, comprised of mountains, sand dunes and fossil beds. Upon arrival, we will meet our drives

and begin driving to the base camp at Nemegt formation. A rather long day, but you will enjoy the Gobi's rich scenery along the way.



Overnight at tent camp. (Approx. 8 hours driving; Ger Camp; B, L, D)

Nemegt locality, Gobi Desert

Day 4-9, Sep 9-14 Tarbo Localities

For the next six days, we will prospect the Gobi's vast and rich fossil beds where some of the best discoveries of large carnivorous dinosaurs have been made recently. Overnight in tents. (Tent Camp; B, L, D)



Day 10, Sep 15 Tarbo locality#2

In the last leg of our journey, we will move to more remote area of the Gobi, known as Altan Uul, where we will prospect for more fossils and discoveries. A more recent Japanese and Russian joint expeditions have been working here. We will work in this remote part of the Gobi for more fossil discoveries. Overnight in tents. (Tent camp; B, L, D)

Day 11, Sep 16 Gobi Gurvansaikhan mountains

This morning, drive back towards the central part of the Gobi Desert, reaching your ger camp located in the foothills of the Gobi Gurvansaikhan mountains. Dinner and overnight in gers. (Approx. 8 hours driving; B, L, D)

Day 12, Sep 17 Tugregiin Shiree / Flaming Cliffs

In the morning, we will begin driving to the Tugregiin Shiree, which was discovered by Mongolian scientists and co-explored by Polish expeditions in the late 1960s and



Tugrug Lake – Photo by Mongolia Quest

early 1970s. Tugrigin Shiree is perhaps most known for its famous "Fighting Dinosaurs" (a fossil of a Protoceratops and a Velociraptor locked in combat), which were discovered in the 1970s. We will explore this white sandstone escarpment for dinosaur fossils.



Western edge of the Flaming Cliffs, Gobi Desert

In the late afternoon, will drive to the legendary Flaming Cliffs, red sandstone formations that stretching over 3 kilometers in width, where hundreds of dinosaur fossils have been discovered over the course of the last century. Paleontological expeditions from many countries, including from the U.S, Poland, Japan and Russia have worked here during last 90 years. Each year, rain and wind reveal yet more fossils and every summer, exceptional new discoveries are made. We will explore the cliffs in the footsteps of legendary American explorer Roy Chapman Andrews who discovered the first dinosaur eggs here, that the world had ever seen. Enjoy a sunset view at this

majestic place before returning back to our ger camp.
(Ger Camp; B, L, D)

Day 13, Sep 18 Gobi Desert / Ulaanbaatar

After breakfast, we will drive to Dalanzadagad for our return flight to Ulaanbaatar. Upon arrival, we will transfer to our hotel. Following lunch, we will drive to the Zanabazar Fine Arts Museum, named in honour of the renowned 17th century artist and politician, who was also the first Buddhist leader of Mongolia. The museum contains one of the best collections of Buddhist art and artifacts in the world, including many of Zanabazar's original works. In the evening, enjoy dinner at a local restaurant.

(Hotel Blue Sky or similar; B, L, D)



Day 14, Sep 19 Ulaanbaatar

We will spend this day for visiting the Institute of Paleontology and Geology and getting an opportunity to provide a report on our field works.

The remainder of the day is available for last minute sightseeing. In the evening, we will attend a performance featuring traditional Mongolian dancers and hoomi (throat) singers. (Hotel Blue Sky or similar; B, L, D)

Day 15, Sep 20 Departure

After breakfast, we will transfer to the airport for departure. (B)

Mongolia Quest reserves the right to alter the above itinerary if deemed necessary

B=Breakfast, L=Lunch, D=Dinner

Land Prices:

Based on 4-5 participants:	\$6,550 per person, twin occupancy;
Based on 6-9 participants:	\$6,200 per person, twin occupancy;
Based on 10 and more participants:	\$5,900 per person, twin occupancy;
Domestic flight:	\$350 per person;
Optional single supplement:	\$610 per person (including a single tent).



Land prices include:

- Land transportation as indicated in the itinerary based on using Toyota Land Cruiser jeeps seating 3 passengers each;
- Accommodations in a standard room at hotels, gers in the countryside based on a twin occupancy;
- Airport arrival and departure transfers;
- Sleeping bags; expedition style tents and mats;
- All meals indicated as B, L or D;
- All entrance fees as indicated in the itinerary;
- Guest lecturer's Mongolia land expenses and participation;
- English speaking national guide throughout your stay;
- Bottled water per person per day and unlimited supply of boiled waters.

Land prices do not include:

International and domestic airfare; personal laundry and drinks not mentioned in the itinerary; travel insurance; medical evacuation costs; excess baggage charges; visa fees; gratuities; photography and video fees and any other item not mentioned as included.

How to book this trip

You may book any trip with us by filling out our Trip Application Form, which you can download using Adobe Acrobat Reader and can send to us as an electronic file via e-mail at Info@MongoliaQuest.com. All reservations are subject to deposit of \$400 per person. Deposits are refundable until 90 days prior to the start of the program less a \$250 administrative fee.

Please arrange a wire transfer to Mongolia Quest bank account as per following instructions:

Beneficiary name: MONGOLIA QUEST
LLC

Beneficiary's address:
Suite #504, Dalai Tower UNESCO Str
31, Sukhbaatar District - 1
Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia

Mongoliaquest
(976) 7000 9747
info@MongoliaQuest.com

**Beneficiary's account
number:** 3005111070



Beneficiary's bank name: Golomt avenue
bank Khoroo #1, Sukhbaatar district
Beneficiary's bank address: Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia
Monnis branch
Beneficiary's bank swift
3rd floor, Monnis tower, Chinggis **code:** GLMTMNUB

Once we receive your trip application form, we will send you information about how to wire your deposit to us, and a confirmation letter with information related with visa and international airfare reservations. You will also receive our pre-departure Travel Guide, which will include information on weather, suggested reading list, a list of items to pack, etc.

About 4 weeks prior to your arrival date, we will send you Final Departure Information which will include your final itinerary along with any other necessary updated information regarding the logistics of your trip.

Payment and Cancellation Policy

As mentioned above, a deposit of \$400 per person is required to reserve space for the trip that you have chosen. Full payment is due 90 days prior to the start of the trip. In the case of a cancellation, please contact us in written form.

Notification of cancellation must be received in writing by Mongolia Quest. At the time, we receive your written cancellation, the following penalties will apply:

- Up to 90 days prior to departure: \$250 per person handling fee;
- 89-60 days prior to departure: 20% of the trip cost per person;
- 60-45 days prior to departure: 50% of the trip cost per person;
- 44-30 days prior to departure: 75% of the trip cost, per person;
- 29 days prior to departure, or after the trip starts: no-refund.

Some airfares may be nonrefundable. Once an expedition has departed, there will be no refunds from MQ for any unused portions of the trip. The above policy also applies to all extensions and independent travel arrangements made in conjunction with this program.

Tier pricing

Our prices are based on tier pricing. At the time of booking, we will bill you for the amount based on the confirmed number of trip participants. In case the number of travelers



increases at the last moment, we will reimburse the balance of your payment in accordance with the corresponding tier pricing, after you return home.

Travel notes

How to get to Mongolia

The official Mongolian international civil flight carrier is Mongolian Airlines or MIAT. Currently it serves flights between Beijing, Seoul, Tokyo, Hong Kong, Singapore, Berlin and Moscow. Beijing is the most common international gateway city to Ulaanbaatar. Mongolian Airlines and Air China fly daily between the two cities. Seoul, Korea is the second most popular gateway city; is served by both Mongolian Airlines and Korean Air. If you are coming from Europe, you may also consider Russian Aeroflot in addition to MIAT. Turkish Airlines has recently started offering flights between Istanbul and Ulaanbaatar. A private airline “Hunnu” offers direct flights between Bangkok- Ulaanbaatar and Paris-Ulaanbaatar. During the summer season, if no seats are available on any of these major carriers, there are ways to fly to Mongolia through local cities in China and Russia. Please contact us for more information.

Also, a major branch of the Trans-Siberian Railway goes through Mongolia from Moscow stopping in Irkutsk and Ulan-Ude, before stopping in Ulaanbaatar and continuing to Chinese Erlain and Beijing. The seats are usually in high demand and booking needs to be done well in advance.

Visa Information

U.S, Canadian, and Japanese citizens are allowed to enter Mongolia without a visa for up to 30 days. All other nationals are required to get a visa before entering Mongolia. If your visa-application requires it, we will send you an invitation letter upon request.

Starting from year 2022, Mongolia introduced eVisa digital form where foreign nationals could obtain the visa by applying online with eVisa.mn. All foreign citizens need a visa for Mongolia and a passport valid for at least 6 months from the date of arrival to enter the country. The visa application protocol a foreign passport holder can use depends on their nationality. The Mongolia eVisa is valid for either tourism or business purposes. It is highly recommended that you keep your Mongolia eVisa with you either as a soft copy (smartphone, tablet, etc.) or as a hard copy in case of any failure in the system.



WHO CAN ENTER MONGOLIA WITH THIS DOCUMENT

Only 35 nationalities can apply for a Mongolia eVisa exclusively online through a simplified electronic application protocol. As well as holders of passports issued by Hong Kong or Macao.

Travelers must have a health certificate prior to departure from the first embarkation point. Minors under the minimum age for a test in the country of departure are exempt.

All nationalities eligible can apply for the documents [here](#).

To fill out the Mongolia eVisa application, you will have to provide specific information about yourself (including your full name and birthday), details about your trip (including your passport number, information about previous visits or applications, the accommodation where you will stay), and upload supporting documents.

Your personal details on the document should correspond with those in your passport or on your ID card. This will ensure that you do not experience possible difficulties when your certificate is being checked against your identification document.

You can apply online in 3 easy steps, once you submit the form, your request is processed. You will receive all communication and the document via email. You should keep a printed copy of the visa as well as an electronic copy with you in case you are asked to present it to any officials during your trip. Visit the EVisa.mn for more information.

Weather

Mongolia enjoys over 280 sunny days a year. However, because Mongolia has a continental weather pattern, weather can fluctuate drastically during any given day. We recommend packing warm clothes even if you are coming during the hottest months. Our pre-departure information will provide details regarding the weather along with a suggested packing list. Layering is the best plan to be ready for a wide array of Mongolian weather patterns.



Safety

Mongolia is devoid of any political, religious and ethnic sectarian conflicts and is considered one of the safest countries in the world for international travelers. However, like in any other country, crimes do happen, so a good sense of caution and respect shown to the locals can help to avoid unnecessary confrontations. Mongolians are generally hospitable people who love to interact with foreigners.

Food

Mongolia's capital, Ulaanbaatar, hosts an excellent collection of fine restaurants of international cuisine. In the countryside, tour establishments offer hearty meals with a balance of meat and vegetables. Meat in Mongolia is excellent in that the whole country is essentially "free-range" terrain. Even your strictest dietary restrictions can now be met with proper information in advance and preparation by us.

Accommodation

Newly renovated Soviet era hotels are located at some of the best locations in downtown Ulaanbaatar. They offer comfortable rooms and friendly services. There are also newer hotels like Kempinsky Khan Palace, Ramada Ulaanbaatar and Best Western Inn. The countryside accommodations are arranged in "ger camps," which provide authentic nomadic felt tents with centralized bathroom and toilet facilities located nearby. They offer clean, comfortable beds and plentiful meals.

Information about Currency and Payment Methods

Mongolia's national currency is called tugrik and the exchange rate is about 3,200 tugrik to a US dollar. Major currencies can be exchanged at the hotels and pawnshops, and ATM machines are widely available throughout Ulaanbaatar and provincial centers. However, Australian dollars can usually only be exchanged at banks. Traveler's checks can be cashed at banks and major credit cards are accepted at most places in the capital, but only Mongolian cash is accepted in the countryside. We recommend that you travel with Mongolian national currency equal to at least \$200 when touring in the countryside.



Souvenirs

Like any other places, Mongolia offers great souvenirs ranging from camel wool sweaters to cashmere scarves and traditional wooden puzzle games. Mongolian vodkas can be an excellent gift. At several stores, you can also find a range of traditional Mongolian musical instruments such as the famed morin khuur or “horse headed fiddle.” Bargaining is not very customary; most items are sold for the price on their labels. If you plan to shop for souvenirs, we recommend purchasing locally as many items as possible since your purchases will be a direct contribution to the local community.

Travel Insurance

With Mongolia stretching over 1.5 million square kilometers and its population concentrated in the cities, we will be travelling through some remote areas away from good roads and medical facilities. We strongly recommend that you consider getting standard emergency medical evacuation insurance as a means to protect yourself from unexpected accidents that can happen during any trip. Nothing is better than traveling with peace of mind knowing that you have prepared for the trip as much as possible in advance

Traveling with Mongolia Quest

Because it is still a developing country, traveling in Mongolia requires a sense of humor and patience. New roads and bridges are being built every year but the paved road system is still limited in the countryside. You may experience flight delays and find road conditions bumpy and dusty. But the experience of traveling in Mongolia will far exceed some personal compromises in comfort. We like to say that the best part of traveling in Mongolia is spontaneous events and interactions, which lead to unexpected interactions, discoveries, and experiences that will make your trip unique and memorable. At Mongolia Quest, we ensure the integrity of your overall itinerary but at the same time, will go out of our way to make necessary changes in order to enrich your travel experience with us.

ENJOY YOUR TRIP!