

NOGAI

Quick Facts

- Population: 70,000 in Dagestan (100,000 total in Russia)
90,000+ in Turkey, Romania, Bulgaria, and Ukraine
- Progress: 20+ Believers
- Language: Nogai
- Scripture: NT and 12 OT Books, Jesus Film, Gospel Recordings, Radio Broadcast



Proud descendants of the ancient Golden Horde, the Nogai people are now located in scattered regions of southern Russia, northern Dagestan, northern Chechnya, and Stavropol, Astrakhan, and Karachai-Cherkessia.

The name Nogai is derived from Nogai Khan, a general of the Golden Horde, who was a great-great-grandson of Genghiz Khan. The Golden Horde was the western wing of the Mongol Empire, holding sway in southern Russia and eastern Europe from the 13th to the 15th century. Eventually defeated by the Lithuanians and Russians in the late 15th Century, the remnants of the Golden Horde continued to live in large numbers in southern Russia in the Volga region, in the steppe lands north of the Caucasus and in southern Ukraine and Crimea.

The Nogai speak their own distinct Nogai language, which is a Turkic language - one of five Turkic languages spoken in the North Caucasus (Kumyk, Karachai, Balkar and Meskhetian Turk being the other four).



But now in Christ Jesus
you who once were far off
have been brought near
by the blood of Christ.

Ephesians 2:13



The largest concentration of present-day Nogai culture is in 20 towns/villages of the steppe lands of northern Dagestan, and as part of the ethnic melting-pot composition of major urban areas of Dagestan, such as Kizlyar and Makhachkala. Of the 34 distinct languages of Dagestan, one is of Persian origin (Tat), two are Turkic (Kumyk, Nogai), and the other thirty-one are from the ancient Caucasus family of languages.

This once-nomadic people, now primarily, live in small villages and work with agriculture and with livestock in particular. A distinctive Nogai cuisine, preserving many of their Mongol roots, survives—embodied vividly by Nogai Tea, a hot tea prepared by boiling milk and tea together, along with butter, salt, and pepper.

In southern Russia Nogai patriarchal traditions are mixed with contemporary Russian, Central Asian, and Muslim world influences. Ancient customs are still revered; but life is tempered today by disillusionment from the destabilizing elements of violence/chaos/corruption amidst the 'graceless' dynamics of present-day Dagestan.

Pray that the descendants of the Golden Horde will find their greatest joy in the generation ahead in the fulfillment of the Golden Rule, empowered by the Holy Spirit.

At present there are believed to be as many as 20 Nogai followers of Jesus. In 2011 the New Testament was published in the Nogai language, and now Genesis, Ruth, Esther, and Jonah have also been completed in Nogai.

(Profile Information from Joshua Project & North Caucasus Regional Partnership)



Engagement Opportunities

- Get informed - [NogaiLink](#)
- Explore access strategies to serve long term in Russia
- The University language study program (Russian) remains the most effective way for foreigners to get visas and become immersed in the culture.
- Very closed to Westerners, but more open to workers from Ibero-America and Asia.

Pray

- for true friends of the Nogai to become carriers of grace into the Nogai world.
- for men and women of peace in each Nogai community.
- for Nogai believers to be active in boldly sharing the Gospel.
- for blessing on the words of life in the Nogai New Testament and in the finished books of the Old Testament as they penetrate Nogai culture.

**Is God calling you to serve in the Caucasus?
Let us help you respond. Contact us.**