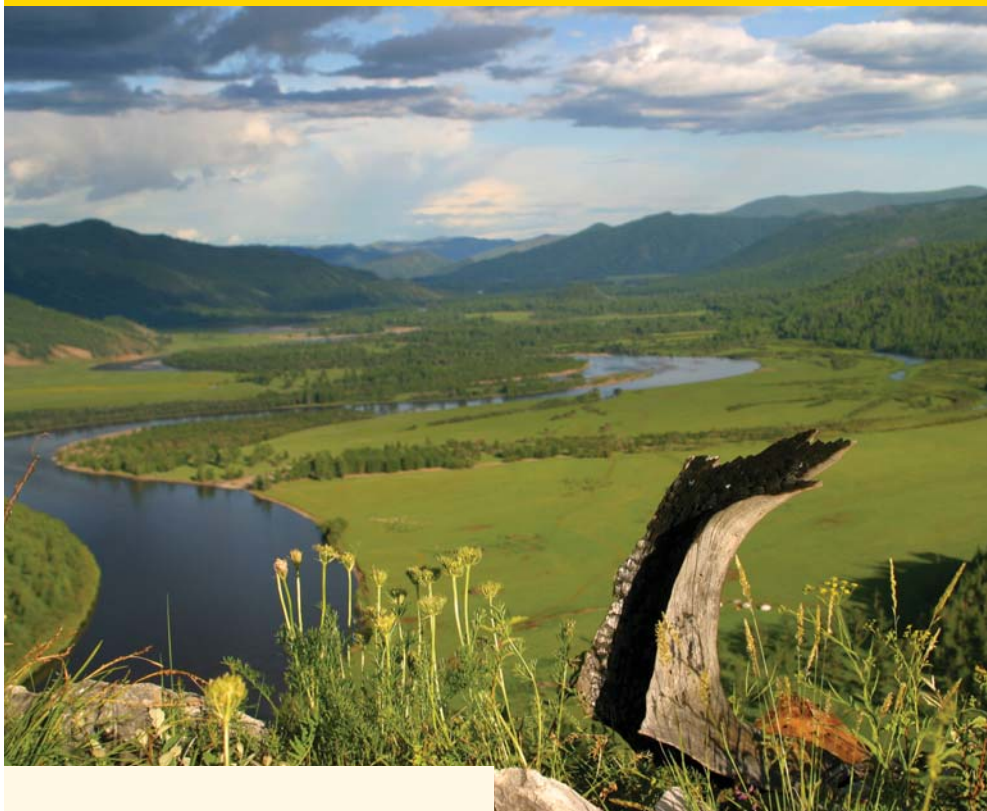


# Mongolia Fly-fishing Expedition



**C**ast a line into the pristine rivers of Mongolia's Hövsgöl region with National Geographic Emerging Explorer Zeb Hogan, founder of the MegaFishes Project, the first ever attempt to document and protect the planet's freshwater giants. From your base at a comfortable riverside ger camp, spend six days fly-fishing for the massive taimen, a relative of salmon, in tranquil wilderness. Learn about Zeb's conservation work across Asia, including ecotourism initiatives in Mongolia. Ride horseback through rugged countryside, visit a local school, and travel south to the vast Gobi desert to encounter the Flaming Cliffs.

**14 days • September 5–18, 2008**

**NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC**  
**Expert**

**ZEB HOGAN**



Aquatic ecologist Zeb Hogan earned an undergraduate degree in ecology and evolutionary biology from the University of

Arizona. He later earned his Ph.D. in ecology at the University of California, Davis. He is currently an assistant research professor at the University of Nevada, Reno. Zeb leads the MegaFishes Project, a new National Geographic Society project to identify and protect the world's largest freshwater fishes. Through the MegaFishes Project, Zeb travels to the most endangered of the freshwater ecosystems, striving to save critically endangered fish and the livelihood of people who share their habitats.

**ITINERARY**

**September 5 and 6 Los Angeles/ Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia**

Depart for Ulaanbaatar, cross the International Date Line, and arrive the following evening. Upon arrival, check into our hotel.

*Hövsgöl Travel Hotel*

**September 7 Ulaanbaatar**

After breakfast, visit the Natural History Museum. The specimens of dinosaur skeletons vary in size from a few centimeters to 15 meters tall, and several are found only in Mongolia. Continue to Gandan Monastery, the largest and most significant monastery in Mongolia, established on its current site in the 19th century. After lunch, visit Zaisan Hill, located in southern Ulaanbaatar, for a magnificent view of the capital city and a look at the soldiers' memorial atop the hill. Return to our hotel for a welcome reception and dinner. *(B, L, D)*

**September 8 Ulaanbaatar/Fishing Camp**

After breakfast, travel by helicopter to the northern province of Hövsgöl, and land just steps from the fishing camp—your home for the next seven nights. Settle into your *ger*, a cozy traditional Mongolian felt tent outfitted with modern amenities for your comfort. *Eg Uur Ger Camp (B, L, D)*

**September 9 Fishing Camp**

Set out to the river on our first fly-fishing adventure with Zeb Hogan after an early breakfast. Each boat, a 17-foot flat-bottom vessel with Mercury outboard engines, will carry only two anglers to allow us flexibility. These waters are inhabited by the mighty taimen, a fierce predator in the salmon family, known to Mongolians as the "river wolf." Without human interference, taimen can live up to 50 years. The presence of taimen indicates a healthy and balanced aquatic system.

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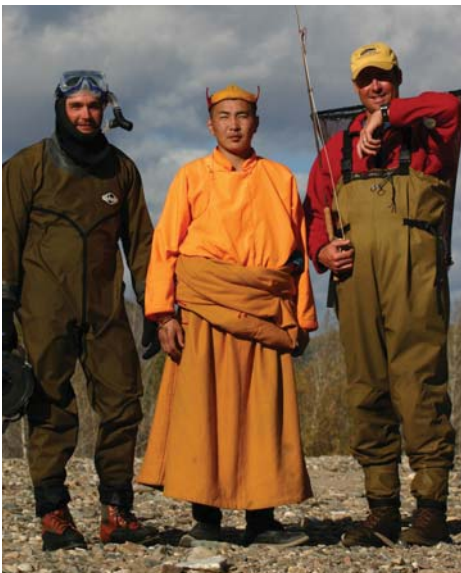
Above: The Uur River Valley near the confluence with the Eg River.



Happy fly fishermen make a big catch.

Anglers will also have the opportunity to fish for the Asian trout, lenok. Lenok are reputedly one of the oldest trout species in the world. They tend to inhabit the shallow riffles and flats near shore, where they are sheltered from the taimen and can gorge themselves on grasshoppers, crickets, and insect hatches. We'll follow local guides to prime fishing spots and wet our flies in the pristine waters of the Eg or Üür River, hoping to net one of the area's large taimen. Due to our strict catch-and-release policy, all of these magnificent fish are released unharmed so that their populations may continue to thrive. Take a break for lunch out on the river, and enjoy a full afternoon of stalking the mighty taimen. Return to the camp for dinner this evening.

(B, L, D)



The Megafishes Project is a partnership between recreational anglers, scientists, and local people.

### September 10–14 Fishing Camp

Enjoy five days fishing in northern Mongolia's rivers, taking in the serenity and the beautiful scenery as you fish for taimen, lenok, and other species. We'll pause for lunch each day and return to the camp in the evening. From camp, at any time, walk to the river's edge and cast for taimen, lenok, arctic grayling, and amur pike. If

you choose, you may take a break from fishing to participate in the following land excursions:

#### Dayan Derkh Cave

Ride horseback through the Mongolian outback to Dayan Derkh cave and monastery. Set into the side of a mountain overlooking the Eg-Üür watershed, the cave served as a refuge for monks during the Communist purges of Buddhists in the 1920s and '30s.

#### Erdenebulgan

Join our camp translator on an overland trip by jeep to the Mongolian town of Erdenebulgan. Visit the local school and hospital, as well as the office of the Taimen Conservation Fund. Meet herders and farmers, and witness everyday life in rural Mongolia.

#### Horseback Riding

Horses are available at our camp for rides into the surrounding countryside.

Whether you would like to ride for one hour or six, a local guide/herder will be happy to show you the sights.

### September 15 Fishing Camp/Ulaanbaatar/Gobi

Depart Hövsgöl by private helicopter, arriving back in Ulaanbaatar mid-morning. Continue by charter flight to the Gobi, Mongolia's southernmost province of semi-arid desert. With its far-flung location in the remote land between Siberia and the Plateau of Tibet, the Gobi (which means simply "desert" in Mongolian), has a great mystique about it. Travel overland to Gobi Gurvansaikhan National Park to visit

Yolyn Am, a surprisingly green valley cradled within great swaths of desert and sand dunes. On a hike in the park, keep an eye out for indigenous vulture-like lammergeiers, tiny jerboas, ibex, yaks, and argali mountain sheep. In the evening, drive to the Three Camel Lodge, Mongolia's premier eco-lodge and expeditions camp.

*Three Camel Lodge (B, L, D)*

### September 16 Flaming Cliffs/Moltsog Els

Wake up to a glorious sunrise over the vast Gobi plain. Journey to the legendary Flaming Cliffs, named for the orange-hued rock that glows in the sunlight. It was here, in 1923, that Dr. Roy Chapman Andrews and his exploration team discovered the first nest of dinosaur eggs the world had ever seen. Enjoy a picnic lunch before continuing to Moltsog Els to explore some of the Gobi's only steep sand dunes. (B, L, D)



Fishing camp.

### September 17 Gobi/Ulaanbaatar

Fly to Ulaanbaatar and transfer to our hotel. This afternoon, meet National Geographic Emerging Explorer Tsetsegee Munkhbayar, a former yak herder who established the Onggi River Movement to help protect and restore the river from mining and other environmental threats. After time at leisure, gather tonight for a farewell reception and dinner.

*Hovsgol Travel Hotel (B, D)*

### September 18 Ulaanbaatar/U.S.

After breakfast, transfer to the airport for your return flight home. (B)

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Travelers en route to the Dayan Derkh Cave.

**For more information or to reserve your place on this expedition, please call Jonathan Mostoller at Frontiers Travel: 1-800-245-1950.**

## INFORMATION

**Expedition Cost:** **\$9,495**

Price is per person, double occupancy. For a single room, add \$645. Round-trip economy airfare between Los Angeles and Ulaanbaatar is \$1,900 (subject to change). All flights within Mongolia are included in the expedition cost.

### Donation:

Travelers are encouraged to support the National Geographic-funded MegaFishes Project by making a \$1,000 tax-deductible contribution.

### What to Expect:

Traveling in Mongolia requires a sense of adventure and a measure of flexibility. Travelers must be in good health and have no limitations on physical mobility. The fishing camp is located on nice stretches of river in the remote outback of Mongolia. In the camp, travelers will stay in traditional Mongolian *gers* (felt tents wrapped around a collapsible wooden frame). Each *ger* is equipped with framed full-length beds, ample room for storing gear, and an area to relax by a wood stove. Meals in camp are prepared by a Mongolian chef and include a range of traditional Mongolian and American dishes. Each *ger* accommodates two travelers. Toilet and shower facilities are in a separate bathroom. A limited number of *gers* are available for singles. This expedition is limited to eight travelers.

Photography: Frontiers International Travel, Sweetwater Travel, and Zeb Hogan.

## TERMS AND CONDITIONS

### Responsibility

The National Geographic Society will provide educational enrichment for National Geographic Expeditions as outlined in this catalog as a sponsoring organization and has selected qualified professional tour operators to organize and administer National Geographic Expeditions. The designated tour operator(s), in turn, acts only as an agent for any transportation carrier, hotel, ground operator, or other suppliers of services connected with these tours ("other providers"), and the other providers are solely responsible and liable for providing their respective services. The passenger tickets in use by the carriers shall constitute the sole contract between the carriers and the passenger; the carriers are not responsible for any act, omission, or event during the time participants are not aboard their conveyances.

The National Geographic Society and its designated tour operator and tour administrator shall not be held liable for (A) any damage to, or loss of, property or injury to, or death of, persons occasioned directly or indirectly by an act or omission of any other provider, including but not limited to any defect in any aircraft, watercraft, or vehicle operated or provided by such other provider; and (B) any loss or damage due to delay, cancellation, or disruption in any manner caused by the laws, regulations, acts or failures to act, demands, orders, or interpositions of any government or any subdivision or agent thereof, or by acts of God, strikes, fire, flood, war, rebellion, terrorism, insurrection, sickness, quarantine, epidemics, theft, or any other cause(s) beyond their control. The participant waives any claim against the National Geographic Society and/or its designated tour operator and tour administrator for any such loss, damage, injury, or death.

By registering for a National Geographic Expedition, the participant certifies that he/she does not have any mental, physical, or other condition or disability that would create a hazard for him/herself or other participants. The National Geographic Society and its designated tour operator reserve the right in their sole discretion to accept, decline to accept, or remove any participant on a National Geographic Expedition. The National Geographic Society

and the tour operator reserve the right, without penalty, to make changes in the published itinerary whenever, in their judgment, conditions warrant, or if they deem it necessary for the comfort, convenience, or safety of participants. Neither the National Geographic Society, nor its designated tour operator or its tour administrator shall be liable for any air carrier's cancellation penalty incurred by the purchase of a nonrefundable ticket to or from the participant's National Geographic Expedition departure city. Baggage and personal effects are at all times the sole responsibility of the participant.

### Terms and Conditions—2008

**Basis of Rates:** All prices are based on two persons sharing a room or cabin. All prices and fares are quoted in U.S. dollars. The rates are based on current tariffs and are subject to change due to unforeseen circumstances. While we will do everything possible to maintain the listed prices, if it is necessary to levy a surcharge, we reserve the right to do so, and notification will be given at the time of final invoicing.

**Eligibility:** Participation in a National Geographic Expedition is a benefit of membership in the National Geographic Society. Membership dues for 2008 are \$34. Anyone under 18 must be accompanied by a parent or guardian for the entire journey. For family expeditions, children must be the minimum age indicated in the trip itinerary.

**Included in Expedition Cost:** Accommodations and meals as indicated in the itinerary (B = breakfast, L = lunch, D = dinner); educational materials; pre-departure information; entrance fees, excursions, and sightseeing noted as included in the itinerary; all gratuities except those for train or ship's crew, unless otherwise noted on the itinerary page; ground transportation during the expedition; transfers to and from group flights where applicable; services of National Geographic experts, lecturers, guides, expedition manager, and any other staff; taxes, port charges, baggage handling, and service charges. Please note: The "B, L, D" notations only apply to the period during the expedition and do not include any meals on flights to/from the trip. Internal airfare is included on some international expeditions as indicated in the itinerary.

**Not Included:** Air transportation and related fees (except as indicated in the itinerary); activities noted as optional in the itinerary; gratuities for train or ship's crew, unless otherwise noted on the itinerary page; passport and visa expenses; baggage/accident/cancellation insurance; personal expenses, such as laundry, telephone calls, and alcoholic beverages; and any other items not specifically noted as included.

**Single/Shared Accommodations:** A limited number of single rooms/cabins are available at extra cost on a first-come, first-served basis. We will assist persons requesting a roommate. Participants will be notified if a suitable roommate is not available, in which case the single rate will be charged.

**Payments, Cancellations, and Refunds:** To reserve space on this National Geographic Expedition, a \$2,800 per person deposit is required. Final payment is due no later than 90 days prior to departure. Payments must be made by credit card. National Geographic reserves the right to cancel a reservation if full payment has not been received by 90 days prior to departure. For reservations made within 90 days of the departure date, full payment is required when the reservation is accepted. All cancellation notices must be received in writing and will become effective as of the date of the postmark. If you cancel 120 days or more prior to departure, a refund less an administrative fee of 50% of your deposit will be made. Per person charges for cancellations that occur less than 120 days prior to departure are as follows: 90–119 days: 100% of your deposit amount; 89 days or fewer prior to departure: 100% of the expedition cost. This policy also applies to pre- and post-trip extensions. Any airline tickets issued are subject to the carrier's refund policy. Leaving an expedition in progress, for any reason whatsoever, will not result in a refund, and no refunds will be made for any unused portions of an expedition. National Geographic reserves the right to cancel any trip because of inadequate enrollment that makes the trip economically unfeasible to operate or because of good-faith concerns with respect to the safety, health, or welfare of the participants. If National Geographic or its designated tour operator cancels an expedition prior to departure, you will receive a full refund of

monies paid to National Geographic or its designated tour operator, except in the event the cancellation is due to a major global event that has resulted in the cancellation of multiple trips, in which case you will receive a refund and/or credit equivalent to monies paid to National Geographic or its designated tour operator. If we cancel the trip in progress, you will receive a prorated refund based on the number of days not completed on the expedition. We will not be responsible for any refund for nonrefundable airline tickets or for any airline tickets purchased by the passenger directly from an airline or travel agent.

**Trip cancellation insurance is available at an additional cost and is strongly recommended.**

**Itinerary Changes:** The itineraries and staff presented in this catalog are subject to modification and change by the National Geographic Society or its designated tour operator. Every reasonable effort will be made to operate programs as planned, but alterations may still occur after final itineraries are sent.

**Health Requirements:** You must be in good physical and mental health. Any physical condition, diet, or treatment requiring special attention must be reported in writing when the reservation is made.

**Photography:** We reserve the right to take photographs or videos during the operation of any expedition or part thereof and to use the resulting photography for promotional purposes. By booking a reservation with National Geographic Expeditions, participants agree to allow their images to be used in such photography; participants who prefer that their image not be used are asked to identify themselves to their expedition manager at the commencement of their trip.

**Other:** Additional Terms and Conditions may apply to some expeditions and will be provided with pre-trip mailings.

By registering for a National Geographic Expedition, the participant agrees to the Responsibility statement and the Terms and Conditions herein.