



Mongolia is a vast territory stuck between its two immense neighbors, China and Russia, which makes Mongolia the furthest of any country from the ocean. As a result, the climate is continental, with hot summers reaching 35/40°C and very severe winters with temperatures going down to -50°C.

This climate also results in short and very distinct interval seasons. Spring and autumn take place over two short months, offering travelers a condensed view of nature, a kind of “time-lapse” during which one can see the evolution of nature and life in the Mongolian steppes.

In the spring, over the two months of May and June, the steppes turn green, and there are yellow and purple-hued flowers in bloom all around, as if part of a pastel painting. The nomads are absorbed by the celebration of new births, and over the course of a few days, the steppe—which had been deserted during the six winter months—comes to life again. Privileged moments for a traveler to witness, to discover the life of the nomads during these months of joy and good humor. Families abandon their winter shelters, slowly descend to the valleys and set up their spring camps. Their cattle survived the harsh winter and they put all their hopes in the thousands of births to come; in a few days, as if by magic, the pastures fill with lambs, foals, calves and young yaks. Soon the milking season will begin, especially for the mares, with a ceremonial and unchangeable tradition to manufacture the famous airag (fermented mare’s milk), well-known for its many benefits.

During the summer, the heat then descends upon the dusty steppes, the nomadic families are kept busy taking care of all the cattle, doing the evening milking, transforming the milk, etc. The nomads are then less available and even if their legendary sense of welcome never disappears, it is in no way comparable to what you can experience in spring and autumn.

Autumn thus takes place in the month of September and the first days of October. It is a pivotal season in the life of the steppes; it is the moment when the nomads must prepare to face the challenges of winter, but paradoxically, it is a quieter period: less work with the young cattle, they no longer worry about finding the best pasture, the herds will have already enjoyed the summer and will be very fat.

It is for this reason that marriages are often celebrated during this period.

In autumn, you will be able to enjoy magnificent days, less hot, less dusty and especially witness the incomparable autumn light. You will meet fewer travelers and feel like you have the steppes all to yourself.

Autumn is also the time when the nomadic families change camps to settle into their winter quarters, huddled in the small, narrow valleys, protected from the prevailing winds. You may have the chance to attend or even participate in one of these transhumance events.

But there are not only the steppes, there are also autumn colors in the taiga, or a little later in the season, the Gobi dunes will be sprinkled with snow beneath the sunset... Bactrian camels bundled up in their thick coats...

Far from implying that summer is uninteresting, it is worth highlighting these few months that no one talks about, these few months that are the most important in the lives of the nomads of the steppes, of which the charms are often overlooked.