SANISERA
ARCHAEOLOGY INSTITUTE
for International Field Schools



COURSE 065 · FIELD SEASON 2027

How to get to Khairt and what to bring

Dig Eastern Mongolia: Explore the World of Ancient Nomads · Dornod, Mongolia

SESSION 1	SESSION 2	ARRIVE IN ULAANBAATAR
June 16 – July 1	July 2 – 16	the day before

This guide covers the journey from your home airport to the camp at Khairt, the weather you can expect, life in the gers and what to pack. Read it before you book your flights, and write to us with any question.

01 Your journey at a glance

STEP	SESSION 1	SESSION 2
Before you travel Book a round-trip ticket with fixed dates (no open return) and send us your flight details: date, time and flight number.	—	—
Arrival in Ulaanbaatar Land at Chinggis Khaan International Airport (UBN), 50 km south of Ulaanbaatar, and take an official airport taxi to your hotel or hostel in the centre (about USD 15-27).	June 15	July 1
Departure for the site Be at 7:30 a.m. in front of the National Museum of Mongolia, in central Ulaanbaatar. The expedition team takes the group to the camp base, where the course is introduced and you settle in; survey and excavation start the next day.	June 16	July 2
Return to Ulaanbaatar The group drives back to Ulaanbaatar with the team and arrives in the evening in front of the National Museum of Mongolia. From there you go on your own to your hotel.	July 1	July 16
Your flight home Book your return flight for the day after the session ends.	July 2	July 17



The Khairt site and camp stand on the southern bank of the Kherlen River, 5-6 km from the town of Khulunbuir (Dornod province), in eastern Mongolia.

02 Flights and your first night

There are no direct flights from North America. Most students fly to Ulaanbaatar via Seoul, Tokyo, Beijing or Istanbul. Arrive by the day before the session starts (June 15 or July 1) and fly home the day after it ends (July 2 or July 17).

There is no airport pick-up: you travel to the centre on your own. Taxis are cheap. Take an official airport taxi, about USD 15-27 (MNT 45,000-90,000) to the centre, one hour or up to two at rush hour, and agree the price before you get in.

WHERE TO STAY IN ULAANBAATAR

- Each student books their own room; neither the excavation team nor Sanisera books accommodation.
- Look for a hotel or hostel in the centre, near Sükhbaatar Square, on Booking.com, Hostelworld or a similar website: about USD 25-35 per night, not included in the course fee.
- Book the night before departure for the site too (June 15 for Session 1, July 1 for Session 2), and any extra nights if you come early to recover from jet lag.
- Our recommended hostels, a short walk from Sükhbaatar Square, for your nights on arrival and before your flight home (check current prices and reviews before booking): Ulaanbaatar Hostel, UB Friends Hostel, Urban Nomads Hostel and Tours, and Zaya Hostel.

03 From Ulaanbaatar to the camp

On the first day (June 16 for Session 1, July 2 for Session 2) the expedition team takes the group of students from Ulaanbaatar to the camp base. At the camp the team introduces the course and you settle into the gers, ready to start survey and excavation the next day.



Route from the airport to Ulaanbaatar and Khulunbuir. © OpenStreetMap contributors.

04 Weather in June and July

DAYS	NIGHTS	RAIN
20-25 °C	cool	short storms
sometimes close to 30 °C, strong sun	down to about 10 °C in June	July is the wettest month; most days are sunny

Plan for warm middays, wind in the afternoon and cool evenings. These temperatures are pleasant for fieldwork, much milder than the summer heat of Mediterranean field schools.

05 The camp and the gers



A ger camp on the steppe



Inside a ger

The gers. A ger is the round felt tent of Mongolian herders, about 5-6 metres across, with a wooden frame and a stove in the centre. It stays warm at night and cool by day.

Sleeping. For a group of 6 students the camp sets up 2 sleeping gers, one for male and one for female students. Each student has their own bed, and beds are moved between the gers to match the number of men and women in the group. Bring a sleeping bag and a camping mattress for your bed (an inflatable one is the easiest to carry).

Meals. The expedition cook prepares every meal in the kitchen ger. In good weather the group eats outside under a shade. Filtered drinking water is always available.

Field laboratory. Finds and samples are sorted, cleaned and recorded at the camp laboratory, where some lectures are also given.

Toilets and showers. Two enclosed outdoor pit toilets: after each use you add a little soil, and the cook regularly treats them with safe disinfectants. Every two days the expedition van takes students to Khulunbuir, 5-6 km away, for a hot shower (paid by each student).

Power and internet. A generator runs most of the day to charge phones and laptops. There is mobile coverage and Starlink internet.

Laundry and shops. Each student washes their own clothes. Khulunbuir has well-stocked shops and a hospital.

06 What to bring

Sleeping and camp

- ☐ Sleeping bag (comfort to about 5 °C)
- ☐ Camping mattress for your bed (an inflatable one is the easiest to carry)
- ☐ Headlamp and spare batteries
- ☐ Quick-dry towel, toiletries and wet wipes
- ☐ Refillable water bottle
- ☐ Power bank and plug adapter (types C and E, 230 V)

Clothing

- ☐ Light clothes in layers, including long sleeves
- ☐ Light long trousers for fieldwork
- ☐ Warm fleece or light down jacket and a warm hat
- ☐ Rain jacket
- ☐ Wide-brimmed hat and sunglasses
- ☐ Sturdy boots and sandals for the camp

Fieldwork

- ☐ Work gloves (tools are provided by the project)
- ☐ Small daypack
- ☐ Field notebook and pencils
- ☐ Laptop (optional)

Sun, insects and health

- ☐ Sunscreen SPF 50 and lip balm
- ☐ Insect repellent (DEET or picaridin)
- ☐ Your own medicines and a copy of the prescription

07 Documents, money and health

- **Passport** valid for the whole stay (many airlines ask for six months) and a photocopy.
- **Travel medical insurance** is compulsory and arranged by each student.
- **Visa:** no visa is needed for the course.
- **Money:** Visa and Mastercard are accepted in shops, restaurants and hostels. Bring some cash in tugrik, about USD 30 per day in the field and USD 50 in Ulaanbaatar. You can get tugrik at the cash machines and exchange counters in the airport arrivals hall; change a small amount there, as banks in the city give better rates.
- **Health:** Khulunbuir, the nearest town, 5 km from the camp, has a hospital.

Questions before you travel?

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