



Inner Mongolia

POP 24.9 MILLION

Includes »

Hohhot	853
Shàngdū (Xanadu)	857
Bàotóu	858
Genghis Khan Mausoleum	859
Cave Temple	859
Hǎilā'ěr	860
Mǎnzhōulǐ	863

Best Natural Wonders

- » Hūlǔnbèi'ěr Grasslands (p860)
- » Badain Jaran Desert (p860)
- » Ā'ěrshān National Forest Park (p863)
- » Hūlún Hú (p863)

Best Temples

- » Cave Temple (p859)
- » Wūdāng Lamasery (p859)
- » Wūtǎ Pagoda (p853)
- » Ganjur Monastery (p863)

Why Go?

Mongolia. The word alone stirs up visions of nomadic herders, thundering horses and, of course, the warrior-emperor Genghis Khan. The Mongols conquered half the known world in the 13th century and while their empire is long gone, visitors are still drawn to this magical land wrapped up in both myth and legend.

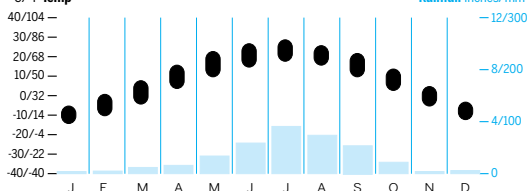
Travellers heading north of the Great Wall half expect to see the Mongol hordes galloping along. The reality is quite different as 21st-century Inner Mongolia (内蒙古; Nèi Měnggǔ) is a wholly different place from Mongolia itself. The more-visited south of the province is industrialised and very much within the realm of China's modern economic miracle. The Mongolia of your dreams exists off the tourist route, amid the shimmering sand dunes of the Badain Jaran Desert or the vast grasslands in the north. Some effort is required to reach these areas but the spectacular scenery makes it worthwhile.

When to Go

Hohhot

°C/°F Temp

Rainfall inches/mm



Jul Hohhot and other regions host the annual Naadam festival.

Aug & Sep The best time to see the grasslands and ride Mongolia's famed horses.

Oct The poplar trees change colours at Ējīnà Qí.

Inner Mongolia Highlights

- 1 Saddle up and go for a horse ride around the glorious grasslands near **Haïla'ěr** (p860)
- 2 Wander amid the ancient walls of **Shàngdǔ** (p857) and contemplate the lost greatness of Kublai Khan's pleasure dome
- 3 Journey across the desert and into the mountains to explore the legendary **Cave Temple** (p859)
- 4 Mount a camel and set off across the dunes of the **Badain Jaran Desert** (p860)
- 5 Mingle with the Chinese-speaking ethnic Russians at the unique village of **Shi Wēi** (p862) near the Russian border
- 6 Listen to the groaning chants of Mongolian monks at the colourful monasteries of **Dà Zhào** (p854) and **Xilitú Zhào** (p854) in Hohhot

