

## FOSSIL DIG CHECKLIST

Foundation Advancing Creation Truth

Glendive Dinosaur and Fossil Museum

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We are pleased that you are interested in joining us for a dinosaur dig! We do our best to make this an experience you will treasure. Because we offer an authentic excavation experience, we have included some important information to prepare you for the day.

### **About digging for fossils:**

Fossils are the remains of once-living things that were buried during the Genesis Flood. The severity of the flood ripped skeletons apart and broke bones. The rapidity of their burial protected them from decay and scavengers while the presence of minerals in the sediment combined with heat and pressure during burial caused them to be fossilized. Fossilized dinosaur bones contain the original bone as well as minerals that filled microscopic openings inside the bone, making them heavier than modern-day bones and skeletons.

It is exciting to discover and excavate fossils that have not seen the light of day in over 4,000 years, but it also requires work. True paleontology is not like the portrayal in the movie *Jurassic Park*. First, skeletons are not lying just below the earth's surface waiting to have the sand brushed off them; it is rare to find a dinosaur skeleton. Most fossil finds are individual bones or pieces of bone that vary in size and condition due to the burial process. Second, dinosaur fossils are not preserved in soft sediment. We do much labor before you arrive to make the process easier, but you must patiently and diligently work through layers of clay and other sediment using hand tools. We do not "plant" bones for discovery; therefore, while we do our best to help you find fossils (and our success rate is high), we cannot guarantee your discovery of them.

Our dig sites hold a wide variety of fossils including dinosaurs (Tyrannosaurus Rex, Triceratops, Edmontosaurus, and others), turtles, crocodiles and alligators, champsosaurs, fish, plants, etc. This variety and especially the combination of land animals and marine life are evidence that supports the biblical history of a catastrophic global flood. These animals did not live in the same habitats, yet they are buried together. It is a privilege to dig in these historic layers of the earth and we look forward to sharing it with you.

### **What you should know:**

- ☞ The hike to our dig sites is up to a 1/3-mile hike from the parking-shelter area with an elevation gain of up to 125 feet over rough uneven terrain; we pace the hike to suit your needs, making stops along the way.
- ☞ Our dig sites are located in the badlands. Weather can be extreme; summer temperatures can exceed 100 degrees with little or no shade, and possible windy conditions. There are cactus, yucca, and other plants with sharp spikes on them, as well as the unlikely possibility of rattlesnakes and scorpions. There are no restrooms (portable unit at the parking-shelter area) or drinkable water. Please be prepared.
- ☞ We strive to ensure a safe excavation experience, but we need your cooperation to accomplish that. We will need you to read and sign a waiver of liability and follow your dig guide instructions.
- ☞ Only paying guests who have signed a waiver of liability will be allowed on the FACT dig site property.
- ☞ Minors must be accompanied by a paying adult parent, guardian, or approved sponsor.
- ☞ Bring your camera! We will stop for a photograph along the hike where we will gladly photograph you with your camera/cell phone as well. You may also wish to photograph your digging experience and discoveries.

**What is included in your dig fee:**

- ✓ Use of all necessary excavation tools which will be provided at the dig site.
- ✓ Admission to the museum. We hope you will allow time in your visit to Glendive to walk through the museum. Please note that the museum is closed on Sunday and Monday.

**What is *not* included in your dig fee:**

- ✗ Transportation. Your dig guide will meet you the morning of your dig in the museum parking lot by the T-Rex head at 8 a.m., where you will follow them in your pre-arranged vehicle. At the end of the dig, they will accompany you back to the museum parking lot (if needed).
- ✗ Water. We recommend *at least* 1 bottle of water per person on half day digs and 3 bottles on full day digs (extra water is a good idea). Our climate and elevation can cause dehydration, especially when digging. Powdered electrolyte replacement or Gatorade may be desired on hot days (guest recommended).
- ✗ Snacks (for half day digs) and/or Lunches (for full day digs). Snacks and lunches will be eaten up at the dig site; be prepared to carry everything up with you in a backpack or cooler (please pack out your trash). We recommend packing a salty snack in the event that you find yourself feeling light-headed.
- ✗ Ownership of fossils. All fossils found on the dig site property belong to the museum and may be of value to ongoing work and study. We do understand that taking home fossil souvenirs from your excavation is a special part of the experience; these will be granted at the discretion of your dig guide. A friendly reminder that since this is an authentic dig site and bones are not planted for discovery, we cannot guarantee your discovery of fossils though we will do our best to help you find them.

**How you should dress:**

- Hat (a wide-brim hat with an adjustable string to secure in windy conditions is ideal)
- Long-sleeved shirt or sunscreen (if you choose sunscreen, remember to bring it for reapplying)
- Full-length pants
- Sturdy shoes (athletic shoes are okay, hiking boots are best)
- Fitted work gloves if you have sensitive hands. Loose gloves easily damage fossils and cause blisters
- Bug spray or a netted hat may be desired for gnats and pests
- Hiking stick if you are not sure-footed or have trouble walking over steep rough terrain

**What you should *not* wear:**

- ✗ Contact lenses will be uncomfortable due to wind, dust, and dirt at the site. Wear glasses, if possible.
- ✗ Sandals, flip-flops, crocs, etc. These are simply dangerous. Wear sturdy, comfortable shoes.
- ✗ A frown. 😊

We look forward to meeting you for your dig at 8:00 a.m. in the museum parking lot under the T-Rex head!

Your Dig Guides

**Our cancellation policy:** For the safety of all participants, digs are always weather-permitting and cannot be guaranteed. If weather conditions require us to cancel, we will contact you as soon as possible prior to your dig (via phone call or e-mail) to reschedule or refund. If circumstances require you to cancel your dig, please contact us as soon as possible so that we may try to accommodate other dig guests. Please note: we regret we will be unable to refund your deposit if your cancellation is made within 72 hours of the scheduled dig and we are unable to schedule another dig in your place.