

MONGOLIA

Location

Central Asia.

Area

1,564,116 sq km (603,909 sq miles).

Population

3 million (2008 estimate).

Population Density

1.9 per sq km.

Capital

Ulaanbaatar.

Population: 1,000,000 (2007).

Government

Republic. Declared independence from China in 1921.

Language

Khalkh Mongolian is the official language. Kazakh is spoken by 5% of the population. There are also many Mongolian dialects.

Religion

Buddhist Lamaism is the main religion, although there is no state religion. About 5% of Mongolians are Christian.

Time

GMT + 8.

Bayan Ulgii, Uvs & Khovd Aimags in western Mongolia: GMT + 7.

Electricity

230 volts AC, 50Hz.

Head of Government

Prime Minister Sanj Bayar since 2008.

Head of State

President Tsakhiagiin Elbegdorj since 2009.

Telephone

Country code: 976. Area codes: Ulaanbaatar: 11, Darkhan: 01 372, Erdenet: 01 352, Khovd: 01 432. International calls can be made from telephone exchanges and hotels in Ulaanbaatar.

Mobile Telephone

Roaming agreements exist with some international mobile phone operators. Coverage includes large cities, provincial capitals, many county centers and main roads.

Internet

Access is available in Ulaanbaatar at business centers (often located in hotels), Internet cafes and at the telephone exchange on Suhkbaatar Square.

Media

In general the media are free, and sometimes outspoken in their criticism of the authorities. However, journalists risk imprisonment for defamation and violating 'state secrets'.

Post

Airmail abroad can be very slow. There is an express mail service available for a limited number of countries.

Press

- The main newspapers include *Odriin Sonin*, *Ünen* and *Zuuny Medee*.
- The English-language papers published weekly in Mongolia include *The Mongol Messenger* and *The UB Post*.

Radio

- State-run national radio is operated by *Mongolradio*.
- Private stations include *Radio Ulaanbaatar*.
- *Voice of Mongolia* is a state-funded external broadcaster.

Note

* Date to be confirmed.

Below are listed Public Holidays for the January 2010-December 2011 period.

1 Jan *New Year's Day.*

24 Feb

25 Feb **Tsagaan Sar (Lunar New Year).*

8 Mar *International Women's Day.*

1 Jun *Mother and Child Day.*

11 Jul

13 Jul *Naadam.*

26 Nov *Independence Day.*