



Tour Itinerary for BIRDING IN MONGOLIA



Tour dates: 23 May – 06 June
10 June – 24 June

Developed by Wildlife Tours Mongolia

Tour photo gallery: <http://www.wildlifetoursmongolia.com/photo-gallery>

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: 15 days

Tour Price: \$3,900 4-5 pax; \$3,700 6-7 pax; \$3,500 8-9 pax. This includes all expenses such as vehicle rent and fuel, accommodations, food, national park fees in the country. The cost excludes international travels, laundry and beverages.

Tour Leader: Purevsuren Tsolmonjav (Puje), one of the leading bird guides in Mongolia. He speaks fluent English.

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. Cold weather can be expected at the higher altitudes, 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 yurt camp (called as ger in Mongolia) or pitch our own tents where there are no proper camps.

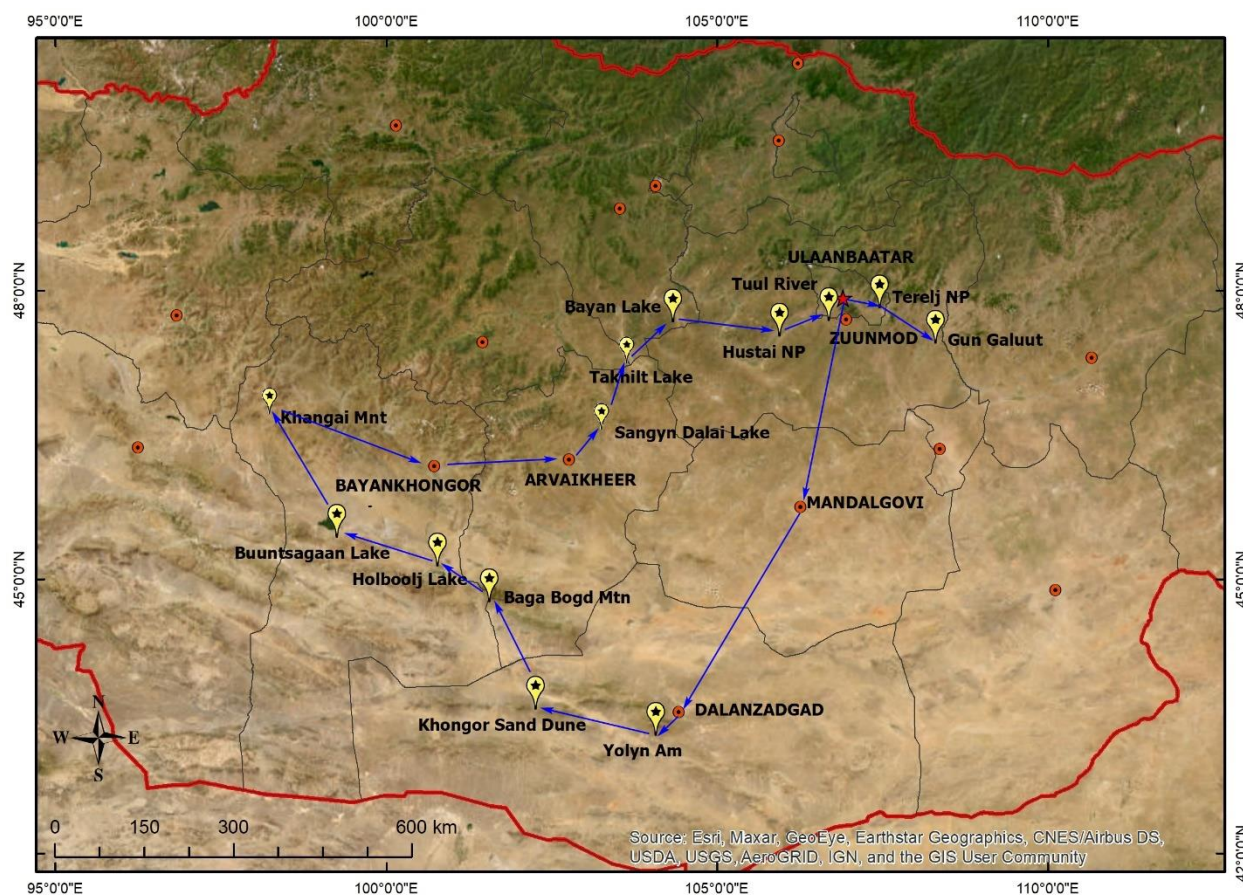
Key bird species list for the tour:

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|------------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1. Oriental Plover | 9. Pallas's Fish Eagle | 17. Pallas's Gull |
| 2. Black-billed Capercaillie | 10. Steppe Eagle | 18. Wallcreeper |
| 3. Altai Snowcock | 11. Yellow-breasted Bunting | 19. Azure Tit |
| 4. Mongolian Ground-jay | 12. Godlewski's Bunting | 20. White-crowned
Penduline Tit |
| 5. Hodgson's Bushchat | 13. Grey-necked Bunting | 21. Long-tailed Rosefinch |
| 6. Altai Accentor | 14. Meadow Bunting | 22. Beautiful Rosefinch |
| 7. Relict Gull | 15. Pine Bunting | 23. Siberian Rubythroat |
| 8. Asian Dowitcher | 16. Pallas's Reed Bunting | |

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|---------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|
| 24. Chinese Bush Warbler | 29. Demoiselle Crane | 34. Amur Falcon |
| 25. Three-toed Woodpecker | 30. Stejneger's Scoter | 35. Mongolian Lark |
| 26. Swan Goose | 31. Falcated Duck | 36. Small Snowfinch |
| 27. Bar-headed Goose | 32. White-winged Tern | 37. Desert Wheatear |
| 28. White-naped Crane | 33. Saker Falcon | 38. Asian Desert Warbler |

Mammal list for the tour:

- | | |
|-------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. Przewalki's Horse | 10. Mongolian Gerbil |
| 2. Siberian Wapiti Deer | 11. Great Gerbil |
| 3. Mongolian Marmot | 12. Corsac Fox |
| 4. Siberian Ibex | 13. Red Fox |
| 5. Goitered Gazelle | 14. Siberian Chipmunk |
| 6. Mongolian Gazelle | 15. Long-tailed Ground Squirrel |
| 7. Asiatic Wild Ass | 16. Alashan Ground Squirrel |
| 8. Pallas's Pika | 17. Red-cheeked Ground Squirrel |
| 9. Tolai Hare | 18. Brandt's Vole |



Key birding locations/trip route

Day 1. Terelj National Park



After arrival of the tour participants, we will drive to our Black-billed Capercaillie site in the Terelj National Park which is considered one of the most scenic areas in Mongolia. We will look for Black-billed Capercaillie and other target forest birds in the afternoon and the following morning. **Key species:** Black-billed Capercaillie, Three-toed Woodpecker, Taiga Flycatcher, Pine Bunting, Red-throated Thrush, Two-barred Greenish Warbler and Daurian Jackdaw. **Accommodation:** Pitch tents.



Day 2. Gun Galuut Nature Reserve



We will leave Terelj NP after breakfast and head to Gun Galuut NR. Gun Galuut NR has a great diversity of ecosystems even though it has a comparatively small area. The complex of high mountains, steppes, rivers, lakes and wetlands are kept in their original condition. We will visit a wetland where rare White-naped Cranes breed, and several small lakes for waterfowls and

waders. **Key species:** White-naped Crane, Demoiselle Crane, Stejneger's Scoter, Small Snowfinch and various waterfowls and waders. We will drive back to UB in the afternoon and bird around the Mongolica hotel.



Day 3. Ulaanbaatar to Dalanzadgad (DZ)



We will drive to DZ, capital of South Gobi province, in the early morning. There are several tree plantations in DZ and these attract many 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 steppe of Gobi Gurvan Saikhan Mountains.

Accommodation: “Khanbogd” Ger camp

Day 4. Birding in Yolyn Am



After having early breakfast, we will drive to Yolyn Am and Mukhar Shivert valleys. The key species we will look for are Wallcreeper, Bearded Vulture, 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



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 rare mammals such as Asiatic Wild Ass, Goitered Gazelle and Mongolian Gazelle. We will arrive at our camp in the afternoon. Next morning, after having early breakfast, we will go to the adjacent hilly area to look for

Mongolian Ground-jay. Then, we will visit a small patch of Saxaul forest to find Saxaul Sparrow, Asian Desert Warbler, Southern Grey Shrike, Desert Wheatear, Long-legged Buzzard. **Accommodation:** “Gobi Erdene” Ger camp



Day 6. Baga Bogd Mountain

The Baga Bogd is a part of Gobi Altai mountain range and it is one of the best places to see magnificent Altai Snowcock in close range. 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

The Holboolj Lake is an important site for a variety of water birds. It is a good place to stop by for Relict Gull and Asian Dowitcher.



Day 8. Buuntsagaan Lake

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 9-10. Khangai Mountain

Alpine meadow is a special habitat for some beautiful species. We will visit the southern portion of Khangai Mountain range in search of rare Hodgson's Bushchat as well as Altai Accentor, White-winged Redstart, Blyth's Pipit and Eastern Water Pipit. We will spend a full day here on Day 10. **Accommodation:** Pitch tents



Day 11. Khangai Mountain to Sangyn Dalai Lake via Arvaikheer

It will be mainly driving day to Sangyn Dalai Lake. We will take the paved road in Bayankhongor town. There will be several stops on the way. **Accommodation:** Pitch tents.

Day 12. Takhilt Lake & Bayan Lake



The Bayan Lake is one of important bird areas and must-visit sites. The reedbeds hold several species of birds associated with reeds. On the way, we will visit Takhilt Lake. **Key species:** Pallas's Reed Bunting, Bearded Tit, Eastern Yellow Wagtail, Oriental Reed Warbler, Paddyfield Warbler, Pallas's Grasshopper Warbler, Eastern Marsh Harrier and White-naped

Crane. **Accommodation:** Pitch tents

Day 13. Hustai National Park



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 14. Gachuurt Forest



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 and Siberian Tit. **Accommodation:** Pitch tents

Day 15. Tuul River & UB pond



We will be birding around the Mongolica Hotel – Tuul River and UB pond and look for Azure Tit, Yellow-breasted Bunting, White-crowned Penduline Tit, Amur Falcon, Long-tailed Rosefinch, Azure-winged Magpie and White-cheeked Starling.

Accommodation: Mongolica Hotel

