



## Tour Itinerary for BIRDING IN MONGOLIA



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

**Developed by Wildlife Tours Mongolia**

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## **Tour Overview**

Join us on an unforgettable birding adventure across Mongolia — a vast, landlocked country of extraordinary contrasts and natural beauty. This journey offers the chance to experience a remarkable diversity of habitats and ecosystems, from the arid expanses of the Gobi Desert and the rugged Altai Mountains to the endless steppe grasslands, lush taiga forests, and tranquil lakes and rivers that sustain an incredible variety of birdlife.

Over the course of the tour, we will travel approximately 3,500 km across the country for 16 days, mainly on rough dirt roads, in reliable Toyota Land Cruisers driven by experienced local drivers. The long drives are rewarded with access to some of Mongolia's most beautiful and remote places — areas rarely visited by travelers and rich in wildlife.

Mongolia is home to over 500 bird species, and this tour is designed to maximize your chances of observing many of its most iconic and sought-after species, such as Altai Snowcock, Black-billed Capercaillie, Oriental Plover, Mongolian Ground Jay, Relict Gull, Pallas's Fish Eagle, White-throated Bushchat, Azure Tit, and Siberian Rubythroat, among many others. You may also encounter a variety of mammals, including Przewalski's Horse, Asiatic Wild Ass, Goitered Gazelle, Mongolian Gazelle and Siberian Ibex.

This journey is not only about birding, but also about immersing yourself in Mongolia's vast wilderness, rich nomadic culture, and stunning landscapes. Accommodation ranges from comfortable hotels in Ulaanbaatar to traditional ger camps and well-equipped tented camps in the countryside, allowing you to experience authentic Mongolian hospitality throughout.

Whether you are a dedicated birder or a nature enthusiast seeking an adventure in one of the world's last great wild places, this tour promises an inspiring and memorable experience.

## **Tour Information**

### **Climate**

The weather in May and early June can be highly variable. During the day, temperatures are generally warm to hot, but nights and early mornings can be much

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colder. May is typically the windiest month. At higher altitudes - especially at the Black-billed Capercaillie site and in the Khangai Mountains - cold conditions are common, and rain or even snow is possible at any time. From early June onward, temperatures rise, bringing hotter days across the region.

### **Vehicles & Transportation**

We use Toyota Land Cruisers (4WD) for all transfers and birding excursions. Some drives between birding sites may be long and include both paved and dirt roads. To ensure maximum comfort, a maximum of three passengers will be seated in each vehicle.

### **Accommodations & Camping**

Accommodations during the tour include comfortable hotels, ger camps, and tented camps. When camping in tents, each participant will receive:

- A single tent
- Warm sleeping bag
- Mattress
- Pillow

### **Tour Inclusions**

- Professional guide services
- 4WD vehicles and fuel
- Accommodations
- All meals
- National park fees

### **Tour Exclusions**

- International travel
- Laundry services
- Tips
- Beverages

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## 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	Mongolian Lark	Mongolian Finch
Saker Falcon	Desert Wheatear	Siberian Rubythroat
Amur Falcon	Asian Desert Warbler	Chinese Bush Warbler
Ural Owl	Pere David's Snowfinch	Eversmann's Redstart
Pallas's Gull	Azure Tit	White-winged Redstart
White-winged Tern	Siberian Tit	Daurian Redstart

## Mammal list for the tour:

Przewalki's Horse	Daurian Hedgehog	Brandt's Vole
Asiatic Wild Ass	Long-eared Hedgehog	Eurasian Squirrel
Siberian Wapiti Deer	Tolai Hare	Long-tailed Ground Squirrel
Siberian Ibex	Northern Pika	Alashan Ground Squirrel
Goitered Gazelle	Pallas's Pika	Pallid Ground Squirrel
Mongolian Gazelle	Mongolian Gerbil	Siberian Chipmunk
Corsac Fox	Midday Gerbil	Siberian Jerboa
Mongolian Marmot	Gobi Altai Mountain Vole	Hairy-footed Jerboa



**Key birding locations/trip route**

### **Brief Tour Itinerary**

Day 1 - Gun Galuut Nature Reserve, transfer to Black-billed Capercaillie site  
 Day 2 - Black-billed Capercaillie site, transfer to Ulaanbaatar.  
 Day 3 – Ulaanbaatar to Dalanzadgad (mainly travel day with some birding)  
 Day 4 – Birding in Yolyn Am and vicinity  
 Day 5 – Yolyn Am to Khongor Sand Dune  
 Day 6 – Khongor Sand Dune to Baga Bogd Mountain  
 Day 7 – Baga Bogd Mountain to Holboolj Lake  
 Day 8 - Holboolj Lake to Buuntsagaan Lake  
 Day 9 – Full day birding around Buuntsagaan Lake  
 Day 10 – Buuntsagaan Lake to Khangain Mountains  
 Day 11 – Full day birding around Khangai Mountains  
 Day 12 – Khangai Mountains to Arvaikheer town  
 Day 13 – Arvaikheer town to Bayan Lake via Sangyn Dalai and Takhilt Lakes  
 Day 14 – Bayan Lake to Hustai National Park  
 Day 15 – Hustai National Park to Gachuurt Forest  
 Day 16 – Gachuurt Forest to Mongolica Hotel by the Tuul River.



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## 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 NR to see White-naped Crane, Stejneger's Scoter and other waterfowl and waders. 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.





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



We will drive to Dalanzadgad, 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 a largest plantation 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 (20 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.



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### Day 5. Khongor Sand Dune (180 km)

Khongor Sand Dune stretches about 185 km long and covers an area of 925 km<sup>2</sup>. 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.

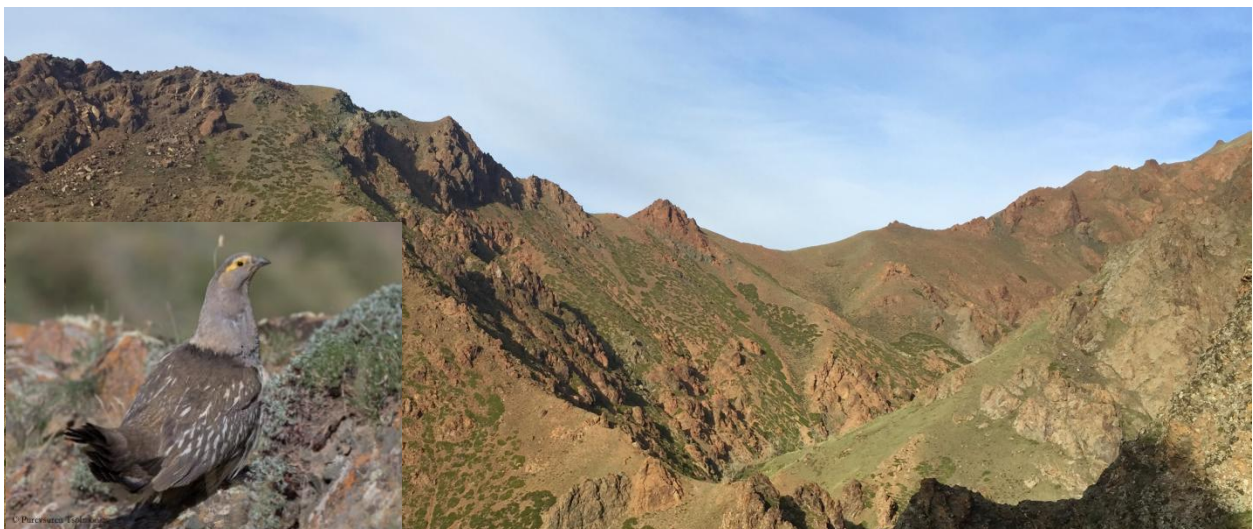
**Accommodation:** “Gobi Erdene” Ger camp



### 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.





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### 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



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### 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)



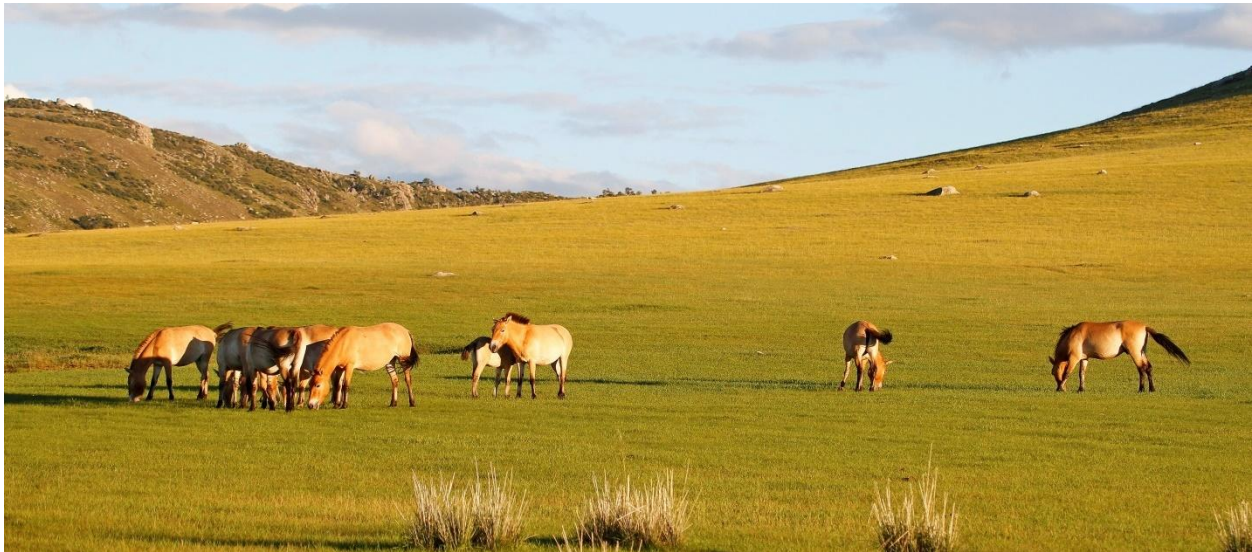
On the way, we will visit Takhilt Lake during lunch stop. After lunch, we will move on to the Bayan Lake and reach there in the afternoon. **Key species:** Pallas's Reed Bunting, Bearded Tit, Eastern Yellow Wagtail, Oriental Reed Warbler, Paddyfield Warbler, Pallas's Grasshopper Warbler, and Eastern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



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### 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. Self-birding around the Hotel.

**Accommodation:** Mongolica Hotel



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## PACKING LIST

(Prepare for extremes from -10 °C in mountains to +30 °C in desert)

### 1. Clothing

#### Base Layers

- 2–3 lightweight thermal tops (cold nights)
- 2 thermal bottoms / long johns
- 5–6 moisture-wicking T-shirts (hot days)
- 3–4 long-sleeve shirts (sun protection)

#### Mid Layers

- 1–2 fleece jackets/sweaters
- 1 lightweight down jacket (very cold mornings/evenings)
- 1 insulated vest (optional)

#### Outer Layers

- 1 waterproof, windproof jacket (breathable)
- 1 pair waterproof pants

#### Bottoms

- 2–3 hiking pants (quick-dry)
- 1 pair convertible zip-off pants (for hot desert days)
- 1 pair insulated leggings (cold mountain nights)

#### Footwear

- 1 pair sturdy, waterproof hiking boots
- 1 pair lightweight shoes or sandals
- 4–5 pairs warm socks (wool or synthetic)
- 3 pairs light socks (hot days)

#### Accessories

- 1 wide-brimmed sun hat
- 1 warm hat/beanie
- 1 pair lightweight gloves
- 1 pair warmer gloves (optional)
- 1 buff or scarf (wind/dust protection)

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- Sunglasses with UV protection

## **2. Birding & Photography Gear**

- Binoculars (8x42 or 10x42 recommended)
- Spotting scope + tripod (optional, for distant species)
- Field guide: Birds of Mongolia / Central Asia
- Notebook & pens / bird checklist
- Camera + lenses (optional, for wildlife photography)
- Extra camera batteries & memory cards
- Tripod or monopod (optional)

## **3. Travel Essentials**

- Passport + copies
- Travel insurance info
- Credit/debit cards & cash
- Mobile phone + charger & power bank
- Water bottle or hydration system
- Travel pillow (for long drives)

## **4. Health & Hygiene**

- Toothbrush & toothpaste
- Soap / shampoo / deodorant
- Quick-dry towel (for shower when camping in tents)
- Sunscreen (high SPF) & lip balm
- Insect repellent (for wetlands)
- Basic first aid kit (band-aids, antiseptic, painkillers, blister pads)
- Prescription medicines
- Hand sanitizer

## **5. Optional Comfort & Extras**

- Lightweight daypack for hikes
- Gaiters (wet terrain)
- Lightweight folding chair (for long birding sessions)
- Headlamp or small flashlight
- Walking sticks (for rough terrain)