



Mongolia: Land of Dinosaurs

May 22-June 4, 2017 (14 Days)

Join Dr. Michael Ryan, one of the world's leading dinosaur experts, and Curator of Vertebrate Paleontology at the Cleveland Museum of Natural History, and Dr. Patricia Princehouse, Director of the Program in Evolutionary Biology at Case Western Reserve University, for a trip across Mongolia's Gobi Desert. They will share insights as we explore the Gobi's paleontology, remote landscapes, and nomadic culture.

May 22 Arrival

Meet your guide at Ulaanbaatar's airport, travel into the heart Mongolia's cosmopolitan capital and check into the four-star Ramada Ulaanbaatar City Center, your home in the city. (D)

May 23 Ulaanbaatar

With Dr. Michael Ryan, examine Gobi Desert dinosaur fossils from the collection of the Mongolian Museum of Natural History. Meet an expert from the Paleontology and Geology Department Laboratory of the Mongolian Academy of Sciences and see the highlights of the department's fossil collection.

Discover other highlights of Ulaanbaatar, visiting Sukhbaatar Square, the city's central plaza, and exploring the nation's rich history at the National Museum of Mongolia. (B,L,D)

May 24 Hustai National Park

Travel west out of the city to Hustai National Park, the home of the world's last species of wild horse. See Przewalski's horses, formerly extinct from the wild, but reintroduced to Hustai by an international effort in the 1990s. Spend your first night in a *ger* (nomadic dwelling) at a tourist *ger* camp. (B,L,D)

May 25 Baga Gazryn Chuluu

Travel southeast to Baga Gazryn Chuluu at the edge of the Middle Gobi, where dramatic pluton rock formations shelter ancient grave sites. (B,L,D)

May 26 Del Uul Petroglyphs

Continue south across the gravelly expanse of the Middle Gobi, reaching the painted limestone cliff of Tsagaan Suvarga. Explore the Bronze Age petroglyphs at Del Uul, one of Mongolia's most significant rock art sites. (B,L,D)

May 27 Yolyn Am Canyon

Begin your exploration of the famed South Gobi Desert by visiting the oasis of Yolyn Am Canyon, whose high walls and the stream at the canyon's base provide a sanctuary for life in the forbidding desert landscape, and keep an ice sheet frozen well into summer. Then, continue across the desert to a *ger* camp near Hongoryn Els, Mongolia's tallest dunes. (B,L,D)

May 28 Nemegt Valley

Set out early across the desert for the Nemegt Valley, one of the most remote corners of the Gobi Desert. For the past seventy years, Nemegt has been one of the most active areas of paleontological exploration in the Gobi. Dr. Ryan will guide us in searching for dinosaur fossils. Continue further west into the desert and spend the first of three nights at a basic *ger* camp. (B,L,D)

May 29 Dragon's Tomb

Explore the Dragon's Tomb, located deep in the maze of sandstone cliffs and canyons in the shadow of remote Mt. Altan. Dr. Ryan, who has made important discoveries at this site, will guide us in searching for dinosaur fossils. (B,L,D)

May 30 Khermen Tsav

Day trip to the Khermen Tsav canyon, the most dramatic of the Gobi's badlands landscapes. Because of its remote location, few non-local people have laid eyes on this remarkable canyon, except, of course, hardy paleontologists searching for fossils! (B,L,D)

May 31 Hongoryn Els Sand Dunes

Head back east to the Hongoryn Els Sand Dunes. Climb the mountains of sand and ride one of the desert's famed two-humped Bactrian camels. (B,L,D)

June 1 Alag Teg and Tugrugiin Shiree

Continue east and explore Alag Teg, a locality rich in ankylosaurs, as well as Tugrugiin Shiree, a white sandstone formation most famous as the site of the 1971 discovery of the Fighting Dinosaurs, a velociraptor and protoceratops locked in combat. (B,L,D)

June 2 Flaming Cliffs

Explore the Gobi's most legendary paleontological site: the Flaming Cliffs. After stumbling upon the red sandstone cliffs in September 1922, the explorers of the American Museum of Natural History's Central Asiatic Expeditions, led by Roy Chapman Andrews, returned the next year and made the world's first discovery of a nest of dinosaur eggs. Over ninety years later, protoceratops fossils are still abundant here. (B,L,D)

June 3 Ulaanbaatar

Fly from the Gobi town of Dalanzadgad to Ulaanbaatar. Visit Gandantegchenlin Monastery, the center of Mongolian Buddhism, attend a folk music and dance performance by the renowned Tumen Ekh Ensemble, and enjoy a farewell dinner with Dr. Ryan. (B,L,D)

June 4 Departure from Ulaanbaatar

Return to the Ulaanbaatar airport for departure. (B)

Reservations

To reserve a spot on this tour, please contact Michelle Miller, Educational Travel Manager, Case Western Reserve University, at 216-368-8745 or MLM231@case.edu. Full payment for the trip must be made one hundred days before arrival in Mongolia, or if the trip is reserved less than one hundred days before arrival, along with your booking form.

Price and Inclusions

Cost Per Person

<i>\$3,500</i>	<i>CWRU Student</i>
<i>\$3,800</i>	<i>Non-Student</i>

The tour price includes an English-speaking tour guide, experienced driver(s), double or triple accommodations, meals as specified in the itinerary, domestic transportation within Mongolia, and admission and participation fees for events, activities and sites listed in the itinerary.

Prices do not include international airfare, airfare within the U.S., travel insurance and other types of insurance, passport and visa fees (if required), baggage fees, customs fees, medical expenses, alcohol and soft drinks, additional meals, snacks and drinks not included in the itinerary, additional sightseeing and activities not listed in the itinerary, tips, telephone, fax and internet use, souvenirs, postage, laundry and other incidental expenses.

All prices are subject to change. Prices are guaranteed at the time the reservation is confirmed.

Accommodations

Ulaanbaatar

In Ulaanbaatar, you will stay at the four-star Ramada Ulaanbaatar City Center, or at a comparable hotel.

Countryside

In the countryside, you will stay in traditional nomadic dwellings known as *gers* at tourist *ger* camps. *Gers* are large felt tents built around wood lattice frames.

Ger camps are resorts consisting of several *gers* and a restaurant/dining *ger*. The camps on this tour have shared bathrooms and shower houses, with hot water and electricity at certain times each day.

All accommodations may be changed to comparable hotels, camps or rooms depending on availability.

Single Accommodations

Tour prices include double or triple occupancy accommodations. Single accommodations are available for an additional \$600.

Transportation

Domestic

All domestic air and land transportation in Mongolia is included in the tour price.

Domestic land travel in both Ulaanbaatar and the countryside will be in SUVs, vans or small buses. In the countryside, few roads are paved; most are merely dirt tracks.

For domestic flights, you will travel on one of Mongolia's domestic airlines.

Airport Transfers

Airport transfers between the airport and hotel on the first and last day of the tour are included in the tour price. Airport transfers will also be provided to guests arriving early or leaving late who book extra hotel nights through Blue Silk Travel. Airport transfers are not included for travelers booking extra hotel nights not through Blue Silk Travel.

International

International transportation is not included in the price of the tour.

Tour Group

The tour will run with between eight and twenty travelers. If by March 15, 2017, less than eight travelers have registered, Blue Silk Travel will cancel the trip and issue a full refund of all payments received. Neither Blue Silk Travel nor Case Western Reserve University can provide compensation for international air tickets, visa fees or any other services not purchased through Blue Silk Travel. You will be notified once the minimum number of travelers has been reached.

Your group will be led by a knowledgeable guide fluent in both English and Mongolian. S/he will lead your group and act as a translator.

Dr. Michael Ryan and Dr. Patricia Princehouse are scheduled to join the tour and conduct educational activities. If one or both are unable to participate, no compensation will be provided to travelers.

As a participant on this tour, you agree to cooperate with and obey the directions of the tour guide and driver. Blue Silk Travel and Case Western Reserve University reserve the right to remove any traveler from the trip, without compensation, who refuses to cooperate with the instructions of tour staff or who seriously disrupts the group.

Behavior

This trip is a cultural exchange. Travelers must follow all Mongolian laws. Travelers who are uninterested in immersing themselves in a new culture should not register for this tour. Egregious disrespect toward Mongolia and its people is grounds for removal from the trip without compensation.

Food

If you are a vegetarian, have a food allergy or observe religious dietary restrictions, please let us know when you reserve your trip. We will be unable to accommodate unannounced dietary needs once you have arrived in Mongolia.

Physical Requirements

You must be in good health to participate on this tour. This trip includes hiking, travel over rough terrain, optional horseback and/or camel riding, and other physically demanding activities. Travelers considering this trip should consult with a physician to determine whether it is safe to participate. By registering for this tour, you affirm that you do not have any health issues that will prevent you from completing this tour. If you have any concerns about your ability to participate, please contact Blue Silk Travel before registering. Blue Silk Travel and Case Western Reserve University reserve the right to remove any traveler from the tour who cannot safely complete the trip.

Medical Treatment

The traveler, not Blue Silk Travel nor Case Western Reserve University, will be responsible for any medical expenses. The traveler is responsible for purchasing medical insurance and ensuring that s/he is adequately covered while in Mongolia.

Ulaanbaatar hosts a Joint Commission International-accredited hospital, but only the most basic clinics operate in the rest of Mongolia. During your trip, you will be in remote settings, with no people within miles and no cell phone access. It can take hours to reach a doctor or for help to arrive in an emergency. Mongolia has few lighted airstrips. Therefore, nighttime medical evacuations are impossible from most parts of Mongolia.

By registering for this tour, the traveler agrees not to hold Blue Silk Travel or Case Western Reserve

University responsible for any failure to secure appropriate or timely medical care, nor for any adverse result from or omission in medical care provided.

By registering for this tour, the traveler gives permission to Blue Silk Travel, Case Western Reserve University and their partners to hospitalize and secure emergency medical treatment for him/her in the event that s/he cannot give consent and 1. neither a traveler's traveling companion (relative, friend or companion accompanying the traveler) nor the traveler's emergency contact (specified on the registration form) is available or 2. medical conditions require treatment before a traveling companion or emergency contact can be contacted. If a traveling companion should not be allowed to give medical consent, the traveler must notify Blue Silk Travel before the trip.

Visas

You are responsible for securing any visas you need for your trip. The following information could change; please contact the appropriate embassy or consulate to determine whether you will need a visa.

U.S. citizens may visit Mongolia without a visa for up to ninety days (but must register if staying for more than thirty days). U.S. citizens do not need visas to transfer through the Seoul or Beijing airports, but do need Chinese visas if staying in Beijing for more than seventy-two hours, or if arriving in or departing from Beijing by train.

Itineraries

Itineraries, accommodations and planned activities may be changed due to flight schedules or other factors. Travel in Mongolia is often unpredictable, necessitating last-minute changes.

Blue Silk Travel and Case Western Reserve University are not responsible for incidents or com-

plications resulting from a traveler's choice to deviate from the planned itinerary or from activities or services not organized by Blue Silk Travel.

Payment and Cancellations

If a traveler decides to cancel his/her trip for any reason after paying the booking fee or the cost of the trip, s/he will be refunded the following amounts: a full refund minus \$250 per person if canceled more than 90 days before the scheduled arrival date, a 50% refund if canceled 61-90 days before arrival and a 40% refund if canceled 41-60 days before arrival. **If a traveler cancels less than forty-one days before arrival, s/he will not be issued a refund.**

If the tour is canceled by Blue Silk Travel, travelers will be issued prompt and full refunds.

The traveler is solely responsible for extra charges resulting from flight cancellations, medical emergencies or other issues that delay or change his/her arrival or departure in Mongolia, or make him or her unable to complete his trip. The traveler will not be refunded for any portion of the trip that s/he does not complete for any reason.

Blue Silk Travel and Case Western Reserve University recommend purchasing travel insurance in case you need to cancel your trip, your trip is interrupted or you have items lost or stolen on your trip. Do not bring any valuable objects with you to Mongolia.

Responsibility

Blue Silk Travel, LLC of Shaker Heights, Ohio, and Blue Silk Travel, Ltd. of Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia (collectively Blue Silk Travel), and their officers, as well as Case Western Reserve University and its officers, accept no responsibility or liability for any injury, loss, accident, death, inconvenience, delay, damage or expenses to person or property in connection with the provisions of any

goods or services whether resulting from, but not limited to, acts of nature, weather, acts of war or civil unrest, insurrection or revolt, animals, local laws, strikes or other labor activities, criminal or terrorist activities of any kind, sickness, illness, the lack of availability of or access to appropriate medical attention, overbooking or downgrading of accommodations, mechanical or other failure of airplanes, motor vehicles or other means of transportation, any failure of any transportation mechanism to arrive or depart on time or for any other causes beyond their reasonable control.

Motor Vehicle Transportation

By riding in any vehicle while in Mongolia, the participant agrees that s/he deems the vehicle and driver to be fit for the trip and road conditions and that s/he will not hold Blue Silk Travel or Case Western Reserve University responsible for any accidents or injuries that occur. Blue Silk Travel and Case Western Reserve University are not responsible for a participant's decision not to wear a seat belt.

Horseback and Camel Riding

Horseback and camel riding are optional parts of this tour and participants should carefully consider the risks before choosing to ride animals in Mongolia. Blue Silk Travel and Case Western Reserve University are not responsible for a participant's decision not to wear a helmet. By registering for this trip, you absolve Blue Silk Travel and Case Western Reserve University from any liability should you suffer in any way from riding

horses or camels in Mongolia.

By registering for this trip, you agree to these Terms and Conditions, including to the arbitration clause below.

Arbitration

Any dispute arising between Blue Silk Travel and the traveler, or between Case Western Reserve University and the traveler, related to these Terms and Conditions, the trip, or any matter related to the trip will be settled by binding arbitration by the American Arbitration Association in Cleveland, Ohio. The maximum amount the traveler may recover will be limited to the amount actually paid by the traveler to Blue Silk Travel or Case Western Reserve University for this tour.

The arbitrator and not any federal, state, or local court or agency shall have exclusive authority to resolve any dispute relating to the interpretation, applicability, enforceability, conscionability, or formation of this contract, including but not limited to any claim that all or any part of this contract is void or voidable.

Information for California Residents

California law requires certain sellers of travel to have a trust account or bond. This business has a trust account. Registration as a seller of travel does not constitute approval by the State of California. This Seller of Travel is **not a participant** in the California Travel Consumer Restitution Fund.

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Mongolia: Land of Dinosaurs (May 22–June 4, 2017) Reservation Form

Please return this form, along with your payment of \$3,500 (student) or \$3,800 (non-student) and a color passport copy, to Michelle Miller by March 31, 2017.

Traveler Information

Title Name as it Appears on Passport Preferred Name

Date of Birth Passport Number/Country Passport Exp. Date

Email Address

Major/Class Year

Contact Information

Daytime Telephone Evening Telephone

Address

City State ZIP

Emergency Contact (Not Traveling with You)

Name

Relationship to Traveler

Daytime Telephone Evening Telephone

Address

City State ZIP Email

Flight/Train Information

(If not yet booked, please send when available.)

Arrival Date/Time Departure City Airline & Flight/Train #

Departure Date/Time Destination City Airline & Flight/Train #

Accommodations

☐ Double ☐ Single (\$600)

Preferred Roommate(s) (not guaranteed)

Double Only: ☐ Twin Beds ☐ King/Queen (if available)

Additional Requests

Extra Hotel Nights (Pricing Available on Request)

☐ Early arrival _____ ☐ Late departure _____
Check-In Date Check-Out Date

Special Interests

Special Interests/Mongolian Topics You Would Like to Explore

Special Events on this trip (birthday, etc.)

Food

Dietary Needs (vegetarian, religious restrictions or allergies only)

How did you hear about Blue Silk Travel?

Do you have any other special requests (not guaranteed)?

Enclosed is my payment, made payable to Case Western Reserve University, and a clear, color scan, copy or photograph of my passport. Contact Michelle Miller, Education Travel Manager, at 216-368-8745 or MLM231@case.edu with questions.

I have read the Tour Information and Terms and Conditions for this trip and agree to abide by these policies. Please sign below.

Signature of Traveler Date

For Parent/Guardian of Minor Traveler(s)

I have read the Tour Information and Terms and Conditions for this trip and agree to have _____ (child's/children's name[s]) bound by these policies. I will authorize temporary guardianship if I will not be traveling. Please sign below.

Parent/Guardian Signature Name Date