**ADVENTURE IN MONGOLIA**

16 days from $7,542 total price from Los Angeles, San Francisco ($6,995 air & land inclusive plus $547 airline taxes and departure fees)

Follow in the footsteps of Genghis Khan traveling from the sands of the Gobi to the steppe on this singular small group adventure. Nature unspoiled and hospitality unrivaled mark your journey, staying in traditional ger camps and exploring Mongolia’s great wide open.

**Days 1-2: Depart the U.S. for Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia** Upon arrival late in the evening, transfer to your hotel.

**Day 3: Ulaanbaatar** Today encounter Mongolia’s spiritual heart as well as its political, economic, and social hub. Highlights of your full-day tour: the Fine Arts Museum, showcasing a noteworthy collection of religious art from pre-history to the early 20th century, including metal sculptures, scroll paintings, and papier-mâché masks; and the Natural History Museum, with a diverse collection including dinosaur skeletons and eggs. Also visit the important 19th-century Gandan Monastery, one of the few Buddhist structures not destroyed by the Communist government in the 1930s. Tonight enjoy a welcome dinner. (B,L,D)

**Days 4-6: Gobi Desert and Khongoryn Els** Like Mongolia’s nomads, travel through the desert today along the Altai Mountain range to Khongoryn Els, home of the “singing” sand dunes. Then an unusual and exciting day is in store as you ride domesticated Bactrain camels out to the 2,600-foot high sand dunes. With their two humps and slow, easy stride, the camels offer a comfortable means of transport. Enjoy the opportunity to climb on the soft sand of the dunes, which measure 62 miles long and just over a half-mile wide. (2B,2L,2D)

**Day 7: Gobi Desert and Bayanzag** On today’s excursion in this World Biosphere Reserve encounter Bayanzag’s striking Flaming Cliffs, the red-rock bluff reminiscent of areas in the American West. The first place where dinosaur eggs were discovered in ...
Day 8: Mt. Khogno Khan  Fly back to Ulaanbaatar this morning then travel overland into the countryside of wide-open steppe backed by rolling hills. This is the land of nomadic shepherders, with their traditional gers dotting the landscape. Late this afternoon reach the sacred mountain and nature reserve of Khogno Khan, set in a beautiful landscape of taiga (boreal forest), steppe, desert, and river. Here there’s the opportunity to hike and to see the remains of an ancient monastery before continuing on to the ger camp for the evening.  (B,L,D)

Day 9: Mt. Khogno Khan and Karakorum  On today’s two-hour overland journey to the ruins of the ancient Mongol capital of Karakorum, visit early 16th-century Erdene Zuu, Mongolia’s oldest surviving Buddhist monastery. Its massive 1,312-foot walls with 108 stupas (cairns) still stand, though only three of its 62 temples remain in the wake of Communist-era destruction (and the killing of thousands of monks). Today, though, Erdene Zuu is a functioning monastery, the country’s most important, and also a museum housing priceless art and artifacts.  (B,L,D)

Day 10: Khustai Nuruu National Park  Travel all day to Khustai Nuruu National Park in search of Neolithic graves and the world’s last remaining species of wild horses (takhi). An endangered animal, the takhi have been successfully reintroduced here in Mongolia’s premier national park, a World Biosphere Reserve. The steppe landscape also sustains gazelle, deer, boar, wolves, lynx, and more.  (B,L,D)

Day 11: Khustai and Lake Khuvsgul  Today fly to freshwater Lake Khuvsgul in the far reaches of Khustai Nuruu National Park by the Russian border. A pristine Alpine landscape of thick taiga forest, crystal clear waters, lush green valleys, and snow-capped peaks, the lake region ranks among Mongolia’s prime attractions. The lake itself, sacred to Mongolians and the second largest on Earth, supplies about 1% of the world’s fresh water. It is also home to minority ethnic groups with unique cultures and Shamanist traditions, including the Khuvsgul-Tuvan or “Reindeer” people.  (B,L,D)

Day 12: Lake Khuvsgul  Today visit a local minority family then spend time at leisure on and around the lake, engaging, if you wish, in such activities as hiking, swimming, horseback riding, or simply relaxing amidst the stunning scenery.  (B,L,D)

Day 13: Ulaanbaatar Countryside  Early this morning travel to the city of Moron for the ½-hour flight to Ulaanbaatar. From here drive an hour to Tuul Riverside Lodge, an intimate and fully sustainable traditional Mongolian ger camp set amidst rolling hills above the Tuul River. Here you have the opportunity to join in outdoor activities and to absorb the vast, unspoiled countryside.  (B,L,D)

Day 14: Ulaanbaatar Countryside  Today visit with a nomadic family before returning to your lodge for an afternoon at leisure – or to hike, bird watch, kayak, fish, mountain bike, or try Mongolian archery. Tonight dine on traditional Mongolian barbecue then watch a shaman performance around the campfire.  (B,L,D)

Day 15: Ulaanbaatar and depart for the U.S.  After a morning at leisure, visit Ulaanbaatar, where you can shop for last-minute gifts or visit a local monastery. Early this evening attend a folklore performance followed by dinner at a local restaurant. Then transfer to the airport for your overnight flight to the U.S.  (B,L,D)

Day 16: Arrive in the U.S.  Arrive in the U.S. today and connect with your flights home.

Smithsonian Expert

William Fitzhugh is an anthropologist specializing in circumpolar archaeology, ethnology, and environmental studies. After completing his education at Dartmouth College and Harvard University, he took a position at the Smithsonian’s National Museum of Natural History. As director of the Arctic Studies Center and curator in the Department of Anthropology at NMNH, William has spent more than 40 years studying and publishing on Arctic peoples and cultures in northern Canada, Alaska, Siberia, Scandinavia, and Mongolia. For the past ten years he has conducted research on the prehistoric cultures and rock art of Mongolia. William will lead the August departure. Paula DePriest (see page 6) will lead the June departure.

Your Tour Price Includes

- Round-trip air transportation from listed cities, all flights within itinerary
- 13 nights accommodations: 4 nights in First Class hotel and lodge; 9 nights in desert ger camps
- 39 meals: 13 breakfasts, 13 lunches, 13 dinners
- Extensive sightseeing as described, including all entrance fees
- Services of a professional Tour Director
- Lectures by Smithsonian Expert
- Private vehicle transportation throughout your trip
- Luggage handling for one bag per person
- Gratuities for Tour Director, local guides, dining room servers, airport and hotel porters, and all drivers

2014 Tour Dates and Prices

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Aug 27</th>
<th>Jun 18</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Los Angeles, San Francisco</td>
<td>$7,542</td>
<td>$7,942</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phoenix, Portland (OR), Seattle</td>
<td>$7,742</td>
<td>$8,142</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Atlanta, Boston, Chicago, Dallas, Denver, Houston, Minneapolis, New York</td>
<td>$7,942</td>
<td>$8,342</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baltimore, Charlotte, Cincinnati, Cleveland, Detroit, Miami, Orlando, Philadelphia, Tampa, Washington, DC</td>
<td>$8,042</td>
<td>$8,442</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Land Only</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$5,495</td>
<td>$5,895</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Please call if your city is not listed. Prices are per person based on double occupancy and include airline taxes, fuel surcharges, and departure fees of $547, which are subject to change until final payment is made. Single travelers please add $795. All 2014 tour prices above (excluding airline taxes, fuel surcharges, and departure fees) are guaranteed.

Business Class upgrade on round-trip international flight: $4,395 per person (upgrade is on request and pricing is subject to change).

Please note: While a warm and welcoming country, Mongolia has a tourism infrastructure that is still developing and travel here requires a sense of adventure and flexibility. Accommodations outside of Ulaanbaatar can be rustic and in most locations you’ll stay in gers – large, traditional heated tents with communal bathrooms. This trip involves considerable walking on uneven terrain, as well as some lengthy coach rides on bumpy roads. You should be in good physical condition to enjoy the trip to the fullest.