

Walhalla / Pembina Gorge Frequently Asked Questions:

Q: Where do we meet?

A: A shuttle will pick up people outside the Frostfire Ski area after breakfast and dig presentation, which will bring you to the dig area.

Q: Can I take pictures?

A: Please do! We would love if you would be willing to share them with us as well. You can tag us on social media @NDGSpaleo (Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram).

Q: How strenuous is this dig?

A: This is a fairly low stress dig. You will be driven nearly all the way to the site, at which point you will need to walk up a slight incline to get to our dig area. Minor shoveling or pick axe work may be needed.

Q: If I get too hot, is there any shade?

A: We have a shade tent and picnic tables nearby, where you can sit to cool off, or grab a drink of cold water.

Q: What should I bring?

A: Hat, sunglasses, and of course a camera. We will provide all the tools you will be using throughout the day. Breakfast, lunch, or both will be provided, depending on which type of day you signed up for.

Q: What types of fossils are we finding?

A: 80 million years ago the Pembina Gorge area was underwater – the Western Interior Seaway. We have found mosasaurs (giant sea lizards), squid, sea turtles, *Xiphactinus* & *Enchodus* fish, *Hesperornis* birds, and more.

Q: Wow! We can find a whole mosasaur?!

A: While we have pulled out most of a mosasaur, the majority of what we are finding are parts and pieces. Imagine creatures dying in an ocean, sinking down, being eaten, disturbed - we find lots of single elements. A mosasaur jaw here. A *Xiphactinus* vertebra there. A rib from a turtle.

Q: Can we keep the fossils we find?

A: No – all fossils found will return to the State Fossil Collection in Bismarck, ND. Most of the land we search on is State, Federal, or Foundation land (US Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, Teddy Roosevelt Medora Foundation, etc.), and the NDGS curates whatever is found. Feel free to take photos of whatever you find however!

Q: Is there a restroom?

A: Yes – we have port-a-potties just off site.

Q: Will my cell phone work?

A: Maybe – the signal varies in the area, but we ask that as courtesy to the other diggers, if you are going to use your phone to chat, please head off site. It tends to get very distracting.

Q: Can I smoke?

A: Yes, but just like the cell phone use, as courtesy to the other diggers, we ask that you smoke off site. Please take your cigarette butts with you as well – we want to make sure we keep the area clean.

Q: I'm from out of town – where's a good place to stay?

A: There is a hotel and bed & breakfast located in Walhalla.

Q: Where can I find some grub around here?

A: Local restaurants include the Hwy 32 Diner, Walhalla Country Inn, Jackson's Bar, etc.