



Tour Itinerary for BIRDING & MAMMAL WATCHING IN MONGOLIA



Tour dates: 12 – 26 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 south east to the south west and north west. At 1,564,600 square kilometer area, just over 3 million people live in Mongolia. About 40% of the entire population live in the capital city of Ulaanbaatar. Many of the Mongolians still live in a nomadic lifestyle herding their livestock throughout the year.

Tour duration: 15 days

Maximum group size: 8 people

The price includes all expenses such as vehicles and fuel, accommodations, food, national park fees in the country. The cost excludes international travels, beverages and laundry.

Vehicle: Toyota Land Cruisers (4WD), there will be some long drives on paved and dirt roads to reach the destinations. 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 warm to hot in June. Generally, it will be hot during the day, but it will be cooler at night and in the early mornings. Colder weather can be expected at the higher altitudes, and rain is possible at almost any time.

Accommodation: In Ulaanbaatar we will stay in a modern hotel. Away from there we will either stay in yurt camps (called as ger in Mongolia) or our own tented camp.

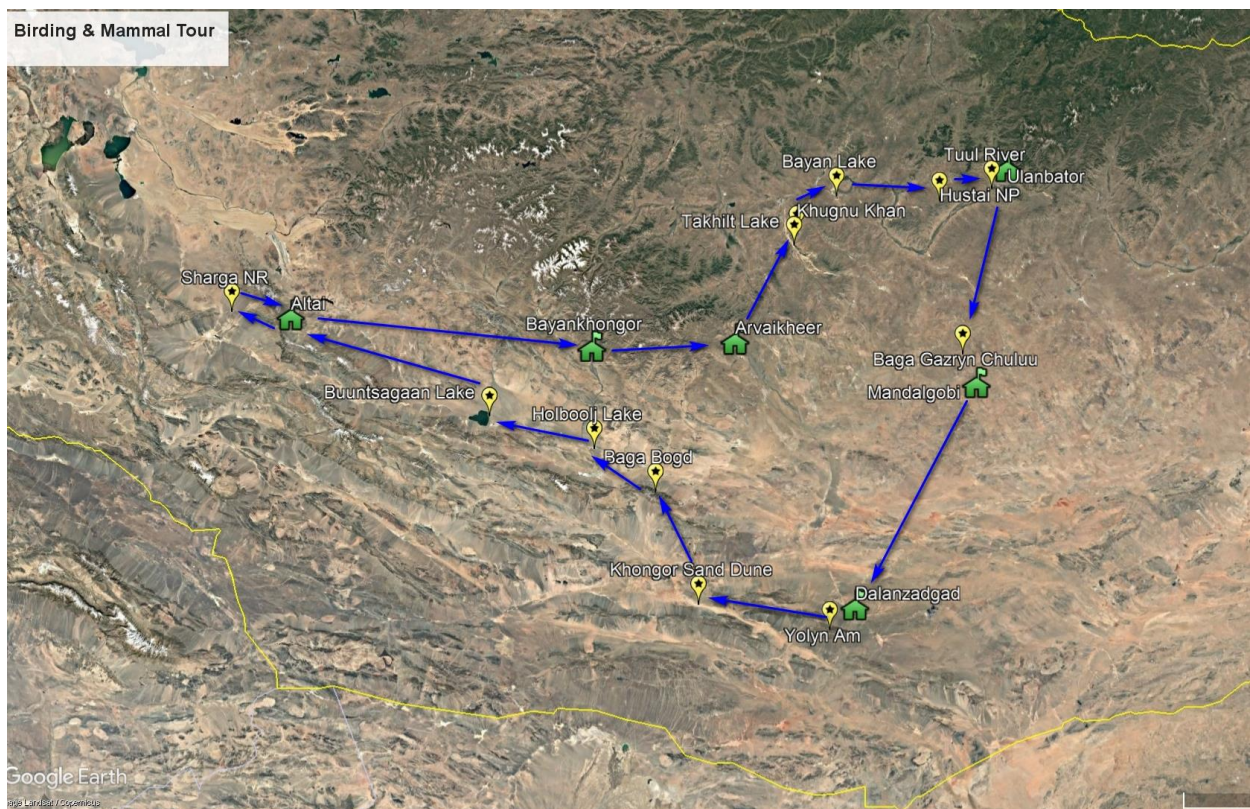
Key mammal species list for the tour:

- | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. Saiga Antelope | 10. Corsac Fox |
| 2. Goitered Gazelle | 11. Red Fox |
| 3. Argali Sheep | 12. Tolai Hare |
| 4. Siberian Ibex | 13. Alashan Ground Squirrel |
| 5. Mongolian Gazelle | 14. Pallid Ground Squirrel |
| 6. Przewalski's Horse | 15. Pallas's Pika |
| 7. Siberian Wapiti | 16. Daurian Pika |
| 8. Pallas's Cat | 17. Long-eared Hedgehog |
| 9. Tarbagan Marmot | 18. Jerboas and other rodents |

In addition to the mammals, there are opportunities to see a number of key bird species, different ecosystems, cultural and historical sites, and nomadic life styles.

Key bird species list for the tour:

- | | | |
|--------------------------|------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Mongolian Ground-jay | 10. Azure Tit | 18. White-winged Tern |
| 2. Oriental Plover | 11. White-crowned
Penduline Tit | 19. Saker Falcon |
| 3. Altai Snowcock | 12. Long-tailed Rosefinch | 20. Amur Falcon |
| 4. Kozlov's Accentor | 13. Beautiful Rosefinch | 21. Mongolian Lark |
| 5. Steppe Eagle | 14. Swan Goose | 22. Small Snowfinch |
| 6. Godlewski's Bunting | 15. Bar-headed Goose | 23. Desert Wheatear |
| 7. Meadow Bunting | 16. White-naped Crane | 24. Asian Desert Warbler |
| 8. Pallas's Reed Bunting | 17. Demoiselle Crane | 25. Pallas's Sandgrouse |
| 9. Wallcreeper | | 26. Pallas's Fish Eagle |



Mongolia Birding & Mammal Watching Tour Route

Day 1. Ulaanbaatar

After meeting with tour participants in Ulaanbaatar, we will be birding along the Tuul River in Ulaanbaatar. Key birds to see here will be Azure Tit, Long-tailed Rosefinch, White-cheeked Starling and Azure-winged Magpie. Mammalian species can be seen here is the Daurian Ground Squirrel.

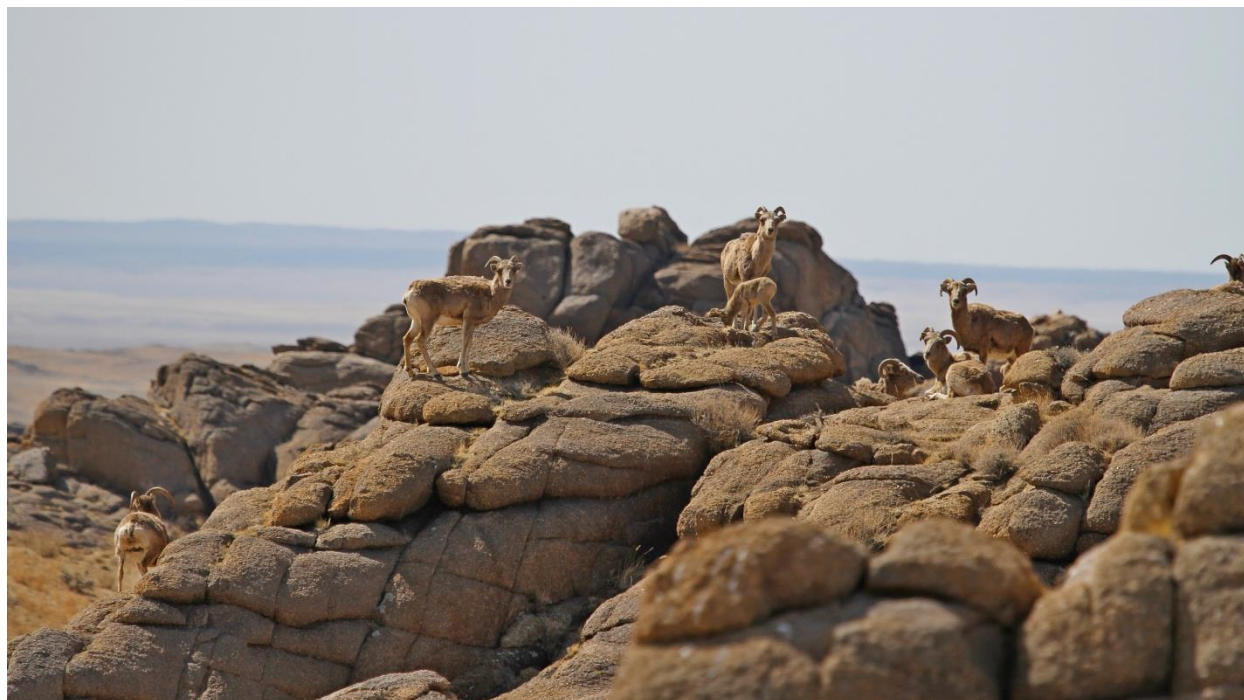
Accommodation: Hotel in Ulaanbaatar.

Day 2-3. Baga Gazryn Chuluu

We will leave early in the morning and head to Baga Gazryn Chuluu which is 250 km to the south. Baga Gazryn Chuluu is located in Middle Gobi Province covering an area of about 300 sq/km of steppe and semi-desert environments. This place characterized by granite outcrops and it is home to Argali Sheep and Siberian Ibex along with a variety of breeding raptors such as Cinereous Vulture, Lesser Kestrel, Saker Falcon and Upland Buzzard.

Key mammals: Argali Sheep, Siberian Ibex, Mongolian Gazelle, Red Fox and Corsac Fox.

Accommodation: Ger camp.



Day 4-5. Yolyn Am



After having early breakfast, we will drive to Yolyn Am valley. The key species we will look for 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: Ger camp.



Day 6. 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. After arrival at the camp, we will go to the main birding area to 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:** Ger camp



Day 7. Baga Bogd Mountain

The Baga Bogd is a part of Gobi Altai mountain range. We will see birds like Altai Snowcock, Mongolian Finch, Wallcreeper, Barred Warbler and Sulphur-bellied Warbler. Mammalian species found here are Siberian Ibex, Pallas's Pika and Gobi Altai Mountain Vole. **Accommodation:** Tented camp.



Day 8. Holboolj Lake

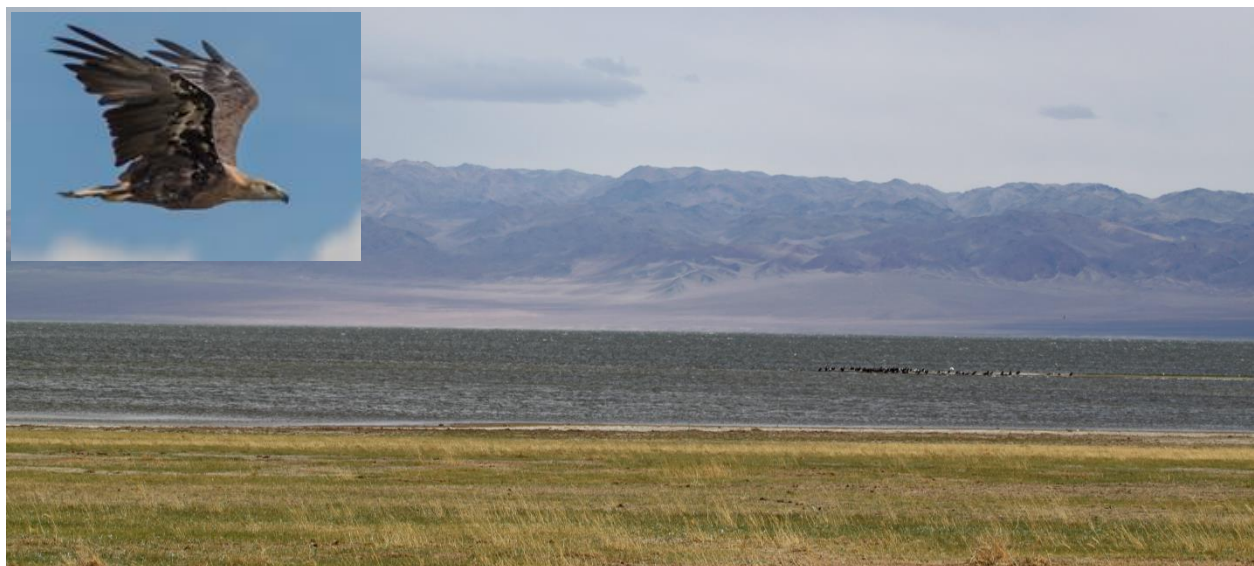
The Holboolj Lake is an important site for a variety of water birds. It is a good place to stop by for Asian Dowitcher and many other migrants. **Accommodation:** Tented camp.



Day 9. 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. At night, we will spotlight for nocturnal rodents such as Jerboas around the camp.

Accommodation: Tented camp.



Day 10. Sharga Nature Reserve

We will head to Sharga Nature Reserve to see Saiga Antelopes. **Accommodation:** Tented camp.



Day 11. Arvaikheer

We will head eastwards Arvaikheer town. This will be mainly driving day to Arvaikheer town for refreshing after several nights of camping in tents.

Day 12. Takhilt Lake & Khugnu Khan Mountain

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. **Accommodation:** Ger camp.



Day 13. Bayan Lake



The Bayan Lake is one of important bird areas and must-visit sites. The reed beds hold several species of birds associated with reeds. Key birds can be seen here are Oriental Reed Warbler, Pallas’s Grasshopper Warbler, Eastern Spot-billed Duck, Marsh Sandpiper, Eastern Yellow Wagtail and Pallas’s Reed Bunting.

Accommodation: Tented camp.

Day 14-15. Hustai National Park

The Hustai National Park is well known for its reintroduced wild horses also known as Przewalski’s horse. The park supports a large number of Siberian Wapiti Deer and Mongolian Marmots. On the southern steppe of the park, we will look for Mongolian Gazelles. The park also provides important habitats for a range of bird species, especially raptors like vultures, eagles and falcons.

Key mammals: Wild Horse, Siberian Wapiti Deer, Siberian Marmot, Mongolian Gazelle and Long-tailed Ground Squirrel.

Accommodation: Ger camp

