



Eastern Mongolia

POP 200,100 / AREA 287,500 SQ KM

Includes »

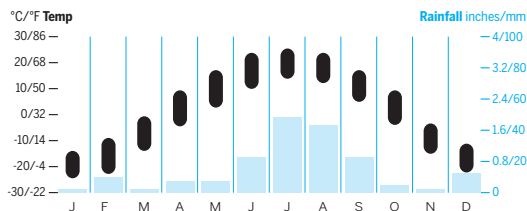
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Why Go?

Eastern Mongolia is where heaven and earth fuse into one part – a blank slate of blue sky colliding with an equally empty sea of yellow grass. The occasional wooden shack or ger reminds you that humans do inhabit this enormous landscape, but for the most part it's an unspoilt amphitheatre of bounding gazelle, scurrying marmots and jeep tracks that squiggle endlessly into the distance. Biologists tout the region as one of the world's last great unharmed grassland ecosystems – imagine the scenery from *Dances with Wolves*. The discovery of oil threatens to bring change, however, so get here before the prairie disappears. Besides the grasslands, the major feature of the region is the Khan Khentii Mountains. This was the homeland of Temujin, the embattled boy who grew up to become Chinggis Khaan. Travelling by horseback or jeep, there are many opportunities to visit places associated with the world's greatest conqueror.

When to Go

Choibalsan



Best Places to Eat

- » Oasis (p142)
- » Bolor Centre (p149)
- » Winners Pub (p149)

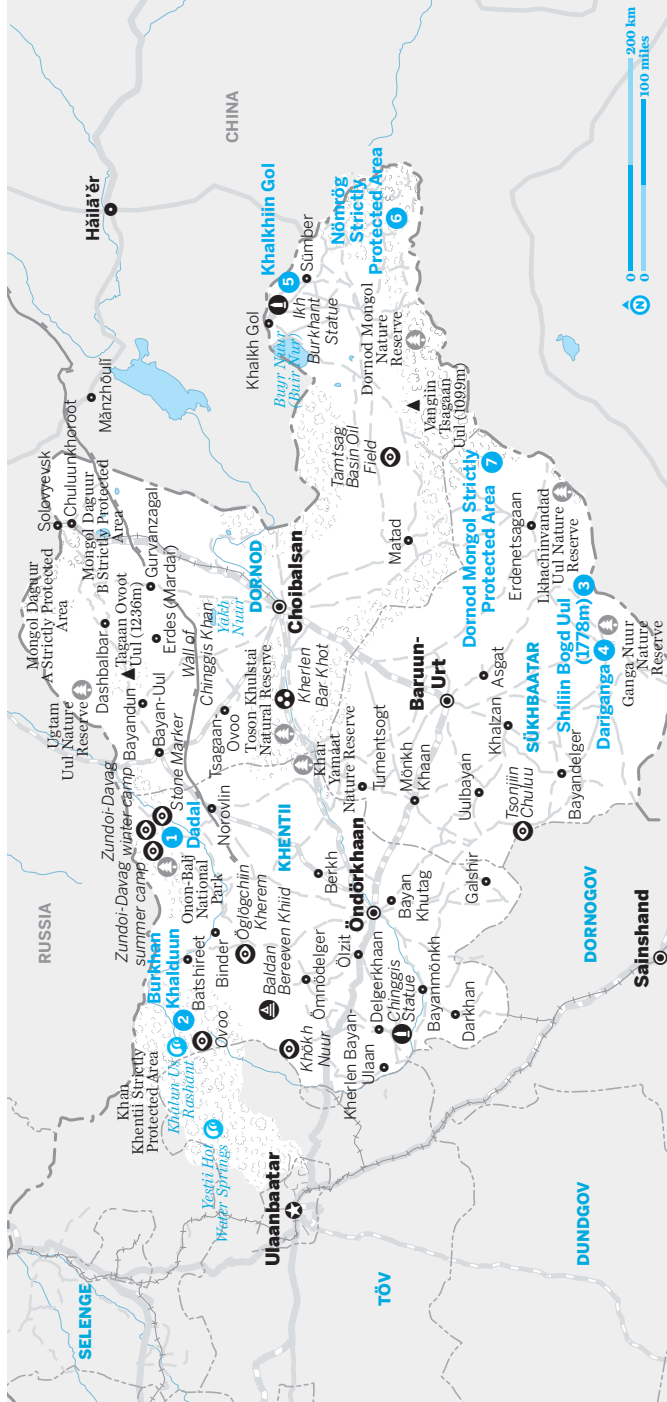
Best Places to Stay

- » Titem (p148)
- » East Palace (p148)
- » Dorjsuren's Homestay (p145)

Mid-July Naadam festival held in many towns and villages.

September Autumn brings a riot of oranges and yellows to the Khentii Mountains.

Late September to mid-October Thousands of migratory swans descend on Ganga Nuur.



Eastern Mongolia Highlights

- 1 Spend a few days around **Dadal** (p144), a pretty village of log cabins and Chinggis Khaan legends
- 2 Hire sturdy horses and set off on an expedition to

Burkhan Khaldun (p144), the hill sacred to Chinggis Khaan

- 3 Restore your soul with a sunrise ascent of sacred **Shiliin Bogd Uul** (p154)

4 Tour the area around **Dariganga** (p153), rich in cultural relics and eerie volcanic landscapes

- 5 Travel across the empty steppes to the war memorials

at **Khalkhiin Gol** (Khalkhiin River; p150)

- 6 Seek moose, otter and bear at the biologically unique **Nörmög Strictly Protected Area** (p146)

- 7 Photograph majestic gazelle bounding across the steppes in **Dornod Mongol Strictly Protected Area** (p146)