



Inner Mongolia

POP 24.7 MILLION

Includes ➔

Hohhot	868
Shàngdū (Xanadu)	872
Bāotóu	873
Wūdāng Lamasery ...	874
Genghis Khan Mausoleum	874
Hāilā'ěr	874
Mǎnzhōulǐ	878

Best Natural Wonders

- ➔ Hūlúnbèi'ěr Grasslands (p877)
- ➔ Badain Jaran Desert (p876)
- ➔ Hūlún Lake (p878)

Best Temples

- ➔ Wūdāng Lamasery (p874)
- ➔ Wūtǎ Pagoda (p869)
- ➔ Dà Zhào (p869)

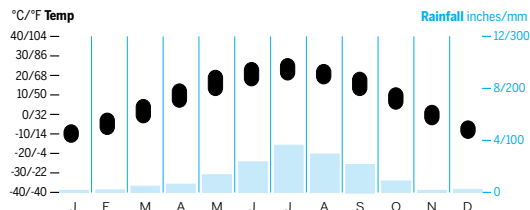
Why Go?

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 land wrapped up in both myth and legend.

Travellers heading north of the Great Wall might half expect to see the Mongol hordes galloping through the vast grasslands. The reality is quite different: 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, prosperous 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

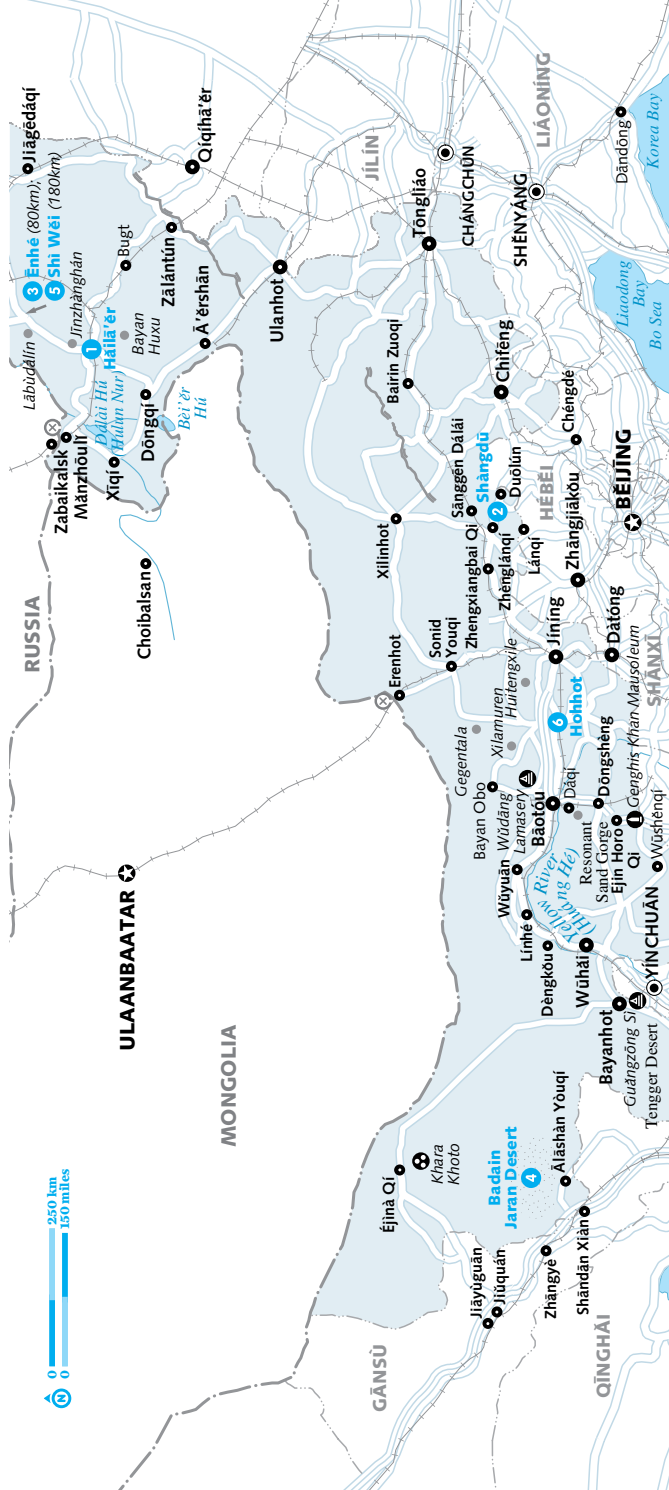
Hohhot



May Good weather and shoulder season equals good value.

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.



Inner Mongolia Highlights

- 1 Saddle up and go for a horse ride around the glorious Hulunbêi'er grasslands near **Haila'er** (p874)
- 2 Wander amid the ancient walls of **Shangdù** (p872) and contemplate the lost greatness of Kublai Khan's pleasure dome
- 3 Find some peace and sample the local milk and produce at the laid-back farming town of **Enhé** (p877)
- 4 Mount a camel and set off across the dunes of the **Badain Jaran Desert** (p876)
- 5 Mingle with the Chinese-speaking ethnic Russians at the unique village of **Shi Wēi** (p877) near the Russian border
- 6 Listen to the groaning chants of Mongolian monks at the colourful monasteries of **Dà Zhào** (p869) and **Xilitù Zhào** (p869) in Hohhot