

MONGOLIAN ARCHAEOLOGICAL QUEST

June 15-28, 2025



In collaboration with National University of
Mongolia, Department of Anthropology and
Archeology

TRIP SUMMARY



Join Dr. Iderkhangai and our expert archaeological team on a unique expedition to one of Mongolia's most significant new archaeological discoveries in Selenge province. This exclusive trip will provide an in-depth exploration of the ancient civilizations that once thrived in Mongolia, spanning the late Bronze Age, the Hunnu Empire, and the Xianbei period.

Dr. Iderkhangai, an accomplished archaeologist with a proven track record of groundbreaking discoveries, will guide the team with his expertise. His previous work includes uncovering the Hunnic royal palace at Lunchen and deciphering monumental inscriptions that have reshaped our understanding of Mongolia's ancient history.

Our destination, first uncovered in 2018, has revealed artifacts from three different historical periods, intricately layered within the same burial site—a rare and fascinating discovery. This expedition will offer a rare chance to work alongside experienced researchers, gain hands-on excavation skills, and immerse oneself in Mongolia's stunning landscapes and vibrant culture. As we delve into the depths of history, we invite you to join us on this thrilling journey of discovery and insight.

MEET YOUR TRIP LEADER



Dr. Iderkhangai Tumor-ochir is a leading Mongolian archaeologist with over two decades of experience in the field. Since 2003, he has worked on numerous international projects, collaborating with experts from Turkey, France, Switzerland, Russia, and South Korea. His career spans major excavations, including the Hunnic settlement of Bayanbulag and the discovery of royal tombs in Arkhangai Province.

In 2017, Dr. Iderkhangai earned his PhD from the Russian Academy of Sciences, and since then, he has led groundbreaking research in Mongolia.

Among his notable achievements is the discovery of the Hunnic royal palace at Lunchen (the “Dragon City”), where his team uncovered artifacts with the inscription “Son of Heaven Shanyu,” a globally significant find.

His work has also shed light on the connections between the Bronze Age Square Tomb culture and the Huns, bridging key gaps in Mongolian history. Dr. Iderkhangai’s findings have been consistently recognized at Mongolia’s top archaeological conferences, earning him multiple awards for his research. He continues to lead archaeological expeditions across the country, contributing to the deeper understanding of Mongolia’s ancient civilizations.

ITINERARY

DAY 1, JUNE 15: ARRIVAL

Arrive in Ulaanbaatar, where you'll be welcomed by your guide and transferred to your hotel. Depending on your arrival time, you can take a brief city tour or relax after your flight. Overnight in Ulaanbaatar.

Overnight at hotel. (Hotel Shangri La or similar; D)



DAY 2, JUNE 16: DRIVE TO THE ORKHON ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE



After breakfast, begin your journey to the Orkhon soum in Selenge province. This soum holds significant historical and archaeological value, as it is situated within the Orkhon Valley Cultural Landscape, a UNESCO World Heritage site, recognized for its association with several ancient nomadic civilizations, including the Xiongnu, Turkic, and Mongol Empires. Upon arrival, settle into your camp and enjoy the peaceful surroundings. **Overnight at a tent camp. (B,L,D)**

DAYS 3-4, JUNE 17-18: ARCHAEOLOGICAL DIGGING PARTICIPATION



For the next two days, you'll participate in archaeological excavations at the Orkhon Valley site. This unique hands-on experience will give you insight into the daily work of archaeologists as they uncover ancient artifacts and structures. You'll receive guidance from experts as you dig, sift, and examine finds that offer glimpses into Mongolia's distant past. **(Tent Camp; B, L, D)**

DAYS 5, JUNE 19: DRIVE TO LAKE HOVSGOL

After breakfast, set off on a scenic drive to Lake Hovsgol, one of Mongolia's largest and most pristine lakes. Known as the "Blue Pearl of Mongolia," this freshwater lake is surrounded by stunning mountain landscapes and rich biodiversity. Upon arrival, check into your accommodation near the lake and unwind by its tranquil shores. Overnight at a ger camp.
(Ger Camp; B,L,D)



DAY 6-7, JUNE 20-21: EXPLORE LAKE HOVSGOL



Spend two days exploring the natural beauty of Lake Hovsgol. Engage in a range of activities such as hiking, horseback riding, or simply enjoying the peaceful scenery. You can also take a boat trip on the lake, visit local nomadic families, or explore the surrounding forests, home to diverse wildlife. These two days will offer a perfect balance of adventure and relaxation. Overnight at a ger camp. **Overnight in gers. (Ger Camp; B, L, D)**

DAY 8, JUNE 22: DRIVE BACK TO EXCAVATION SITE

Depart from Lake Hovsgol and retrace your steps to the Orkhon Valley. Along the way, take in the diverse landscapes of northern and central Mongolia. Upon arrival, enjoy a relaxing evening at the camp, preparing for your next round of archaeological activities. Overnight at a tent camp. **(Tent Camp; B, L, D)**

DAY 9-11, JUNE 23-25: ARCHAEOLOGICAL DIGGING PARTICIPATION



Return to the archaeological site for three more days of excavation work. Dive deeper into the fascinating history of the Orkhon Valley, learning about the ancient cultures that once thrived in this area. As before, you'll work alongside experienced archaeologists, contributing to the discovery and preservation of Mongolia's heritage.

Overnight at a tent camp. **(Tent Camp; B, L, D)**

DAY 12, JUNE 26: DRIVE BACK TO ULAANBAATAR

After breakfast, drive back to Ulaanbaatar, arriving in the afternoon. Take the rest of the day to relax or explore the city at your leisure. Overnight in Ulaanbaatar.
(Hotel Shangri La or similar; B,L,D)



DAY 13, JUNE 27: ULAANBAATAR SIGHTSEEING

Spend the day exploring the highlights of Ulaanbaatar. Visit key sites such as Gandan Monastery, Sukhbaatar Square, and the National Museum of Mongolia. In the afternoon, explore the vibrant local markets or visit the Zaisan Memorial for panoramic views of the city. End the day with a traditional Mongolian dinner at a local restaurant. Overnight in Ulaanbaatar.
(Hotel Shangri La or similar; B,L,D)

DAY 14, JUNE 28: DEPARTURE

After breakfast transfer to the airport for your return flight home. (B)

B = Breakfast | L = Lunch | D = Dinner

Ger camp = The traditional portable, circular, wooden dwelling used by the nomadic peoples.

Field camp = A bit more sophisticated camping/glamping, more permanent in nature.

Tent camp = Expedition style, often moving regularly and smaller in size and scale.

MONGOLIA QUEST RESERVES THE RIGHT TO ALTER THE ABOVE ITINERARY IF DEEMED NECESSARY.

LAND PRICES

Based on 2 participants:	\$5,100 per person, standard twin occupancy;
Based on 3-5 participants:	\$4,830 per person, standard twin occupancy;
Based on 6-9 participants:	\$4,450 per person, standard twin occupancy;
Based on 10+ participants:	\$4,110 per person, standard twin occupancy;
Optional single supplement:	\$690 per person

***Please note:** As a part of our effort to support international and Mongolian research and conservation efforts, Mongolia Quest may decide to subsidize the trip cost for one or two students or scholars in joining this expedition. **They will not influence the tier pricing and only fully paid participants will determine the final per person price.**

LAND PRICES INCLUDE:	LAND PRICES DO NOT INCLUDE:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Land transportation as indicated in the itinerary based on using a Mitsubishi Delica Van for every 4-5 passengers; • Accommodation in a standard room at hotels and standard gers in the countryside; • Airport arrival & 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; • Camel and horse riding fees; • Guest lecturer's expenses and participation; • English speaking national guide throughout your stay; • A bottled water per person per day and unlimited supply of boiled waters. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • International and airfare; • Personal laundry; • Drinks not mentioned in the itinerary; • Travel insurance; • Medical evacuation costs; • Excess baggage charges; • Visa fees; • Gratuities; • Photography and video fees • 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 #1205, Dalai Tower, 1st Horoo, 13th Sud-district, Sukhbaatar District,
Ulaanbaatar 14230, Mongolia;

Tel: (976) 7000 9747

Email: info@MongoliaQuest.com

Beneficiary's account number: 3005111070

Beneficiary's bank name: Golomt bank

Beneficiary's bank address:

Monnis branch

3rd floor, Monnis tower, Chinggis avenue

Khoroo #1, Sukhbaatar district

Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia

Beneficiary's bank swift 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.

***Please note:** As a part of our effort to support international and Mongolian research and conservation efforts, Mongolia Quest may decide to subsidize the trip cost for one or two students or scholars in joining this expedition. **They will not influence the tier pricing and only fully paid participants will determine the final per person price.**

TRAVEL NOTES

How to get to Mongolia

The official Mongolian international civil flight carriers Mongolian Airlines or MIAT. Currently it serves flights between Beijing, Seoul, Tokyo, Hong Kong, Bangkok and Frankfurt. Other popular airlines include Asiana, Pusan and Turkish airlines. South Korea is the most common international gateway city to Ulaanbaatar. Mongolian Airlines and Turkish Airlines fly daily to/from Istanbul. If you are coming from Europe, you may also find Turkish Airlines a convenient connection. 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. The seats are usually in high demand and booking needs to be done well in advance.

Visa Information

U.S, Canadian, Japanese, Australian and citizens of most European counties 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.

THE LIST OF THE COUNTRIES TO BE EXEMPTED FROM VISA REQUIREMENTS TO VISIT MONGOLIA UP TO 30 DAYS IN THE YEARS OF 2023-2025

- | | | |
|--|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Czech Republic• Republic of Austria• Kingdom of Belgium• Hungary• Hellenic Republic• Kingdom of Denmark• Kingdom of Spain• Italian Republic• Republic of Latvia• Republic of Lithuania• Swiss Confederation• Republic of Bulgaria• Republic of Ireland• Republic of Philippines | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Principality of Liechtenstein• Grand Duchy of Luxembourg• Republic of Malta• Kingdom of the Netherlands• Republic of Poland• Portuguese Republic• Slovak Republic• Republic of Slovenia• Republic of Finland• Republic of Croatia• Canada | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Kingdom of Sweden• French Republic• Republic of Estonia• Kingdom of Norway• Republic of Iceland• Republic of Cyprus• Romania• Principality of Monaco• United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland• Commonwealth of Australia• New Zealand |
|--|---|--|

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.

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 Kempinski 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.

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.

Information about Currency and Payment Methods

Mongolia's national currency is called tugrik and the exchange rate is about 3,400 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 traveling 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!