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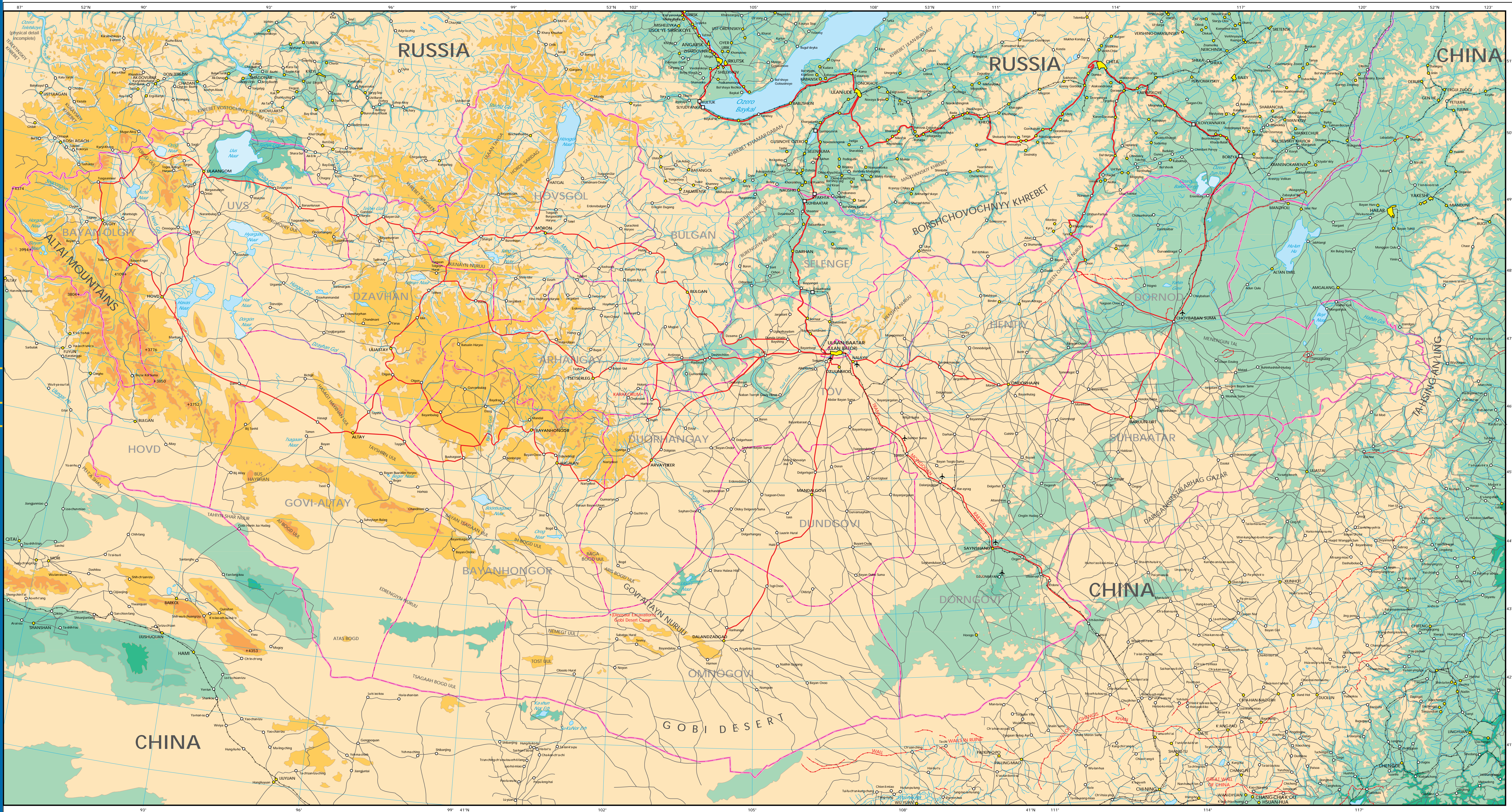
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If enough interest is generated by this request perhaps, I can get these maps back into print as many users have asked.

Thank you for your support,
Angus



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GEOGRAPHY AND HISTORY

The geographic area called Mongolia is comprised of an area of high steppe and desert sandwiched between China in the south and Russia in the north. The region is completely landlocked. Generally, it is a plateau between 900 and 1,500 metres high. However, in the west are the Altai Mountains. The highest peak in the country of Mongolia is Tavan Bogd Uul at 4,374 metres.

Since the plateau is high, landlocked and northerly, it results in a climate that is dry and cold. The average rainfall is below 38 cm per year (52 cm is considered adequate for farming without irrigation). Thus, successful agriculture can only be carried out with irrigation in those places where steady sources of water can be counted upon. The usual crops in these irrigated areas are wheat and oats. Temperature extremes also occur within the Gobi Desert, with summer daytime temperatures around 40°C and near 0°C at night. Winter temperatures can reach minus 50°C.

Due to the harsh environment, most of Mongolia is grassland. Forests cover about 10% of the land area and are primarily composed of larch. These forests are mostly in the northern portion of the country.

Historically, the people have had to adapt to a pastoral nomadic existence. The nature of their goods and livelihood were based on animal products—wool, hides, meat, cloth and leather. The people did not manufacture any products that required significant infrastructure or lengthy production. As nomadic people, they had to have personal goods that were highly portable and necessarily utilitarian. An environment devoid of trees for fuel makes manufacturing difficult and the existing fuel, dried animal dung, is hardly the

Prehistorically, Mongolia seems to have had human occupation as far back as 200,000 BC. As time and archaeological work progress, the prehistory of Mongolia will be filled in, but for now, we have to rely on the records of the Chinese who fought with tribes here during the 4th or 5th century BC. The Mongol history was written by their foes until the time of Genghis (Jenghis) Khan and always seems to describe the people as a warrior race against whom great

walls were built and fierce battles fought. One should remember that these are not wars of nations, but rather plundering raids by a variety of tribes who fought with one another as much as with the Chinese. The Chinese themselves were not a unified nation but rather a group of kingdoms. By 1000 AD, this area of the world was divided into a number of small kingdoms, some of which had existed before. All that was needed for significant social upheaval was a leader with a vision and strength of arms to carry out the vision out. Temüjin, later called Genghis (Jenghis) Khan. Who as a boy saw his father killed by a rival tribal group. Upon, escaping he began a long campaign of revenge. It is implied that from time to time Temüjin was thwarted or abandoned by allies and he was forced to turn to his own strength. He was a man of great vision and for loyal men were given the opportunity to rise through the ranks and take positions of power and authority based on their military skill. Temüjin was proclaimed Genghis (Jenghis) Khan in 1206, at the Mongolian capital

Europe has a parallel leader to Genghis (Jenghis) Khan, Charles the Great (800-843). Although his Frankish Empire did not compare in size to Genghis Khan's, his policies of literacy, administration, commerce and cultural exchange mean as much to the West as the Mongol leader's did to the East. The two leaders, in other words, may be the most important figures in espionage—call it what you wish, and an unlocated ellipse are the keys to defeating enemy enemies. These two men set up the infrastructure for two of the world's great civilizations.

The Mongol and Chinese tribes. Genghis Khan began campaigns to expand his territory. The Mongols created an empire that held sway over all of central Asia, northern Europe, northern India, China and border areas like Korea. The Mongols were not only conquerors but also administrators and military tacticians ruled all or part of his territory until about 1370, when they were driven out of Beijing. They finally were completely driven out in 1388, when they were driven out of Karakorum and defeated on the Korum.

Mongolia no longer plays a major role in world affairs but individuals

have harassed the Chinese society right up to this century. After the revolution, that the part of Mongolia officially called the Mongolian Republic broke away from China and allied itself with Russia. During 70 years Mongolia followed the Russian form of communism knowledgeable of Soviet history will have no trouble in following the

The capital of Mongolia is Ulaan Baatar and has a population of 600,000. The city is on the banks of the Tuul River at an elevation of 1,000 metres and at the foot of the Bogdo Ula which rises about 900 metres city. The city was founded in 1649 as a religious centre and later grew due to the tea route between China and Russia. Ulaan Baatar is the centre of the important facets of a modern nation. As an economic centre, it produces traditional products of a pastoral agricultural society mentioned earlier.

cultural significance is defined by the university, library and religious sites. It is the country's transportation hub thanks to the presence of the Mongolian Railway connecting with Russia and China.

Travel in Mongolia is not as a modern convenience, its former reliance on horses and camels. Collecting money to be paid for by cash rather than barter and has resulted in trade dropping by over 60 per cent. There are indications that the society is trying to achieve ethnic purity. The greatest protagonists, the Russians and the Chinese, have been here for centuries. Russians have been beaten up on the streets and the Chinese were being killed. The Chinese are the most successful businessmen in the country, their profile while being quite successful as businessmen in the new economy.

As a traveler, heading into what appears to be a state in transition but the ancient oriental culture—'May you live in interesting times.' Be traveling in the Far East, particularly in those nations that have been dominated by the West. Travelers are often treated with suspicion by the natives and suspicious of foreigners. There are people who thoroughly enjoy life because of the numerous challenges of traveling in a country so east.

tourism industry. Others may find the adventure more arduous. Inform yourself before you travel here, get all the books you can and be prepared.

HUNTING DINOSAURS

Thousands, perhaps millions of children are captivated by the knowledge that 65 million years ago and beyond strange creatures roamed a very much different world. Windows to that world are few and far between but one of the best is found in southern Mongolia.

The window to the past was opened by the expeditions of Roy Chapman Andrews in 1922, 1923 and 1925 ending in 1928. During these years his team located and named *Protoceratops andrewsi*, *Oviraptor philoceros* and the recently popular *Velociraptor* other fantastic finds were some of the oldest mammal bones ever to be found at that time.

Politics and eventually war, including the Cold War, saw an end to most North American expeditions to the fossil beds of Mongolia. However, other expeditions were mounted in the 1960s and 1970s by the British, and in the 1970s and 1980s by the Canadians and now in the 1990s by the Americans again. All these expeditions were supported by the Mongolian government. The area of significant interest is in southern Mongolia. Most North Americans know the area as the Flaming Cliffs. There are many sites in this region and they are hundreds of miles apart. The Flaming Cliffs is one of the areas in the road between the cities of Ulaanbaatar and Khovd. Other sites going westward are the Khoboo, Tatal Göl, Ukhaa Tolgoi, Khulsai, Ultan Ula, Bugin Tsav and Khosmer Tsav. Without a doubt more sites will be discovered here and to the west.

There are many books about hunting dinosaurs in Mongolia a recent good read is *Dinosaurs of the Flaming Cliffs* (Mongol Novacek, 1996, A. W.

TRAVEL INSIDE MONGOLIA

Mongolia is a huge country, 1,560,000 sq. km. in area and paved roads are almost non-existent. Unfortunately, writing about travel within an third world country is problematic. I suggest that tourists use the internet the local library and professional travel agencies to advise them of local conditions. A.W.

WARNING REGARDING ROADS

The lines purported to show land communication routes within Mongolia MUST be regarded as unverified data. The map appears to indicate that Mongolia has a highly developed road network. In reality, almost all the 'roads' shown are rutted tracks across the grassland, suitable for the occasional truck or 4x4 that dares to attempt to traverse the undulating prairie. Most of the lines that are parallel to other lines are 'new' tracks replacing 'old' tracks. Unfortunately, we have no way of knowing which are which: both show equally on aerial mapping. Without driving each track, it is impossible to determine its current status. Furthermore, as each track becomes more intensely used, it deteriorates through no-one's evident maintenance, becoming a parallel track.

As Mongolia develops, a formal road network will come into existence. The only paved roads outside the urban areas are a 60 km stretch south of Ulaanbaator and the road north to Naushki on the Russian border. As one of the least developed nations, Mongolia remains a remote and largely inaccessible country. Regard these so-called roads with extreme caution. Washboards, collapsed bridges, severe potholes, mud baths, and unmarked dips and fords are common.

DISCLAIMER
This map of Mongolia was an experiment in mapping a country using Adobe Illustrator. Researching this map has presented many challenges. Wellen cartographic Services has been unable to determine a definite spelling for place names, so would appreciate assistance from travellers and scholars in replacing

errors with more commonly accepted spellings.

Similarly, road/track information is unreliable. Existing reference maps are contradictory and incomplete. Does Hasagt (near Altay) really exist without some sort of track to it? If so, where? Do the roads/tracks shown on this map really end where our available research information indicate? Logic says no, but where do they go? More importantly, do they exist? Are they usable? We are not sure.

Please regard this map as a provisional map. It is better than anything else that is available, but we are very conscious of the weaknesses inherent in this map and respectfully request your patience and co-operation in providing details of information that will make this a much better map in its following editions. Corrections and suggested improvements can be sent to the cartographer, Angus Weiler at weiler@axionline.com or a net search for Angus R. Weiler, map maker.com or travel-media.com/ or the address in the copyright notice.

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2960 Cosgrove Crescent, Nanaimo,
British Columbia, Canada, V9S 3P8

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