

Mongolia, with its modern capital in Ulaanbaatar, is a landlocked country in East Central Asia bounded by Russia to the north and China to the East, South, and West. It is mountainous with high ground concentrated in the West and the Altai folded mountain chain running Northwest to Southeast. The Gobi Desert accounts for a third of the land area, is located in the Southeast, and supports almost no natural vegetation. The Khenti Mountains are the only Eastern upland area. About 10% of the country is forested while the lowland plains are arid grasslands. Salt lakes are common in the Northwest. Land use is roughly divided as: Forested 10%, Pastures 78%, Agricultural-Cultivated 1%, Other 11%.



Characterized by brutal winters nearly eight months of the year, Mongolia has short, July – August summers (when most of the rainfall occurs). Precipitation is sparse, 10 inches annually at Ulaanbaatar, where the average temperature ranges from -26 to -2 degrees (F) in January, to 52 to 72 degrees (F) in July. There are a mere 3.5 persons, on average, per square mile, in a population that is only about three times larger today than in Genghis Kahn's time (mid 1100's).

For more information, see *Atlapedia online*<sup>TM</sup> which forms much of the basis of this abstract:  
<http://www.atlapedia.com/online/countries/mongolia.htm>.