



Tour Itinerary for BIRDING IN MONGOLIA



Tour dates: 22 May – 06 June
12 June – 27 June

Developed by Wildlife Tours Mongolia

Background information: Mongolia is a vast country with a range of different natural habitats and ecosystems from the taiga forest to the Gobi desert. Country is mostly steppe, but boreal forests lie in the north, majestic Altai mountains in the west, grassland steppe in the east and Gobi deserts stretching from the south east to the south west and north west. At 1,564,600 square kilometer area, over 3 million people live in Mongolia. About 40% of the entire population live in capital city of Ulaanbaatar. Many of the Mongolians still live in a nomadic lifestyle herding their livestock throughout the year.

Tour duration: 16 days

The tour price includes all expenses such as guide, 4WD vehicles and fuel, accommodations, food, and national park fees in the country. The cost excludes international travels, laundry, tips and beverages. We will provide everyone with single tent, warm sleeping bag, mattress and pillow when camping in tents.

Vehicle: Toyota Land Cruisers (4WD), there will be some long drives on paved and dirt roads between the birding sites. We consider that the comfort of our clients is very important so that a max of 3 passengers will sit in each car.

Climate: The weather can be very variable in May and early June. Generally, it will be warm to hot during the day, but it will be colder at night and in the early mornings. May is the windy month. Cold weather can be expected at the higher altitudes especially at BBC site and Khangai Mountain, and rain, even snow, is possible at almost any time. Starting from the beginning of June, the temperature rise causes the hot days.

Accommodation: In Ulaanbaatar we will stay in a modern hotel. Away from there we will either stay in ger camps or pitch our own tents in places where there are no proper camps.

Key bird species list for the tour:

Black-billed Capercaillie	Bar-headed Goose	Yellow-breasted Bunting
Oriental Plover	Swan Goose	Godlewski's Bunting
Altai Snowcock	White-naped Crane	Grey-necked Bunting
Mongolian Ground Jay	Demoiselle Crane	Meadow Bunting
Kozlov's Accentor	Stejneger's Scoter	Pine Bunting
Hodgson's Bushchat	Falcated Duck	Pallas's Reed Bunting
Relict Gull	Three-toed Woodpecker	White-crowned Penduline Tit
Altai Accentor	Wallcreeper	Long-tailed Rosefinch
Asian Dowitcher	Brown Accentor	Beautiful Rosefinch
Pallas's Fish Eagle	Pallas's Leaf Warbler	Asian Rosy Finch

Steppe Eagle
Saker Falcon
Amur Falcon
Ural Owl
Pallas's Gull
White-winged Tern

Mongolian Lark
Desert Wheatear
Asian Desert Warbler
Pere David's Snowfinch
Azure Tit
Siberian Tit

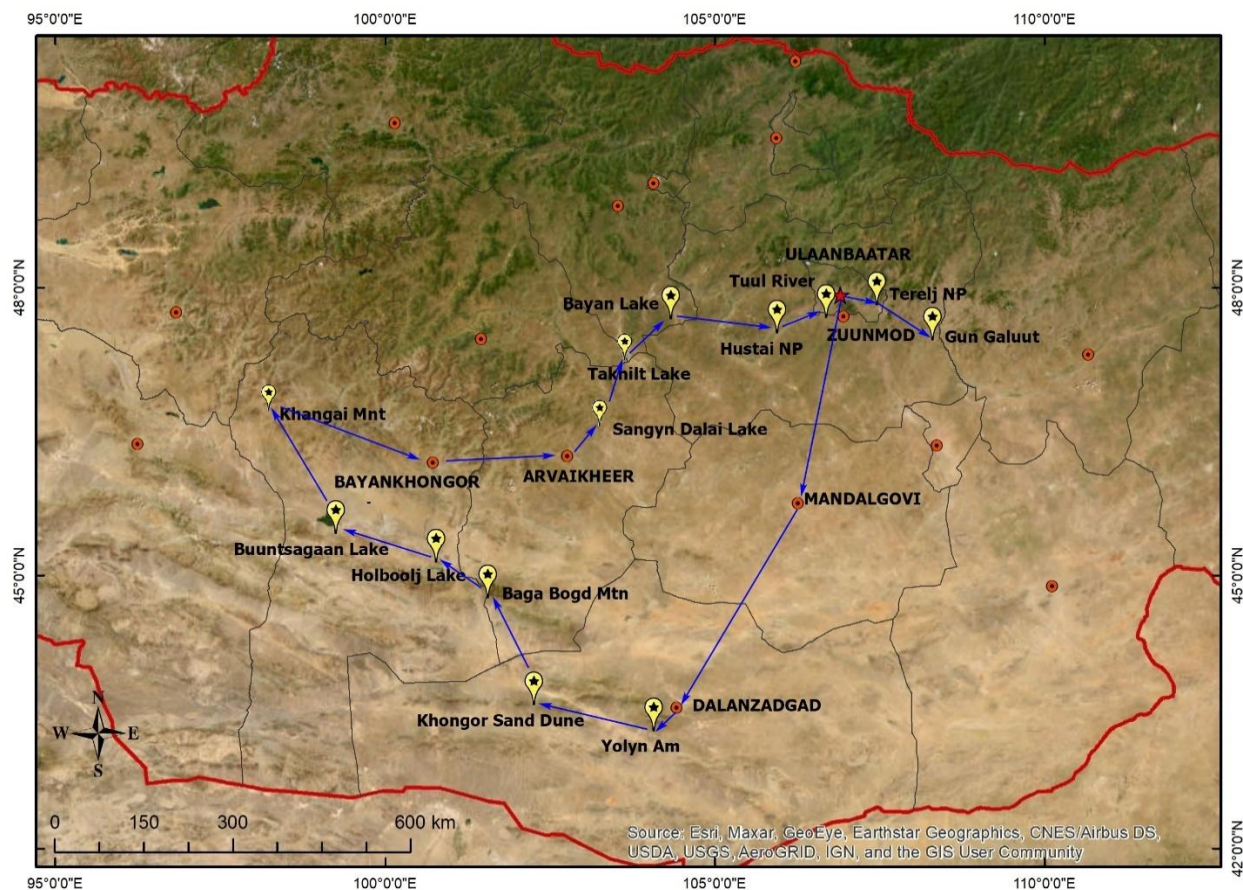
Mongolian Finch
Siberian Rubythroat
Chinese Bush Warbler
Eversmann's Redstart
White-winged Redstart
Daurian Redstart

Mammal list for the tour:

Przewalski's Horse
Asiatic Wild Ass
Siberian Wapiti Deer
Siberian Ibex
Goitered Gazelle
Mongolian Gazelle
Corsac Fox
Mongolian Marmot

Daurian Hedgehog
Long-eared Hedgehog
Tolai Hare
Northern Pika
Pallas's Pika
Mongolian Gerbil
Midday Gerbil
Gobi Altai Mountain Vole

Brandt's Vole
Eurasian Squirrel
Long-tailed Ground Squirrel
Alashan Ground Squirrel
Pallid Ground Squirrel
Siberian Chipmunk
Siberian Jerboa
Hairy-footed Jerboa



Key birding locations/trip route

Day 1. Gun Galuut Nature Reserve & Terelj National Park (120 km & 70 km)

After arrival of the tour participants, we will drive to the Gun Galuut Nature Reserve to see White-naped Crane and Stejneger's Scoter. After lunch, we will move on to our Black-billed Capercaillie site in the Terelj National Park. **Accommodation:** Pitch tents.



Day 2. Terelj National Park to Ulaanbaatar (130 km)

Early start for displaying Black-billed Capercaillies. We will leave Terelj NP after lunch and drive back to Ulaanbaatar. Birding around the Mongolica hotel for Long-tailed Rosefinch, Azure Tit, White-cheeked Starling and other migrants.



Day 3. Ulaanbaatar to Dalanzadgad (DZ) (600 km)



We will drive to DZ, a capital of South Gobi province, in the early morning. There are several tree plantations in DZ and these attract some migrants in spring and autumn. We will visit these plantations shortly for migrants. On the way to the camp, we will look for Oriental Plover in the northern plain of Gobi Gurvan Saikhan Mountains.

Accommodation: “Khanbogd” Ger camp

Day 4. Birding in Yolyn Am (10 km)

After having early breakfast, we will visit to Yolyn Am and Mukhar Shivert valleys. The key species to look for are Wallcreeper, Godlewski’s Bunting, Mongolian Accentor, Brown Accentor, Beautiful Rosefinch, Barred Warbler, Sulphur-bellied Warbler and Bearded Vulture.

Accommodation: “Khanbogd” Ger camp.



Day 5. Khongor Sand Dune (180 km)

Khongor Sand Dune stretches about 185 km long and covers an area of 925 km². On the way to the dune, we will look for Mongolian Ground Jay, and Asiatic Wild Ass,

Goitered Gazelle and Mongolian Gazelle. We will arrive at our camp in the afternoon. Then, we will visit a small patch of Saxaul forest for Saxaul Sparrow, Asian Desert Warbler, Southern Grey Shrike, Desert Wheatear, and Long-legged Buzzard.

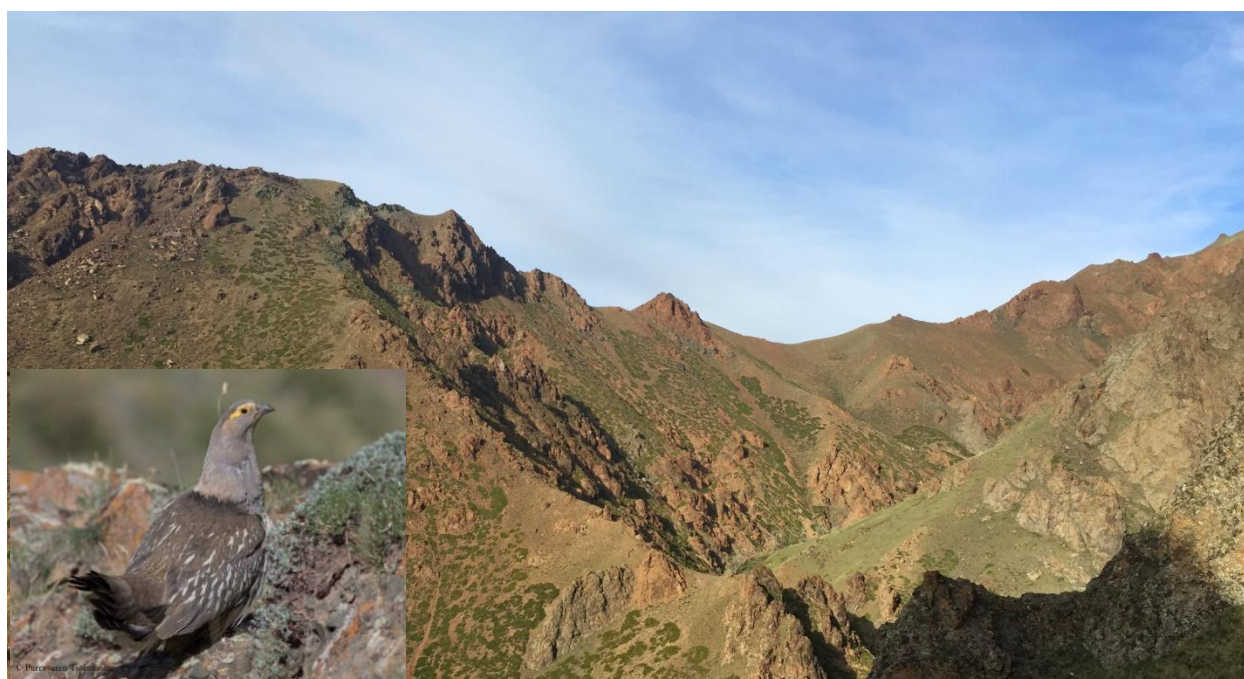
Accommodation: "Gobi Erdene" Ger camp



Day 6. Baga Bogd Mountain (200 km)

The Baga Bogd is a part of Gobi Altai mountain range and one of the best places to see magnificent Altai Snowcock. We will see some other birds like Grey-necked Bunting, Mongolian Finch, Wallcreeper, Barred Warbler and Sulphur-bellied Warbler.

Accommodation: Pitch tents.



Day 7. Holboolj Lake (120 km)

The Holboolj Lake is an important site for a variety of waterfowls and waders. The main target will be Asian Dowitcher. **Accommodation:** Pitch tents.



Day 8-9. Buuntsagaan Lake (160 km)

The Buuntsagaan is the largest lake in the area and one of the important bird areas. We will look for Relict Gull, Pallas's Gull, White-winged Tern and Pallas's Fish Eagle and other waterfowls and waders during our stay. **Accommodation:** Pitch tents



Day 10-11. Khangai Mountain (Khukh Lake) (250 km)

Alpine meadow is a special habitat for some sought-after species. We will visit the southern portion of high Khangai Mountain range in search of rare Hodgson's Bushchat

as well as Altai Accentor, White-winged Redstart, Eversmann's Redstart, and Asian Rosy Finch. We will spend a full day here on Day 11. **Accommodation:** Pitch tents



Day 12. Khangai Mountain to Arvaikheer town (580 km)

It will be mainly driving day to Arvaikheer town to refresh after a series of nights camping in tents. **Accommodation:** Hotel in Arvaikheer town

Day 13. Takhilt Lake & Bayan Lake (170 km & 90 km)

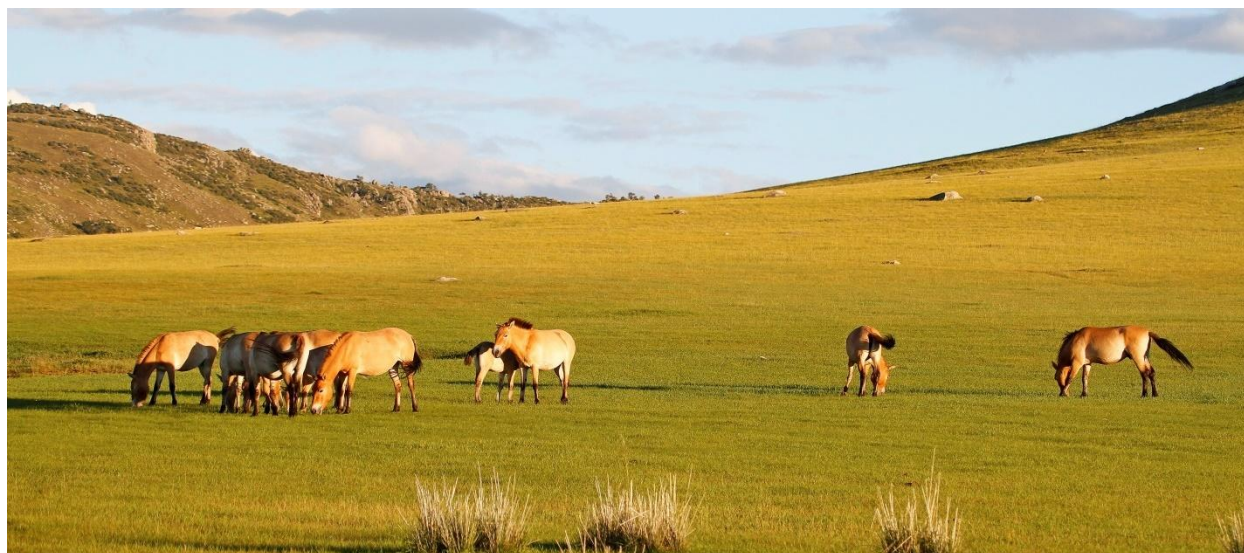


On the way, we will visit Takhilt Lake during lunch stop. After lunch, we will move on to the Bayan Lake and reach there in the afternoon. **Key species:** Pallas's Reed Bunting, Bearded Tit, Eastern Yellow Wagtail, Oriental Reed Warbler, Paddyfield Warbler, Pallas's Grasshopper Warbler, and Eastern Marsh Harrier. **Accommodation:** Pitch tents in Bayan Lake.

Day 14. Hustai National Park (110 km)

Hustai National Park was established in 1993 to protect reintroduced wild horses also known as Przewalski's horse. The park also supports a large number of Wapiti and Tarbagan Marmots. On the southern steppe of the park, there are some Mongolian Gazelles. The park also provides important habitats for a range of bird species, especially raptors like vultures, eagles and falcons. **Key species:** Golden Eagle, Steppe

Eagle, Saker Falcon, Amur Falcon, Daurian Partridge, Lesser Kestrel, Meadow Bunting and Mongolian Lark. **Accommodation:** "Hustai" Ger camp



Day 15. Gachuurt Forest (120 km)



We will visit the Gachuurt forest at the end of the trip because some species like Chinese Bush Warbler arrives at the breeding ground later than the most species. Other birds we will look for are Siberian Rubythroat, Black-faced Bunting, Dusky Warbler, Siberian Tit, Three-toed Woodpecker and Ural Owl.

Accommodation: Pitch tents

Day 16. Gachuurt Forest - Tuul River



After lunch we will leave Gachuurt Forest and head to Mongolica Hotel - Tuul River to look for Azure Tit, White-crowned Penduline Tit, Amur Falcon, Long-tailed Rosefinch, Azure-winged Magpie and White-cheeked Starling. **Accommodation:** Mongolica Hotel