

*Center for the Study of Eurasian Nomads (CSEN) 2016 Educational Field Program*

**VISUAL CULTURES OF MONGOLIA**



*Ruins of the Uyghur imperial capital, Ordu Balik*

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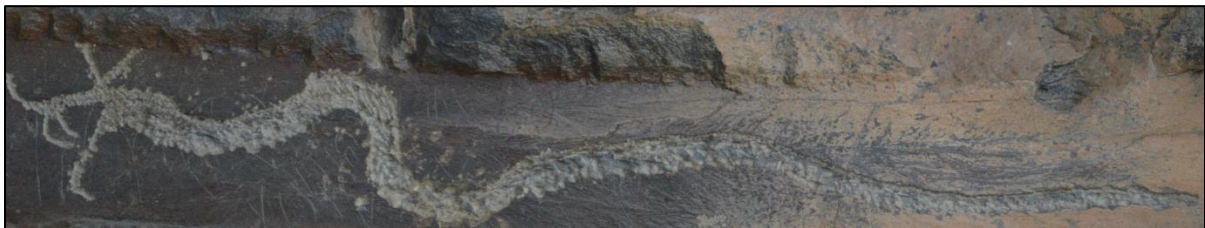
## ESSENTIAL INFORMATION

**Program dates:** August 8<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup>, 2016  
**Length:** 13 days  
**Application Deadline:** May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2016  
**Full participant contribution deadline:** June 8<sup>th</sup>, 2016  
**Tax-deductible participant contribution\*:** \$3,870  
**Enrollment:** 8-12 participants

## PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The “Visual Cultures of Mongolia” program will take a photographer’s eye and an anthropologist’s approach to architecture, fine arts, religious and spiritual iconography, public and private visual landscapes, and the many juxtapositions in Mongolian imagery (sacred vs. profane, natural vs. built, foreign vs. indigenous) from deep prehistory to the 21st-century. Our Program Director will lead participants in creating a photographic account and daily reaction journal of our team’s engagements with monuments, monasteries, and modern herders in order to cultivate a visual understanding of the complexities of Mongolian society and history. Over the course of 13 days in Ulaanbaatar and the Mongolian countryside, the program explores four primary themes:

- 1) Landscapes
- 2) Spiritual Life of Mongolia
- 3) Material Culture of Mongolia’s Past
- 4) The Ruins of Empires



\*The participant contribution covers the following:

- Airport pickup on August 7<sup>th</sup> and drop-off on August 21<sup>st</sup> at Chinggis Khan International Airport or the Ulaanbaatar train station
- Double-occupancy overnight accommodations in a midrange hotel in Ulaanbaatar on August 7<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup>, and 20<sup>th</sup>, and in Chinggis city on August 17<sup>th</sup>
- Overnight accommodation in a 2- or 4-person *ger* in rural *ger* camps August 8<sup>th</sup> through 11<sup>th</sup>, August 14<sup>th</sup> through 16<sup>th</sup>, and August 18<sup>th</sup>
- Three daily meals and bottled water from August 8<sup>th</sup> through 20<sup>th</sup> (does not include: alcoholic beverages, dessert, espresso, or personal snacks. Please consult the Program Coordinator if you have any questions)
- Entrance fees to all national parks, protected areas, museums, monasteries, and other sites listed in the program schedule, including photography fee (additional charges for video recordings may apply)
- All in-country program-related transportation costs
- Lectures and guided activities by Professor Bob Haft (The Evergreen State College) and Ms. Emma Hite (The University of Chicago)
- Mongolian-English dual translation by program staff

- Activities including: camel riding in the Elsen Tasarkhai sand dunes, horseback riding in Bayan Gol, and a yak cart ride in Gun-Galuut National Park
- Program participant t-shirt



*Khurkh Valley, Khentii Province*

## CONTACT US

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### **About the Center for the Study of Eurasian Nomads**

The Center for the Study of Eurasian Nomads is a 501(c)3 non-profit educational organization founded by Dr. Jeannine Davis-Kimball in 1989. Since its foundation, CSEN has supported international collaborative research, scholarly publications, and educational field programs in Mongolia, Kazakhstan, and from the broader Eurasian steppe. More information about programming, publications, and academic ventures may be found at the organization's website ([cсен.org](http://cсен.org)).



*Ancient symbols at Rashaan Khad*



## SENIOR STAFF



### Program Director: Professor Bob Haft (MFA)

Professor Haft teaches photography, visual arts, and art history at the Evergreen State College. He has extensive experience leading multidisciplinary educational field programs in Italy and Greece for students passionate about history and the arts. As a photographer Professor Haft has exhibited his work at a number of museums and galleries in the greater Pacific Northwest.

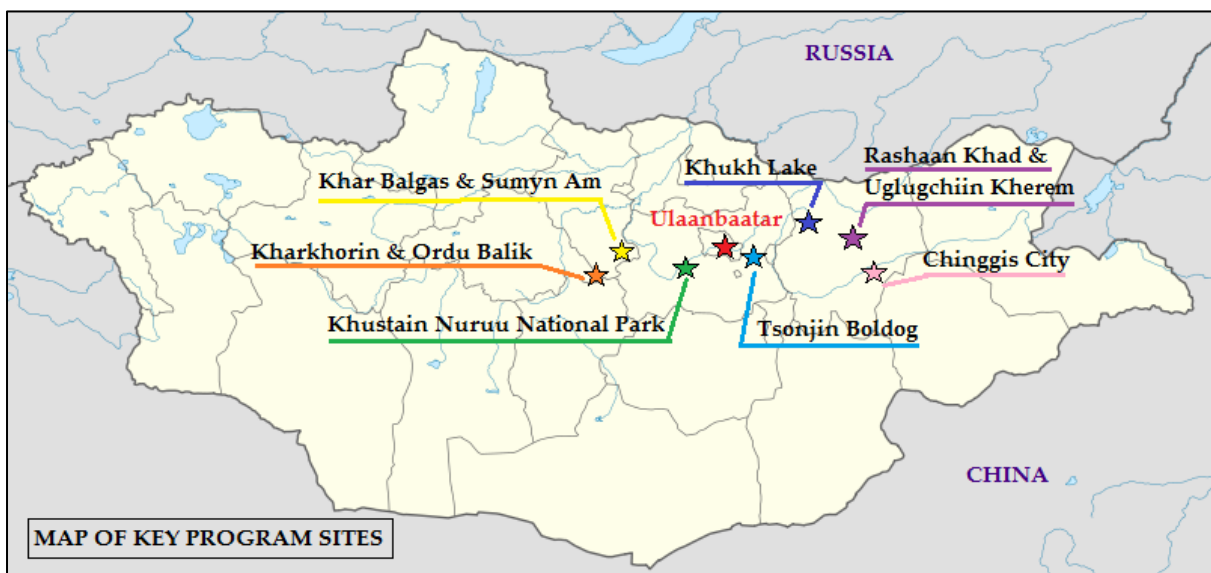


### Program Coordinator: Emma Hite (MA)

Ms. Hite studies the human-animal relationships of the Khunnu Empire in Mongolia as part of her dissertation research. She is a doctoral candidate at the University of Chicago and two-time Fulbright Fellow to Mongolia who has conducted archaeological research and led field expeditions in Mongolia for over 10 years.

## PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Each day the senior staff will lead our team through a variety of key sites of cultural, religious, and/or historical significance through a combination of lecture walks, hands-on activities, and critical engagement (photography, sketching, and journaling). Key sites are noted in the Program Map below. We will structure our exploration of program sites and other activities around the four primary program themes: *Landscapes*; *Spiritual Life of Mongolia*; *Material Culture of Mongolia's Past*; and *The Ruins of Empire*. The following schedule lists the main events, activities, and locations for the program. These plans are subject to change at the discretion of the senior staff.



## PROGRAM SCHEDULE

**August 7<sup>th</sup>:** *Pre-program airport pickup from Chinggis Khan International Airport and drop-off at the program hotel in downtown Ulaanbaatar. For more information about program accommodations in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolian ger, and ger camps, see Pages 24-25.*

### DAY 1 – August 8<sup>th</sup>

#### *Ulaanbaatar*

##### National Museum of Mongolia

This is the largest museum in Mongolia with exhibits from Paleolithic to the present day.

*Theme:* “Introduction (1): Visual chronology of Mongolia from the Paleolithic to the 21st century”



*Parliament House in the central square, Ulaanbaatar*

##### Chinggis/Sukhbaatar Square, Parliament House, and Democratic Party Headquarters

Our team will walk through the heart of the city to see statues to Mongolia's greatest heroes, the current seat of political power, and the city's few skyscrapers

*Theme:* “Introduction (2): The monuments of modern Mongolia: statues and skyscrapers of Ulaanbaatar's century”

#### *Rural Mongolia*



*Riding camels in Elsen Tasarkhai*

Elsen Tasarkhai sand dunes

Driving westward from Ulaanbaatar to our next adventure, we should reach the sand dunes of Elsen Tasarkhai in the late afternoon. The dunes mark the border between two provinces and run along the Khungnu Khan mountain range and protected area; some camel-herding families live in the area, and we should get the opportunity to visit their homes and ride their Bactrian camels

*Themes:*

- 1) “Landscapes (1) Introduction to the Steppe: Long-distance travel through the Mongolian countryside through major alluvial plains and areas of long-term human occupation”
- 2) “Herder's Life in the Desert-Steppe Zone: Camel riding in Elsen Tasarkhai”

*Activities in Elsen Tasarkhai:* visit with a local nomadic family and ride Bactrian camels in the dunes and mixed steppe scrubland nearby

**Overnight accommodations:** shared *ger* in a local *ger* camp

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**DAY 2 – August 9<sup>th</sup>:**



*Ruins at Khungnu Khan monastery*

Khungnu Khan monastery

This monastic site in the sacred red-rock valley of the Khungnu Khan Protected Area was entirely destroyed in 1937 and rebuilt and repopulated beginning in 1990. Weeds and small trees now grow amidst the ruins of the temples, stupas, and other buildings. Several of the temples have been rebuilt, including ones perched high in the rocky hills, and a few monks live onsite part of the year. There is a sacred *ovoo* site to the east where observants leave offerings, such as *khadag* (prayer scarves), food, money, and horse skulls.

*Themes:*

- 1) “Spiritual Life of Mongolia (1): Sacred sites and spaces that get visited, occupied, and reused over generations, centuries, and even millennia”



2) “The Material Culture of Mongolia's Past (1): Traditional objects in Mongolian religion (*khadag*, offerings, sculpture, paintings)”



*Erdene Zuu monastery*

Erdene Zuu monastery and old Qara Qorum

Erdene Zuu is one of the largest, oldest, and most important Buddhist monasteries in Mongolia. It also sits on the site of the ancient Mongol imperial capital city of Qara Qorum. Despite many destruction events, Erdene Zuu has an impressive collection of ritual dance costumes, wall paintings, *thangka*, and other elaborate Buddhist paraphernalia; the visually-unimpressive but important remains of the Mongol capital run out from the monastery walls to the north and east.

*Themes:*

- 1) “Spiritual Life of Mongolia (2): The great site of Erdene Zuu and the overlap of the sacred (Buddhism) and mundane (Qara Qorum, the Mongol imperial capital)”
- 2) “The Ruins of Empires (1) – The Mongol Empire and its medieval successors in Mongolia”

**Overnight accommodations:** shared *ger* in a local *ger* camp



*Mares and foals in the desert-steppe ecological zone*

**DAY 3 – August 10<sup>th</sup>**



*Statues from a recently-excavated medieval tomb at the Kharkhorum Museum*

Kharkhorum Museum

The museum houses a variety of archaeological finds from all time periods. It is most notable for its medieval-period exhibitions, including terracotta figures, a golden pass from the Mongol Empire, imperial coins, and other impressive items.

*Theme:* “Material Culture of Mongolia's Past (2): The complex and cosmopolitan empires of medieval Mongolia – the Turks, Uyghurs, and Mongols”



*Eagle perched in the ruins of a stupa at Ordu Balik*

Ordu Balik

Site of the Uyghur imperial capital (mid-8<sup>th</sup> to mid-9<sup>th</sup> century) and called 'Ordu Balik' in ancient Turkic, the earthwork walls of the citadel stronghold, stupas, and city plan spread out over several kilometers. A joint German-Mongolian archaeological expedition has been excavating there for several summers in a row and we expect publications on their exciting results within the next few years.

*Theme:* “The Ruins of Empires (2) – Citadel of the Uyghurs”



### Khushuu Tsaidam

Ritual monuments and cache for leaders of the Turk Empire, including the famous Orkhon Inscriptions, are housed in the large museum at Khushuu Tsaidam. The stelae, stone statues, and ritual caches of golden and silver objects were created for two of the empire's greatest figures (brothers Bilge *khagan* and Kul Tegin) who died in the mid-8<sup>th</sup> century at the height of the empire.

*Theme:* “The Ruins of Empires (3) – Ceremonial caches and commemorative stones of the Turk Empire”

**Overnight accommodations:** shared *ger* in local *ger* camp

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## DAY 4 – August 11<sup>th</sup>



*The medieval fortress at Khar Bukhyn Balgas*

### Khar Bukhyn Balgas

A medieval fortress likely from the Khitan period (10<sup>th</sup> -12<sup>th</sup> centuries) constructed of stacked slate rock now remains as the ruins of a number of central buildings and a large stupa surrounded by a defensive earthen wall. Some artifacts from previous archaeological digs are housed in the tiny associated museum.

*Theme:* “The Ruins of Empires (4) – Stronghold and stupa of the Khitan Empire”

### Sumyn Am site

Sumyn Am is a multi-period site that consists of the remnants of a small Buddhist monastery, rock art panels, and ancient burials on nearby slopes and hills. Sumyn Am is ideal for some informal hands-on archaeology, as the ruins of the monastery include tile, brick, and small finds that we can examine (but not remove) through informal survey.

*Theme:* “Landscapes (2): Mongolian palimpsests – making one place from the Bronze Age through to the early modern period (Sumyn Am site)”



*Deer and ibex images at Sumyn Am*

**Overnight accommodations:** shared *ger* in local *ger* camp

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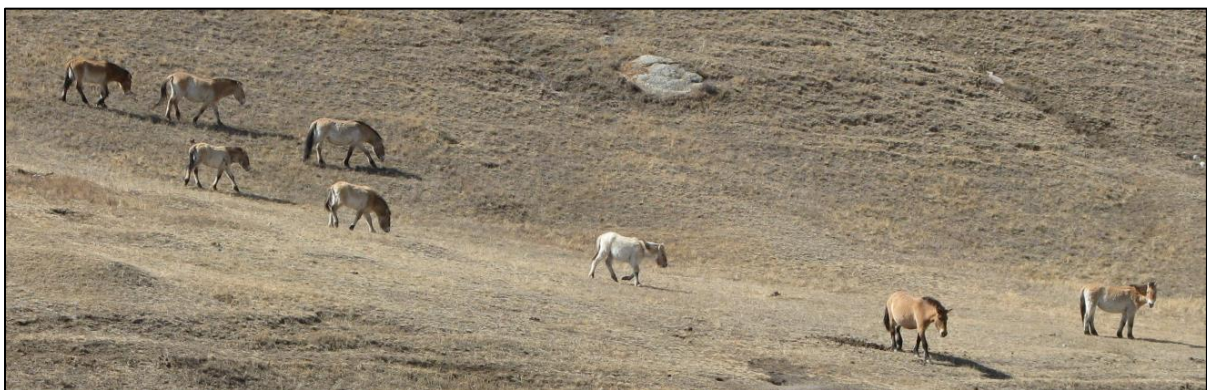
## **DAY 5 – August 12<sup>th</sup>**

### Khustain Nuruu National Park

This preserve is most famous for its role in the conservation and reintroduction of Przewalski's horses. Khustain Nuruu is an important nature preserve where we can see the *takhi* (Przewalski's horse), red deer, marmot, raptors, and other creatures. Deep within the park is a collection of medieval stone statues and monuments clustered into one site.

*Themes:*

- 1) "Landscapes (3): Conservation and endangered wildlife in Mongolia's present"
- 2) "Material Culture of Mongolia's Past (3): Statues and standing stone complexes of the Turk and other medieval period empires"



*Przewalski's horses at Khustain Nuruu*

*Ulaanbaatar*

Winter Palace of the Bogd Khan

The Winter Palace of the Bogd Khan is both a museum attesting to the ruler's opulent lifestyle and site of abandoned but restored temples and monastic buildings. The Bogd Khan was the autocratic leader of Mongolia after the country declared independence from the Qing Empire in 1911 and 8<sup>th</sup> person to hold the title of highest-ranking lama in Mongolia (he was an incarnation of the Jebsundamba Khutuktu, a luminary title third only to the Dalai Lama and Panchen Lama in the spiritual hierarchy of Tibetan Buddhism). The museum houses his personal treasures, early modern art, and restored Buddhist paraphernalia.

*Themes:*

- 1) “Spiritual Life of Mongolia (3): The Bogd Khan and the political ascendancy of Buddhism in the early modern period”
- 2) “Material Culture of Mongolia's Past (4): Opulence of the late 19<sup>th</sup>- and early 20<sup>th</sup>-century leaders”

**Overnight accommodations:** midrange hotel in downtown Ulaanbaatar (double-occupancy)

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**DAY 6 – August 13<sup>th</sup>**



*Stupa at Gandantegchinlen monastery, Ulaanbaatar*

Gandantegchinlen monastery

Called “Gandan” for short, this large urban Buddhist monastery and temple complex in the capital city is largely intact, saved from destruction in order to function as a show ‘temple’ that demonstrated the “religious freedom” enjoyed by Mongolians under the Socialist regime. At least a few monks, the buildings, and some of the artwork were spared despite the widespread obliteration of Buddhism in the rest of Mongolia.

*Theme:* “Spiritual Life of Mongolia (3): Gandan monastery and urban religious practices”



Chingeltei district

The walk from Gandan leads through a small *ger* district (combination of a slum and suburb that defines Ulaanbaatar urban growth in the 21<sup>st</sup>-century), along one of city's major avenues, through a market district, and towards the now largely defunct Builder's Square from the Socialist period. This walk shows the humble and mundane side of Ulaanbaatar, from poorer families living in felt and canvas *ger* to vendors who sell all manner of local and imported goods.

*Theme:* “Material Culture of Mongolia's Past (5): 20<sup>th</sup>-century places and practices in 21<sup>st</sup>-century Ulaanbaatar”



*Display of Buddhist fine arts at Zanabazar Fine Arts Museum*

Zanabazar Fine Arts Museum

Home to impressive bronze statues created by Zanabazar, one of the most important figures in Mongolian medieval history and Buddhism, the museum has an interesting combination of archaeological finds, medieval bronze statues, glorious Buddhist paraphernalia, and 20<sup>th</sup>-century Mongolian folk art.

*Theme:* “Material Culture of Mongolia's Past (6): The divine arts of Zanabazar and Buddhist *thangka*”

Mongolian National Modern Art Gallery

The national gallery houses the most impressive array of contemporary Mongolian painting, sculpture, and other media that define Mongolian secular arts in the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> centuries.

*Theme:* “Material Culture of Mongolia's Past (7): Mongolian visual vocabularies in contemporary fine arts – Socialist influences, Mongolian traditions”

**Overnight accommodations:** midrange hotel in downtown Ulaanbaatar (double-occupancy)

**DAY 7 – August 14<sup>th</sup>**



*The monumental equestrian statue of Genghis Khan at Tsonjin Boldog*

Tsonjin Boldog

About 70km eastward from Ulaanbaatar stands the monumental equestrian statue of Genghis Khan (*Chinggis Khan*), an associated commemorative complex for the Mongol Empire, and good archaeological museums in basement. No visit to Mongolia is complete without a stop at the Genghis Khan statue!

*Theme:* “Landscapes (4): The Genghis Khan statue – legend, legacy, and the heritage of Mongolia”

Tsenkhermandal Valley

This picturesque river valley connects the paved highway to the secluded mountains surrounding Khukh Lake. Herds, nomadic encampments, and a few ancient burials and monuments line our route.

*Themes:*

- 1) “Landscapes (5): Introduction to the *khangai* (forested zone) – lush valleys and forested hills of Khentii Province”
- 2) “Spiritual Life of Mongolia (4): Where modern sky burials and ancient graves meet”



*Line of standing stones in Tsenkhermandal Valley*

### Khukh Lake

Fully named the "Blue Lake of the Black Heart", Khukh Lake is a small mountain lake tucked between a small mountain and pine forests. Legendarily one of the important sites in Genghis Khan's rise to power, one side of the lake has an unusual wooden modern monument to all the rulers of the Mongol Empire and the other side is marked by a large sacred rock cairn (*ovoo*).

*Theme:* "Material Culture of Mongolia's Past (8): Modern wooden monuments to the lords, ladies, and legends of the Mongol Empire at Khukh Lake"

**Overnight accommodations:** shared wooden cabins in a simple cabin camp near the lake

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## DAY 8 – August 15<sup>th</sup>



*Examining an archaeological site south of Bayan Gol*

### Bayan Gol

From Khukh Lake we travel east to Bayan Gol via backcountry pastureland, winding upland streams, and lush hills. Bayan Gol is home to the seasonal encampments of many local nomadic families, connecting the fringes of the protected Khan-Khentii mountain range with the wide Khurkh River Valley that flows west from the eastern provinces.

*Themes:*

- 1) "Landscapes (6): Upland pastures of Khentii Province, where herders shift to cattle, sheep, and goat over horses and camels"
- 2) "Herder's Life in the *Khangai*: Visiting a local nomadic family's summer encampment in Bayan Gol"

*Activities in Khentii backcountry:* horseback riding, hiking, and berry picking in the river valley and hills of Bayan Gol.

**Overnight accommodations:** shared *ger* in local *ger* camp





*Playing around in Bayan Gol*

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## DAY 9 – August 16<sup>th</sup>

### Baldan Bereeven monastery

Once one of Mongolia's most prominent Buddhist monastic communities, Baldan Bereeven is now being rebuilt many decades after the 1937-1938 purges of the monks and destruction of the monastery's buildings. Baldan Bereeven is today made up of ruins, restored temples, and the broader sacred geography that combines shamanic, animistic, and Buddhist beliefs, manifested in the rock cairns, mountains, and human-made images and inscriptions on natural features.

*Theme:* “Spiritual Life of Mongolia (4): Rebuilding a broken world – restoration and revitalization of Buddhist traditions and monastic communities at Baldan Bereeven”



*Buddhist imagery and Tibetan inscriptions at Baldan Bereeven monastery*

Khangal Lake

Small upland lake where migrating birds, including swans and cranes, and passing herds stop.

*Theme:* “Landscapes (7): Water in a Dry Land – lakes as oases for migrating birds, herds, and people at Khangal Lake”

**Overnight accommodations:** shared *ger* in local *ger* camp

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**DAY 10 – August 17<sup>th</sup>**

Jargalant River Valley

We will travel through a broad floodplain where smaller valleys lined with burial mounds and marsh vegetation intersect. Jargalant River Valley is home to several mortuary and ritual complexes from the Bronze Age through Turkic periods, including *baalbaal* lines, deer stones, slab graves, and the massive kurgan-style mounds known as *khirigsuur*.

*Theme:* “Material Culture of Mongolia's Past (9): Great monuments of the deep past – deer stones, *khirigsuur* mounds, and slab graves”



*A deer stone complex in the Jargalant River Valley*

Rashaan Khad

This famous rock art site contains images and inscriptions from the Paleolithic to the early modern period. In addition to the amazing rock art, there are a number of burials from the Bronze Age and medieval periods, remains from stone tool manufacture, and a modern sacred 'spring' dripping from one of the overhangs that Mongolians today visit for its supposed curative properties.

*Themes:*

- 1) “Spiritual Life of Mongolia (5): Interacting with the Sacred Past – *ovoo* worship, offerings, and eye-spring use at Rashaan Khad”
- 2) “Material Culture of Mongolia's Past (10): Rock art, inscriptions, and stone tools – seeing the *longue durée* in one place (Rashaan Khad)”



*Looking eastward from Uglugchiin Kherem*

Uglugchiin Kherem fortress

Medieval-era ruins running up a mountain top, today the Uglugchiin Kherem fortress is the subject of scholarly controversy. Numerous archaeologists have worked at Uglugchiin Kherem since the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century, but we're still not exactly sure what the structure is or why it was built; all that clearly remains is the stacked rock wall. The top portion of the wall runs along the mountain top and makes for an amazing vista of the entire area (this is a short but challenging hike over rough terrain).

*Themes:*

- 1) “The Ruins of Empires (5): Remnants of medieval military might at the Uglugchiin Kherem fortress wall”
- 2) “Landscapes (10): Seeing like defenders and conquerors – the visual landscape from the top of the Uglugchiin Kherem fortress”

**Overnight accommodations:** midrange hotel in Chinggis city, the capital of Khentii Province (double-occupancy)

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**DAY 11 – August 18<sup>th</sup>**

Morning in Chinggis city

Recently renamed for Mongolia's most illustrious personage, Genghis Khan, the capital of Khentii Province is surrounded by medieval archaeological sites and composed of modern and Soviet-era architecture, making it a cross-section of Mongolia over the last 1,000-plus years.

*Theme:* “Material Culture of Mongolia's Past (10): Making Undurkhaan into Chinggis city – monuments, architecture, and museums”



Medieval *kherem* sites

Medieval-era fortress ruins – earthwork walls from Mongolia's ancient empires located just south of Chinggis city – called *kherem* invite comparisons to Ordu Balik and other medieval sites we will have seen during our travels in the Orkhon Valley. We will walk the weathered earthen walls of ruined fortresses and settlements in the heartland of Mongolia's great empires (Baruun and Zuun *kherem* sites) that stretched into Manchuria, China, and beyond.

*Theme:* “The Ruins of Empires (6): Fortresses and settlements of the Great Khans and their kin”



*Mongolian gazelle in Gun-Galuut Nature Preserve*

Gun-Galuut Nature Preserve

We will overnight in an eco-camp along river in this natural preserve on the steppe, home to local herding families and a variety of steppe flora and fauna. Gun-Galuut is a great place to explore steppe ecology, the classic Mongolian landscape, and the nomadic pastoral lifestyle.

*Theme:* “Landscapes (12): Local life and preservation of nature on Mongolia's steppeland – Gun-Galuut Preserve vs. the massive Baganuur mining site”

**Overnight accommodations:** shared *ger* in local *ger* camp

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**DAY 12 – August 19<sup>th</sup>**

Gun-Galuut Nature Preserve

The Gun-Galuut landscape permits us to experience the steppe as nomads do, and to search for the more elusive endangered species that make this protected area their home.

*Theme:* “Herder's life in the Steppe: Yak cart ride and scouting expedition in search of endangered wildlife (ibex, Mongolian gazelle)”

*Activities in Gun-Galuut:* Yak cart ride with local nomads, wildlife observation, and the morning chores of herding families



*Incised burial slab at Tonyukuk*

Tonyukuk memorial site

A modern iron fences guards the memorial complex dedicated to Tonyukuk, the chief advisor and strategist of the Turk *khagan*, Bilge. The Tonyukuk site is one of the most important Turk imperial sites in Mongolia, with impressive standing stones, engraved burial slabs, and other features protected jointly by the Mongolian and Turkish governments.

*Theme: “The Ruins of Empires (7): Death and commemoration in the Turk Empire”*

Ar Janchivlan shaman site

A modern shaman site and tiny center are tucked in a valley just south of Tonyukuk. Modern shamans and shamanists visit and work and this site on a somewhat-secret schedule. While it's not that impressive to look at, it gives some understanding of current shamanic practices and beliefs in Mongolia. *Note: we may not be able to visit this site if there is a ceremony being performed or if the local shamans prohibit visitors that day.*

*Theme: “Spiritual Life of Mongolia (7): Modern shamans and cosmologies of changing Mongolia – the resurgence of shamanic activities and beliefs in Mongolia coterminous with the collapse of Socialism and ascendancy of free-market neoliberal Mongolia”*

*Ulaanbaatar – return for an evening cultural performance*



*Tsam dance at Dashinchoilen monastery, Ulaanbaatar*

*Theme: “Material Culture of Mongolia's Past (11): Performance – living cultural heritage”*

**Overnight accommodations:** midrange hotel in downtown Ulaanbaatar (double-occupancy)

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**DAY 13 – August 20<sup>th</sup>**



*Street art in Sansar district, Ulaanbaatar*



Sansar district

Vivid graffiti and Socialist-era architecture define this eastern neighborhood, whose name means 'cosmos' in Mongolian.

*Theme:* “Landscapes (13): From Socialism to Post – street art, statues, and Ulaanbaatar's modernization”

Narantuul market

Narantuul, also called The Black Market (although it is not a literal black market), is the single largest open-air site for vendors in Mongolia and has almost everything you could possibly wish to buy in Mongolia. The market is a must-visit place to gain a better understanding of the ways in which average Mongolians balance international and traditional forces in their daily lives.

*Theme:* “Material Culture of Mongolia's Past (12): Traditional clothes, equipment, and religious paraphernalia all for sale alongside plastic toys and modern bric-a-brac at Narantuul market”

Memorial Museum to Victims of Political Persecution: Small, rather sad museum and memorial to victims of the 1930s purges in the early years of Socialist Mongolia

*Theme:* “Material Culture of Mongolia's Past (13): Tragic history and uncomfortable memories – the 1930s purges”



*Inside Chojin Lama*

Chojin Lama monastery

Beautiful crumbling temples located smack-dab in the city center with vivid wall hangings, arcane musical instruments, religious art, and murals will be our last site visit on the program. Some of Mongolia's most lovely Buddhist paraphernalia is housed at Chojin Lama monastery. The shabby gentility of the monastery contrasts to the glass and steel high-rises crowding around it, serving as a poignant way to end the program's examination of the visual cultures of Mongolia.

*Themes:*

- 1) "Spiritual Life of Mongolia (7): The monastery amid the skyscrapers - the importance and resilience of Chojin Lama monastery"
- 2) "Material Culture of Mongolia's Past (14): The faded beauty of Chojin Lama's preserved Buddhist treasures"

*Farewell dinner to celebrate the end of the program to follow our visit to Chojin Lama monastery.*

**Overnight accommodations:** midrange hotel in downtown Ulaanbaatar (double-occupancy)

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**August 21<sup>st</sup>:** *Airport pickup from the program hotel and drop-off at Chinggis Khan International Airport or main passenger terminal at the Ulaanbaatar train station. Breakfast at the hotel restaurant will be the last meal included in the program.*



*Sacred rock cairn (ovoo) in Khentii Province*

## PROGRAM LOGISTICS

### TRANSPORTATION



*The all-terrain Soviet-manufactured furgong, our means of transportation*

Our team will travel in 4-wheel drive vehicles on a combination of poorly-maintained paved roads, dirt tracks, and off-road in Mongolian backcountry. There is some decent paved road leading out of Ulaanbaatar but expect difficult traffic in and while getting out of the city, and rough road (or off-road) conditions after a certain point. Some days our team will spend a significant amount of time driving in order to reach interesting and remote locations. Riding in program vehicles is not particularly comfortable, especially when going off-road, so be prepared for a bumpy ride. Those prone to carsickness are recommended to take precautions. These vehicles, like most in Mongolia, will have neither seat belts nor airbags; unfortunately Mongolia's vehicular and driving safety standards do not match those in Western countries.

### VISAS

US citizens do not need a visa to stay in Mongolia for 90 days or less. US citizens staying longer than 30 days in Mongolia must register with Mongolian Immigration. Please bear this in mind when planning your enrollment in the program. If you are not a US citizen, it is your responsibility to look up the visa requirements for your country of citizenship as they apply to Mongolia. There are no citizenship requirements to participate in the "Visual Cultures of Mongolia" program.

### In The Field

The "Visual Cultures of Mongolia" program involves living in desert-steppe, steppe, and *khangai* (wooded backcountry) environments over the course of 13 days. Fieldwork in rural Mongolia is rewarding but challenging, as plans and conditions can change, for better or for worse, at the drop of a hat. A positive, flexible outlook is essential for all participants! Participants should be in good physical condition and prepared to undertake a variety of physical tasks related to field research and exploration while remaining in good spirits. Our Program Coordinator has previously worked with international students and volunteers ranging from senior citizens to first-year college students on previous field research and exploration projects in Mongolia; her experience is that a volunteer's cheerful attitude and a good work ethic are far more valuable than their physical prowess or previous experience.



We want everyone involved to have a positive experience this summer; coming physically and emotionally prepared will help make that a reality.



*Sunset in Khentii Province*

## RURAL MONGOLIA

During the majority of the program, participants will experience the beauty, challenge, and excitement of the Mongolian countryside in a variety of ecological zones. Conditions are gorgeous but rugged, as much of Mongolia outside of the capital (and even parts of the capital) lacks basic infrastructure, amenities, and utilities services. Weather even during a Mongolian summer is unpredictable and participants should be prepared for the extremes of all four seasons. Please consult the List of Required and Recommended Items, as this list will be your best guide to proper preparation for your time in the program.

## SLEEPING



*Relaxing at a ger camp near Elsen Tasarkhai*

Program participants will overnight in double-occupancy accommodations at a downtown midrange hotel while the program runs in Ulaanbaatar. Those who wish to arrange for a private room at additional expense should submit their request to the Program Coordinator during the application process. All program participants and staff will stay in *ger* camps for 9 nights in rural Mongolia. The *ger* camp is a Mongolian institution, where travelers stay in one of a number of traditional Mongolian dwellings (*ger*) set up near a

central building (which houses the dining hall) and a bathroom facility (usually a second outbuilding with solar-heated showers and pit toilets). A *ger* is constructed of felt and padding wrapped around a light-weight wooden frame bound with white canvas. A Mongolian herding family can take down or put up a *ger* within a matter of hours. A nomadic family in rural Mongolia will move their *ger* up to four times a year, leaving little trace of their previous encampment. However, a *ger* camp's *ger* are often on permanent concrete pads and spaced much closer together than the *ger* of an extended family's encampment.

These *ger* will be simply furnished with small beds, an electric light, and a central iron stove. The stove will burn wood, coal, or animal dung, depending on the region; even during summer you will wish for a fire at night. *Ger* sleep two to four individuals with ease. Although *ger* camps will provide bedding, we strongly encourage participants to bring their own sleeping bags or liners to insure their warmth and comfort for the duration of the program. Participants will therefore share a *ger* with up to three other participants in the various *ger* camps where we overnight. However, you may inquire with the Program Coordinator about arranging for a private *ger* ahead of time; we cannot guarantee that private *ger* will be available at every *ger* camp.

## CLIMATE



*Rainstorm over a Bronze-Age khirigsuur*

Temperature in Mongolia fluctuates rapidly from night to day, even during the height of summer, and our area may experience high winds, rainstorms, and hail. Snow and frost are not unheard of during a cold snap during the height of summer. Mongolia is known as the Land of Blue Sky and Mongolians consider themselves blessed by Eternal Blue Heaven. The brilliant blue sky and glorious cloud formations are as lovely as the sunlight is intense. While Mongolia is generally quite arid, August falls during the rainy season. Just because it is summer doesn't mean that it won't get very cold, especially at night! We strongly urge you to bring enough clothing to deal with all extremes and types of weather. You should bring at least one set of thermals or long underwear, cold weather hat and gloves, socks of both thin and heavy weight, sweaters or Polar Fleece zip-ups, long pants, a rain slicker or poncho, and other clothes to layer. Layering is the key to dealing with Mongolia's temperamental weather! Please consult the List of Required and Recommended Items for more details.

## EATING AND DRINKING



*Fermented mare's milk and boiled mutton*

The program participant contribution includes meals and bottled water (2L per day) in Ulaanbaatar and rural Mongolia. Additional beverages, alcohol, dessert, and personal snacks are not included and may be purchased when available at the participant's expense. In Ulaanbaatar our team will dine at a variety of cafes and restaurants; our options in rural Mongolia will be very limited. Most of our meals will be in rural *ger* camps, which are likely to be heavy on mutton, rice, and wheat noodles. Mongolia is very challenging for vegans, strict vegetarians, and those with gluten intolerance. Prospective program participants with special dietary requirements should consult with us during the application process; please be aware that the program may be unable to accommodate special diets. Program participants may wish to bring some favorite spices and seasonings from home (like A-1 sauce or curry powder) to liven up *ger* camp meals, as well as personal snacks of favorite treats. Tums and multi-vitamins will help you adjust to a different diet. Participants may have opportunities to buy snacks and cold drinks from small towns as we travel through the countryside.



*A nomadic family sharing their pride and joy with visitors*



When visiting the homes and festivals of local herders, you may be fortunate enough to be offered samples of traditional Mongolian cuisine, such as *aruul* (sweet hardened cheese curds, seen drying on the roof of the *ger* in the photo above), *suutei tsai* ('milky tea' – the recipe varies by region and household), *uruum* (cooked cream spread), and *airag* (fermented mare's milk). Our field instructors will educate program participants on the relevant etiquette and traditions before each visit, but participants are expected to politely sample and praise the home-cooking of our generous Mongolian hosts.

We recommend that participants bring a personal water purification system with them from home: a filtration pump, water purification tablets, and at least one sealable container that can hold over 1L of water. The program will provide bottled water to all participants and staff, but this process increases the amount of waste our team leaves in local communities and CSEN aims to make as little impact on the ecosystem as possible. The more water that we can draw from wells and rivers and purify for ourselves, the fewer plastic bottles will pile up in the garbage heaps of Mongolia.

The meat in our diet will come primarily from goat and sheep purchased from local herders, which will be slaughtered and butchered by *ger* camp staff with the help of these locals. These animals lead free-range, all-natural lives and their meat should be appreciated. If you are uncomfortable with animal slaughter, butchery, or seeing parts of an animal hanging to dry, you should reconsider your plan to join the program. These activities and sights are a fundamental reality of the mobile pastoral lifeway in modern Mongolia, so you may see them at a *ger* camp, during visits to the homes of local herders, or during other program activities. As a participant in a CSEN program, you will be expected to keep any negative reactions or opinions to these and other aspects of Mongolian life yourself in order not to offend or upset our Mongolian staff and hosts. The Center for the Study of Eurasian Nomads is committed to positive, ethical relations with the local communities involved in any of our programs, and as program team members, participants will act accordingly

## FACILITIES

Clean is a relative term. Learning in the field involves getting dirty and being comfortable with few amenities, lower standards of cleanliness, and breaking out of your normal routine. All of this will be especially true for our time in rural Mongolia.



*A very dusty horse race near Tonyukuk*

There will be almost no indoor plumbing once our program leaves Ulaanbaatar. Most *ger* camps have campground-level bathroom facilities: simple showers and pit toilets in an outbuilding. Hot water is not always available and participants should bring their own toiletries: a swimsuit, sandals, biodegradable and environment-friendly soap, a towel, and other personal hygiene supplies (toothbrush, toothpaste, dental floss, deodorant, moisturizing lotion, chapstick: see the List of Required and Recommended Items) as necessary to make your daily libations less of a hassle.

‘Facilities’ in rural Mongolia include: pit toilets with varying degrees of privacy, ‘steppe toilets’ (a convenient spot far from others or at least somewhat screened by vegetation), and occasional outhouses. In addition to other personal supplies, volunteers are encouraged to bring soft toilet paper from home and travel-sized containers of hand sanitizer, Handi-wipes, facial wipes, and Kleenex. Those who are overly modest or concerned about cleanliness are encouraged to think hard about the realities of fieldwork and travel in Mongolia.

Program participants should be aware that Mongolia’s electrical voltage (220V), irregular outlet types (C and E are most common), and slipshod power grids may present challenges to charging their electronics. We recommend battery-powered devices and portable solar chargers, as many local herders in the area power their TV sets and charge their cell phones in this way. Please consult Professor Haft about your camera and associated equipment and be sure to have appropriate packing and storage materials and routines for these items. There is neither consistent internet access nor reliable cell phone reception in rural Mongolia at this time. Program participants can make calls from county seats, but these are several hours away by car and international calling rates apply. Program participants should not count on communicating with the outside world while on the project.



*Dusk photography along the Orkhon River in Central Mongolia*

All program participants will need to wear good supportive footwear while in the field to protect their feet, stay warm and dry, and to make outdoor activities easier. Our team may walk several miles a day over uneven, sometimes hilly terrain while carrying some items (at least 1L of water, personal supplies, camera, field notebook) in your daypack. Field expeditions in rural Mongolia require decent physical condition and include a regular amount of activity, but having a good attitude is much more important than being in good shape. Those with chronic health problems or medical concerns should consult CSEN and their physician for their own safety and comfort before joining the program.

As noted elsewhere, the weather is extremely variable in Mongolia but intense sunlight and hot days are the norm during summer time. In a steppe environment there is no natural shade or cover from the sun. Thus, a brimmed hat is required and sunglasses, light-weight, light-colored long-sleeved shirts and pants are highly recommended. Participants must bring and wear adequate amounts of sunscreen (SPF 30+) in addition to staying hydrated throughout the day.



*Grazing herds of sheep and goat are a common sight in Central Mongolia*

Animals are an important part of nomadic life in rural Mongolia. People with a fear of animals are discouraged from attending, as herd animals and dogs roam free in rural Mongolia and occasionally through basecamp. All program participants will be respectful and polite when local herders drop by for unannounced visits as good relations with our hosts and neighbors is a key part of the Center for the Study of Eurasian Nomad's philosophy. Our team will have opportunities to engage with these animals several times during the program. These may horseback riding, camel riding, helping to herd sheep and goat, milking mares, and perhaps holding young livestock. None of these activities are required and team members undertake them at their own risk (see the Release/Assumption of Risk form in the application). If at any time you feel uncomfortable with a program activity or event, please let the field instructors and Mongolian staff know so that they can accommodate your request.



*Bringing the cows home for evening milking*



## CULTURAL DIFFERENCES

The “Visual Cultures of Mongolia” program will be a culturally-immersive experience. Participants will engage with every facet of Mongolian life on visual, intellectual, and practical levels. Participants should be prepared to enjoy the complex and vibrant institutions, materials, and practices they encounter; at the same, participants should be aware of some things that often bother or confuse non-Mongolians. Common frustrations voiced by those who visit Mongolia for the first time include: the very flexible Mongolian attitudes towards punctuality, planning, and time; different standards of cleanliness, particularly in terms of the communal meals served by nomadic families; the relatively-small number of Mongolians who speak English at a conversational level; poor infrastructure; lack of amenities; the challenges that a traditional nomad’s diet pose to a non-Mongolian’s digestive tract; little value given to privacy, personal space, or private belongings; and the gritty chaos of Ulaanbaatar. Our team will face such challenges and more as we delve into Mongolia’s past and present, and participants should come prepared to have their worldview expanded and their comfort zone pushed during the course of the program. While the intricacies of modern Mongolian society are beyond the scope of a program handbook, our Program Coordinator will cover many more germane topics as participants prepare for their time in Mongolia. Our program staff will facilitate the entire team’s constant interface with Mongolia in its totality, especially the ways in which the realities of travel, learning, and adventure in Mongolia will require participants to adapt to a novel cultural milieu.



*Waiting for a community event to start in Central Mongolia*

## PROGRAM READINGS

\*\*\*There are no required readings for the "Visual Cultures of Mongolia" program. However, participants are encouraged to consult the sources below to build a frame of reference for their experiences in Mongolia\*\*\*

- 1) Christopher Atwood's "Encyclopedia of Mongolia and the Mongol Empire" (2004)
- 2) B. Baabar's "History of Mongolia" (1999)
- 3) Charles Bawden's "The Modern History of Mongolia" (1968)
- 4) Manduhai Buyandelger's "Tragic Spirits: Shamanism, Memory, and Gender in Contemporary Mongolia" (2013)
- 5) Nicola Di Cosmo's "Ancient China and its Enemies" (1999)
- 6) Natasha Fijn's "Living with Herds: Human-Animal Coexistence in Mongolia" (2011)
- 7) William Honeychurch's "Inner Asia and the Spatial Politics of Empire: Archaeology, Mobility, and Culture" (2015)
- 8) Esther Jacobson-Tepfer's "The Hunter, the Stag, and the Mother of Animals: Image, Monument, and Landscape in Ancient North Asia" (2015)
- 9) Chris Kaplonski's "The Lama Question: Violence, Sovereignty, and Exception in Early Socialist Mongolia" (2014)
- 10) *The Deer Stone Project: Anthropological Studies in Mongolia 2002-2004*. Edited by William W. Fitzhugh, J. Bayarsaikhan, and Peter K. Marsh (2005)
- 11) "The Secret History of the Mongols" (Igor de Rachewiltz translation if available)
- 12) "The Travels of Marco Polo"



*Tile fragments at Sumyn Am*

## LIST OF REQUIRED AND RECOMMENDED ITEMS

### Required Items

In the event that a CSEN field program participant does not have the Required Items by the date stipulated below, the participant will have to withdraw from the project and forfeit his/her contribution. This policy is for the safety and well-being of the participant, as it will be an extreme hardship or even impossible to participate in the “Visual Cultures of Mongolia” program without the Required Items. Please contact us with your questions **before leaving for Mongolia (csen.field.programs@gmail.com).**

*With your deposit of \$250 (by May 1<sup>st</sup>)*

- Signed project **Waiver (Release/Assumption of Risk form)**
- Signed volunteer **Code of Conduct**

*With your final and full contribution to CSEN (by June 8<sup>th</sup>)*

- Proof of medical insurance coverage for duration of project participation that specifically includes **Emergency Medical Evacuation**

*August 8<sup>th</sup>*

- At least one water bottle or sealable container that can hold at least 1L of water
- Flashlight
- Close-toed shoes for fieldwork (hiking boots, steel-toed work boots, etc.)
- Hat with brim for protection from sun
- Rain slicker/poncho with hood
- Adequate clothing** (see Recommendations below and be prepared for all possible weather conditions!)
- Small daypack
- Personal camera and/or sketchbook (please consult Professor Haft directly about the requirements for the visual arts and photography component of the program)
- Field notebook and writing implements for taking notes, recording data, and keeping a personal journal during the program
- Any personal medications or prescriptions that you are currently taking or will need while in the field; **you will not be able to get them in Mongolia**
- Sunscreen (SPF 30 minimum)
- Insect repellent
- Additional personal supplies (see Recommendations below)

### Recommended Items

These recommendations are based on the personal experiences of Western volunteers on previous field expeditions in Mongolia. Many of the items listed below are Required Items for most participants but your individual mileage may vary. Use your judgment when preparing for your time in Mongolia, as this list is not intended to be exhaustive. We want our team to have the best possible experience in Mongolia this summer; you will have a much better time if you're properly dressed and equipped! Do not count on being able to borrow the items listed below from other program participants or necessarily being able to purchase them in Ulaanbaatar. *Please contact us before you leave for Mongolia if you have any questions about what you should bring with you.*



**-Sleeping bag**

*\*\*\*Participants are strongly encouraged to bring a sleeping bag or liner for the duration of the program. CSEN cannot guarantee that all participants will be satisfied with the bedding options at the ger camps in the Mongolian countryside. Please inquire with the Program Coordinator ([cse.field.programs@gmail.com](mailto:cse.field.programs@gmail.com)) if you have any questions about what kind of bag you should bring or any related issues\*\*\**

-Water purification system – filter and/or tablets, bottle(s) that hold a combined minimum of 3 liters. This will help cut down on waste associated with buying bottled water in rural Mongolia

-Additional field research supplies: personal GPS unit, clipboard, compass, audio-visual recording equipment

**CLOTHING:**

*Participants should plan to layer their clothing so that they can stay comfortable during the daily fluctuations from hot afternoon sun to bitterly cold midnight, and withstand whipping winds, dust storms, and sudden rain showers. **DO NOT UNDERESTIMATE HOW COLD IT GETS AT NIGHT IN THE MONGOLIAN COUNTRYSIDE.** Nighttime temperatures may drop below freezing even after a day of 80F. Please prepare accordingly!*

-Full-length canvas or khaki pants for project work (at least 2 pairs)

-Old men's dress shirts in light colors to wear for protection against sun, dirt, and mosquitoes

-Short-sleeved shirts and/or tank tops

-Long-sleeved shirts

-Shorts

-Thermals or long underwear

-Hiking socks

-Sunglasses

-Polar fleece or wool sweaters

-Swim suit

-Bandanas

-Sandals for relaxing at basecamp and bathing in the river

-Gloves and hat for cold nights

**PERSONAL:**

-Ibuprofen, Advil

-Tums, Pepto-Bismol tablets

-Band-Aids of all sizes

-Neosporin, antiseptic/antibacterial wipes for cuts and scrapes

-Personal Rx for Ciprofloxacin

-Personal First-Aid kit (which may contain much of the above)

-Personal soap

-Shampoo and conditioner

-Pads, tampons

-Travel packs of Kleenex

-Liquid hand sanitizer

-Travel packs of Wet Wipes

-Moisturizer

-Toothpaste, toothbrush, floss

-Chapstick

- Towel – a quick-drying travel towel is preferable
- Hairbrush or comb
- Other toiletries as needed

OTHER:

- Immunizations: Hepatitis A&B, Typhoid, Rabies. The Center for the Study of Eurasian Nomads recommends but does not require any vaccinations or immunizations for participation this summer. However, you should consult with your healthcare specialist and the CDC for more information (<http://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/destinations/traveler/none/mongolia>)
- Secure travel purse or wallet
- MP3 player
- Musical instrument: harmonica, guitar, or other portable instrument
- Batteries for any electronic devices
- Portable solar charger
- Travel alarm clock
- Utility scissors: remember to pack these in your checked baggage or they will get taken away from you!
- ATM card, preferably VISA: you should be able to withdraw Mongolian *tugrug* from ATM in downtown Ulaanbaatar. It is not possible to purchase Mongolian *tugrug* in the US at this time. If you choose not to bring an ATM card, bring one or two new, crisp \$100 bills to exchange. An old, wrinkled, and/or tattered \$100 bill will be rejected by both Mongolian banks and money changers! To be on the safe side, you may wish to bring both \$100 bills and an ATM card with you to Mongolia. You may need Mongolian *tugrug* in case of emergency. Moreover, you may wish to have a small amount of spending cash for personal expenses, souvenirs, and treats not covered by the program (i.e., candy, snacks, drinks, etc. bought in small towns in the countryside, alcohol). You will not be able to change money or reliably use an ATM or credit card outside of Ulaanbaatar
- Favorite snacks, especially candy, from home to share
- Small supply of personal coffee, flavor packets, and condiments for our time in the field
- Small gifts to give as a guest present to local herding families and their children. Popular gifts to local Mongolian families include: candy, origami, bubbles, stickers, softballs, and Polaroids of the family. Feel free to inquire with the Program Coordinator regarding appropriate options.

**A note on packing:** *please do not bring more personal items and equipment than can be carried in one duffel bag (or back or backpack of similar size) and one daypack.* This does not include your sleeping bag or camera equipment, although you should bring only equipment that can be stored compactly. Over-packing leads to lost belongings and overcrowded vehicles, which in turn make everyone unhappy. All luggage and items that get packed into the program vehicles will get dirty, squished, and tossed around. Therefore, during the program you should keep all fragile or valuable items on your person or in a daypack that can sit on your lap or between your feet. If you have any questions regarding preparations and packing for the program, please contact us at [csen.field.programs@gmail.com](mailto:csen.field.programs@gmail.com) well in advance of your arrival in Mongolia.



*Playing baseball at a nomadic family's encampment*

## CANCELLATION POLICY

Accepted program applicants must submit the full participant contribution minus the \$250 deposit (**\$3,620**) in order to be formally enrolled in the “Visual Cultures of Mongolia” program. The Center for the Study of Eurasian Nomads must **receive** your full contribution by **June 8<sup>th</sup>, 2016**. Accepted applicants who do not make a full payment by this date will forfeit their place on the program enrollment list. The “Visual Cultures of Mongolia” program requires CSEN to make numerous advanced payments and deposits for accommodations, program vehicles, and personnel several months before the program start date. Therefore, enrolled participants who withdraw from the program **on or after June 9<sup>th</sup>** (i.e., less than 60 days before the program start date) *will forfeit their entire participant contribution*. Those enrolled participants who withdraw on or before June 8<sup>th</sup> will forfeit their \$250 deposit.



*On the road in Khentii backcountry*



## PARTICIPANT APPLICATION FORM

**Application** check-list (all due by **May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2016**):

- 1) ☐ Completed Participant and Medical Information forms
- 2) ☐ Two Short Essays
- 3) ☐ Additional Documentation
  - a) ☐ CV
  - b) ☐ Two references
  - c) ☐ Color scan/copy of the first two pages of your passport
- 4) ☐ \$250 deposit
- 5) ☐ Code of Ethics and Conduct – signed
- 6) ☐ Waiver – signed

Participant **acceptance** check-list (all due on or before **June 8<sup>th</sup>, 2016**)

- 1) ☐ Proof of Emergency Medical Evacuation health insurance coverage
- 2) ☐ Remaining participant contribution (\$3,620)

### APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS:

**1) Fill out the forms, write the essays, and prepare all the documents described in the application check-list above. The complete instructions for this step may be found below on pages 3-5**

**2) Clearly label all of your documents with your FULL NAME. You may submit forms in Word or PDF format. E-mail the entire application packet (minus your deposit) to the Program Coordinator ([cсен.field.programs@gmail.com](mailto:cсен.field.programs@gmail.com)) and to the CSEN Executive Director ([jkimball.csen.org@gmail.com](mailto:jkimball.csen.org@gmail.com))**

**3) Mail your \$250 deposit and signed forms (Code of Ethics and Conduct, Waiver) to:**

Center for the Study of Eurasian Nomads  
c/o Jeannine Davis-Kimball, PhD  
2158 Palomar Ave  
Ventura, CA 93001

Make the check to: “CSEN” and write: “Visual Cultures deposit” in the Subject/Detail line. Please put your full name somewhere on the check or in a note along with the deposit. This deposit holds your place in the queue of “Visual Cultures of Mongolia” applicants and will be used towards your total participant contribution.

In the event that your application is rejected, CSEN will refund your deposit. The CSEN program cancellation policy outlines the financial repercussions of withdrawing from the program after you have enrolled; please consult this section of

the “Visual Cultures of Mongolia” handbook, or the Program Coordinator, for more information.

*\*\*\*If you would prefer to pay your deposit via Pay Pal, please let us know. Additional charges will apply that cannot be refunded in the event of program cancellation or the rejection of an application\*\*\**

“Visual Cultures of Mongolia” will accept applications until May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2016. We encourage you to apply early before all available slots fill up. You should expect to hear a decision regarding your application approximately **two weeks after** all of your application materials and \$250 deposit have been received.

## ACCEPTANCE INSTRUCTIONS

**Once you have been accepted as a participant on the “Visual Cultures of Mongolia” program, please follow these steps before June 8<sup>th</sup>, 2016:**

- 1) Submit a scan or copy of your health insurance coverage that explicitly includes Emergency Medical Evacuation coverage (i.e., Proof of Medical and Evacuation Insurance) via e-mail ([jkimball.csen.org@gmail.com](mailto:jkimball.csen.org@gmail.com) ; [csen.field.programs@gmail.com](mailto:csen.field.programs@gmail.com)) or mail to the mailing address listed above.
- 2) Mail the remaining **\$3,620** of your participant contribution to the CSEN Executive Director at the address listed above

*\*\*\*Participants who do not submit all required documentation by **June 8<sup>th</sup>, 2016**, will be automatically withdrawn from the program and forfeit their participant contribution\*\*\**

Please let the Program Coordinator know if you have any questions about the application form, necessary attached documents, or the application process. We prefer to contact you by **e-mail** ([csen.field.programs@gmail.com](mailto:csen.field.programs@gmail.com)). **Please notify us** if your e-mail address changes after you have submitted an application.

### **1. Participant Information**

First name: \_\_\_\_\_

Middle name: \_\_\_\_\_

Last name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of birth (DD/MM/YYYY): \_\_\_\_\_

Citizenship: \_\_\_\_\_

Current address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

State/Province: \_\_\_\_\_

Country: \_\_\_\_\_

Zip/Postal code: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing address if different from above:

Home phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Work phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Mobile: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_

Social Security Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Gender: \_\_\_\_\_

Height: \_\_\_\_\_

T-shirt size: \_\_\_\_\_

Passport number: \_\_\_\_\_

Type: \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration date: \_\_\_\_\_

Employer or school: \_\_\_\_\_

Address of employer/school:



**Emergency contact**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Contact number for employer/school: \_\_\_\_\_

If retired, former employer's contact information:

How did you hear about the "Visual Cultures of Mongolia" program?

**2. Medical Information**

Medical treatment will not be equal to the norm in the US. The remote nature of the program activities means that participants cannot expect quick or easy access to medical care. Please be sure to list all special medical conditions you may have. You must bring any prescription or over the counter medications that you require for the full extent of your time in Mongolia. See the Waiver (Release/Assumption of Risk form) for more details.

a) List any medical condition that you have or have had in the past five years, including hospitalizations and medical procedures (with their dates).

b) Participant health information

-Blood type: \_\_\_\_\_

-Date of last physical examination: \_\_\_\_\_

-Do you wear corrective or contact lenses? \_\_\_\_\_

-Loss of consciousness [please explain the circumstances and give date(s)]:

-Special diet or foods\*:

-Other health concerns, such as a bad back, trick knee, etc. (please describe in detail):

-Any other pertinent medical or health-related information:

-Current type of health insurance coverage\*\*:

c) Check and describe any that are applicable

-Diabetes: \_\_\_\_\_

-Epilepsy: \_\_\_\_\_

-Allergies (please list):

\*Please note that special diets may not be accommodated throughout the program, as we will be dining in numerous rural *ger* camps that serve limited options. Those with food allergies or severely restricted diets should consult with the Program Coordinator during the application process.

**\*\*By the time you arrive in Mongolia, you *must* have insurance coverage that explicitly includes **Emergency Medical Evacuation** for the duration of your participation in the program. Participants who do not present proof of their insurance coverage by **June 8<sup>th</sup>** will forfeit all participant fees and be withdrawn from the program. This will be for your own safety and well-being, and CSEN will not willingly or knowingly allow its participants to put themselves in jeopardy.**

You may attach additional pages as needed to complete the information requested in the first two sections.

### **3. Short Essays**

Instructions: Each essay should be no more than **two pages, double-spaced** in length. You may type your essays into this form or attach them as a separate Word or PDF document. Please clearly label each essay a) or b).

**a) Special Interests:** Describe your particular interest in “Visual Cultures of Mongolia”, and what experience(s) you have had that might be helpful in terms of your participation in the program. Please list all pertinent educational or personal background.

**b) Previous Travel:** Briefly describe any previous foreign travel experiences, including which countries you have visited and when, and what you did while abroad.

### **4. Additional Required Documentation**

a) CV

b) **Two references** with professional title, occupation and place of employment, telephone, mailing address, and e-mail information listed. These should be from current or former teachers, employers, academic advisors, instructors, supervisors, and other people who know you in a professional, academic, or volunteer/philanthropic capacity. Family and friends **cannot** provide references.

c) A **color** copy of the first two pages of your passport, which may be in jpg, jpeg, or PDF format.

### **SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS:**

Please contact the Program Coordinator at [csen.field.programs@gmail.com](mailto:csen.field.programs@gmail.com) if you have any questions about the submission process.



## CODE OF ETHICS AND CONDUCT

The Center for the Study of Eurasian Nomads' "Visual Cultures of Mongolia" program Code of Conduct and Ethics is designed to optimize your experience in the field by preventing any misunderstandings up front and outlining the Program's expectations for its Participants. The Code serves the Program's broader goal of ethical interactions and productive collaboration with our Mongolian colleagues and hosts.

The "Visual Cultures of Mongolia" Program is led by senior staff members, Professor Bob Haft (Program Director) and Ms. Emma Hite (Program Coordinator) (hereafter Senior Staff). All Program Participants must read and sign the Code of Conduct and submit it with his/her application.

**In the event a Participant withdraws or is expelled from the Program because of violating the Code of Conduct, the Participant will forfeit his/her contribution and, moreover, will be responsible for any and all associated expenses, including, but not limited, to local and international transportation costs.**

Participant must read through the entire Code of Ethics and Conduct, then sign, date, and print name to indicate that acceptance. A copy of the signed document must be sent via email or mail to CSEN and via email to the Program Coordinator.

I, \_\_\_\_\_ (Print Name)

HEREAFTER THE PARTICIPANT, do agree to abide by the following **Code of Ethics and Conduct**.

### I. Ethics

#### A. Required documentation:

Each Participant will provide all documents required by the Program. This list can be found in the Visual Cultural Handbook. In the event that the Participant fails to submit all required documents, the Participant will be withdrawn from the program.

#### B. Zero-tolerance policies:

1. The Center for the Study of Eurasian Nomads has a zero-tolerance policy regarding illegal substances, objects, and activities. These include but are not limited to: participation in the trade of undocumented antiquities, use or transportation of illegal narcotics, weapons, or remains of endangered species, and involvement in any aspect of the sex trade. The Participant agrees to follow all official laws and regulations of the nation of Mongolia while participating in the project. More details of these laws and regulations can be found at the Embassy of Mongolia to the United States (<http://mongolianembassy.us/>) and the US Embassy in Mongolia (<http://mongolia.usembassy.gov/service.html>).

2. The Center for the Study of Eurasian Nomads has a zero-tolerance policy regarding violent behavior. Any Participant who engages in violent behavior will be severely reprimanded and, depending on the severity of the behavior and the judgment of Senior Staff, may be required to withdraw immediately from the program.
3. Violation of the any zero-tolerance policy may require the offending party to withdraw from the program.

**C. Liability and Health Concerns:**

1. As per the project Waiver/Assumption of Risk agreement, CSEN and Program Staff are not liable for any accidents or illnesses that befall the Participant during the project. The Participant will be responsible for any and all expenses associated with any illness or injury.
2. Because of the paucity of medical care facilities in the field, Participants must immediately inform the Senior Staff of any health issues or injuries. The “Visual Cultures of Mongolia” program is not equipped with a medic but will stock some first-aid supplies. The Participant should bring a personal first-aid supply.
3. The lack of proper medical care and facilities within the program area necessitate that the Participant immediately inform the Senior Staff of any health issues or concerns. Staff of the “Visual Cultures of Mongolia” program will do their best to stabilize the Participant for his/her transportation back to Ulaanbaatar, where better medical care is available. However, the Center for the Study of Eurasian Nomads and staff of the “Visual Cultures of Mongolia” program are not liable for any accidents or illnesses that befall the Participant during the project. Any costs or expenses associated with a participant, including the Participant, falling ill, getting injured, or having an accident during the course of their participation in the program will be his/her sole individual responsibility. The Participant has read, understood, and signed the Waiver/Release and Assumption of Risk form, which contains more information on this point.

## **II. Conduct**

**A. “No Whining” Clause:**

The Participant will not entertain complaints about personal discomfort, lack of amenities, meals, and other issues that do not pose a threat to the Participant’s safety or well-being. Whining negatively impacts the learning environment and team’s morale, and will not be tolerated. The Participant must maintain a positive attitude, a flexible approach, and a good work ethic to the best of his/her abilities. The Participant also acknowledges that travel and field work are stressful undertakings and that unpredictable conditions in rural Mongolia can exacerbate such stressors. The Participant at all times will comport him/herself in a friendly, polite manner towards the other Program Participants as well as toward members of the local community.

**B. Harassment and Discrimination:**

The “Visual Cultures of Mongolia” program is safe-space and a harassment-free field expedition. Acknowledging that there are cultural differences between Mongolia and other countries, harassment or discriminatory actions will not be permitted. Serious or serial offenders may be expelled from the Program. CSEN and the Senior Staff are sympathetic to the stresses associated with travel and fieldwork in Mongolia. However, hostile, disruptive, or negative behavior or speech will not be tolerated.

**C. Conflict Resolution:**

The Participant agrees to resolve any and all conflicts in a productive and reasonable manner. The Participant is entitled to make a discrete, concrete request of the program staff in order to improve his/her experience. The Participant should consult with the Program Coordinator or request private time if feeling emotionally overwhelmed.

**D. Items Required for Participation in Program:**

1. The Participant acknowledges that he/she is responsible for bringing all items on the required items on the list to Mongolia. These items are essential for the Participant’s health, well-being as well as ability to participate in the program. If the Participant has any question regarding these items he/she should discuss this, **via email**, with the Senior Staff **before** arriving in Mongolia. The Participant should also consider the advisability of bringing Recommended Items and act accordingly.
2. The Participant understands that should he/she fail to have any of the Required Items at the start of the Program, on the morning of August 8th, 2016, he/she will be required to withdraw from the program and forfeit his/her entire Participant contribution. The Participant also acknowledges that the Required Items list may not be exhaustive and that it is his/her responsibility to come to Mongolia properly prepared for travel and learning in the field.

**Agreement to Code of Ethic and Conduct**

I, the above-named Participant, have read the Code of Ethics and Conduct for the “Visual Cultures of Mongolia” Program in its entirety. I understand its contents and hereby agree to abide by the Code while in Mongolia. I understand and agree that any violation of the Code is grounds for reprimand or possibly expulsion from the Program. I have addressed any questions I may have about the Code to a member of the Senior Staff to clarify any point I do not understand before signing this agreement. I, therefore, attest that I fully understand and will by abide by the Code of Ethics and Conduct while in Mongolia.

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Participant’s Signature

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Date

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Print Participant name



## WAIVER

### Release and Assumption of Risk

For and in consideration of the opportunity to participate in the Center for the Study of Eurasian Nomads' (CSEN) "Visual Cultures of Mongolia" Program in Mongolia in 2016, I release Jeannine Davis-Kimball, Bob Haft, Emma Hite, and the Center for the Study of Eurasian Nomads and any of its associated staff from any and all liability for property damage, personal injury, or expenses incurred as a result of injury, illness, or accident that I may experience in the course of this program. I understand that there are many dangers and risks in participating in this program, both because of physical and economic conditions in Mongolia and arising out of fieldwork generally. These include but are not limited to health risks (rabies, Hepatitis, Giardia), dangers in the environment, extreme weather conditions (flooding, storms, low or high temperatures), injury from other participants (accidental or intentional), injury during the course of fieldwork (all activities associated with pedestrian survey, site exploration, and hiking), injury during normal activities in rural Mongolia (horse-back riding, wrestling, hiking, swimming, interacting with herd animals and guard dogs, interacting with wildlife), inaccessibility to medical care, political unrest, food and water safety, and vehicular accidents. I do not expect the project leaders to protect me from such risks and dangers and I accept full responsibility myself for any and all injury, damage, and associated costs and expenses that may result to me from my participation in the "Visual Cultures of Mongolia" program.

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Participant signature

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Date

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Print Participant name