

2021 Public Fossil Digs

We're hoping to welcome everyone back for the 2021 Public Fossil Digs. We will be monitoring the ongoing pandemic and will make a decision on moving forward with the digs before registration opens in April. We plan to return to the same three locations as last year, though we'll be maintaining smaller group sizes and other increased safety precautions like we did in 2020. We hope to see you all in the field this summer!

Medora

This dig is co-sponsored by the North Dakota Geological Survey (NDGS) and the Theodore Roosevelt Medora Foundation. We will be digging in Sentinel Butte Formation rocks, 55-60 million years old, deposited just after the extinction of the dinosaurs. After the non-avian dinosaurs went extinct, crocodiles became the dominant predator in North Dakota, and the environment was warm, humid, and swampy. This site is rich in a variety of swamp denizens, including crocodiles, giant salamanders, fish, champsosaurs, clams, snails, and more.

When: Full Days: June 17-18, 22-23; Family Half-Days: June 19-20 (AM & PM)

Adult Half-Days: June 24 (AM only)

Where: Daily trips to the fossil site will originate from Medora, Billings County.

Cost: Full Day - \$30; Family/Adult Half-Day - \$20



Bismarck

We will be working on a site that preserves a plethora of Hell Creek Formation (~67 million-year-old) creatures, including lots of dinosaur bones. Teeth from *Tyrannosaurus*, bones from *Triceratops* and *Edmontosaurus*, plus crocodiles and other creatures abound.

When: Full Days: June 30, July 1, 6-8, 12-15, 19-22, 26-28;

2-day session for Experienced Diggers: July 29-30; Family Half-Days: July 2, 9, 16, 23.

Where: Daily trips to the fossil sites will originate from Bismarck, where we will meet at the Heritage Center.

Cost: Full Day - \$30; Family Half-Day - \$20



Pembina

This dig is co-sponsored by the NDGS and the North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department. We will be returning once again to the beautifully scenic Pembina Gorge in our ongoing search for sea monsters. This Pierre Formation location, 80 million years old, holds some of the oldest surface rocks in North Dakota. This was a time when North Dakota was covered by the Western

Interior Seaway, and was home to great swimming reptiles called mosasaurs, giant squid, sea turtles, aquatic birds, large (and small) fish, snails, clams, and more.

When: Full Days: August 6, 8-13

Family Half-Days: August 7, 14 (AM & PM sessions)

Adult Half-Days: August 15 (AM only)

Where: Daily trips to the fossil site will originate from Walhalla, Pembina County.

Cost: Full Day - \$30; Family Half-Day - \$20



General Dig Information

All fossils collected on these digs go to the North Dakota State Fossil Collection and are used for educational and research purposes. All three digs are at established quarry sites, within easy walking distance of our vehicles, and a shade tent and port-a-potties are available on site. At the Medora and Bismarck digs, participants must bring their own lunches. All attendees on full day digs must be age 15 or older, age 10 or older on family half-day digs, and 18 or older on adult half-days. All participants will be transported by van from the meeting site to the dig site. Online registration for all digs begins on Saturday April 3rd at 10 a.m. Central. Please go to www.dmr.nd.gov/ndfossil for more information and additional rules for participants.