Visiting Today's Mongolia





Table of Contents

Tour Summary

<u>Overview</u>

Tips

Chapter 1 - Getting to Know Ulaanbaatar

Chapter 2 - Naadam Festival

Chapter 3 - The Countryside

Chapter 4 - Visiting Homes

<u>Chapter 5 - Other Mongolian Destinations</u>

Maps

Author Biography

Publisher

Tour Summary

Mongolia welcomes you with unspoiled beauty, rich pageantry and vivid history. Its Buddhist heritage is now being revived after decades of suppression, and Amarbavasgalant monastery is an interesting destination. Almost half of the Mongolians live in the countryside, following their herds from one pasture to another. All summer they are busy tending their animals, and making cheese and yogurt. Once a year, in July, the whole country is involved in competitions that determine its best horses, archers and wrestlers, during the colorful Naadam Festival. Visitors are welcome!

Back to Table of Contents

Overview



In the Mongolian countryside, you can find yourself wonderfully alone with a big sky and vast grassy panoramas. It's a marvelous place to hike.



Yet Mongolia has an ancient history, seen today in the pageantry of its annual national Naadam Festival.



You can also find its history in the splendid old costumes and ancient jewelry seen today in its excellent museums, antique shops, and dance shows.



The Naadam Festival decides the national winners of the horse racing, wrestling and archery competitions - the traditional sports. Racers can be as young as 10 years old, and many ride over 25 miles bareback.



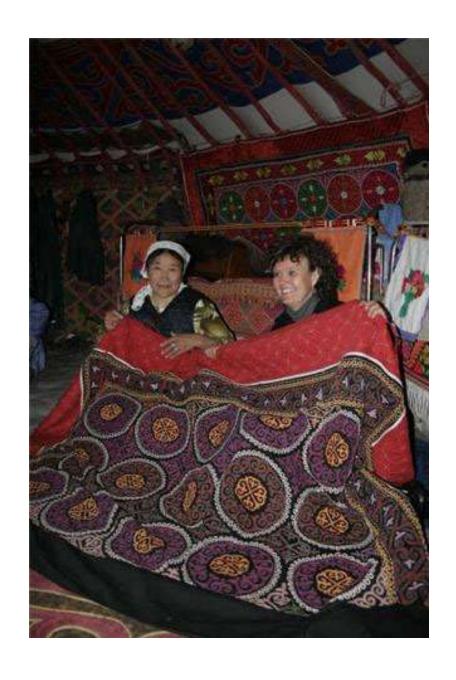
You will find horsemen outside the cities eager to give you a ride or an example of their riding skill - for free. They are generous people.



Horses are an important part of the culture. Mongolians not only raise them and race them, they even use their milk.



They will give you a sample of mare's milk tea, even if you just drop in for a visit.



If you are interested, they might even sell you their own embroidery.



In the countryside, you can sleep in comfortable ger camps, a step up from wilderness camping because you have real

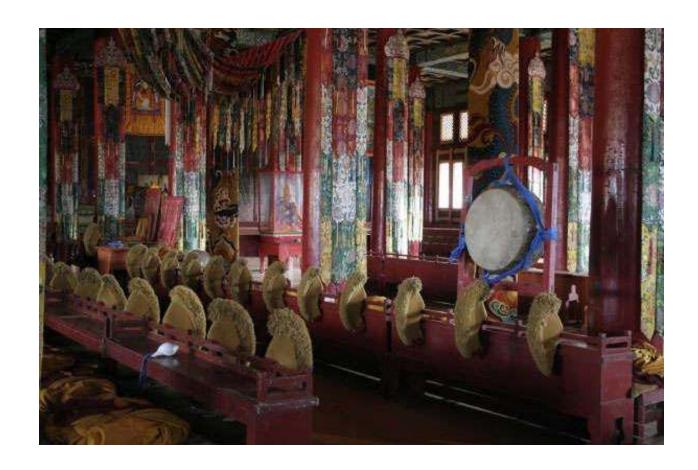
beds, electricity, and a stove to keep you warm. You have hot-water showers, flush toilets and a café, too.



You will meet all kinds of interesting people.



You may ride a reindeer.



And you can visit Buddhist monasteries. This one has the mummified remains of a Mongolian saint.

Back to Table of Contents