



Eastern Mongolia

POP 191,400 / AREA 286,200 SQ KM

Includes ➔

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Best Chinggis Khaan Sights

- ➔ Burkhan Khaldun (p168)
- ➔ Deluun Boldog (p166)
- ➔ Chinggis Khaan obelisk (p167)
- ➔ Khajuu Bulag (p167)

Best Off-the-Beaten-Track

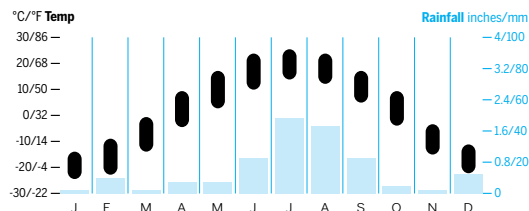
- ➔ Buir Nuur (p172)
- ➔ Ikh Burkhan (p173)
- ➔ Shiliin Bogd Uul (p177)
- ➔ Ganga Nuur (p176)

Why Go?

Eastern Mongolia is where heaven and earth fuse into one – a boundless blue sky colliding with an equally limitless sea of green. The occasional shack or ger reminds you that humans do inhabit this 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. This is one of the world's last great unharmed grassland ecosystems, and you can imagine yourself galloping along it on horseback. The new oil fields are bringing change, however, so get here before the prairie disappears. The other 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, you can visit places associated with the world's greatest conqueror. The final frontier; this is by far the most remote part of Mongolia, and a venture into its depths is a challenge even for the most experienced of travellers.

When to Go

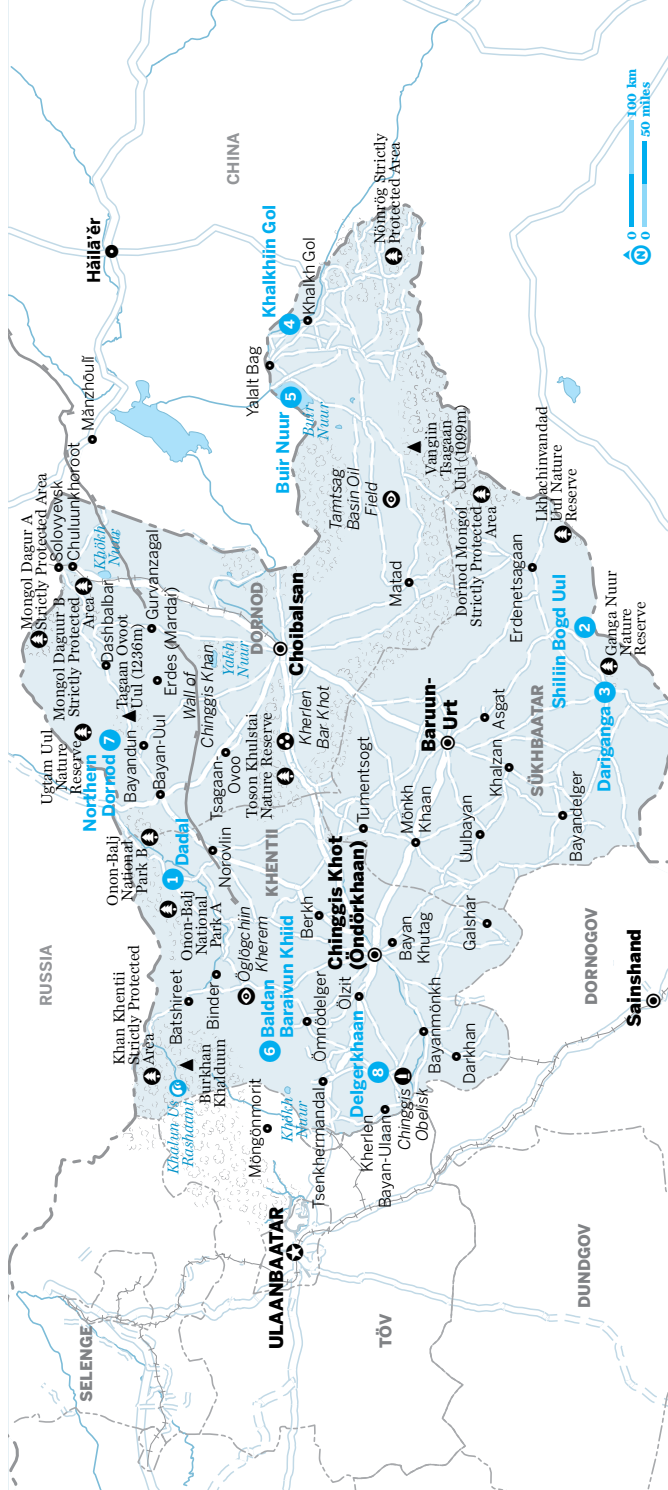
Choibalsan



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

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

Late Sep–mid-Oct
Thousands of migratory swans descend on Ganga Nuur.



Eastern Mongolia Highlights

- 1** Spend a few days around **Dadal** (p166), a pretty village of log cabins and Chinggis Khaan legends.
- 2** Pay your respects to the local deities with an ascent of sacred **Shiliin Bogd Uul** (p177).
- 3** Tour the area around **Dariganga** (p176), rich in **Khalkhin Gol** (p172).
- cultural relics and eerie volcanic landscapes.
- 4** Contemplate the war memorials and impressive stone statues around **Khalkhin Gol** (p172).
- 5** Travel across the steppe to watch the sun rise and set over the immense **Buir Nuur** (p172).
- 6** Seek out the restored **Baldan Baraivun Khiid** (p165) and get blessed by a local lama.
- 7** Go in search of mysterious temple ruins and shamans in **Northern Dornod** (p173).
- 8** Restore your health with medicinal spring and lake waters around **Delgerkhaan** (p167).