

Traditional Mongolian Gers - Frequently Asked Questions

The traditional Mongolian ger is a handmade, felt-covered, wooden frame structure used by nomadic cultures in Mongolia and other parts of Central Asia. The ger is known as a “yurt” in Turkic languages. [View our Flickr album!](#)

The Mongolian ger has two key components: the wooden frame and the felt and covers. A ger tent has 3 to 10 lattice walls, depending on its size.

These ger tents consist of:

- 30 or more roof poles (*uni*)
- Wood lattice wall sections (*khana*)
- Roof crown with smoke hole (*tono*)
- Wooden door
- All ties and ropes
- Durable synthetic felt covering
- Water repellent canvas cover
- Cotton liner and decorative cotton cover

Gers are designed to be easily dismantled and moved on the backs of camels and yaks. Mongolians will move their camp 4-10 times a year! They can be broken down and set back up their entire home in a few hours.

What does one do with a ger?

Gers are excellent for a wide variety of purposes. It can be used as a primary house, guest room, office, or anything else you can imagine!

What are gers made of?

The door, roof poles, and roof crown are hand-painted with traditional Mongolian design and constructed of renewable larchwood. The wood is painted and hand-detailed with beautiful Mongolian designs using lead-free paint. Gers come with yak hair rope, camel sinew ties, cotton liner, felt (natural sheep wool or synthetic), canvas cover, and water repellent outer cover. Mongolia is a high elevation, cold, and dry climate. For this reason, we include synthetic felt option which is better suited for more moist climates. As pictured, the natural wool felt is thicker than the synthetic felt.

Are gers durable?

Each ger is a uniquely hand-made cultural item. Traditional Mongolian gers differ from the more modern Western yurts. Our Mongolian gers do not have windows, although large windows can be purchased as an upgrade (pictured). In Mongolian gers, the roof slopes lower at the interior walls (you cannot fully stand at the edges of the walls). The source of light is the open door and the roof crown (you can finish the roof crown with glass or plastic for a more permanent setup).

However, its stout frame is extremely sturdy with its center roof crown supports. These gers are made for the a harsh climate and can withstand wind, temporary snowpack (remove snowpack daily), and stays incredible warm inside—you can even install a wood-burning stove inside with the pipe exiting the roof crown.

What kind of gers are available?

We offer a variety of sizes ranging from 10 feet in diameter to 23+ feet in diameter. All dimensions are approximate. Because each ger is handmade, size will vary a bit.

How much does a ger cost?

All gers are presold. We must sell at least 6 total in order to ship a container from Mongolia. If we sell a total of 10 gers or more, there will be a price break. See our pricing table below. You can order just one, as long as we sell at least 5 more. So tell your friends!

I've seen some other Mongolian gers for less money, some even around \$2,000 new. Why are your more expensive?

After inquiring with our Mongolian craftsmen on this same question, we found out that the cheapest gers in Mongolia are made with lead paint, weaker wood, and lower quality canvas and felt. Our gers cost are a little more because the quality of the wood, canvas, felt, non-lead paint, and craftsmanship are higher.

Can I purchase matching furniture?

Unfortunately, we are not able to offer matching Mongolian furniture at this time. If this is a "must" for your ger, please contact us directly at info@fireprojects.org to discuss your needs.

When will I receive my ger?

Ger prices include shipping directly to Flagstaff, Arizona. Shipping to other locations can be arranged for an additional charge.

How can I place my order?

All gers are presold. We fill a container from Mongolia once a year with orders received by October 15th. Gers arrive to Flagstaff in February.

Please call us at **928-779-2288** or send us an email at info@fireprojects.org to learn more about owning your very own unique piece of nomadic heritage! Please visit our website for more photos and a video of how to set up a ger. We look forward to speaking with you!

Where and why did gers (yurts) originate?

Nomadic people living in the steppes of Central Asia adopted a pastoral way of life, moving their campsites around the countryside in search of the best pastureland for their livestock of horses, yaks, camels, goats, and sheep. Today, approximately half of Mongolia's population still roams the plains and meadows of the country, taking their homes with them. The ease in setup, transport, and breakdown of gers (yurts) made them the choice of shelter for nomadic peoples. Gers have been a feature of life for Mongolians for at least 3,000 years.

How long does it take to setup and breakdown?

The traditional ger (yurt) is constructed with portability in mind. Tribes are able to breakdown or erect their gers in just a couple of hours.

How is a Mongolian ger different from a modern, Western yurt?

Modern yurts are manufactured predominantly in the U.S. and U.K. and usually use modern materials such as polyester and vinyl, and/or many use recycled materials. Many of these yurts are more permanent structures.

They usually have windows, plenty of room to walk around and even stand at the edges of the yurt, and some may even have private bathrooms! However, there are other types of yurts, such as camping, traditional, wooden, and custom yurts. All yurts are round and have a center ring inside connecting the roof poles.

Our gers are cultural items. The only more modern part of our gers is that they do come with a synthetic felt covering, rather than wool felt. This helps with mold and other problems, increasing the longevity of your ger coverings. FIRE offers an upgrade from synthetic felt to natural wool felt for an additional fee.

How can a ger be both a cultural artifact and comfortable dwelling?

Advancements in technology have made what once was harsh living in a ger to a much more comfortable experience! Many Mongolians are using solar panels, usually affixed up on a stand next to their gers, allowing them to use electricity but still giving them the freedom to move. Some are even powering televisions, cell phones, lighting, and other small electronics with their solar power!

How do I heat and cool the interior of my ger?

To heat your ger, a wood stove, pellet stove, or even a propane heater can be installed inside your ger with the smoke pipe exiting the roof crown. To cool your ger, a small ceiling fan or portable fan can be installed if you have access to electricity.

What covers the ger?

One standard ger includes the following covers from outside to inside: decorative cotton cover, heavy canvas cover, a synthetic felt lining, and the inner cotton lining. The canvas cover is water resistant, but nothing is 100% waterproof. The canvas comes in either green or grey depending on factory supply.

How many years can the canvas to last in desert sun?

The outer decorative cotton covering would only last approximately five years with full-time use in Mongolia's harsh climate and multiple moves. The heavy canvas cover will last longer.

What material is the canvas? If it's been chemically treated, what was used?

The canvas coverings are not chemically treated and are not fire resistant. However, you could choose to have the canvas treated with your choice of protectant if desired.

Do you have recommendations or for a platform (wood, concrete, stamped earth, etc)?

Most ger owners build a wooden platform which is above ground surface. We recommend a raised platform of wood or concrete, not stamped earth, so that water can run under the ger.

Are replacement parts available, if something is broken or wears out?

Replacement parts related the ger are available upon request and transported by air or in our next container. The yurt itself does not come with replacement parts unless requested. All replacement parts come at an additional charge.

What are the dimensions?

Since all gers are handmade, the below dimensions are approximate:

| Walls | Diameter | Square Feet |
|-------|--------------|------------------|
| 3 | 12 feet | 122 square feet |
| 4 | 16 feet | 211 square feet |
| 5 | 18-19.5 feet | 300 square feet |
| 6 | 21 feet | 357 square feet |
| 8 | 26 feet | 654 square feet |
| 10 | 36 feet | 1022 square feet |

Please let us know if you have any other questions about our traditional Mongolian gers that were not answered at info@fireprojects.org!