



Tour Itinerary for
BIRDING & MAMMAL WATCHING IN MONGOLIA



Tour dates: 14 – 28 June

Developed by Wildlife Tours Mongolia

Tour Overview

This 15-day birding and mammal-watching expedition offers a comprehensive exploration of Mongolia's extraordinary wildlife, landscapes, and nomadic culture. Traveling approximately 3,500 kilometers by vehicle, the route forms a large loop that traverses a wide range of habitats and ecosystems - from the boreal forests of the north, across the vast steppe and wetlands of central Mongolia, to the mountain ranges and deserts of the south.

Mongolia's immense land area and low population density make it one of the last great wilderness frontiers of Asia, home to an impressive diversity of wildlife. Throughout the journey, participants can expect to observe a rich variety of bird species, including Steppe Eagle, Golden Eagle, Lammergeier, Saker Falcon, Demoiselle Crane, White-naped Crane, Oriental Plover, Pallas's Sandgrouse, Mongolian Lark, and Mongolian Ground-jay.

Among the mammals, possible sightings include Mongolian Gazelle, Goitered Gazelle, Siberian Ibex, Argali Sheep, Saiga Antelope, Corsac Fox, and various species of pikas and jerboas that inhabit the mountains and semi-deserts/deserts.

While the expedition involves several long driving days, each leg offers constantly changing scenery - from wide open steppe and forested valleys to dramatic mountain ranges, and the legendary Gobi Desert. Accommodation will be in a mix of tourist ger camps and comfortable tented camps, ensuring access to remote areas while maintaining a reasonable level of comfort.

Led by knowledgeable local guides with extensive field experience, this expedition provides an unparalleled opportunity to explore Mongolia's natural heritage. Combining outstanding birding, mammal watching, and cultural exploration, it is the ultimate journey through Mongolia's wild and untamed landscapes.

Tour Information

Climate

From mid to late June, Mongolia enjoys generally warm to hot days (around 22–35°C) and mild to cool nights. The weather is mostly dry and stable, with less wind than in spring. Occasional showers or local thunderstorms may occur, especially in mountain areas, but overall conditions are pleasant for travel and field activities.

Vehicles & Transportation

We use Toyota Land Cruisers (4WD) for all transfers and 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

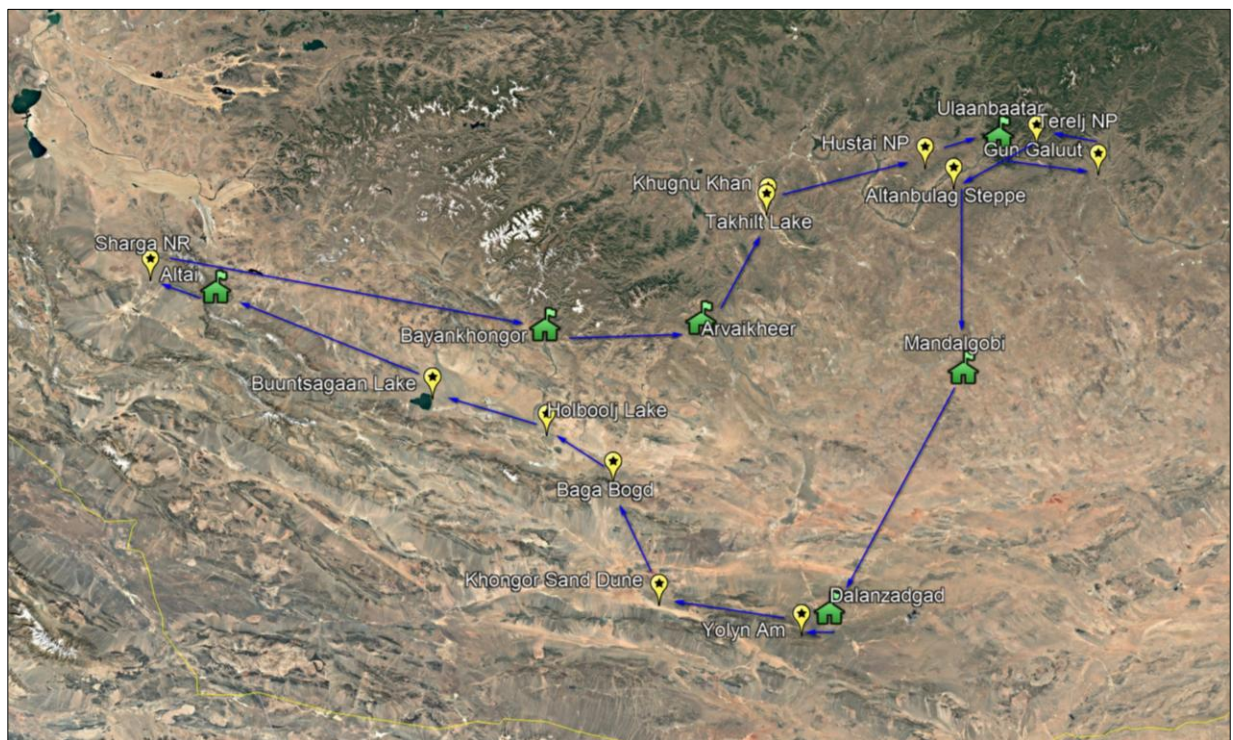
- International travel
- Laundry services
- Tips
- Beverages

Key mammal species list for the tour:

Saiga Antelope	Corsac Fox	Northern Pika
Goitered Gazelle	Red Fox	Daurian Hedgehog
Argali Sheep	Tarbagan Marmot	Long-eared Hedgehog
Siberian Ibex	Tolai Hare	Siberian Jerboa
Mongolian Gazelle	Long-tailed Ground Squirrel	Hairy-footed Jerboa
Przewalski's Horse	Alashan Ground Squirrel	Mongolian Gerbil
Asiatic Wild Ass	Pallid Ground Squirrel	Midday Gerbil
Siberian Wapiti	Pallas's Pika	Gobi Altai Vole
Pallas's Cat	Daurian Pika	Brandt's Vole

Key bird species list for the tour:

Mongolian Ground-jay	Swan Goose	Wallcreeper
Oriental Plover	Bar-headed Goose	Azure Tit
Altai Snowcock	White-naped Crane	Long-tailed Rosefinch
Kozlov's Accentor	Demoiselle Crane	Beautiful Rosefinch
Steppe Eagle	White-winged Tern	Mongolian Lark
Pallas's Fish Eagle	White-crowned Penduline Tit	Small Snowfinch
Saker Falcon	Pallas's Reed Bunting	Desert Wheatear
Amur Falcon	Godlewski's Bunting	Asian Desert Warbler
Pallas's Sandgrouse	Meadow Bunting	Red-throated Thrush



Mongolia Birding & Mammal Watching Tour Route

Day 1. Gun Galuut Nature Reserve (150km mostly on paved road)

After meeting with tour participants in Ulaanbaatar, we will drive to the Gun Galuut Nature Reserve. Gun Galuut NR has a great diversity of ecosystems even though it has a comparatively small area. The complex of mountains, steppes, rivers, lakes and wetlands are kept in their original condition. Key birds to see here are White-naped Crane, Demoiselle Crane and Stejneger's Scoter. Mammals to see here are Argali Sheep, Mongolian Marmot, and Corsac Fox. **Accommodation:** 'Steppe Nomads' Ger Camp.



Day 2. Terelj National Park (70 km mostly on paved road)

After breakfast, we will check out the camp and spend some time checking the lakes on the way. Then, we will move to the Terelj National Park which is considered one of the most scenic places in Mongolia. We will explore areas around the camp for some forest birds such as Siberian Rubythroat and Red-throated Thrush and mammals such as Siberian Chipmunk, Long-tailed Ground Squirrel and Eurasian Squirrel. **Accommodation:** 'Terelj Lodge' Ger Camp.

Day 3-4. Altanbulag Steppe (150 km)

We will leave early in the morning and head to the Altanbulag Steppe in Tuv Province which is 140 km to the west from Ulaanbaatar. **Key mammals:** Red Fox, Corsac Fox and Pallas's Cat. **Accommodation:** Tented Camp or Basic Ger Camp (2 nights).



Day 5-6. Dalanzadgad - Yolyn Am (600 km mainly on paved road)

After having early breakfast, we will drive to Dalanzadgad, a capital of Southgobi Province. We will explore the Yolyn Am on Day 6 and the key species to see here are Wallcreeper, Bearded Vulture, Godlewski's Bunting, Mongolian Accentor, Brown Accentor, Beautiful Rosefinch, Barred Warbler, and Bearded Vulture. Mammals can be seen here are Siberian Ibex, Alashan Ground Squirrel, Midday Gerbil and Pallas's Pika.

Accommodation: 'Khanbogd' Ger Camp (2 nights).



Day 7. Khongor Sand Dune (180 km on some paved road and dirt road)

After early breakfast, we will move on to the Khongor Sand Dune which 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. After arrival at the camp, we will go and look for Mongolian Ground-jay, Saxaul Sparrow, Asian Desert Warbler, Southern Grey Shrike, Desert Wheatear, and Long-legged Buzzard. Long-eared Hedgehogs are seen around the camp.

Accommodation: 'Gobi Erdene' Ger Camp



Day 8. Baga Bogd Mountain (200 km dirt road)

After breakfast in Khongor Sand Dune, we will drive to the Baga Bogd Mountain. It will be a long drive. Key birds to see here are Altai Snowcock and Sulphur-bellied Warbler. Mammalian species found here are Siberian Ibex, Pallas's Pika and Gobi Altai Mountain Vole. **Accommodation:** Tented camp.



Day 9. Holboolj Lake (120 km on dirt road)

After breakfast, we will put down our camp and move onto the Holboolj Lake which is an important site for a variety of water birds. It is a good place to stop by for Asian Dowitcher and some other water birds. **Accommodation:** Tented camp.



Day 10. Buuntsagaan Lake (160 km on dirt road)

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. At night, we will spotlight for nocturnal rodents such as Jerboas around the camp.

Accommodation: Tented camp.



Day 11. Sharga Nature Reserve (360 km on mainly paved road)

We will travel to the Sharga Nature Reserve, one of the last refuges of the endangered Mongolian Saiga Antelope. The vast semi-desert steppe here offers good chances to observe Saigas in their natural habitat. **Accommodation:** Tented camp.



Day 12. Arvaikheer (650 km on paved road)

We will head east towards Arvaikheer town, a capital of Uvurkhangai Province. This will be mainly driving day to Arvaikheer town for refreshing after several nights of camping in tents. **Accommodation:** 'Bogd' Hotel.

Day 13. Takhilt Lake & Khugnu Khan Mountain (200 km mostly on paved road)

The Takhilt is a small lake located near the sand dune called Elsen Tasarkhai. Key birds to see here will be Arctic Loon, Eastern Spot-billed Duck, Swan Goose, Bar-headed Goose, Eastern Marsh Harrier and White-naped Crane. After birding at the Takhilt Lake, we will move to the Khugnu Khan Mountain to look for Eagle Owl.

Accommodation: Tented camp.



Day 14. Hustai National Park (170 km mostly on paved road)

The Hustai National Park is renowned for its successfully reintroduced wild horses, known as Przewalski's Horses. The park is also home to a healthy population of Siberian Wapiti Deer and Mongolian Marmots, while the southern steppe provides habitat for Mongolian Gazelles. In addition, Hustai offers excellent opportunities to observe a variety of bird species, particularly raptors such as vultures, eagles, and falcons.

Key mammals: Wild Horse, Siberian Wapiti Deer, Siberian Marmot, Mongolian Gazelle, Corsac Fox and Daurian Hedgehog.

Accommodation: 'Hustai' Ger Camp



Day 15. Hustai National Park to Ulaanbaatar (100 km mostly on paved road)

After breakfast, we will move to Ulaanbaatar and explore around the Mongolica Hotel to see Long-tailed Rosefinch, Azure Tit, Azure-winged Magpie, and White-cheeked Starling.

Accommodation: 'Mongolica' Hotel.

PACKING LIST

Clothing

- Lightweight, breathable shirts (long-sleeved preferred for sun and insect protection)
- T-shirts for warmer days
- Fleece or warm pullover for cool evenings and mornings
- Light down jacket or insulated jacket (nights can be cold in higher altitudes)
- Windproof and waterproof jacket (essential for wind, rain, and dust)
- Comfortable hiking pants (quick-dry fabric ideal)
- Wide-brimmed hat or cap (for sun protection)
- Wool or warm hat (for early mornings or cold nights)
- Light gloves (for cold mornings)
- Socks (enough pairs; mix of lightweight and warm hiking socks)
- Comfortable footwear:
 - Light hiking boots or sturdy walking shoes (for fieldwork and rough terrain)
 - Camp shoes or sandals (for evenings and around ger camps)

Optics and Equipment

- Binoculars (8x42 or 10x42 magnification recommended)
- Spotting scope and tripod (shared or personal — optional but very useful)
- Camera gear (with spare batteries, memory cards, and dust protection)
- Headlamp or flashlight (with spare batteries)
- Small daypack for daily excursions
- Reusable water bottle or hydration bladder

Health and Personal Items

- Personal medication (enough for the duration)
- Basic first-aid kit (plasters, antiseptic, painkillers, motion sickness tablets, rehydration salts)
- Sunscreen (SPF 30+)
- Lip balm with sun protection
- Insect repellent (particularly useful near wetlands)
- Hand sanitizer
- Towel (quick-dry)

Travel and Comfort

- Sleeping bag liner (some prefer their own for tented camps)
- Face buff or scarf (for wind and dust protection)
- Sunglasses (with UV protection)