

M O N G O L I A



Mongolia is one of the world's best-kept secrets. Three times the size of France and with more horses than people; it is one of Asia's last unspoilt destinations. Nomadic herders still roam the steppe as they have since the time of Chinggis Khaan. A visit to this stunning land is an invigorating experience.




Key Facts

- **Population:** 2.7 million people – the most sparsely populated country on earth.
- **Capital:** Ulaanbaatar (meaning ‘Red Hero’), c. 800,000 population.
- **Geography:** Mongolia is commonly misconceived of as a country of flat endless steppe landscape. Whilst steppe does cover large areas of the east and central heartland, the terrain is spectacularly rich and diverse. In the North, alpine peaks and larch forests rub shoulders with pristine crystal-clear lakes and fish-filled rivers. To the South is the majestic arid beauty of the Gobi desert, whilst out West are the snow-capped Altai Mountains of the Kazakh region where hunting with golden eagles is still practiced.
- **Religion:** Buddhism. Religion is slowly making a comeback in Mongolia, following the purges under the Soviet era which saw the outlawing of Buddhist practices. Mongolia has strong shamanistic roots, which are interwoven with Buddhist beliefs, and shamanist rituals are still practiced particularly in the North and West.
- **Weather:** With over 260 sunny days per year, Mongolia is known as ‘the land of the blue sky’. It has one of the most extreme climates in the world – in summer, temperatures can reach 30°–40°c in the Gobi desert, but in winter can drop to –40°c.
- **People:** 50% of the population are still nomadic. Nomads live in ‘gers’ – round white felt structures (known as ‘yurts’ in Russian)
- **History:** Under Chinggis Khaan in the 13th century, Mongolia ruled the largest land empire ever – stretching from South China up to Moscow in the North, and from East China all the way to Hungary in the West.
- **Politics:** Mongolia became the world’s 2nd Communist state in 1924 and remained under Soviet control until 1990 when democracy rang the changes.
- **Industry:** Principal industries include mining, cashmere exports, farming & tourism.



PANORAMIC JOURNEYS

At Panoramic Journeys we are passionate about this fascinating region. We are proud to offer small personal journeys to this enchanting country, allowing others to experience first hand the magic that inspires us.

Classic Journeys – These are designed to offer the very best of this diverse country with cultural & geographical highlights. These are small group journeys with set departure dates. Some examples below (please see website for more journeys & details):

	Winter Festivals	<i>Wrap up warm on a journey to Khovsgol Lake and the South Gobi for the Ice and Camel Festivals</i>
	Mongolian Odyssey <i>(Incl. Reindeer Festival)</i>	<i>Take in the highlights of central and northern Mongolia on an epic voyage to Khovsgol Lake. Witness the annual Reindeer Festival.</i>
	Gobi & Altai <i>(Incl. Eagle Festival)</i>	<i>Fly to the dramatic gorges, red cliffs and giant dunes of the Gobi before flying west to the Altai Mountains for the Kazakh Eagle Festival.</i>

Expeditions – For those who prefer a more challenging, active and adventurous experiences we offer a range of exciting itineraries. These journeys explore remote areas and involve intrepid activities. Some examples below (please see website for more journeys & details):

	Call of the Wild EXTREME	<i>Travel to the fringes of Siberia to embark on an epic dog sledding expedition across the frozen Khovsgol Lake.</i>
	The Great Western	<i>Discover traditional Kazakh culture; learn the skills of hunting with eagles & explore the Altai Mountains before congregating for Nauryz</i>
	Renchinlumbe Naadam Ride	<i>Horsetrek across the Khoridol Saridag Mts to the remote village of Renchinlumbe and celebrate Naadam with the Darkhad people.</i>

Tailor-Mades – For private groups, or those who want to pursue a particular special interest, we can organise tailor-made journey. This could include our latest addition to our repertoire – the Magic Ger.

The Magic Ger is part of our quest to go one step beyond to satisfy tailor-made travel needs. Imagine your own ger in the middle of the countryside – in a lush valley; at the foot of a forested mountain; or by the edge of a river – or all three! Guests will be able to enjoy serene isolation far from other people and civilisation. The personal ‘ger’ team will travel ahead each day, whilst guests take in the sights and activities that we have designed and arranged. By the time you arrive at our specially chosen private destination, the ger that you left earlier that morning will have ‘magically’ reappeared, complete with a hot shower and delicious freshly prepared 3-course meal. *Available as a short 2-3 day extension to complement an existing booking, or as a complete journey of up to 2 weeks or longer.*