



VIRGINIA MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS

Virginia Museum of Fine Arts presents

MONGOLIAN ADVENTURE

July 16-31, 2014

16 days from \$7,042 total price from Washington, DC
(\$6,495 air & land inclusive plus \$547 airline taxes and departure fees)

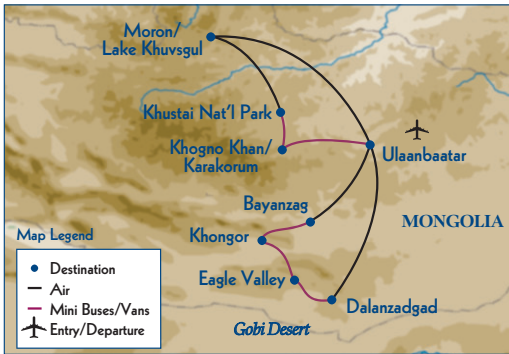


**An Exclusive Small Group Tour for
Members of the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts**

MONGOLIAN ADVENTURE

16 days for \$7,042 total price from Washington, DC
 (\$6,495 air & land inclusive plus \$547 airline taxes and departure fees)

Follow in the footsteps of Genghis Khan as we travel from the sands of the Gobi to the steppe on this singular small group adventure. Nature unspoiled and hospitality unrivaled mark our journey, as we stay in traditional ger camps and explore Mongolia's great wide open.



Day 1: Depart U.S. for Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia

Day 2: Arrive Ulaanbaatar We arrive in the Mongolian capital late this evening.

Day 3: Ulaanbaatar Today we encounter Mongolia's spiritual heart as well as its political, economic, and social hub. Highlights of our 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-maché masks; and the Natural History Museum, with a diverse collection including dinosaur skeletons and eggs. We also visit the important 19th-century Gandan Monastery, one of the few Buddhist structures not destroyed by the Communist government in the 1930s. Tonight we enjoy a welcome dinner. **B,L,D**

Day 4: Ulaanbaatar/Gobi Desert The great Gobi is our destination today, after a 1½-hour flight. Asia's largest desert (and the world's fifth largest), the Gobi covers some 500,000 square miles of southern Mongolia and north and northwest China; its vast, barren expanses of gravel plains and rocky outcrops stretching for thousands of uninterrupted miles. It is the Gobi's extremes of landscape, temperature, aridness, and relentless sun that have produced the remarkable and resilient people of this land of the former Mongol Empire. After landing in Dalanzadgad, we journey overland to our *ger* desert camp, arriving in time for lunch. This afternoon we travel to scenic Eagle Valley (*Yolyn Am*), a shaded river gorge. As we explore the valley on foot, we may spot eagles soaring overhead and wild sheep and goats grazing on the high cliff walls. We also visit the Natural History Museum that showcases the desert's surprisingly diverse bird and animal life, including the legendary snow leopard and the Gobi bear. **B,L,D**

Avg. High (°F)	Jun	Jul
Ulaanbaatar	72	73
Khogno Khan	70	72
Lake Khuvsgul	64	66

Your Small Group Tour Highlights

Stays in comfortable *ger* camps in the Gobi Desert ... Encounters with nomads ... Desert camel excursion ... Massive sand dunes at Khongoryn Els ... "Flaming Cliffs" at Bayanzag ... Lake Khuvsgul

Day	Itinerary	Hotel	Rating
1	Depart U.S. for Ulaanbaatar		
2-3	Ulaanbaatar	Ulaanbaatar Hotel	First Class
4	Gobi Desert	Khan Bogd*	Not Rated
5-6	Gobi Desert	Gobi Discovery*	Not Rated
7	Gobi Desert	Mon Mirage*	Not Rated
8-9	Khogno Khan	Mon Altai*	Not Rated
10	Khustai Nuruu Nat'l Park	Khustai*	Not Rated
11-12	Lake Khuvsgul	Alag Tsar*	Not Rated
13-14	Countryside/Ulaanbaatar	Tuul Riverside Lodge	Not Rated
15	Depart Ulaanbaatar for U.S.		
16	Arrive U.S.		

* Ger Camp

Ratings are based on the Hotel & Travel Index, the travel industry standard reference. Unrated hotels may be too small, too new, or too remote to be listed.

Cover photo: Mongolian eagle hunters race across the vast plains of the Gobi Desert.



Pristine Lake Khuvsgul, where we spend two nights

Day 5: Gobi Desert/Khongoryn Els Like Mongolia’s nomads, we travel through the desert today along the Altai Mountain range to Khongoryn Els, home of the “singing” sand dunes. Stop en route to visit with a local camel breeder’s family. *B,L,D*

Day 6: Gobi Desert/Khongoryn Els An unusual and exciting day is in store as we ride domesticated Bactrian camels out to the 2,600-foot high sand dunes. We have the opportunity to climb on the soft sand of the dunes, which measure 62 miles long and just over a half-mile wide. *B,L,D*

Day 7: Gobi Desert/Bayanzag On today’s excursion in this UNESCO Biosphere Reserve we 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 the 1920s, Bayanzag boasts a treasure-trove of fossils that we can see on the rocks. *B,L,D*

Day 8: Gobi Desert/Mt. Khogno Khan We 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 sheepherders, with their traditional *gers* dotting the landscape. Late this afternoon we reach the sacred mountain and nature reserve of Khogno Khan, set in a beautiful landscape of taiga (boreal forest), steppe, desert, and river. Here we have the opportunity to hike and to see the remains of an ancient monastery before continuing on to our *ger* camp for the evening. *B,L,D*

Day 9: Mt. Khogno Khan/Karakorum On today’s two-hour overland journey to the ruins of the ancient Mongol capital of Karakorum, we visit the Karakorum Museum, housing priceless art and artifacts, and the 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. *B,L,D*

Day 10: Mt. Khogno Khan/Khustai Nuruu National Park We 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 UNESCO Biosphere Reserve. The steppe landscape also sustains gazelle, deer, boar, wolves, lynx, and more. *B,L,D*

Day 11: Khustai/Lake Khuvsgul Today we 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 in Asia, 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*

“BUT WHICH IS THE
STONE THAT SUPPORTS
THE BRIDGE ...”
— KUBLAI KHAN

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

Day 13: Lake Khuvsgul/Ulaanbaatar Countryside Early this morning we travel to the city of Moron for the 1½-hour flight to Ulaanbaatar. From here we 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 we have the opportunity to join in outdoor activities and to absorb the vast, unspoiled countryside that surrounds us. *B,L,D*

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

Day 15: Ulaanbaatar/Depart for U.S. After a morning at leisure, we visit Ulaanbaatar, where we visit the Winter Palace of the last Bogd Kahn and the National Museum of Mongolia. Early this evening we attend a folklore performance followed by dinner at a local restaurant. Then we transfer to the airport for our overnight flight to the U.S. *B,L,D*

Day 16: Arrive U.S. We arrive in the U.S. today and connect with our flights home.



Young Mongolian girl

Tour Departs: July 16, 2014

Prices include international airfare and all taxes, surcharges, and fees.

Los Angeles, San Francisco	\$6,542
Phoenix, Portland (OR), Seattle	\$6,742
Atlanta, Boston, Chicago, Dallas, Denver, Houston, Minneapolis, New York	\$6,942
Baltimore, Charlotte, Cincinnati, Cleveland, Detroit, Miami, Orlando, Philadelphia, Tampa, Washington, DC	\$7,042
Land Only (transfers not available)	\$4,495

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 \$595. Single spaces are extremely limited and may not be available. All 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 subject to availability and pricing is subject to change).

Please note: While a warm and welcoming country, Mongolia's tourism infrastructure is developing and travel here requires a sense of adventure and flexibility. Accommodations outside of Ulaanbaatar can be rustic. You will 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.

For reservations and information, please call Odysseys Unlimited toll-free at

888-370-6765

Monday-Friday, 9:00 AM-7:00 PM, Eastern Time

For further information contact VMFA Member Travel at 804-340-1519.

Your Tour Price Includes

- Round-trip air transportation from listed cities: all flights within itinerary
- 13 nights' accommodations: 2 nights in First Class hotel; 11 nights in traditional *ger* camps and lodge
- 39 meals: 13 breakfasts, 13 lunch, 13 dinners
- Extensive sightseeing as described, including all entrance fees
- Services of an Odysseys Unlimited Tour Director
- Private vehicle transportation throughout your trip
- Luggage handling for one bag per person
- Gratuities for local guides, dining room servers, airport and hotel porters, and all drivers



VIRGINIA MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS

Dear VMFA Members,

Join me on a unique Mongolian Adventure! In a small group of no more than 18 guests, we will follow in the footsteps of Genghis Khan from the sands of the Gobi Desert to the grasslands of the steppe. Staying in traditional ger camps, we will experience the unrivaled hospitality of the Mongolian people and the unspoiled geography of its wide open spaces.

Begin in Ulaanbaatar, the capital of Mongolia, and visit the Museum of Fine Arts, the Museum of Natural History, and the 19th-century Gandan Monastery. Fly to the Gobi Desert, the largest in Asia. Explore scenic Eagle Valley, Khongoryn Els, home of the "singing" sand dunes, and the Flaming Cliffs of Bayanzag. Take a camel ride out to the 2,600-foot high sand dunes and walk on the soft sand. Next, visit the ruins of the ancient Mongolian capital of Karakorum, where Genghis Khan's fabled palace, Xanadau, is believed to have stood. Then, travel to Khustai Nuruu National Park and freshwater Lake Khuvsgal. Conclude our journey returning to Ulaanbaatar with visits to the National Museum of Mongolia and the Winter Palace of the last Bogd Kahn.

Space on this program is limited to VMFA members and family and will fill quickly; your early reservations are encouraged.

Sincerely,

Hutch Livingston

Adele "Hutch" Livingston
Coordinator of Member Travel

VMFA RESERVATION FORM: MONGOLIAN ADVENTURE

Enclosed is my/our deposit for \$_____ (\$500 per person) for _____ person/people on Mongolian Adventure departing July 16, 2014. I/we understand the final payment is due at least 125 days prior to departure. Payment may be made by American Express, Discover, MasterCard, or VISA or by personal check. Please make deposit check payable to Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. and mail check (along with completed reservation form) to: Odysseys Unlimited, Inc., Attn: Special Interest Groups, One Newton Place, 275 Washington Street, Suite 300, Newton, MA 02458 Or call Odysseys Unlimited toll-free at 888-370-6765, or fax reservation to 617-454-9199.

Full Passport Name _____ Date of Birth _____ Gender _____

Full Passport Name _____ Date of Birth _____ Gender _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Home Phone: (_____) _____ Cell Phone: (_____) _____

E-mail _____ Badge Name(s) _____

Please book my/our air from _____ I/we request a Business Class upgrade

I will share a room with _____ I request a single room (limited availability)

Please Note: The undersigned has read the schedule of activities for Mongolian Adventure, July 16-31, 2014, and agrees that their signature below represents their acceptance of the General Terms & Conditions.

Signature(s) _____ Date _____

Method of Payment Check American Express Discover MasterCard VISA

Account # _____ Security Code _____ Exp. Date _____

Name of Cardholder _____

Signature _____

Final invoicing will be sent by our tour operator, Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. The balance of the program price must be paid to Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. Final payment is due 125 days prior to departure and is payable by check or credit card.

GENERAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS

Please read this information carefully, as payment of a \$500 deposit per person represents your acceptance of the following Terms and Conditions.

Not included in tour price

Airfare when purchasing a Land Only package; costs of passports and visas; personal expenses such as beverages, laundry, room service, and meals not specified; airport transfers when purchasing a Land Only package; communication charges; gratuities to your Odysseys Unlimited Tour Director, which are at your discretion (suggested gratuities \$10-\$15 per traveler, per day); optional sightseeing; travel protection insurance (strongly recommended). Additional baggage fees may apply and are subject to change at any time. You should confirm directly with your airline prior to departure.

Cancellations, refunds and changes

If you must cancel your trip, the effective date of cancellation will be upon our receipt of your written notification. Refunds for cancellations are subject to the following per person charges: **Cancel 125 days or more before departure: \$200 charges; Cancel 124-95 days before departure: 50% of tour price; Cancel 94-65 days before departure: 75% of tour price; Cancel 64-0 days before departure: No refund.** If a guest makes any changes to their reservation within 94 and 30 days prior to departure to either their departure city and/or post-tour extension, Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. will apply a \$100 per person administrative fee, in addition to any fees or penalties imposed by third parties. If your reservation changes from double occupancy to single occupancy for any reason, you will be charged the single supplement. **No changes are allowed within 30 days of departure. Upon reservation you must provide your full legal name as it appears on your passport as well as your date of birth and gender. In the event an airline ticket is issued with incorrect information you have provided, you will be responsible for charges associated with the ticket's reissue.**

Responsibility

The liability of the VMFA Foundation, as sponsor, and Odysseys Unlimited, Inc., as tour operator, is strictly limited. Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. purchases transportation, hotel accommodations, restaurant and other services from independent suppliers not under our control. We serve only as agents for these suppliers in securing tour arrangements, and therefore will not accept responsibility for wrongful, negligent, or arbitrary acts or omissions of these independent contractors, their employees, agents, servants or representatives. The VMFA Foundation and Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. are not liable for injury, damage, loss, accident, or delay that may be caused by events not within our control, including without limitation, acts of terrorism, war, strikes, the defect of any vehicle, or the negligence or default of any third party. All coupons, receipts, and tickets issued are subject to the terms and conditions specified by the air carriers, cruise line, and other independent suppliers. We will make every effort to operate our tours as planned, but we reserve the right to make itinerary changes as necessary. If unforeseen circumstances require us to change a hotel, we will select alternative accommodations of the same or better quality.

Health and Medical Issues

We request that you be in good health to participate in this Odysseys Unlimited tour. There is a reasonable amount of walking, and **you must be able to get on and off motorcoaches on your own.** If you require the use of a wheelchair or have other personal needs, you must be accompanied by a companion who will assist you. We reserve the right to remove anyone whose physical or mental condition, in our opinion, compromises the operation of the tour or detracts from the enjoyment or safety of the other passengers. In that event, Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. and the VMFA Foundation assume no financial responsibility for any unused portion of the tour.

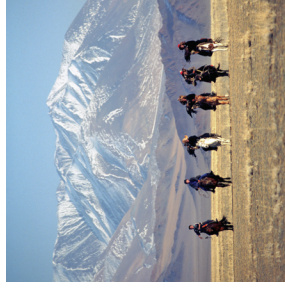
Air Transportation – Important Information

Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. includes in its tour price round trip economy air from designated gateway cities as shown and contracts with those airlines they feel provide the level of service, routings, and value necessary for your entire trip. While another airline may offer a more direct connection, it may be at a price unavailable at the lower group rates. You will receive your preliminary air schedule approximately 2½ months prior to departure. **Please note that seat assignments on your international flight are usually done at airport check-in. Odysseys Unlimited is unable to guarantee any seat assignments.** Due to the nature of tour operator tickets, other restrictions apply, including but not limited to, frequent flyer mileage accrual, stopovers, alternate travel dates, upgrades, and airline taxes and departure fees. If you prefer to make your own travel arrangements, Land Only is available on most tours. **Since international and domestic air schedules are subject to change at any time, we recommend that if you choose to make your own airline reservations, you do not purchase non-refundable tickets or those with high penalties for changes. If you choose to make your own air arrangements, Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. shall not have any liability for any loss resulting from cancellation of this tour or changes in this tour.**



VMFA Travel
200 N. Boulevard
Richmond, VA 23220-4007

Presorted
Standard
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Odysseys
Unlimited, Inc.



JOIN US FOR AN EXCLUSIVE
VMFA MONGOLIAN ADVENTURE