THE DOs AND DON'Ts IN MONGOLIA

WANNA FEEL LIKE A MONGOLIAN IN MONGOLIA?
READ THIS!

DO
shake your hand if you stepped on smb's foot
Lest you should become enemies

DON'T
give anything to anybody with your left hand
Sign of disrespect: the left hand is considered impure

DON'T
throw anything to anybody instead of giving it into his/her hands
It is associated with throwing bones to a dog

DON'T
step on the threshold
That would mean you have evil intentions

DON'T
put your your backpack on your back when you're going out the house
It is associated with carrying out all the good from the house

DON'T
put your bag/clothes/books/ on the floor, put them on the table/chair, etc.
respect for books and simply keeping things clean from dust

DON'T
shake your hands with your gloves on
Disrespect

DON'T
look at people sideways
Sign of disrespect or evil intentions

DO
turn your head
Showing you don't have evil intentions or that you respect the person

DON'T
hold both sides of the door
The good won't enter the house and the bad won't leave the house

DON'T
greet each other/shake hands over the threshold
Lest you should become enemies

DO
be one side of the threshold when greeting/shaking hands
To make sure you stay friends

DO
take off your coat when you entered a house
Leave the dust outside

DON'T
sit on the table
Disrespect

DON'T
step over a cup/pot
Improper

DON'T
put up your feet on the table/chair/bed
Sign of disrespect

DON'T
lie down on a bed when visiting a family
Disrespect

DO
take off your shoes entering an apartment
Leave the dust outside - hard housework

DON'T
hit/touch people's head
Head is the supreme part of the body and should be respected
DO pretend to spit in the hat before putting it on if it is smb else’s hat (not new)
Hat is downward object and keeps all the bad in it - spitting in the hat you prevent
the bad of smb else from sticking to you

DO roll down your sleaves when greeting smb
Mongolian men roll up their sleaves when they re slaughtering an animal - rolling
up sleaves is associated with the act of slaughter. Also you roll down your sleaves
to show that you don’t hide anything evil in them.

DO have your hat on hen greeting smb especially during Tsagaan Sar.
You must be completely dressed - buttoned up, boots on and hat on if you respect
the person.

DON'T step on smb’s or your own hat
Considered as same as stepping on the owner’s head.

DON'T point at people/animals with one finger
Disrespect

DON’T leave food/drinks on your plate
The food of Mongolians is mainly meat and you have to kill the animal to survive
yourself. Leaving food on your plate would mean that you killed the animal for
nothing. It is also to show respect to the people’s labor.

DO step over the threshold with your right foot.

DON’T put the knife pointing at smb
It would mean you want to kill the person.

DON’T give as present pointed objects.
Would mean evil intentions