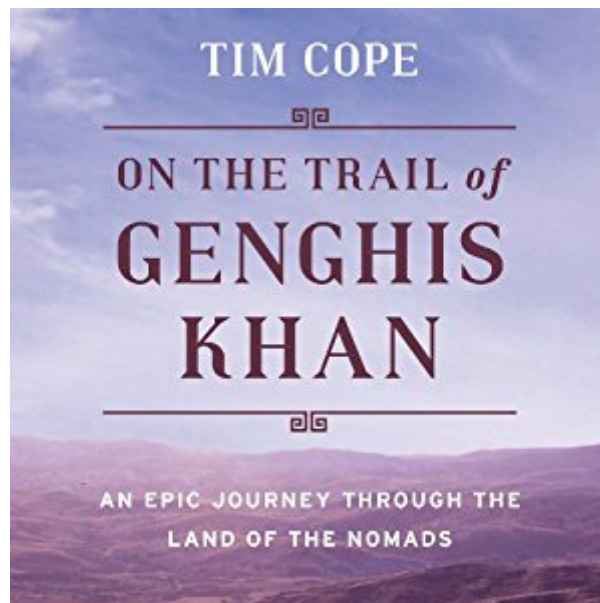




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# **On The Trail Of Genghis Khan: An Epic Journey Through The Land Of The Nomads**



## Synopsis

Guided by a Kazakh aphorism - "To understand the wolf, you must put the skin of a wolf on and look through its eyes" - adventurer Tim Cope undertook a journey not successfully completed since the days of Genghis Khan: He traveled by horseback across the entire length of the Eurasian steppe, from the ancient capital of Mongolia to the Danube River in Hungary. It was an incredible six-thousand-mile, three-year-long trip across formidable landscape - and into the heart of the nomadic way of life that dominated this region for thousands of years, transforming Western Europe through its conquering armies. Cope's trek takes him through wolf-infested plateaus, over glaciers and the subzero "starving steppe," the scorching Kazakh desert, and the deep forests and treacherous mountains of the Carpathians. Alone except for a trusty dog (and a succession of thirteen horses, many stolen from him along the way), he encounters incredible hospitality from those who welcome him along the way, a tradition that is the linchpin of human survival on the steppe. Immersed in the land and its people, Cope is witness to the rich past and often painful complexities of the present still recovering from Soviet rule. *On the Trail of Genghis Khan* is a celebration and an elegy for the nomadic way of life - its freedom, its closeness to the land, its animals, and moods - and a narrative full of romance, intelligence, and drama.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I rarely enter reviews but this book is worthy of one. As a modern US American it's hardly imaginable to do, or accomplish, what Tim Cope did. I knew very little about the Mongols or nomadic life. I didn't really have all that much interest but was in the mood to read a "travel" book.

GLAD I DID! If you only read one "travel" book, read this one. You won't regret it. It's one I won't forget.

I now want to travel through the Mongolian and Kazakh steppe. Tim's journey is absolutely epic and will draw in anyone interested in travelling through lands. It proves that there are still lands and cultures out there that aren't fully explored or even understood. Tim does an amazing job of not only detailing his journey and the landscape he travels through, but also gives insight into the cultures and history that he passes through. It's simply amazing how separate yet similar each culture is out on the steppe. Tim's writing has also gotten me more interested in the history of Genghis Khan. I'll be honest, my initial impressions of the conqueror were of a Western bent, that he led a blood-thirsty hoard to conquer most of Asia and was on the doorstep of Europe. However, while that did account for why his reach spread so quickly, his empire was known for its religious freedom, support of science, and multiple languages. I now feel the need to pick up a history of Khan's empire that paints it in a better light. Tim Cope is simply inspirational. His journey, his charisma, and his focus on the people that he meets along the way make this an indispensable adventure book.

I first heard of this book and about the author on an NPR talk show in which the author was interviewed and this book was discussed. The journey sounded intriguing, but the author sounded naive. He admitted that before this 6000 mile journey across Asia and Eastern Europe he had never really been on a horse and yet he was committed to the adventure of following in the historical footsteps of the Mongol horsemen from the 13th Century. Listening to the NPR interview I was captivated by his honesty, candor and straightforward descriptions of his three year adventure. From beginning to end I could not put the book down. Even when I took a break from reading, thoughts of this book remained in my head. The author overcomes adversities presented by the weather, the seasons, wolves, horse thieves, bureaucrats and the terrain. The generosity and hospitality of strangers is a story in and of itself. Along the way so many who have so little generously supported the author in his quest to complete the journey. In reading this book it is as if you are along side the author experiencing each step of the way. This is a wonderful story of discovery. Not only about geography, ancient history and current events but about central Asian and Eastern European people and one person's achievement over a long and fascinating quest. Definitely recommended as a five star book to be read by every armchair adventurer.

I am not a horse person nor have I ever had much of a curiosity about the Mongolian Steppe

country. A friend recommended this and I really enjoyed it. It is a grand adventure which appeals to me and his writing swept me up into it. I didn't even mind all the discussion of the history of the lands he travelled through. He didn't spend more time on that than necessary to explain the current situation. He is obviously passionate about the cultures and the nomadic way of life, which is what prompted him to do this trip to begin with, and that is what kept me engaged until the very end.

A spellbinding tale of an epic journey by an intrepid young Aussie who had never ridden a horse before he made the trip. Unbelievable characters in Mongolia and Kazakhstan, people of great warmth and toughness. Once he gets to Russia he encounters drunks, criminals, scam artists, thieves, morons, and a whole different set of people who are not nomads but "civilized." Tim Cope proceeds across the steppes like a holy fool, pushing his luck and testing the limits of himself, local cultures, and criminal bureaucracies. Read this book and pass it along to someone who is bored. This book will wake them up... if it doesn't, they're too far gone.

Tim Cope's epic journey through vast lands in which he encounters fascinating people is, quite simply, and amazing feat. The writing doesn't always flow, and while exploration of his dying relationship with a woman and his father's passing are part of that journey, the author didn't always manage to hold these different things together as part of an overarching narrative. And some of the writing was a bit slow; readers I spoke with, like me, had some difficulty getting through the book at times. Those criticisms aside, this is a book well worth reading for anyone interested in challenging treks, solo journeys, Chinggis Khan and Mongolia.

This was not the usual type of book I read. I am so glad to have read it. My curiosity was captured right from the beginning. It was very long read but then it was a very long journey. I learnt so much information and history as Tim Cole went along, apart from the daily experiences and dangers. It was amazing that he survived. He told a great yarn as well as keeping his sanity. I was sad to reach the end of his journey. The extra writings about how he found his place back in the Western cultures both physically and mentally was comforting. I shall always remember this story of an amazing undertaking - Mongolia to the Danube in Hungary.

Well, that was better than I expected! A well-written combination of personal journey and historical detail. Took me to places I knew (Mongolia), places I didn't know well at all (Crimea) and places I had never heard of (Kalmykia). I loved the characters he met on the way. A very good read and

armchair journey!One caveat: I didn't realize all the pics were at the end of the book (reading on a kindle). I wish I had, because he has photos of most of the people he meets and it would have been nice to be able to see them as I read. They are full-color, so worked better on my app for iPad than my paperwhite kindle.

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