



Northern Mongolia

POP 463,000 / AREA 192,800 SQ KM

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Best Places to Eat

- » Garage 24 (p132)
- » Texas Pub (p115)
- » Molor Erdene (p120)
- » Stupa Ger Camp (p118)

Best Places to Stay

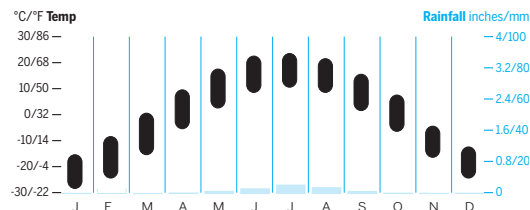
- » Comfort Hotel (p115)
- » Nature's Door (p132)
- » Toilogt (p132)
- » Anak Ranch (p113)

Why Go?

Log cabins, pine forests and monstrous fish do not conform to the classic image of Mongolia's empty steppes. But strung along its northern border is a region so lush and rugged that one might confuse it with bits of Switzerland. Selenge, Bulgan and Khövsgöl aimags actually have more in common with Siberia than Mongolia. Winters are long and cold, with snow staying on the ground until May. Summers bring wildflowers and the melting snow fills up lakes and rivers, many of which flow north to Lake Baikal in Siberia. This habitat provides an ideal home for wildlife as well as rich grasslands for nomadic herders. Close to the Russian border you can even meet reindeer herders, or just relax by the glorious shores of Lake Khövsgöl. Northern Mongolia is also the place to go if you are interested in shamanism, which is being revived and encouraged.

When to Go

Mörön



Mid-July Catch
Naadam in Khatgal, Rentshinlhumbe or another small village.

Late August–September Visit the taiga: fewer bugs and dry ground make for better trekking.

Late February
Skiing, skating and ice fishing at the Khatgal Ice Festival.

Northern Mongolia Highlights

- 1** Drop a fishing line into **Khövsgöl Nuur** (p127), and while away an afternoon by Mongolia's loveliest alpine lake
- 2** Explore the remote **Darkhad Depression**, where you can mount an expedition to visit Tsaitan reindeer herders (p134)
- 3** Wander around the grounds of **Amarbayasgalant Khüid** (p116), the architectural highlight of the country
- 4** Visit the bow-and-arrow-making workshop in **Dulaankhaan** (p113), one of the last in Mongolia
- 5** Journey to **Chandman-Öndör** (p133), a little-visited region of fish-filled streams, hot springs and sacred caves
- 6** Study the curious deer-stone carvings at **Uushigir**
- 7** Watch the scenery roll past your window on a **rail journey** from Ulaanbaatar to Erdenet
- Uver** (p127), one of the best examples of ancient rock art in Mongolia

