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NOMAD 

## PROJECTS

If you've ever fancied really getting away from it all then our Nomad Projects are definitely for you. Live out on the endless steppe with a family of wandering Nomads and forget about your everyday worries, as you experience a way of life that has barely changed in a millennium.

This unique project offers you the chance to experience life as a Mongolian Nomad. Living in a Ger (a large round white tent) within a small nomadic community, you are sure to have the experience of a lifetime as you participate in an ancient way of life that is rapidly vanishing as the modern world begins to penetrate these remote areas.

As a volunteer you will get fully involved in nomadic life. You will work with the community to care for the livestock (sheep, cows, goats, horses and camels). You will be involved in all aspects of animal husbandry, from the daily routines of cleaning, feeding and milking, to more complex processes such as sheering, breeding and even birthing. Volunteers will learn how the Nomads produce their traditional alcoholic drink Airag as well as dairy products and cashmere, which the Nomads trade at local markets.

In return you may wish to offer some of your own skills to the community. Previous volunteers have taught conversational English to their Nomad families, or gathered the younger children together for games of football while the adults are out collecting firewood.

If you travel at the right time of year, your trip may coincide with one of the Nomads' seasonal migrations, when they uproot the whole community, and travel across the vast Gobi desert on camel and horseback to a new site. Be sure to ask for a cushion!

During your stay you will also be taken out on a trip to visit some of the beautiful sights the Gobi desert has to offer, including the area famously known as *The Dinosaur's Graveyard*, where you will see literally hundreds of dinosaur fossils and bones scattered across the wilderness. It has to be seen to be believed!



 Volunteers with Nomadic family

*"The most memorable thing from my placement was the music, from the sing-a-long in honour of a chess tournament to exchanging English and Mongolian ballads at the top of our voices in a small ger. In general the project was unforgettable and amazing. I would definitely recommend it and already have!"*

 Maayan Ashkenazi



Teaching &   
Projects Abroad

### Quotes from volunteers

"I had an amazing time in Mongolia, I thoroughly enjoyed myself. I think you are doing an excellent job and providing an invaluable opportunity to people wanting to visit Mongolia. All the best and keep up the good work."

 Richard Nurser

"My experience was incredible, it turned out to have a lot more variety in it than I expected. The Mongolians were incredibly welcoming and friendly, and the fellow volunteers were also great. I have life-long memories of these two months and I wouldn't swap them for anything."

 James Macleod



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## ■ Mongolia

Located in central Asia between Russia and China, Mongolia is an incredible country of mystery and contrast, which is sure to make a lasting impression on you.

Though it covers an area half the size of Europe the population of Mongolia is less than three million, which means that parking is never a problem! Around 45% of Mongolians are packed into the capital Ulaanbaatar, along with around 600 restaurants, bars and nightclubs. The Mongolian people clearly like to have a good time, which isn't surprising when you consider they have an average age of just 21! Mongolia is also a safe country; where foreign visitors receive a warm and hearty welcome.

Outside of Ulaanbaatar the countryside varies dramatically and is regarded as a paradise for outdoor pursuits such as hiking, cycling, horse and camel-riding. To the west of the country are vast plains full of lush pasture and alpine forests, where over half a million Dzeren antelopes graze. To the south the Gobi desert, with its vast sand dunes, rocky mountains and lunar terrain is home to a fantastic variety of different species. You can visit these national parks on trips from the capital, and you can expect to see wild horses and ibexes, maybe snow leopards and Mazaalai bears, as well as the dinosaur remains which lie scattered across the landscape.

Mongolia has over 4000 lakes and 3000 rivers, teeming with fish, thanks to the Mongolian palette which does not consider it a worthy rival to the meat-based diet that keeps the population warm during the winter months. In this period the temperature drops sharply, though the dry climate lessens the impact of the cold, and the almost ever-present sunshine makes this experience far

more enjoyable than the dark winters we are used to in the West.

Of course no summary of Mongolia would be complete without a reference to the father of the Mongol nation – Genghis Khan. Characterised in the West as a bloody-thirsty savage, he is seen by the Mongolian people as a hero, who managed to create a united community out of disparate nomadic tribes and form a successful and enduring empire, whilst making an odd, unwieldy arrangement of facial hair rather fashionable among his peers. He was undoubtedly one of the most influential figures in history, and today his image can be found all over Mongolia – even on the local beer mats!

As well as our Nomad Project we offer a whole range of other Teaching & Projects Abroad placements in Mongolia. As well as Teaching and Care & Community, we also have Sport and Journalism placements. Our Business placements are very popular due to the rapidly expanding nature of Mongolia's economy, and our Mongolian Medicine project has recently been endorsed by a medical professional at the very top of his sphere. Mongolia is also home to one of only four Teaching & Projects Abroad Veterinary Medicine placements.



Medicine project



PROJECTS



Teaching & Projects Abroad

Further information...

If you would like any further information on these or any other projects do not hesitate to get in contact with us. Our staff are always happy to help!



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