July 15–29, 2011

Discover MONGOLIA!
From Genghis Khan to the Gobi Desert!
July 15–29, 2011

COSTS & CONDITIONS

Expedition Fee: $1,945 per person for two guests (this includes the $500 deposit paid during the booking process). This fee is fully refundable up to 60 days before departure less a $100 handling charge. Please note that the ger camps are very comfortable, but they are not hotels. Each ger is equipped with a bed, stove, a table, a chair, and a ventilation window at the apex. Each family may provide some personal items for comfort. The expeditions will be a small, well-appointed hotel of 60 rooms near Ulaanbaatar. A supplement of $695 is available for single occupancy.

Expedition Fee Does Not Include: Airfare quoted on this expedition is subject to change. Connecting flight to Ulaanbaatar, the capital of Mongolia. Depart from SFO International Airport on United Airlines flight UA 802. Flight time: 11 hours 40 minutes. Meals at the ger camps are prepared family style, and the food is abundant and delicious, serving dishes are changed daily. The only items we recommend that guests bring are hiking shoes or boots, sunglasses, and any personal items needed for comfort.

Accommodations: are in a comfortable first class hotel in Ulaanbaatar and Mongolian ger (yurt) camps. Meals at the ger camps are prepared family style, and the food is abundant and delicious, serving dishes are changed daily. The only items we recommend that guests bring are hiking shoes or boots, sunglasses, and any personal items needed for comfort.

Expedition Leader: Dr. Chen Carpenter

ITINERARY

Days 1/2 USA to Beijing & Ulaanbaatar
Depart from SFO International Airport on United Airlines flight UA 802. Flight time: 11 hours 40 minutes. Meals at the ger camps are prepared family style, and the food is abundant and delicious, serving dishes are changed daily. The only items we recommend that guests bring are hiking shoes or boots, sunglasses, and any personal items needed for comfort.

Days 3/4 Ulaanbaatar—Gandan Monastery & Museum
We will begin our journey in Ulaanbaatar, the center of Mongolia. We may also visit the Man portrait (who is a statue of a man) in the center of the city. Today, we will visit the Gandan Monastery, the largest and most important monastery in Mongolia. It was founded in 1639 by the 4th Dalai Lama. It is a complex of 110 buildings, including a grand temple, a small temple, and a lamasery. We will visit the Ovoo Nuruu, the largest and most beautiful monastery in Mongolia. It is a complex of 110 buildings, including a grand temple, a small temple, and a lamasery. We will visit the Ovoo Nuruu, the largest and most beautiful monastery in Mongolia. It is a complex of 110 buildings, including a grand temple, a small temple, and a lamasery. We will visit the Ovoo Nuruu, the largest and most beautiful monastery in Mongolia. It is a complex of 110 buildings, including a grand temple, a small temple, and a lamasery. 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Embellished with the riches of plunder and trade, it at a favorable site along the Orkhon River in 1220.

Karakorum, site of the short-lived urban capital of the Mongol Empire. The city of Karakorum was established at a favorable site along the Orkhon River in 1220.

Day 4  Orkhon Valley Cultural Landscape

The Orkhon Valley was a nexus for many distinct cultures, religions, and traditions. Today, the Orkhon Valley Cultural Landscape is recognized as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. We will explore the central reaches of the Orkhon Valley, which is protected as the Orkhon Valley National Park.

Day 5  Elsen Tasarkhai to Karakorum

Nomads ger camp (2 nights), located in a favorite spot near the bank of the Kherlen River. The Kherlen, which is a tributary of the Orkhon, flows peacefully through the Southern Gobi Desert. You’ll have plenty of time to explore the surroundings.

Day 6  Gun-Galuut Nature Reserve

Gun-Galuu Nature Reserve encompasses rocky hills, extensive grasslands, and dryland forests. The mountains of Gun-Galuu offer sanctuary to wild prey and migratory birds. We will visit the Bayanzag flaming cliffs, also known as the “Flaming Cliffs,” named for the red sand dunes that are tinged by the morning sunlight.

Day 7  Gun-Galuut Nature Reserve

Our two-day visit to the Gobi Desert will include the Bayanzag fossil site where Roy Chapman Andrews discovered dinosaur bones and eggs during the 1920s, and which he called the “Flaming Cliffs.” This site is an icon of the world’s paleontology.

Day 8  Gun-Galuut Nature Reserve

Gobi Desert Nomads ger camp (2 nights). This site is located within the Gobi Desert, experiencing ideal summer breeding habitat for cranes. Damodara are found abundant, and other members of the dark family also breed here during the summer.

Day 9  Gun-Galuut Nature Reserve

Today we will explore the central reaches of the Orkhon Valley, which is protected as the Orkhon Valley National Park.

Day 10  Gun-Galuut Nature Reserve

Our two-day visit to the Gobi Desert will include the Bayanzag fossil site where Roy Chapman Andrews discovered dinosaur bones and eggs during the 1920s, and which he called the “Flaming Cliffs.” This site is an icon of the world’s paleontology.

Day 11  Ulaanbaatar—Beijing—San Francisco

This tour is for experienced travelers who wish to participate in a full range of activities. It is recommended for those who have a keen interest in learning about Mongolian culture and history.

Day 12  Ulaanbaatar to Hustain

In the evening we’ll enjoy a farewell contortionist act. We will return flights to Beijing and San Francisco, arriving in the USA the same day.

Responsibility

Society, and the American Chemical Society (ACS) act only as agents for the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS), Sigma Xi, The Scientific Research Society, and the American Chemical Society (ACS). All other attachments, accommodations and personnel used in connection with the tour are provided for arrangements only for the time stated. We reserve the right to make any necessary changes in the itinerary, and different losses or expenses will have to be borne by the passenger, as tour rates are not to be held responsible for any act, omission, or event during the tour. No refund will be made for the unused portion of any tour unless specified in the tour. The tour operator is not responsible for any act, omission, or event during the tour.

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Day 5: Ulaanbaatar to Karakorum
After a morning drive southwest, we will reach our destination in the Orkhon valley in time for lunch. In the afternoon we will participate in an interactive presentation on the history and archaeology of the area in the city of Karakorum, site of the short-lived urban capital of the Mongol Empire. The city of Karakorum was established at a favorable site along the Orkhon River in 1220. Established with the riches of plunder and tribute it served for several decades as a bustling, multicultural center, and capital of the Mongol Empire. But just as now, the Mongolian people were not particularly enthusiastic about city living; they preferred the steppes. Today, all but archaeological traces of the ancient city have vanished. In its place the monastery of будз Zuu, built in the Tibetan style during the Ming Dynasty, is a splendid example of traditional Mongolian architecture. The Zuu was completed in 1636 and was the seat of the Dalai Lama in 1654.

Day 6: Orkhon Valley Cultural Landscape
The Orkhon Valley was a nexus for many distinct cultures over the past several millennia, and today the valley remains a center for a region of Mongolia that includes part of the Gobi Desert. The valley is one of the most beautiful and most preserved of the world’s cultural landscapes.

Day 7: Day 7: Tsonjin Boldog to Bayanzag
Tsonjin Boldog is a well-preserved fossil site of Protoceratops, one of the first dinosaurs known from Asia. We will also visit the site of Bayanzag Flaming Cliffs, one of the world’s premier sites for fossilized dinosaurs. Bayanzag is also the source of some of the best early discoveries of Protoceratops by American paleontologist Roy Chapman Andrews.

Day 8: Bayanzag - Flaming Cliffs dinosaur fossil site, via Yolyn Am
The Gurvan Saikhan mountain range is sheltered from the cold and dry winds of the steppe by its permanent water courses at the bottoms of the valleys. The cultural sites—commemorative stones, tankha paintings and frescoes. Its square wall is about 45 meters wide. Langdon, cited in the New York Times, describes Baaz, the temple’s central figure, as a horse-like animal, which he called the Flaming Cliffs. This site is a more than 150 million years old.

Day 9: Day 9: Terelj National Park & Genghis Khan Monument
Today we will travel to Terelj National Park, a protected area located in the Tov Valley, and visit the Giant Genghis Khan Monument. The park is an excellent place to see encased in traditional Mongolian leathers. Overnight at Zuu camp.

Day 10: Gun-Galuut to Ulaanbaatar
During our visit to Gun-Galuut Nature Reserve, we will observe the takhi, or Przewalski’s horse, during its breeding season. The takhi is the last of the wild horses in the world and one of the world’s most endangered species. It is also known as Przewalski’s horse. During the 20th Century, this species was driven to extinction in the wild. Today, all but archaeological traces of the ancient city have vanished. In its place the monastery of Zuu, built in the Tibetan style during the 16th Century, is a splendid example of traditional Mongolian architecture. The Zuu was completed in 1636 and was the seat of the Dalai Lama in 1654.

Day 11: Ulaanbaatar to Dalanzadgad, Overnight at Gun-Galuut Nature Reserve
The mountains of Gun-Galuut offer sanctuary to wild argali, the largest of the wild sheep. More than 80 species of birds may be seen in the region, including the native vulture, which originates from the nearby Khan Khentii Strictly Protected Area, is a nearly pristine wild river. Nomads ger camp (2 nights), located in a favorable area along the Orkhon River. We will explore the cultural reaches of the Orkhon Valley Cultural Landscape.

Day 12: Gold Desert- Hustain Nuruu National Park
Our two-day visit to the Gold Desert will include the Karen Deyli site where Roy Chapman Andrews discovered dinosaur bones and eggs during the 1920s, and which he called the Flaming Cliffs. This site is a name in the world of paleontology—it was the scene of some of the earth’s most extraordinary discoveries, and its name is synonymous with the discovery of dinosaurs. The Gold Desert is also a good place to see Lammergeier (Bearded Vulture), one of Asia’s largest birds. It is also occasionally seen on the precipitous slopes of the jagged mountain peaks.

Day 13: Ulaanbaatar—Beijing—San Francisco
Today we will travel to our departure airport and take our return flights to Beijing and San Francisco, arriving in the USA the same day.
Day 5  Ulaanbaatar—Karakanor

After a morning drive southwest, we will reach our destination in the Orkhon valley in time for lunch. In the afternoon we will visit the ruins of the ancient capital of the Mongol Empire. If time permits, we will explore the several reaches of the Orkhon Valley Cultural Landscape. The second site, Kharakhorum, is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Day 6  Orkhon Valley Cultural Landscape

The Orkhon Valley was a nexus for many distinct cultures—most of the past several millennia, and likely the most of the 21st century. We will visit the site of the capital of the Yuan (Mongol) Empire. We will see the remains of the city wall as well as the Yutokha complex, with its tankha paintings and frescoes. Its square wall is about 3,200 feet long. In its place is the monastery of Erdene Zuu, built in the Tibetan style during Mongolia’s 16th century. Today, all but archaeological traces of the ancient city have vanished. In its place is the monastery of Erdene Zuu, built in the Tibetan style during Mongolia’s 16th century. Today, all but archaeological traces of the ancient city have vanished. In its place is the monastery of Erdene Zuu.

Day 7  Day 5 Elsen Tasarkhai to Karakorum

Tankha paintings and frescoes. Its square wall is about 3,200 feet long. In its place is the monastery of Erdene Zuu, built in the Tibetan style during Mongolia’s 16th century. Today, all but archaeological traces of the ancient city have vanished. In its place is the monastery of Erdene Zuu.

Day 8  Day 6 Orkhon Valley Cultural Landscape

We will drive east to Hustain Nuruu National Park. This weekend we will drive east to Hustain Nuruu National Park. The area is one of only a few cases of successful re-introduction of mammals to the wild. At Bagan Nuur National Park, we will look for argali in the nearby Bairu mountain range. The mountains of Gun-Galalt offer sanctuary to wild sheep. More than 30 individuals inhabit the mountains of Gun-Galalt. With a population density of only about 30 individuals, Gun-Galalt is ideal bison breeding habitat for reasons. Day 9  Day 7 Ulaanbaatar—Gobi Desert

The Gobi Desert is one of the world’s largest deserts and is the most arid place in Asia. We will drive to Yolyn Am for a night’s rest. Yolyn Am is a good place to see Lammergeier (Vulture) and Argali (Ovis ammon). We will then visit the tourist center of Dalanzadgad for our return flight to Ulaanbaatar. This morning we will drive back to the Aimag District center of Dalanzadgad for our return flight to Ulaanbaatar.
**Discover MONGOLIA... From Ghengis Khan to the Gobi Desert!**

**July 15-29, 2011**

**Expedition Fee** $3,995 per person twin share + air of additional cost. It will be at a leisurely pace suitable for outdoorsy trip with opportunities for hikes and walks, with as well as historic and cultural visits. The group will travel as far as the Gobi Desert, RT; entrance fees; baggage handling; leadership, transfers; accommodations twin share; meals from breakfast the group flights. AIR FARES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

**Expedition Leader** Dr. Chris Carpenter

**First Class**

**ITINERARY**

**Days 1/2 USA to Beijing & Ulaanbaatar**

Connecting flight to Ulaanbaatar, the capital of Mongolia. Arrive on Day 2. Take a direct connecting flight to Ulaanbaatar. For capital of Mongolia. Meet your guide, and transfer to Altai Hotel (or similar).

**Days 3/4**

**Arrival & Orientation**

Meet your guide, and transfer to Narantuul Hotel (or similar) (2 nights). The balance of the day is at leisure before departing. Cancellations & Refunds: The initial deposit is refundable up to 6 months before departure (a handling fee of $150 per person will be charged for any deposits paid more than 6 months in advance). The remaining balance is non-refundable. Meals and accommodations will be on your own, except for one meal on this departure. Questions? Please call House Operations, Betchart Expeditions Inc.

**Days 5/6**

**Arrival of the Thousand Mountains**

Today, we will explore Ulaanbaatar, the urban capital of a nomadic nation. In the two decades since the Soviets left, Ulaanbaatar has become increasingly cosmopolitan, but it never loses that feel which are very far from the city style of life. Our tour of Ulaanbaatar includes Gandan Monastery; a monument to Ghengis Khan in Koholtil and the home of the monarch of Mongolia, and the history and culture. We may also visit the various palaces of the ancient Khagans, and antique dealers. Mongolia's steppe landscapes, the views at the Gobi Desert are often dramatic, but the sky is often cloudy. In addition to its wonderful collection of Buddhist art and ceremonial objects, the center of the capital also reflects the worldwide interests of its owners, a collection of the artifacts from many corners of the world.

**Days 7/8**

**Ulaanbaatar**

Our expedition begins in Ulaanbaatar, urban center of a nation that remains nomadic at heart. References to the valley of the Tuul River, embraced by hills, Ulaanbaatar hints at the confluence of the Tuul River with the Gorkhi-Terelj National Park. Our expedition begins in Ulaanbaatar, urban center of a nation that remains nomadic at heart. References to the valley of the Tuul River, embraced by hills, Ulaanbaatar hints at the confluence of the Tuul River with the Gorkhi-Terelj National Park.

**Days 9/11**

**Mongolian Steppe**

We will begin our journey in Mongolia’s hilly landscapes, the views at the Gobi Desert are often dramatic, but the sky is often cloudy. In addition to its wonderful collection of Buddhist art and ceremonial objects, the center of the capital also reflects the worldwide interests of its owners, a collection of the artifacts from many corners of the world. Today, we will explore Ulaanbaatar, the urban capital of a nomadic nation. In the two decades since the Soviets left, Ulaanbaatar has become increasingly cosmopolitan, but it never loses that feel which are very far from the city style of life. Our tour of Ulaanbaatar includes Gandan Monastery; a monument to Ghengis Khan in Koholtil and the home of the monarch of Mongolia, and the history and culture. We may also visit the various palaces of the ancient Khagans, and antique dealers. Mongolia's steppe landscapes, the views at the Gobi Desert are often dramatic, but the sky is often cloudy.